OOLITE

Journal of

Blue Mountains Speleological Club

Vol. 10 No. 1

O O L I T E

Official Journal of the Blue Mountains Speleological Club.
Post Office Box 37.
Glenbrook 2753.

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 4 NOVEMBER, 78.

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EDITORIAL.

Dear readers for the past few years the publishing of this journal has been a little erratic due to its printing being done on borrowed machines or at the time and expense of some benevalent society. Last year a second hand Gestetener was purchased to facilitate more rapid and more frequent publishing of our Journal, this did not occur as the machine proved unreliable. We as a club feel that we are represented to other Caving Groups through this, our Journal, another duplicat ator was purchased, this time a model of somewhat more recent vintage. Terefore readers we may hopefully look foreward to our copies of Oolite being larger and coming more frequently.

We all feel gratefull to the two people who made generouse donations of one hundred dollars each to the club so that the new Gestetener could be purchased.

BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING I8 th. FEBRUARY I978.
President's Report,

It is with pleasure I present the Presidential report for I977. I would like to thank each and every member who has contributed in his or her own way to the clubs continual groth.

The I977 Annual General Meeting was held at Abercrombie under a cloud of sadness with the death of Phill Coburn in the Granville train disaster still fresh in everyboby's memory. The Club was pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Coburn and family to our meeting, Mr. Coburn acting as chairman rof the elections.

The day following the A.G.M. the Blue Mountains Speleo Club Film Company went into action under the directoin of Paul Sammut and a very good film was produced. My thanks to all those who took part.

The high standards for membership, leadership and safety were continued throughout I977.

The number of caving trips for the year was very good a and I urge members to continue to give the trip leaders their f full support and encouragement so that they will continue their good work. It is gratifying to note the number of trips already planned for I978.

Meetings were held each month except January and December with the committee meetings often having more members attending than the general meetings.

The club Journal, Oolite was brought up to date. Our thanks to Karl Bilger for his hard work.

On 30th, July a large number of our members were at Cliefden to witness the attaching of the plaque in memory of Phill Coburn to the wall in Cliefden Main. The local T.V. cameras and members from other clubs were also in attendance.

Nine prospective members joined the club and many of our members gained full membership status while others qualified for trip leaders. The future female membership was boosted with Gwen and Louise producing a daughter each.

This being my first term as President I have tried to do my best but unfortunately my job was not made easy by bickering amongst members and also there was a general feeling of unrest. I hope that during I978 this problem will be solved. To those members who spoke of leaving the club, please wait to see what I978 brings before taking that step.

In conclusion I would like to thank the other members of the committee for their support.

A Fairweather.
President.

SECRETARY REPORT 1977

It is with great pleasure that I present the twelve secretarial report of BMSC.

Other the past twelve months the club has been active in areas of exploration and speleological research.

During this period the club applied for permits to visit such areas as Yarrangobilly, Tuglow, Jenolan, Cliefden, Walli, Abercrambie and Church Ck., also two of our members had an exploration trip to Tasmania, another two to Canoo in Queenslandand Barry to the Kimberleys.

Our membership strengh is forty two members, comprising of twenty four full members, sixteen prospectives and two honourary members.

The support of members given to club activities has been good. The club had twenty seven caving trips in 1977.

We saw two issues of our journal last year. We must support our editor in 1978, because our journal is our spocksman with the caving fraternity.

It is very encouraging to see members branching out into more specialised fields other then sporting caving.

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 twelve months.

Louise Bilger
Secretary.

TREASURERS REPORT 1977

Financial Statement for 1977.

Income	$	
Balance Brought forward 1976	179-00	
Subscriptions.	228-00	
Badges and tapes.	35-00	
Miscellaneous Income.	144-00	
Trip fees	157-00	
Social Events.	16-70	
Building Society Interest.	10-43	
Bank Interest.	1-52	771-65
Expenditure.		
Library.	22-50	
Miscelleous Expenses.	278-00	
Bank Book.	3-44	
Secretarial Expenses.	97-32	
Oolite Expenses.	74-96	
Badges and Tapes.	8-80	
Equipment.	139-00	624-02
		147-63

Balance $147-63	
Building Society	$123-80
Bank Total	23-83

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TREASURERS REPORT 1977 C'ont

Our main expenditure once again was A.S.F. Capitation fees of $99-00.

The Secretarial expenses rose this year by $37-00 this being for letterheads purchased.

Oolite expenses of $74-96 covered paper, stencils and postages. More money will have to be allowed for these same items this year.

As our expenditure of $624-02 exceeded our actual income for the year of $592-65 and this being the trend over the past couple of years I would recommend an increase in fees of two dollars for family and one dollar for single membership, i.e. annual fee of twelve dollars and eight dollars respectively. The fee for student membership was increased last year.

When voting on my sujested fee increased I would ask the members to bear in mind the report to past meetings by the journal editor of extensive repairs needed to the Gestetner or the possibility of having to purchase a new one.

Gwen Fairfeather
Treasurer.

BOOK REPORT:

CAVING: by James Lovelock.
B.T.Balsford Ltd. London 144 pages.(size 18x25 cms.) 37 Black and White photographs, 14 illustration, glossary and index.

Makes interesting reading for all those interested in Speleology. It covers in various detail aspects of caving techniques used in vertical and horizontal caving, survival, photography, emergencies and cave diving. The book also lists a glossary of caving terms as well as a cave preservation code and a caving safety code. A great deal of stress is put on the common sense aspect of caving and also on the importance of safety.

T Colebourn
Librarian

FIRST AID AND WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW.

Accidents will happen and we should know what to do. To give first aid means to give immediate help to anyone suffering from injury or sudden illness.

A condition of shock is a common effect of serious accidents, injuries and burns and it is more important to know how to treat it. Rest, Warmth and stimulants are some of the essential provisions needed. The legs or lower part of the body should be raised if practical, to improve the circulation of blood to the vital centres of the brain.

Conditions causing shock are:

Haemorrhage- loss of whole blood.

Burns - Due to loss of serum (body fluid) from the blood.

Bites and Stings - Infection to blood stream.

Nervous reaction - After injury or after a severe fright, fainting may occur.

Painful injuries - Fractures and multiple injuries associated with blood loss.

If shock is not controlled, death may result.

"SHOCK CAN KILL"

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First aid and what we should know C'ont

Treatment of injuries which we could be confronted with:

Haemorrhage - (Bleeding)

Where there is bleeding, always apply direct presure to the wound, whether with a large dressing or the open hand. Try to rest the casualty, this decreases the demand for blood and so slows the pulse. In severe cases the casualty must be lying down. Elevate the injured part where possible, this drains the veins of the injured part and decreases the blood flow to the limb by making it flow uphill. Always rest the part, this lessens the blood demand of the tissues and also preserves intact the delecate blood clot that is forming. This clot must not be disturbed. NEVER remove dressings once applied. This will by dislodging the blood clot, only lead to further haemorrhage (bleeding).

BURNS -

The damage to body tissue caused by exposure to excess heat.

All burns should be washed under cold water and cold water compresses applied, this will reduce the swelling and pain. Cover with a clean, preferably sterile dressing to prevent infection. If no sterile dressing is available, it is better to leave to burn exposed to the open air. NEVER use or rub butter or any other oils on the wounds.

BITES & STINGS -

Snake bite - If on a limb apply constrictive bandage. to apply a constrictive bandage, find a suitable material such as a belt, strip of cloth, neck tie, hankerchief or a broad rubber tubing, never use shoe laces, cords, ropes or electric light flex. After finding the suitable material the bandage can only be applied above and elbow or the knee i.e. between the bite and the heart. Apply sufficient pressure to obstruct the main artery to the limb. The bandage must be released after one and half hours and not reapplied. If possible keep constricted limb cold and moist. It is advisable, where possible, that a describtion of the snake or the snake itself be available for identification so that correct medical aid can be administered.

SPIDER BITE -

The two main spider bites which cause fatalities are Red back spiders and Funnel Web spiders. If the bite is on a limb, apply a constrictive bandage. Wash the biten area and apply a cold compress. The limb must be immobilised and the casualty must be kept at rest at all times. Keep reassuring the casualty and do not delay in obtaining medical aid.

HEAD INJURIES -

Concussion - All head injuries should not be regarded or treated lightly. If a person has had a mild injury to the head he or she should be observed constantly to detect the onset of possible complication. Rest the casualty.

FRACTURED LIMBS -

To prevent further damage and to ease the pain the fracture must be immobilised. To prevent and treat shock all bleeding must be controlled. The injured part should be elevated where possible and the casualty reassured. Handle all injuries firmly but gently. Immobilising a limb simply means securing that limb with a sling and/or in the case of a fractured leg, the other leg may be used as a splint. No fractures should be moved unless they are first immobilised.

Carol Miller.

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2,000 year Old Seeds Grown

Scientist set the natural history museum in Mendoza, Argentina, have planted three 2,000 year old seeds found in a cave in Mendoza Province, and managed to make them grow.

Humberto Lagiglia, head of the museum, said the seeds were discovered eight years ago in a sealed container in a cave in southern Mandoza Province.

They were of the plant Quinca - a variety of pigweed, the staple food in the HighAndes.

After careful selection, three of the seeds were planted recently and after nine days had produced shoots 18 mm long.

MAMMOTH CAVE J 13 JENOLAN

As most Caving Societyes already know the lower entrance to Mammoth Cave at Jenolan which carries the number J 13 has now been fitted with a gate. This work was carried out by B.M.S.C. at the request of the Tourist Department after we reported that this entrance had been reopened. We as a club felt that the original reasons for closing J 13 were still valid and for this reason we reported the reopening of the entrance.

The club as awhole hopes that most members of Societies reading this report have the same feelings about this matter.

K Bilger
B.M.S.C. Trip Leader
safety Officer
Journal Editor.

TRIP REPORTS.

TUGLOW - 24th, 25th September 1977.

Aim: General Caving to left hand extention.

Members Present: L Baker TL, J Charley, K Bilger, G Cumming, R Sanderson, B Skinn, T Matthews, C Miller.

Meeting at Teds place we started out for the Jenolan area, the area was engulfed in fog, this caused some trouble in finding the turn off. After finding the turn off I led the way to the top car park, where we camped for the night. About one hour after we got to sleep, some more people came in and woke us up. We found out next morning that were scouts. With the arrival of Jack, Karl and Robert, we were forceably woken up. After breakfast we broke camp and headed for the caves, having some fun we the CB on the way in. (Poor Karl)

Tents were set up, then along came a Nissan Patrol with three bods, who headed into the main cave with torches, but came out again in 15 minutes. By this time we were nearly ready to enter the cave ourselves. We pushed onto the first drop where the ladder was rigged, then on to the chimney. Here we rigged the rope and one at a time descended to the river level.

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Karl photograph us all coming out of the hole at the bottom of the chimney. We then headed down stream looking at the scull on the way. More photos were taken as we pasted the waterfall and the Rimstone pool.

After a rest we pushed upstream to the Book Chamber where we signed the book, took more photos and had a well earned rest. We then went right to the end of the left hand extention. Here, the big joke was in the past, to get a new bod to find the way out,so I told Graham and Carol to find the way out, the rest hanging back just around the corner, where you drop over a rock and through a little squeeze. Here we found Graham and Carol in front of us. They had come down through a hole apparently caused by a rock fall since I was there last. I remembered seeing some losse rock on the way in.

Karl took a series of photos back at the junction, after which we moved upstream, climbing high above the small waterfalls on the way to the end of the cave.After exploring around here for a while we decided to head back to the entrance.

Where the bolts are after the book chamber we met the scouts from Friday night who were heading into the book chamber. They then told us that they had placed a book below the rope pitch for people to sign, which they hoped would have the effect of people not going further into the cave. After arriving back at the bottom of the rope pitch we noted that there was quite a bit of rubbish in the cave and that a good clean-up trip would be in order. We then surfaced after spending nine hours underground.

On sunday, Jack, Robert, Graham and myself spent an hour in Window Cave as well as poking around other caves. After Brian and Karl went skinny dipping in the Kowmung, we left the area, calling into see Barry Richards on the way home.

L Baker

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WYANBENE - 29th, 30th October,1977.

Aim - Exploration.

Members Present-L BakerTL, C Miller, J Charley, K Bilger, G P G Powell, E Godwin, B Skinn, M Sammut, P P Sammut, G Cummings, T Matthews, T Ellis.

We arrived at about 3-30 am, noting on the way in the dryness of the surrounding country. The river crossing was also very low.

After a late start everyone arrived at the Keyhole where a ladder was set, the newer members were belayed down the ladder. We moved off, continuing through the water crawl, noting on the way that the water level was very low. After a rest the group pushed on to the Intermediate Chamber, here we split into two groups, one going to the bottom of the Gun Barrel, the rest following Greg up through a rock pile to a higher level which looks down into the Gun Barrel. Greg found another way down into the Gun Barrel. We returned to the Intermediate Chamber for a rest.

Ted led some of the party, who were getting tired, back to the surface. The rest of us continued on to Frustration Lake, noting on the way that the cave is becoming muddy from heavy usage.

The book at Frustration Lake was signed by all present, sundry photos takenand then the return trip to the surface was undertaken. On reaching the surface we discovered the whole area engulfed in fog. The hardier members of the group went for a swim before tea. Next day as the area was still covered in fog and noone felt like caving, we packed up and went across to the Big Hole, which had its own cloud system inside.

L Baker.

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CLIEFDEN - 5th, 6th November, 1977.

Aim - Surveying in Taplow Maze.

Members Present - T Coleborn TL, L Bilger, L Baker, R Sanderson C Miller, J Charley, K Bilger.

Visitors - B Holland, R Holland.

We were underground at 10am and commenced surveying. During the day 315 metres of passage were surveyed. Those new to surveying learnt a lot during the day.

On sunday Karl, Jack, Robert and Carol spent 4 hours exploring CL 5 in preparation for our next survey trip. Lionel and Bob Holland spent an hour in Tetanus Cave.

T Coleborn.

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BUNGONIA - 19th, 20th November, 1977

Aim - SRT Caving.

Members Present - K Bilger TL, J Charley, R Sanderson, T Ellis.

Saturday, Jack, Robert and myself bottomed B22, and descended B13 to the 20ft pitch before lunch. Tony was waiting at camp and after lunch the four of us did a through trip of B 16-51.

Sunday, the four of us went into B31 and after a bit of searching found the 40ft pitch, as there were already two ropes down we decided to wait till the other parties returned. I waited at the pitch while the others explored towards Coroners Cavern. The other groups came up about half an hour later. Tony decided not to go on as he didn't feel up to the SRT. We three left, continued down to the top of the last pitch where we ran out of rope. After Argyle, we did three trips up and down B7-14 and then headed home.

K Bilger.

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CLIEFDEN - 26th, 27th November, 1977

Aim - Surveying in CL 5.

Members Present - T Coleborn TL, L Bilger, J Charley, C Miller,

Visitors - G Miller.

Saturday, Terry, Glenn, Jack and Carol spent 5 hours surveying in Taplow Maze. We spent the afternoon relaxing in cool waters of the Belubula.

At 6 pm myself, Jack, Carol and Glenn entered CL6. It is a very dry dusty cave, a miniture Taplow with passages leading in all directions and some very beautiful formations in the most unlikely places. Most of the formation is dry but there is several small areas in nooks and cranies that are very active.

Sunday, myself, Jack, Carol and Glenn went to show Jack the Nazgal in Mullongulli. We entered by the CL70 entrance and found no further evidence of collapse and the entrance was stable. We proceeded by way of the duckunder and as the sump was the lowest I've seen it didn't get our boots wet. Jack was very impressed with the Nazgal and photographed it . It certainly is a most unusal and beautiful formation. We then past the Barrier Shawl and the chimney to the higher section and out by the flattener. A delightful three hours was spent by all and the Cliefden mud was very evident on our return to the surface, by the sight of four mud covered trogs.

T Coleborn.

CLIEFDEN - I8th, I9th December, I977.

Aim- General Caving.

Members present- L Baker TL, E Godwin, C Miller, J Charley, T Matthews, A McKendry, P McKendry, M Bonwick,

I had arranged to pick up Erica on my way to Cliefden but due to the bushfires I had to detour through Bell and as a result was somewhat latearriving.

Arriving at Cliefden I found that Ted had taken a group into Murder, we met them as they emerged from the cave and returned to the house for lunch. Later we went into Cliefden Main.

Sunday we tripped across the river to Yarrawigga only to find we had the upper entrance key instead of the lower entrance key. We exchanged keys and tried again, this time with more success. Some of the members having a little trouble with the squeeze.On reaching the main chamber a photographic session was indulged in. After returning to the house and cleaning same we left for home.

L Baker.

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BUNGONIA - 4th, 5th February, I978.

Aim - General Caving.

Members present - K Bilger TL, C Miller, J Charley.

Saturday, Jack and Carol did B7 - I4, while I took some photoss. After lunch we went into B3I and bottomed sump I.

Sunday was a slack day and we went home early.

K Bilger.

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JENOLAN - I9th February, I978.

Aim - General Exploration.

Members Present - T Matthews, L Baker, G Powell, G Cummings, T Ellis, A McKendry, C Harward, R Sanderson, E Godwin, M Hope, E King.

On sunday three separate groups ventured underground in Wybirds Lake Cave under the leadership of :

T Matthews
G Powell
L Baker

Groups were selected by the leaders and entered the

Cave spaced to comply with permit requirements. Parties went as far as the fracture chamber to photograph the profusion of Aragonite Crystals.

T. Matthews.

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CLIEFDEN - 25th February, 1978.

Aim - Surveying in CL5.

Members Present - T Colborn TL, K Bilger, R Sanderson.

Five hours were spent surveying around the sump area and exploring further sections to survey.

T. Colborn.

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TUGLOW - 3rd, 4th March 1978.

Aim - Photography.

Members Present - K Bilger TL, J Charley, G Cummings, I Bogg, R Sanderson, T Matthews, B Richard,

Visitors - A Trembles, John The new Ranger for the Kanangra Boyd National Park.

Saturday five of us photographed everything as far as the Book Room, while Barry and Ian, who had arrived at the conclusion that we were not going underground, took Allan and John on a surface trip around the area then down into the cave as far as the river level.

On the way in and again on the way out we found a small black snake and a small brown frog on one of the many gour dams in the stream passage.

Sunday we decided to go upstream as far as the big waterfall, this objective was achieved, and everyone got wet up to their ears doing it. On the way out Graham decided to rescue the snake and frog and this was accomplished with the aid of a plastic bag. We all wished we had a camera when we returned to the position at which we encountered the snake, as the frog was riding piggyback on the snake.

On returning to the surface a vote was taken on how to spend the rest of the day. The decision was to lunch at the river then visit Kanangra Walls, which we did and then home.

K Bilger.

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COLONG - 18th, 19th March, 1978.

Aim - Familiarisation and Photography.

Members Present - G Cummings TL, E Godwin, T Matthews.

Visitors - Mr Mulligan, M Mulligan, D Mulligan.

On saturday afternoon a trip was made into Woolfes Cavern via the lower passage, sharkes mouth and the rifts.

A second visit was made to the cave on sunday to Kings Cross and out via the Onslow Cave, Organ Pipes and lower entrance.

Due to the amount of rain Lannigans Creek was running, something I have not seen before.

G Cummings.

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YARRANGOBILLY . 24th - 27th, March, 1978.

Aim - Photography, exploration and to check Y62 for gating

Members Present- K Bilger TL, B Skinn, M Sammut, J CHarley, C Miller, R Sanderson.

We arrived Friday morning and checked in at the Guides office and outlined the procedings with the Ranger in charge. The next thing was to set up camp back at Cotterill's, this done we headed for Y62 to have a look a the possiblities of gating. We also took a few photos.

From Y62 we went across to Y29 for a quick look around, apparently the recent rains had changed the shape of the lower level mud banks rather drasticaly. At this point we called it a day and went back for tea and bed.

Saturday saw us caving in Y50 with all cameras blazing. A considerable amount of time and film, not to mention flash batteries were expended in this very beautiful cave.

Sunday was a day for a bit of hard caving, the crawl into Y5 lower level. Here again the recent rains had caused a trmendous amount of change, the crawl as far as the first squeeze is now almost walk through and after it the floor is liberally covered with small boulders. The usual water dwelling fauna were still evident even after the obvious flood the cave had seen.

Here again the shutterbugs got busy. At the sump where the two streams enter a very large area previousely mud filled is now cleared out to a depth of about two metres.

After Y5 we visited Y10 to again photograph some of the very good quality formations in the cave.

On Monday we entered Y9 and followed the stream as far as possible then continued to follow our noses along the larger passages for some one and a half hours till we decided it was time to find our way out.This became a little confusing on several occasions as we followed a few false leads before finding the correct one. After relocating the stream we followed it to the surface. Y9 is a cave we must visit again as it seems to contain a large amount of passages, and quite possibly some new discoveries,

K Bilger.

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WOMBEYAN - 8th, 9th April, 1978.

Aim - Familiarsation.

Members Present - B Skinn TL, M Sammut, L Baker, J Charley.

On arriving at the guides office we were informed thatwe would not be allowed to go underground in any non-opened caves but would be allowed to walk the reserve finding caves to familiarise ourselves withthe area.

This came as a surprise to say the least as we did posses the letter which accompanied the permit giving us permission to quote," carry out usual speleological visit" unquote. But further on in the letter it also stated quote " however, for the the present, permission is not granted to carry out work for the Superintendant as there is concern for the overuse of unopened caves " unquote.

So after much discussion it came to light that we did not have a permit to cave in a specific cave or to cave in a s specific area. If the letter I had from them had stated that we had permission to do speleo work in , eg, Bulio Cave or in the Mares Forest Creek area, we could have gone caving, but the, " carry out the usual speleo visit " section in the permit, was just not explicit enough, which left the ball entirely in their court.

Back that up with their concern for the overuse of unopened caves as stated earlier, we did not stand much chance of gaining entry to any cave bar the tourist caves.

I then asked the Guide to make me a list covering cave names, cave areas and permit requirements for same, to which he agreed to do over the weekend. So not to be put off we ground trogged one of the ridges and gullies leading into the Mares Forest Creek and found the following caves :-
W40,41, 54, 55, 56, 59, 60, 61, 62, 74, 75,76,114 and 117, most of which were but mere choked up holes in the ground about wombat hole size, some larger, but most not looking at all promising. Only W54 seemed to show any signs of going but even i it was only a small hole diameter wise, leading down to what se seemed to be about 30ft after which is anybodies guess.

The rest of Saturday was spent doing touristyes, namley the self guided Figtree Cave and the Wollondilly Cave.

The next morning the Guide in charge of speleo activities was present, who immediately, after the intoductions, produced their copy of the actual permit, and again we had explained out permit shortcommings as against other clubs permits. He also c confirmed that only scientific reasons were good enough for permit applicatoions which then had to be coupled with a particular cave or particular area.

The rest of Suvday morning was spent doing the guided to tour of Mulwaree Cave, after which we had lunch, packed up and left for home around one P.M.

The weekend turned out to be a most frustrating trip from two points of view, firstly the poor turn up of members and secondly the lack of real caving.

B Skinn.

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Mangrove Creek - 15th 16th April, 1978.
Aim - Social Weekend.

Members Present - G Powell TL, T Matthews, C Miller, J Charley, and assorted ghosts.

The small party met at the Mangrove Creek road turnoff at 6-30 PM and proceeded to walk the one kilometre to the Ghost House , Light rain fell as we crossde the weir up to ankles in cold water, and cloud covered the half moon.

Soon the house loomed ahead, dark and mysterious. It was soon evident that we were not alone as strange shapes emerged from the rooms and bush. After humouring these " Resident S Spooks" we settled down for a cosy tea around the big open fire.

The night was uneventfull with no real spirits of any kind to disturb our slumbers.

ON Sunday in company with some of the Adventurers we hiked the six kilometres up to Ten Mile Hollow along "Simpsons Track" , Onthe way we inspected a spectacular sandstone cave.

After a rest at Ten Mile Hollow on the Great North Road we returned to the house for lunch. After cleaning up, we left the picturesque house in it's beautiful valley setting and headed across the weir and home.

As long shadows began to spread across the valley and the mists begon to roll in, the only movements were now made by the cockatoos, wild ducks and ..... !

G Powell

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CANOMODINE - 22nd, April 1978.

Aim - Familiarization.

Members Present - I Bogg TL, T Matthews, L Baker, B Richards, R Sanderson, Andre Bactins OSS, and Chris Edwards OSS.

Report: The opportunity was taken to make the initial visit to Canomodine, in co-operation with OSS who maintain control over caving activity on behalf of the property owner.

Canomidine is some 14 kilometers north east of Canowindra with the limestone (Siluriam) being exposed over a wild area, and has had detailed extention only over the last douple of years.

Owing to our mid day arival and the necessity to return to Jenolan to hear and see the illustrated talk by Lloyd Robinson (ISS) on the Kimberleys in the evening, time afforded the opportunity of only visiting the Diprotodon Cave and the Main Cave.

The Diprotodon Cave is entered via a vertival drop down to an inclined passage which leads into the first chamber some eight meters below the entrance. This was a limit until fairly recently. A blocked passage was cleared by OSS which opened up a second chamber. The initial chamber was void of any formation with what remained being extensively damaged but never the less active. The transition from the first to second levels is by the"Armchair Squeeze" which could be best described as a spiralling "S".This squeeze requires a feet first attitude which ensures that the body adopts the possition of sitting in a armshair-extremely uncomfortable - Once negotiating this squeeze a low crawl passage is followed into the second chamber which contains extensive, virgin, yes virgin, decoration, extremely active,

After admiring the pretties OSS pointed out the sump passage and the rift passage which leads back to the first chamber. We returned to the surface where the entrance was covered up by the Judicious placement of stones, not to hide the entrance but to prevent stock injury.

The Main Cave lies to the east of Diprotodon 5 minutes lower down the hill. Obviously this cave has been well known to the locals as it is heavily vandalised.

After a short drop intoxa former stream passage,you make your way to a junction. Following the mud trail into the next chamber by a way of a flow formation barrier, one finds chamber which is approximately 15 meters high, 10 meters long, and 12 meters wide with active formation with one wall looking very much like an "Iceflow".

Apparently from the back of this room the passage continues down to the water table and sump which cannot be penitrated.

It is recommended that a further trip be organised to explore the caves and to familiarise ourselves with the area v exercising caution in the Diprotodon Cave as it contains many fragile sedimentary bone deposits.

I Bogg

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CLIEFDEN - 6th, 7th May 1978.

Aim - Familiarization

Members Present - L Baker TL, A McKendry, E Godwin, K Stewart, T Matthews, G Cummings and G Powell.

Saturday we presented ourselves to the property owner where the keys to Murder and Boonderoo were obtained. Going as far as the skeleton in Murder we explored the right hand passage after which we headed for the chamber where the Blue Stal is found, where photos were taken.We then entered another side passage which goes down to the sewers where good formation is to be found. After taking more photographs we headed out.

After lunch we went to look at the thermal pool and found that the water runs out from under some blackberry bushes on the bank of the river. The water smells but is quite hot. Next stop was the "Neddles" where they were going to put the dam.

Back at the hut we were visited by UNSWSS who asked for keys to Boonderoo, having got permission from Adrian OSS on friday night. They were going into main next morning and we could tag along. After tea we went over to Boonderoo only to find that UNSWSS had not opened the cave, as they were still down by river near Taplow. Ted and myself went for the key and on returning we followed Ted down through a crumbly rock pile through which we entered a chamber to find beautiful formations. We pushed on finding more chambers eventually finding the Blue Stal.

On the way up most of the party followed Ted out through the rock pile while Greg and myself returned via a way t up through a steep slope meeting the others at the top.

Sunday morning we went with UNSWSS to Main, in which we photographed and explored the cave. Meamwhile Greg spent his surface trogging over the area. On returning to the hut we had lunch, cleaned the hut and left by 5-30pm, after a good caving weekend.

L Baker

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GLENBROOK - 21st May 1978

Aim - Field Day.

Members Present - K Bilger TL, B Skinn, T Matthews, J Charley, C Miller, P Sammut, R Sanderson, A McKendry E Godwin, G Cummings, A Tremble.

On arrival at the park gates we were told we could not go t to the Portals as the causeway was flooded and the roads were under repair. We optioned for the smaller drops above Blue Pool area and this turned out to be a good dascision.

I had our four new trip leaders set up four ladder pitches without assistance to see how they went. The results were quite good and a lot was learnt by all four persons. We adjourned for lunch.

After lunch I again had the four leaders working, r belaying the four prospectives up and down the ladders, with everyone experiencing falls, again everyone learnt alot especially when I jumped off a ladder or two.

We then changed around and the prospectives learnt to belay but not yet experiancing falling weight. After everyone had finished with the ladders I through it open to SRT practise.

One point which became obvious early in the day was that people who had not had any practical experience at setting up pitches had mostly forgotten some knots or other important points and I feel that before a person achieves his Trip Leader status he should do a refresher on knots, belaying techniques, and all rope work.

K Bilger.

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CLIEFDEN - 3rd, 4th, 5th June 1978,

Aim - Extensive exploration and familiarization of the following caves:- Main, Murder, Trap Door, Yarrawigah Wyreemba, Taplow and Gable.

Members Present - P Sammut TL, M Sammut, B Skinn, T Ellis, D Ellis, T Matthews, A Tremble, R Sanderson, E Godwin, A McKendry, L Baker, J Cummings, A Cummings, C Miller, J Charley, R Ellis, and his girlfriend and one other.

Saturday, Tony arrived in time for breakfast and to get ready to do some caving. After leaving the vehicles at the silo, all twelve of us walked to Main. At 11-00am Ted lead the way into Main.

After reaching the Boot Room we split up into two groups, one led by Lionel Baker which stayed in the Boot Room doing photography and Sitography while the second group did further exploration.

Seven hours later we emerged and all headed back to the house where we were met by Jack and Alma Cummings.

Sunday, the party of fourteen started a ground trog in an attempt to lowate Swansong, this being unsucessful. We did locate CL 15, 22, 29, 48, 49 and the OSS dig.Then we split into two partys,one doing Trap Door and the other Yarrawigah.

Alan, Robert, Brian, Monica, Lionel, Erica and myself crossed the creek while their was still light. Robert and myself stayed at the creek while the others went back to the house. While we waited for the others we lit a fire to keep warm and also to warm the others after they had crossed the creek which was dangerous as it was night and the water was flowing swiftly. For this reason a safety line was used.

Monday, twelve of us went to explore Murder, where photographs were taken of the Blue Stal.

P Sammut.

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LIST OF EQUIPMENT :

3 x 31 M.Bluewater ropes. 11 MM.
2 x 11 M.Superstatic rope 9mm.
1 x 37 M.No 4, Nylon laid rope.
1 x 37 M.No 3. Nylon laid rope.
1 x 50 M.No 3. Mylon laid rope.
2 x 16 M. Manilla laid rope.
3 x 10 M. Ladders.
2 x 6 M. Ladders.
2 x 8 M. Ladders.
1 x 17 M. Ladder.
5 x 5.6 M. Trases.
2 x 3.7 M. Traces.
2 x 4 M. 25mm. Tubular T pes.
2 First Aid Kits 1 Large, 1 Small.
1 Fielder Compass.
1 Compass Mount.
1 Velbon Tripod.
1 x 31 M. Fibreglass Tape.
1 Inclinometer.
1 Gestetener Duplicator.
1 3M Copier.
1 Typewriter.
5 Haversacks.
1 Duffel Bag.
1 Klip Board.
1 B.M.S.C. Sign.
1 Pair field telephones.
5 Vinyl rope protectors.
4 Safety Helmets.
6 Cups and Saucers,
spare first aid equipment.

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OOLITE

Journal of

Blue Mountains Speleological Club

Vol. 10 No. 2

O O L I T E

Official Journal of the Blue Mountains Speleological Club.
Post Office Box 37,
Glenbrook 2753.

VOLUME IO NUMBER I DECEMBER, 78.

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Drycleaning of sleepingbags.

Fatalities have occured due to the use of sleeping bags which had been drycleaned and were not aired before use. In cases reported recently the bag was returned from drycleaning tightly rolled and was opened immediately before use in a small tent. In one case death occured some eight hours after getting into the bag. An enquirey established that some of the drycleaning chemical had remained in the bag and had evaporated while the bag was in use, forming a poisonous vapour, killing the occupant.

POINT TO REMBER:-

1. Down or wool filled bags are the more dangerous as they hold the chemicals for a longer period of time.

2. As the chemicals are ouderless their presence or absence cannot be detected by smell.

3. The chemicals will remain in unused bags for longer during colder weather.

Effects such as sickness and or headaches have occured after wearing freshly drycleaned clothes on the head or around the neck without first airing before use. Again wool and the more absorbent materials are the more likely materials to cause these effects as they retain the chemicals for a longer period of time.

Therefore air out your drycleaning by hanging in a dry place for as long as is practical. Sleeping bags should be unrolled and hung loosely for 24 hours in warm weather and 3 days in colder weather.

Don't you be the one to get caught.

B Skin.

REVIEW.

POWELL'S PRUDENT POIGNANT PENMANSHIP PROWESS.

Or as Greg prefers to call it,

INTO THE REALM OF CAVES.

A feature article in the Australian Outdoors Yearbook, 1978 by Greg Powell.

Greg once again, inspired no doubt by his recent literary successes has allowed his abundant literary talents to surface and provide the world with another excellent, inspiring, enlightened article. This one, obviousely, introducing the reader to the realm of caves. (and whats more he got paid for it).

Greg introduces the reader to the theory of cave development

and cave formation, the beauty of cave decoration, the cave environment and habitat, whilst at the same time enspousing the virtues of conservation and safety, and organized speleology.

Throughout the article the underlying theme of cave coservation comes through with pointed subtlety with such poignant passages as " This is a world built without man and a world which is partly destroyed every time man enters whether he intends harm or not. Without our presence the beauty will continue to grow, but paradoxically it is a world that needs the appreciative mind of man to realize its beauty."

The article is aptly supplemented by monochrome and coloured photographs covering Cliefden, Colong and Cooeman, and as such it is worthy addition to any coffee table or speleo library.

To sum up the article, Greg's own words provide the answer " It is all part of a rewarding experience."

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Further examples of Greg's literary ability may be found in other issues of the Australian Outdoors magazine.

APRIL 1977

Deep in the bowel of Australia, mythological sirens lure explorers into danger. GREG POWELL has been under their slell, but with the help of a couple of good caving ladders, he managed to avoid meeting his Maker.

Heres his tale:-

THE ODYSSEY CAVE.

APRIL 1978

Western and Central N.S.W. can be a monotonous area to tour by car, if you don't bother to do a little research before you go. GREG POWELL shows what a little preparation can reveal.....

BAIL UP:

YOUR HEADING FOR BEN HALL COUNTRY.

I Bogg.

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TASMANIA.

Well I have been asked to write something about Tassie to incite some interest in the intended caving trips next year. Really its not much differnnt to the places we know so well over here. Picture this, walking fully trogged, ropes, ladders, camera packs and the odd chocky bar, through a cold,

damp, prickly bush towards some remote mysterious hole in the ground only to find that a bunch of freeloaders has joined the miserable throng. The mind immediately conjures up leeches. Do you feel at home already.

The rain is the same to, cold and wet, but this inconvenience is offset by the infrequent arrival of the sun (depending on the time of year) often to make life uncomfortably steamy. Remind you of anything.

Cavers should not concern themselves with this trivia, their only concern should be with what is underground- no not gambling (its legal in Tassie anyway) but the beauty that can only be found in a Tassie cave. Yes we (Tasmania) have dirty often incredibly muddy caves but more often than not the effort is more than rewarding, but rember the detrog. So you can see its not all that different but I can assure you the difference is worth seeing. See you there.

B Skinn.

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ATEA KNADA:

In the highlands of Papua New Guinea, a hundredand thirty kilometres west of Mt Hagen and seventy five kilometers south east of Telefomin, is a place where the Atea River dissappears into the karst of the Muller Range. This doline is known as the Utina Sink and the passage at this river flows through is the Etea Knada Cave.

The Utin Sink was first sighted and photographed from a helicoper is 1973 by Van Watson, a geological field officer who is a member of the Papua New Guinea Cave Exploration Group, this cave has since had several expeditions into it.

Recently it was discovered that ten kilometers south of Utin Sink, the River Nali appeared out of the side of a cliff and it is presumed that this water is the Atea River. If it can be proven that there is a connection between the two, it will make this cave the deepest known cave in the world with a depth of one thousand four hundred meters. Up till now the deepest known cave is the Pierre St Martin in the French Pyrenees with a depth of one thousand one hundred and seventy four meters.

The River Nali and its tributaries are part of the Strickland River System that flows south into the Torres Strait.

The Utin Sink is tremendous in its self, being seventy five meters in diameter and two hundred meter high bluffs tower above the entrance on the southern side of the doline. Entry to the cave is gained by climbing down the north western side of the doline, a slope of above thirty five degrees consisting of collapse debris covered by dense undergrowth. There are three main waterfalls into the doline, the largest, twenty three meters high.

In mid July, the Atea '78 Expedition continued to explore this cave with a fair amount of success, from the last report heard they had gained twenty three kilometers of surveyed and maped passage. On the 1st August1978 it was reported that the Atea Knada had become the longest known cave in the southern hemisphere, at that time a length of twenty one kilometers. That still falls a bit short of the Mammoth-Flint Ridge System in Kentucky USA or the Holloch Cave System in Swizerland the two longest cave systems in the world.

The Atea '78 Expedition is lead by Dr Julia James along with fifty cavers and scientists who will be spending varying periods of time at Atea Knada.

As there is rain almost every afternoon in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, there are plenty of passages which contain streams which rise quickly, also places where you would not be able to survive if the water level rose thirty centimeters. Everybody in the party has to be out through the sumps by 4 pm.

As more cave is discovered, the time and effort required to reach new territory increases every day. As the tracks through the cave, the set ropes, and personal equipment become coated in mud they get very slippery and treacherous.

It seems only a matter of time before the Southern Hemisphere has a cave of such magnitude that it ranks with the rest of the world.

Due to the geographic inaccessability of the cave, the cost of mounting an expedition must be emormous,but it is hoped that there will be others in the future to continue exploring the area.

J Charley

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CAVING IN TASMANIA-March-April 1977

Saturday March 19. The intrepid duo Karl Bilger and Brian Skinn, arrived at Devonport after an uneventful flight.

Sunday March 20. Apart from walking to the top of the hill behind Port Sorrell for a look at the scenery, we be nothing.

Monday March 21. We went into Devonport to meet Peter and Judy Hedger and do some shopping, the shopping went OK but the boat wasn't there and didn't come, it was due in Tuesday.

Tuesday March 22. After packing the car we again went into Devonport, this time the boat was there and so was Pete and Judy, after deciding when Pete was coming out to Union Bridge and giving him directions we set off. On arrival at the "Hut" we installed ourselves. After lunch we went for a look at Ghengis Khan, staying there 6¼ hours and still not finding everything. Back at the "Hut" for tea at 11pm then bed.

Wednesday March 23. A grey day after the good weather we were having. Left early with intentions of a full days caving. The first cave being Diamond, a small cave with some very tight sections such as the Acid Drop, a tight vertical shaft about 6 meters down with a very sharp kink in the middle, this drops down to a river passage which was dry for about half its length. Some slight difficulty was encountered getting back up the Acid Drop, this being achieved after about one hour. Some photographs were taken in the top section before we headed out. A short stop was made at King Solomons Caves to use the conveniences, then on to the river at Liena for lunch, which wasn't where we were supposed to be at all, we were supposed to be at Echo Valley Bridge.

On checking out the walk to Lynds Cave we decided against it and had a short look for Tail End Cave which we had been told about, we couldn't find it so we went for a look at the gate on Croesus Cave, decided this was to wet, so went back to camp, stopping on the way for a look at the TCC Caving Hut, we were not impressed.

Thursday March 24. Pete, Judy and Robin arrived at 8.30 am, at which time we had just staggered out of bed. While we had breakfast, Pete set up camp. Then off for a spot of light caving in Khubla Khan,

we abseiled in at about 11.00am and proceeded down to the bottom of the slope from Xanadu Cliff, at this point the expression of all had nearly been exhausted just at the size of this chamber, about half the size of Abercrombie Arch.

From here we drop down over a flowstone for about 10 m and arrived at the start of the river passage. At this time there wase sundry expressions of awe, with Brian leading, Pete in the middle and myself bringing up the rear we set off into what might be described as incredible. The river passage has to be traversed to be believed, one does not progress from foothold to foothold but more from handhold to handhold. There are times when one is hanging from as little as one very small stalagmite 10 m or so above nothing. At last the end is reached and we are at the river level faced with a 30m walk in the water. At the other end of this nice walk is Khan Hall and Pleasure Domw.

The flowstone wall at the bottom of Pleasure Dome is incredible let alone the rest of it. No water was present anywhere in the area and as far as our light shown it was like a million stars glittering on the golden flowstone. I will not attemp to describe the beauty of it as it is beyond mere words. The beauty and wonder is not only in the flowstone but on the walls are hugh curtins and giant columns, aragonite flowers abound on the ceiling.

From here we went down into Khan Hall for a look around, this cavern is nearly as large as Abercrombie Arch and combined with Pleasure Dome, much larger. Down here there is again the massive formation of curtins and flowstone which reach from the ceiling, about 40m above, right down to the river. Another astonishing aspect in this area is the incredible movements which have occurred in the past, splitting asunder hugh flowstones and sending boulders hurtling down from walls and ceiling, some the size of houses.

Not having the key to the top entrance and having been in the cave for a long time already we did not try to find the way up to the Forbidden City. So after a last look around we headed back to the river pawsage.

Socks came off again for a walk in the river, which by the way is bloody cold, and so back through to Xanadu Chamber. Again to find the laws of gravity as we traversed the River Passage. Back at Xanadu, we indulged in a little photography as the light shining down the cliffs slowly faded away, returning this astounding cavern to its original lighting condition of total darkness.

The twenty metre ladder climb out was considered very easy after the trip through the River Passage. After nine hours of incredible caving we headed back to camp and tea.

Friday March 25. After another night of open warfare with the rats resulting in a late start, we headed into town for some more supplies.

Finally after a late and slow lunch the three of us headed out to Ghenghis Khan. On arriving at the bottom of the first climb into the cave we had a deleeching session, in all accounting for about twenty leeches. The reason foe so many leeches was the continuing rain which was beginning to become annoying. Anyhow, on into the cave to show Pete the pretties and to take more photos myself as I ran out of film the first time in the cave. Brian found another five leeches on him during the trip. Back at the car afterwards another deleeching session was held, Pete invented a novel way of dispatching them, first one entices the leech onto the head of a live match, the match is then struck and "hey presto" fried leech.

On returning to camp we all stripped and again checked for leeches. Then set about preparing tea, a real banquet, steak, wine etc.

Saturday March 26. Dinner last night was not as good as planned, Skinn burnt the chips. The rats gave us a rest last night but the rain did not.

Made a bad start to the day by opening camera before rewinding film.

Having decided that today was going to be a rest day, we had breakfast and sat around talking for a while until Pete and Judy started packing to return to Launceston and then continue their trip around Tassi. Having chopped some fire wood, we left for Devil's Gullet on a tourist type sightseeing trip. Devil's Gullet is really worth seeing as the cliffs on top of which one stands are about five hundred meters high and vertical.

One lays on the edge and peers down the granite cliffs in awe. On either sides of the main cliffs are stepped spires of broken granite, while in the valley below the Fisher River roars over rapids in a white foam. Back in the valley we went to Parangana and Rowallan Dams. After tea consisting of Rosella Farmhouse Stew which had an unaminous vote of superiority over the previous nights steak and chips, we set out our plan for a major photographic assault on Khubla.

Sunday March 27. Today dawned wet and grey again, but after a hearty breakfast in front of the fire we began preparations for our trip into Khubla. We decided only to go as far as the River Passage but planned to take many photographs along the way, something which has not been done before. On reaching the Start of the River Passage much to my dismay and annoyance my flash wouldn't work. It would work firing it manually so we proceeded on. The river was higher then on previous trips. After reaching the end of Stalagmite Shuffle and having had a rest, we retraced our steps, taking more photos on the return trip.

Back at Xanadu Cliffs we prepared to Jumar out while listening to sound of heavy rain falling on the trees above. I went first to give Brian an idea how to handle the angle of the rock face reaching the top covered in mud. As Brian started to climb a very heavy rain squall started, by the time he reached the top, he was surfing up the stream of water flowing onto the pitch, All the while I was standing under the protection of the big tree used as a anchor point for the pitch.

Finally Brian reached the top, talk about drawned rats, he was epitome of a drowned rat. In the teeming rain we rolled up the rope, grabbed up our gear and headed for the car, laughing ourselves silly at our crazy habits and ideas of enjoyment.

On the third attempt we got up the hill from where we had parked the car and headed home for dry cloths and a hot tea.

It was decided after some thought that my flash was buggered and maybe a new one was in order.

This was the first time that we really gave our new rope a good try out, it seems to be very good for all aspects of caving.

P.S. Old river Alf was talking to us very well today and there was also a jet plane flying around in the cave somewhere, or so it sounded, but then again it may have been a train.

Monday March 28. This morning there was a bit of blue sky about but there were some very black clouds over the Western Tiers. We hung all our gear over the fence to dry out. After breakfast we set in another siock of dry wood and kindling. Deciding to have another look at my flash which seems to be working OK again, it may have got water in it when we came back from Ghanghis on Friday causing the Capacitor to short out. Next on our agenda was another bath in the river, it gets no warmer no matter how long you stand looking at it. After our bath we went into town to do some shopping, posted films, had a couple of beers, bought a bottle of wine and headed home expecting our overalls, which we had left on the fence drying, to be wet again. As the weather was still fine we put out the rest of our gear to dry some more. After stoking up the fire we had a snack and then a snooze.

Tuesday March 29. Today was going to be a big day, all the way to Forbidden City the hard way. We were up at seven for breakfast . On arriving at the start of the River Passage neither of us was feeling one hundred percent fit so instead of doing as we had planned, we went for an exploratory trip in Xanadu Chamber and found another active stream passing through the chamber and joining up to the main river. We continued upstream till we came to a sump in the mud floored chamber. Retracing our steps we found another way going up which led to a very pretty area. Back at the River Passage again we took another look at each other and voted to leave the cave and come back another day. So, it was back to our favorite SRT pitch for another swim in the mud. To our supprise and annoyance the mud clogged rope caused our Jumars to constantly jam, not slip as was expected. So back to camp cut some firewood, have a snack and a rest before tea. It's raining again after a fine morning.

Wednesday March 30. Today was going to be a last bash at Khubla. We arrived at the entrance at about 10 am and went straight through to Pleasure Dome, left the gear and went looking for a way up to Forbidden City. We eventually found the way and set about climbing up. Brian climbbed the flowstone first, setting a running belay on the rock bolts as he went. On reaching the chimney he found he couldn't climb it and so came down again.

I went up for a look, found I didn't have enough Karabiners, came down for more then back up again for another go. This time using axshort tape loop over the top rock bolt, which was to high to reach otherwise, I succeeded in getting up into this rather awkward chimney. After attaching the belay rope to the top rock bolt I climbed out onto the ledge at the top of the chimney then traversed around the flowstone wall to the safe area. I then belayed Brian to the Top.
This chimney is really only a crack between a rock wall and the flowstone. It starts about two meters above the fourth rock bolt and last foot holds on the flowstone slope. From the open side which you face there is a very good view of Khan Hall and the river, about twenty five meters below. Once on the top we set off through the passage to Forbidden City, this passage is another older section of a River Passage.Some of it is very heavily decorated, some,of it bare rock. The start of it is called the Forrest and is a strange area of stalagmites and columes. Proceeding on down a difficult climb and a flowstone slope, the next point of interest is the false floor. This floor is Dogtooth Spar Crystal and must be crossed spreadeagled on hands and knees. Shortly after Sally's Folly is reached, this is a series of pools which must be passed by traversing around the edge, standing on a small crystal ledge using whatever hand-holds can be found, if any. Further on one encounters bare rock passage devoid of any formation and is faced with several holes in the floor which have to be crossed by bridging, over a drop of about ten to fifteen meters. At last is reach, a spectacle beyond imagination, the "Great Khan" a stalagmite about thirty meters high and about eight meters in diameter, and beyond, a chamber so large that both our lights shine into inky blackness until turned towards the walls where some distance away resides another great stalagmite known as "Began", this one is higher still but not as large at the base. This part of the chamber stretches away for about one hundred and seventy meters of fantastic rock collaspe and weird formations. At the end is an area of strange stalagmites and straws, below which is a moonscape of hills and craters.

Half way along this section of the chamber is a large area some times covered in water, forming a lake up to about four meters depp.
We did not go into the longer leg of this monster chamber which is about twice as long again and contains some even more stectacular sights.
Back again at Khan Hall, we abseiled down passed the chimney and retrieved rope and Karabiners. After returning to Pleasure Dome we collected a pack containing food and stove and proceeded to a flat area near the river, now known as "Alfs Diner" , and had tea. We had been underground seven hours by this time. With tea over we continued our programme and set about photographing the Pleasure Dome area. During the time spent having tea and taking photos we used Carbide Lamps to conserve our batteries for the trip out trough the River Passage which was achieved again without mishap.
While Jumarring out Brian lost his watch and although I had a short look for it before and while I was climbing out I couldn't find it as my light was getting low. Back at the car we detrogged , went home , had tea and toast& crashed.

Thursday March 31. First thing after breakfast this morning was to go back to Khubla and try and find Brian's watch, this I did shortly after reaching the bottom of the pitch, much to Brians relief. We then returned to the hut to pack our ge ar as we were returning to Port Sorell today. We returned to Port Sorell via Paradise. This road gives a different view of Mount Roland near which we had been camped for the last ten days.

Friday April 1. The weather dawned fine and sunny this morning, after the last ten days of rain, rain and more rain. We washed cloths ropes and ladders and put our sleeping bags out to air. All the washing dryed due to the continuing fine day.
We went into Devonport to do a little shopping, on our return we packed all our gear into sundry suitcases and packs, what a job, but we finally finished. After tea we went up to the club to finish off our trip.

Saturday April 2. Today we fly back to Sydney,the weather has closed in again as we wait for our plane to arrive. All to soon we are aboard and on our way. Lunch was partaken at Melbourne Airport at some incredible cost. We continued on to Sydney with the weather clearing all the way. On arrival at Mascot it was fine and hot.

Now another problem arose, after collecting our luggage amidst the amazed looks of other travellers. We decided to travel to Central by coach, then by train to Parramatta and ring mum to come and get us. On arriving at the station we had about five minutes to catch the train, including buting tickets. Well, we made it, but what a strain running up the steps carrying a 60lb pack and a suitcase weighing the same as well as a bag of camera gear. Several people who got in our way were peremptorily brushed aside. On the train we discovered it was going to Hornsby not Parramatta, so a change was made at Strathfield, more carrying gear, this time up and down ramps. The looks one gets on trains while taking up three seats with gear have to be seen to be believed.
Another change of plans saw us at Blacktown and in a Taxi giving directions to a rather stundd driver, who did not think he's car would survive the load. He also did not appear very keen on us, as he made a point of telling his mates where he was going. At last we arrived at mums and so ends this diary and dam good holiday.

K Bilger

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TRIP REPORTS:

CANOMODINE - 1st, 2nd July 1978.

Aim: Exploration and Familiarisation of the area.

Members Present: T Matthews, TL., J Charley, K Bilger, R Sanderson, E Godwin, A McKendry, P McKendry, G Cummings and J Bracken.

An early start was made from various homes on saturday. Our first meeting place was Blayney at about 8-00am. The climate in Blayney being fresh and bracing to say the least, we rapidly moved on to Canowindra, were we presented ourselves at Andre Baltin's pharmacy for directions to the cave area. Andre had made out a very useful map, which we were to use on numerous occasions during the weekend. Our thanks to Andre for his valuable assistance.
Having located our campsites and set up tents, our first objective was to locate many of the digs and caves indicated on the map. The groundtrog lasted about two hours during which time a valuable assessment of the area was made. The next four hours were spent in the Diprotodon Cave photographing and

exploring. A new cavern (to us that is) was found and Robert discovered the way to the sumps -- large blue pools beneath a rock pile of dubious permanence. It was about this time that Robert could not find the way out again.

A large warm and sociable campfire was enjoyed by all. The weather deteriorated over night and sunday morning we retreated underground, We had located the Main Cave on saturday and so headed straight for it by driving around towards the caves. Two hours was spent while we thoroughly searched, squeezed and photographed the various ins andoouts of the cave. Jack had reported a rather large doline with promising holes during the ground trog. This was just the other side of the "car Park" and another hour was spent in this cave which we found to be surprising large and deep.

After a quick lunch, camp was broken while the weather deteriated into a solid drizzle. The sedans and their drivers had some fun on the slippery road out, fortunately the 4WD's were at hand.

Thmost enjoyable weekend was had by all, cordial and fruitful. The weather dried ever harded to dampen spirits on the return home, but the spirits would not be dampened.

T Matthews.

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KEMPSEY: 8th, 9th July,1978.

Aim: Familiarisation.

Members Present: G Powell TL, T Matthews, L Baker, K Bilger, J Charley,

Visitors: W Smith, P Ward, D McCloskey.

The prearranged meeting place was the Maria River Forrest Park, on the Pacific Highway south of Kempsey. The newcastle group arrived at 10-00pm, the Blue Mountains Bus at 3-00am saturday morning.

A very cold frosty morning greeted us all as we made our way to Col Carter's for directions. The suggested Temagog, Carrai Caves on saturday and Windy Gap in company with KSS on Sunday morning.

After a short period of ground trogging we located the Main Cave at Temagog, under Col's "Figtree" (there were six million figtrees). The cave was small but interesting with some good formation and sculptured rock, also many horseshoe bats. We located the second entrance and had some "fun" in the squeeze which connects the two entrances.

Moving on, we had lunch, we drove up into the mountains to Carrai Clearing and made camp. We managed to locate to Bat Cave in failing light in thick rain forrest on the edge of the gorge below the clearing. We inspected the mound of batdung (Bent Wing this time), sloping formations and the many bats, then hiked back up to camp in the dark.

A restful evening was had, with two empty timber jinkers going up higher into the mountains during the early morning hours.

Lionel awoke to find a cow peering into his tent, which was soon persuaded to leave as a camp stool hit it on the rump.

We inspected the unusual natural arch at the lower part of the clearing, then broke camp to join KSS at Windy Gap about two kilometers down the road. The hike down was steep but soon we had reach the creek where we located the River Cave and Col's Cave (very spacious). The area is in thick rain forrest and many photos were taken of the vegetation around us, as well as the formation in the caves. The large rim pools in the Efflux Creek from the River Cave are also quite spectacular.

Under KSS guidance we located Queensland Cave and negotiated the mud crawl to inspect the newly discovered chamber which was full of pure white stalactites, very pretty. More photos were taken, back into the mud crawl, a wash in the creek, a steep walk out and lunch.

On the way back to Kempsey we had to undertake a little road construction to enable our vehicles to detour around a loaded timber jinker which had jack-knifed across and narrow road.

An interesting weekend on the whole with a variety of cave types visited. We received a good cross section of caves in the Kempsey Region. Our thanks to KSS for their co-operation.

G Powell.

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WOMBEYAN: 15th, 16th July,1978.

Aim: Photography and exploration of Bulio Cave.

Members Present: B Skinn TL, P Sammut, L Baker, T Matthews,

We arrived saturday morning and checked in at the Guides Office. We received directions for the location of the cave and after some time we found the entrance. Once inside I led the way to the right, finding a small cavern with a few pretties, but no way on. Theres got to be more, we thought, so back tracking, Paul found the lead "went" so we followed it.

Clambering over a ladder or two we entered another chamber in which the upper section yielded some exciting photographs. With more sophisticoped gear and techniques the clean cluster of "tites" covering the entire roof could be better recorded.

Pressing onwards we passed through a passage the roof of which held some very beautiful helictites, more photos were taken. A short distance further on a series of ladders leading downward were encountered (steel tourist type ladders). I descended to the top of the third ladder. Moving accross to the top of the third ladder, I peered downwards, about 40 feet down there I thought to myself, as I stepped onto the ladder it moved. Having decided that the safest way down was to abseil, we headed back to the entrance for some equipment. On the way we investigated a shaft of light coming down a chimney.

Back at the vertical ladder we set up a rope and Ted and I abseiled down, Paul and Lionel remained at the top to belay us out when we returned. After a bit of exploration during which we discovered a small crystal lined chamber containing a few pools of water. Hopefully another photographic trip will capture the beauty of that lovely corner. Back at the bottom of the rope pitch I called up for some more equipment to tackle the obvious way on, down a semi vertical passage which eventually led on to river.

With time being short we couldn't fully explore this lower section so we returned to find Paul and Lionel waiting patiently at the top of the pitch. After repacking the equipment we retraced our steps to the entrance having spent an eventfull time underground. Sunday morning we packed up and left.

B Skinn TL

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WOMBEYAN Con't 16th July,1978.

After leaving Wombeyan we headed for Little Wombeyan along some very slippery washed out fire trails which were also churned up by many trailbikes. We travelled uneventfully as far as the gate which blocked further progress. We stopped here for a break and ended up having a good size meal. After backtracking for awhile we decided to go home via Tuglow and Jenolan.

Snow was still lying in the more sheltered areas in the mountains cooling down an otherwise fine day. At the turnoff to Tuglow a snowfight developed, I got one snowball inside my Cruiser to prove it. At the first creek crossing we encountered 3 4WD'S who had just come through the Kowmung and said that

it was up and had more then the usual holes to fall into. At this stage a Range Rover had caught up from behind.

Crossing the first creek and climbing a steep slippery hill after caused a few anxious moments. Paul was first up so I thought, when I considered he had progressed far enough, I followed but horrors of horrors, he lost traction and started sliding back down, not wanting to stop I tried passing him on his left but the same fate befell me. Meanwhile, the Range Rover was clawing its way up past me and how he missed me when he slid towards me I never know. Finally I made it to, not long after the Kowmung came into view. Was it up?'I'm buggered if I know'. Anyway, Paul goes in first keeping to the right, bouncing and bucking violently but manages to get across OK.

Well it certainly looked easy enough, now it's my turn, in I go 2/3 way across, down I went. Hell, I thought, I'm stuck, O well Paul will pull me out, but that was not to be. After several unsuccessful attempts to get me out everybody gave up, it was decided that the est way to get me out was to go to Jenolan and get Barry and his turfor.

Meanwhile night had fallen along we everybodies spirits including the blokes stuck across the other side, who were unable to cross because of me. Two and half hours later finding me still stuck in the bloody river. With Paul's cruiser chained to Barry's Land Rover and the turfor attached to same, I was pulled out but not without alot of effort on the part of the two people operating the turfor handle. In the excitment afterwards Paul drove straight over a large rock and got his cruiser hung up. He had to jack it off to avoid damaging his cruiser.

Meanwhile, the Range Rover crossed without missing a beat, I won't knock "them" anymore. He collected his chain which was broken during an unsuccessful attempt to pull me out during the night, and left. Luckily for me Barry had a container of oil on board which was substituted for the strange white substance which was residing in my crank case.

Paul comandered all available petrol about 1½ gallons and headed for home hoping he might make Katoomba. We later learned he made it OK. Next day, I drained all oils and refilled everything with fresh oil. Finally I headed for home arriving at 12-30am Tuesday morning, 1½ days late for work.

B Skinn TL

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BUNGONIA 29th,30th July,1978

Aim: Familiarization

Members Present: I Bogg TL; T Matthews,G Bracken, J Charley, C Ollsen A Morgan-Thomas, C Miller,

Caves Entered: B4/B5,B2,B3,B9,B12,B10.

Saturday saw all members except Carol, heading off to B4/B5 to continue the familiarisation activity of this system. Access was made through the Hogans B5 entrance with the intent of going on down and through the "Sand Trap".

In the entrance chamber, Joel being the good Prospective that he is, volunteered, "services style" to rig the ladder and belay line just for the experience, "Why me?" asked Joel - "because we like you" came the reply. We eventually made our way down the stream passage which was almost dry except for the lower 3 meter pitch only to find the "Sand Trap" full, of water and debris.

Undaunted we returned to the entrance aven chamber and commenced to derigg the ladder, at which point Joel made the supreme effort of free climbing up the rear wall to the 12 year old squeeze. - he couldn't quite make the squeeze - older than 12. Not to be outdone Chris and Geoff made the climb also and attempted the squeeze.- they didn't make it either - not 12 years old, or are they eh? mmmmh

Stowing the gear, we then headed up into the Cement Bag Passage, only to be met by another party coming through and stirring up the dust in the passage - cough! cough!

Eventually the intrepid members successfully negotiated the "Hairy Traverse" after being belayed by the T/L. The other group offered us the use of their gear, to which we declined. They told us that they had put a handline in "about a month ago, and its still pretty good" Real good, manilla, growing whiskers with granny knots, UGH'.

Alourie being the nearest to a twelve year old, in size that is, attempted to negotiate the squeeze. First attempt, failure, backout and empty packets; remove slings, tapes, etc. Second attempt was a slow, determined, authoritative attack on the squeeze, borne out of years experience of being in tight squeezes. First it was the squeeze that was winning, then it was Alourie with a few more centimetres, then the squeeze, then Alourie - a tough fight then technique began to show. The squeeze began to squeeze and squeeze and squeeze until it reached the size of a 12 year old. Alourie pushed and pushed and pushed then gave up beaten - a valiant effort.

One thing is for sure, in true Macarthur style "we will return", this time with a 11 year old size caver and we will beat the squeeze.

From here we pushed on down to the aven chamber at the head of the low crawl passage to the B4/B5, extension intersection. Many attempts were made to scale the far wall to gain access into an obvious passage. Free climbs, human pyramids, every thing at our disposal was tried even to the extent of comtemplating to catapault Alourie up into the passage - she declined. Frustrated, we resolved to save it for another day and made our way out examining fossils and receiving a science lecture from the science master of Penrith High Mr Edward Matthews, commonly referred to as Ted.

Saturday evening was spent around the campfire extolling our exploits of the day. Carol eventually arrived with a birthday surprise for Ted. Carol and a cake (she bought it) and a pressy, SURPRISE! SURPRISE! SURPRISE! Oh, you shouldn't have, but I'll take it anyway, replied Ted.

Sunday saw the departure of Chris and Alourie, so the remainder of the intrepid crew wandered off to do B1. Alas, we were beaten to B1, but as it turned out B1 was apparently full of CO2 to the top of the second pitch. We then turned our attention southwards and began to play the Bungonia hole popping game which goes something like this

Heres a hole,
Whats the number
B2
Does it go?
Dunno,
Pop in and have a look,
OK,
Does it go?
Yeah, come on down
Everybody in?
Yeah,
OK, everybody out - goes only 8/9 metres.
B.....+!+!+!+!

We played this game throught B2,B9,B10,B12 until we reached B3.

The entrance to B3 is in a small doline with access in the bottom N.E. corner of the Doline. The entrance is interesting within itself as it contains rather sharp interfluves. The cave itself exhibits vertical development from within the entrance as a 6 metre climb down a slot is required to a squeeze through into a small rubble chocked chamber. An arm chair type squeeze

(shades of Canomodine) at the back of the chamber provides the lead downwards. The next 5 metres is freen climbed down to the top of a 5-6 metre pitch where we used a ladder for safety and convenience. At the apparent bottom of the rift passage another section of ladder was used to negotiate the next pitch of some 8-9 metres down a tight rift passage which is inclined approx 10' to the vertical and almost at right angles to the rift passage above. This passage ended in mud filled passages. A good sporting cave.

An alternative route was negotiated on the way out requiring a vertical free climb up into the entrance aven chamber, and then crossing over the chamber up in the roof into a tight passage to the bottom of the doline opposite the normal entrance into B3.

No more caving enused as the team was tired and hungry and therefore we headed back to camp for a feed.. After packing up a visit was made to Adams Lookdown for the benefit of Geoff and then headed for home.

I Bogg TL.

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CLIEFDEN 5th 6th August 1978.

Aim: Further exploration of Murder and Molongulli.

Members present: T Matthews TL, A McKendry, V @ L Matthews.

On the Saturday while other club members continued their survey of Taplow we spent some time in Murder. Yet another chamber, quite new to us was discovered through a rock pile in that part of the cave known as the Left Extension. The new cavern is well decorated, something similar to the Laurel and Clown rooms of Cliefden Main.

On Sunday we gained access to Molongulli through the newly constructed (and locked) gate. A short ladder and tape is of assistance for this entrance although free climbing the entrance is not difficult. Progress should be made one person at a time in this area as loose rock and dirt is easily displaced.

Another tape was found neccessary to assist our climb up to the Nazzgul formation.

T Matthews

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JENOLAN 22nd 23rd July 1978.

Aim: To photograph Upper OOlite and to asses visitation since Mammoth has been broken into below the normal entrance.

Members present: T Matthews TL, K Bilger, B Skinn, C Miller, R Sanderson, E Godwin, A McKendry, G Cummings, J Charley.

Access was made available to us via the new gate which we had installed in June. The group made efficient progress into the Southern Section via the 40 foot. Lower River was observed to be quite high. Brian led the climb to Upper Oolite and a ladder was rigged to assist some members.

Only one visit has been recorded in the book since our last visit. This would seem to be surprising as the time involved is one year. However access to the chamber remains diffucult and Mammoth Cave does provide the variety of activities which seem to cater for most clubs without their need to visit this chamber. Damage to the formations in this area remains minimal.

Sunday was spent in a trip to the Naked Lady chamber via Hell Hole. On leaving the cave we placed the padlock on the gate.

T Matthews.

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OOLITE

Journal of

Blue Mountains Speleological Club

Vol. 10 No. 3

O O L I T E

Official Journal of the Blue Mountains Speleological Club.
Post Office Box 37,
Glenbrook N.S.W. 2773.

VOLUME 10 NO 3. January 1979.

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EDITORIAL

This is going to be a short editorial as I cannot think of very much to write. I must first offer my"thanks"to the club for re-electing me to the position of Journal Editor as I really do enjoy the hours of typing necessary to get out each issue.

In the latest issue of the A.S.F. Newsletter there is a very good article on nylon ropes which I hope everyone reads, as there has been a lot of confusion over the care and storage of all types of nylon ropes.

The club has seen fit to upgrade the reqirements necessary to become a trip leader, hopefully this will stimulate interest and effort among members wishing to attain this position in the club.

Editor

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THE LAST UNKNOWN

Mapping the world below ground.

At the begining of 1978 Steve Worthington was in Mexico, later in the year he joined the Atea Kanada Expedition after whichbhe headed off to the Hindenberg Wall area in Papua New Guinea. The Wall is about 630m cliff which runs for about 80km along the edge of the Star Mountains.

Two others, Tony White and Richard Bartrop, also on the Atea Expedition, will go with him. The hole they are going to explore was noticed during an expedition to Selminum Tem in 1975, it is probably a cave abandoned by one of the many rivers in the area. The hole is about 30x10m and about half-way up the cliff face.

If these intrepid explorers manage to overcome the difficulties of reaching the cave they may spend as much as three months exploring, surveying and mapping it, of course there may not be any cave at all , or after abseiling down the 330m to reach the cave they might be dangling 10m out from the wall and unable to get back to it.

The particular attraction of Atea Kanada was that of a big cave with a big river in it. It was hoped that Atea would be a deep cave but turned out to be a long cave instead.

Anon

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A GHOST CITY IN THE SAND

A group of American and Egyptian scientists have discovered the remains of a 200-000 year old community in the Egyptian Western Desert, an area that has not been explored in recent times.

The information gathered during the two week 1,600 km trip may help to clarify how the Earth's deserts are encroaching on the fertile lands.

During the trip the expedition discovered a ghost city, a cave like community dwelling, where they found axes and spear heads which are about 200,000 years old.

Drawings in the caves show that this area, which is now bare, once had enough rain for grass to grow, cattle to graze and people to live. There are traces of a 200 square kilometre lake.

The leader of the trip said that they found the remains of petrified ostrich eggs and a giraffe, all at some time smothered by the sand but uncovered once more by the wind.

Anon

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A.S.F. COMMITTEE REPORT:

N.S.W. Speleological Council Meeting
Guolbourn 2nd December, 1978.

1/ Main items of interest to club.....
- a/ scout caving
- b/ BMSC gating recommendation accepted.
- c/ Cave Rescue weekend.
- d/ N.S.W. Council insignia as shown at meeting was accepted.
- e/ Car stickers with theme "Passport To Adventure" was discussed.
- f/ Capital Territy Caving Group application for ASF membership endorsed now full members.
- g/ RANCA application for associate member of ASF was endorsed now observer member of NSWSC.

2/ Sport insurance..... Caving is not included in this scheme because
- a/ Caving is a non competetive sport.
- b/ Speleological groups are classed as recreational groups not sporting groups.

Action has been initiated calling upon the Minister for Sport and Recreation to have the descision reversed. As yet there

has been no reply.

B Skinn
Club Delegate.

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TRIP REPORTS

BUNGONIA 29th-30th July 1978.

Aim S.R.T. Caving.

Members Present: K Bilger TL, B Skinn, R Sanderson, J Charley.

Saturday we bottomed both sumps in Argyle, after tea we visited Odyssy and again reached the sump.

Sunday we reached the sump in Drum. In all a very good week-en end. There had been a large rockfall between the first pitch and the Golden Fleece, a boulder weighing about 80 tonnes has fallen from the wall. There appeared to be no detrimental effects on the cave.

K Bilger.

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CLIEFDEN 4th-5th August 1978.

Aim: Surveying in Taplow.

Members Present: K Bilger TL, R Sanderson, C Miller.

Saturday Robert and Myself spent the day surveying and exploring.

Sunday Carol joined us and we continued surveying to the end o of a section which contained a large chamber and several large rifts.

So far we have surveyed about 1km. of cave.

K Bilger.

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JENOLAN 13th-14th August 1978.

Aim: Exploration of Great North Cavern.

Members Present: B Skinn TL, C Miller, K Bilger, J Charley, R Sanderson, G Cummings.

After checking in at the Guides Office and obtaining the key to J13 we sauntered off to Mamoth Flat To set up camp and prepare for a long and hard trip also hopefully a succesfull one.

Making our way directly into the Ninety Foot we rigged a rope hoping to make a quick descent down to Central,River, it was very nearly to quick, Once we were all down safely we made our way to the dry syphon which was realy living up to it's name. There was o only about 5 ins. of air space at the start and about 3ins at the far end. Once again Robert spearheaded the assault accompanied by phrases such as " if this is another suck in Skinn!

With one through the rest of us followed. Karl and myself being the biggest we actually had to duck dive under the far end After a short lesson on hypothermia we continued on to the Red C Cascades then into the Gravel Grovel.

We had been going for about an hour and a half since we had left the Dry Syphon when the first effects of beeing soaked to the skin began to appear. At this point we decided that as we had not yet managed to find the way on from the Grovel we would head out. As preplanned we bypassed the 90 foot and continued on through Central River and up through the Skulland Cross Bones. The Central lake was flooded with the water up to our chests. Back at the Railway Tunnel Robert and Myself retrieved the rope from the 90 foot.

Although we were only underground for 4½ hours we all agreed that it felt like 9, also we were all glad to be out in the sunshine again.

B Skinn.

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WEE JASPER 26th-27th August 1978.

Aim: Familiarisation.

Members present: C Miller TL, B Skinn, J Charley, P McKendry, T Matthews, +2, K Stewart.

This trip proved to be a slow starter as we did not get into Dip Cave until 3-50 PM. Jack led the way and believe it or not it went for miles. We were unable to locate the entrance to the upper section but did find the entrance to WJ2. about 70 ft. from where we were standing. We were able to identify this entrance from the old car bodies and pulley system arranged above the hole.

On Sunday Ted took the girls to have a look at the entrances to Signature and Punchbowl Caves while we went to have a look at WJ4&5 the pitch into WJ 4 proved to much for us so we went over to WJ 5 the results were much more encouraging and Jack and Paul reached the bottom and had a look around.

After a tour through Carey's Cave we Headed for home.

C Miller.

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WISEMAN'S FERRY 3rd September 1978.

Aim: Field Day.

Members Present: B Skinn TL, C Miller, T Matthews, P McKendry, J Bracken, Joel Charley + friend.

Most of us arrived at the Pub at Wiseman's Ferry at 9-30 AM. but, Paul Sammut proved to be the early bird arriving at 8-00 AM.

To pass the time he arranged everything with the Rangerand obtained the necessary key. The access track track to the selected site was very muddy and only allowed the F.W.D.'s to venture all the way in. We had lunch first then set up the exercises, knots comming first then a session on abseiling over straight drops and overhangs. These were followed by ladder calls, then the trip home.

In conclusion I will say the field day was not a roaring success. Field days should be attendd by a much larger number of club members, covering a much broader spectrum of experience. It seems that Field days are attended by a very small number of active full members and a number of either visitors or prospectives. I commend the beginers if I may call them that, for thier will to better themselves. Keep up the good work. I'm sure that all club members would benefit from attending club activities. Everybody needs a memory jog every so often.

One more thing, it seems that the only practical place for holding Field days is at the Glenbrook National Park. There are a wide range of practice cliffs available above the Jelly Bean and Blue Pools which will cater for most needs.

B Skinn.

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CANOMODINE 9th-10th September 1978.

Aim:Exploration.

Members Present: J Charley TL, R Sanderson, A McKendry, G Cummings.

After experiencing extremes of weather, from a starry night to heavy rain and pea soup fog, we arrived at Canomodine. We sett up camp under the threat of fine weather. After breakfast Robert made a beeline to the site of a possible dig noticed on a previouse trip, about half an hours moving rocks revealed s rift about 20 ft deep and some 6 to 12 ins wide at the top.

We were requested to relocate camp by the Farmer as he thought we would tear up his road due to their having had 8 ins. of rain up till that time. This chore performed we set about locating the caves we knewabout.

Lunch out of the way we entered Diprotodon Cave, I tried to get through the Snake's Gullet but lost out and went in via the armchair squeeze. In the lower chamber we came across an unusual sight, that of water under pressure squirting out of the wall, all things being normal nobody had a camera with them.

Sunday dawned bright and sunny, a good day for some surface trogging . We located several possible dig sites and not far from Diprotodon a small vertical shaft bearing the tag CN4, on entering we found two ways so selecting one of we went soon coming

to a nice little squeeze with some effort we gained access to th the other side. There were passages everywhere one of which led back to near the entrance. Some very nice formation was noted a although not in abundance. Some effort was needed to get back up the now very muddy and slipperyntape.

J Charley.

CLIEFDEN. 18th-19th November 1978.

Aim: Surveying in Taplow.

Members Present: K Bilger TL, B Skinn, C Miller.

Ten were spent surveying some 300m of cave.

K Bilger.

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MOLE CREEK TASMANIA 15th-27th January 1979.

Aim: Familiarisation.

Members Present: B Skinn TL, C Miller, T Matthews, K Bilger, R Sanderson, C Olsen, K Charley,

At the airport on Monday 15th, Carol and I picked up the ot others and loaded all their gear into the hired Falcon Station W Wagon. The rest of the day was spent ferrying cavers, gear and food to "the hut" at Mole Creek, organizing theactual camp site, tents, cleaning the hut and gathering water, wood etc. I won't elaborate on the ten days spent caving, as I asked Robert to re record the trips on a daily basis much like a diary. He will submit his report to the club after I have finished this summary.

During the two weeks a total of 49 hours were endured by most members. Karl unfortunately spent only 1 week with us at Mole Creek due to lack of leave, but never the less a lot of cave was seen in that time.

Six caves were visited all told with Khubla Khan the focus of attention. Four trips into Khubla were undertaken with most o of the cave being seen. Some good photos should result from these trips.

Two trips into Ghenghis Khan, will I can assure you remain i in the "cave minds" of all those present and remembered as well o on many rolls of film.

Two trips into the Honeycomb Caves off to one side of the arch at Caveside were enjoyed by all. As the cave unravelled be before ua many idyllic entrances were found. Hopefully these will be recorded to their best advantage by Ted's OM2 and Robert's "super" Praktica.

One trip each into Diamond, Scott's and Baldock's Caves saw again many photos taken.

The trip closed on a happy note.

B Skinn

REPORT MOLE CREEK 1979.

INTRODUCTION: I do not know the reasons why Brian elected me to record the events of the trip. However I have tried to write a report that will interest as well as inform you about the trip to Tasmania. Two things about this report that I would like to say are, firstly, please forgive any fault in the content of the report as my inexperience in writing these things must obviously show. Secondly, if you imagine that my descriptions are sometimes cliché or they seem exagerated and you decide that "it couldn't really be that good" then you are missing the point, because some of the things that we saw were certainly indescribable as as members on the trip will agree.

15/1 Monday:

At a terrible hour of the morning, 5.15 AM, Chris, Jack and Myself were awakened by a loud banging, initiated by the owner of the Van in which we had spent an almost sleepless night. We met Ted at Chatswood at around 6.30 AM. and arrived at the Airport about 7.00 AM. Both flights were uneventfull apart from the late arrival we made into Melbourne, delaying the Devonport connection. All five of us sank back into our seats when the Captain announced that some passengers from Sydney were responsible for the delay.

Touching down in Devonport we were glad of the reception Brian and Carol had arranged. Waiting in the carpark was a Falcon Station which turned out to be just big enough for all of us.

Food, surprisingly, was a very important item. Some people also had to shop for boots. These people were left in Devonport to do the shopping. The others were taken to the hut in which we were going to stay.

When the two groups were reunited and the tidied, tea was cooked. Realising that after dark entertainment was out of the question, bed was the only alternative.

16/1 Tuesday:

At 6.20 AM. Iwoke Chris and Ted (the occupiers of the hut). Breakfast of porridge and toast was quickly disposed of. Leaving the hut we arrived at the caving area at 8;30AM.

The clothing we wore under our overalls was excessivly hot for the bush walk to the cave called Ghenghis. After several detours (all of which were unplanned and due to the lack of memory or competence shown by our leader in cave entrance finding) we finally arrived at the entrance and were ushered in by Brian who was to leave us to our own devices, as He and Karl planned a refamiliarisation trip through the river passage in Khubla.

Ghenghis, however, we found to be a pretty cave. Very impressive aragonite flowers were found adorning many areas of the a cave. These were very large&in both Quality and Quantity bettered any thing seen on the mainland.

Several hours later we returned to camp for a swim in the river which was only just down the road. Carol provided us with a heart stopping moment when she fell into the river near some submerged rocks whih previous inspection had shown to be very sharp.

17/1 Wednesday:

For us boys today was the day we had dreaded. Could it be that the tales of the river passage in Khubla Khan were as bad as the seemed, or were they just a means to make us respect the river passage. Either way we were still hearing tales that sounded like Granpappy's war stoties.

After we had travelled it we knew what it was all about. For some it was not so hard, but most agreedthat it was difficult a and that we had never seen anything as involved before. One member even sugested that it was harder for people who lacked the average height (Ted). Ted's most noteworthy comment was, when stretched to the limit, "thats it". However he managed to overcome his hangups about his height and extract his body from where it was hung-up. Ted , however showed us all up on the Stalagtite Shuffle. This is perhaps the only place in the cave where height is a disadvantage.

Next came the cold feet syndrome as we removed our socks to wade through the river to reach Pleasure Dome. This area is almost all flowstone, three metre deep "rimpools" abound, at the top is a pool that would do justice to any millionaires back-yard. We spent three hours walking upon flowstone finer than that in the Pisa Chamber, we were stunned.

From the bottom of the main flow there is a very good view of Khan Hall, a chamber of considerable dimensions. There is also a quite large stream running thruugh the centre.

18/1 Thursday:

A leisurly start to the day was made, today was declared "official rest day". An early morning swim, an easy going breakfast set the tone of the day - rest and recreation. We then started on a magical Tasmanian mystery tour with a shopping spree in Mole Creek. Next was a stop to meet Brian's Uncle Winstom who provided us with an exchange battery to charge caving lights on. Devil's Gullet was the next whistle

stop, and wasn't it something to whistle about. I will certainly never forget the fear that is aruosed in you when you first step onto the wire mesh which provides you with a very interesting view of the bottom of a bloody gigantic cliff several hundred feet high. Another event that makes you queezy is of course the ritual practice of the age old tradition of Giberology the science, Boulder Chouldein' the trade, and peggin'rocks the hobby. Our resident Giberologist Jack provided us with spectacle enuugh to last us for a thousand lifetimes. The spectacle came in the form of thirty kilo rocks thrown off the edge of the cliff. An amazing part of the exercise was that it took over half a second for the sound of the rocks hitting the ground to reach us.

From here we proceeded to Parangana and Rowallan Dams, seeing at Rowallan the longest tape measure that I have ever seen attached to the side of the outlet tower. This was only vissible because the water was very low.

19/1 Friday:

Today was to be our second trip into Khubla, our objective , the Forbidden City. Hard caving was expected as we had to retrace Wednesdays trip and travel as far again.

We quickly negotiated the River Passage and Khan Hall and found ourselves at the bottom of the chimney which had kindly been rigged by Brian and Karl on the previous trip. The way on was down a tricky climb, made with the aid of some tapes, then on along an old river passage past the Crystal Crawl, some false floor and Sally's Folly, three rather deep pools of water. After a few more small climbs we reached the traverse across the hole in the floor, it' like a fly trying to bridge across the neck of a milk bottle (ask Ted). Then at last Forbidden City. The first thing that hoves into view is the Great Khan a stalagmite of tremendous proportions, a little further down the cavern is another one almost as impressive.

However these paled into insignificance when we made our way on down the larger section of the cavern. For over an hour we passed through forests of stalagmites and stalagtites, over and past spectacular flowstone and saw some magnificent aragonite flowers. Formations which stunned one were surpassed at every turn of the head. Some time later we decided that as our lighting source was not everlasting we had better forego further photography and make our way out.

20/1 Saturday:

Today we awoke to the pains of the day after the day before. Sundry groans and grates over breakfast. Then the rains came . Although not quite a torrential downpour we still managed to get our feet wetin a very short time as looked for todays objective, Baldock's Cave.

The cave proved to be quite interesting, it had formed along a bedding plane and the roof was not dissimilar to that of the Railway Tunnel In Mammoth. The remains of the old lighting system was still evident and proved to be a carbide/ aacetylene set-up. As the weather was not improving and the morale was on the decline we called it a day (on a minority vote 3 to 4).

Looking for some pre-diner entertainment the grand old Australian institution became a most viable alternative. The descision was to sample the Tassie drop at the Local. Most of us new to Tasmanian drinking habits wereamazed when the first round of thimbles were lined up. It was noted that everyone cheered up when it was their shout. Later we went round to Winston's for a barbeque and a meal never tasted so good.

21/1 Sunday:

Unfortunately today was the day Karl had to say goodbye as his work commitments had dictated the length of his stay. After seeing him of at the Airport we had lunch in Devonport . On the way back to Union Bridge we visited the entrance to Croesus Cave. Here we had another game of hide and go seek with our destination thanks to Brian who could only say"yeh, we always used to lose our way to the road".

Having decided that a trip to one of the tourist caves would be in order we settled on King Solomam's as being most suitable. The cave was not as large as we expected but did contain some fine speleothems, especially the silouette of King Soloman himself.

22/1 Monday:

Trogging up is becoming progressively longer and later each day. Perhaps tiredness is catching up with us. We managed Diamond Cave by 12.30 PM. after yet another navigation error. Not only were we dragged through a very deep, dark leech infested doline but we were asked to return to a point where we would not have had to enter it. Diamond Cave is relatively small with a small amount of good formation.

An interesting part of the cave is the Acid Drop, here again the pre-trip conditioning had worked, no one considered even for

a moment trying to negotiate it.

A second trip to Ghenghis followed, Brian showing us alot of cave we had not found on our own. This is certainly a very pretty cave.

23/1 Tuesday:

On previouse trip into the river passage in Khubla photography had not been considered. Today a special trip was organized for the express purpose of photograpghing the action. Most shots were composed of people hanging on to small ledges by their toenails or teeth.

New ways of negotiating the river passage were found. One such was the "T Matthews flyover pike-out". The enterprising Ted disapeared of to one side, reapearing , he proclaimed his way to be easier. The other taller members jumped across as usual. When Jack and Brian had returned from collecting the gear left on previouse trips we made our way out for the last this trip. At the entrance we collected the rest of the gear and descended the hill thinkingallthe while that we would not be back again for at least a year.

24/1 Wednesday:

Our arrival at Marakoopa Caves was nicely timed to coincide with the arrival of a tourist coach and fourty-two enthusiastic tuorists. The guide soon let us know that he was the only one on duty that day and had to run the whole show on his own. Our tour had some fifty people on it which is far in excsss of the limits of the cave with the result that we were fourty-five minutes late getting out of the cave.Marakoopa is a very good cave the tour being longer than those at most tourist caves.

Having grabbed a quick lunch we visited the local honey factory.

Next stop was at the Arch at Caveside, we were wondeing where the goodies were when we entered the Arch, we soon found them as JackmMuttered some thing about a bigger version of Taplow. Almost instantly we were trogged and underground in this cave., which is quite rightly one of the honeycomb series. Most of the was walk through sizeand contained several streams.

25/1 Thursday:

After yesterday's experience in Caveside we were determined to explore further. We also planned to visit a cave recommended to us by a local, it too like Baldock's was a

an old tourist cave. Very little new passage was found at Caveside although we did find some troglobitic shrimp in one of the streams located at the bottom of a short rift. We did not find an actual end but feel we saw most of the cave.

Scott's Cave was our next objective and while the entrance e evaded us for some time the cave was of only minor interest. What interest there was centered around the acetylene lighting system.

26/1 Friday:

As we were expected in Port Sorrel tonight for some local country music spectacular, we made ready to leave the hut that had been home for the past ten days. Many cobwebs had grown over such things as raincoats and first aid kits (thank goodness).

Our last milkshake from the local store was comsumed with reverence. It was in fact caramel not the usual chocolate(we had buoght out their supply of chocolate flavouring).
Our station wagon definately overloaded we sedately wheelstood out of town.

The local country music special became rather boring after t the first fifteen truching songs which all sounded the same. However when a piano accordianist wearing a safari suit started playing Chris and Could hardly wait for it to end. This finally happened around 12.30 AM.

27/1 Saturday:

Today we achieved very little apart from a lot of rest.

28/1 Sunday:

Saying goodbye to Brian's family who had been our hosts for the last few days we travelled to the Airport to catch the plane back to Sydney, There to be met by Karl. At this time it felt as though we had only left that morning.

IN CONCLUSION:

AS far as caving is concerned the trip was a marvelous sucess. I would like to take this oportunity to thank our trip leader Brian and all his family for their help and hospitality.

R Sanderson.
Dairy keeper.

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I apologise for the use of both metric and imperial measurements but I am too lazy too convert them

Ed.

FIRST AID:

How much do you know about this subject? How much should the average caver know? How much should anyone know? These are questions which are often asked. The anawer to them is not so easy, but everyone who ventures underground should know the basics of first aid. How much do you know? See how many of the following questions you can answer without any help, then look uo the rest.

1. List 5 reasons why a bandage or dressing is applied to a wound?
2. List 3 reasons why cold compresses are used.
3. List 4 reasons for using roller bandages.
4. What is asphyxia?
5. How would you treat an asphyxiated person?
6. What are the three types of bleeding?
7. List 5 treatments for heamorrhage.
8. List 5 symptoms of shock.
9. List 4 signs of shock.
10. How would you trear a person suffering from shock?
11. If a casualty is unconscious, has abdominal injury or feels sick should they be given fluids?
12. Should any injured person be given alchohol?
13. List 3 types of fractures and describe them.
14. List 3 symptoms of fractures.
15. List 4 signs of fractures.
16. List 3 aims of treatment.
17. How would you prevent further damage to the fracture?
18. List the signs of a fractured rib or ribs.
19. How would tou treat a person who has suffered a fall? List treatments in order of importance.
20. How would you treat a snake bite?
21. List the signs of hypothermia.
22. How would you treat a person showing these signs?

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QUOTABLE QUOTES:

In many respects, it is easier and better to build boys than to repair men.