

# COOL L T E



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O O L I T E

JOURNAL OF BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB

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EDITORIAL

This the latest Volume of Oolite (Vol.7) again consolidates Numbers 1,2 & 3 in order to get publication up to date. With some luck and a lot of contributions, Volume 8 for 1976 can issue in three separate parts during the coming New Year.

And that, dear member is where you come in. Production delays are a relatively minor problem compared with lack of material. With a few notable exceptions, whose names often appear on the contents page, the majority of members only contribute the odd trip report. Some don't even contribute trip reports, odd or otherwise.

Why must trip reports concentrate so heavily on the trivia such as boiling the billy, waiting for late-comers, taking the inevitable photographs etc,etc ? I promise you that next time I run short of trip reports I will take a few selected lines from a dozen past trip reports, put them together and sit back waiting for comments. I don't expect to get any as it's hard to distinguish trivia from trivia.

This is not to say that your contribution starved Editor scorns the humble trip report. At the very least it indicates that some activity occurred. But it is a strong plea for authors to use just a little imagination when they write. Concentrate on new discoveries made, theories tested or formed unusual facts that emerge, suggestions for further investigation, recommended further trips, additional work needed to further the science/sport/art of caving.

If you find material suitable for reprinting, abstraction or review, be sure to quote the source and date. Better still, add some original comment or give a point of view. Relate the article to other issues, etc. Go to the library and see what you can turn up on some facet of caving, a related natural science, history or whatever that grabs you. Write a letter to the Editor.

But for goodness sake, and for B.M.S.C's sake do something. Otherwise I might start combining Volumes, not just issues of Oolite.



BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB

9th. ANNUAL REPORT

1974

It is with deep regret that I present the 9th Annual Report of the Blue Mountains Speleological Club, as it shall be my last report in the capacity of Secretary as I shall not be standing again for re-election owing to other commitments.

On this occasion I am taking the liberty and opportunity to reflect back over my association, particularly as a committee member of B.M.S.C. From a small informal gathering of interested cavers B.M.S.C. was born and developed. Early members fought hard and long to develop and guide the club into a reputable speleological club, nurturing it through all of its teething troubles and in doing so, laid the basis for all forms of speleological activity to be pursued by those seeking specific or specialised interests apart from the pure sporting side.

Our earlier years saw B.M.S.C. gain admission into the Australian Speleological Federation and being accepted as a mature club. I am glad to say, that we have been well represented and have played our part in the total speleological scene and have shown some of the older, more established clubs some initiative, for example, the conservation and preservation of Tuglow Main Cave II, a project which I believe will be finalised early in 1975.

Abercrombie saw the beginning of our first major club speleological project, upon which I am pleased to report that owing to the effort of a few members we could now begin preparations for our first major publication. This does not mean that all work has been completed, far from it. I do not believe that any caving area could be deemed to be completely and totally understood, and I trust that this work shall continue with the more effective and active members of the club.

It is unfortunate to see that our Journal, OOLITE has not over the past twelve to eighteen months been appearing as regularly as one might expect. Have we as a club supported our Editor in this regard, I think not? It is our spokesman within the speleological fraternity and on its regularity, content and presentation we shall be judged by and large. It is our Journal - if it dies - we die - lets get together and resurect a good Journal.

Looking back over the past twelve months I personally am not happy with our achievements, lack of trips, lack of participation, late or non existant trip reports. I am sure that in reflection we all could see ways to remotivate B.M.S.C. It is up to us to push our committee along and demand improvement.



This re-motivation factor is vital if we are to continue in existence and I for one would not like to see a total collapse, and look forward to a profitable and effective club.

There is one area which we have sadly failed and that is in the recruitment of new blood, and the enticement of our prospectives to the status of full membership. No group will survive without an effective and active membership and one objective of the new committee which should be placed high on priority is this re-motivation/membership component, which is vital for our continued existence.

In closing I would like to thank all those members who have helped, and put up with me, in the role of Secretary over the past term, and on behalf of the retiring committee I would like to wish the incoming committee and office bearers, all the success in 1975.

Thank you,

Ian Bogg

Hon. Sec.

Blue Mountains Speleological Club

7th February, 1975.

#### SPELEOCHRONOLOGY AT WEE JASPER

Ken Pickering.

Speleologists of serious intent headed for Wee Jasper will no doubt be familiar with the pink folder (printed by the Yass Tribune, mark you) on Careys Cave. It is not the statement that 400 million years ago coral was growing at Wee Jasper that I quarrel with, so far as I am concerned coral can grow when, when and how it likes. But I do find the following unnecessarily hard going - "Inspection Hours commencing at 1 pm. Parties leave every  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour and each inspection takes approximately one hour". Problem: Will the 1.45 pm inspection ever leave on time?

Is it bureaucratic bungling, a dirty Commie trick or just a capitalistic plot to get those "parties inspecting by appointment (who are liable to a minimum charge of \$7.00 per party)" to part with \$7.00 instead of 70c per person normal charge???

Watch this magazine for further revelations.



BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUBFINANCIAL REPORT - 1974Income:

Balance brought forward from 1973	\$229.72	
Subscriptions	\$142.00	
Badges and tapes	4.50	
Miscellaneous income	95.19	
Bank interest	6.50	
Trip fees	25.40	
Building society	100.00	\$ 591.91

Expenditure:

Miscellaneous expenses	\$251.92	
Secretarial expenses	31.48	
Oolite expenses	14.25	
Equipment	39.95	\$ 337.60

Balance carried forward to 1975      \$ 254.31  
=====

The only equipment purchased was a portable typewriter. An account with the N.S.W. Permanent Building Society was opened with a deposit of \$100.00. I would recommend future deposits to this account when funds are available as withdrawals are easily and quickly arranged and the Club can be earning a healthy rate of interest.

Capitation fees of \$28.50 to A.S.F., \$60.00 contribution towards expenses incurred by attendance of the A.S.F. 1973 conference by two of the members and the cheque for \$100.00 which was paid to the Building Society were the major items listed under Miscellaneous Expenses.

Expenditure approved and still outstanding is \$30.00 for Screen Printing material for the reflective badges.

The year of 1975 looks like being a successful one financially with the only major expenditure under consideration at the moment being the purchase of badges, metal and/or cloth, upon acceptance of orders when received.

Gwen Fairweather.

TREASURER.



4 W.D. Fantasies

B.M.S.C is becoming altogether too cluttered with four wheel drive vehicles. How will we ever re-capture the thrill of walking into Tuglow and the exhilarating climb back up Boss Mountain, Fantastic training for Colong and Acetylene Spur/ Land Rovers, Nissans and Subaru garbage etc should be thrown out immediately. This is also obviously the opinion of a correspondent to Power Farming Magazine of January, 1975:-

"HE SAYS BEETLE BETTER THAN 4-WHEEL DRIVE

I should like to comment on your answer in the October issue of Power Farming under the heading "Converting a VW for the farm" (p 41). I have a "Beetle" that I converted three and a half years ago by shortening the wheelbase and putting in a Kombi reduction gearing to make it lower geared and give more clearance.

This vehicle has had an extremely rough life in very stony and steep country and has had very little repair saving me hundreds of dollars as against the 4-wheel drive which I used to have.

I strongly disagree with what you say regarding the performance in comparison to a 4-wheel drive; my VW can cover more ground with a lot more comfort than a 4-wheel drive. And, I haven't got dual wheels on my VW and unless you were on very steep green feed inclines it would not warrant the expense.

I have 7.75 x 14 winter tread tyres on the rear. Turning the springs upside down has only raised the front to the height they were before being flattened by use. I did not alter the springs, as when you shorten the wheelbase they raise because there is less weight on them. I fitted 6.70 x 15 x 4-ply retread lug tyres to the front which raises the vehicle level.

However, the front springs can be raised by cutting the tube each side of the centre locking pin, turning the tube the desired amount and welding where they were cut.

I should like to mention that Volkswagen Australia Ltd, Adelaide together with one of their top trial drivers have been to see a film I have and to ride in my VW and they were amazed.

I hope that both you and your readers find this of interest and I would be happy to supply further information if required. C.G. Anesbury, Orroroo. S.A."

Power Farming Magazine - January, 1975



HAS THE A.S.F COME OF AGE?

Have the efforts of our "Founding Fathers" who developed, guided, nurtured and consolidated speleological clubs and societies across Australia into a Federation, paid off? Has the Federation effectively been promoted as a mature and responsible authority on Australian Speleology?

"Has the A.S.F come of age?"

Why is it that the A.S.F. has been invited to submit reports to, or had submissions accepted by, State Government Departments and the Australian Government? Quite an impressive list, particularly over the past 12-18 months - care to review the list?

1. Texas Caves Submission - a report to the Australian Government.
2. The conservation of Mulla Mullang Cave W.A. - submission to the W.A. Government.
3. Tourist Development - Cutta Cutta and Kintore Caves - report to N.T. Reserve Board.
4. Jenolan Caves - Management Plan - report to N.S.W. Department of Public Works.
5. Bungonia Caves - Management Plan - report to N.S.W. Department of Lands.
6. First Australian Conference on Cave Tourism - organisation and proceedings publication.

Had it not been for a few individuals the A.S.F. would not have had the opportunity nor been regarded as a responsible authority.

Is it the individuals or the A.S.F that has come of age - think about it.

Ian Bogg.

NEW NATIONAL PARKS

1. Werrickimbe of 12,000 ha on the New England Tableland 70 km east of Walcha and 80 km west of Port Macquarie.
2. Near Wisemans Ferry a 17,400 ha National Park is under consideration.



"AUSTRALIAN NATURAL HISTORY"A BRIEF REVIEW.

Ken Pickering.

The June 1975 issue of the Australian Museum Magazine "Australian Natural History" (Volume 18, No.6) is devoted entirely to caves and caving in Australia.

In an article "Lime, Limestone and the First Caves" E.A.Lane describes early cave and limestone discoveries. He mentions that the Benglen Cave at Limekilns could have been discovered in 1821, but apparently he was not aware of the existence of the material published in Oolite, Vol 5, No.3 which describes William Lawson's cave exploration at Limekilns in 1821.

Other articles describe climbing and exploration methods (by Pavey and Montgomery), Mineral decorations (by Julia James), Formation of Australian Caves (by Joe Jennings), Fossils (by Wells), Speleochronology (by Ollier), Caves and aboriginals (by Bowdler), Ecosystems underground (by Harris) and Human use and abuse of Caves (by Dunkley and Reidler).

This issue is a big improvement over the Australian Museum Magazine Vol 6 No2 for April-June 1936 which describes the wilful destruction and removal of decorations from Cliefden Caves (with the owners permission of course) to make the construction of the cave model in the Museum more realistic. The model, still at the Museum took 3 years to construct. The cave decorations were removed in August 1932. Scientific abuse of caves is one aspect of "the heavy hand of modern man" not mentioned by Dunkley and Reidler and, hopefully, one which scientists have now outgrown.

Volume 18 No 6 contains 38 pages and is available at \$1.00 plus 33c postage from the Secretary of the Museum. It is well illustrated. An annual subscription to Australian Natural History (4 issues) is \$4.50.

THREAT TO CLIEFDEN CAVES

Ken Pickering

In June 1975 the A.S.F. Secretarial Circular notified the proposal for another dam on the Belubela River, below Cliefden caves, for the Bathurst-Orange growth area.

The existing Carcoar Dam, upstream of the caves was completed/for regulation of stream flow to irrigated lands below the dam. <sup>(about the end of 1970 and was intended)</sup> Alternative sites that were investigated before Carcoar Dam was built were Cranky Rock, 16 km upstream of Canawindra and The Needles, about 29 km above Canowindra.

In January the N.S.W.Planning & Environment Commission described the needs of the Bathurst-Orange growth area for water thus---

" The Growth Area will need a greatly expanded water supply and waste water management system to



cater for the projected population of 240,000. By 2006 it is estimated that the total demand for water will be roughly 9 times the present demand of Bathurst and Orange together.

This system will need to maintain the highest standards of pollution control and will involve the construction of major reservoirs and pipelines, and the introduction of processes for tertiary treatment of effluents.

Neither the Macquarie or Lachlan Rivers are considered to have the individual capacity to provide this amount, and eventually it will be necessary to utilize supplies from both river systems. If large volumes are drawn from both systems it is necessary to arrange for treated waste water to be discharged into each parent catchment area so that existing and future users downstream will not be adversely affected. Because both Bathurst and Orange are wholly within the Macquarie catchment it is desirable to draw at least part of the New City's water from the Belubula River, which is part of the Lachlan catchment area.

Further research is needed to determine the best locations for reservoirs. At this stage a number of tentative proposals can be made. The first is for the construction of a large dam on the Macquarie River at White Rock or Woodlands. The second proposal would involve the construction of a major dam on the Belubula River at Oak Pride or the Needles. The third proposal is for the construction of a supplementary dam on the Bell River. However, in the short term it is proposed to draw water from the Ben Chifley Dam to increase the water supply of Orange and provide for the initial stages of the New City.

Waste water and stormwater run-off from urban development will be discharged into the Belubula and Macquarie Rivers. As the flow in these rivers may become very low, or cease completely during drought periods, the highest standards of treatment will be set. These will be achieved by upgrading the secondary treatment systems already operating in Bathurst and Orange, and by establishing an advanced waste water treatment system for the New City. This system will produce a high quality effluent suitable for industrial use and for watering public parks and gardens. This recycling process would reduce the quantities of water diverted from and discharged into rivers. "



CAVCONACT 76THE ELEVENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN  
SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION.

Time: Monday December 27 - to Friday December 31, 1976.

Place: The Australian National University, Canberra,  
Australia.

Host Clubs: National University Caving Club and the  
Canberra Speleological Society.

Program:	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday 27.	Registration and Committee Meeting 1	Official Opening and sessions	Social Gathering
Tuesday 28	Sessions	Sessions	Photographic competition & exhibition
Wednesday 29	Sessions	Sessions	Caveman's Dinner.
Thursday 30	Sessions	Speleosports	Field Trip Organisation.
Friday 31	Committee Meeting 11 and start of field trips.		

Field trips: There will be both pre and post-Convention field trips. Pre-Convention trips will be informal but arrangements will be made with controllers of selected caves and cave areas so that some caves will be available to people as they make their way to Canberra. Post-Convention trips will be scheduled to allow people to visit the most prominent caves and cave areas in southeastern New South Wales, eastern Victoria and the A.C.T. Both limestone and non-limestone cave areas will be included.

A special karst geology field trip is being arranged through the co-operation of Joe Jennings (ANU) Mike Owen (BMR) Bob Nicoll (BMR) and Andy Spate (CSIRO). This trip is designed as a followup to a paper to be delivered by Joe that will review aspects of karst geology and will show both the caver and the specialist alike some prominent features of karst development in southern NSW.

A special Convention guidebook will be available to serve as a guide to the selected caves shown on the field trips. The guide will be available to pre-registrants for use on the way to Canberra.

Photo Competition:

A photographic competition will be held in



conjunction with CAVCONACT 76. Entries will be divided into categories such as:

Scenic	-	Above and
Scientific	-	below
Humorous/personalities.	-	ground.

Separate divisions for colour slides, colour prints and black and white prints will be catered for.

#### Call for Papers:

Sessions planned will cover a broad spectrum of cave related topics. These will include geology, geomorphology, techniques, photography, conservation, biology and anthropology/archaeology. Persons interested in presenting papers or chairing sessions on any of these topics or any other cave related subjects are invited to correspond with the organising committee. More information will be circulated in due course.

#### Information and Correspondence:

Requests for information and all correspondence concerning CAVCONACT 76 should be directed to:

CAVCONACT 76 c/- Neil Anderson, 18 Arabana Street, Aranda. A.C.T. Australia 2614.

EXTRACT. FROM THE "REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY WITH THE NATIONAL ESTATE" published by A.G.P.S. Canberra, 1974, 415 pages, cost \$10.00.

#### Caves

5.81 For modern man, caves are used principally for recreational, education and scientific purposes.

5.82 The recreational uses are:  
Passive recreation - tourism. Entry is subject to payment, movement frequently is restricted by suitable railed walkways, and some kind of fixed lighting is used.

Active recreation - speleology. Entry may be subject to some restriction (usually membership of an approved organisation), movement within a cave is usually not restricted and lighting is portable.

#### (i) Inventory of caves

5.83 Speleology which deals with the exploration, recording and investigation of cave phenomena, plays an important part in the use, description and preservation of caves. Speleological groups in Australia have a national body, the Australian Speleological Federation, which collates all information gathered and presents it in a handbook



dealing with all known caves. It proposes that in future such information will be computerised.

- 5.84 This aspect of the National Estate is therefore probably better documented than any other. Speleological groups and the Federation made very full submissions to us.

- 5.85 Three kinds of caves are recognised:

Limestone caves are by far the most numerous and are the greatest interest to speleologists and the public. All tourist caves are limestone. They are of interest for their spectacular mineral decorations and provide an environment for a remarkably varied and scientifically interesting fauna. They are also important in some cases for fossil remains e.g. Victoria Cave, South Australia is one of the more important fossil marsupial localities to be studied in recent times. Other caves contain bone of species far beyond their present habitat and are thus scientifically important.

Caves in igneous rock are less numerous and generally of less interest. The Byaduk lava tunnels (Victoria) are the best known and most extensive examples.

Other types of cave, and particularly rock overhangs, may be of significant archaeological interest since many were used for long periods by the Aborigines and may contain art sites and artifacts, as may some limestone caves.

(ii) Distribution of caves.

- 5.86 Australia generally is poorly endowed with caves, although Tasmania perhaps reaches a world average.

New South Wales has many limestone caves and more caves are accorded official protection than in any other State.

Victoria is comparatively deficient in limestone caves but has extensive lava tunnels.

Queensland has only four main limestone cave areas. Mt. Etna, near Rockhampton, is among the most important, while the Chillagoe Caves are the most extensive. West of Townsville two very long lava tunnels occur in basalt.

In South Australia and Western Australia limestone caves occur in the Nullarbor Plain, the largest limestone area in Australia. There also are a great many caves in south-west W.A.

Tasmania has the highest density of caves in Australia. They include Exit Cave, the fourth largest cave in Australia. Khazad Dum, Australia's deepest cave; and Kubla Khan which is profusely decorated. All the caves are easily accessible.



(iii) Problems of cave protection.

- 5.87 The most obvious and direct threats to caves arise from mining. Limestone is a major component of cement and is important in agriculture and steel making. Mining affects caves either by their removal, by shock waves from nearby blasting which makes the caves structurally unstable or breaks cave formations, or by more insidious aspects such as road construction, pollution etc. The animal life in caves is also disturbed.
- 5.88 At the Colong Caves Reserve in New South Wales mining leases (subsequently amalgamated) were granted over an area of cavernous limestone at Mount Armour. Sustained public protest resulted in the surrender of the amalgamated leases.
- 5.89 At Bungonia Gorge, N.S.W. limestone quarrying is the subject of great controversy. Quarrying on the northern side of the Gorge, though not extending into the Caves Reserve itself, is despoiling a significant part of the spectacular scenery. The Sydney Speleological Society considers that there is a possibility of the (caves) area being mined for limestone if it is not afforded better legal protection. Over-use and lack of management, finance and staff are further problems.
- 5.90 At Mount Etna in Queensland quarrying has already destroyed a number of caves and blasting has spoiled cave formations. A population of 300,000-400,000 otherwise rare bats is dependent upon one cave - Bat Cleft.
- 5.91 At Precipitous Bluff in Tasmania, recently explored caves are threatened by mineral survey activities, while in the longer term the limestone mining proposed would destroy a number of interesting caves.
- 5.92 Texas Caves in Queensland are threatened by flooding if the proposed construction of the Pike Creek Dam goes ahead under a joint program involving the New South Wales and Queensland Governments. Financial support for this project has been withdrawn by the Australian Government. The University of Queensland Speleological Society says that: "The Texas Caves are the only significant cavernous area in south-east Queensland. Their use for recreational purposes....is growing exponentially". Caves at Walli and Cliefden (N.S.W.) are similarly threatened.
- 5.93 Vandalism is a serious problem even in supervised tourist caves. It is minimised in those areas under effective management and where owners take an active interest. In some States a system of cave entry permits is an added protection. While vandalism is not restricted to unorganised cavers, caving societies often help to reduce despoilation.
- 5.94 Entrance infilling is a problem; first where caves



are used as convenient places for rubbish disposal; second where farmers fearing a loss of livestock block caves as a precaution. Fencing is often enough to remove these dangers. Blockage of entrances may also result from timber clearing in surrounding catchment areas with subsequent erosion and infill.

- 5.95 Equally, enlargement of entrances for easier access may change airflow with resulting change in the moisture regime and so the condition of the mineral decoration and wildlife.
- 5.96. Major disturbance in catchment areas, e.g. large-scale logging or farm development, can also seriously interfere with the hydrological regime. Cave systems are mostly formed by the action of water dissolving the limestone. The catchment area for the water occurring in any cave system is usually much larger than the system itself. Catchment protection is therefore a highly important factor in cave management.
- 5.97 Tourism can in the long term damage caves. Provision must be made for eventual closing of the cave and for protection of caves abandoned for this reason.
- (iv) Measures being adopted.
- 5.98 Legislation exists in all States under which areas such as caves may be reserved and then protected, but the Acts often relate only by inference to caves. There are virtually no constraints on the use of caves on freehold and even leasehold land.
- 5.99 In New South Wales protected caves are generally those in areas which have been developed for tourism. For example, regulations exist for the control and management of Jenolan Caves, Wombeyan Caves and Abercrombie Caves, under the Public Trusts Act 1897. Caves can be protected by virtue of the fact that they are in national parks. Other Acts which may offer protection to some degree are the Crown Lands Consolidation Act 1913, Fauna Protection Act 1948-1971 (e.g. Willi Willi Bat Cave, near Kempsey) and the Mining Act 1973. Other caves come under the jurisdiction of Shire Councils, Trusts and private landowners.
- 5.100 The Sydney Speleological Society considers however that:
- 'Caves have no overall protection; the treatment they receive (even where there is a responsible authority or owner) depends on the attitudes and degree of appreciation of that authority or owner'.
- 5.101 Cave entry permits are issued in New South Wales by the Department of Tourism and the National



Parks and Wildlife Service. These offer some degree of protection but 'even though permits are recognised as essential, the unfortunate point is that the conditions of the permits are rarely policed. This has resulted in illegal caving parties and oversized and ill-prepared parties'.

- 5.102 In Victoria the Land Act 1958 and the National Parks Act 1970 are used to protect caves. The Department of Crown Lands and Survey administers and maintains the Buchan Caves area as a tourist attraction.
- 5.103 The reservation of caves in Queensland is usually initiated by the Forestry Department as part of the National Park proposals. The recent creation of the category of Environmental Parks may also be expected to protect caves.
- 5.104 In South Australia caves can be controlled as reserves vested under the control of the Museum Board, or under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 e.g. at Naracoorte, and Tantanoola. One cave is protected under the Aboriginal and Historic Relics Preservation Act because of the presence of "an archaeological site of transcending significance".
- 5.103 In Western Australia there is again no specific legislation. The Land Act, the Local Government Act and the Aboriginal Heritage Act can be used to take general protective measures.
- 5.106 In Tasmania, protection of caves is afforded by the Department of Tourism e.g. Mole Creek in the north and Hastings in the south, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Southern Caving Society states, however: "It is significant that the most recent cave reserve to be declared was that around King Solomon's Cave gazetted in 1939.... It is since that time that all the major Tasmanian discoveries have been made".
- (v) Measures which should be adopted.
- 5.107 A survey of Australia's limestone resources should be urgently undertaken. The first requisite for a rational use of limestone in Australia is a thorough knowledge of existing deposits. When these have been thoroughly investigated it will be possible to identify those which are caverniferous or of other special interest as opposed to those which could be mined with negligible environmental loss.
- 5.108 The Minister for the Environment and Conservation has said that he "would refer the question of the environmental impact of limestone mining including purchasing and export policies to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment".



We consider that Australian Government policies here could be an important factor in ensuring protection of some areas.

- 5.109 A number of submissions suggested the need for a Cave Conservation Act in each State to 'provide blanket cover to caves wherever they exist'. We would support the idea of uniform legislation, with proper safeguards against indiscriminate mining and quarrying.
- 5.110 The concept of 'Underground National Parks' was another suggestion. This idea if developed, could allow for adequate protection, including protection against mining. The use of the term 'National Park' may however be misleading. Here it would be necessary to ensure that a compatible surface land use is possible, which would protect catchment areas.
- 5.111 The sale of cave products, including stalactites, calcite crystals, etc. should not be permitted.
- 5.112 Rationalisation of mining legislation should allow for:  
  
Planned use of limestone resources for long term benefit, and protection of cave systems.  
  
A revision of Warden's Court procedures in some States to allow for objections based on 'public interest' by those supporting land uses other than mining.
- (vi) Role of the Australian Government.
- 5.113 In the Territories, little is known of what cave systems exist. However, in the Northern Territory, important karst areas are found near Katherine. Adequate protection of any cave system identified would serve as a model to the States.
- 5.114. The use of export licence control measures where appropriate, could help to control unwise exploitation of limestone resources.
- 5.115 The Australian Government is itself a large user of marble, cement and cement products. The environmental effects of the operations which produce them should be a matter of concern to the Australian Government, and appropriate action should be taken to ensure that contracting companies' sources of supply are environmentally acceptable.
- 5.116 We recognise that permits to enter caves in National Parks are an essential implement in the preservation of caves. However, the difficult task of policing caves could be improved if the more widely known caves were gated. In South Australia, for example, the Cave Exploration Group(SA) has an active gating program for the most urgent cases and significant caves.



Legislation could also provide for proper control of access to caves. Australian Government assistance to the States for construction of gates, whether on public reserves or private property, would be a good use of funds.

Findings and recommendations.

Caves:

39. Since Australia has relatively few important cave systems, and many are endangered by various agencies such as mining and quarrying, a survey of Australia's limestone resources should be urgently undertaken, so that wherever possible mining and quarrying may be directed to areas which will do the least harm to important natural limestone features.
- 5.107 40. The Australian Government should impose export licence control measures to discourage unwise
- 5.114 exploitation of limestone resources.
41. It should ensure that marble, cement and cement products used in Australian Government building and other projects come from environmentally acceptable sources of supply.



SCIENTIST DISCOVERS SPACE TRAVEL PERILSix-month Ordeal alone

Extract from the Sun 4.6.1975.

Loss of co-ordination and concentration may afflict men flying to distant planets, a French scientist believes.

Geologist, Mr. Michel Siffre, spent half of 1972 buried alone in Midnight Cave, near Del Rio, Texas to study the effects of prolonged isolation from the rhythm of earth's days and nights.

Researchers are still analyzing the miles of taped data collected during the experiment. But Mr. Siffre says his health was impaired during his six month ordeal, and the ill effects continue.

"I am convinced that final results of this experiment will reveal serious problems confronting future long-range space travellers," Mr. Siffre reports in the March National Geographic.

"Whether because of confinement, solitude, or both, my mental processes and manual dexterity deteriorated gravely and inexorably toward the end of my stay in Midnight Cave."

Though to all outward appearances recovered, the scientist notes: "I still suffer severe lapses of memory." "My eyesight has weakened, and I am victim of a chronic squint."

Mr. Siffre previously spent 63 days underground at the cavern of Scarasson in the French-Italian Maritime Alps, to determine the waking-sleeping cycle of a person cut off from the passage of time.

That test and others he directed for the French Government showed that some individuals in isolation adopt a 48-hour rhythm, making one day out of two.

During his months in Midnight Cave, Mr. Siffre unknowingly stretched the normal 24-hour day into cycles varying from 18 to 51 hours.

After descending into the cave on February 16th, he lost track of time to the extent that when his journal showed it should be mid-July the actual date was August 10.

At first the scientist swept his cave, explored, pedalled his exercise machine, and gave himself tests.

As the weeks passed, with his record-player broken and mildew coating his books, his thoughts and actions became erratic.

He recalls planning a suicide that would appear to be an accident, so his wife could collect his insurance.



CAVE AREAS - ACCESS & PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Access to many of our caving areas is on a controlled entry basis. The conditions and/or requirements vary, depending upon the controlling or administrative body, and in all cases are obligatory.

This outline is given in order that all members of B.M.S.C. may acquaint themselves with the requirements governing the granting of permits to ensure compliance with them. This outline is restricted to caving areas most frequently visited by B.M.S.C.

Basically, the entry conditions are designed to

- (a) Ensure the safety and well being of the group.
- (b) Protect and conserve the caves within the area.
- (c) Avoid interfering with members of the public in their inspection of Tourist Caves and their enjoyment of the facilities provided.
- (d) Minimise or avoid the interference to, or the disturbance of, farm machinery, stock, crops and produce.
- (e) Minimise area despoilation.
- (f) Preserve caves for future generations.

Unfortunately, most of the conditions assume that all speleologists are mature, responsible members of the community and as such, there must be constant awareness to the fact that there are some who enter our domain bent on destroying one of nature's wonderlands. It is in our interest to preserve our caves.

I must stress at this point, that all applications for permits that are submitted lacking the necessary information and not within the prescribed time limit will be refused. The converse also applies - violation of the conditions of entry means that B.M.S.C. would not be granted permission to visit the caves in a controlled area in the future.

JENOLAN, WOMBEYAN and ABERCROMBIE CAVES.

The controlling authority for the abovementioned areas is the N.S.W. Department of Tourism and their policy regarding speleological activity is as follows:-

1. The group visiting the caves must come from an accredited speleological society. (Restricted to groups affiliated with the Australian Speleological Federation).
2. Object of trip must be demonstrably scientific and the purpose stated in the application.
3. The majority of participating members must be experienced speleologists.
4. Maximum number of group must not exceed twelve (12) of whom four (4) can be prospectives.
5. Each trip shall be under the leadership of a fully experienced speleologist, who will ensure that all



members observe the tenets of caving ethics as practised by reputable caving organisations throughout the world.

6. Applications for trips must be lodged at least seven(7) days prior to proposed trip. The application must be signed by the Secretary.
7. Each application must be accompanied with a list of names of members comprising the group.
8. The leader must report to the Manager, Senior Guide or Superintendant as the case may be, upon arrival and departure.

TUGLOW, COLONG, CHURCH and BILLY'S CREEK CAVES.

The requirements of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the administrative body are as follows:-

1. The party must be accompanied by the designated trip leader at all times when below the surface.
2. Total number in party must not exceed twelve (12) unless specific approval has been granted.
3. Total number of party members in the cave at any one time must not exceed six (6) or be less than four (4) unless specific approval has been granted.
4. The number of inexperienced cavers will not exceed two (2) in a party of six (6) and not more than one (1) in a party less than six (6).
5. No damage or interference is to be caused to the cave or cave formations.
6. No refuse, litter, equipment or any other matter is to be left in the cave (s) or park.
7. Endorsed application must be carried by the leader at all times.
8. Except for emergency candles, no form of lighting other than electric lighting is to be used in the cave.
9. Equipment used by the group must be adequate and safe.
10. The trip leaders report, endorsed by B.M.S.C. must be forwarded within 28 days of the visit.
11. Two (2) copies of any map, chart or written article produced relating to the cave will be supplied free of charge to the Superintendant, within 18 days of their completion.
12. Names, addresses and vehicle registration numbers must accompany application.
13. One (1) month notice is required for permit applications.

The only other requirement stipulated by the N.P. & W.S is that permits will only be granted on the condition that B.M.S.C accepts full responsibility for the



safety and conduct of the group and for its compliance with the regulations under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1967 as ammended, and any other relevant Act or Regulation.

WALLI CAVES.

The controlling authority for this area is the Sydney Speleological Society who acts on behalf of the property owner, with permits being approved on the following conditions:-

1. Parties will be permitted into the area if they are to carry out scientific and/or speleological studies relevant to the area and approved by S.S.S.
2. Name of trip leader, also indicating what experience the nominee has had in leading trips and carrying out investigations relevant to the approved subject.
3. Number of people in party who have had more than 3 caving trips.
4. Number of people in party who have had less than 3 caving trips.
5. At least four (4) weeks notice is required for permit.
6. At all times the size of the party will be kept to a minimum.
7. Reports will be regarded as the property of the author, and not disclosed without author's permission.
8. All gates on the property must be left as they are found.
9. The trip leader must undertake to observe the following conditions:-
  - (a) A detailed report must be forwarded within one (1) calendar month including maps where possible.
  - (b) No cave decoration will be marked, despoiled, broken off, removed or handled, walked upon or climbed upon, without first obtaining the permission of S.S.S.
  - (c) All members must follow the obvious route taken by previous parties and not tramp all over the cave.
  - (d) Writing of names, route marks, and survey stations marks or any other forms of defacement is not permitted on the walls of the cave.
  - (e) No spent carbide, flash bulbs, cigarette butts, matches, sweet wraps or any other form of litter is to be dropped or left in the cave.
  - (f) Any litter found in the cave should be removed. The Sydney Speleological Society should be notified of any litter left in the cave by previous parties.
10. The trip leader shall see that any coverings of any form which are found over the entrance of any cave be replaced when the party leaves the cave.



11. The safety of the party will always be the responsibility of the trip leader. No cave shall be entered unless adequate and safe equipment is used by every member of the party.
  - (a) No member of the party is allowed underground unless fully conversant with equipment being used on the trip.
  - (b) Every member of the party must carry two (2) forms of lighting, wear approved safety helmet and suitable footwear.
  - (c) When using ladders every member must be belayed and the belayer securely anchored.
  - (d) The trip leader shall report to Mr. Rowlands, the property owner, on the morning of the day of arrival and upon the departure of the group. All requests by the owner must be strictly observed.
12. Under no circumstances may farm machinery, stock or farm produce be interfered with.
13. Local fire restrictions must be strictly observed.
14. Firearms are not permitted on the property.
15. Campsite must be left clean. All rubbish must be removed from the property and not burnt and then buried.
16. The letter of approval from S.S.S must be carried by the trip leader.

#### CLIEFDEN CAVES.

This area is administered by the Orange Speleological Society on behalf of the property owner, Mr. B. Dunhill. Their requirements are as follows:-

1. Applications for permit(s) require a minimum of three(3) weeks notice.
2. Application must state the objectives-aims of the trip, and contain the name of the trip leader and the participating members.
3. The size of the party must be kept to a minimum.
4. The tenets of caving ethics must be observed at all times.
5. The permit card must be carried by the trip leader at all times which is required to obtain the keys to the gated caves.
6. The trip leader shall report to the property owner on the morning of arrival and upon departure, whereupon all issued keys must be returned.
7. There must be no interference with farm equipment or produce, and all gates must be left as found.



8. The trip leader shall collect the camping fee of \$.50 per head per night and hand to the property owner.
9. A copy of the trip report including any maps must be forwarded to O.S.S. upon their completion.
10. No damage to the cave or decoration is permitted.

WARRAGAMBA CATCHMENT AREA.

Access into the Warragamba Catchment Area is restricted and it can only be entered by written approval received from the Secretary of the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board. The requirements of the M.W.S. & D.Board are additional to any other requirements laid down by other controlling authorities. This applies to caving areas such as Church Creek and Billy's Creek Caves which are now within the boundary of the Kanangra-Boyd National Park. It is the responsibility of the trip leader to ascertain whether or not the caving area to be visited is situated within the Warragamba Catchment Area.

The specific requirements governing entry permits and conditions are obtainable in detail from the club Secretary; however, it is suffice to say that Conditions Applicable to Water Catchment Areas, Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board, By-Law No.13 are applicable in this regard.

BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB REQUIREMENTS.

The following outline is abstracted from our Policy, Rules and Organisation Handbook.

1. It is the responsibility of the trip leader to submit a request to the Secretary, complete with names in order that he may obtain the necessary permit for entry into restricted or controlled caving areas at least fourteen (14) days prior to the required permit lead time.
2. The trip leader must ensure that a legible trip report is forwarded to the committee within fourteen (14) days after the completion of a trip, which will then instruct the Secretary to forward a suitably worded report to the administrative body concerned.
3. Approved permits must be carried at all times, including letters of introduction, by the trip leader and then returned to the Secretary upon completion of the trip.

SUMMARY

As previously mentioned, the above outline covers the areas most frequently visited by our club. Details regarding other areas are obtainable



from your Secretary, or will be ascertained on your behalf.

I am sure that you will understand and appreciate the necessity for the conditions and/or requirements governing permits and controlled entry. To date, we have not experienced any difficulty in either fulfilling or complying with the requirements and it is in the interests of the club and its members that they be complied with at all times.

REMEMBER: FAILURE TO DO SO WILL SEVERELY RESTRICT  
OUR FIELD OF ACTIVITY AND ENJOYMENT.

IAN BOGG.

B.M.S.C. expands to Parkes 1

Congratulations to our popular and intrepid Ex-Secretary Ian Bogg who has moved to Parkes to set up a new branch of B.M.S.C in the Central West. Incidental to the move is a change of employment. Rumour has it that the secrets of Nelungaloo, which have so far defied the best efforts of Sydney cavers, are about to be uncovered by our man in Parkes. We expect to be able to bring you soon, details of the buried treasure of Ben Hall in a gripping series to rival the best that ABC T.V can produce! Yes, another book from the roving reporters of B.M.S.C, one to rival the mysterious Dr.Nelson's "Caves and Rivers of Puerto Rico".



THE NEW SOUTH WALES CAVE RESCUE GROUP.

PART I

By Phil Toomer.

This is intended to be the first in a series of information sheets released by the Liason Officer of the N.S.W.Cave Rescue Group.

The Cave Rescue Group held its inaugural meeting on the 22nd October 1974 when a constitution was accepted and a temporary committee of five elected. The Cave Rescue Group was formed in response to comments from speleologists, and at the request of the N.S.W.Police Rescue Squad. The group will be applying for membership of the N.S.W.Volunteer Rescue Association at their meeting in Canberra on 14th-16th June 1975.

The Cave Rescue Group sees itself fulfilling several functions, these are in general outlined in items 2(a) and 2(b) of the Groups' constitution.

- " (a) To provide an organisation for interested persons to specialise in cave rescue and associated activities.
- (b) To promote and co-operate with any organisation or association whose aims and objects are similar to this organisation."

It is intended that these aims will be fulfilled by attracting interested cavers to the membership of the group so that efficient techniques of cave rescue can be developed and practiced, and so that surveys of current practices and equipment can be made. The information obtained will be disseminated to the members of the Cave Rescue Group and to other interested people.

The Cave Rescue Group carries extensive insurance, both against personal injury to members of the Cave Rescue Group while participating in, or travelling to and from practices and rescues; and also against public liability. The latter cover is necessary should any legal action be taken against the Cave Rescue Group, following any accusations of negligence, this includes a clause pertaining to treatment. It is not generally realised by the caving fraternity the grave financial risk in which they place themselves in the event of giving assistance to those in need.

Currently the only volunteers that Police are entitled to call out are the members of the Volunteer Rescue Association of N.S.W and consequently members of the Cave Rescue Group have the advantage that formal liason and legal recognition has already been achieved.

The Cave Rescue Group is not intended to be a new club; nor to be a 'brain drain' of expertise from the speleological societies of the state, but rather as a clearing house for information and an instrument of assessment. Formal meetings and Technique Development



weekends will be held as infrequently as possible, so that little load will be placed on members. There are, however sub-committees of the group charged with investigation of specific facets of cave rescue, and it will be through membership of such committees that motivated members will be able to make perhaps the greatest contribution.

Naturally, a call-out system will be maintained, but it is felt by the committee in the light of past experience, that call-out from the capital cities will be very infrequent. The aim of the group is rather to have a broad membership from all of the caving fraternity, so that it will be highly likely that members of the Cave Rescue Group will be in the area where assistance is required and that a member of the Cave Rescue Group will be able to take over the control and responsibility of the rescue, utilising their own expertise as well as experience gained by membership of the Cave Rescue Group.

Since the Cave Rescue Group will not be another club, but rather will comprise members of other caving clubs, the Cave Rescue Group will not apply for membership of the A.S.F, however it is intended that the Group will work in close co-operation with A.S.F, particularly by requesting observer status on the N.S.W. Liason Council.

It should also be noted, that the Vice President of the Cave Rescue Group is the convenor of the A.S.F. Committee on Cave Safety.

A final comment; the Cave Rescue Group has been formed entirely outside the current club structure in N.S.W and it aims for membership of cavers and speleologists rather than that of clubs, but it is through the clubs and societies that prospective members of the Cave Rescue Group are perhaps most easily contacted.

Any enquiries regarding the structure and aims of the Cave Rescue Group should be forwarded to:-

The Liason Officer, N.S.W. C.R.G.  
Philip Toomer  
2/19-21 Tunks Street,  
Waverton. 2060 Ph. (02. 929-0432. )

Requests for membership application forms, which also serve as a data record, should be made to:-

The Membership Officer, N.S.W. C.R.G.  
Don Matts,  
176 William Street,  
Bankstown Ph. (02 70-0374 )

The next activity of the New South Wales Cave Rescue Group will be another Technique Development weekend.



The Annual General Meeting will be held on 13th August 1975 at:-

D. Matts,  
176 William Street,  
Bankstown.

The Groups present postal address is:-

The Secretary.  
New South Wales Cave Rescue Group.  
40 Acacia Avenue,  
Punchbowl.

THE N.S.W. CAVE RESCUE GROUP.

PART II

By Phil Toomer.

Since the "first release", several important things have happened to the Cave Rescue Group. It is now a member of N.S.W. Volunteer Rescue Association, and will be addressing the October meeting of the Association to tell other members of the kinds of problems encountered, and the kind of support that is required for cave rescue. The Cave Rescue Group has been granted formal Observer status at N.S.W. State Liason Council Meetings, and will be organising a simulated rescue at Bungonia, N.S.W. on the weekend of 13th -14th March, 1976 on behalf of the N.S.W. State Liason Council.

Further information regarding this event will be available later, but it is intended that the weekend will be in the form required by participating speleos. To this end, I ask any person who is interested in any particular situation being investigated, or who has any specific hopes regarding the weekend, to contact the Cave Rescue Group so that their ideas can be incorporated into the plan for the weekend.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Cave Rescue Group was held on 13th August, 1975 and was attended by 15 members and 10 visitors. The Group now has a membership of 22. Two sub-committees have been established, and they are investigating, in a general way at the moment, "techniques and equipment" and "The A.S.F. Simulated Rescue, '76". Plans are also underway for the compilation of a list of contacts, hospitals, police, etc, for each caving area, and also a check list of what to take if called out for a rescue.

The membership of the Group is continuing to expand, but it is still not as broad as the Committee hopes it eventually to be.

As Liason Officer of the Cave Rescue Group, I am prepared to attend any club meeting and talk with members to answer any questions which they may have. I have extended this invitation previously, and have already spoken to two Sydney clubs.



The next General Meeting of the Group will be held at 7.30 p.m. on 26th November 1975 at:

176 William Street,  
BANKSTOWN N.S.W.

The next activity of the Cave Rescue Group will be a Simulated Rescue on 1st/2nd November 1975.

The Group's present postal address is:

The Secretary,  
New South Wales Cave Rescue Group,  
40 Acacia Avenue,  
PUNCHBOWL N.S.W. 2196.

### TRIP REPORT

#### TUGLOW CAVES.

Date of Trip: 8th and 9th March, 1975

Aim Gating discussion with National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Members Present: Ian Bogg T/L, Barry Richards, Ted Mathews, Phil Coburn and Neville Cork of the N.P.W.S.

#### REPORT:

We all met at Tuglow on the Sunday morning as arranged, however in respect to the Saturday activity Barry Richard has his own report but suffice to say, he managed to bury the front end of his new landrover by dropping it into a muddy creek. Whilst waiting for the ranger time was spent in removing some fallen timber as a result of the recent bush fires. It is also good to see the favoured repository for cans and bottles (empties of course) has eventually been brought to ground by the fires.

Our discussions with the ranger proved to be quite fruitful and he appears to be enthusiastic about the successful completion of the project. The basic design is appended to this report.

After lunch we took the opportunity to conduct a surface trog seeing how there is very little scrub at the present time. It resulted in locating 2 small entrances and an underground stream, all of which have been noted for future activity. They were located north of Moonmilk Cave T4 at approximately the same level.

As a result of the recent fires the river crossing has been levelled out and a new track cut down to the caves from the Kowmung fire trail.

At this point in time the gating weekend has been set down for 2nd weekend after Easter and accordingly I would like to see as many B.M.S.C. members present as possible.

Ian Bogg.



TRIP REPORT

BUNGONIA

Date of trip: 12th and 13th April, 1975.

Members Present: Barry Richard (L) Greg Powell,  
Phil Coburn and Tony Ellis  
(Prospective).

Report:

Arrived campsite 8.30 am and waited until 11 am for another member to turn up. He said he was going to arrive at 9 to 9.30 am. Still no sign of Ian so we decided to go down Grill to give our prospective member an introduction to caving before the journey down the Odyssey.

We were able to proceed down to the chamber before the sump before encountering CO<sub>2</sub>. After 1½ hours in Grill Cave, lunch and a cup of tea was welcome. Ted and children plus his home on wheels arrived.

After a chat after lunch the Odyssey Cave was entered at approximately 3.30 pm. We negotiated the unstable rock and found the gate. The rock pile appears to be reasonably stable except for one rock which was extremely loose. The bar type gate was removed and the S type squeeze negotiated and the first pitch rigged. Phil came last, abseiling down because the ladder was required further on in the cave.

Further on through the cave the instrument power supply was sighted and down the bottom the instrument itself sitting on top of the water flashing lights and all.

The only highlight of our return to the surface was Tony getting momentarily stuck in the S squeeze (he hadn't learned to turn over in a squeeze yet). We returned to the surface at approximately 11.30 pm with a very enjoyable 8 hours being spent in Odyssey Cave.

Barry Richard.



TRIP REPORTWELLINGTON

Members present: 22.5.75. Allan and Gwen Fairweather.  
Phillip Coburn.  
29.5.75. Allan and Gwen Fairweather,  
Phillip Coburn and Unita Treharne.

Purpose: Investigate reported caves on a property near Wellington, from a Nepean Gem Club Member, location of same, exploration of, if first part completed.

Report:

We were provided with a location map (which of course proved slightly inaccurate). Proceeded from Abercrombie to Wellington Caves (Tourist Trip) visited Cathedral Cave, it's all right though completely dry, not very impressed by Guides Attitude about cave conservation and area interest.

Proceeded to Wellington for supplies, liquid and otherwise, then we followed map to area after much trial and error we found the right property. Talked to the owner, a very nice chap, who proved most co-operative, told us location of cave and we were informed that possibly OSS had already had a look.

Since it was getting on dark we got permission from the owner to come back next Thursday on Allan's next day off, so we proceeded back to Abercrombie.

29.5.75. With an extra bod in tow namely microbod Nita Treharne, we proceeded to Dripstone and obtained detailed instructions as to location of cave (refer map). We proceeded to location and found the entrance with a 6ft black snake basking in the sun near the entrance. After disturbing said snake it proceeded to slither in the hole we wanted to go in, there were no volunteers to go caving.

We then proceeded to trog the area, the limestone area covered an area of approximately 1000 m x 800m, this is a very interesting area geologically speaking, with what we believe dykes or vents on the North and Eastern side of the hill, also a deposit of slate on the N.W.Side, with this amount of metamorphic activity we could not find any evidence of marble. The limestone belongs to the Silurian Age. I am receiving hopefully the full geological report on the area from the Mitchell Library. I obtained the references from a Mr. John Burns at the Mining Museum in Sydney.

Meanwhile back at the trogging, we proceeded to investigate the area and I found another likely hole on the S.W side of the hill, after lunch I proceeded back to this hole under some Kurrajong with Allan in caving gear (refer report on map).

The cave I first mentioned is called Compass cave due to the geological formation of rock in the cave itself, there



remains large amounts of work to be done in the area enough for at least two trips.

The owner of the property has given us permission to camp and provided we phone first and contact him going on and off the property, no shooting etc we will have no problems.

Phillip Coburn.

TRIP REPORT

COPPERHANIA.

Date of Trip: 22nd and 23rd February, 1975

Aim of Trip: General exploration of limestone deposits.

Members present: Ian Bogg T/L, Barry Richard, Ted Mathews, Alan and Gwen Fairweather, Phil Coburn, Greg Powell.

REPORT:

After all arriving at the appointed time at Abercrombie we were somewhat dismayed to learn that the property owners Mr. & Mrs. Howard, would not grant permission to enter their property to explore the limestone down on the Abercrombie River. (Mrs. Howard is the sister of Mr. Clive Stiff of Wombeyan Fame.).

Not to be put off by this small obstacle we left the Caves in search of a Mr. Noel Evans, the owner of the property on the south side of the river, which also contains limestone. In actual fact the limestone deposit has been incised by the Abercrombie River. Eventually we located the Evans homestead only to find the owner not home, however his housekeeper was kind enough to inform us that we might locate Noel imbibing down at the Tuena Inn and that the public road through the Glasson property might run down to the river, in this regard she was not sure.

Again with hopes high we headed off to the public road - what road? where is the road? were the plaintive cries. Not to worry, let's head for the pub and find Noel, only no Noel. However, purely by chance, talking to the Post Master he told us that the public road runs through the "The Willows" the Glasson property. Back up the road we head eventually found the property and obtained permission from the manager who also provided precise information as to the location and direction of the limestone.

The road is in reasonable condition and is more like the typical property tracks (2 ruts) in places rather than the expectation of a public road. The road is negotiable for conventional vehicles in dry weather as far as the Yarraman trig station on top of the Razor Back Range. From the trig the road drops down to the river and in places is quite steep and has either a loose



gibber type surface or red loam soil and it is advisable to use four wheel drive vehicles in the event of foul weather.

We spent the afternoon trogging the outcrops on both sides of the river locating 3 caves only. A number of entrances found at river level were all silted or choked up necessitating the trip leader having to strip off for the occasion. Of the caves located the largest one resembles a rabbit warren. It has three entrances, it is on three levels with incised floor channels, total passage length is approximately 30 metres, overall depth development is approximately 10 metres. The limestone, (metemorphosed) is thinly bedded and shows marked small and large puckerings and contains thin beds of white crystalline but highly cleaved marble.

The area itself is rather interesting as remains of the gold mining activity of the late 1800's can still be found, rock retaining walls, water races etc.

Sunday saw a small party head off to Rabbit Trap Cave for familiarisation, after which an early departure was made for a cross country trip to Jenolan in Richard's new Rover, which proved to be a most enjoyable trip home.

Hours underground:

Ian Bogg, Barry Richard, Ted Mathews, Gwen Fairweather  
1 hour.

Phil Coburn, Greg Powell, Alan Fairweather  
3 hours each.

Ian Bogg.

TRIP REPORT

COLONG BATSH CAMP

Date of Trip: Anzac Long Weekend 25,26,27.4.1975.

Purpose: Setting up base camp at Batsh's and doing whatever seemed best at the time, suggestions were:-  
Little Wombeyan, Colong, Hollanders River,  
Waterfall Creek off roading, Hiking? etc.

Members present: Phillip Coburn (L) Ted Mathews, Tony Ellis and son.

Report:

After a leisurely start (9.30 pm would you believe) after loading bikes in the Mazda, debating whether to take the Hotel de Wheels (Ted's caravan) we set off in my Hillman Hunter and the Datsun. Proceeded to Batsh camp arriving about 1.30 pm, set up camp not at Batsh itself but about 2½ km. this side on the left side of the road, this had numerous advantages (a) plenty of dry wood and (b) a large flat area. This we considered much better than the main area.

Sandra Hand plus numerous four wheel drives were meeting us there but the four wheel drives turned up - Sandy had Land Rover trouble and had to go back home. After talking to the rest of them, they decided to go to Yarranderie so we proceeded to plan rest of weekend under our own steam.



We spent the remainder of Friday searching for the Hub Mountain fire trail object as suggested by Ian Bogg to locate and search for limestone deposit at junction of Moonshine Creek and Still Creek MR. 055.855 Yaranderie Map.

Having located the fire trail we pushed along for approximately 4 km. The trail bikes making it a lot easier and faster. We returned to camp planning to come back Sunday and proceed to the junction.

Having decided what we were doing Sunday, Saturday came next (that's logical isn't it). After much debate since we were supposed to be a caving club, a day trip to Colong was decided upon (Actelyne Spur here we come).

Having had tea and a pleasant few hours talking around our rather large fire. We proceeded to bed and managed to get away next morning at 8.45pm. Said members succeeded in establishing another B.M.S.C. first this weekend; ever seen four speleos on three trail bikes proceeding along a fire trail in full trog gear, to say the least we got some stares from the local tourie (to save confusion Ted Mathews was doubling myself around all weekend, try it sometime uaranteed to give some thrills since I'd never been on a bike before).

So we proceeded to the end of the spur as far as the bikes would go and proceeded to Colong going underground at 10.00am. Since this was the first time Tony's son had been caving and the second time for Tony we proceeded to King's Cross at a slow rate having a look at the Mother and Child on the way through; Tony's son took to caving like a duck to water, we had no trouble throughout the whole trip (he's going to come in handy as a ferret). Having arrived at King's Cross we proceeded to plan our way to Woofs Cavern deciding on the low tunnel route. Deciding is one thing finding is another, we then proceeded in getting bamboozled in the maze having to come back to the King's Cross twice to get a fresh start.

After finding the correct route we proceeded via the Red Cascade, Amber Cave, Vertical Squeezes, Straw Forest, Golden Terraces to Woofs Cavern. We then proceeded to have lunch and poke our noses into a few nooks and crannies. I proceeded to climb up to a likely looking hole towards the roof - as usual much climbing to deadends, the far tunnel was looked at and Tony and I proceeded into a lower cave on the N.W. side of Woofs known as the Beach Cave. This proceeds into a maze and progress is made via the River a low tunnel about 1 m high and 1.5m wide, water only about .15cm deep. This goes into a chamber with some formations and then to a sump which still goes. After going this far Tony and myself joined Ted and Robert in Woofs then proceeded out.

Things were going too smoothly so we proceeded to get lost in the clefts area - that place is extremely confusing, its got more levels than you can throw a stick at, but we proceeded to find our way out emerging at 4.30 pm after 6½ hours underground. We



proceed back to camp up that dreaded Actelyne Hill.

### Sunday

After a rather slow 10.00 am start due to the previous day's "light" exercise, we proceeded on the Hub Mountain fire trail approximately in the direction of Moonshine Creek. Approximately  $4\frac{1}{2}$  km before we had to leave the bikes. We proceeded on foot for another 3 km before our progress was slowed to about 250 m per hour. By this time the vegetation was rather thick (would you believe virgin rain forest). If there was a fire trail there its been long washed away. So by mutual consent we got to hell out of it. It was also agreed by all members present that if a certain Ian Bogg wanted to investigate this limestone deposit he could do it himself.

Arrived back at camp at 2 pm, proceed home arrived at 8.pm.

Phillip Coburn.

### HABITAT

Ken Pickering.

Habitat is the magazine of the Australian Conservation Foundation, a private non profit organisation. The magazine is published six times per year and the subscription is \$3.00.

The March-April 1975 issue of 28 pages is devoted to the Boyd Plateau and the case against the establishment of a pine plantation in the Kowangaroo State Forest.

It is profusely illustrated with maps and photographs of an area that B.M.S.C members know "inside and out" to coin a phrase.

Articles cover the history of the park and forestry boundaries on the Boyd, the significance of the Plateau as a wilderness area close to Sydney, watershed protection, flora and fauna, etc.

Subscriptions to A.C.F , 206 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne 3002.

PS. Latest news is that the whole of the State Forest is to be added to the Kanangra-Boyd National Park.

### JENOLAN RECORD

Not a caving record, a musical one. June 1975 issue of "Compass" the hand out from the Department of Tourism has a picture of opera star Donald Smith recording two songs in the Cathedral Cave, Jenolan. The Department of Tourism is selling the souvenir record at the Caves for \$4.00. It has the story of Jenolan on the reverse side and comes with six colour slides of Jenolan.

Ken Pickering.



NOTES ON THE WELLINGTON AREA

Some weeks ago Alan received information about certain limestone exposures in the Wellington area which are situated on private property. At the personal request of the landowner the exact location will not be advertised.

Thursday 22nd May, 1975

Party members Alan, Gwen and Phil. On this date we decided to savor the delights of Wellington Tourist Caves and then, having time at our disposal we investigated the abovementioned. We found the Tourist caves not to our liking as we prefer active caves. However the general area is very picturesque. We also visited the Clock Museum which was worth the trip.

We located the property and after introducing ourselves to the landowner gained permission to enter at a later date to investigate the limestone. He informed us of the existence of one known cave entrance and also of his interest in any evidence that could be found of volcanic vents etc, on his property. He also mentioned that the horse he was riding on one occasion had been frightened by underground reverberations caused by its hoofbeats over one area of his property. This gentleman is extremely sympathetic towards native fauna and regards his land as a complete sanctuary. Local opinion is that this area was the site of volcanic activity.

Thursday 29th May, 1975

Present Alan, Gwen, Nita and Phil. With an extra member in our party and a very late start we returned to the area and checked in with the Owner advising of our plan for the day, which was general trog and getting to know the place. We drove the short distance to the limestone outcrop through gently undulating terrain and parked at the stockyards which are at the foot of the outcrop. The limestone occurred as a gradually ascending ridge with a thin cover of overburden and scattered Kurrajong and Eucalypts.

We swiftly located the known cave entrance and met its guardian reptile, 7 foot of blackish snake tastefully draped around the entrance. Thinking that no self-respecting snake would be abroad at this time of the year we assumed it to be deceased. Upon closer examination it raised its head and slithered down into the cave. Scotch theory No.1 there was a unanimous decision that trogging areas further afield would be a more healthful pursuit. The "Snake Hole" can always be investigated at a later date.

Our small party spread out over the landscape. Then Phil discovered another cave entrance. Alan and Phil followed the track around limestone hill and drove nearly to the top of it. They noticed in the open paddock a basalt dyke and examined it. Proceeding further on foot over a fence and down the opposite side to where the car was parked, they entered the hole found by Phil. Alan waited inside the entrance to give assistance if needed to Phil, who proceeded down the hole. Alan



noticed many fossils in the limestone which is conglomerated. Most of the rock was tilted at approx 45 degrees with the passage descending sharply to a squeeze. When we described the location of the hole to the landowner he expressed surprise at our ability to enter as he had filled same in. There is evidence of him doing so. A fuller report on this cave will be given by Phil.

Meanwhile Gwen and Nita carried on looking for metamorphism of the limestone to marble, which would be sign of the reported local volcanic activity. We found only unaltered limestone rich in undistorted fossils (corals, crinoids and what appeared to be molluscs). Some of the exposed limestone showed mild Karst features. Some adjacent ridges were of shale tilted but definately not shistose. It appears to us there has been some earth movement but we failed to find evidence that the area was subjected to great heat and pressure. We also closely examined the soil horizons in a deep erosion gully between the limestone and shale outcrops and found mainly shale and limestone fragments and quartz type igneous rock fragments. We found no waterworn pebbles and promptly formulated the theory (later shot down in flames) that no large permanent watercourse had ever flowed over this limestone).

As far as the volcanics go at present we believe in a slow spread of lava from very distant volcanoes. Challengers are welcome to prove us wrong. Upon the re-appearance of the boys we checked out of the area and theorised all the way home.

Wednesday 11th June

Present, Mike, Nita and Gwen.

For the second time we disturbed the landowner at his lunch. He mentioned once again certain volcanic? features on his property which he would like information on. He mentioned other limestone outcrops around the area which diplomatic approaches may make available to us, these also being located on private property. We then proceeded to the stockyards. We trogged up and headed to the "Snake Hole" only to find the infernal reptile was at home to visitors again ". He was extremely alert and active and headed us off at the hole. Our opportunities for close but not to CLOSE observation lead us to believe that he could be what is known as a Blue Bellied snake, a variety of black snake. Challengers to this theory are also welcome to prove us wrong. We once again set out for fairer pastures. We would mention that this was rather a chilly day and the landowner had reassured us that this snake should be extremely lethagic, as a couple of days previously he had carried out rescue operations for comatose carpet-snakes stranded in the open. Mike trogged a section of the limestone and found two entrances too small at present to accommodate a human bod. However these entrances pass through loose rockpile therefore it should be a fairly easy matter to enlarge them. He



found that the limestone went for a considerable distance in diminishing outcroppings. On the way quite a deal of overburden on the ridges themselves were noted with isolated outcroppings. These outcroppings were a mixture of karst and what appeared to be a very recent exposed sheet limestone with negligible weathering.

Mike also noticed (5) five outcroppings which were composed of depressed limestone rockpile in the centre. Could these have been entrances which had been filled by blasting? Three other small outcrops had silted up sinks in them and these were right on the edge of the ridge above a dry gully, 40 feet below approx. He followed the line of limestone until it disappeared into cultivated land. He returned, noting that there was quite a deal of fine river gravel ( quartz particularly) in the basaltic soil overburdens surrounding and upon the limestone outcropping. When he got back to the outcrop which contained "Snaque Hole", but on the southern side, he found further evidence of river action in the form of very waterworn large quartz rocks which were lying on sheet limestone, which had evidence of vadose phreatic formation on its surfaces. Does this discount the Girls' theory on river action?

Meanwhile Gwen and Nita had spent the afternoon looking for Mike after finding his unoccupied overalls on a tree. During the search we found a large brown eggshaped object lying on top of the limestone. Unfortunately, it was not Mike but a dense mass of ironstone. The landowner had mentioned "volcanic bombs" strewn around his property. Could this be one of them? We also found a thin incrustation of similar material on one section of the limestone with a corresponding underlaying inclusion in the bedrock. Having located Mike, we set out to find the locale of the mysterious reverberations. We proceeded a short distance along the gully behind the stockyard but decided to turn back when confronted by an ever increasing horde of rampant roving bovines. We then checked out with the landowner.

The landowner has offered use of his stockyard complete with gate as a campsite. Persons camping there must take their own water and always check in and out with the owner.

Alan Fairweather  
Gwen Fairweather  
Mike Treharne  
Nita Treharne

P.S. The other member of the party on the first two trips was Phil Coburn, whose trip report appears on page 30.



