

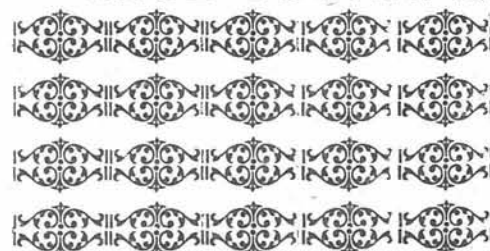
# COOLITE



BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB  
P.O. BOX 37  
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CLUB JOURNAL



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 NEW MEMBERS .
 

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B.M.S.C. welcomes into the Club ; -

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## ABERCROMBIE CAVES.

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### SUMMARY OF B.M.S.C. ACTIVITIES.

IAN BOGG.

B.M.S.C. first visited the Abercrombie Caves during November 1969, and this kindled interest, particularly from two aspects:-

- a) The apparent lack of interest by other Societies.
- b) The need for speleological knowledge of caving areas.

After two years of activity it is worthwhile to summarise the results of our efforts.

#### A.S.F. Handbook comments.

From the outset it should be noted that the details given in the A.S.F. Handbook (PP 126) are both inaccurate and incomplete. However, this will occur with any caving area as knowledge increases.

The Kohinoor Cave and Hall of Terpsichore are both listed as individual caves which is consistent with Trickett's Nomenclature, but, as they are merely widened sections or recesses in the eastern wall within the Arch, they should be considered as archway chambers, in line with the Eastern or Upper and Arch galleries. The Handbook also lists two caves namely, Pulpit and Hill which are the two entrances (internal and external respectively) for the cave now known as the "Bushrangers Cave".

Not mentioned in the Handbook is King Solomon's Temple, a tourist section behind the western wall of the Archway south of the Cathedral extension.

#### General Exploration.

B.M.S.C. activity in the area began in earnest during March 1970 with the systematic exploration of all limestone outcrops and caves within the Abercrombie Caves reserve. During this initial exploration period, in a small extension chamber in the back of the Kohinoor Chamber, one wall was found to be covered in pencilled inscriptions written in the old copperplate style indicating extensive interest by Europeans dating back as far as 1885. To date no other part of the Abercrombie system has revealed such a profusion of inscriptions. One can only assume that during the initial public inspections visitors were permitted to record their visitations in this section only.

Abercrombie Caves. - Summary of B.M.S.C. Activities. cont..

During this early phase discussions held between B.M.S.C. and Mr. W. Cutting, the Caretaker/Ranger at that time highlighted the necessity for the recording of all cave locations on an area map particularly from two aspects

- a) Permanent record of all known cave locations.
- b) Camping is permitted within the Reserve and, apart from the Archway, the Reserve is totally unrestricted to visitors. As the Caves are not gated, the Administration could face a search and rescue operation.

Our explorations to date reveal that the limestone outcrops occur over a length of approximately two miles -  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of the Archway. The limestone is bluish in colour, extremely hard and very crystalline in texture. Outcrops in many places take the form of pinnacles with surface exposures often "shattered", possibly as a result of climatic influence i.e. sudden contraction of limestone inducing fracture, frost etc.

The limestone, in places is intensely folded and metamorphosed. In conjunction with its very crystalline texture this would possibly account for the apparent lack of fossil remains. However contained in the Archway "showcase" are some almost obliterated coral and encrinite fossil specimens.

Since our first trip to Abercrombie we have located and tagged some 32 cave entrances but there remain at least another 12 entrances to be numbered. Exploration and surveying of these caves indicates that their general direction is either parallel to or at  $90^{\circ}$  to the Archway which may ultimately be of geomorphological significance. Particularly as the majority of the caves are located on the eastern side of Grove Creek. Some interesting theories have arisen as a result of surveying and field studies, such as the development of the Arch, its former length and hydrological influences. However further intensive study is required which will either support or refute these theories.

Surveying.

The initial surveying began with the preparation of an area map to record cave locations. This map was prepared using aerial photographs, Trickett's map (1899) and correlation of principal topographic features. The map has sufficient detail to show the approximate cave locations, but to increase the order of accuracy a topographical survey should be carried out. Nevertheless the area map has its value.

Our next surveying venture was the preparation of two maps covering the Archway and the Grove Creek. From these surveys and in consultation with the newly appointed Caretaker/Ranger, Mr. George Knox (former guide at Wombeyan) regarding our past activities, a number of points were

Abercrombie Caves. - Summary of B.M.S.C. Activities. cont.

raised and were heartily accepted by Mr. Knox, and could well prove to be of importance from the tourist development aspect.

The projects undertaken were:-

- a) The possibility of establishing a second entrance to Grove Cave thereby making it a circuit cave.
- b) Possibility of an external entrance to the Long Tunnel.
- c) Connection between Trickett's "Hole from the Surface" and the Cathedral Chambers.
- d) Investigation of the Butcher's Shop area in the Bushrangers Cave in an attempt to extend this cave.

With the co-operation of some members of the Highland Caving Club the projects were initiated using their Radio Direction Finding Equipment and ultimately we were to achieve some positive results.

Project A. - Grove Cave: The 19th and 20th June 1971 saw the start of this project. On the 19th the end of the cave was pinpointed with the R.D.F. and a dig commenced. On the 20th the connection was made after digging down approx. 3 feet. This entrance was then covered over to prevent the cave from drying out. From this point another dig was commenced, the results again proving positive. After removing "Cave fill" a passage was cleared which extends some 30ft before opening up into a small chamber.

Project B. - Long Tunnel: The 16th and 17th October 1971 saw the successful fulfilment of this project. The location of the R.D.F. transmitter was pinpointed and a dig commenced to open up a choked entrance. This was eventually cleared and a voice connection established through the rockpile at the apparent end of the Long Tunnel. There has been no attempt to establish any further connection as, at this point in time, there is no value in doing so particularly as the environment may be destroyed --- the Long Tunnel supports the only substantial Bat colony at Abercrombie which has been estimated to exceed 500.

Project C. - Cathedral Chamber Connection with "Trickett's Hole from Surface: The 11th and 12th December 1971 saw the successful completion of this project. This proved to be the most frustrating R.D.F. project undertaken as it appeared that signals were being preferentially transmitted through cracks and fissures in the steeply dipping limestone which necessitated detailed examination to make precise predictions regarding the transmission signals. The location of the transmitter was eventually pinpointed above the end of the Cathedral Chamber. A spike was driven

Abercrombie Caves. - Summary of B.M.S.C. Activities. Cont.

in which eventually pierced the roof through the conglomerate indicating a depth of five feet. This connection lies some 150 feet 45° north of Trickett's western Hole from the Surface thereby negating our preliminary surveys and theories. No dig has been attempted, although it would be a simple matter to excavate an entrance as it would be through conglomerate. This would permit public inspections of King Solomon's Temple combined with the Cathedral Chamber extension without using the Main Arch. The most obvious advantage would be simultaneous cave inspections as parties could enter King Solomon's Temple via the high level entrance and proceed down through the cave and then up through the Cathedral Chamber and out via the new exit.

Surveying of caves at Abercrombie ceased for some time owing to the work done by Bud Frank of C.S.S., ultimately to be published. However, surveying has been initiated for all other caves in the area.

Cave Fauna .

Initial studies into the population and distribution of cave fauna has begun with the following species being identified.

Coleoptera: Dermestidae - Undetermined.

Diptera: Phoridae - Undetermined.

Araneida: Theridiosmatidae:- Theridiosoma Sp.

Theridiidae:- Archaranea Sp.

Diplopodia: Undetermined.

One interesting fact is that in many places the ceiling of the Arch appears to be a bluish/purple colouring. This is in fact spider webs which cover large colonies of spiders which to date have not been identified.

Mammalian Remains.

Throughout the course of our explorations and excavation we have not located any bone material. However, contained in the Archway Showcase are fragments of the extinct giant kangaroo. These specimens carried Australian Museum identification labels which did not show catalogue/reference numbers, which has made research on this material extremely difficult.

Investigations are still continuing with the aim of publishing the results at some future date.

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The following letter, dated 11th May, 1972 has been received by Ian Bogg from The Australian Museum.- Department of Entomology.

Dear Ian,

Lately I have been looking over the material you sent me (Sept-Oct. 1969) with a view to describing it and other cave material. The most important item in your collection consists of 5 specimens of the family Theridiosoma - tidae from Tuglow and Abercrombie caves. This is the first record of this family from Australia ( a fact which seems worthy of a note in your journal).

Unfortunately, all 5 specimens (plus one other I have from Grill Cave, Bungonia) are females - I need males to definitely confirm their identity. I wondered if you might have some in your collections taken since 1969 (males would be in the same localities as females, of similar size and colour but with enlarged palps for sperm storage).

I have collected their egg sacs in some of the Jenolan Caves but so far have not seen what type of web they build. In overseas forms it is said to be a circular web rather like that of the garden weaving spiders, but in miniature of course, perhaps 6" across? Males of Archeearanea, if you have them would also be useful. Any other identifications you require can be done here. Any material appreciated.

All the best,

Mike Grey.

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CAVE MEETING. - Sydney Morning Herald. 28th February, 1972.

Leura - Masonic lodges from the Blue Mountains and Lithgow area held a meeting in the "Cathedral" in Jenolan Caves. Lodge Leura No.323 was host lodge.

Furniture and an organ was taken into the cave for the meeting.

TOURIST REQUEST. - Sydney Morning Herald. 28th February, 1972.

Scone - The NRMA advised the Murrumbidgee Shire Council that they had received many requests from members about the location of the Timor Caves.

Council decided to inform the NRMA that investigations are under way on the cost of developing the caves as a tourist attraction and if council decided they are worthwhile, directional signs will be erected.

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HISTORICAL FEATURE.

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With our colleagues in other societies carrying on the battle for Bungonia, this seemed an appropriate time for Historical Feature to look at that area. The report is from one of Bungonia's earliest and most distinguished visitors, Major T.L. Mitchell. Readers of the A.S.F. Handbook will be interested to compare the dimensions quoted for the Big Hole. (Editor)

"The Shoalhaven river flows in a ravine about 1500 feet below the common level of the country, between it and the Wollondilly. Precipices, consisting at one part of granite, and at another, of limestone, give a peculiar grandeur to the scenery of the Shoalhaven river. The limestone is of a dark grey colour, and contains very imperfect fragments of shells. We find among the features on these lofty river banks, many remarkable hollows, not unaptly termed "Hoppers" by the country people, from the water sinking into them, as grain subsides in the hopper of a mill. As each of these hollows terminates in a crevice leading to a cavern in the limestone below, I descended into one in 1828, and penetrated without difficulty, to a considerable depth, over slimy rocks, but was forced to return, because our candles were nearly exhausted. A current of air met us as we descended, and it might have come from some crevice probably near the bed of the river. That water sometimes flowed into these caverns was evident, from pieces of decayed trees, which had been carried downwards by it, to a considerable depth. I looked in vain there for fossil bones, but I found projecting from the side of the cavern, at the lowest part I reached, a very perfect specimen of coral of the genus Favosites.

The country, on the upper part of the Shoalhaven river, comprises much good land. The river flows there nearly on a level with the surface, and resembles an English stream. The temperature, at the elevation of about 2,000 feet above the sea, is so low even in summer, that potatoes and gooseberries, for both of which the climate of Sydney is too hot, grow luxuriantly. A rich field for geological research will probably be found in that neighbourhood. In a hasty ride which I took as far as Carwary; in 1832, I was conducted by my friend, Mr. Ryrie, to a remarkable cavern under white marble — where I found trap; a vein of ironstone, of a fused appearance; a quartzose ferruginous conglomerate; a calcareous tuff containing fragments of these rocks; and specular iron ore in abundance, near the same spot.

Historical Feature. cont..

But still further southwards, and on the range separating the country at the head of the Shoalhaven river, from the ravines on the coast, I was shown an "antre vast", which, for aught I know, may involve in its recesses, more of the wild and wonderful, than any of the "deserts idle" which I have since explored. A part of the surface of that elevated country had subsided, carrying trees along with it, to the depth of about 400 yards, and left a yawning opening about 300 yards wide, resembling a gigantic quarry, at the bottom of which the sunken trees continued to grow. In the eastern side of the bottom of this subsidence, a large opening extended under the rock, and seemed to lead to a subterraneous cavity of great dimensions.

From: "Three Expeditions into the Interior of Eastern Australia ...." by Major T.L. Mitchell, 2nd edition, London, T & W Boone 1839 Volume 2, "Expedition to the Rivers Darling and Murray in the year 1836."

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'QUEST FOR CAVES IN HIGH NEPAL.'

## Abstract.

The Geographical Magazine December, 1971 carries an account of the British Karst Research Expedition to Nepal in October, 1970. The aim was to study the Karst features and caves of the highest limestone mountains in the world.

The Kursangmo Caves were visited and found to be formed, not in limestone, but in a thick layer of calcareous tufts deposited by streams. One of these caves, with walls floor and roof formed entirely in pure white tufaceous stalagmite was exceptionally beautiful. Generally, the high altitude caves were small, shattered rock shelters. Rillenkarren was found at an altitude of 4420 metres, indicating formation under snow cover.

Larger caves were found in the floors of the main valleys at an altitude of only 800 metres, and the exploration of some of these is described. The article is illustrated with 7 photographs and 2 maps.

K. Pickering.

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## C I R C A D I A N R H Y T H M S.

Ken Pickering

Two separate items on the subject of circadian rhythms have been received recently and are printed together, as one helps to explain the other. Volume 1, No.1 of this Journal also reports an experiment in France in which two volunteers who spent four months underground adapted a 36 hour work, 12 hour sleep pattern. On the other hand, Oolite 1 (3) reported a study which showed that blind cave crayfish, separated from surface populations for between 25,000 and one million generations exhibited a daily or circadian rhythm of activity.

Six Months outside Time. Sydney Morning Herald. 16.2.72.

New York. Tuesday. - a French scientist, Dr. Michel Siffre, today began an experiment to live six months outside time.

Home for 200 days will be the black centre of Midnight Cave, near Del Rio, in south-west Texas. He will seek to prove that man can stay awake longer and sleep longer.

Dr. Siffre, 33, hopes to show that when cut off from outside time, man can adjust his life to more work and less sleep by transforming the normal 24-hour cycle - 12 hours activity and 12 hours sleep - to a 48-hour rhythm of 36 hours activity and 12 hours sleep. He will be wired up so his movements can be recorded on the surface.

His mother, Mrs. Lucie Siffre, 67, described the experiment as frightful. But his bride of 12 months, Nathalie, 20, was more approving: "I want him to stay down," she said. "It's his work and his life."

Midnight Cave, a chamber 100 feet below a limestone mountain and with a constant temperature of 68 degrees, was described as being ideal for the test.

Abstract from: Circadian Rhythms.

Brian S. Fletcher. Aust. Natural History Sept.1970 (16.11)

The widely accepted hypothesis is that circadian ("approximately a day") rhythms are controlled by internal time measuring processes or "biological clocks". Experiments on a wide variety of organisms have revealed that the basic time - measuring process may be essentially the same in all living systems.

Circadian Rhythms. cont.

In nature, most organisms experience a 24 hour cycle of alternating light and darkness, accompanied by changes in temperature and humidity. Under these cyclical conditions, the rhythm becomes "entrained", or synchronised with the 24 hour cycle, and reaches a steady state with a period of exactly 24 hours.

When an animal which has been kept under constant conditions is placed in a 24 hour light-dark cycle which is out of phase with its subjective day, it normally requires several intermediate cycles before the rhythm becomes adjusted to the new 24 hour light-dark cycle.

It is also interesting to find that when an organism is moved from one light-dark regime to another, different bodily functions regain their original relationship to the onset of light and darkness at different rates. This means that the different functions become out of phase with each other. In man, this occurs during jet travel between different time zones when the rhythms of body temperature, water, sodium and potassium excretion, etc become out of phase for a few days, resulting in the well known feelings of tiredness and fatigue.

Different organisms will become entrained by a wide range of light to dark ratios within a 24 hour cycle, although at the two extremes of total light or total darkness entrainment may be lost. The rhythms of most organisms will only become entrained, or synchronised, by light-dark cycles in which the light plus the dark fraction total close to 24 hours. Approx. 20 to 28 hours seem to be the limits for entrainment in most organisms.

Although light seems to be the most important factor, some rhythms can be entrained by a 24 hour cycle of alternating high and low temperature. Often, the variation in temperature need only be a few degrees.

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"Quarterly List of Publications - October - December 1971" Geological Survey of N.S.W., Dept. Mines, announces the publication of Records Vol. 13 part 2 which contains an article "Limestone in the Jenolan Caves area" by Leonie Chalker.

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## LIMONITE STALACTITES . Ken Pickering.

Since the article "Speleothems in Caves of the Blue Mountains National Park" was published in Oolite 3 (3), Australian Speleo Abstracts 1971 (1) has published an abstract of a paper titled "A Note on Some Non-Calcareous Stalactites from the Sandstones of the Sydney Basin, N.S.W." which appeared in the Journal and Proceedings, Royal Society of New South Wales, 103 (1). Written by E.V. Lassak of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney, it gives further locations of limonite stalactites (Lawson, Little Marley Beach, Gosford and Narrabeen) and mentions an occurrence of manganese bearing stalactites up to 10 cm long at Blackheath,

The limonite stalactites described are up to 20 cm (approx. 8 inches) in length, considerably smaller than those described in Oolite, but in a personal communication Mr. Lassak says he has discovered earthy limonite stalactites 3 feet long near Gosford.

Lassak shows that the limonite stalactites are composed of alternate layers of limonitic material and common opal and outlines the mode of formation. His treatment of manganese stalactites is interesting because of its possible relevance to the black staining of calcite speleothems sometimes seen in limestone caves.

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MICE BUG CAVE MAN.

Sun Herald 2nd April, 1972.

New York, Saturday:- French Scientist Michel Siffre reports he is no longer completely alone down in his west Texan cave - he is being invaded by mice.

Siffre, 33, has begun his sixth week of a planned six-month experiment in isolation inside Midnight cave, a deep, limestone cavern in the hill 40 miles from Del Rio, Texas.

"There are only a few mice so far," said Jacques Chabert, a member of Siffre's surface team, "but Michel complains they are eating his food."

So far, Chabert said, the scientist has not adopted the 48-hour circadian rhythm of 12 hours sleep and 36 hours activity which he believes man falls into after a prolonged period "beyond time" devoid of all clues to the passage of time in the outside world.

Mice Bug Cave Man. cont.

"He is still on a 26-hour day, very regular, and there is no sign of him breaking up the schedule," Chabert said.

As a result of this slightly longer day, Siffre has "lost" three days since descending the cave by rope ladder on February 14.

He thought last Tuesday was last Saturday week.

His team members do not expect Siffre to adopt a 48-hour cycle for another few weeks.

Chabert said Siffre seemed quite happy, writing and reading a lot and occasionally examining some of the strange limestone formations in passages leading off from the cave.

But his sorties are strictly limited. For most of the day he must remain tethered to the table that carries measurements of his bodily functions to the laboratory tent on the hilltop.

The electronic equipment has posed a few minor problems, mostly because of its almost constant use, Chabert said. The experiment is piling up a mountain of data.

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CAVEMEN WERE NOT SO DUMB.

The Sun - date missing.

A.A.P., New York Thursday:- Our image of the caveman is vivid. He was filthy, hairy, stoop-shouldered, dull-witted and carried a rough-hewn club. Furthermore, according to the cartoonists, he liked to pull girls around by the hair.

But what was he really like?

Had their brain evolved to a superior level because they had to meet the challenges of life in the last ice age with none of the tools of modern civilisation?

The debate on this issue has been going on for a number of years. But it came to the fore recently with the disclosure that 34,000 years ago—more than 10,000 years before the introduction of pictographs and other primitive form of writings - Cro-Magnon man and his contemporaries were apparently using abstract symbols to keep track of lunar cycle.

This is the contention of Alexander Marshack, a research associate at Harvard University's Peabody Museum, based on at least seven year's study of ancient artifacts. His interpretation has already been endorsed by a number of specialists in the field.

The earliest notations were crude - for example a chain of holes

Cavemen were not so dumb. cont....

punched in various ways into a palm-sized plate of stone, bone or tusk.

However 10,000 years later the system had evolved into a variety of record-keeping methods including notches of various types cut into eagle bones with the precision of a highly-skilled jeweller.

In fact Marshack was able to determine the apparently symbolic nature of these notches only with the high-magnification photography typical of a police ballistics laboratory.

In this way he was able to show that what, at first glance, seemed a long succession of identical notches made for decoration, has been carved in succession, over an extended period, using at least two dozen different tools.

Each of the latter - probably a flint point - cut a characteristic notch that could be distinguished from the other much as it can be shown, from the scratches on a bullet, which gun fired it.

The varying configurations of these notches, in Marshack's view, spell the phases of the Moon.

Indeed, the lunar cycle must have played an essential role in helping cave men keep track of time when no clocks or calendars were available.

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#### MARK TWAIN ON THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.

.... the growing day and the early sun exposed the distant range called the Blue Mountains.... A resident told me that these were not mountains; he said they were rabbit-piles. And explained that long exposure and the over-ripe condition of the rabbits was what made them look so blue. This man may have been right, but much reading of books of travel has made me distrustful of gratis information furnished by official residents of a country. The facts which such people give to travellers are usually erroneous, and often intemperately so. The rabbit plague has indeed been very bad in Australia, and it could account for one mountain, but not for a mountain range, it seems to me. It is too large an order.

Mark Twain, "Following the Equator".  
From "The Australian" gathered together by Bill Wannan.

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W I L D L I F E    V A N I S H I N G .

By Spike Milligan.  
First published in the  
Observer.

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From Wildlife. Vol.6 No.3 September, 1969.

Reprinted by The Gould League of N.S.W.

Since 1900, one hundred wild creatures have become extinct. To save what remains is not based on any emotional premise. It is a truth. Briefly, four-fifths of the World's population have little or no real understanding of wild animals. Of the remaining fifth, there is a mixture of people who dote on cats, dogs, send them to poodle parlours etc. In Australia kangaroos are being slaughtered wholesale especially for doggy food without a whisper of complaint from the doggy lover. (If only I could sit up and beg, how the neighbours would love me). What has happened? The 19th Century Industrial Revolution and the population explosion reduced rural and natural confines, at the same time millions cut themselves off from both, concentrating in smoky, concrete jungles called "cities", within them, families were born, lived and died, seeing no creature wilder than the horse, (with motor cars, even that link has disappeared). Cut off in cities, man no longer hunted animal for food, and thus lost respect for his ancient prey; gone was the once timeless mystique of the hunter and hunted. (It still survives among "backward" peoples like the Aborigine tribes of Arnhem Land).

In the period 1947-62 Sheiks drove motor-cades of cadillacs into herds of desert antelope and slaughtered them with machine-guns. By 1962 the Oryx was all but extinct. Did no one care? Did no one remember the Creator's words to Noah? The lesson of the Ark? There was a very slender ray of hope. A few sad but courageous men had built a small, modern ark called "Save the Wildlife", with limited funds and armed mostly with hope, they worked, not only against the clock but apathy from a society that is laughingly called "Christian". With a borrowed army helicopter, a land-rover, and in the appalling heat of the Yemen, Major Peter Raven with a few helpers, did the impossible. Three Oryx, two bucks and one doe, were captured alive. I won't recount the myriad red-tape difficulties that beset animal preservation but the result was that in October, 1963 a male Oryx calf was born. His picture appeared in several daily papers, and there was no shortage of those who said "Awww...isn't he sweet", and did little else. All this rescue work was being done in the face of financial difficulties. From the famous "foundations" for this and that? Not a penny. About the time this rescue was going on, the public

Wildlife Vanishing. cont.

of dear old England had been coaxed into giving £350,000 towards buying a Leonardo cartoon which was in 'danger' of being bought abroad (up till then it had been kept in a cellar). The Government added another £450,000 to clinch the deal. £800,000! With that sort of money the future of living masterpieces, that not even Leonardo could create, might be secured. The Orang-Utang, the Panda, Javan Rhino, the Cheetah, the Whooping Crane, Tasmanian Tiger. The fight for wildlife is no crank struggle, this is much a battle to save man's morality as the world of animals he is constantly destroying. Don't wait, do something now, otherwise future visits to the zoo will be to 'See the plastic elephants. This way to the clockwork chimps tea-party, come and pop the inflatable rubber hippos. Hear the stuffed lions roar every hour on the hour in hi-fi. Lay a wreath on the grave of Brumas. See the radar controlled wooden pelicans.' I am donating the fee for this article to 'Save the Wildlife'. What are you going to do, stroke Pussy?

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"THE DEVIL, AND WITH HORNS".

Sydney Morning Herald. 24.6.71.

Endeavour River, June 25 - July 1. The Endeavour, holed by the Great Barrier Reef, lies in the safety of the Endeavour River under repair. On shore a sailor is startled by a beast as black as the devil and with horns to match.

Cook writes on June 15: I saw my self this morning a little way from the ship one of the Animals before spoke off. It was af a light Mouse colour and the full size of a greyhound and shaped in every respect like one, with a tail which it carried like a greyhound. In short I should have taken it for a wild dog, but for its walking or running in which it jumped like a Hare or a deer.

Another of them was seen to-day by some of our people who saw the first. They describe them as having very small legs and the print of the foot like that of a goat.

Banks, June 25: A seaman who had been out in the woods brought home the description of an animal he had seen composed in so Seamanlike a stile that I cannot help mentioning it: it was (says he) about as large and much like a one gallon cagg, as black as the Devil and had 2 horns on its head it went but Slowly but I dard not touch it.

(Beaglehole comments: When Banks next mentions this beguiling animal he adds that it had wings. The description points to one of the large fruit bats or flying foxes.)

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B. M. S. C. T R I P R E P O R T S.

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Unless the author of a trip report is specifically mentioned, authorship may be ascribed to the Trip Leader.

ABERCROMBIE CAVES.

Date of trip. 5th and 6th February 1972.

Objectives; To investigate at the request of the Caves Superintendent Mr, George Knox, any possible extension in the rock pile in the "Butcher's Shop" area of the Bushrangers Cave, and to further extend the dig at the far end of Grove Cave.

Members present were - Allan and Gwen Fairweather, Mike Treharne, Unita Mumby, John Young, Monica Sammut, Paul Sammut, Terry Corcoran, Ron Thomas, Bob Jarvis and Ken Keck as Trip Leader. Also present on a separate permit were Ed Boylan, Bob Commins, Carol Cope, Brian Calland, John Prendergast of M.S.S. with Derek Pepper along as a prospective member.

Approximately half the party spent some two hours investigating the Rock Pile at the Butcher's Shop section, Allan Fairweather led a group into the Stable cave in an endeavour to fully explore the low level section noted on a previous trip.

Neither investigation proved fruitful, although some interesting passages were found in the rock pile in Bushrangers Cave. The main difficulty was to locate any cave wall to follow, and it was considered wise to vacate the cave about 11 am in case of public inspections coming into the cave.

The party then assembled at the dig at the far end of the Grove Cave to try to extend it in the opposite direction to the Gove cave but in a similar line.

Excavation was encouraged by the presence of a consistent draught from holes which we opened in this dig, and one small hole yielded a cave weta.

Consistent excavation was done for the whole of Saturday afternoon, and when the dig was vacated about 7 pm, we had located a tight squeeze apparently opening out into cave space beyond.

Abercrombie Caves. 5th and 6th February, 1972. cont.

George Knox came up to the dig early on Sunday morning and expressed some confidence in good results from our efforts as cave decoration could be seen through the newly opened hole. By 10.30 am the tunnel had been enlarged sufficiently for a small person to enter, and after some lowering of the floor and shoring up of the tunnel which was very loose rock and mud fill near the entrance, we entered the newly found section.

A rough sketch map is appended to this report. Having done some examination of general surface features in the area of the dig it seems probable that the Grove Cave once extended well beyond its present known limit, but was blocked by a fall of rock and earth.

The newly opened section extends some 22ft from the centre of the surface dig, and commences 16ft 10 inches from the top of the flowstone on the end chamber of the present tourist section of the Grove cave. It consists of a low crawl which opens on one side through a rat-hole into a section approx. 15ft high and 7ft long, narrow at floor level (say 3ft) but widening upwards. It is well decorated by a dark red flow-stone, in fact there is no limestone not covered by decoration of some sort. There is some particularly fine and active cave coral formation.

This section, in which two people can comfortably stand and move about seems to have possibilities of further extension in three obvious places but some careful investigation will be necessary to avoid unneccessary damage to formation before proceeding with further excavation.

The floor of the cave was notable for presence of silt, quite different in texture to the mud and earth found in the original dig, and several more wetas were noted when it was first entered.

The draught pattern is still present, and we have yet to investigate the "breathing" of this cave which was so noticeable in the early stages of the dig.

Tribute must be paid to all members of both Clubs, particularly to Mike Treharne and Ed Boylan for their part in erection of the shoring to make conditions safe.

Investigation of the base of the "Cleft" above the dig was done by Ron Thomas, Brian Calland, Terry Corcoran and Bob Jarvis. Work done could yield interesting results.

Conclusion:- This trip has certainly proved that there is more cave along the same line as the Grove Cave and it could be reasonably assumed

Abercrombie Caves. - 5th and 6th February, 1972. Cont..

that the rock and earth fill through which the dig was made is only an interruption in the passage of the original cave. More work is definitely warranted to extend the new section.

Mr. George Knox expressed his interest and appreciation of our work and the party left the area by 3.30 pm, regrouping again at Hampton.

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ABERCROMBIE CAVES.

Date of Trip: 12th and 13th February, 1972.

Members Present: Mike Treharne (L), Ian Bogg, Ken Pickering and Family, Geoff. Deane, Terry Corcoran and Family, Allan and Gwen Fairweather, Unita Mumby, Barry Richard and Family, Ken Keck, Paul Sammut and Robert Joel (Prospective).

Objective. (1) Continuation of Excavation in the Grove extension.  
(2) Survey of Grove Cave Tourist area to up-date maps.  
(3) Further investigation of the rock pile in Bushrangers Cave.  
(4) Further inspection of possible link between Stable Cave and "Butchers Shop" in Bushrangers Cave.  
(5) Survey of previously recorded exit from Cathedral Cave to up-date maps.

At 9 am Saturday, after reporting to the Superintendent, Mr. George Knox, Allan, Gwen, Unita, Robert, Paul and Ken Keck commenced further removal of loose fill from the floor of the Grove extension. Ian, Ken Pickering, Terry, Geoff., Mike and Barry headed over the bluff to pinpoint the Cathedral Cave exit point, and thence to Stable Cave to investigate a promising passage, going underground at 11 am via the Bushrangers cave.

At 1.30 pm progress in the Grove Cave dig was discussed over lunch, and at 3 pm Mike, Ken, Unita Robert and Geoff. headed back to Grove to concentrate on removal of loose fill in the vicinity of the Rat Hole in the new dig. Ian, Ken P., Allan, Paul, Terry and Barry commenced mapping in Grove.

At 7 pm we closed for dinner and our usual camp fire chat. George

Abercrombie Caves. 12th and 13th February, 1972. cont.

Knox gave a most interesting outline of Abercrombie Caves history which was most informative and kept many members up into the wee small hours.

Sunday at 8 am Mike and Ken showed George the progress in the Grove Cave dig. He remarked that the undercutting of the wall where we were working may indicate a chamber below.

At 9 am Sunday Ken, Geoff., Unita, Allan Mike, Robert and Paul went into Stable Cave to investigate the "flattener" reported by the Saturday party. We found that certain areas of the floor were well worth further detailed examination, particularly an area some 3 ft by 2ft by 1ft deep in the centre of the floor in which evidence of calcite and drainage holes were noted.

Ken P., Terry and Barry proceeded into the Grove Cave to recheck some bearings related to their mapping of the cave.

Members re-assembled at 1 pm for lunch and reported out to George Knox at 3 pm regrouping as is our custom, for an early dinner at Hampton.

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TUGLOW.

Date of Trip. 4th March, 1972.

Aim of trip. Moonmilk Survey.

Members Present; Ian Bogg (T.L.) Barry Richard, Allan Fairweather, Terry Corcoran and two guests, Val and Ron Corcoran.

After leaving Springwood at the agreed time we headed westward to the old stamping grounds at Hampton. We decided to go in via the back route in view of recent heavy rain and Mike Treharne's reports of the river crossing.

With some degree of uncertainty by our navigators we finally reached Tuglow where we began debating the advantages of the Landrover over the Toyota, whilst indulging in coffee and scones.

In light drizzling rain we made our way to the UNSWSS marker on the track. It was from here that we began a traverse to tie Moonmilk in with the UNSWSS area surveys. The surveying party moved fairly rapidly down into the cave until the rift which our leader was again unable to negotiate. From this point Barry Richard and Terry Corcoran took over

Tuglow. 4th March, 1972. cont.

the survey.

After the completion of the survey a visit was made to the Pleistocene Cave to enable some members to become familiar with it. After we returned to the top for lunch. On our return we noted that another party had arrived and entered Tuglow Main and we were appalled to see a handline fastened to a "sad looking" log across the small entrance.

During lunch the party had finally emerged from T.1. and we learned that they were free-lance cavers - from the Mountains of all places! They expressed their desire to join a club and accordingly they were given an outline of B.M.S.C..

After lunch our party split up with our guests heading down to the river while the remainder paid a visit to the Window cave accompanied by the free-lance cavers on our invitation. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all in the Window cave. It is interesting to note that some one has scaled the eastern wall and left a nylon line with knotted loops hanging down the face.

After leaving the Window cave we then headed back to our vehicle and headed down to the River where we debated whether or not we would cross the river as it was up and the bottom appeared to be washed out.

Our leader decided to give it a go and in went the Landrover, with the bonnet awash, but it made its way across, successfully. With Val behind the wheel of the Toyota, it made its way through at such a pace we thought she was attempting to drive on top of, rather than through the river.

After a wash and change at the river we headed home.

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#### CHURCH CREEK.

Date of Trip: 18th and 19th March, 1972.

Aim: Familiarisation with Church Creek.

Members Present. Ian Bogg (T.L), Brian Marshall, Barry Richard, Terry Corcoran, Geoff. Deane and Allan Fairweather.

After leaving Springwood at 9.15 pm on Friday night we were accompanied by Mike and Unita as far as Hampton. They were on their way to Abercrombie. The trip out from Hampton was uneventful although patches of fog were encountered along the Mt. Werong Road.

Church Creek. 18th and 19th March, 1972. cont.

Upon reaching the Colong turn off where we were going to camp we changed our minds and decided to push on. This we did, having difficulty in following the road at night.

We eventually reached Colong Swamp at 3 am where we decided to camp, particularly after losing an hour on the way in with our over-zealous leader putting his Landrover into a swamp in trying to avoid a mud hole, and having to be towed out only to find that an electrical failure had occurred.

Next morning we headed off towards Church Creek cautiously as the trail was extremely muddy and slippery. Our ever trusting leader experiencing further trouble by getting bogged down - twice. However we eventually made Church Creek.

We headed off down the track and noted where a vehicle had left the road and rolled down the side of Mt. Armor. Calling all the party together we examined the wreckage and found that the vehicle had been subjected to stripping. After reaching the road we noticed a timber cross on the side and one wonders whether or not the occupant(s) survived.

During the course of Saturday evening Allan celebrated his birthday in grand style and in Southern Comfort.

Sunday saw the group away early heading for another area which we had not visited on the previous occasion. This time we were more successful - locating two caves, one of which is on two levels and contained a solitary Bat with a Wombat for company. The cave is not exceptionally large, however it contains two sections with some quite good formation. The other was located at the back of a Colong-type arch and the entrance is quite impressive from the inside looking out.

Both caves were not numbered, but showed signs of previous entry. From this area we headed upstream noting various spots where the creek sinks away only to reappear again. At what appeared to be the extremity of the limestone we made our way up the mountain back to camp.

On the way down in the morning we noted a resurgence with an extremely good flow.

The trip home proved to be uneventful and upon our return to Hampton we linked up again with Mike and Unita on their way home. Whilst at Hampton we made contact with Mr. Don Roy the Kanangra-Boyd Ranger. He stated that he was keen to install gates on Tuglow. We had finally found a receptive ear to a long standing suggestion.

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TIMOR.

Date of trip. 31st March to 3rd April, 1972.

Present. Graham Nelson and family.  
Ken Pickering and family.  
and three Narrabri Senior Scouts.

This was basically a social trip and an introduction to caving for the Scouts.

We toured through Main, Belfry, Shaft, Helectite and Hill Caves and investigated all the block shafts at the top of the ridge. In one of these we encountered a small black snake which caused a slight diversion.

On Sunday, Ros and I went for a drive to Nundle and Hanging Rock and noted that the Crawney Pass limestone looks very promising, perhaps there are even more caves than the three listed in the Handbook. However, because of showery weather we did not investigate it closely.

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BENGLIN CAVE, LIMEKILNS.

Date of Trip. 22nd to 24th April, 1972.

Present. Terry Corcoran and family.  
Ken Pickering and family.

Having an interest in the history of N.S.W. caves, and in particular, an interest in finding out just who was our first speleologist, I was extremely lucky recently to come across documentary evidence of a cave exploration that predated the discovery and exploration of the Wellington Caves in 1828 by some seven years. In their encyclopaedic article in Helictite, October 1963, Lane and Richards concluded that "On all the evidence available at present, the Wellington Caves can be considered to be the first of any size discovered on the mainland of Australia".

However, the Benglen Cave at Limekilns was entered and explored by William Lawson (famous for his crossing of the Blue Mountains with Blaxland and Wentworth in 1813) as early as November 8, 1821. While further information on the area is being sorted out for a more comprehensive article, it was decided to visit Limekilns on 22nd to 24th April this year.

Benglen Cave, Limekilns. 22nd to 24th April, 1972.

On Saturday 22nd, we were unable to contact the manager of the property on which the cave is located, so we spent the afternoon looking at the limestone deposits on the "Fernbrook" property which is a declared Fauna Reserve.

This is the deposit No.3 mentioned in Carne and Jones as forming a massive escarpment 200 feet in height. We partially trogged this before the bitterly cold wind made us decide at about 4 pm to see if the manager had returned home. He hadn't, so we returned to base at Bathurst Caravan Park.

On Sunday, as pre arranged, we took our families to Hill End, so no caving was done. Terry decided to return home by driving up the headwaters of the Turon River, with the predictable result! With the help of a friendly fisherman and a Ford Falcon we got him back onto the road to Glenbrook.

On Monday, permission to visit the Limekilns Cave was obtained and it was duly located and entered.

The cave entrance is located in an old orchard paddock and the remains of a double stone chimney are nearby, supporting the local legend that a "caves house" was built years ago. Quite a lot of tourist type work has been done on the caves. There are the remains of a wooden gate that was installed at the entrance and a lot of stone work has been done at the entrance. Beyond the entrance chamber a cutting about 20ft long and up to 4ft high has been made through a bank of earth fill.

Having entered the cave alone, despite rumors of foul air, etc, I did not push it to its full extent which is quoted in various sources as (i) 400 ft (ASF Handbook and Dept. Mines 1898) (ii) limited extent (Carne and Jones) (iii) a careful estimation of 500 yards (SUSS Journal I (3)) or (iv) about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile (Clunies Ross in Journal of Royal Society 1894). The cave appears to be formed along a bedding plane which dips down into a underlying shale bed in the muddy sections. It is dirty, with evidence of many formations having been broken - Not surprising, I suppose, after 150 years of visitors!. There is some evidence of regeneration taking place;

Some of the defacement is said to have taken place during training exercises by troops stationed nearby during World War II, but the flowstone ornamentation on the verandah of the old hotel in the village suggests this wasn't the only problem.

I spent half an hour in the cave and so didn't have time to push any

Benglen Cave, Limekilns. 22nd to 24th April, 1972.

of the numerous crawlways. On leaving I did a few running repairs to the netting at the cave entrance.

Because of the historical significance of the cave I recommend that a full scale trip should be made soon to fully explore and to map both the cave and the limestone outcrop which is said to contain further sinkholes. According to a trip report in SUSS Journal 1 (3) "Many of the walls are mud covered and in places entrances to long undisturbed caverns have been made by digging through these mud blockages. The formations behind these mud barriers are good." It was suggested that the cave and limestone outcrops be mapped, but apparently this wasn't carried out.

"OSA Reports" No.2 1958 says "Helectites are in evidence in the less frequented upper passages where the better class formations of the system are to be found."

SUSS Journal also said that "Along the length of the outcrop there occur numerous sink holes which have not been examined by any member of SUSS as yet. Their size suggest the possibility of there being openings to other caves.

Camping conditions at the cave are excellent and the property manager Mr. Mcleay seems most co-operative.

Further outcrop of limestone has been noted at Palmers Oakey, a few miles north from Limekilns. An extract and map from Carne and Jones showing Limekilns outcrop is held by the author.

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TUGLOW.

Date of Trip. 14th May, 1972.

Present. Ken Pickering (L), Terry Corcoran, Barty Richard, Glenbrook Rover Scouts -- Ian Collins, Ron McGlyn, Mick King and Phil Cockburn.

. Aim of the trip was to introduce the Rovers to caving in general and Tuglow in particular.

After a later than planned start, we arrived at the top car park on Boss Mt. at approx. 10 am. It was very foggy and the track down to the lower car park was already damp so we decided to leave the cars at the

Tuglow. 14th May, 1972. cont..

top to be on the safe side. Not realising what was ahead of them, the Rovers readily agreed.

We started into Tuglow Main at 11 am, a record late start for a day trip, and found the pitches already rigged by another party who proved to be Wahroonga Senior Scouts. They were camped down on the river.

Once we gained river level inside the cave we did a quick trip to the efflux section and then proceeded upstream and into Knights Knobbly Knob chamber, or rather into what used to be Knights Knobbly Knob chamber, since K.K.K. has followed the shawl in the efflux section into oblivion. Now that the most notable formations at ground level have been butchered, how long before the mud balls start flying?

We proceeded on to the second waterfall and then turned back with the aim of an early exit. Although we were at the bottom of the entrance shaft at 3 pm it was 4.45 before the last man (it always seems to be me who waits!) cleared the cave.

Bats were noticed in group of 4 or 5 and in singles, in the cleft above the piton and behind the K.K.K. chamber - Bentwings. What appeared to be round black egg sacs, each about half the size of a match head were noticed attached to the wall near one group of bats. They were guessed to be the egg sacs of some bat parasite. Any other suggestions?

The Rovers took to caving exceptionally well and proved to be a most responsible group. This, of course, is not to say that Tuglow did not stretch them (in more ways than one) as it does all first timers (and some other than first timers!)

The walk up Boss Mtn in the gloom wasn't as bad as expected. We followed the fire trail instead of the walking track and found it much easier, although it took about 20 minutes from the lower car park compared with 10 minutes for this section on the walk down.

The usual stop was made at Hampton and then home to recuperate. Strangely enough all the regulars appeared on the "Chips" on Monday morning!

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# COLLIER



Journal of  
*Blue Mountains Speleological Club*

Vol. 4 No. 2

# O O L I T E

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## EDITORIAL.

Congratulations to S.S.S. on the publication of "Lungonia Caves"! To call it Occasional Paper No.4 does not seem to do this 230 page hard cover book justice. No doubt it contains some flaws and no doubt some will be quick to point these out, but this latest Australian Speleological publication is the most ambitious yet and sets a high standard for those who might follow. The S.R.C. published "Caves of the Nullarbor" in 1967 and the A.S.F. Speleo Handbook followed in January, 1968, with the Transcript of Proceedings of the 7th Biennial Conference appearing later. U.Q.S.S. continued the tradition with Mount Etna Caves in 1970, 1970 also saw another publication milestone in the first issue of Australian Speleo Abstracts, edited by Middleton, Dunkley and Anderson followed in 1971 with The Exploration and Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan, again published by the S.R.C. Together with the steadily increasing standard of most Club and Society journals and magazines and with the revitalising of the A.S.F. Newsletter so energetically pursued by Dunkley, we are well on the way to developing a respectable body of home grown publications. We will soon see a sophisticated new edition of Speleo Handbook which is being undertaken by our colleagues in V.S.A..

All this of course is without mentioning publications outside the strict A.S.F. sphere such as Helectite or Jennings book Marst. May Lungonia Caves attract its deserved support and stimulate further competition to the good of Australian speleology. Meanwhile, Oolite will try to drop the occasional pearl of speleological wisdom.

EDITOR.

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OFFICE BEARERS - 1972.

The duly elected Office Bearers for 1971 are as follows :-

Committee.

President..... Ken Pickering.  
 Secretary..... Ian Bogg.  
 Treasurer..... Gwen Fairweather.  
 Equipment Officer..... Larry Richard.  
 Committee Members..... Allan Fairweather.  
 Mike Treharne.

Office Bearers.

Journal Editor..... Ken Pickering.  
 Librarian..... Unita Mumby.

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# LINES OF CONDOLENCE TO RHINOLOPHUS MEGAPHYLLUS.

By BMSC Staff Poetess Unita Mumby.

Mr. Hamilton-Smith states you're rather pugnacious,  
And likely to try for a bite.  
After such brief acquaintance, don't think me ungracious,  
If I tend to agree that he's right.

But forgive you, I shall, for your nature most foul,  
And upon my support you can bet.  
So calm down little bat, don't snap at me like that,  
For you need every friend you can get.

Though you go by the title of "Horseshoe Nosed Bat",  
Such a name is uncalled for of course.  
There is no comparison, in fact it's disparaging,  
The shape of the hoof of the horse!

And though Nature clad you in soft, cloudy grey,  
From your ears to your dainty wee toes,  
Any charming effect, she successfully wrecked,  
By the mess that she made of your nose.

Though your swift, swooping flight conquers cave's endless night,  
With a matchless, infallible skill,  
Still you feel you've been cheated, by fortune mistreated,  
And that's why you feel you could kill.

Ah! What pain is repressed 'neath your furry young breast  
As you soar through the caverns above,  
For your delicate grace has been topped by a face  
That only a mother could love.

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## HONORARY MEMBERS.

The BMSC Constitution has recently been amended to provide for  
Honorary and Associate Members. The first persons voted to Honorary  
Members are -

Graham Nelson. In recognition of his work in the foundation of BMSC and  
his work in Puerto Rico-Rio Camuy exploration.

George Knox. In recognition of his unfailing assistance and camaraderie  
while we have been working over the Abercrombie area.

May our association with both these members be long lasting.

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# N.S.W. CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING - OCTOBER 28, 1972.

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DELEGATES REPORT.IAN BOGG.Societies Represented.

B.M.S.C.	H.C.G.	U.N.S.W.S.S.	S.U.S.S.
S.S.S.	M.S.S. (proxy)		
Visitors. P.S.G.	M.U.S.I.G.		

Liason Council.

Acceptances received constituted a majority, thereby forming the foundation membership. ASF will be requested to charter the N.S.W. Liason Council of the Australian Speleological Federation, and dissolve the N.S.W. Co-ordination Committee at the NIBICON ASF Committee Meeting. O.S.S. N.T.S. N.S.A. deemed ineligible to vote as they are unfinancial (and defunct?)

A.S.F. Membership Application.

Macquarie University Speleological Investigation Group's (M.U.S.I.G.) application was discussed at length. Result is that NSWCC will support their application and recommend that MUSIG be admitted into the ASF.

The general feeling amongst delegates present was in favour of the promotion and encouragement of ASF membership.

N.S.W. Cave Map Index.

The NSW Co-ordination Committee will publish a comprehensive index to all known maps covering NSW caves. Committee accepted Andrew Pavey's (UNSWSS) offer to prepare, publish and market the index. All NSW societies will be asked formally to co-operate. Index will be approx 20-25 pages, duplicated. Cost will be a modest sum of 50c per copy. Any profit from sales will be used to cover admin. expenses of the Liason Council in lieu of a direct society levy.

Colong/Tuglow Caves.

After detailed discussion, John Dunkley is to write to NPWS to establish ASF credentials and to acquaint them in general with problems relating to caves in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park. He is also to arrange a meeting between representatives of the Council and Dr. McMichael, NPWS Director.

An Ad Hoc committee has been formed to prepare a detailed submission re damage, access, etc. -

Chairman. Ian Bogg. Committee John Dunkley SUSS, Andrew Pavey and Warwick Counsell UNSWSS, Greg Middleton SSS, Keith Oliver HCG, Submissions to be made to NPWS prior to Xmas if practicable.

Cliefden.

It was noted that Mr. Bruce Dunhill now charges 50<sup>c</sup> per head to enter his property.

Barbara Dew Memorial Lecture.

In future this lecture will be organised in the name of the NSW Liason Council of the Australian Speleological Federation, and not in the name of S.U.S.S. Next lecture will be early in 1973, organised by SUSS on behalf of the Council.

N.S.W. Co-ordination Committee Meeting. cont..Information and Address Sheet.

Co-ordination Committee will prepare a sheet outlining the NSW and ACT societies addresses, dates of meetings, venues, activities and the role and function of the ASF. These will be left at strategic places, e.g. Jenolan. Apparent increase of interest by people visiting such areas for details of organised caving.

Conservation Action.

John Dunkley instructed to write to NUCC seeking info. on the damage to the gate in the Restoration Cave at Yagby.

It was also recommended that gates be applied to the Janus, East Deep Creek, and Coppermine Caves at Yagby.

Reported that NUCC and MSS are proposing the gating of Wyanbene Cave. Recommended that before any cave is gated the Council be notified and also societies interested in the particular area.

Cave Documentation.

Each NSW society will receive a circular requesting their co-operation in compiling cave documentation for the 2nd. edition of the Speleo Handbook to be published in 1973. Aim is for one or more societies familiar with various areas to compile cave data.

Cave Documentation Co-ordinators are Warwick Counsell and Andrew Pavey of UNSWSS.

Wee Jasper.

ASF to join and support CSIRO in promoting the gating rather than total and permanent blocking of the Church Cave following the report of HISTOPLASMOSIS. CSIRO reports that this cave is the major maternity bat cave site on the east coast of Aust.

Australian Speleological Federation.

It was generally felt that the ASF could play a far greater role. The aim of the NSW Liason Council in the future will be one of activity and promoting awareness of the general speleo scene - eg. NSW Cave Map Index, United Conservation Action such as Colong/Tuglow submission.

Items of general interest.

Available from John Dunkley are copies of the ASF conservation submission to the West Australian Government covering the caves of the Nullabor, in particular Mullaullang. Cost 40<sup>c</sup> per copy.

Dungonia Caves. This book was available for examination at the meeting. It appears to be reasonable value, beautifully printed and presented. A little on the expensive side. Nevertheless, a worthwhile addition to one's speleo library. I shall be recommending that EMSC acquire a copy for the library.

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FAREWELL S. AROMATICUS var CORCORAN. - Terry, Loretta and the children are leaving us in January 1973 to live in Tasmania. Hope to see some articles for your favourite magazine sent up from Tassie,

Without Terry and his clouds of smoke to keep the insects away, we'll have to help increase the profit margin of Mortein.

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"YOU HAVE TO BE BATTY TO WORRY ABOUT DDT".

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Though the use of DDT has been virtually abandoned in Britain, it is still building up in wildlife, and a decline in the bat population prompted D. J. Jefferies of Monks Wood Experimental Station to conduct tests to determine this animal's susceptibility to the insecticide. He has analyzed the amounts of DDT and its metabolites in the bodies of wild bats (found dead or killed for investigation) and administered it to captive bats to determine the lethal dosage.

All the wild bats tested had DDT or related breakdown products in their livers, and the average concentration was about one third of the lethal dose as found by toxicological experiments. However, as the artificially fed, captive bats became very fat and therefore had increased capacity to store DDT, the lethal dose could prove to be much lower in the field. This is suggested by the variation of DDT concentration in wild bats during the year. Before hibernation, when they are fat, the concentration is relatively low, but immediately after hibernation, the loss of weight produces a concentration almost as high as the laboratory tested lethal dose.

Bats were found to harbour DDT more than any other mammal tested, and more than most birds. This has been ascribed to three main factors:

- 1) The insects which bats eat are slow to metabolize DDT.
- 2) The bats eat insects continually.
- 3) The bats themselves are slow at metabolizing DDT.

Full results of the tests are now published in the "Journal of Zoology" (vol. 166 p.245).

Abstracted by Unita Mamby from an article in "New Scientist" 20/4/72.

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FAREWELL TO JOHN GALLARD.

Our best wishes go with John and family on his transfer to Kosciusko National Park. John was one of the BMSC originals back in 1965 and I can't believe he will let the limestone in the Kosciusko region go unnoticed. He has asked members going by, to drop in to see him at 46 Banjo Patterson Crescent Jindabyne, 2627.

EDITOR.

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## BIRDS THAT FLY BY ECHOES.

From THE MASONIAN.

Most people are by now aware of the way in which bats emit a wide range of sounds, not only to communicate, but by which to fly accurately, and catch their food in complete darkness, easily avoiding any obstacle from fine wire to dense foliage merely by judging the quality of the echos of these sounds. Not so many know however, that there are also a few species of birds which use this echolocation method for getting around in the dark.

The birds that build the nests used by the Chinese to make their birds' nest soup are among the very few which are nocturnal. They are found in Sarawak, and during the day they hide in the depths of dark caves. These birds are a species of swift (*Collocalia maxima*), and they use a loud clicking sound for echolocation in the caves where they spend the daylight hours, and where their eyes are useless.

The clicks are of short duration, but have mixed frequencies, and are made in addition to the normal bird sounds. Clickings were to be synchronised with wing movements, but it can be turned on and off at will, so it is not quite so easily investigated as the sounds made by bats, which are more continuous. It also appears to be used in courtship, which further complicates its interpretation.

Another very widespread nocturnal cave-dwelling bird, the oilbird of Caripe (*steatornis caripensis*) is found in Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, high in the Andes, Trinidad and British Guiana. This bird used echolocation for finding its way around inside the deep caves which it inhabits. Its local name, Guarcharo, is Spanish for "one who cries and laments", perhaps because as these birds twist and turn in the dark, they also emit shrieks and squawks.

In some places this Guarcharo is mistakenly called an owl because of its nocturnal habits, and perhaps because it is about the size of a hawk. Its diet is fruit, and the kind of fruit, palm and laurel on which it feeds, gives it an exceedingly high body content of fat, and this is the reason for its common name of oilbird.

Except when they are in flight, oilbirds voice evenly spaced clicks or snapping sounds with a frequency of about 7,000 cycles a second, and like bats, if their ears are plugged they can no longer navigate in the dark. They collide with the cave walls and with each other. Like the insect-eating bats, their clicking sounds vary in number or frequency as an object is approached. Ordinarily they are about one two-hundred and fortieth of a second in duration.

Both these species of cave-dwelling birds have retinas which are highly specialised for dim-light vision, and as their pupils expand and contract very extensively, they have excellent night vision which they use to advantage when they fly away from their caves at night.

By J.H. Prince.

With acknowledgment to "Koolewong",  
March, 1972,

Proceedings of the Royal Zoological  
Society of N.S.W..

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## A SPELEOLOGICAL VOCABULARY

OR

## HOW TO SUCCEED IN ENGLISH WITHOUT REALLY TRYING.

By Speleologist Aromaticus  
Corcoran.

Most cavers, speleologists and pot-holers generally have some idea of the use and meaning of a number of words associated with caves and caving. To the beginner, however, these words can be very confusing, particularly when used without some prior explanation of just what they are all about. These few lines set out to provide that explanation.

While most of us are familiar with such terms as "chimney", "Solution-passage," and "efflux," how many of us really know the meaning of such basic speleological terms as "Gadzooks," whackey-doo," and "good 'eavans?" Yet these words, and others like them, are the basis of an experienced speleologist's vocabulary,

One word used frequently, but often incorrectly, is "rats." There are no restrictions on who may use the word. It simply means that the user has stumbled and wet his feet, usually in very cold water. If you hear a member of your party fall and get his feet wet, remind him that all other expressions are both incorrect and superfluous. "Rats" will suffice.

"Gadzooks", by contrast, has a number of uses. Used by a trip leader at great depths, it simply means, "I'm hopelessly lost." Other members of a caving party use it to tell each other they have lost the trip leader. Used loudly when descending ladders or abseiling it means that the user has slipped off the ladder or lost his abseiling rope. In this sense it is simply a reminder to the belaying member that this is not the time to release the safety line for such trivial matters as eating or scratching oneself. Profanities should never be used on these occasions as they tend to confuse the issue, although trip leaders may give special dispensation if the descending member has not regained the rope or ladder after fifteen minutes.

The third basic word is "egad." This is used after a "gadzooks" situation and then only by trip-leaders. While "gadzooks" is used by trip leaders to inform their party that they are hopelessly lost, "egad", contrary to popular opinion, does not mean "I'm found again!" Its more correct interpretation would roughly be: "I have been hopelessly lost for a considerable time and reached the stage where I do not wish to be found so please go your own way and if you get out alive don't send help because I will not appreciate it!" Naturally no experienced trip leader would say that when he can convey the same message with "egad". To emphasise the meaning the trip leader may either sit and refuse to move as he says it or run into a passage screaming "egad" continuously in a voice tinged with hysteria.

"Good 'eavans" is used by speleologists in a similar manner to its general use; it is basically an expression of surprise. However, this surprise is permitted only on specific occasions. Among these are surprise at the same number of cavers coming out of a cave as went in, the meeting of an angry wombat face to face in a tight squeeze, or the entire compliment of a B.M.S.C. party arriving at the rendezvous at the appointed time. In speleological circles, these are all legitimate

A Speleological Vocabulary. cont..

occasions of surprise.

The terms "cor, blimey" and "ruddy nit" remain exclusively for use by English speleologists, at home or abroad, and will not be dealt with in this article.

Except for the situation outlined above, profanities should not be used in speleological circles. The reason for this is simply that most speleologists are not sufficiently well educated to know what they mean.

Experienced speleologists never use expressions of anger. They are occasionally heard to emit low grunting sounds through closed jaws. Despite years of research, these sounds have never been clearly heard and all attempts to represent them on paper have failed. Drivers on B.M.S.C. trips are allowed to use them freely when calling for the author of this article for an early morning departure and discovering that he is still in bed. If these sounds are suddenly uttered by a speleologist out in the scrub they mean that he has just realised that he has forgotten his lunch. (The term "his lunch" is used here because female speleologists have never been known to forget their lunches. They often forget such things as lamps, batteries and other trivia but lunch - never!!!)

"Whackey doo," by contrast, is an expression of excitement or even ecstasy. Used by a trip leader approaching a cave the term means something like: "So the cave is here. For a while there I thought I might be on the wrong track and then I would look a fool in the eyes of this lot." Of course, no trip leader will say all that; but many have been heard to mutter "whackey-doo" when the cave entrance appears on the way in. (Note: Trip leaders muttering "whackey-doo" when approaching the Grand Arch at Jenolan or the Abercrombie Arch should be treated with some caution.) The use of "whackey-doo" early of a morning in Glenbrook is extremely rare. It means that the author was on deck and ready to go when his transport arrived for a day trip to Tuglow.

So endeth the first lesson. Beginners to caving should learn the correct use of these terms in order to develop a better understanding of speleology. In doing so they should remember that one does not have to be insane to go caving although it certainly helps.

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ANNUAL REPORT. N.P.W.S.

The annual report of the N.P.W.S. is always a prestige affair by comparison with the rather staid documents put out by most government agencies. It abounds with pretty pictures arranged in an eye catching layout and printed on textured paper. The 1971 report, apart from the shots of T.L. Lewis and D.F. McMichael, continues the tradition. On page 7 it has an interesting colour photo of a aboriginal rock painting from the Bourke district - several human figures in white pigment. On page 11 there is a magnificent view of the entrance to Glory Hole Cave, Yarrangobilly.

EDITOR.

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HISTORICAL FEATURE.

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From "Fourteen Journeys Over the Blue Mountains of New South Wales 1813-1841" edited by George Mackaness.

No.11, James Backhouse "Account of a journey from Parramatta Across the Blue Mountains to Wellington 1835."

September 24th. There was a fine rain, with much thunder and lightning. Accompanied by J.C.S. Handt, and the black youth before mentioned, we visited the large cavern in the limestone, about three miles eastward of the settlement. The entrance is contracted and steep, opening among numerous small rocky projections; within there are a number of irregular, sub-hemispherical cavities, the surface of which, as well as the floor of the cave, are covered with dust, formed by the decomposing stone. In a few places there are sparry projections from the sides; stalactites, resembling icicles, depend from the roof, in several parts. In some places, the stalactites from the top have joined the stalagmites on the floor, and in one place the mass has become stupendous, and remarkably beautiful. The base is an ascent of irregular undulating narrow ledges, forming a series of perpendicular hollows, rising gradually for six or eight feet; the stalactites are slender columns from fifteen to twenty feet in height, laterally united into a mass of irregular outline, which may be forty feet in circumference. But these dimensions not being from measurement, nor from memorandums made at the time, may be far from correct: they will, however, give some idea of this remarkable petrification, which by some has been compared to a great organ, to which it has a faint resemblance. The furthest extremity of the cave may be a hundred yards from the entrance; it is terminated by a sudden and almost perpendicular descent to water; which may be perceived by throwing stones down the opening. The top of one of the smaller chambers in the side was dripping, and covered with small stalactites; another was dry, and inhabited by small bats, that were greatly disturbed by our flambeaux. Some bones are said to have been found in the cave, but I saw none, neither did I perceive any traces of fossil remains in the limestone, which is of a dove-colour, intersected with white veins, and of compact texture; possibly it may be transition limestone, but it is contiguous to basalt, and to hills of very hard, compact, reddish stone, traversed by white veins, possibly silicious. In the neighbourhood there are several smaller cavities; but I do not learn that they had been explored. Our black companion seemed a little fearful of entering the cavern, but he was pleased with exploring it. He enquired, as we returned toward daylight, who made it; and on being told, God, who made heaven and earth, and all things, a momentary awe seemed to occupy his mind, as he repeated the answer.

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## LIBRARY NOTES.

Unita Mumby. Librarian.

The unruly B.M.S.C. library has at last been tamed and, subsequently, a number of procedures have been initiated which should be of assistance to members wishing to use it.

These are :-

- 1) As far as possible each series of regular publications has been lodged in a separate binder, with only defunct or sporadic journals being lumped together.
- 2) A list of all maps contained in the journals has been prepared (for eventual inclusion in a master list covering the libraries of B.M.S.C., H.C.G. and M.S.S.)
- 3) A comprehensive reference index is being compiled to facilitate the location of information on specific subjects.

Some interesting additions to the library are :-

- 1) The first 3 issues of the Bulletin of the Peninsula Speleological Group. An article in Vol.1 No.3, "The Oldham-Wheat Wet Cell", is recommended to anyone seeking information on home-made battery chargers or who have grown slothful in the care and maintenance of his faithful light-source.
- 2) The new book, "Australian Caves and Caving" by Wolfgang Kahrau, published by Lansdowne Press for popular distribution. It is well illustrated, with diagrams, colour and monotone photographs, and covers many aspects of caving and caving techniques. It presents clearly for a book of this type, the basic aims of Speleology as a science, stresses cave conservation, and includes an address list of A.S.F. affiliated clubs for the non-speleo reader who may be prompted to try out this fascinating science? art? sport??

Other publications purchased, or in the process of purchase, are "Karst" by J.N. Jennings, "The British Caver" and "Studies in Speleology."

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PLUNGED TO CLIFF DEATH.

Sun-Herald, Oct 1, 1972.

GOULBURN. Saturday. - A boy aged 19 fell 60 feet to his death down a 1,500 feet gorge this morning near Bungonia, 19 miles south east of Goulburn.

He was "abseiling" down a cliff when his rope was dislodged from its anchorage. Abseiling means to descend a cliff with feet pressed to the cliff face, while suspended in a nearly horizontal position by a rope.

The youth whose name has not been disclosed by the police, was in a party of six climbers from Sydney.

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"UNUSUAL CAVE" - from "The Face of Australia" by C.F. Laseron.  
Angus & Robertson Second Edition 1964. Page 223.

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Quite another type of cave is very rarely seen, and is revealed only by chance in mines or deep quarries. These are sealed cavities in the rocks, the open portion of the great faults which once shattered and displaced the strata. One such cavity was brought to light about 60 miles west of Grafton in New South Wales, near the Upper Clarence River. Here lies the ghost town of Lionsville, once a populous mining community, but now lonely and nearly forgotten in a secluded valley on the eastern edge of the tableland.

I visited this cave many years ago. The old hotel was then still in existence, built of solid rough-hewn cedar slats, and it was possible while lying in bed to read the papers of 30 years before with which the walls had been papered. I believe this hotel has since been burned down, and the mining tunnel leading to the cave has fallen in.

In the days when the Garibaldi mine was yielding good gold, the main drive following the reef had been driven about 400 yards into the hillside. Here the reef was lost, cut off by a great cross fault. The fissure produced by the fault had remained open, forming a cave about 90 feet long and 20 feet wide with a roof about 20 feet high. Deep cracks below filled with water extended to an unknown depth. What made the cave or vugh (to use a mining term) most impressive were the gigantic crystals of calcite lining the sides and roof. These were probably the largest crystals of their kind ever found in the world. Many were six or seven feet across, great obtuse pyramids of shining white. Growing on the larger crystals were numerous small, secondary crystals, exquisite and perfect flat-topped hexagonal prisms, quite transparent, and even in the flickering light of a candle glistening like so many gems.

The largest crystal my companion and I could manage through the narrow drive was about 18 inches across; it now reposes in the Technical Museum, Sydney. The others, I have been informed, were broken up by a German prospector and sent to Germany for making prisms for petrological microscopes and other optical instruments.+ This variety of calcite, noted for its transparency and strong double refraction, is known as Iceland spar and quite valuable.

+ The Dept. Mines Annual Report for 1936 refers to a "G.W. Exton of Lismore" who had the mine adit cleaned out to prospect calcite crystals.

Editor.

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HISTOPLASMA CAPSULATUM.

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Histoplasma capsulatum made headline news on the front page of the Sydney Sun on October 18. With typical newspaper exaggeration the Sun reported that eight people who visited a bat "infested" cave were under "intense" medical observation and that a "team" of specialists will visit the cave to take samples. The Sydney Morning Herald of 19th October reduced the number infected to five and the team of specialists became two of the infected youths plus a hospital doctor. The Herald reported that fowl excreta has been suspect in the few previous Australian cases of histoplasmosis.

Graham Nelson became aware of the disease during his stay in Puerto Rico, and back in 1969 he sent some interesting material describing some case studies, which is reproduced below. At that time, Lloyd Robinson did some checking up on the Australian Position for B.M.S.C.. He advised that a number of guano samples from various areas of Australia had been examined by Connole and Johnson and found to be negative. No cases of the disease had then been reported in Australia. (Pere and Nicholas mention the disease on p.65 of Speleology, The Study of Caves).

Editor.

REPORT ON HISTOPLASMOSIS IN AGUAS BUENAS CAVES.

by Warren C. Lewis. MD.

Several members of the field trip team developed acute histoplasmosis shortly after they returned to their homes. Some were severely ill, while others had a mild or imperceptible sickness. Each one had taken a Histoplasmin skin test at the start of the trip. As it turned out, only those with negative skin tests were affected. Those members with extensive experience in tropical caves and with positive skin tests showed no adverse reactions. The subject of histoplasmosis was lively and controversial in the Puerto Rican newspapers at the time. The Aguas Buenas caves were rumored to be a site of infection. We confirmed this rumor. In spite of our attempts to minimize exposure, each susceptible person developed a positive skin test. Those who were seriously ill had not anticipated the virulence of the disease or the prolonged period of weakness which followed.

Histoplasmosis is caused by inhaling or swallowing the spores of a fungus, *Histoplasma capsulatum*. This fungus grows well in warm, moist soil which has been enriched by the feces of bats or birds. From one to three weeks after the spores were inhaled, an acute respiratory disease may develop. However, this will only occur on the first exposure. Once within the body, the fungus grows as an invasive yeast forming many small bodies within the cell. In rare cases it may overwhelm the lung or spread throughout the body. Severe cases are treated by an anti-fungal agent, Amphotericin-B. Most cases recover without any specific treatment. None of the cases in this series required specific treatment with anti-fungal agents.

The field trip was held February 9 to 18, 1968. Those involved included eight regular members of the team, members of their families, support personnel and regional cavers. Six of these had negative

Report on Histoplasmosis in Aguas Buenas Caves. cont.

Histoplasmin skin tests. Their case reports follow:

One member developed symptoms February 25, fifteen days after his first exposure to the cave, and five days after returning home. He had pain in chest, fatigue, headache and began to run a fever. Through the following week he became worse. A chest x-ray, March 2, 1968, showed many abnormal shadows in both lung fields. A skin test displayed a large area of inflammation on his arm which was in marked contrast to his earlier test at the start of the trip. His temperature reached 102.5 degrees F. From March 2 to 7 he suffered from prolonged headaches, chills, ~~Fever~~, dizziness and cough. He lost 10½ pounds. On March 7 his temperature dropped to normal and he began to feel better. He continued to cough and was weak for quite a while afterward. He recalled exploring some side rooms in the lower level off the river cave where <sup>there</sup> were thousands of bats flying and guano lay three feet thick on the floor. He wondered whether or not he might have been exposed in that room. He was an experienced caver in the north central Appalachian region.

The second and third cases were a husband and wife who also became ill February 25, 1968. By the next day they had high fever, cough and were unable to eat. Muscular aching and pains became severe and incapacitating. These lasted an entire week. Sharp chest pains became severe and mostly so on the third or fourth day. A battery of tests and x-rays confirmed the diagnosis. During the second week the acute illness subsided leaving them tired and weak. Each lost close to fifteen pounds in weight. For some time the pain and pressure in the chest would be gone in the morning but would return with activity. Climbing a flight of stairs would bring on the pain. It often spread to the back and sides.

During the third week of illness they began to feel better, but chest pains and cough persisted. Skin tests March 17 showed that each had converted from negative to a strongly positive reaction to Histoplasmin. They had crawled in some low, dry and dusty side rooms in Cueva Clara and wondered whether or not they might have acquired it there.

The fourth member noted general malaise and chest congestion about ten days after returning home. He was feverish for a short time only. A hacking cough developed which brought up thick sputum. An x-ray of the chest showed nodular densities scattered through both lower lung fields. His skin test became strongly positive to Histoplasmin. A complement fixation blood test became positive to the mycelial phase in a dilution of 1:8. A month later the x-rays were clear. He had not been in the lower levels of the cave.

A fifth members of the team converted from a negative to a positive Histoplasmin skin test after returning from the trip. He had previously banded thousands of bats in the North Temperate Zone without becoming positive. His blood test became positive in a dilution of 1:32. He was not ill.

The sixth member was skin tested March 19, 1968, and was found to have converted from a negative to a positive Histoplasmin skin test. He had no symptoms of the disease.

Report on Histoplasmosis in Aguas Buenas Caves. cont.

Two other members of the team showed slightly positive reactions. Each of them had been in Aguas Buenas Caves before and was immune to the fungus. All other members of the team had strongly positive skin tests and had no ill effects from being in the caves. Each member who became ill tended to blame a different part of the cave. It now seems likely that the fungus is widely distributed through the system. One can only wonder about the health of the numerous children who visited the caves during the field trip. Especially large numbers were noted on the weekend. Before the team left the vicinity, the caves had been posted by the local health officer.

An earlier epidemic from Aguas Buenas caves had been reported in the Bulletin of the Puerto Rico Medical Association. In 1963, a Spanish Club from a nearby high school visited the caves. Two weeks later several of the students developed a cough, a fever, and pneumonitis. One showed erythema nodosum, blotchy swelling of the skin associated with some cases of histoplasmosis. Others had mild symptoms. Of the fourteen in the group, thirteen were found to have positive skin tests. Many showed x-ray changes. When an equal number of their classmates were tested, all were negative. The caves were the only place outside of school where the original group had been together.

Two health officers visited the caves to collect soil samples. They wore paper masks most of the time. Both developed positive skin tests after the trip. They were alarmed to find that the caves had been designated a radiation shelter by the Civil Defence. Tests on the first soil samples proved to be negative. However, five subsequent samples proved to be positive for the fungus.

In February, 1963, a soil sample from the Cueva de los Panes near Utuado was found infected with Histoplasmosis. This was in the west central part of the island. A 3 x 5 foot entrance lead into a series of high vaulted rooms extending perhaps 150 feet. There were three consecutive chambers with a smaller sized chamber opening off the large middle room. The ceiling was full of stalactites. Fruit-eating bats, *Artibeus Jamaicensis*, inhabited the cave. In places long sprouts could be seen growing from the guano. The atmosphere was very humid with water dripping from formations to form pools on the floor. Many people were said to visit this cave. Of the first 127 soil specimens tested in Puerto Rico, only those from the two cave systems were positive. Editor's note: The Board of Health has made a survey of the Rio Camuy Caves on the western side of the island and found no evidences of histoplasmosis.

Decontamination of soil containing H. Capsulatum:

Experimental studies showed that formaldehyde and cresol solutions were effective in destroying the fungus. An effort was made to eliminate the fungus from a five acre site in Mason City, Iowa. This site had been the source of two major epidemics. In 1962 there were twenty nine confirmed cases and three deaths with first attempts to clear the site. On the second attempt it was estimated that 6,000 residents of the city had developed positive skin tests, including most of those in the downtown area, due to the exposure to the fungus. Seven thousand gallons of formalin were diluted to 3% solution and applied by tank truck to the site. Formalin is an aqueous solution of formaldehyde gas, approximately 37% formaldehyde in weight. The entire five acre site received three applications of the chemical and the area of starling roost received a fourth application. Numerous soil studies done over succeeding months

showed the fungus to be virtually absent from the surface. However, samples taken at a depth of 6 inches were positive in 10% of the samples. In future applications, a method of punching holes six to eight inches deep in the soil will be devised to ensure the penetration of the chemical.

#### Discussion:

Distribution of *H. capsulatum* in caves is world wide. The infection is heaviest in tropical and sub-tropical regions. In these areas it is associated with the habitat of bats and oilbirds. Many species of bats were infected and may act carriers. The disease is acquired by inhaling or ingesting the fungus at a focus of infection. Immunity is gained by exposure to the fungus. The exposure must be followed by a latent period of several weeks as the immune response is a delayed reaction. The disease is a distinct threat to the non-immune person. With a massive dose, symptoms appear within a few days and are more severe. They may be overwhelming.

#### Summary:

The Aguas Buenas Caves, Puerto Rico, harbor the pathogenic fungus, *Histoplasma capsulatum*. Several members of the field trip team developed acute pulmonary histoplasmosis after the trip. All those negative to histoplasmin on skin tests became positive. A method of positive disinfection was reported. This infection is a potential hindrance to commercial development of caves.

(24 Scientific References are cited in this paper.)

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#### Test of Bat Cave.

Sydney Morning Herald.  
Oct. 21, 1972.

Dust and bat droppings which are believed to contain samples of an unusual fungus which infected five amateur explorers of Church Cave, at Wee Jasper, near Yass, were taken to Sydney yesterday by a consultant from the Royal North Shore Hospital, Dr. A. Strakosch.

Dr. Strakosch, two of the infected cave explorers and local authorities climbed into the cave to search for samples.

The hospital's Clinical superintendent, Dr. Robert Briffin, said it was hoped that culture of the fungus could be grown.

This would enable a diagnosis of the flu-like illness suffered by the five explorers to be made in about a week.

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EXPLORING CAVES IS NOT JUST A HOBBY.

from Radio, Television & Hobbies  
March, 1961.

In recent years, there has been a great deal of activity and much publicity given to what the general public considers just another aspect of man's crazy urge for adventure.

It is true that there are many people who explore caves just for the heck of the thing, just as there are many others who climb mountains or explore the sea bed in a bathysphere or skin suit, or go up to dizzy heights in balloons, aeroplanes and gliders.

People have always taken a great interest in a hole in the ground, or in a fence or in a circus tent.

Let council workmen erect a barrier and start digging a hole. Within seconds there a curious people watching and waiting. Every day one can see people peering through holes in a fence behind which some building operation is being carried out. Up-to-date contractors are now providing neatly cut out apertures to satisfy the demand by the idle curious.

The reason for peering through holes in circus tents or fences around football fields has an obvious monetary origin rather than idle curiosity.

It was not wholly idle curiosity which caused early man to become the first speleologist, for such he undoubtedly was.

His was a curiosity born of the need to find a safe place to live; a place where he could find refuge from the weather or from wild beasts, a hostile neighbour, a nagging wife or a jealous husband.

Doubtless, however, there were many curious cavemen who, on seeing a hole in the side of a mountain simply said "Wonder what's in there," and proceeded to investigate.

Perhaps he was seeking a quiet place to woo his lady love. Such occasions sometimes inspire great courage and he would drag his lady by the hair into the cave, Courtship being otherwise not much different then as now, he might be greeted by a voice saying "Fair go, mate, find yourself another cave."

The article goes onto give a popular account of cave genesis and exploration.

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ABORIGINAL CAVE ART.

Aborigines of Australia by Baglin and Mullins, published 1969 by Horwitz, price \$1.00, is a 36 page pamphlet containing numerous highly coloured illustrations, many of which relate to aboriginal rock shelters and cave art. Various forms of cave art are shown - rock peckings, cave paintings, hand stencils, outline engravings and x-ray type paintings and paintings of the mythical "Wandjina" beings.

EDITOR.

## P R E S S   C L I P P I N G S .

Cave Dwelling Site A Major Find.

Daily Mirror. 28th March, 1972.

MANILA, Tuesday - A Philippine-sponsored scientific expedition which included General Charles Lindbergh reported today the discovery of the first known living cave dwellers.

Father Frank Lynch, a New York Roman Catholic priest and chief anthropologist on the expedition, said the discovery of the cave dwellings of the 24 surviving stone-age Tasaday tribesmen in a rain forest in the Southern Philippines was "of major scientific importance."

The cave dwellers are members of the Tasaday lost tribe in South Cotabato province, about 500 miles south of Manila.

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Daily Telegraph, Friday April 7, 1972 - has a picture of the "Tribe that time forgot". Half-Naked members of the Tasaday "lost tribe" in their limestone cave homes framed by jungle foliage of the southern Philippines. They were discovered by an expedition which included U.S. aviator Charles Lindberg. (UPI photo).

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Ice Age with a Warm Interior.Sydney Morning Herald.  
8th May, 1972.

A couple of years ago, a cave explorer squeezed through a 25ft passage only nine inches high in South Australia's Naracoorte Caves.

And the State quietly acquired an international tourist attraction - an Ice Age fossil cave.

Quietly, because the discovery and subsequent development of the cave for tourism have been done with little publicity. But visiting international scientists have described the hoard of fossilised Ice Age animals as the richest deposit in the world.

They include the Procoptodon, a giant, 12-foot kangaroo; the Diprotodontid, a hippo-sized wombat; marsupial lion, giant wallaby, the Tasmanian Tiger and several other extinct animals which roamed the South-East of Australia 10,000 year ago.

While the scientists toil in the red silt on the floor of the cave (which now has a somewhat larger entrance), visitors can watch from a viewing platform.

Exhibits have been mounted on the platform inside the 260-foot chamber, together with explanations and a museum is planned "upstairs" as scientists recover more fossilised animals from the red silt and piece together their Ice Age puzzles.

The Fossil Cave is part of a cave system, three others of which are open for inspection. They contain limestone formations, marine fossils and huge foot columns.

Press Clippings. cont.

Well Groomed. Shocked, the bat returns to its roost in a cave, hollow tree or old building, and licks as much of the goo of his back as he can. In the process he poisons himself fatally. Other vampires come to help groom him, and so poison themselves. A single smeared bat has been found to cause, on the average, the death of twenty others, sometimes as many as thirty.

The two bat-poisoning techniques, developed with the support of funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development, have been tested successfully, the back-painting in Mexico and Brazil and the cow injections in Mexico. Both methods will soon be extended to other countries, beginning next month in Bolivia.

The benefits expected from vampire control are manifold: a marked decrease of outbreaks of both human and animal rabies and other infections carried by bats; an increase in the weight of beef cattle, and comparable increase in milk production - for a cow that is being bled by vampires may yield only 20 quarts of milk a day against a normal 30. There is no danger of the vampires becoming extinct, says Mexican biologist Raul Flores Crespo. "We can reduce the population, but we cannot totally destroy it. The vampire can return to the jungle and live as it did before the coming of the Spanish." That is, by sucking on wild animals but not on horses and cows.

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Apewoman 2½ Million Years Old.

Sun-Herald. Oct, 1, 1972.

Johannesburg, Saturday. Workers digging in the Sterkfontein Caves have uncovered the fossilised skull of an ape-woman possibly 2½-million years old, Professor Phillip Tobias, a leading palaeontologist, disclosed today.

The skull, regarded as possibly one of the most significant finds in recent years, was found about 10 yards from the spot where Dr. Robert Broom found the skull of a woman known as "Mrs Ples," one of man's earliest relatives, 25 years ago.

The latest treasure yielded up by the caves, sited near Krugersdorp, about 30 miles west of Johannesburg, includes the palate, several good upper teeth in position, part of the braincase and many of the facial bones.

Near-Adult Female. Professor Tobias, of the University of Witwatersrand's anatomy department, said he estimated the new find to be nearly two and a half million years old. Indications were that it belonged to a female who had just reached adulthood.

Professor Tobias said the find was the most important discovery of an "Australopithecine made in undisturbed calcified earth" since Dr. Broom found "Mrs Ples."

It would give scientists a chance to extend their knowledge of the anatomy of the species of ape-man thought to be man's most likely ancestor.

Excavators have also realised that the cave being investigated is far more extensive than previously thought, and probably contains a wealth of fossils.

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Press Clippings. cont.

One not open is Bat Cave, a "maternity ward" for bats who breed there from December to January. Their feeding flight at dusk is an incredible sight as hundreds of thousands whirl into the sky.

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Last Licks.

Time, July 24th, 1972.

In the legends of Eastern Europe, the vampire took many horrendous forms, but south of the Rio Grande vampiro means just one thing: a tiny bat that sucks the blood of humans and animals and carries rabies, the deadliest of infectious diseases. Despite its minuscule proportions - an adult may weigh as little as one-half ounce and seldom more than 1½ ounces - the common vampire has made it economically impractical to raise cattle or horses in large areas from central Mexico to central Argentina. Efforts to destroy *Desmodus rotundus* by such crude methods as dynamiting or using flamethrowers in his cave roosts have proved too costly, inefficient, and disastrous for neighbouring populations of beneficial, insect-eating bats.

Now, after years of dangerous work at inhospitable field stations, investigators from the U.S. and Mexico have developed techniques that promise to vanquish the vampire. With ghoulish justice, the little beast that lives by blood will be made to die by it.

Two quirks of nature promise to be the vampires' undoing. One is the fact that bats, like rats, are more sensitive than most mammals to the hemorrhagic properties of anticoagulants. These are the chemicals used medicinally to protect human victims of heart attacks and strokes against the recurrence of dangerous blood clotting; overdoses can cause fatal internal bleeding. The best known anticoagulant, warfarin, is used in calculated overdoses as a rat poison. In 1968 a two-nation team began work at the National Livestock Research Institute in Mexico City and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Wildlife Research Centre in Denver to try to kill bats with an anticoagulant. Choosing the poison - diphenadione - was one thing. But how to get the stuff into vampires?

One way would be to inject the anticoagulant into the stomachs of cattle, from which it would pass into their bloodstreams. The dose would not be enough to harm the large animals, but any blood-sucking vampire would get enough to kill it.

Then a second quirk of nature suggested another method. Like cats, vampires lick themselves to clean their reddish-brown fur, and they are as clubby as monkeys, eagerly grooming each other. One researcher reasoned that it would be effective to catch a few vampires, dub them with diphenadione, then release them to return home and bleed to death - and incidentally poison their grooming partners.

To catch the vampires for their fatal treatment, the bat killers suspend, above the fence of a cattle corral, a Japanese nylon mist net, as fine as a lady's "invisible" hairnet. The net is invisible in the dark when the bats sortie and, more important, its fine threads give back no detectable echo for the vampires' sonar system. When a bat is netted, a technician wearing tough leather gloves carefully removes it from the net and rubs its back with half a teaspoonful of petroleum jelly laced with 50 milligrams of diphenadione.

## CONSERVATIONISTS WIN BUNGONIA CASE.

From The Sydney Morning Herald.  
Saturday, Oct 21, 1972.

The Metropolitan Mining Warden, Mr. K. S. Andersen, in a decision announced yesterday, found that public interest in an application for a special mining lease by Metropolitan Portland Cement Pty Ltd, over about 87 acres of Crown Land at Bungonia Gorge, would be outweighed by public interest in preserving the area's scenic aspects and recreational uses.

He said he had had "regard to the everlasting impairment of the environment compared with the short-term benefits of mining."

The Warden's Court decision is, in effect a recommendation to the Minister for Mines, Mr. Fife, who will make the final decision.

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## WHERE ART FLOWERED IN THE BUSHLAND OF AFRICA.

From the Sydney Morning Herald.  
Monday, Sept, 18th, 1972.

Route National 11 links Cape Town with the mandated territory of South West Africa. It is as marvellous empty road that swoops northward wide and confident through lush grassland and arid semi-desert.

When the whiteman first settled in the Cape 300 years ago the Hottentots told him of a wiry, independent people living to the north and north-east. They did not live in huts, nor own cattle and cultivate food. They wandered the veld with a bow and quiver of arrows - and they painted pictures!.

Perhaps in history only the Australian Aboriginal and the North American Indian can have suffered so much as the Bushman - and probably because of the same Darwinian logic that says only the fittest shall survive.

Rock Art. When the migrating Bantu moving south met the white man moving north the Bushmen became the meat in the sandwich. The last Bushman artist died with the last century.

But their art survives. In caves and on rock walls delicate springbok and wildebeeste are pursued by running Bushmen. Giraffe and zebra graze the endless African plains.

The light-coloured rock is alive with animals, as the Bokkeveldberg must have once been.

The Bushman artist had reproduced the light-footed movement of the buck and gazelle, bounding feather-like across the rock face. This was the Africa of before. The Bushman must have felt so secure in his world, so at one with the natural things around him. Understanding his environment - and loving the earth, the sky and the air.

He did not fight nature - he was part of it.

The pictures are not some crude animism. They are art, simply that - and as art they are perfect.

## DOES NEW SOUTH WALES REALLY NEED MORE CEMENT?

The answer is probably yes, but need it come from Marulan? Interstate manufacturers are penetrating the N.S.W. market. N.S.W. manufacturers operate too many small, old and inefficient plants to be really profitable. Leases over Bungonia gorge will only enable A.P.C.M.(A) to add an extra 500,000 tons a year to this inefficient mess. The following extract is from The National Times May 8-13, 1972 page 40. The article also outlines the production situation in other states.

EDITOR.

### "A New Cement Plant in N.S.W. Will Harden the Market Battle".

Malcolm Wilson.

In a move which would add considerably to marketing pressures in an already difficult cement industry. Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Australia) Ltd is currently considering establishing a major new 500,000 tons a year cement plant at Maldon in New South Wales.

To make matters worse for the cement industry other cement companies are understood to be looking at the possibility of constructing additional cement-making plant in NSW, with the result that the cement industry as a whole in that State is in danger of moving into a position of gross over-capacity. As a result the long-standing rivalry among cement manufacturers in the extremely competitive NSW market appears ready to enter one of its fiercer stages in the months ahead.

Victorians go north, Queenslanders South. APCM's main rival, victorian-based Australian and Kandos Cement Holdings Ltd, is selling cement as far north as Canberra from its Geelong cement plant and so cutting in on APCM's market in the southern part of NSW. And from the north, Queensland Cement and Lime is coming as far south as Tamworth in an endeavour to satisfy outlets for its production in Brisbane.

In Tasmania, Goliath Portland Cement Co. Ltd reigns supreme with a monopoly and its sorties in recent years across to the mainland have certainly not helped other cement companies.

The NSW Maritime Service Board reports that in 1970-71 126,000 tons of cement were shipped into Sydney, most of it consigned from Goliath's Railton works in Tasmania for a Ready Mix Concrete storage facility at Blackwattle Bay. Together with APCM it established a joint venture to transport cement clinker by ship from Adelaide to Newcastle where a clinker grinding facility has been established. Some 21,000 tons of clinker were received at Newcastle in 1970-71.

(In the cement making process, limestone is crushed then mixed with clay and fed to a kiln where it is slowly heated and converted to cement clinker or pebbles about 1½ inches across. After cooling, the clinker is ground to a fine powder and gypsum is added to produce cement.)

APCM's planned new NSW project hinges on the company being granted access to adequate limestone reserves in the Marulan area, some 60 road miles south of Maldon. These would be in exchange for its leases held in the Colong Caves region- the subject of a vigorous campaign by

Does NSW really need more cement?

conservationist forces to have the region preserved in its natural state. Although APCM is reluctant to discuss an expansion at Maldon in view of the fact that it is yet to receive the green light on the Marulan limestone deposits, others in the industry say that APCM could well put in a slurry pipeline to transport the limestone to Maldon if it gets the nod.

The plant will add considerably to cement production capacity in NSW, raising it to over two million tons a year and well ahead of the current production level of around 1.5 million tons a year in NSW.

In the face of these competitive forces, the cement manufacturers themselves recognise the problems that the industry is presenting to itself. APCM's chairman, former bureaucrat Sir Henry Bland, pointed out in his address to APCM shareholders at its annual meeting last month how the cement industry "must face up to responsible rationalisation."

In NSW, the production end of the cement market is extremely fragmented. APCM has three plants at Maldon, Portland and Charbon; A and K has a plant at Kandos; and Southern Portland has its only plant at Berrima. All these plants suffer from small size (the largest at Berrima produced 460,000 tons in 1970/71), old age (stretching back to World War I) and considerable distance from the main Sydney market.

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NEW PUBLICATION RECEIVED:

The first publications ever received from CEG (SA) have recently come to hand,

They are Newsletters for January, May-July and August - October 1972 and the Annual Report for 1971-72.

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"Like most countries where the number of cavers exceeds the number of Caves, caving politics play a proportionately larger part in the caving scene. Belgium is no exception" -- The British Caver.

For a moment I thought they were talking about us!

Editor,

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B. M. S. C. TRIP REPORTS.

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Unless the author of a trip report is specifically mentioned, authorship may be ascribed to the Trip Leader.

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ABERCROMBIE CAVES.

Date of Trip. April 22nd to 30th.

Members present during the week's trip were: M. Treharne (L), U. Mumby, A and G. Fairweather, P. Sammut, M. Sammut, L. Baker, B. Richard, and E. Matthews.

Saturday, April 22. Weather wet. After reporting our arrival to the Superintendent, we proceeded to Bushrangers Cave, Butcher's Shop. Here the Party split into two groups, one group headed into Stable Cave for further investigation of the lower level; the other group prepared to continue exploration of the rockpile in Butcher's Shop. The Stable Cave group found the last squeeze in the lower-level sump dry, and one earthworm was sighted at the bottom of the ladder pitch. It is felt that the rockfall beyond the sump which appears to fill a slipped bedding plane tends towards the lower chamber in the main cave, near Stable Arch. Projected Surveying of this cave will establish this.

The Butcher's Shop group pushed all possible entries into the rockfall, and further pursued a previously-located passage, a solution tube approximately 12 feet above floor level, at between 70-80 degrees elevation in the right-hand wall. They found a chamber about 20 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 12 feet high, which was thickly decorated with cave coral. The chamber appeared to terminate into a tight passage which could not be negotiated at first. However, at a later stage, this passage was entered, but was found to terminate in a blank chamber.

Other activities undertaken were; an initial Compass traverse and measurement was taken from Hill Cave entrance to Stable, top entrance, Cathedral Cavern was entered, and a thermometer was set up. A considerable bat (Bent-wing) colony was encountered. Most bats appeared comatose, but quickly became agitated at the party's intrusion. Wet and dry bulb Thermometer readings were taken, and logged by MSS (who were on a joint trip on their own Permit).

Sunday, April 23. Weather wet. Wet and dry bulb Thermometer readings were taken at the fixed stations. A group entered Grove Cave and found it to be very dry (including the bottom of the ladder pitch). A Tape and Compass traverse was plotted from the North end of the Grand Arch to the lower Stable Cave entrance, and thence from this point to the end of the lower section of the cave. A traverse was concurrently plotted from Stable Cave top entrance to the lower level.

Further exploratory work was carried out by other members in the Grove bluff, a promising extension was noted in A28, where a short crawl in an earth-choked solution passage terminates in very loose and powdery fill, containing fragmented bone particles. This fill could be rapidly removed by hand but further progress may be hampered by cramped working conditions.

Abercrombie Caves. 22nd to 30th April. cont.

Monday, April 24. Weather wet. The Grove Creek traverse was checked, and further plotting was done on the top Stable survey. A new trig point was established on an outcropping to the North-West of top Stable entrance.

The Lower level main passage in Stable Cave was examined for evidence of scalloping, which was located and depicted a general stream flow in the direction which the Cave currently runs. During this examination, a new section of passageway was located on the left-hand-side of the lower main passage, which went into the hillside at 30 Deg.N.

Traverses were taken from the new Trig point to Hill Cave entrance, Stable top entrance, Grove Creek and Bushrangers Cave entrance.

Wet and dry bulb readings were also recorded at the fixed stations.

The earth resistance unit was checked prior to M.S.S. members' return to Sydney, and suggestions were made concerning the best method of using this equipment to the best advantage in Butcher's Shop. "Mother-in-Law's Breath" in the western wall of the Arch was entered, which is situated near the entrance ladder to Cathedral Cavern. Excellent rimstone pools were encountered and the passage continued upwards some considerable distance and terminated in a look-down onto the top track in Cathedral Cavern.

A small party went on an investigation into Long Tunnel, no evidence of bat occupancy was found, and the cave was as dusty as usual in the end section.

The Superintendent accepted an invitation to join a group in examination of the new extension off the lower main passage, and it was found that the usual problem of passages terminating in rockfall existed here. A short crawl of about 10 to 12 feet opens out into a chamber approximately 10 feet wide, 5 feet long and 15 to 20 feet high, with a dirt-filled sump in the Southernmost corner of the floor. This sump may warrant further investigation. The far wall of this chamber gave way to the rockfall, which was negotiable another 5 feet or so.

Thursday, April 27. Weather fine and sunny. The party utilised the earth resistance unit in Butcher's Shop, and results appeared to indicate that a depression approx. 5 feet in diameter situated 3 or 4 feet out from the right-hand wall of the chamber, is a hollow chamber - possibly under false floor. The Hall of Terpischores was also tested, however, electrode penetration here was insufficient, probably owing to the stony nature of the earth floor, and results were inconclusive.

2 Wet and dry bulb readings were recorded at the fixed stations.

Friday, April 28. Weather fine and sunny. The Superintendent accepted the party's invitation to examine the area of Stable Cave below the ladder pitch, and all possible extensions on both sides of the sump were investigated. At the farthest end of the passage after the sump, a small chamber appears to exit up into the rock pile, which may provide an extension if negotiated. However, this area is very confined and would prove difficult to work in.

At the bottom of the ladder pitch a very tight solution passage about 15 feet long gives entrance to a chamber approx. 4 feet high, 3 feet wide and 5 feet long, which has a conglomerate roof and rock walls.

2 On the way back to camp, the party carried out test probes on the floor of Butcher's Shop and found floor or false-floor at varying depths between 2 and 4 feet over the entire area, indicating that this chamber

Abercrombie Caves. 22nd to 30th April Cont.

would be considerably extended upon excavation. The Ceiling behind the light switches is approx. 3 to 4 feet above dirt fill height at present, and this area extends back some 20 or 30 feet at this height. If this fill was removed an area suitable for Tourist inspection may be established.

Saturday? April 29. Weather fine and sunny. A Forestry Compass traverse was commenced from the North end of the Arch to Stable Arch for Map up-dating. As requested by the Superintendent, the reference point of Cathedral Cavern exit was surveyed and a point was established near to the North wall to facilitate opening up of this Cavern. The earth resistance unit was used on the hillside above this area, and results indicated that the Survey point established by the party inside coincided with the resistance unit result.

Another party endeavoured successfully to locate a chamber noted in old area reports in the top Stable Cave, and entered most upper level passages.

Sunday, April 30. Weather fine and sunny. A party entered A.13 and A.14 system and encountered numerous bats, mostly Bent-wing, with the possible inclusion of about 3 Horseshoe variety (Identification is not positive). This system leads from two surface holes down into one passage which is very tight in places, and appears to follow down on the trend of the hillside. The overall length is estimated at about 60 to 70 feet. The system is mainly dry and dusty, until almost at the bottom. There is considerable evidence of insect occupation.

Photography was carried out in a selected area of King Solomon's Temple, and the final wet and dry readings were recorded.

Parties left the area progressively during the afternoon, and the Trip Leader reported the members out of the area at 5 p.m.

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ABERCROMBIE.

Date of trip: 29th and 30th April, 1972.

Members present. Allan Fairweather, Unita Mumby, Monica Sammut, (Kerry ? and Mark Cauchi, visitors) and Paul Sammut.

On 29th, Monica Sammut, Mark Cauchi, Allan Fairweather and Paul Sammut (L) explored Cave 13.

We entered at 4.30 and had a look around inside and Allan saw a squeeze, he then asked Monica if she could fit down it but she didn't try it so I said I'll try it. I had a look in and saw sun-light coming through the rocks inside. I decided to give it a go and saw a small chamber with a lot of formation in it. I looked around a bit further and saw a hole above my head leading to the surface.

I told the rest of the group about it, Allan came through followed by Monica and Mark. I saw another hole in the cave and when I got through I was in another small chamber and this had quite a bit of formation too. The rest of the group came in after me. We had a good look around

Abercrombie. 29th and 30th April, 1972. cont.

when I saw another hole. This hole leads into a fairly big chamber, which all of us got into. We had a good look around and then sat there and talked about the cave for a few minutes. This chamber was the first one in which we saw bats flying about. There were five bats in the chamber and Allan saw some troglobites too. I proceeded through another hole in the floor of the chamber, when I got through I was in a smaller chamber. Allan followed through and it started to get crowded. Monica and Mark started to come through so we had to tell them to wait.

The hole I went through leads into a thin but long chamber. This chamber didn't have very much formation in it, and it started to get muddy. I saw another squeeze in the chamber.

I started to go through and when I put my foot on a boulder in the roof it started to rock. If I had left my foot on it any longer it would have fallen and caused a rock slide. Allan and I had a rough time trying to get out of the squeeze but we managed. We got to the first chamber when Monica and Mark went through hole 13 and Allan and I went through the new hole. When we got out we found that the new hole was number 14. When we got out of the cave it was 6.05.

All of us stopped and talked about where the cave is going. We saw tree roots down in the cave and we worked out the tree it might be and where the cave is heading. Allan thought it might be heading down to the river by the way in which the cave sloped.

April, 30th. Allan got a bigger party, Allan Monica, Mark, Unita, Kerry and myself. We entered the cave at 11.30am and stopped just long enough for Unita and Kerry to have a look around.

We got down to the chamber where the loose boulder was and Allan had a look at the rock and took it out and placed it down on the floor. I led the way again down the new hole.

Allan told Monica to come through the squeeze and she finally did and the rest of the group followed. Barry Richard came down too. When I got out of the hole I was in a fairly large chamber. We had a look around and we think that this is the end of our trail. We got out of the cave at 1.30.

PAUL SAMMUT.

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WILBURD'S LAKE CAVE - JENOLAN.

Date of trip. 3rd and 4th June, 1972.

Aim: Examination of aragonite crystalline deposits and gas analysis.

Members Present: Ian Bogg, Allan and Gwen Fairweather, Paul Sammut, Robert Joel, Brian Marshall, Terry Corcoran, Barry Richards, Geoff Deane, and Ted Matthews.

Leaders: Ron Thomas and Dr. G. Nelson.

After meeting at the prearranged time at the Mammoth Flat campsite, it was disappointing to note that the gas analysis equipment could not be made available. We therefore could not carry out the oxygen depletion experiments of the cave environment as envisaged.

Wiburd's Lake Cave. 3rd and 4th June, 1972. cont.

However, the other aspect of our aim could be fulfilled. Some difficulty was experienced in locating Wiburd's Lake Cave, as B.M.S.C. had not visited this cave on any previous occasion.

Once the cave was located, the party entered the system armed with verbal reports as to the location of the Aragonite deposits. The party was split into four groups which were to seek out the elusive deposits and meet in the lake chamber at a prearranged time.

It did not take long to locate the main stream passage and the parties headed upstream. Ultimately, the recently discovered extension where the Aragonite is located was found, which must be entered by negotiating a steep mud slope. This extension was followed to its extremity without finding the deposit. On making our way out, it was located by Dr. Nelson.

On making our way out, an extremely strong draught of air was noted coming into the cave through a large rock pile. It was agreed that this be examined on Sunday.

Sunday saw the party split into two groups, one working outside on the hill in an attempt to forge a link through the rock pile, whilst the other group attempted to penetrate the rock pile from the inside.

Although many hours elapsed, the penetration of the rock pile was unsuccessful. The group outside managed to locate and push a small cave to its apparent limit, claiming that they had made voice contact. This was re-examined and it was established that no voice contact could be made.

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KINCUMBER.

Date of trip: 25th June, 1972.

Aim: To investigate and Survey a sandstone cave at Kincumber, (popularly referred to as the "Endless Cave").

Members Present: K. Keck, M. Treharne, U. Mumby.

Weather Conditions: Intermittent rain for some days prior to, and over-cast with sporadic showers at the time of trip.

The Cave & Its Surrounds: The cave is about 140 metres above the road level, (altimeter reading), near the top of a massive sandstone ridge. Parts of the surrounding terrain could be classed as "hanging-Swamp" and are rich with moisture loving plants, (e.g. swamp grass, moss, fern, Pterostylis, Drosera). The many small watercourses draining these areas were active and one runs down the rock-face at approximately the mid-point above the cave entrance. There is a slight rise in the ground beneath the drip-point and, depending on where the wavering stream of water fell, some run off down the hill in a gutter and some fed the pool in the day-light chamber. A small channel connecting pool and this gutter crosses the rise and it is evident that any increase in the depth of the pool, (10cm. deep at the time), above a certain level would drain out through this channel. As the watercourse feeding it is only a minor one, the pool

Kincumber. 25th June, 1972. cont.

would presumably shrink considerably or dry out completely in times of scanty rainfall. Sections of the wall and roof in the daylight chamber are smoke blackened and liberally garnished with graffiti.

The main passage has the appearance of typical solution tube formation. The roof near its entrance was covered with beads of condensation. It tends in a N.E. direction in a practically straight line with small dry tubes opening off the left-hand wall. These are almost perfectly circular or oval in cross section and of constant dimensions as far as could be seen. Thin encrustations of a hard glossy material resembling calcite (common opal?) were noted in places. There is little variation in floor level until the flattener is reached. Here, where the floor starts to rise, a trough has been excavated which now contains a shallow puddle. From here the level rises a further 70cm. to the end chamber, the floor of which is thick Cliefden-type mud. Looking towards the end of the chamber, we noted water trickling in through a small, high-level solution tube in the left-hand corner and spreading down over a stepped sandstone formation to the floor. There is undercutting of the left wall with a visible air space trending back parallel to the main passage. This probably connects with a puddle, (which had a surface coating of white mould), lying adjacent to the wall in the "Flattener" Section. The floor contour would prevent this puddle from being fed in the same manner as the one in the trough, i.e. by seepage back down the main passage. To the right of the end wall is a floor level, inactive solution tube and there is undercutting of the right wall with a crystal clear pool visible in the extension beyond. A few fine tree roots hang from roof joints in this chamber. Average roof height throughout most of the cave is 1 to 1.5 metres. Surveyed passage length was 35 metres.

#### METEOROLOGICAL DATA.

<u>WET BULB.</u>	<u>DRY BULB</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>STATION.</u>
53°F.	56°F.	1 P.M.	Entrance Chamber.
63°F.	64°F.	1.45 P.M.	Start of "Flattener".
67°F.	68°F.	2.20 P.M.	End Chamber.

Barometric readings were:-

29.62 in End Chamber at 2.20 P.M.  
29.70 outside cave at 2.30 P.M.

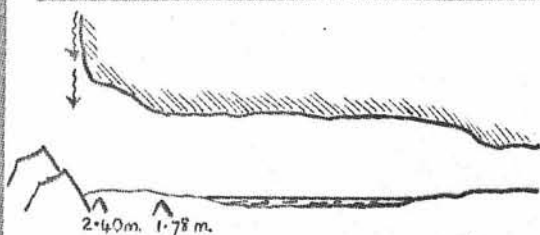
Variation probably due to time lapse in equalisation of pressure, as a storm broke whilst we were leaving the cave.

#### CAVE FAUNA NOTED.

Twilight Zone:- one leaf-tailed gecko.

Dark Zone:- 4 crickets; some "hunterman" type spiders, (about 2.5cm. Leg-span); also some sheet-type webs and one wheel-type web; one live moth plus scattered moth remains. Mike reports seeing some minute pale fleshy insects on the mud in end chamber (springtails?). An estimated 50 bats were encountered in the latter half of the cave, *M. schreibersii* and *R. megaphyllus* in about equal numbers, the Bentwings roosting in clusters whilst the Horseshoes were more scattered. Owing to the confined nature of the cave, we could not avoid disturbing the bats and some flew into the active solution tube, (another chamber or exit beyond?).

# LONG. SECTION — DAYLIGHT CHAMBER

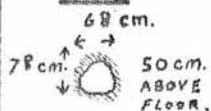


## CROSS SECTIONS

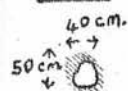
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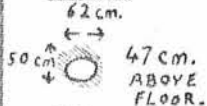
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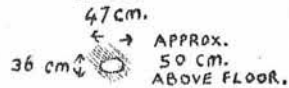
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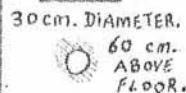
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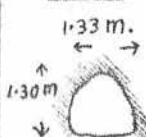
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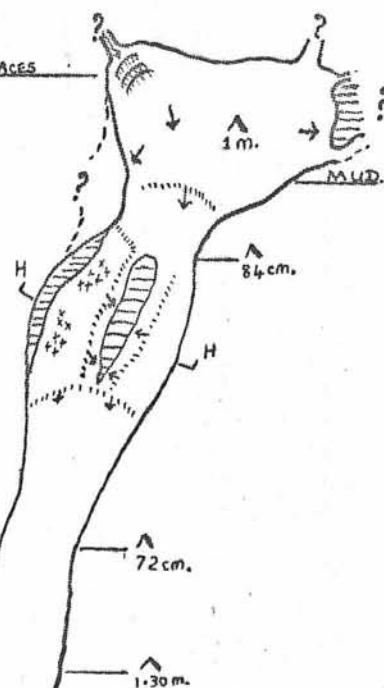
EARTH FLOOR  
UP TO  
END CHAMBER.

LINE OF FACE  
OF BLUFF.

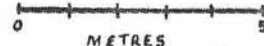
PLAN

SANDSTONE TERRACES

MAGNETIC  
NORTH



SCALE



'THE ENDLESS CAVE' — KINCUMBER N.S.W.  
(SANDSTONE AREA).

SURVEYED BY K.KECK & M.TREHARNE. 25-6-72  
C.R.G. G.D.E.S-6. TRIPOD/BRUNTON COMPASS/STEEL TAPE.  
PLOTTED & DRAWN BY U.MUMBY.

## LEGEND.

	BOULDERS.
	GUANO.
	CONJECTURAL OUTLINE.
	HEIGHT — FLOOR TO ROOF.
	DOWNWARD SLOPE OF FLOOR.
	VERTICAL CHANGE OF FLOOR LEVEL.
	CHANGE OF FLOOR GRADIENT & DIRECTION OF DOWNWARD SLOPE.
	STREAM & DIRECTION OF FLOW.
	OCCASIONAL WATER
	PUDDLES (APPARENTLY PERMANENT)

ALTITUDE — APPROX. 152 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

Kincumber. 25th June, 1972 cont.

ADDITIONAL NOTES.

Seeking explanation for the unsandstone-like development of the cave, Ken Keck has discussed it with a geologist, John Gordon of M.S.S. who has suggested that it could have been formed by solution action along a joint in calcareous sandstone.

Bat identification cards have been forwarded to C.S.I.R.O..

SUGGESTED FUTURE WORK.

- 1) Surface trog. (2) Investigation of side-passages (mini-bod needed).
- (3) Positive identification of insects. (4) Samples of parent rock and encrustation to be taken for testing.

There are some dig possibilities, but, working on some of them would involve continual disturbance of the bats, and the lowering of the floor level in the constricted sections or the creation of new draught passages could adversely affect the meteorology of this small but well populated cave.

UNITA MUMBY.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SANDSTONE CAVE AT KINCUMBER - AFTERTHOUGHT.

UNITA MUMBY.

Should D.M.S.C. number this cave? If so - how?

There appears to be some confusion as to the definition of the "Kincumber Caves".

The Speleo Handbook shows only - "KINCUMBER - caves reported but no details known."

"A Cave Numbering System for N.S.W., Observations and Proposals" by Ellis and Middleton (J.S.S.S. Vol 14 No.6 June 1970), based on the Speleo Handbook, states under "Proposed New Area Codes":-

"Avalon Beach and Kincumber" which it is proposed to be included in a new "area or category" i.e. "XS - Sea caves (Avalon Beach and Kincumber)".

I don't know about the Avalon caves but I doubt whether the "Endless Cave" could be classed as a sea cave.

It is about 152 metres above sea level and about 3.2 Km (2 miles) from the coast. Though it could be situated on an extinct shore line. The signs are contrary to its having been formed by marine action.

There is a known sea cave in the vicinity (coast line, Bouddi State Park), dangerous of access, which has been visited by some "University blokes" and which contains a bat colony. (info. from Park Ranger). Perhaps there has been confusion in the reports of these two caves.

Kincumber, cont.

"A Cave Numbering System for N.S.W. Discussion and Recommendations" by Ellis and Middleton (J.S.S.S. Vol.15 No.5 May 1971) proposes that:-

"Special prefix letters be assigned to 3 categories of non-limestone caves, viz:

Natural Arches and Tunnels	-	XA
Sea Caves	-	XS
Miscellaneous	-	XM "

No indication is given as to which caves will go into what category. Authors state that they will give more info. on the non-limestone classifications in a future article.

I have checked the S.S.S. Journals held to date - nothing further on the subject.

Discussion with the authors might clarify the matter.

What is it?

A Natural Tunnel? A Sea Cave? or a Miscellaneous???

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

#### ALERCROMBIE CAVES.

Date of trip. 15th and 16th July, 1972.

Members Present. M. Treharne (L), G. Fairweather, A. Fairweather, R. Joel, U. Mumby, G. Knox and B. Richard.

Members of M.S.S. were also present on a separate permit.

Objectives: (a) To investigate the limestone outcrop to the North West of the Grand Arch.  
(b) To extend the area map.

At 8.30 am on Saturday we reported our arrival to the acting caretaker. Despite inclement weather (rain and Light snowfall), we managed a preliminary investigation of the North West outcrop, which comprises two limestone bluffs separated by a dry creek bed. Much of the surface of these bluffs is a mixture of small boulders and alluvial deposits which is generally unstable. This condition was aggravated by the continual rain.

We entered eleven small caves all of solution tube type formation and sparsely decorated. Of these caves, we feel that three may have possibilities for further extension. This might be accomplished by the removal of earth-choke from selected areas. However, this would necessitate a person working in the cramped conditions, generally in a head-down position. The average, currently negotiable length of passage in these three caves is about 30 feet. One of the caves, a 12' diam. solution passage, contains a bone deposit. Two partial skulls were removed for identification purposes, and it is suggested that prior to any further work in the cave, the remaining bone material should be carefully removed.

Worsening of the weather conditions terminated our work in this area at 2.30 pm. A surface survey of the outcrop is recommended for

Abercrombie Caves. 15th & 16th July, 1972. cont.

extension to area maps and to enable the recording of cave entrance locations.

On Sunday morning U. Mumby led a party into A13-14, the object being to enable George (the Superintendent) to inspect this intriguing little cave system. On two previous occasions numbers of *M. schreibersii* and *R. megaphyllus* had been sighted here, however on this occasion, one only, of the latter variety, was seen. Fortunately it remained undisturbed by our presence and the party had ample opportunity to closely observe the little bat. Comments ranged from "It's as ugly as sin!!" to "....at least it's got pretty little feet." The cave atmosphere, as has been noted on previous trips, was extremely warm.

The other party carried out a line traverse of the "Mother-in-law's Breath" extension in the Grand Arch for extension of the area map. This traverse was tied in to a survey point which was established in the passageway of Cathedral cavern, near the first switch-box.

The parties returned to camp at 1.30 pm, lunched and cleared the area by 3.00 pm.

The Australian Natural History Museum provided an identification of the bone material mentioned in the proceeding report, which is as follows:

- a) Partial skull and shin bone of domestic dog!
- b) Partial skull of Brush Tailed Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*).

Also, a bone found by George Knox within the Grand Arch was stated to be the shin bone of a kangaroo, either a Grey or a Wallaroo (*Macropus* sp.)

Many thanks to the Museum staff for swift, friendly service.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

LIMEKILNS.

Date of trip: 29th and 30th July, 1972.

Present: Ken Pickering (L) and family, Ian Logg, Barry Richard, Terry Corcoran and Brian Marshall.

Petrol strike or not, we set out to map and investigate the Limekilns Cave and nearby limestone. No trouble in getting our tanks filled up at Bathurst, but at Limekilns the gate to "Dulcis Vale" was securely padlocked. About mid-day the manager turned up to let us in after due warnings of the fire danger - No campfires allowed, and near freezing temperatures! Terry and Brian were the only sensible ones, they went home on Saturday night!

The cave was entered about 1 pm and the party split up to investigate all the side passages, which proved to be more extensive than at first thought. The cave is formed along the bedding plane, and after the entrance it is nearly horizontal for the first 200 feet or so, varying from about 8ft to 30ft in height. There is a lot of earth fill in the floor in this section. There is then a fairly large rockfall

Limekilns. 29th & 30th July, 1972, cont.

section, unstable in parts and the cave drops down a sharp decline into a muddy chamber with several side passages. The rock is very thinly bedded in this section. The last sixteen feet or so of the muddy section is like being inside an elephant's bowel and the unsuspecting Trip Leader was led into it by Ian Bogg's promises of "beaut formations at the far end". Alas, it was all a lie, a typical Bogg lie. There is not much solutional activity apparent in the shape of the cave, and the limestone is unusual on account of the large amount of river gravel which is imbedded within it. In places the limestone is very coarse grained and it contains a large number of fossils.

After the mud bath, variously described as "almost as bad as Cliefden" or "Worse than Wiburds", we did some surface trogging north of the cave and found many sheep, cattle, and hares, but no caves. We then re-entered the cave to do a compass and tape traverse.

On Sunday we trogged the Fernbrook limestone deposit, an enormous hill of limestone. The texture of the stone here is much more normal than the Cave limestone, but again there is a marked lack of any solutional features on the surface outcrops. One small fissure was noted by Barry and then we returned to camp, trogged the limestone to the south west of the Cave and adjourned for lunch. After, Ian and Barry in the Landrover decided to try "doing a Corcoran" in the Turron River, but that's their story. There is a large deposit on the property "Roxburgh" which has not been looked at so far.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

LIMEKILNS.

(On 29th July Brian Marshall and Terry Corcoran visited Limekilns on the trip led by Ken Pickering. The official trip report appears elsewhere in this magazine. However, as they believe that the burdens of trip leadership prevent a trip leader from recording all aspects of his trip, they have submitted the following report.)

GOOD THINGS AND BAD .....AT LIMEKILNS.

The day dawned bright and clear which was a good thing. Departure, however, was somewhat delayed by a late sleeping Land Rover owner. This was a bad thing. After some running around, which was a bad thing, we were eventually on our way to Limekilns which was a good thing.

Our valiant little Viva leapt away to the west like a good thing even though we were unsure of the whereabouts of our trip leader which was a bad thing. The Land Rover, re-shod for the occasion, accompanied us like a good thing. Before reaching Bathurst we were slowed a little by traffic which was a bad thing, although we somehow managed to keep to our schedule which was a good thing. In the traffic approaching Bathurst we spotted our Fearless Leader with his fearless family in their fearless Falcon. This was a good thing. We all arrived in Bathurst on schedule which was also a good thing.

Despite the fuel strike, a bad thing, all vehicles were refuelled in Bathurst. This was a good thing although the tales of heavy frosts the previous night were a bad thing for the campers in the party who considered a full weekend at Limekilns to be a good thing.

Limekilns. 29th July, 1972. cont.

Undaunted by these tales our little convoy was soon doing a good thing and heading for Limekilns. The fairly rapid location of the area was also a good thing. We entered a neighbouring property with Ros doing sterling duties at the gate, a good thing. However, we were unable to gain access to the cave from this property which was a bad thing so a retreat was made to the road. This was also a bad thing and Aromaticus had to vacate the Viva to open the gates which was indeed a bad thing.

The gates to the next property were locked, a bad thing. By climbing the fence we soon located the cave, a good thing, and a possible camp site, another good thing. However, no vehicular access could be found, which was a bad thing. We decided upon a brew, a good thing, and to camp beside the road, a bad thing. This decision was no sooner made that the property manager arrived with a key to the gates. This was indeed a good thing although he could not allow any campfires which was a bad thing.

We rapidly boarded our trusty vehicles and drove to the camp-site, a good thing. Here, little time was wasted preparing coffee, another good thing. Two more good things were rapidly erected in the shape of one orange Bogg-type tent (well-built and gaily coloured) and the Pickarings' comfortable, cosy, collapsable, almost-self-erecting caravanette. Lunch, a good thing, was then consumed. Then it was time for trogging up, a good thing, and heading for the cave, another good thing.

The cave itself proved bigger than first though, a good thing, although void of formations, a bad thing. Despite the arid state of the surrounding country, a bad thing, inside the cave the going was wet and muddy, also a bad thing. Many fossils, all good things, were found in the cave. Of interest, and therefore a good thing, was the unusual structure of the limestone. Embedded in it were many river-type pebbles of various sizes. These have all been declared good things.

In the lowel level of the cave some most unusual mud formations were found. These, of course, were considered to be good things and are easily explained. They were caused by our Super-Secretary, himself a good thing, crawling along the floor of the passage, a bad thing from his point of view. Formations of this type are known in Speleological circles as "Bogg's boggy body lies" and are universally considered to be good things.

Part of the cave appears to be unstable, a bad thing, and in this area our progress came to a halt at a rockfall, also a bad thing. We decided to trog the surrounding limestone outcrop, a good thing, but no other holes were found, which was a bad thing. Next on the agenda was a return to camp for a brew, definitely a good thing.

While brewing and nibbling we were informed by Ros that she had located a water supply near the camp. This was a good thing although the water temperature was low enough to be a bad thing.

We armed ourselves with tape, compass and camera, all good things, to carry out a survey of the cave, and record it photographically which should be a good thing. The map and the photographs will be declared good or bad things when they become available for inspection.

Limekilns. 29th July 1972. cont.

Darkness, which can be either a good or a bad thing had arrived when we left the cave. We returned to camp for a feed, a good thing, and some refreshments, also good things. Then we carried out the ritual of cleaning up, a good thing, and packing our gear for the homeward trip, a bad thing.

However, we left as temperatures were falling, a bad thing, and our thoughts turned towards home comforts, all good things. We declared the day to have been a good thing, Limekilns to be a good thing, ourselves to be wise things, the Viva to be a great thing, and those who stayed overnight at Limekilns to be very brave things.

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TEST OF BAT CAVE.

From Sydney Morning Herald Oct 21,  
1972.

Dust and bat droppings which are believed to contain samples of an unusual fungus which infected five amateur explorers of Church Cave at Wee Jasper, near Yass, were taken to Sydney yesterday by a consultant from the Royal North Shore Hospital, Dr. A. Strakosch.

Dr. Strakosch, two of the infected cave explorers and local authorities climbed into the cave to search for samples.

The hospital's clinical superintendent, Dr. Robert Griffin, said it was hoped that a culture of the fungus could be grown.

This would enable a diagnosis of the flu-like illness suffered by the five explorers to be made in about a week.

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NIDICON - 9TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF A.S.F.

From afternoon of December 26, 1972, to morning of December 30.

Conference sessions on December 27-28-29.

Cavemans Dinner. Friday December 30.

Accommodation at: New College, University of N.S.W.

4 miles from city, 2 miles from ocean beaches,  
3 miles from Kings Cross, on main bus routes.

Excellent individual bedrooms, fully catered  
including morning and afternoon teas etc.

Field trips and Excursions.

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ABERCROMBIE CAVES.

Date of trip: 9th to 29th September, 1972.

Present at various times, during the period were:-

M. Treharne (L), U. Mumby, R. Thomas, R. Jarvis, P. Mumby, C. Faddy, A. Fairweather, G. Fairweather, B. Richard and T. Corcoran.

Project work undertaken has been summarised as follows:-

CAVE EXPLORATION.

(a) North-Western Outcropping. Rabbit Trap Cave, an entrance which had been located on the L.M.S.C./M.S.S. trip of 15/7/72. (Field notes for that date read-"Solution tube entrance passes into an opened joint (Bedding plane?). Helmet and Battery must be removed. Cave not pushed because of member's being alone."

Upon clearing the first squeeze, a higher-level squeeze was found to run for about 6 metres, which opened out sufficiently to enable access to a small rat hole leading into another opened bedding plane, with a slope of about 45 deg. and earth floor visible about 4 metres below. This plane appeared to permit access back upon the trend of the higher level, at some 4 metres below it. Progress was soon halted by rock and earth fill which was riddled with animal burrows. This may be pushed - possibly to the surface.

A light connection to the first squeeze was found almost at the original point of entry to the lower level, through an upward-sloping solution passage approx. 3 metres length, giving way to horizontal passage about the same length.

The lower level was then followed into the Bluff. In places it is a "vertical flattener", permitting upright sidling, with a very high narrow aven, spanned in places with small ridges. At one point there is an inactive flowstone-lined circular chimney.

Voice contact was lost just past this section, in a region where the passage narrowed considerably, with numerous rock spans creating an obstacle course. Further progress must wait until a few more people can gain entry to the Cave. A large animal skull and a few smaller bones were collected.

(b) A/D Cave (see survey notes). This cave had yielded some bone material on the 15/7/72 trip. A promising site for extension was selected and the soft powdery cave fill was easily removed, revealing solution-eroded, downward-sloping cave roof. Prospects here were quite good at first, but were subsequently halted upon the encounter of very solid rock running parallel to, and about 20 cm. from the roof line. Some fragments of animal skull were recovered during this project.

(c) The Arch - Eastern Gallery. The "Bottomless Pit" was descended about 12 metres by ladder. The entrance was found to be extremely unstable, and the Ladder pitch is exposed to falling rocks. Some creek-level passages near the foot of the ladder were explored. However these did not produce any worth-while extensions. As it was found that the area reached is also accessible from Creek level within the Arch, the latter safer, although wetter and colder route is recommended in preference to the ladder pitch.

All water-level possibilities within the Arch were explored, but no new extensions were found.

Abercrombie Caves. 9th-29th Sept., 1972. cont.

(d) A21. This cave has been found to contain a very promising cave fill choked extension. Removal of this material required a team of 5 persons. This project has been slotted for future work.

(e) The Arch - Eastern Gallery. There is a possibility of a new exit to this cave being found as investigation of the rockfall section behind the "Bottomless Pit" yielded considerable extension towards the surface.

SURFACE EXPLORATION.

A small outcropping of limestone was located to the north of the N.W. outcrop. As it is exposed in a dry gully only for a short distance and away from the gully is covered by heavy overburden, there appears to be no possibility of finding caves in this area.

Some likely looking holes in a distant ridge, which had been spotted from one of the survey control points, were investigated. These turned out to be merely animal excavations in shale and conglomerate.

An excursion was made to a sinkhole known as "Boon's Hole", which appears to be a collapsed cave. However, rock samples from the edge of the hole were found to be non-calcareous and appeared 'shaley', the hillside below the hole yielded quartz at a distance of about 17 metres and limestone at about 30 metres. Further investigation required.

A Solution eroded crevice near the top of Grove Bluff was examined and some debris was removed, the site may produce results with a dig.

Southern Limestone - the area was examined to select a suitable site for a survey control point and subsequently the known caves were looked at. It is felt that, because of the extent of the outcropping, thorough surface exploration may be fruitful.

SURFACE SURVEY.

As there is no surface map of the area, suitable for plotting the location of cave entrances, it was deemed necessary to produce one. Thus the bulk of this trip, (as will be that of some future trips), was devoted to this project.

Control points have been established throughout the area and have been or will be used for the plotting of cave locations. The area currently under survey comprise Arch, Stable and Grove Bluffs, North West outcrop, plus associated cave entrances, the road and Grove Creek. This work has been done using forestry compass and a theodolite (courtesy of S.U.S.S.).

CAVE SURVEYING.

Detailing of the Stable Cave was carried out.

A line traverse of "Rabbit Trap" Cave was done using hand held Brunton Compass.

Detailing of A8 was carried out using hand held Brunton Compass.

Detailing of a cave referred to a "K.K.", situated to the North of A25, was carried out using hand held Brunton Compass.

Abercrombie Caves. 9th-29th Sept., 1972. cont.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

Where time and man-power permitted, familiarisation and photographic excursions were organised for members desiring them.

The Rimpool Section in Mother-in-Law's-Breath was found to be very active (16/9/72), and the overflow had spread as far as the top of the old iron ladder. This was unusual, considering that the area has had very little rain recently; the last rain being a light shower 4 days previously. Members present who had seen these pools on many occasions, even during, or just after very inclement weather, had no recollection of ever seeing them more than just barely damp.

Grove cave was found to be wet again, this being the first time this year, most decorations in the end chamber having regenerated. A considerable water coverage was noted on the surface of the flowstone at the end.

The assistance given by visiting members of the other two Clubs, in terms of equipment and manpower, was welcomed. This help proved to be of distinct value.

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Vol. 4 No.

3

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P R E S I D E N T I A L R E P O R T . 1972.

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Most activity this year has been at Abercrombie and Jenolan (Wyburds Lake Cave) with a few odd places like Limekilns and Murrumbidgee Creek inserted into the program by a certain devious trip leader.

One disturbing new feature of the trip program was the number of trips that lapsed. In fairness, it should be noted that at least two of these were due to bad weather, but were the other failures due to bad programming, poor leadership or what?

Perhaps 1972 was just the year for internal consolidation. Record sums were spent on the library and many thanks go to Nita Treharne for the work she put into indexing. Record sums were spent on equipment also, with the Brunton compass being the main purchase. Oolite, too, involved considerable expense for new covers and paper supplies. To finance this expenditure we were fortunate to have the money raising skills of Brian Marshall and the Mountain Trading Post, your super-dooper-double-your-money-back-discount-store masterminded by the old faithful I.S.B..

On the wider speleo scene, various members participated in the Ninth Biennial Conference of ASF, held in Sydney, for the first time, or attended other ASF functions or other Societies such as S.S.S and M.S.S..

For 1973, I would recommend that the Committee identify certain projects that should be finalised in order to capitalise on previous work that has been done. These would include Abercrombie, Tuglow-Jaunter-Hollanders River, Tuglow-NPWS project and certain new projects. The projects should be broken down into specific operations and then leaders for these specific operations could be persuaded into covering themselves with honour and glory by getting in and doing the dirty work, to mix metaphors a little. Plenty of room should be left for spontaneous trips and new projects of course, but some organisation will have to be imposed by the committee if we are going to achieve worthwhile results..

Finally, I thank all committee members and office bearers for their hard work and support during 1972. It is unnecessary to mention individuals, all have made their particular contributions willingly and energetically. However, as I have now completed four terms as President it is high time I stepped down and commitments during 1973 will make it desirable for me not even to occupy a committee position.

KEN PICKERING.

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## BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB.

## 7th ANNUAL REPORT.

Fellow Members,

It is my pleasure to present to you, tonight, this the 7th. Annual Report of the Blue Mountains Speleological Club.

Prior to preparing this report my initial reaction was one of disappointment as 1972 appeared to be the quietest year of all. However on reflection it was not as dismal as I first thought. The difficulty is "how do you measure the success of a club?"

If we use membership as the criteria, then we have not been successful as the membership level has been stable. If we use quality as a guide rather than quantity, then we have succeeded.

If we use members participation as a guide, then we have been successful. During 1972 there have been in excess of 20 trips run with varying degrees of support ranging from 3 to well over 12 members per trip. We have visited the "old areas" with Abercrombie again being dominant. We have broken new ground in visiting areas such as Limekilns, Murruin Creek, Campbells River etc. On the activity side 1972 saw a dramatic increase in surveying with the acquisition of the Brunton Compass. We should in the very near future see the results of these efforts appearing on paper. General exploration has been conducted successfully, both above and below ground, resulting in an increase in our knowledge. I trust that 1973 will bring forth ever greater activity particularly on the trip scene, and that members show their interest by organising trips themselves, rather than wait for the committee to do the organising.

From an organisation point of view, attendance at both general and committee meetings has been quite good and on some occasions proved rather frank and lively. B.M.S.C. has been represented on many occasions throughout the year with delegates at A.S.F. Federal and State meetings, C.R.C. meetings, and member support at informal meetings with other societies to exchange information and discuss items of mutual interest. B.M.S.C. also supported the foundation and is a foundation member of the Blue Mountains Conservation Federation.

If we look at documentation and publication have we been successful? Oolite has appeared twice unfortunately rather irregularly. The contents and quality of presentation has been steadily improving with each issue. There has been a change in the actual size from quarto to the new international size of A4. As Oolite is our journal it needs our support both on a support and a literary contribution basis. I am sure that no potential author's material would be rejected by the editor.

Trip reporting again has continued its unblemished record in the respect to no outstanding reports which is by all accounts rather unusual in the world of Speleology. However we must never be satisfied with our reporting and should continue to strive to improve the texts of the reports.

B.M.S.C. 7th Annual Report. cont.

Our library has been expanding and now through the unsung efforts of our librarian the library has been indexed. It was a pity that more members have not used the library during the year as it would have at least demonstrated in a practical way your appreciation of our librarian's efforts.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who have supported our club during 1972 to ensure that once again that the year was a success. On a final note I would remind all members that B.M.S.C. is OUR club and for it to be successful it needs OUR continued support at all levels.

Thank you.

Ian S. Bogg.

Honourary Secretary.

1972.

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TREASURER'S REPORT.

Statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31st January, 1973.

<u>INCOME.</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	
	\$		\$
Balance B/fwd 1971.	52.38	Bank Fees	6.80
Membership fees	112.00	Secretarial Expenses	42.08
Miscellaneous Income.	49.35	Miscellaneous Expenses	46.31
Trip Fees	27.00	Equipment.	74.80
Transfers & Tapes	6.70	Oolite Expenses	53.28
		Transfers and Tapes	2.09
		Balance carried forward	22.07
	<u>\$247.43</u>		<u>\$247.43</u>

Major purchases this year were:-

Library books - British Caver, Australian Caving, Karst and Bungonia.	\$29.81
Covers and Paper for Oolite.	27.55
Brunton Compass and Engraving of same.	56.85
Club Envelopes.	16.00
Plus A.S.F. Capitation fees of \$23.00	

Gwen Fairweather. (Treasurer)  
1972.

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EQUIPMENT LIST.

Compiled by Barry Richard.  
Equipment Officer.

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FIRST AID. One kit.

ROPES.

NYLON.

1 x 200ft  
1 x 100ft  
1x 150ft (New)

MANILLA.

1 x 120ft  
1 x 120ft (New)  
1 x 60ft  
1 x 60ft  
1 x 30ft  
1 x 30ft  
2 x 35ft Work ropes.

LADDERS.

<u>No.1</u>	<u>No.2</u>	<u>No.3</u>	<u>No.4</u>	<u>No.5</u>
27ft	27ft	24ft	27ft	54ft (New)

2 Traces for above.

Plus Two 30ft Ladders ex John Gallard and Trace  
to suit.

SURVEYING EQUIPMENT.

1 only 100ft Steel Tape.  
1 only Inclinator.  
3 Clip Boards.  
1 only Brunton Compass (New).

COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT.

2 Field Phones.  
1500ft Cable.  
1 Cable Reel.

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT.

3 Haversacks (for Ladders etc)  
4 Helmets.  
1 only Reflective Sign.

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OOLITE - EDITOR'S REPORT 1972.

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As with Volume 3, Volume 4 of Oolite has been hampered by severe shortage of typing capacity. Gwen Fairweather has done a sterling job in the limited time available to her. My thanks also to Terry Corcoran for arranging the duplication of stencils.

Publication three times per year has been adhered to with Vol. 4 No.3 being due early in 1973. The supply of material has been adequate to publish three times per year, but the number of authors is not nearly representative of Club membership. Everyone has something of interest to contribute and more should put their ideas, etc on paper. Apart from trip reports, where trip leaders do a good job never failing to submit reports -- the same authors' names crop up all the time.

Few comments on Oolite are received from those who are paying for it -- neither good, bad or indifferent. It is tempting to think that this lack of reaction indicates satisfaction. Whatever the true situation, an interchange of ideas between editor and subscriber would be welcomed. For example, should the item "Historical Feature", introduced with Vol.3, be abandoned? Should press-clippings be reported in full, edited (as at present) or abandoned all together? Should the separate department for Trip Reports, which Oolite has always published, be retained or should Trip Reports be sprinkled throughout the other material and embellished? Should we as a fairly small club abandon the attempt to produce three Oolite per year and attempt to gain topicality by producing a less substantial but more frequent publication?

The size of Oolite has changed (unfortunately, but of financial necessity, in the middle of Volume 4) to A4, which permits more material to be printed on each page than the old quarto -- which will ultimately go out of general use as a standard paper size. Pages have been numbered consecutively throughout the whole volume commencing with Vol.4. Both the number of pages and the actual amount of material published have shown a substantial increase over Vol.3 when the use of larger paper size is taken into account.

With the change in paper size, the opportunity was taken to clean up the layout of the cover design, while still preserving the essential features of the previous design. I hope you like it, in any case you are stuck with it for the next three volumes or so.

Plans for 1973 include the compilation of a subject index for Vols. 1 to 4 and postal registration of Oolite.

KEN PICKERING.  
EDITOR.

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## N I B I C O N I S G O N E .

K. Pickering.

The Ninth Biennial Conference of the A.S.F. is past and gone. Very successfully. It was the first conference held in Sydney, but, one hopes, not the last, since Sydney obviously is where the cavers, if not the caves are. Among the 150 approx. who attended some or all of the Conference sessions, there were 10 from N.Z. and 32 from interstate.

Highlights of the Conference were Histoplasmosis testing, Speleo sports, an excellently produced Japanese film, the screening of the photographic competition slides and slides from New Zealand and Papua - New Guinea. This of course is not to mention the many interesting seminar and symposium sessions, although the best symposium of all, I suppose, on the Concise Oxford definition (Symposium: Ancient - Greek after dinner drinking party, with music, dancers or conversation; any drinking party) would have been the Caveman's dinner.

On the mildly critical side, the program seemed at times to go confusingly awry and one wasn't sure what was happening when or what was going to occur at the same time as that anyway. However, it has been observed before that speleologists are notoriously casual people and this tradition was upheld. Perhaps too much material was available.

All in all, congratulations to the organisers for their hard work, and why weren't there more B.M.S.C.-ites there to see it for themselves???

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BAT DISEASE TEST.

Sydney Morning Herald  
27th December, 1972.

A doctor from Royal North Shore Hospital yesterday skin-tested all 150 delegates to a cave explorers' convention for contact with histoplasmosis, a fungus respiratory disease carried by cave bats.

Dr. Stephen Nogrady, a medical registrar at the hospital, made the skin tests at the ninth biennial convention of the Australian Speleological Federation at the University of NSW.

The convention has attracted 150 speleologists, including 10 from New Zealand and 32 from other States.

Dr. Nogrady was one of a Royal North Shore team which recently investigated 16 cases of mild histoplasmosis among people who had visited the bat-infested Church Cave at Wee Jasper.

He will return to the convention today to "read" the results of the skin tests.

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HISTORICAL FEATURE.

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from Three Expeditions into the Interior of Eastern Australia..

by Major T.L. Mitchell.

Second edition, London T & W Boone 1839,

Vol.II "Expedition to the Rivers Darling and Murray in the year  
1836,

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March 18. --As it was necessary to grind some wheat with hand-mills, to make up our supply of flour, I was obliged to remain a day at Buree; and I, therefore, determined on a visit to the limestone caves, by no mean the least remarkable feature in that country. The whole district consists of trap and limestone, the former appearing in ridges, which belong to the lofty mass of Canobolas. The limestone occurs chiefly in the sides of vallies in different places, and contains probably many unexplored caves. The orifices are small fissures in the rock, and they have escaped the attention of the white people, who have hitherto wandered there. I had long been anxious to extend my researches for fossil bones among these caves, having discovered, during a cursory visit to them some years before, that many interesting remains of the early races of animals in Australia, were to be found in the deep crevices and caverns of the limestone rock. How they got there was a question which had oftener puzzled me; but having at length arrived at some conclusions on the subject, I was now desirous to ascertain, by a more extensive examination of the limestone country, whether the caves containing the osseous breccia, presented here similar characteristics to those, I had observed in Wellington Valley,

The first limestone, we examined, had no crevices sufficiently large to admit our bodies; but, on riding five miles southward to Oakey creek, we found a low ridge extending some miles on its left bank, which promised many openings. We soon found one, which I considered to be of the right sort, viz. a perpendicular crevice with red tuff about the sides. Being provided with candles and ropes, we descended perpendicularly first, about six fathoms to one stage, then obliquely, about half as far to a sort of floor of red earth; Mr. Rankin, although a large man, always leading the way into the smallest openings. By these means, and by crawling through narrow crevices, we penetrated to several recesses, until Mr. Rankin found some masses of osseous breccia beneath the limestone rock, but so wedged in, that they could be extracted only by digging. Unlike the same red substance at Wellington Valley, where it was nearly as hard as the limestone, the red calcareous tuff found here was so loose, that the mass of bones was easily detached from it; but none of them was perfect, except one or two vertebrae of a very large species of kangaroo. Pursuing this lode of osseous earth, we traced it to several other recesses, and in the lower side of an indurated mass, (the upper part having been the floor of our first landing place,) we found two imperfect skulls of *Dasyuri*, the teeth being however very well preserved. This was, doubtless, an unvisited cave; for the

Historical Feature. cont.

natives have an instinctive or superstitious dread of all such places, and it is not, therefore, probable, that man had ever before visited that cavern. With all our ropes it cost some of us trouble to get out of it, after passing two hours in candle-light. It may thus be imagined what a vast field for such interesting researches remains still unexplored in that district, where limestone occurs in such abundance.

The objects of my journey did not admit of further indulgence in the pursuit, at that time; and I was content with drawing the attention of one of the party, a young gentleman residing in the neighbourhood, to it, in hopes he might discover some bones of importance.

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The Land newspaper of 14.12.72 reports that residents of Oberon have formed a Conservation Protest Committee to resist the Forestry Commission in its plans to clear 1210 acres of native timber which is mostly on Blenheim State Forest, 1½ miles from Oberon township. Residents want to protect the view of natural forest on the skyline and preserve the wildlife habitat. The Shire Council, which raised no objections to the Forestry plan in June 1971, had by June 1972 changed its mind sufficiently to send a deputation to the Minister for Conservation with a petition containing 654 signatures.

How a Politician Thinks.

"In Queensland we have some 12 million acres of State Forests, National Parks and Timber Reserves. Of this area only 200,000 acres have been converted to (pine) plantations" - The Hon. W.A.R. Rae, M.L.A. Queensland Minister for Lands and Forestry, as quoted in Australian Forest Industries Journal November, 1972.

If, after Colong, the Boyd Plateau, Lake Pedder etc, etc, etc, any more examples are needed, this provides an insight into the way in which some politicians regard national parks and reserves, i.e. not as a valid form of land use in their own right, but as a reservoir of natural resources to be exploited when required.

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B. M. S. C.   T R I P   R E P O R T S .

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JENOLAN - WYBURDS LAKE CAVE.

Date of trip: 26th and 27th August, 1972.

Aim: To locate source of Draught.

Members present: Ken Pickering, Allan Fairweather, Mike Treharne, Unita Mumby, Lionel Baker, Paul Sammut, Monica Sammut and Ron Thomas (L).

Entered 11.30am and found the cave drier this time as we made our way to the upper level. All were surprised at the size of this system as we climbed over the rock ledge above the mud slope and into the cavern above. The mud caked high passages above and just before the final sump were climbable this time. Lionel and myself took one each. Mine continued for another 80ft then dropped down 6ft into a second passage much narrower but still continuing for a further 80ft. The drop was too slippery to attempt by myself.

Back at the rockfall, Lionel, Ken and myself climbed up and over into more passage and another small cavern with more aragonite crystals. Down through more rock fall - this time we began moving rubble and a tunnel opened up and we entered a new cavern some 18ft long and 6ft wide with some of the finest aragonite crystals I have ever seen, 4 inches long and as thin as a needle. Ken squeezed down through a hole in the floor into a short new section.

While waiting for my turn to climb back out I noticed another small hole in the other corner and again began moving rocks away. Ken and Lionel returned and together made the hole larger. Excitement ran high seeing a cavern below and desperately trying to get to it. Ken decided to give it a go, and to sit back and watch him was rewarding in itself.

For nearly 10 minutes he squeezed, wriggled and twisted, determination written all over his face until at last he was through. There was a 12foot drop under him and loose rocks above him. After dislodging these, Ken climbed down into a cavern some 24ft long, and more formations were found.

Meanwhile Allan, Monica and Paul had successfully linked up with the main system from the creek level entrance through a squeeze some 20ft long and entering at the start of the large rockfall maze. It was at this point that Graham had heard voices on the previous trip and was unable to trace where they came from. By chipping away rock a 20ft shaft was also explored with maze like passages going in all directions. This cave that Allan has been working on is proving really worthwhile.

Two C.S.S. members Bob Dunn and Roger Curtis met up with us late Saturday afternoon and shared the campfire that night.

Wyburds Lake Cave. 26th & 27th Aug., 1972. cont.

Sunday morning saw the party do a quick trip through Bushrangers before entering Wyburds again. This time the entire group travelled up the big slope and onto the top rockfall again where the aragonite crystals were found. The Canberra bods followed the main passage right through to the sump and when they returned we all decided to return to where the other cave joins the main system.

While Mike, Lionel and myself pushed on through this rockfall, the rest of the party set off to explore the area where the two streams met at the base of the 20ft ladder pitch.

From the second rockfall chamber our party continued on some 30ft along the tunnel as you head towards the final river passage blockage. At this point on the right hand side a mud slope goes up 9ft and turns to the right and still continuing up, turns again to the left still heading up and at the top where it appears to block off there is a slit between two rocks on the left hand side.

On the other side of this slit is a cavern some 40ft long 25ft wide and 30ft high with several holes in the floor. We followed one of two passages leading off at the end of the cavern. This right hand passage begins heading down turning as it goes and at an angle of about 40° it continues on for some 50ft long and ends up over a 12ft drop down to a choke stone.

By linking three slings together I climbed down and found myself over a 30ft drop with a passage below. Lionel followed and climbed over a shelf to a point some 20ft away and from here it appears to be a 40ft drop. As it was about 3pm on Sunday we decided on a return trip. We made our way out, and left the cave about 3.30pm.

After checking these passages on the maps so far available, it definitely appears that we have made a discovery of unmapped cave.

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#### JENOLAN -- WYBURDS LAKE CAVE.

Date of Trip. 14th and 15th October, 1972.

Aim of trip. To continue the exploration of the new extension located on the previous trip into Wyburds Lake cave.

Members Present. R. Thomas (L), I. Bogg, K. Pickering, R. Joel, B. Marshall, G. Nelson, L. Baker and B. Jarvis.

After meeting at the prearranged time at Mammoth Flat, a quick meal was had whilst changing, then we headed off to Wyburds. Upon entering the cave the party split into two groups.

The first group led by Ian and Ken followed a rift passage up into another rock pile chamber in the direction back towards the entrance forming a second level in this section of the cave. In this chamber one wall was scaled and a further passage was located forming now a third level, which heads back towards the general direction from which we had come. From the rock pile chamber we made our way down to a lower level where an interesting solution tube was

Wyburds Lake Cave. 14th & 15th Oct., 1972 cont.

followed. This tube is in bedrock for a change and is approx. 3ft. x 15 - 18" high x 130ft long. It terminates at one end in a rising and a sump at the other. It appears to carry quite substantial volume of water if the mud scollops are any indication. From the rising a survey was carried out to the Junction Chamber to where the other party was waiting.

The group led by myself explored the opposite end of the rift passage which was found to be through rock pile terminating in a rather large chamber, with a number of holes in the floor. These holes were duly investigated only to find that they connect to the passage below. This section of the cave is now known to be on three levels with a total length of 243ft. From Junction Chamber the survey was continued until the main passage was reached adding a further 250ft to the cave.

At 5.00pm Saturday after a snack our party split up. Ian, Brian and Bob headed back to Hennings and Serpentine while the remainder of the party headed back up the hill to look at the cave Ken found on the previous trip. It is situated Approx. 75yds south of Wyburds and on the same level and has several passages about 40ft long. The walls are coated with moon milksoft and very white.

Back near the main entrance is a false floor and by removing boulders, I was able to enter into a low tunnel 5ft wide and 20ft long followed by Bob Jarvis. Together we poked around the floor. Bob then left and returned to surface while I continued to move rocks. I was then able to see down into another chamber 6ft below.

I called out to the others and Bob returned and together we opened up a section large enough to enter. I slid through and found myself in another chamber slightly larger than the one above and almost directly below. It continues on from here for another 30ft and removal of more boulders enabled Bob to continue. Meanwhile I returned to surface as my battery was failing.

Bob continued for another 50ft into a chamber but progress was again blocked by rockfall. A tunnel in the roof was selected as most promising and with a hand torch I began to move more rocks and continued slowly for another 25ft. My light shone into the Blackness and now a shovel is needed to remove earth before progress can continue.

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MURRUIN CREEK.

Date of trip. 11th and 12 November, 1972.

Members present. Ken Pickering (L), Ian Bogg, Terry Corcoran, Barry Richard, Allan Fairweather, Bob Joel and visitors Janet and Roger Babicci.

This was a trip designed to shake off some of the speleosloth that has infected members lately, and at the same time to inspect for caves some rarely visited limestone areas. All members present took their medicine well, but it remains to be seen whether the dread

Murruin Creek. 11th & 12th Nov, 1972.

disease has been cured.

We departed Springwood approximately on time at 5.30am and reached our parking spot on the Colong road at 8.30. Then the fun started with a preliminary skirmish in the bush just to get our bearings and prove that the compass was in fact working. A two mile scrub bash along the Bindook Range through heavy timber - visibility almost nil - followed, and we came out right on target, the limestone deposit on Murruin Creek. Unfortunately while only a few hundred yards away horizontally, it was 1500ft away vertically. But with a few pairs of ripped jeans we soon altered that.

The limestone outcrop is bisected by the creek and on one side there is a spectacular pair of limestone spires. It appears that there are actually two belts of limestone, one a short distance downstream from the spires. The second belt was not trogged as extensively as it might have been, although the presence of a large deposit of travertine in the creek nearby indicates the possibility of some solutional activity. At the upstream belt a small efflux was found bubbling up through the water of Murruin Creek and many solutional features were seen in the rock. Both sides of the creek were thoroughly examined and a few small caves were found. The largest of these is on the south side and its approx. dimensions are - approx. length 60ft with a 30ft ~~aven~~ <sup>avenue</sup> at the far end. On north side at creek level Bob Joel found a hole 40ft long trending up to a small cavern. On the north side the most promising hole remained unentered owing to lack of rope that would be needed to force an entrance from the cliff top.

Camp was set up on Murruin Creek, a delightful virgin area, tea was cooked, and the usual yarning and reminiscing was indulged in round the camp fire. We were entertained by a couple of fireflies while downing large quantities of coffee.

On Sunday camp was broken and we headed upstream to Murruin Limestone Creek and thence to the outcrop we had visited in August 1971. We entered "Pick's Pot" and pushed it to the end this time. Approximate dimensions are depth of first pitch 22ft, then sloping down for 30ft, then 9ft drop and another 15ft of tight sloping passage. An examination of the sink hole on the south west of the outcrop was made and it certainly seems worth digging with some proper equipment, as there is ample scope for cave development. However, as noted before, neither of these features, answer to the description given in the Handbook and it might be worthwhile to check on the references in Stop Press to see whether these are in fact two other caves we haven't yet found.

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WYBURDS LAKE CAVE .

Date of Trip. 2nd and 3rd December, 1972.

Members Present. Allan and Gwen Fairweather, Paul Sammut, Mike and Unita Treharne, Stan Thomas, Barry Richard, Jo. Langejans and Ron Thomas (L).

Aim. To explore a new cave found and further investigate Wyburds.

Allan, Paul and Jo headed into the cave upstream from Wyburds Main while the rest of us began to explore "Ken's Curious Cavern". As work commenced we were aware of the collapsed condition of this cave. In the small cavern back of the junction where the tree roots are hanging down, the earth floor drops away, and with my foot I began pushing the dirt through a hole, in ten minutes I had an opening large enough to slide through. Underneath this was another room 20ft deep and 15ft long. The only possible way on is to again dig out the floor. When I came out Stan started up the next tunnel shovel in hand so I followed. He removed enough soil to advance 10ft and broke through into a small chamber large enough to stand up in. Above this again was a solution tube, earth filled, and very carefully he nibbled at it until the tube was large enough to climb and he found himself in a reasonably sized chamber. Nita and I followed and together we searched for another way on. Above where we entered the chamber there was another earth filled tunnel and as Stan dug away the loose soil it dropped down the entrance hole and across the floor. From below Barry let out a startled remark "You're filling in the tunnel and blocking yourself in." I climbed up into another room but it choked off.

With all corners of the section investigated we made our way out only to find when I lowered myself down the tube into the next cavern, as Barry had said, our escape was blocked off. I dug with eagerness, as this was one dig that just had to go on or we were entombed. All told, we added about 80ft to the already known 150ft. Outside again we regrouped and talked over the day's events, then spent  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours in Wyburds proper before returning to camp.

Saturday evening Gwen & Jo produced a cake and we congratulated Mike and Nita on their marriage.

Sunday morning drizzle set in and in case it became heavy it was decided to inspect the caves near camp.

S.U.S.S. boys showed Barry where the entrances were. Casteret cave was first. I started along the narrow tunnel to a hole in the floor and a 30ft drop underneath. The ladder was secured at the entrance and lowered through the hole and I became wedged as I lowered myself down through the squeeze. With it being this tight going down, I wasn't looking forward to coming out again. The ladder ended some 25ft short of the floor so I sat on a ledge while it was coupled to a second one.

Wyburds Lake Cave. 2nd & 3rd December, 1972.

Nita followed and together we explored the beautiful cave. From the base of the ladder there are three caverns in a straight line with avents above which can only be reached by walking on flowstone so we gave them a miss. Each chamber had decoration. In the middle one, wall and floor alike is a mass of sparkling flowstone resembling a diamond mine. We stood in amazement and wonder at this beauty. Upon entering the third cavern through an excavated squeeze we were absolutely speechless at the flowstone columns, helictites, straws, stalactites and stalagmites. The chamber was literally covered in them and one had to be extremely careful not to bump delicate formations as they were everywhere.

Several small passages were followed but each blocked off after a short distance. Nita made the climb out first and found the squeeze at the top very tricky and after much muttering wriggled through and waited for me. I placed my arm through and pushed on the rungs of the ladder and slowly, inch by inch, moved through until a point where I could no longer reach the next rung with my feet. From here on I was forced to pull myself out with my arms on the rung above. Boy, it sure was tight.

After a brief rest Barry, Jo and myself set out for the next entrance but lack of gear halted us after the third drop.

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COLONG CAVES.

Date of Trip. 9th and 10th December, 1972.

Members Present. Ken (L) and Ros. Pickering, Ian Bogg and Janet Babisci.

We arrived at Bats Camp early Saturday morning to find it overrun by at least three other large groups, including the Epping Scouts and the Werriwa Speleological Society.

Once inside the main cave, fairly rapid progress was made to Woof's Cavern and several photographs were taken. Since the aim of the trip was a tourist jaunt for Ros. and Janet we had a good look around and then made out way outpast the incoming scouts. We had to persuade the young gentlemen to stop using the cave formations as musical instruments. At King's Cross we met the Werriwa group who were slightly disoriented, and then we exited after 5½ hours inside. We returned to camp via the agony that is Acetylene Spur. The track to Colong from Bats Camp is rapidly degenerating from over use by walkers and by four wheel drive vehicles which have taken a multitude of different routes. There would seem to be a case for blocking vehicular access beyond Bats Camp by means of a series of strategically fallen trees.

COLONG CAVES. cont.

Date of trip. 9th and 10th December, 1972.

On Sunday we attempted to negotiate Clearys Cedar Track (built in 1949) to check out an outcrop of limestone near Waterfall Creek. We had to improve a couple of creek crossings for the Landrover and Ian had to take to the scrub a couple of times, although the track has been largely cleared by chain-saw for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. After this cleared section, however the amount of fallen timber was just too much for our single axe. After the activity of the day before we did not relish the idea of walking the rest of the way, especially as Ros was feeling off colour. A spot of fire trailing was agreed upon and we kept a look out for another limestone outcrop near Murruin Creek, but we could not positively detect it from the fire trail.

Our aim of checking out all the small limestone outcrops near Colong still remains to be completely achieved.

Lunch was commenced at Mt. Werong, only to be interrupted by a cranky fire-breathing bovine creature. After some semi legal activities further along the way, we made the usual stop at Hampton and then proceeded home a little earlier than usual.

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UTILITY WITH 4-WHEEL  
DRIVE FROM FORD.

Sydney Morning Herald  
24th November, 1972.

Powered by a 250 CID, six-cylinder engine, the new utility-based on the XY series- combines all the performance attributes of four-wheel-drive vehicles with the passenger comfort and superior ride qualities of a conventional utility.

To ensure adequate performance both on highways and rough, steep, off-the-beaten-track terrain, the Falcon is fitted with a six-speed manual transmission, including two reverse gears. It will be sold initially only in NSW and Queensland, and only a limited number will be produced.

The exact price has not yet been announced, but is believed to be more than \$3,000.

Ford are also planning a station waggon version of the four-wheel-drive vehicle, an innovation which could steal the thunder from the much-sought-after but rather expensive (around \$7,000) British Range Rover,

The new Ford utility contains most of the basic parts used in the XY and XA range of Ford vehicles. Among the options available are a powerful winch fitted to the front of the vehicle and a heavy-duty rear towbar.

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CAVE AND GEM HUNTING.

Date of Trip. 3rd January, 1973.

Members Present. Ron Thomas(L), Stan Thomas, Lionel Baker and Ken Pickering.

Ron had been told of large limestone deposits in the Campbell's River area which didn't appear to agree with those shown by Carne and Jones, so we decided to investigate. At the supposed spot we set out along the river, obtaining lessons in gem hunting from Lionel along the way. We found no limestone but got a few small zircons and sapphires instead. We also obtained directions to Sancho's Hole and investigated same. It is certainly an amazing feature. At Mount David we prospected some of the old mine dumps and fixed a flat tyre, then on the Campbell's River again for lunch and some more sieving for gemstones. It was so hot that the coolness by the river seduced us away from any more serious prospecting of the limestone which outcrops prominently downstream. According to a trip report by Peter Wellings of SSS (Stop Press January 1966) limestone cliffs 60 or 70 feet high overlook Campbell's River and a couple of holes in the river bank at water level go in for 40 feet or so. Easy access to the limestone could probably be gained from the roads in the Dog Rocks State Forest which abuts the river, but due to a suspected wheel bearing that was making horrible dry grinding noises we did not drive down the forest road. Nursing said bearing we returned to Oberon for refreshments, the Duckmaloi River for a dip and Hampton for further refreshments. At Hampton we met a NZSS bod who had been avidly photographing at Jenolan on the Nibicon field trip.

KEN PICKERING.

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GROUP FINDS NEW SOUTH COAST CAVES.

Hobart "Mercury" 23 January '73.

from the BMSC spy in TCC Territory - Terry Corcoran.

A party of cave explorers camped at New River Lagoon on the flanks of Precipitous Bluff, on the rugged far South Coast of Tasmania, have found several limestone caves in the past week.

"The potential of the area for caves is very great indeed," said Mr J. McCormack, president of Hobart's Southern Caving Society which organised the expedition.

"The trip was not long enough, nor the personnel sufficient, to permit exploration of all caves discovered."

"The party explored three-quarters of a mile of underground passages on the first day, beyond a cave entrance first discovered 10 years ago. At the far end, large chambers were found to contain beautiful stalactites."

Group find new South Coast caves. cont.

"Seven other caves have been discovered, one of which proved to be 300ft deep."

"Four caves have been found in the area sought for limestone mining purposes by Mineral Holdings (Aust) Pty Ltd and are threatened if the company's application is successful."

Swim Planned.

"The final few days of the trip will see explorers attempting to swim up the course of an underground river to ascertain its source and further exploring other caves discovered."

Five members returned yesterday by amphibious aircraft while the remaining party of nine will walk out.

The Southern Caving Society will then prepare a full report on behalf of the Australian Speleological Federation.

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ARMY "MOLES" MAP DEEP CAVE SYSTEM.

Sydney Morning Herald  
2nd December, 1972.

By Wednesday 29 soldiers of the Australian Army adventure training course will have spent a total of 3,000 hours underground.

Some will have spent between 100 and 150 hours each mapping caves of the Bungonia Cave system, 16 miles from Goulburn.

A special three-day rescue operation "Exercise Civil Emergency", will end the 12-day exercise.

A "casualty" will be brought to the surface from more than 500 feet underground. A team of six will stay underground for about 50 hours until the exercise is completed.

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Barry Richards has contributed to the library a photocopy of an article in a recent Geographical Magazine (date missing) on the caves of Vercours, France called "In the Caverns of Grenoble."

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**SUPER  
SPELEO**  
vs.  
the  
**JOE  
BLAKE.**



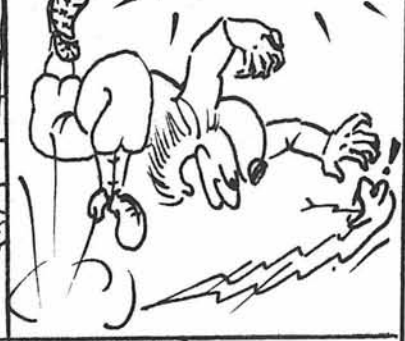
**STAND BACK!**  
I, S.S. will  
deal with  
this deadly  
adder!



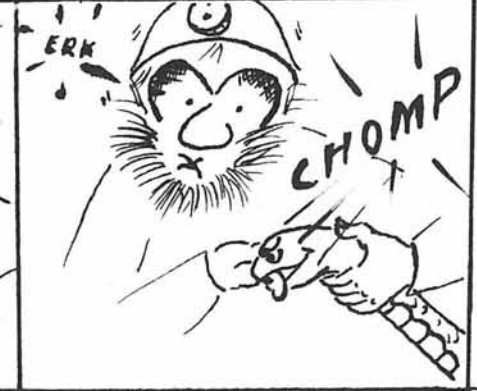
Shoosh..... stealthily I approach  
the rampant reptile.....



..and swiftly  
**I POUNCE**



deftly grasping the vicious  
viper—rendering it  
harmless!



**AAARRGHH**  
**I'VE BEEN**  
**FATAALLY**  
**FANGED!**  
gasp  
choke  
RATTLE



would you like to try & tell him  
it's a carpet snake  
??

