OOLITE

Journal of

Blue Mountains Speleological Club

Vol. 14 No. 1

OOLITE

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

VOL. 14/1 CONTENT APRIL '84

Edited and Published for B.M.S.C. by Paul Sammut.

Subscriptions and Journal exchange enquiries to be directed to the Secretary, Blue Mountains Speleo Club, P.O. BOX 37, Glenbrook. N.S.W. 2773.
Publication Date: April 1984
Issue date: May 1984 Club meeting.

EDITORS VIEW

Last year was a new experience for me, as I was elected to the position of Journal editor. Printing three editions of the journal I felt it was good experience learning many things.

This year it happened again I am the 1984 editor, so now my new job becomes my old job. To enable us to have a regular edition of the journal I require material to publish. This edition has already been delayed because I only had one artical to publish, so please everyone grab a pen and pad and start writing.

To gain further interest in the journal I would like to start a page on members views about various things that are going on, in or out of the club. Also a classified section, you might like to advertise something for sale or business advertisement. This would help us to raise funds for a etter journal.

1984 Journal Editor

P Sammut

Paul Sammut

WE NEED YOUR TALENT

NOW

PRESIDENT'S REPORT '83.

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The year 1983, has been a year of moderate success for the club. The highlight undoubtedly being the completion of the Taplow Maze survey. To this end I would like to thank Terry & Louise for their endless enthusiasm, shown, not only this year, but over the many years since their taking over of the project. This survey program has enhanced the credibility of B.M.S.C. and I'm sure this inspired others to keep our club public profile as high as possible.

Although our long enduring Jenolan Gating program has been in abeyance this year, some positive steps were taken to ensure the construction of the Ian Carpenters Cave gate. The relocation and naming of the cave found by us in 1980 has ensured that another club project at Jenolan has been pursued in the year but without success. The caverns beyond the dig still eludes us but a completely revitalised attempt in the near future may yield the deserved rewards.

A constitution revision was carried out, which is at this moment ready for final ratification by the club. A complete beginners handbook is also being written to compliment the constitution.

The membership remained stable for most of the year, although towards the latter part of 1983, B.M.S.C. did entice the interest of a few possible club members. This trend I hope will continue throughout 1984 as the club does need new blood.

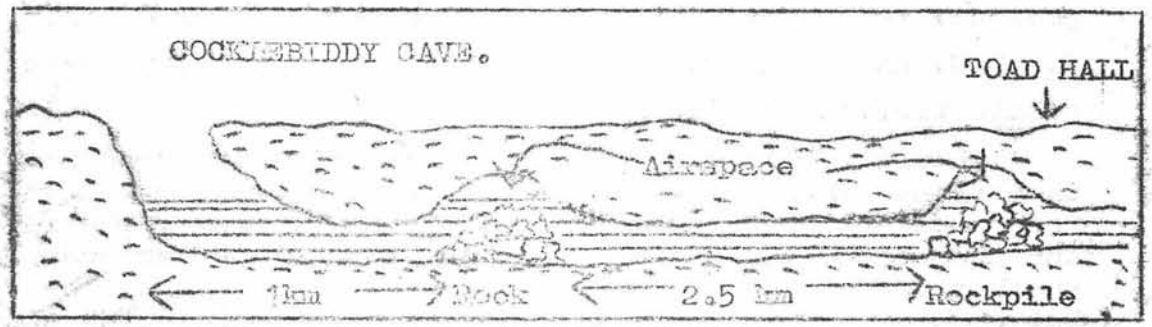
Being in posession of a photo-copier, we are in a position to ensure that the monthly newsletter does in fact appear monthly. Ways of maximizing its use should be investigated by the new committee as it is too valuable to lie around idle.

Finally I would like to thank the outgoing committee for their valuable assistance and support throughout the year and also a vote of thanks to every member who has in some way helped to make our club the success it is today.

Brian Skinn

President B.M.S.C. 1983

DESERT DIVERS



French divers claim to have set a new world record and reached the limits of the world's longest underwater cave - beneath Australia's Nullarbor Plain.

The cave, 6km long, is in a remote part of the Nullarbor, two hundred kilometres west of the W.A. border.

The French bid to explore the limits of Cocklebiddy Cave has been surrounded by controversy since the team arrived in Australia mid - July 1983.

The divers had hoped to attract Australian sponsorship to help the cost of their $200,000 expedition but instead walked into a diplomatic problem.

Cocklebiddy Cave is reached by a crater in the desert. Divers must first scramble over a descending pile of rubble and lower all their equipment to the point where the cave disappears below water level.

The cave is a tunnel, 10 metres high and 30 metres wide. It is totally submerged and for many years was used by out - lying sheep station as a source of fresh water.

The first exploratory dive in Cocklebiddy was not made until 1972.

CAVE FAUNA

PART 6 COCKROACHES:

Australian cavernicolous cockroaches belong to the order Blattodes. They are flat greasy insects with long spiny legs. Most of the Australian native cockroaches are wingless and in some species only the female has wings. The cosmopolitan species in Australia have been introduced from America, Asia and Europe.

They are found mainly under stones and logs and rotting wood, and like most insects that hide they are usually dull coloured with the exception of Polyzosteria viridissima which is an irridescent green. The majority of cockroaches prefer damp locations but a few species live in the desert areas.

Most of the cockroaches found in our caves are troglophiles but troglobitic species have been recorded. Trogloblatella nullarborensis is a completely blind cockroach with greatly elongated legs and antennae and has been recorded from several caves on the Nullabor Plains.

The following list is of cavernicolous species of cockroach found in Australia:-

Family Blattidae
Sub-family Polyzosteriinae
Genus Polyzosteria (Burmeister 1938).
There are 15 species belonging to this genus and two have been recorded from Australian caves.

P.mitchelli (Angas 1847) has been recorded from Warbla Cave and Kestrel Cavern, Nullarbor Plains.

P.pubescens (Tepper 1893) is an epigean species of the Nullarbor Plains but it has been recorded from Weebubbie Cave.
Polyzosteria sp. hasbeen recorded from Niggle Cave, Camooweal, Queensland.

Genus Zonioploca (Stal. 1874)
There arenine species in this genus and only one has been recorded from our caves (Mackerras 1965).
Z. medilinea (Tepper 1893) is an epigean species and it has been recorded from Warbla Cave, Nullarbor Plains.

Family Blattellidae
Sub-family Parcoblattini
Genus Gislenia (Princis 1954)
This genus has a wide cavernicolous distribution which extends from Qld. to Sth.Australia.
G. australica (Brunn 1865) has been recorded from caves, Glendue, Timor, Murder CL2, Cliefden, Marble, East Buchan, Victoria, Bat, Haystack, Naracoorte S.A.
Gislenia sp. has been recorded from Johannsens Caves Qld. Also recorded in Royal Arch cave, Chillagoe, Ashford, Comboyne, Hill Cave, Timor, Moparabah, Kempsey, Swallow, Cudgegong Caves.
Sp. indent recorded from Taplow Maze, Cliefden, Deep Hole and Piano caves Walli N.S.W.

CAVE FAUNA Cont.

GENUS NOVA

This is a monotypic genus and contains one troglobitic cockroach so far recorded in Australia.

Nova sp. has a short elytra and elongated wings, legs and antennae. The eyes are completly absent. The female cockroach measures up to 4cm in length. It has been recorded in several caves on the Nullarbor Plains.

Genus PARATEMNOPTERYX (Sauss 1869)

There are four species in this genus and only one has been recorded from Australian caves (Richards 1963).

P. atra (Princis 1963) recorded from a mine at Marble Bay W.A. At the time of collection there was no surface record of this species (Richard 1967).

Genus SHAWELLA (Princis 1951)

S. douglasi (Princis 1963) is a cave adapted species recorded from Drovers, Jurien Bay and Stockyard Gully W.A.

Shawella sp. is a tiny yellow adult with reduced eyes and delicate transparent vestigal wings. It has been recorded from the Royal Arch and Walkunder Caves Chillagoe, Qld.

On researching this article I came across some facts on cockroaches. Mainly about domestic cockroaches.

Cockroaches can do a great deal of damage and harm, because they feed on waste matter. They ingest or carry around on their bodies pathogenic germs, which pollute anything that comes into contact with them.

The following pathogenic fungi have been associated with cockroaches:-

Aspergillus fumigatus (Fresenius)

This fungus can cause inflammatory infection of the sinuses, bronchi and lungs. (Smith et al 1948)

Aspergillus niger (van Tieghem)

This fungus is predominantly saprophytic and can be found parasitic in the human ear.

Histoplasma capsulatum

This fungus causes pulmonary diseases in man. Experiements carried out in America showed that Histo. caps. organisms could be detected in the cockroaches intestinal contents thirty minutes after innoculation, but in the species of cockroach used for the experiment it was not a carrier of Histoplasmosis.

Cockroaches are carriers of the other two fungus Aspergillus fumigatus and Aspergillus niger.

Care should always be taken when handling cockroaches as they are also the carriers of a multitude of diseases. Cockroaches are capable of transmitting such diseases as anthrax in cattle, tetanus, tuberculosis in chickens, hookworm infections, several types of salmonella organisms and many more common gastric disorders.

In Asian countries there have been cases of cockroaches crawling into the nostrils and mouths of sleeping persons. Babies with stomach upsets, after given a purgative, many large cockroaches were recovered.

In Australia there was a case of a man who had his toe nails and the hard dry skin on his feet eaten off by roaches while he slept in an out bulding.I certainly don't think our cockroaches would be this horrific but I find that now I certainly treat them with a little more care.

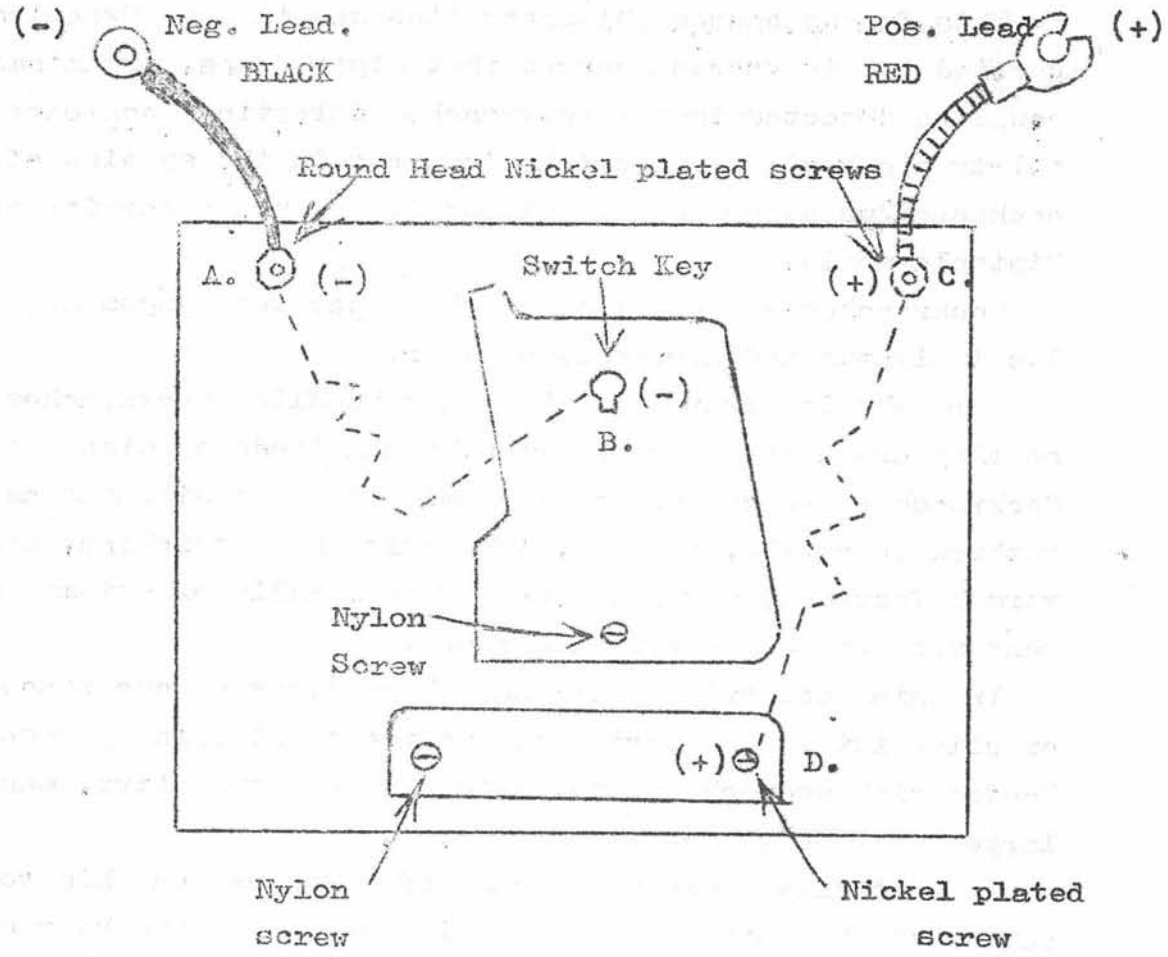
Louise & Terry Coleborn

This is the final part of Cave Fauna I have. I would like to thank Louise and Terry for the hard work they did to bring you the six part series of cave fauna.

With Many Thanks.

The Editor.

ASSEMBLY OF C.B.1 CAPLAMP CHARGING BOARD FOR 12volt SUPPLY



DIRECTIONS.

1. Connect one resistor across terminals A and B. Also connect to terminal A a negative lead, black 3mm flexible cable.

2. Connect the other resistor across terminals C and D. Also connect to terminal C a positive lead, red 3mm flex. cable.

NOTE: Each lead can be fitted with aligator clips to enable connection to a 12v car battery.
When charger is operating the resistore will become hot, so be sure nothing touches the resistors.

CHARGING: THe charger is a constant current type, input 12v D.C output is ½amp. The duration of charge is two to three times the length of operation i.e. lamp used for 4 hours - charge rate 8 to 12 hours. DO NOT over charge battery or damage will result.

Cont. next page.

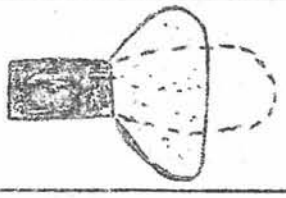
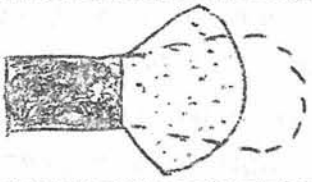
CAPLAMP CHARGING BOARD Cont.

IMPORTANT: Make sure that positive (+) lead goes to positive battery terminal or the largest terminal on your car battery. DO NOT connect pos. (+) to neg. (-). Fibrous board or circuit board is used for assembly.

++++++++++++++**----------**++++++++++++

AFTERMARKET LIGHTS.

Here is a simple diagram to show you the difference between the various types of, so called, driving lights. So you may choose the correct light for your style of driving.

FLOOD LIGHTS Short cut-off but greater spread	
DRIVING LIGHTS Builds-in and extends basic pattern	
SPOT LIGHTS Long-range, no spread	
FOG LIGHTS Same as Flood lights Can be white or amber	

Key: Normal head lights 

Aftermarket lights 

A CAVER'S GUIDE TO TAPLOW MAZE

By Terry and Louise Coleborn.

The survey of Taplow Maze was commenced several years ago as a B.M.S.C. Project. As we surveyed the cave we found its complexity and apparent endlessness seemed to be something only Tolkien could dream up and our trials and tribulations seemed at times to rival those of the Ring Bearer. It was to this end that we decided to name the sections of Taplow Maze according to Tolkien's, Lord of the Rings.

All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be the blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be King.

Taplow Maze is situated on the western side of the Belubula River across from the ruins on Davy's Flat. The entrance to Taplow is in an obvious doline on the side of the hill near a large gum tree surrounded by grass. It is interesting to note that there is very little rock outcropping here except for a few rocks at the actual entrance.

Taplow Maze is as the name implies a maze of interconnecting passages, most of which have a mud or earth floor. The greater percentage of the cave is seen by crawling although some sections actually allow one to walk for a while.

The entrance is a three meter vertical climb with plenty of foot and hand holds, then either a traverse across a five meter deep rift or a short ladder climb. The ladder can be set up at the logs wedged into the end of the rift. From the bottom of the rift the passage continues down a short climb and along the edge of three large holes in the floor. Beneath the first hole near the second lot of logs is the section known as The Dungeons of Cirith Ungol. At the end of this passage is an area of large collapsed rocks and a Danger Sign. From this point you choose the area you would like to see.

The Mines of Moria (Sectional Map No. 7) are off to your left around a large rock and through a squeeze. After the squeeze there is a small hole in the floor, this leads to a very short passage known as Bag End . Continue on across the right hand side of the rift until it turns to the left.

At this point two small passages lead off, the small passage off to the right leads down to a false floor, and a small hole in the floor provides access to some further passage. The passage straight ahead consists of an upper level of low passages, which eventually close off. The rift continues around to the left and from this passage a tight tunnel leads back to the Dungeons of Cirith Ungol.

It is at this point that it is necessary to climb down a four meter wall with plenty of footholes. After the climb down follow the first passage off to the right, the passage which continues on joins the upper level.

The passage on the right is low in places and requires crawling, firstly, across the Heart Beat Crawl so known because of the rhythmic beat produced by your knees thumping on the echoing rock. After a low squeeze the passage continues on down a steep slope into a large chamber with a ceiling height of six metexs. In the wet season there is a shallow sump on the left-hand side of the large rock in the centre of the chamber. At this point if you continue on passed the rock a narrow passage leads to a tight serpentinious passage known as The Horny Toad Round-a-Bout (Sectional Map No.1.) and this also ends up in the Dungeons of Cirith Ungol.

The way onto the Mines of Moria is to the right of the rock. At the top of the slope a very tight passage on your left leads to a sump called Barad-dur. This passage has a ninety degree bend and a very steep inclination and is difficult to get out of. Continue on and after a short distance a narrow rift leads off to the left, climb up this and at the top is an awkward climb to the Mines of Moria, this is the Dimrill Gate.

From the Dimrill Gate you may go in either direction as the passages both return to this point. The Mines of Moria have several interesting areas and by following the main passages these will all be seen. Some sections of this area have tree roots growing down into the crawl passages creating an unusual atmosphere. In one area known as GreyBeards End there is some large balls of fine tree roots lying loose on the floor. There are some areas of good decoration (for Taplow) and two sumps which both had 0.25 meters of water, even during the long drought when all other sumps in the cave were dry. The areas near the sumps have large mounds of calcite rafts and there is evidence that these sumps were 1.5 meters deep at some point of time. From the Dimrill Gate retrace your steps back to the Danger Sign.

To the right of the Danger Sign there is a duck under and this leads to the rest of the cave. This passage is between one and two meters in width and you are able to walk. The first three passages off to the right lead to the Dungeons of Cirith Ungol. The Dungeons are an area of interconnecting passages running underneath the entrance zone. One part of this section has a very awkward rift area known as The Crack of Doom. At the far end of the Dungeons near the entrance to the Horny Toad Round-a-Bout there is a small passage which leads to a very small chamber, which has a pile of beetle cases, this is Shelob's Lair.

For over the misty mountains cold
To dungeons deep and caverns old
We must away ere break of day
To seek the pale enchanted gold.

The main passage continues on past the three passages to the Dungeons to a T. junction. To the left is a dead end passage and the right leads on passed a hole in the left-hand wall known as the Ticket Office, to the Rat-a-Combs. This is a small area of one meter wide interconnecting passages and at the end is a five meter passage where we counted twenty eight animal skulls.

Back at the Ticket Office the main passage continues on passed the otherside of the Ticket Office. The main passage turns hard right and soon after this it is necessary to negotiate a low squeeze into a crawl passage known as the Drum Crawl because the sound made from the false floor sounds like the beat of a drum.

At the end of the Drum Crawl is a cross road. Straight ahead is the Nameless Path which leads to a small chamber with aragonite crys l. To the right is The Impossible Dream , which ends in the Swamp the deepest point of the cave. Those cavers of more generous proportions may find this area awkward to get out of at Jutt Point, because a rock projection narrows the passage down to 0.2 meters and it is necessary to negotiate the climb with the projection pushed into your stomach. There is a lizard skeleton in the small alcove near the beginning of the passage.

The passage to the left continues on to the remainder of the cave. A short walk along a narrow passage then turn off to the right and around a ninety degree bend is Rocky Point Road, which is a very narrow tunne with rock projections and a rock floor, which takes toll of knees and overalls. At the end of the nine meter torture is a two meter climb down into a large chamber.

To the left at the bottom a passage leads to The Land of Mordor (Sectional Map No. 5.) an area of small sandy passages with very little formation. There is one large chamber with a large rock in the centre known as The Throne Room.

Three rings for the Elven-kings under the sky,
Seven for the Dwarf-lords in their halls of stone,
Nine for Mortal Men doomed to die,
One for the Dark Lord on his dark throne,
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.
One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them,
One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them,
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.

At the end of the large chamber the cave continues on by either climbing up a narrow rift or by crawling under a tight squeeze. After the squeeze the passage divides, the right goes on to Gwaihir, which is an upper level of two rifts and a large low chamber with a ceiling height of 0.6 meters, the Leprechauns Den. This section has some formation and of special interest is the area of small black straws.

The passage to the left after the squeeze leads to another squeeze and then a short climb up a slope to a medium sized chamber, the Ante Room. At this point there is some lovely formation such as the Upside Down Funnel . On the left-hand side of the Ante Room chamber there is a small hole which leads on to Frog Hollow and Rivendell. (Sectional Map No.4) The passage from here is a low crawl and muddy at all times. After a short crawl down through Frog Hollow there is a high level passage off to the right, this passage leads to Taplow Alps which is a well decorated area of flowstone and rimstone pools.

Just after the passage to Taplow Alps there is a T. junction, to the left is a narrow passage which curves its way to Wits End and is known as Via the Corkscrew. The passage to the right is through the Chock-a-Block Squeeze, which is a large rock blocking the middle of the passage and it has to be crawled over. After the squeeze a short crawl and a duck under brings you to Wits End a large rock collapsed chamber. Off to the right after the duck under is the B.M.S.C. Dig.

It is necessary at this point to retarce your steps back to the main passage on the otherside of Rocky Point Road. In the chamber before the climb up to Rocky Point Road there is an upper level passage which requires an agile approach to reach it and is known as Ricky's Hole. This upper level passage is a very wet and muddy area.

The way on from the main passage continues on the right until the passage widens and there is a large rock in the middle of the passage. From here several passages lead off, the passage to the right leads to the Blessed Realm, this section has tight triangular shaped passages and the walls are entirely covered with sharp cave coral. Of interest to the small caver would be the Coral Snake which is a tight, serpentinious rift covered in cave coral. The passage to the left is a low crawl and leads into a small chamber from where another short crawl leads into the Metro.

The Metro (Sectional Map No. 2.) consists of large chambers with several levels of passage to each chamber. From the bottom chamber a short climb upwards leads to Taplow Station. To the left end of Taplow Station there is a tight passage, which eventually ends up back at the rock collapsed chamber near the Danger Sign at the entrance chambers. At the other end of Taplow Station, one passage leads down to the left and at the end of this passage there is a miniature version of Taplow Station known as Taplow Siding. Back at the end of Taplow Station the passage to the right leads upwards to a T. junction, to the right a tight squeeze leads into a large chamber, which connects back through a hole in the wall high up in Taplow Station. To the left a passage leads onto Central Station then onto the Crystal Oasis and finally through to a rock collapsed chamber, which is near the rock collapse in the Railway Tunnel. The rift beside Central Station leads down into a small chamber just before the Railway Tunnel.

Back in the main passage the tunnel straight ahead leads to the Railway Tunnel (Sectional Map No.6) via any of several branches, all of which end up in a small chamber with a rock collapse at the far end. The entrance to the Railway Tunnel is up through the rocks at the end of the chamber. The Railway Tunnel is by far the largest chamber in Taplow Maze and it is divided into two sections by a rock and earth bridge at the bottom of the rockpile. This bridge is known as the Saddle. It is possible to negotiate a tight passage underneath the Saddle but it is far easier to climb over it. Off to the right of the Saddle a passage enters which eventually connects back to the main passage of the Blessed Realm.

On the otherside of the Saddle the tunnel narrows into a huge rift which has a very muddy floor. There are several openings high on the right hand wall and these lead to small interconnecting passages known as The Galleries, the entrance of which is the third and lowest of these passages. Directly opposite the entrance to the Galleries on the left hand wall is a low passage partially filled with mud, which continues for some ten meters.

At this point the Railway Tunnel widens and continues on over a rock fall to the final section of the tunnel. Three passages lead off at the end, the first being Snake Hole, which leads off to the right from the very end of the tunnel and as the name implies it has small, tight and circular pasages which quickly choke off.

To the left behind a large boulder the passage continues on over a boulder strewn floor, then narrows down to two squeezes, one going to the left and upwards into a small chamber, Kevins' Hide-a-way and the other straight ahead and doen also into a small rock floored chamber, which has not been fully explored.

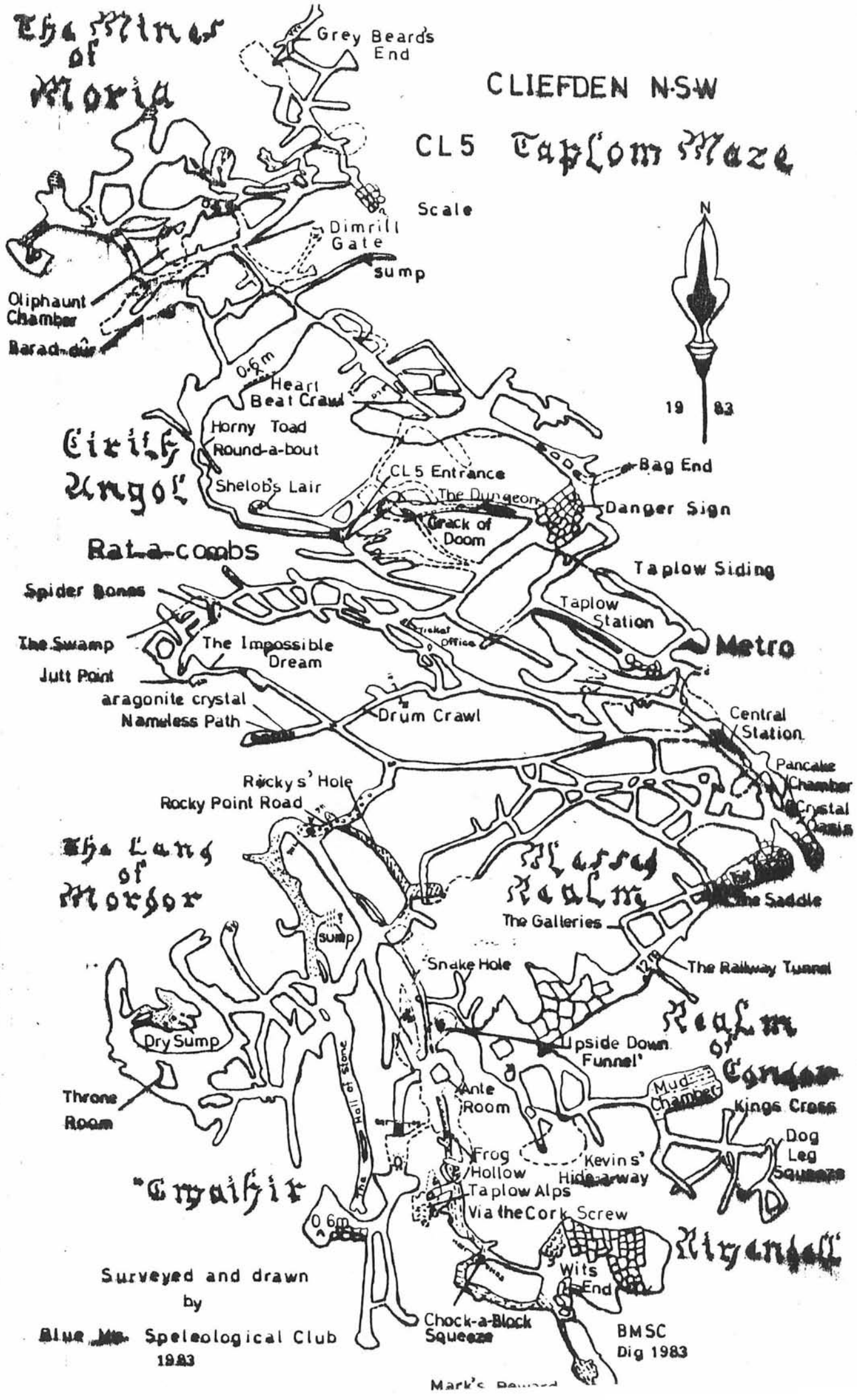
Back in the main tunnel another passage leads down behind a boulder right next to the left hand wall, this being the Realm of Gondor. A short climb leads into a small mud floored chamber where two passages lead off, one follows a narrow rift to the left and the other a mud slope to the right. Both passages converge into one and a narrow rift ads into the Mud Chamber , which is a large low chamber with a mud floor.

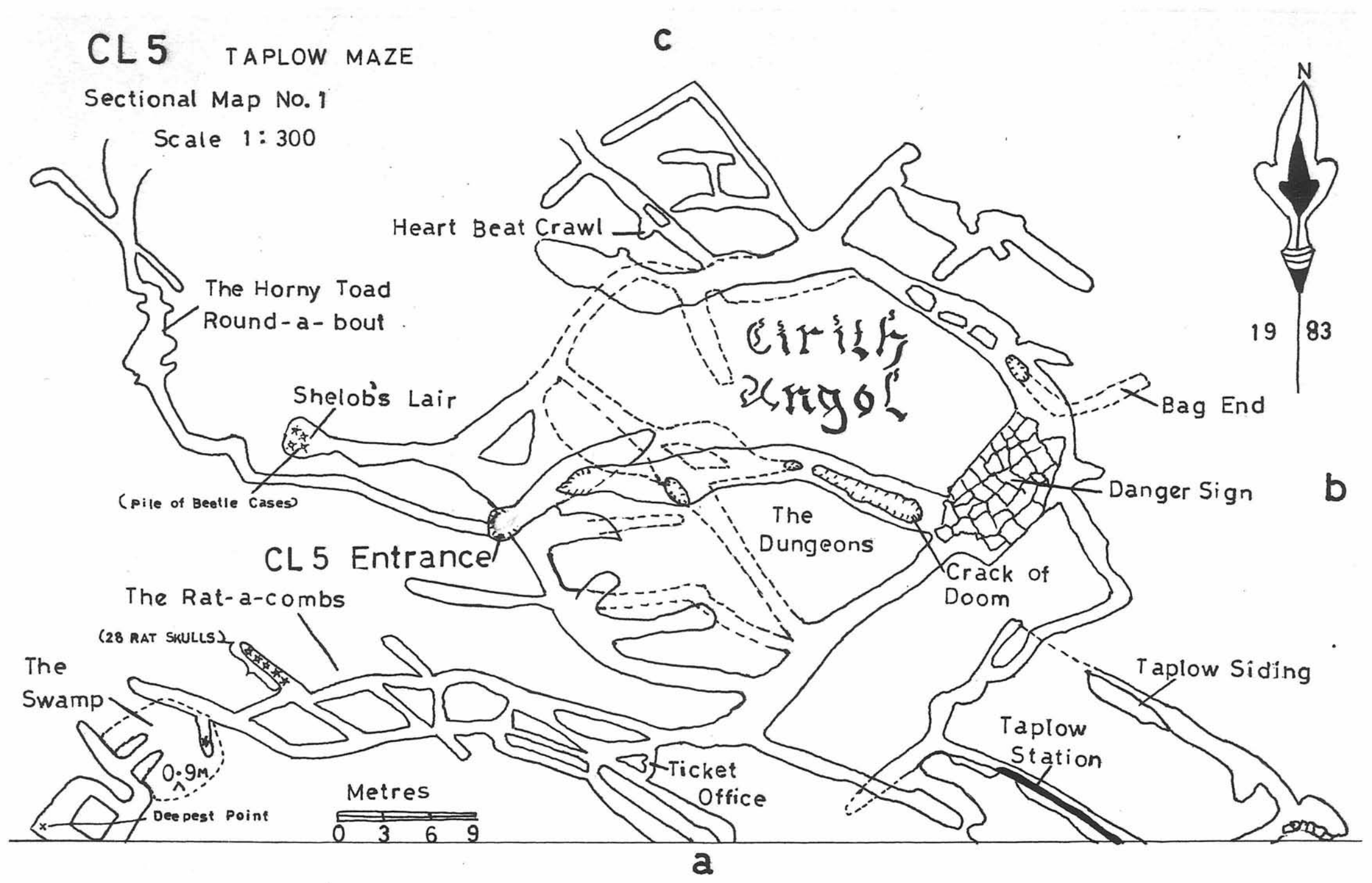
The passage continues to the right, then to the left through a hole at the base of the wall, this leads down to the rift section known as King's Cross. The passage to the right and left of King's Cross choke off as does the passage straight ahead. By climbing down at the junction the passage continues onto the Dog Leg Squeeze which seems to represent a large problem to most cavers asit is exceptionally awkward to negotiate. Passed this point the passages choke off in dirt and mud fills.

There is a substantial breeze through the Dog Leg Squeeze and this section represents the best possibilities for extending the cave.

The road goes ever on and on
Out from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the road has gone,
Let others follow it who can!
Let them a journey new begin,
But I at last with weary feet
Will turn towards the lighted inn,
My evening rest and sleep to meet.

Still around the corner there may wait
A new road or a secret gate;
And though I oft have passed them by,
A day will come at last when I
Shall take the hidden paths that run
West of the Moon, East of the Sun.


The Mines of Moria
Grey Beards End
CLIEFDEN N.S.W
CL5 Taplom Maze
Scale
N
19 83
Dimrill Gate
sump
Oliphaunt Chamber
Barad-dûr
0.6m
Heart Beat Crawl
Horny Toad
Round-a-bout
Shelob's Lair
CL5 Entrance
The Dungeon
Crack of Doom
Bag End
Danger Sign
Cirith Ungol
Rat-a-combs
Taplow Siding
Spider Bones
Taplow Station
Trekkat Office
Metro
The Swamp
The Impossible Dream
Jutt Point
aragonite crystal
Nameless Path
Drum Crawl
Central Station
Pancake Chamber
Ricky's' Hole
Rocky Point Road
The Lang of Morgor
Realm
The Saddle
The Galleries
sump
Snake Hole
The Railway Tunnel
Realm of Gondor
Dry Sump
Upside Down Funnel'
Throne Room
Ante Room
Mud Chamber
Kings Cross
Dog Leg Squeeze
Hall of Stone
Frog Hollow
Kevin's Hide-away
Taplow Alps
Via the Cork Screw
Cirith Ungol
0.6m
Rivendell
Wits End
Surveyed and drawn by
Blue Mts. Speleological Club
1983
Chock-a-Block Squeeze
BMSC Dig 1983
Mark's Reward


CL5 TAPLOW MAZE
Sectional Map No. 1
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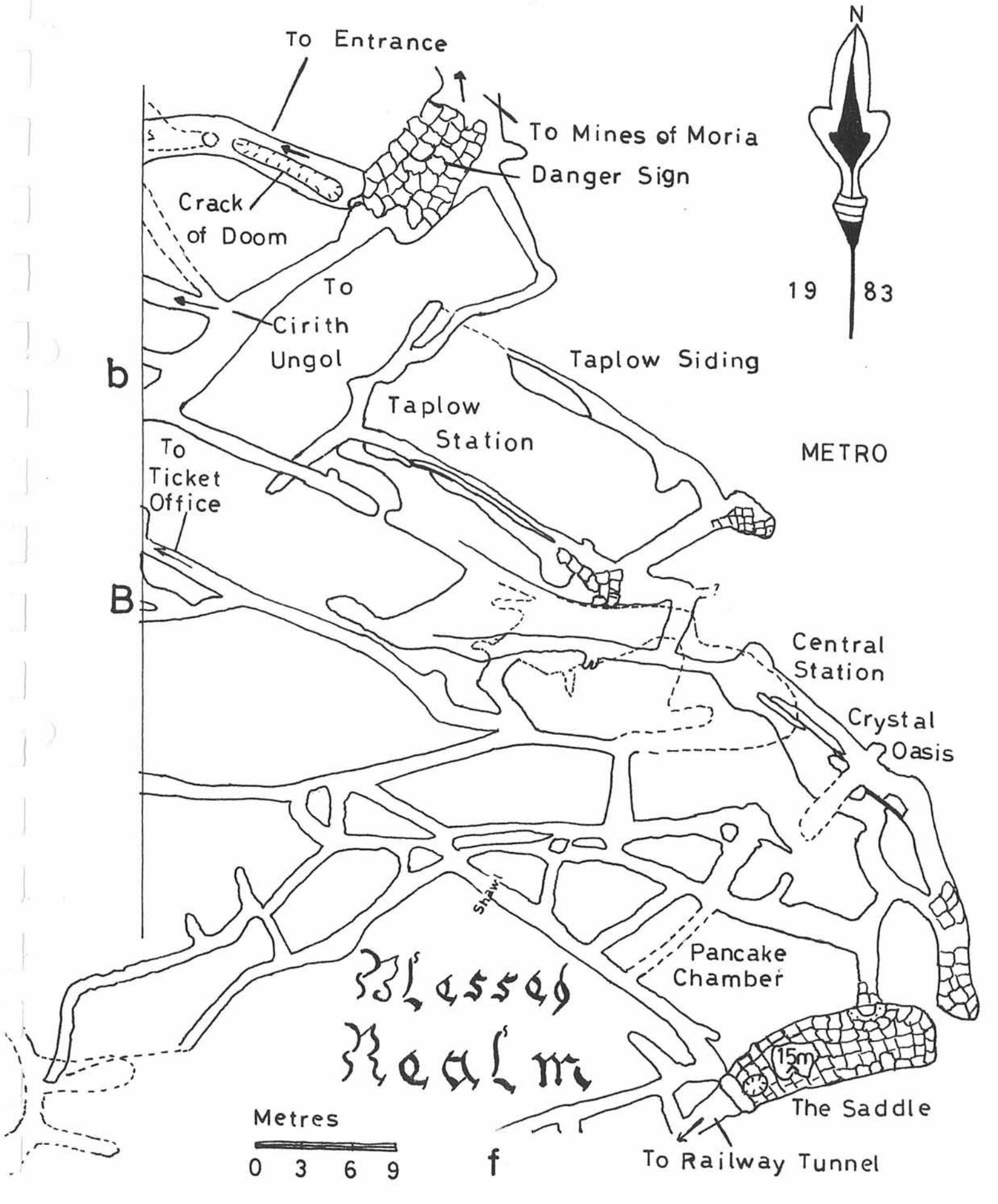
N
19 83
Heart Beat Crawl
The Horny Toad
Round-a-bout
Shelob's Lair
(Pile of Beetle Cases)
Cirith Angol
Bag End
Danger Sign
b
The Dungeons
CL5 Entrance
Crack of Doom
The Rat-a-combs
(28 RAT SKULLS)
The Swamp
Taplow Siding
Taplow Station
0·9M
Deepest Point
Metres
0 3 6 9
Ticket Office
a

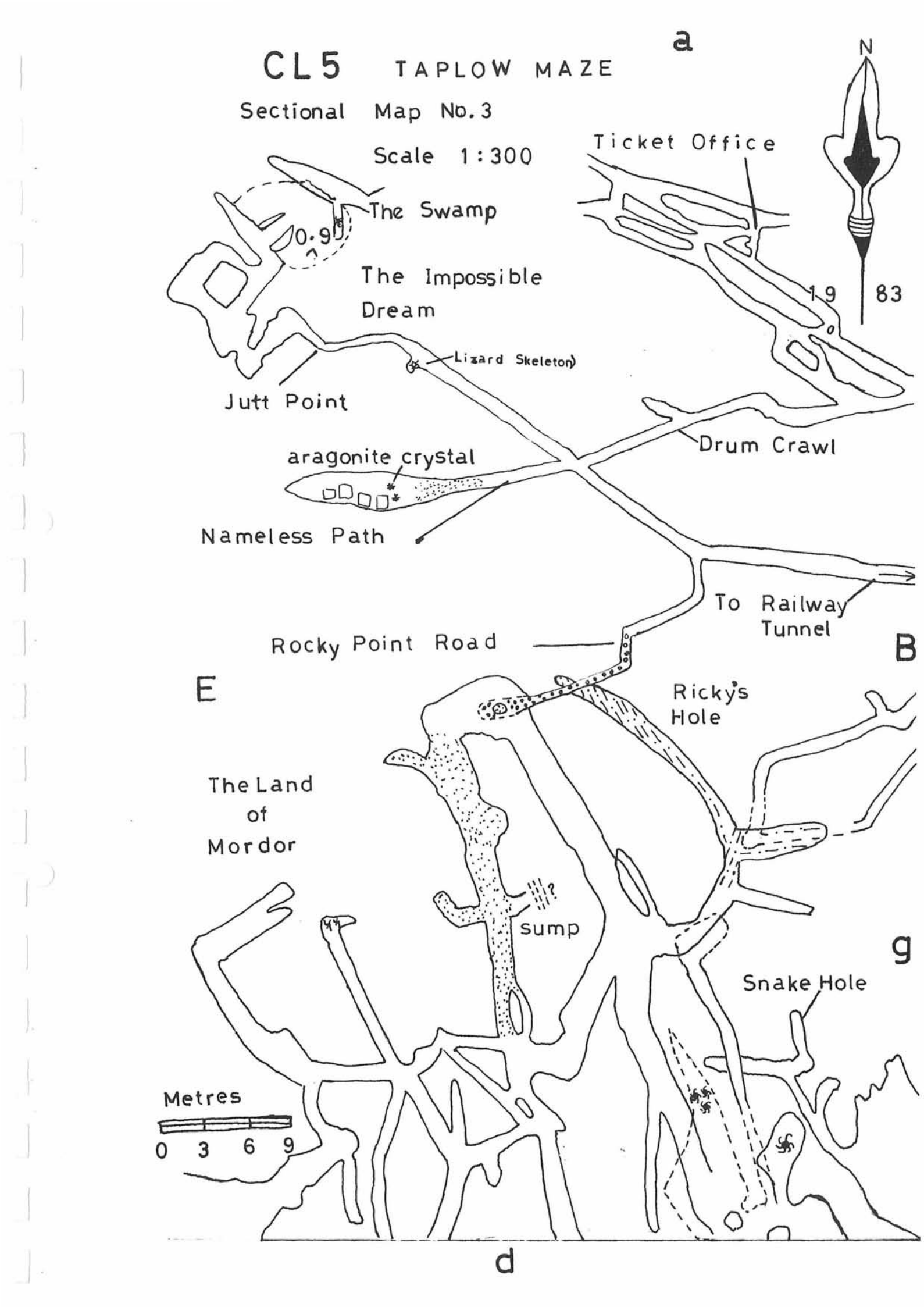
a

CL5 TAPLOW MAZE

Sectional Map No.2

Scale 1 : 300

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CL5 TAPLOW MAZE
Sectional Map No. 3
Scale 1:300
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Ticket Office
The Swamp
0.9
The Impossible Dream
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83
Lizard Skeleton
Jutt Point
Drum Crawl
aragonite crystal
Nameless Path
To Railway Tunnel
Rocky Point Road
B
E
Ricky's Hole
The Land of Mordor
sump
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Snake Hole
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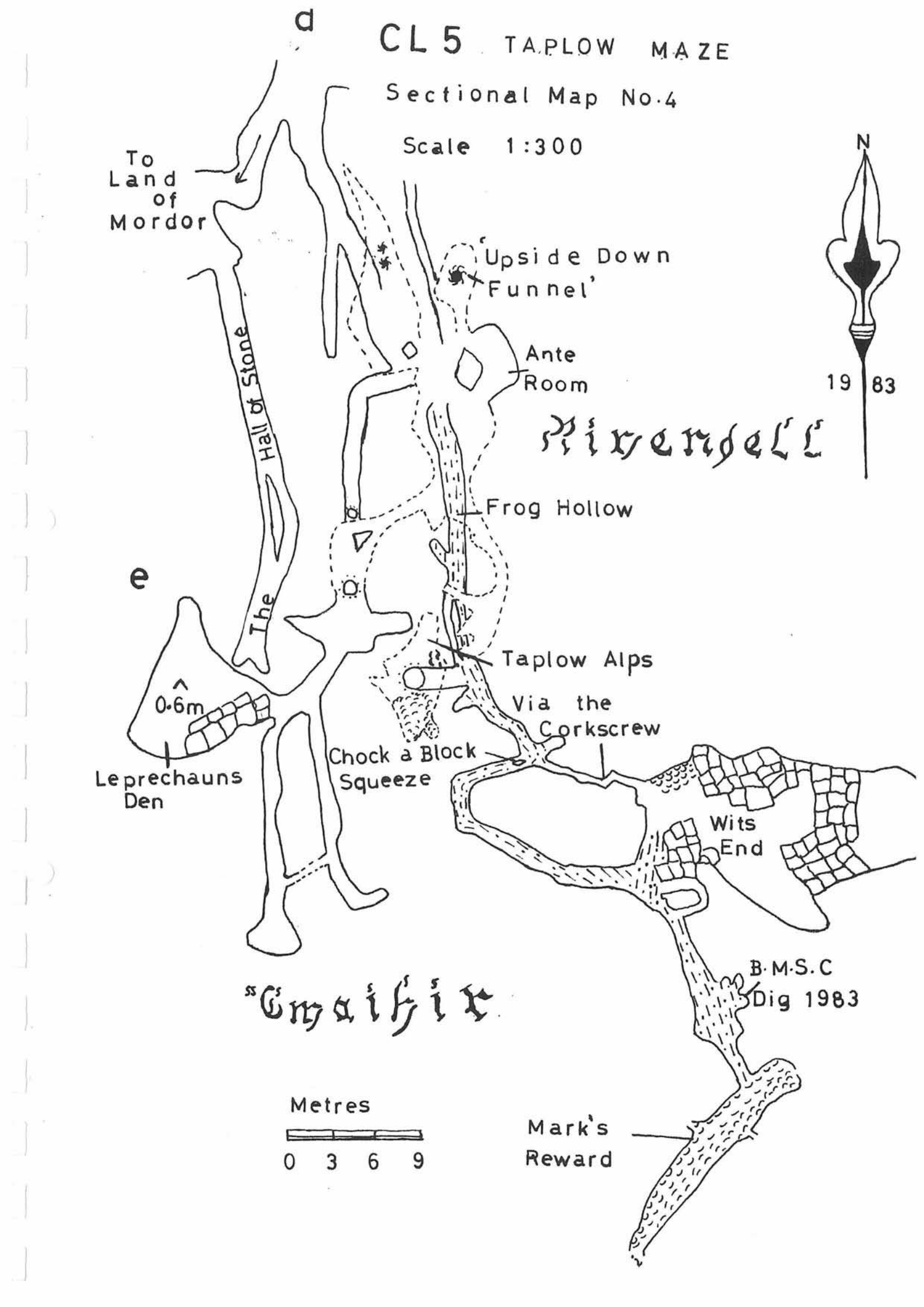
d
CL 5 TAPLOW MAZE
Sectional Map No.4
Scale 1:300
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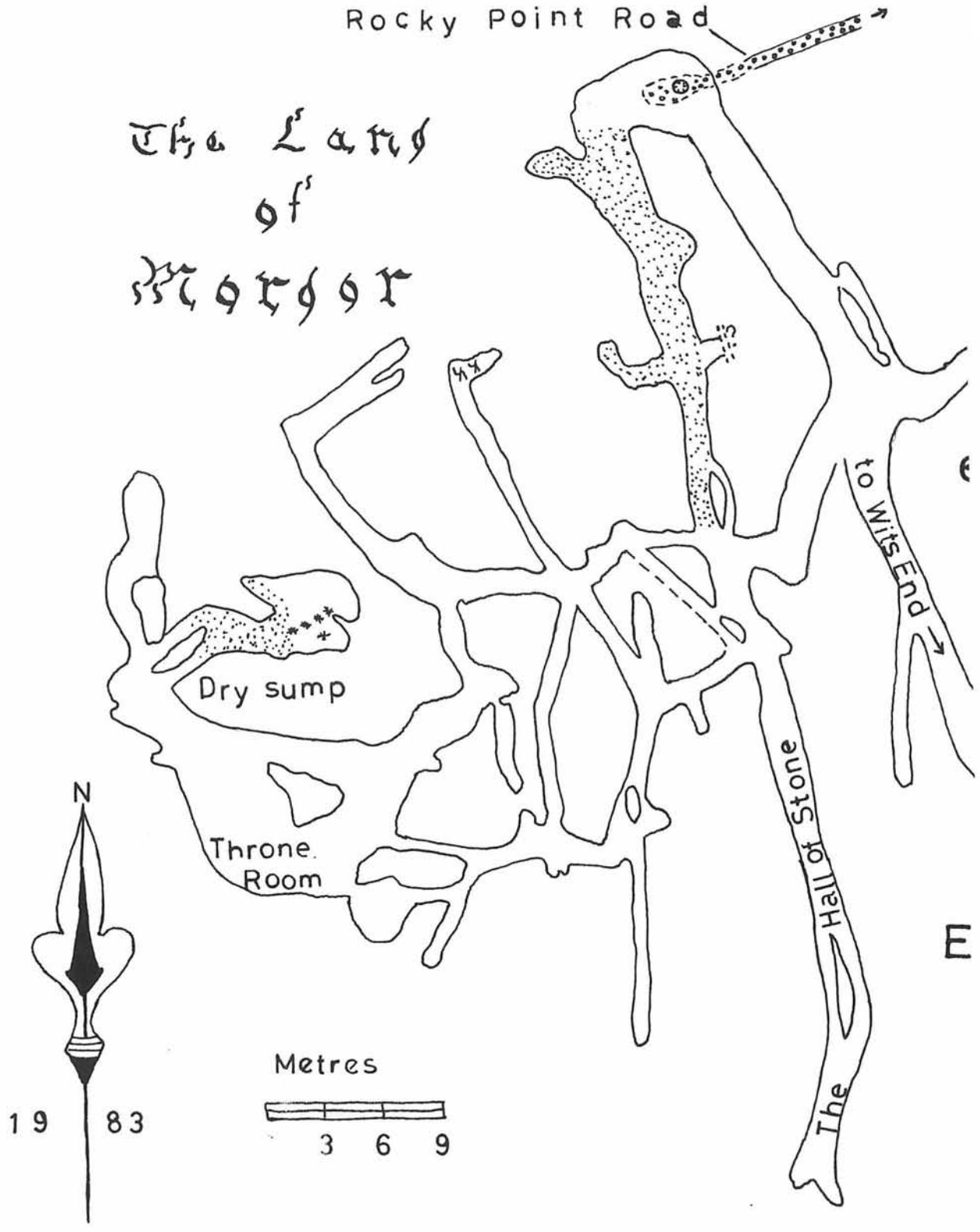
19 83
To Land of Mordor
'Upside Down Funnel'
Ante Room
Hall of Stone
The
Rivendell
Frog Hollow
e
Taplow Alps
Via the Corkscrew
0.6m
Chock a Block Squeeze
Leprechauns Den
Wits End
B.M.S.C Dig 1983
Gwaihir
Metres
0 3 6 9
Mark's Reward

CL 5 TAPLOW MAZE

Sectional Map No.5

Scale 1:300



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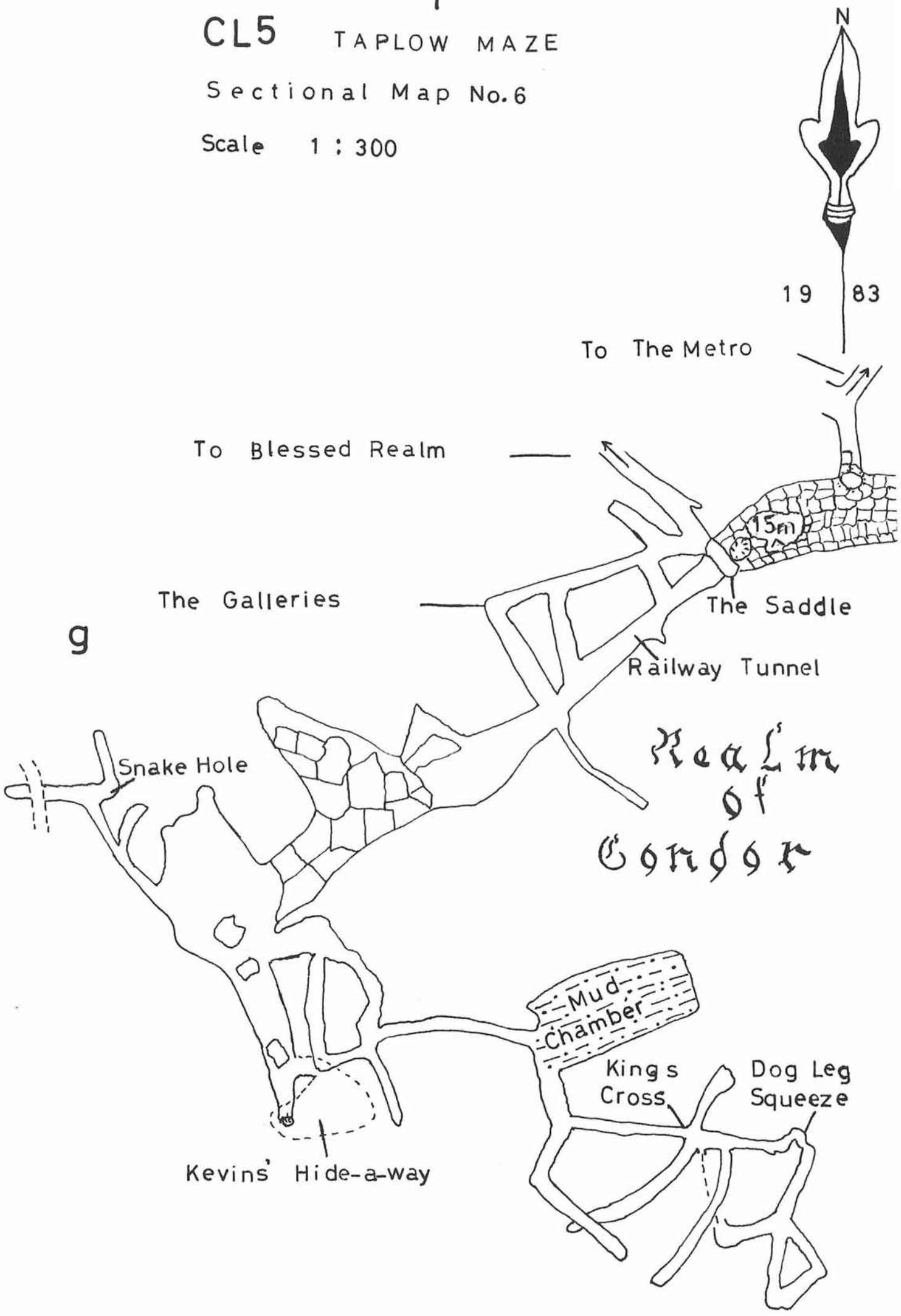
CL5 TAPLOW MAZE

Sectional Map No.6

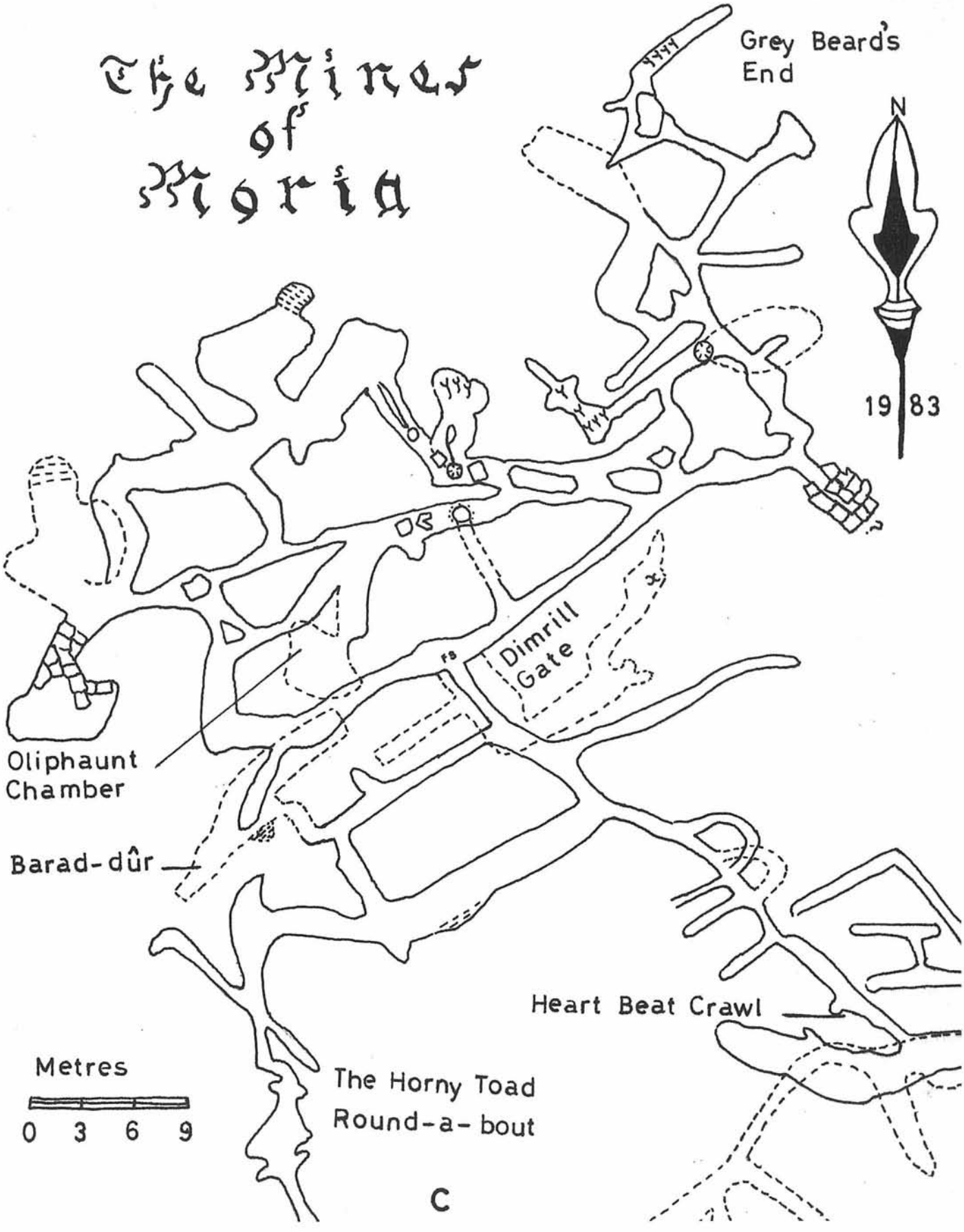
Scale 1 : 300



CL 5 TAPLOW MAZE

SECTIONAL MAP NO. 7

Scale 1 : 300



TRIP REPORTS.

****

CLIEFDEN.

Date: 5th & 6th November 1983.
Aim: Continue the Taplow Survey.
Members: Terry Coleborn (TL), Brian Skinn, Louise Coleborn.
Visitors: Stewart Nelson, Kevin Coleborn, Gary Coleborn.
Report:

We arrived Saturday morning, Brian and Stu had arrived Friday night.

Finding our way through the dense thistles we eventually arrived at Taplow entrance. We headed down to the Railway Tunnel and then down to the O. Section of Kings X to complete the survey and detailing of the O. Section. When we completed this, Stu and Brian tried to get through the Dog Leg Squeeze but without success, however, we did establish that there is a definite breeze blowing through the Squeeze.

Back in the Railway Tunnel we had a quick look along the side walls for any previously overlooked. We managed to locate a floor level tunnel off the opposite side to the galleries, which closes off in mud after about 10 meters.

We headed back to the hut and cleaned it then went home.

7 7 hours was spent underground.

****

CLIEFDEN.

Date: 4th & 5th December 1983.
Aim: To finish the Taplow Survey.
Members: Terry Coleborn (TL), Louise Coleborn
Visitors: Kevin Cheney, Kevin & Gary Coleborn
Report:

The weekend was spent detailing the Railway Tunnel floor and survey and detail the two passages which were found on previous trips. The passage near Snake Hole is called Kevins Hide -a-way.

TRIP REPORT CONT.

At the end of the passage off Stat. 33 there is a tight squeeze in a small chamber, with holes in the floor which appear to go down some distance.

Taplow has now had all accessible passages surveyed. The Taplow map will be completed and sent to OSS by January then we will comence our survey of CL31 and surface traverse.

Underground 10 Hours

****

CLIEFDEN.

Date: 2nd & 3rd March 1984
Aim: Survey CL 31.
Members: Louise & Terry Coleborn, Ricky Brett, Richard Hyslop,
Visitor: Kevin & Gary Coleborn, Kevin Cheney, Lisa Calloway, Alex Hyslop.
Report:

CL 31 is a vertical system with a large collapsed chamber at the bottom. After climbing in the entrance a short drop leads to the floor of a small chamber where there are two small holes in the floor leading to the rest of the cave. The drop through the squeeze is 2 meters to a slope leading to the top of the pitch.

This pitch is down a long rift about 0.5m to 1m wide. Half way down there is a rock choke in the rift and about 2 metres from the bottom the climb is into another rift.

From the bottom of the pitch a duck under leads to a large chamber with a ceiling height of 1.5m to 2metres. While surveying and detailing this section I asked Kevin Cheney, who was checking out one of the passages, how wide it was and his reply was "about me and a half". I wonder what grade mapping we could claim with so accurate a measurement. This chamber is very wet on the far sideand down the passages there is small decorations.

TRIP REPORT CONT.

Getting out proved interesting, firstly a good size rock had some how dropped down from above and was hanging on the top of the ladder pitch and any movement of the ladder set it rocking. Getting Louise out proved a little difficult. Eventually with Rick pulling one arm and Terry the other and Kevin Cheney pushing my feet I was finally extracted like a cork from a bottle.

After we were all out we walked over to a kurrajong tree on CI 50-51 Bluff for lunch. On the way over we came across a large doline. We feel that this doline could be above the chamber in CI 31.

After lunch Rick took a group into the Mines of Moria to check the sump levels, they had risen 3cm since our last trip there in 1983.

Sunday was spent in Taplow checking for possible leads. April trip we intend to carry out more work in this section searching for a possible extension as this is the area which has the noticable breeze.

Hours Underground:

Ricky Brett.....12hours
Lisa Calloway.....5hours
Kevin Cheney.....12hours
Gary Coleborn.....5hours
Kevin Coleborn.....12hours
Louise Coleborn.....4hours
Terry Coleborn.....6hours

Louise Coleborn

TRIP REPORT CONT.

JENOLAN.

Date: 24th & 25th March 1984

Aim: Exploration of Mammoth Cave.

Members: Brian Skinn (TL), Jack Charley, Stu Nelson, Phil Cooper, Mark and Chris Warburton, Gary McGuigan, Peter Kypers.

Visitors: Rosie Ritsch and Heather Bourne.

Report:

The entrance was very wet and muddy especially for the first two or three, and then fairly reasonable for the tailing party. Why was I at the very front? I ask myself, as I found myself indulging in some close contact with the mud desperately trying to be quick with the gate.

We progressed to the Horseshoe Cavern, then on to the Railway Tunnel, accomplishing a faily good touristy type feel to the trip. The cave being more wet and muddy than usual , we stopped at the descent leading on to the 90 footer, turned around and made our way back to the forty footer then on to Oolite Cavern. Three members crossed the lower river without getting wet. Stu, Jack and Phil found their way into the first Rockfall but alas no further.

The return trip being fairly uneventful found us pushing for daylight only six hours after entry. The next day saw some of us trogging up the valley.

Hours underground

6 hours for all.

Ground trog hours:

Brian Skinn, Jack Chorley, Stu Nelson, Phil Cooper, Mark Warburton, Peter Kypers, all 2 hours trogging.

Brian Skinn.


WHO SAID I COULDN'T GET THIS FAR! THEY DON'T CALL ME GC FOR NOTHING OR IS THAT JC?
SUBARU
HELP!

OOLITE

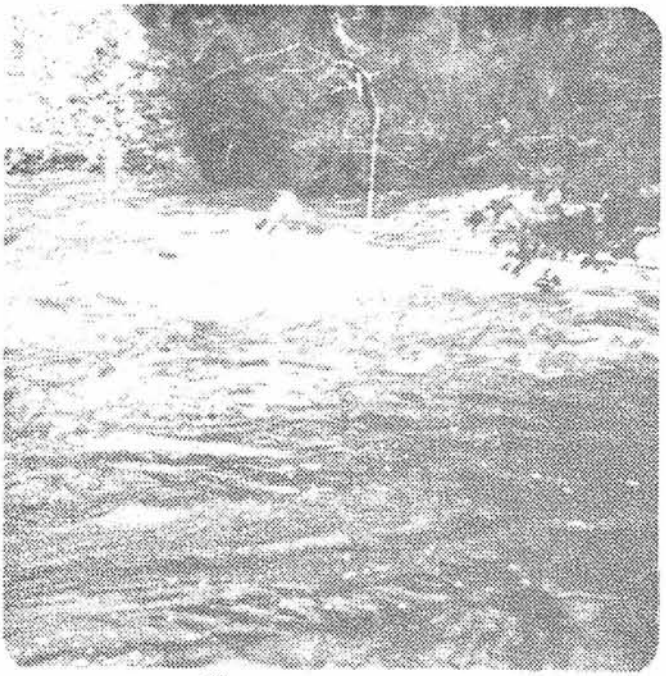
Journal of

Blue Mountains Speleological Club

Vol. 14 No. 2

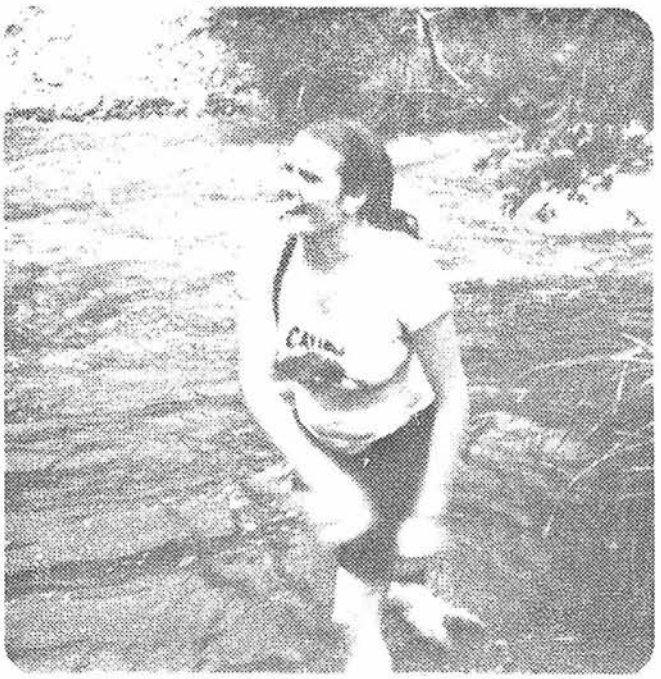
JOURNAL EDITOR "WHANBENE '76" LIONEL

GOING



GONE

"WELL SHE WAS THERE" (TUGLOW '76)



"HERE I AM EVERYONE"

OOLITE

Journal of the Blue Mountains Speleological Club.

Post Office Box 37,
Glenbrook N.S.W. 2773

VOL. 14/2 JULY 1984.

CONTENT

Edited and Published for B.M.S.C. by Paul Sammut.

Subscriptions and Journal exchange enquiries to be directed to the Secretary, Blue Mountains Speleo Club, P.O. Box 37, Glenbrook, N.S.W. 2773

Publication Date: July 1984, for 1984 July meeting.

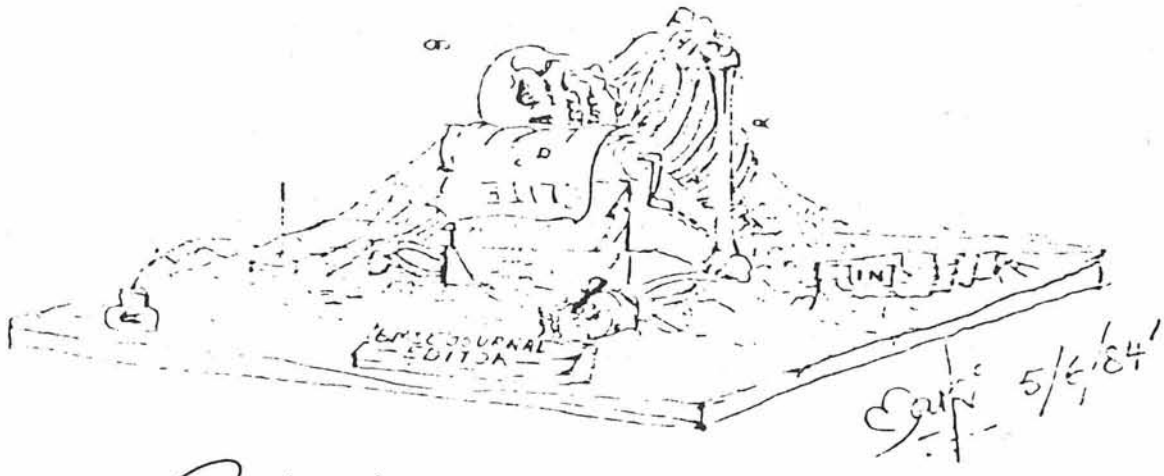
INTRODUCTION

This issue of our club journal is the latest way in getting a better journal. It has been Photo Copied, to ensure high quality in printing. We can now print photographs, drawings, etc.

Now all we need is for the rest of the club members to get off their tails and send in publishable material along with photos.

Editor
Paul Sammut.

'B.M.S.C JOURNAL EDITOR WAITING FOR NEW MATERIAL TO COME IN!'



5/6/'64'

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN. SEND JOURNAL MATERIAL WITH PHOTOGRAPHS NOW.'

A HELICTITE IS BORN

One of the theories of helictite formation is the pressure idea. Water under pressure within the limestone is forced out via a small crack or hole. The calcite in solution will then start forming the helictite. The difference from stalactite or shawl formation is the pressure aspect. Because of this the helictite is able to grow against gravityand unlike a stalactite with its newest part at the tip, a helictite has its oldest part at the tip. It is forced out like toothpaste from a tube. Branching can occur when pressure drives water out through the original helictite.

This theory was proven on the recent Jenolan trip (12th May 1984) led by Brian. Stewart and Mick disappeared into a very tight duckunder beneath the "Cobra" false floor in Hennings Cave. They called for us to follow. I could hear the squirt, squirt, squirtas I entered the squeeze from about 4 metres away. The chamber was certainly beautiful and well worth the effort getting in, but we were drawn towards the noise which resembled a high pitched frogs croak. If it wasn't for the noise, this little piece of creation would have been overlooked amid the magnificent formations all around us.

Tree roots(very thin) had created a small column with helictites attached. At the base of the small column where the noise was coming from could be seen the water squirting out in time to the noise. It was actually coming out from the side of an existing helictite.

Perhaps the tree root was speeding up the process by providing extra pressure to cause the noise that attracted our attention. This process is probably going on all around us in caves but without the sound, we don't notice it.

This experience was certainly one of the highlights of my caving career.

GREG POWELL.

Scientists to hunt old bones

BRISBANE. - White Australians will set foot on two remote north - west Queensland plateaus for the first time later this year when an expedition explores ancient fossils now exposed by centuries of erosion.

Dr Michael Archer, senior lecturer of zoology at the University of New South Wales, will lead a scientific team into a giant prehistoric graveyard in the Gulf region.

The natural debris of centuries has slowly been pulled aside to provide a chance to peer through a scientific window into worlds long - since vanished.

Dr Archer's team left in May to look for fossil bones of primitive kangaroos and bandicoots, giant browsing marsupials, and huge snakes and crocodiles, locked for 15 million years in Miocene limestone and now stripped of their cover.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC BASICS

What Makes Cameras Click?

In 1839, in a letter to Fox Talbot, the inventor of the negative, Sir John Herschel suggested that the new image making process be called 'Photography'. This he derived from the Greek 'photos' (light) and 'graphos' writing. In other words: writing with light.

In a relatively short time photography has caught on to such an extent that it is now part of our lives. In Australia, statistics show that there are now one and a half cameras in the home and that the average family takes over a hundred pictures a year.

But the principles of camera design go back to the 4th century BC when Aristotle noted the initial discovery that light entering through a small hole into a darkened room, would form an image of the outside scene on the opposite wall. Startling stuff, especially puzzling as the picture appeared *upside down.*

Practical applications seemed a bit slow in starting, but eventually along came Leonardo Da Vinci to urge the greater use of this knowledge as an artist's aid to perspective.

By the 16th century, our ancestors had discovered that a convex spectacle lens used in place of the small hole gave a brighter and sharper picture which greatly facilitated tracing the outlines of buildings, landscapes and still life subjects.

The apparatus was called a camera obscura. A term introduced by the Italians and meaning a dark room. This was a popular tool with artists right up until Victorian times, when the problems of permanently capturing the image were finally solved.

Sedan Chair Camera

Because of the demand for more and more practical applications of the camera obscura, developments were continually being made to make the apparatus more portable.

Initial efforts were still clumsy and even included a tent and a sedan chair version; but eventually the problems of compactness were overcome.

The period of development was of immense benefit to the future of photography as when in the earlier part of the 19th century, Frenchman Niepse and Englishman Fox Talbot solved the problems of image retention, camera design was already developed to a relatively sophisticated stage.

Albeit, early cameras were still large and clumsy, but after the successful introduction of the dry plate, the camera was finally freed from the encumbrances of the darkroom tent and the way was freed for a host of compact and comparatively easy to operate cameras.

In 1888, George Eastman launched the Eastman Kodak Company with a new concept, a new camera and a catchy slogan: "You press the shutter, we do the rest".

This was also a fashionable period for compact novelty cameras disguised as pocket watches and books, or concealed inside the heads of walking sticks, or even to hats.

Named 'Detective Cameras', after their successful use by the London police force, some of the more nove forms even appeared disguised as revolvers.

Stereoscopic cameras were very popular in the 1890's but camera design resolved itself into three basic types:

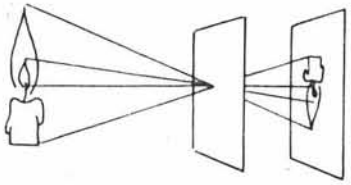
- viewfinder cameras,
- single lens reflex cameras,
- twin lens reflexes.

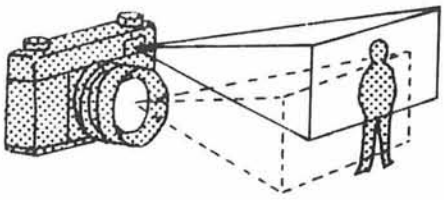
What's In A Camera

Although there have been many refinements over the years, the bas concept of a camera has remained unchanged. It is just a light-tight bo with provision to allow light to ente in a controlled manner to strike a light sensitive material. Even the idea of developing the picture insid the camera was tried in 1890, long before Dr. Land and his Polaroid camera.

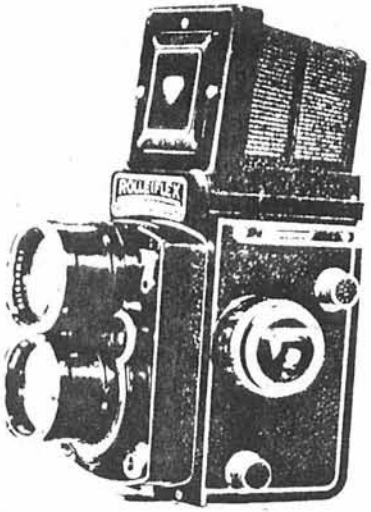
The main components consist of a lens to bend the light into a point of focus; a diaphragm to control th *amount* of light to enter; a shutter t control the *duration* of the light allowed to enter; a method of holding a light sensitive film; and a viewing system. The camera may o may not have a focusing system.

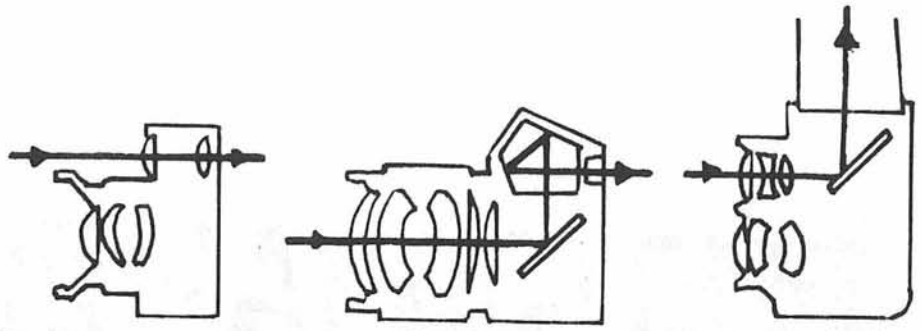
Principle of the Pinhole Camera.



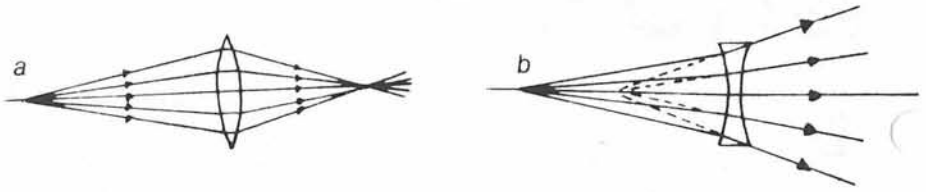


Parallax error.

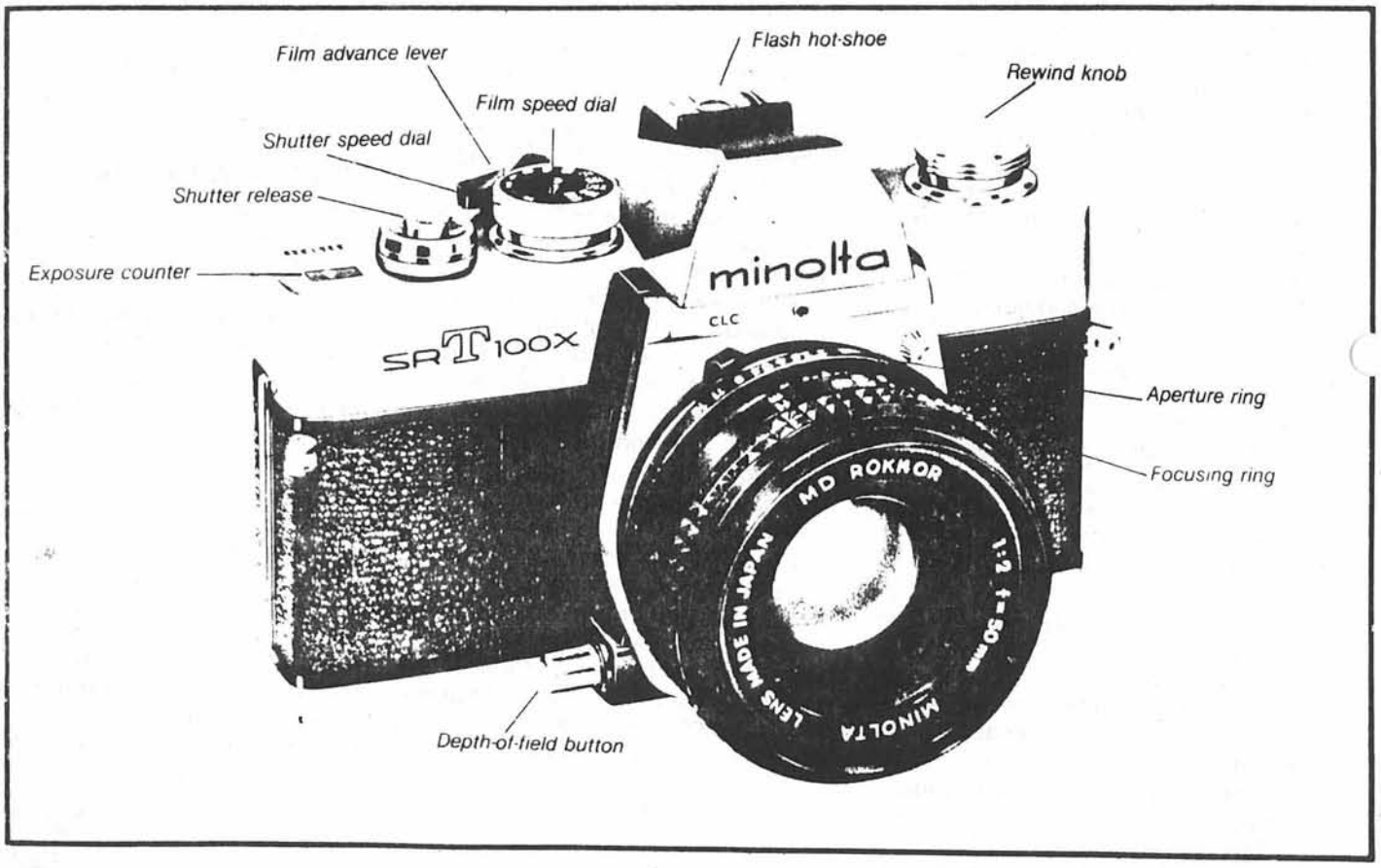




Direct view camera | Single lens reflex | Twin-lens reflex



Refraction of light by (a) convex lens, (b) concave lens.



PHOTOGRAPHIC BASICS

The Lens

In outer space, light travels at about 300,000km per second, but in air it travels a little slower and in a solid medium such as glass it travels slower still.

When a narrow beam of light strikes a block of glass with flat parallel surfaces at right angles, it passes straight through at a reduced speed and regains its original speed immediately after coming out.

If the beam strikes a triangular glass prism, the light beam is bent towards the base of the prism on entry and again on leaving.

The ratio of the speed of light in air to its speed in glass is designated as the refractive index. All the different types of glass have varying refractive indexes and these properties play an important part in lens design.

The first use of lenses was reported by Cardano in 1550 and used to correct poor eyesight. These early lenses looked very similar to the brown lentil with which they made soup — thus the derivation of the word 'lens' from the Latin for lentil.

In its simplest form, a lens is a disc of glass or plastic, ground and polished so that it is either thicker or thinner at the edges than at the centre.

Sometimes known as positive lenses, a convex lens is thinner at the edges than at the centre and gathers the beams of light from the subject and bends them to a converging point to form an inverted image.

The point at right angles to the optical axis where the image is formed is known as the *focal plane.* The distance required behind the lens to form an image of an object at infinity is known as the *focal length.*

The simple convex lens, does not have the ability to form a high quality image as it suffers from a number of defects called aberrations. The effect of this is not so noticeable at small apertures, so a simple meniscus lens in a box camera with a fixed aperture of around f/11 is quite capable of returning acceptable results.

For the more discerning, it is necessary to correct these aberrations by introducing separate concave lenses.

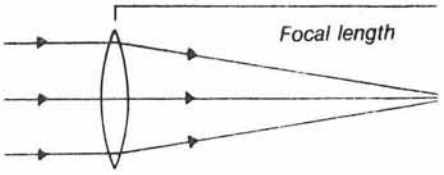
The concave lens is the opposite of the convex. It is thicker at the edges than at the centre and instead of collecting rays of light, it diverges them. Accordingly, the concave lens is often referred to as a divergent, negative, or dispersive lens.

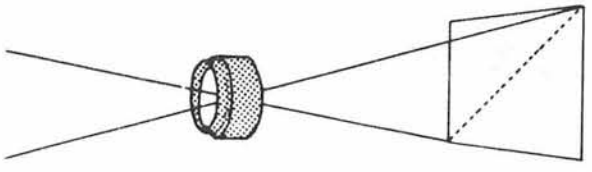
Lens errors or aberrations are divided into four main areas:

- **Chromatic Aberration.** The different colours refract light to different extents. The shorter wavelengths such as violet, will be brought to a focus nearer to the lens than rays of longer wavelengths such as red. To avoid transverse colour aberration, the defect can be corrected by including a concave lens of a different glass. The lens then becomes 'colour corrected' and is known as achromatic.
- **Spherical Aberration.** This is caused by the sphericity of the lens. The light does not focus at one point on the optical axis because of the different indices of refraction.
- **Coma.** The ray from a point on the optical axis does not focus on one point of the image plane and there appears to be a comet shape. This is particularly noticeable at wide apertures.
- **Curvilinear Distortion.** The rays of light reaching and entering the lens at a considerable angle to the optical axis will use different parts of the optical system according to the aperture. The effect can be seen in two ways. the resulting image shows the sides of a square to be bowed outwards, this is known as barrel distortion. If the opposite effect occurs, with the sides bowed in, then this is known as pin-cushion distortion.
- **Astigmatism.** As the light enters from a point not on the optical axis and passes through the lens it is focused as an image along different tangential and sagittal focal lines. A lens with a flat field and corrected for astigmatism is called an anastigmat lens.

These are just a few of the problems with which modern lens designers have to grapple. By using varying combinations of convex and concave lenses, and allowing different airspaces between the elements, distortion and aberrations can be mostly eliminated.

The different combinations give different focal lengths and a lens with twice the focal length of another will produce a picture of twice the size over the same image area.





The Angle of View
The angle of view is related directly to the focal length of the lens and indicates the limits of the subject area filling the picture format.

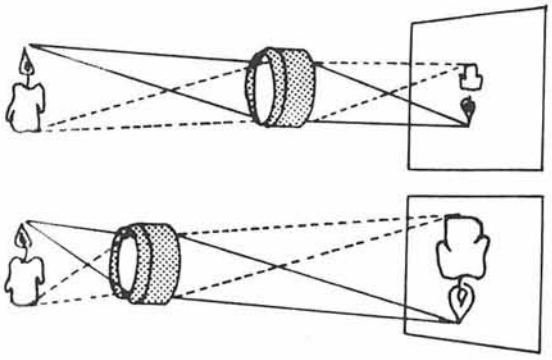
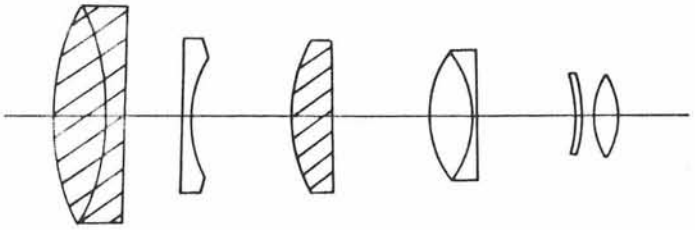
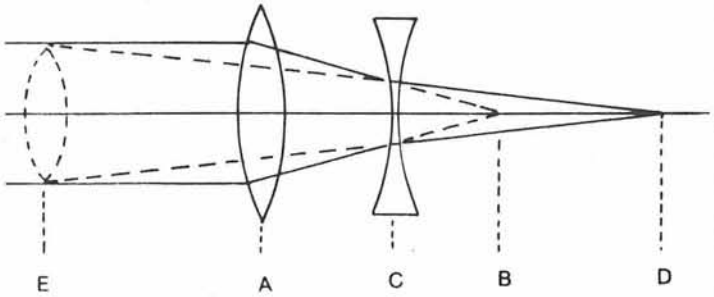


Image size can be changed without moving either the object or the camera by using a lens of a different focal length. To increase the size of the image a longer focal length lens is necessary; a shorter focal length lens will decrease the size.

Using a lens with twice the focal length will produce an image twice the size; all lenses should be related to the film size for which they were intended.

Diagram of variable focus or zoom lens.





Optical diagram of a telephoto lens

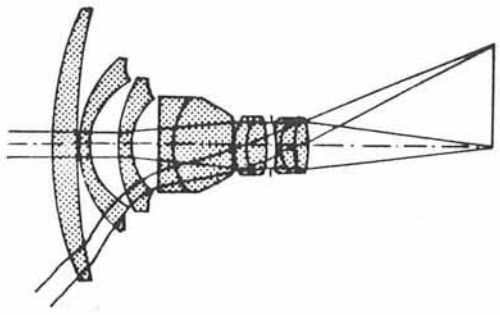
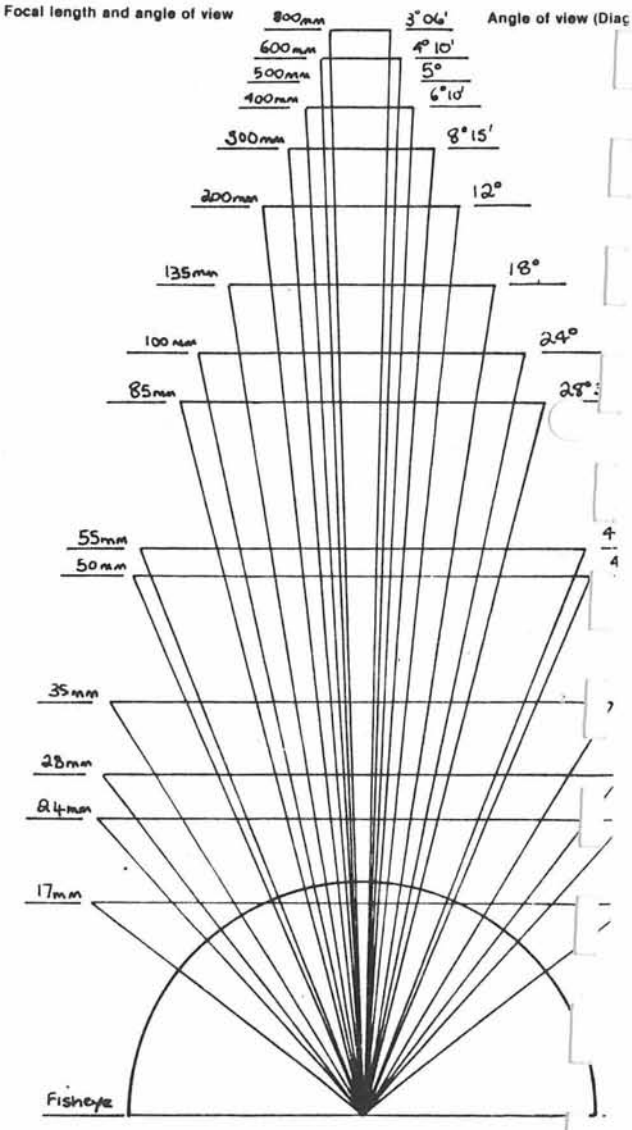


Diagram of the f/4, 20mm Flektogon wide-angle lens.

Angle of View

The angle at which a clear image can be photographed i of view. Usually, the angle of the picture frame in relation principal point of the lens set at infinity is called the angle o and may be indicated in diagonal, horizontal or vertical direct



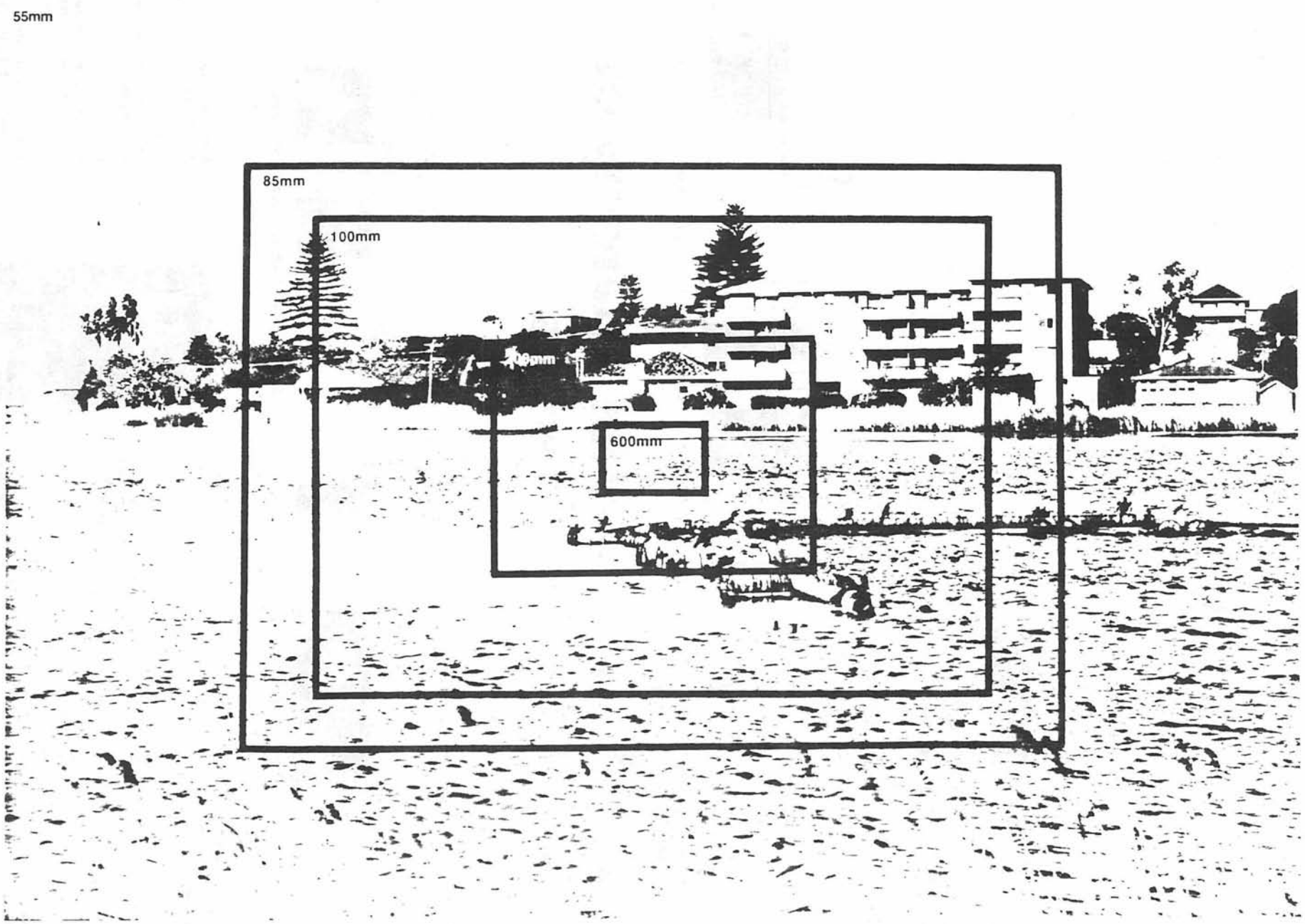
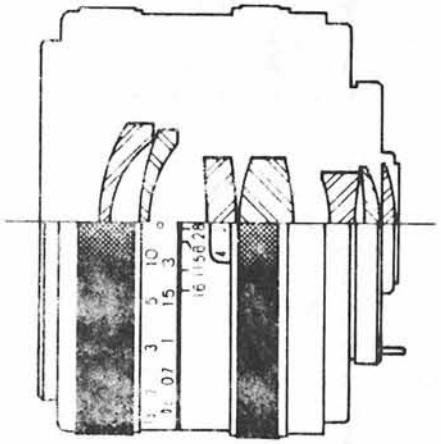


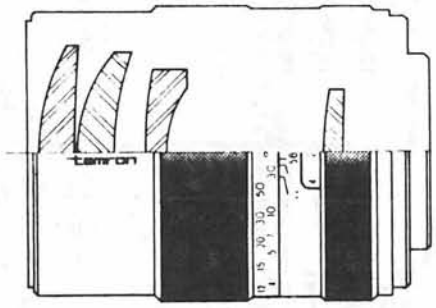
Diagram showing the varying angles of coverage of different lenses.

PHOTOGRAPHIC BASICS

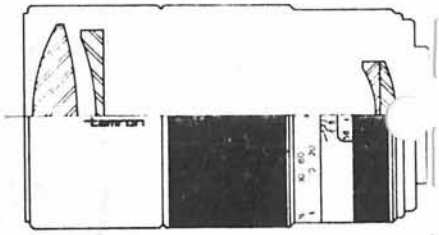
The Lens (Contd.)



(1) 28mm f/2.8 automatic wide-angle lens

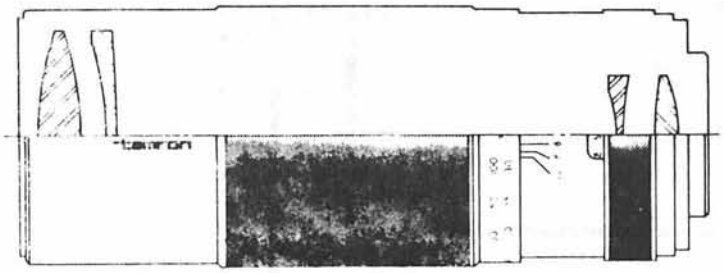


(2) 135mm f/2.8 automatic telephoto lens

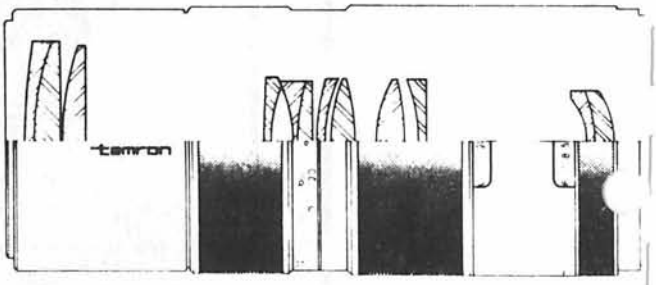


(3) 200mm f/3.5 automatic telephoto lens

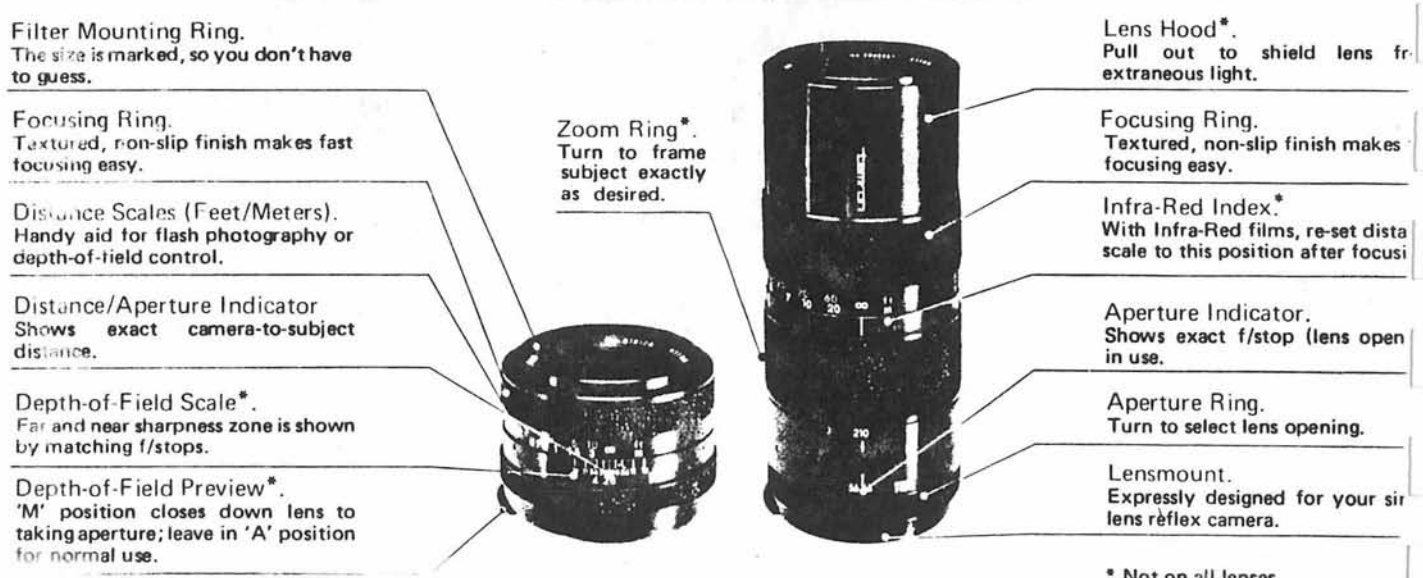
The Anatomy of Lenses



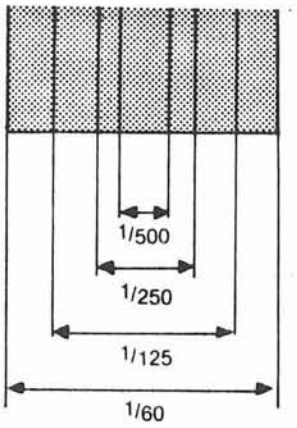
(4) 300mm f/5.6 automatic telephoto lens



(5) 85 – 210mm f/4.5 automatic zoom lens

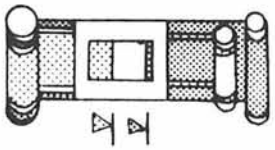


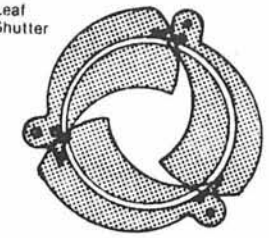
* Not on all lenses.



Focal Plane

Shutter Speeds





PHOTOGRAPHIC BASICS

The Shutter

The shutter is a mechanical device to control the duration of light allowed to reach the film. It consists of a light-tight covering preventing any light reaching the film until it is removed for the moment of exposure. Immediately after exposure it springs back to prevent any further light entering.

There are three principal types of shutter: the sector shutter, the diaphragm shutter, and the focal plan shutter.

Both the sector and the diaphragm shutter are generally located between the lens elements. The sector shutter is simply a circular plate pierced with a hole. When the shutter release is fired, the plate rotates and the hole uncovers the lens for a period depending on the speed of the rotation.

The sector shutter is the simplest and most inexpensive shutter to manufacture and is commonly used on the cheaper types of camera, where accuracy and versatility are not so important.

The diaphragm shutter consists of a ring of interleaving light metal or vulcanite blades which are pivoted at their outer edges so that they open outwards to leave a clear uninterrupted passage for light to enter.

The secret of good design for this type of shutter is to have the blades spring open and close in the shortest possible time, so that the exposure is even and fast.

Diaphragm shutters have a full range of speeds up to a 1/500th of a second and in some cases even up to a 1/1000th.

The focal plane shutter consists of a blind with an open slit which travels from one side of the camera back to the other just in front of the film.

As the slit crosses the film it exposes each part in turn and the speed of exposure can be controlled by varying the size of the slit and the speed at which it travels. When the shutter is being rewound, the slit closes so as to prevent accidental exposure of the film.

The blind may be made of cloth or metal and can travel horizontally from right to left, or up and down.

Owing to the length of time to complete exposure, to use fast shutter speeds long burning flashbulbs are required. With electronic flash, the user is confined to speeds no faster than 1/125th of a second and often only 1/60th of a second.

Where the pictures are taken indoors and the ambient lighting is low, there is no problem, as the main governing factor is the speed of the flash; and can be as fast as 1/10,000th of a second.

With all types of shutter, the varying speeds are standardised into a definite mathematical progression calculated to allow exactly half the preceeding and twice the succeeding exposure time. The series is:

1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/15, 1/30, 1/80, 1/125, 1/250, 1/500, 1/1000.

The Role of the Aperture

The quantity of light allowed into the camera to strike the light sensitive material is controlled by the aperture. Originally, this was done with a series of varyingly sized holes cut in a sheet of metal and placed in front of the lens. These were called Waterhouse stops and from this design evolved the between lens adjustable iris diaphragm that is most commonly used today.

Each stop follows a definite mathematical progression calculated to allow twice as much light as the previous one. The accepted series if f/1, f/1.4, f/2.8, f/5.6, f/8, f/11, f/16, f/22, f/45, f/64.

Focus

The selection of aperture has an effect upon the depth of field. There is some confusion between the depth of field and the depth of focus. However it really is all quite simple. Depth of focus refers only to the amount of distance the lens can be moved and leave the image in focus. Depth of field refers to that area before and after the focused object which will remain acceptably sharp.

The amount of depth of field is affected by four things: the size of format; the focal length of the lens; the distance from the subject; and the size of the aperture being used.

At close focusing distances and when a wide aperture is being used the depth of field is very little. So great care with focusing is needed when taking a close-up at maximun aperture. Conversely, the longer the distance and the smaller the aperture, the greater the depth of field.

However, in both circumstances, the area of acceptable focus will remain at a ratio of roughly one thi the distance in front of the focusec subject to two thirds behind.

Care of Ropes

Ropes used for caving should be treated very carefully to preserve their integrity.

The following rules apply in the care of ropes:-

1. Brand new ropes should be first washed before use to remove lubricants used during manufacture. Always treat the ends of the rope to stop the sheath unravelling.
2. Ropes should be carried in waterproof packs. Each type and length of rope should be in a tagged and separate pack.
3. Never stand on or drop anything on a rope. Ropes should not be thrown down a pitch.
4. Coil up excess rope and move it clear from the base of the pitch to prevent damage from falling rocks etc.
5. Ropes should be examined before and after use. They must be checked for any signs of wear, reduced diameter, soft or hard spots, or cuts in the sheath. Do Not use damaged ropes.
6. Ropes should be washed after use. Wash in warm water with normal detergents and then treated with fabric softener, this will make the rope (especially nylon) softer and easier to use.
7. Ropes are to be dried in a cool well aired place, out of the sun, and stored in a cool, dark, dry area.
8. All ropes are to be kept away from acids, alkalis, phenol and cresol compounds. All these substances may have a weakening effect on the rope.

If you treat the rope carefully it will give you a longer and faithful service.

By Mr & Mrs T Coleborn.

LADDER CARE

Ladders are still a very important part of your caving activities and must be treated with care to ensure that they do not fail. Modern ladders are constucted from steel wire rope and aluminium alloy rungs and it is mostly in the wire rope that failures occure. The life of the wire rope is reduced by kinking and bending, and this must be minimised when using and storing ladders. Excess bending can be reduced if the following points are noted:-

1. Do not roll ladders, this will cause excess bending of the wire. They should be consertinered by bringing every second rung together and the trace wrapped around the ladder to secure it.

2. Ladders do tend to tangle and often the ends pass through the ladder causing the wire between the rungs to twist. If the ladder is used when this has occured permanent damage may result.

3. Use as many traces as are required to keep the ends of the ladder from being bent outwards at a large angle. It is better to clip the flag clips on either the trace or the ladder together. This eliminates this danger as well as keeping the rungs straight.

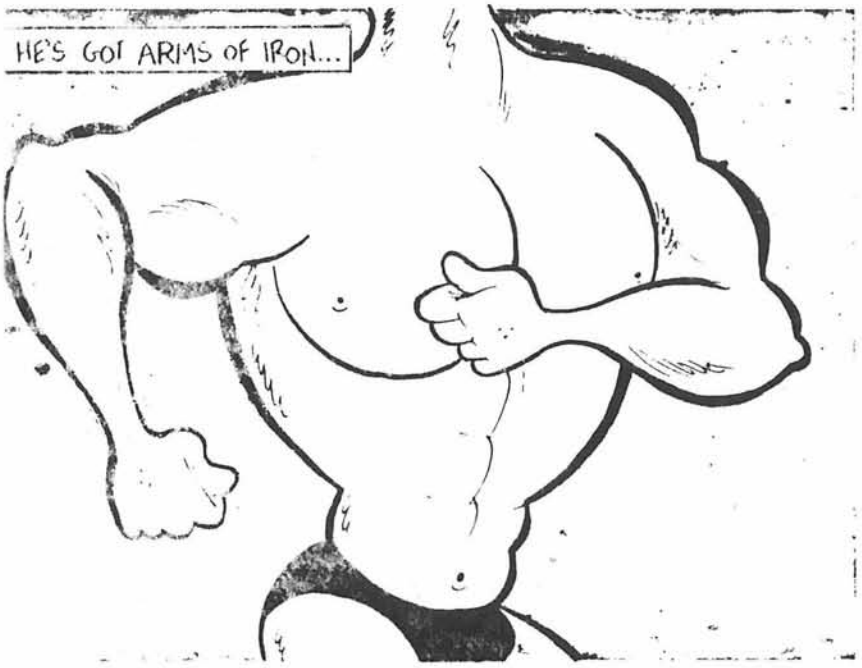
4. Always protect the wire from sharp edges.

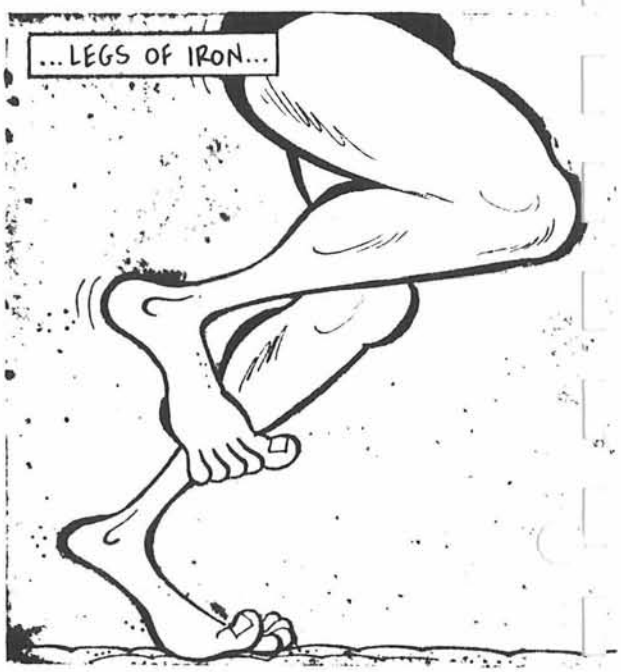
Rules 2, 3, 5, and 6. in rope care section should also apply to ladder care.

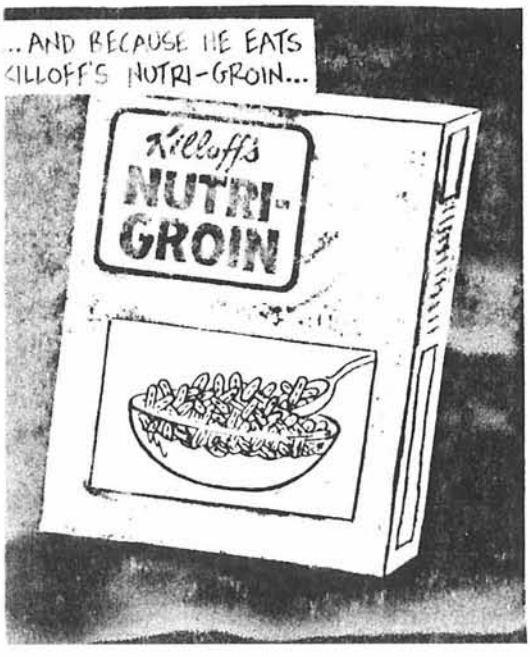
Ladders are not quite as prone to damage as are ropes, however, just as much care is required to prevent excessive damage.

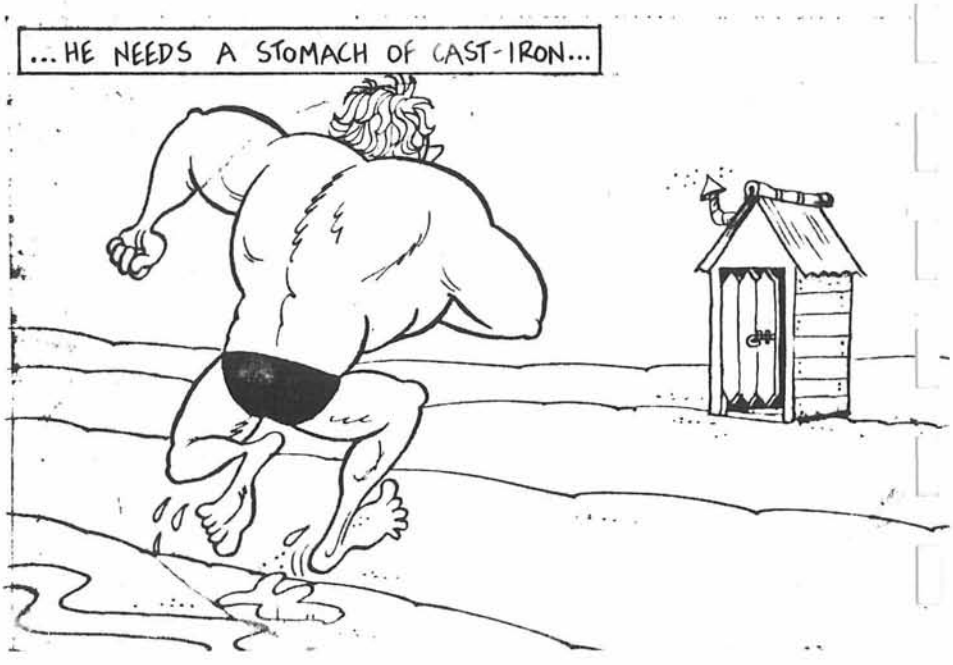
By Mr & Mrs T Coleborn.


TV ADS WE'D LIKE TO SEE
GRUNT KAN-HE, IRON-MAN...


HE'S GOT ARMS OF IRON...


...LEGS OF IRON...


..AND BECAUSE HE EATS KILLOFF'S NUTRI-GROIN...
Killoff's
NUTRI-GROIN


...HE NEEDS A STOMACH OF CAST-IRON...

TRIP REPORT

CLIEFDEN

DATE: 3rd April 1984
AIM: Dig and survey Wits End, Taplow.
MEMBERS: T Coleborn, G McGuigan, M Warburton.
VISITORS: D McGuigan, K Warburton (Toad).

After finally getting organized we set off for Taplow at around 10.0am. We made our way to Wits End with a quick detour to the Railway Tunnel.

Mud and belly crawls were the order of the day. On reaching our preliminary goal. Darin and myself rolled up our sleeves and started work on the dig Ricky Brett started. Terry, Gary, and Kris did an exploration of Wits End cavern. The exploratory proved fruitless and the others lent a hand.

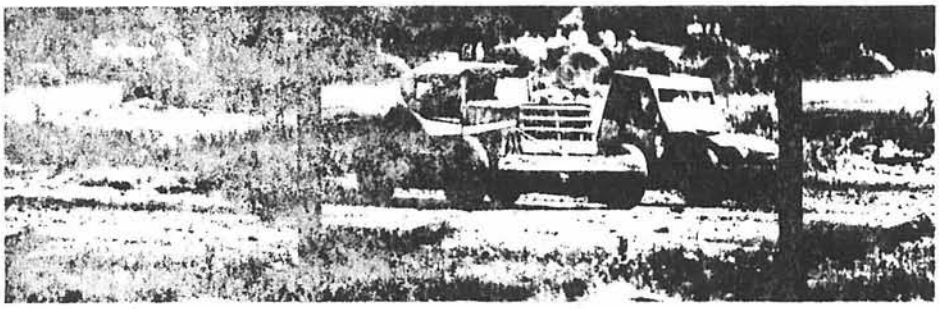
Three hours of hard yaka uncovered a mud filled passage on a slight incline. The cavern gave us two options, a mud filled passage leading up and ahead or one leading down.

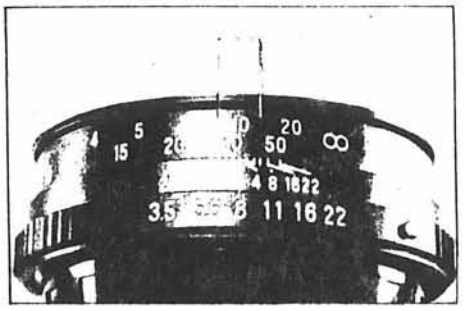
Digging the lower section we uncovered about a meter of passage and further on a chamber, we named The Well.

The other passage led to another chamber which looked like a mini Murder Sewers. The party named this section Marks Reward.

By Mark Warburton.

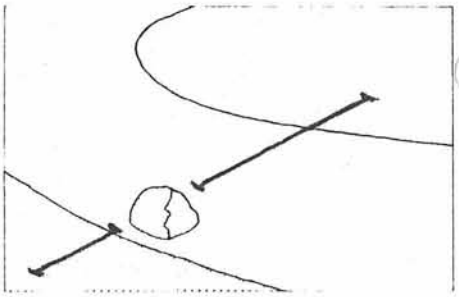
SLR IMPROVER





FOLLOWING FOCUS
It is fairly simple to keep a moving subject centred in the viewfinder of most SLRs: it is far more difficult to keep that subject in sharp focus. Swinging the camera round with the subject and smoothly changing focus at the same time as it gets nearer or further away—takes a lot of skill. With a 'one-touch' zoom lens, you have to zoom and focus at the same time, which is even harder. The technique needs a lot of practice, so try following cars passing on a road to begin with, until you are very familiar with the action of your lens. When you buy a new lens, it is a great help if the focusing ring rotates in the same direction as the lenses that you have already.

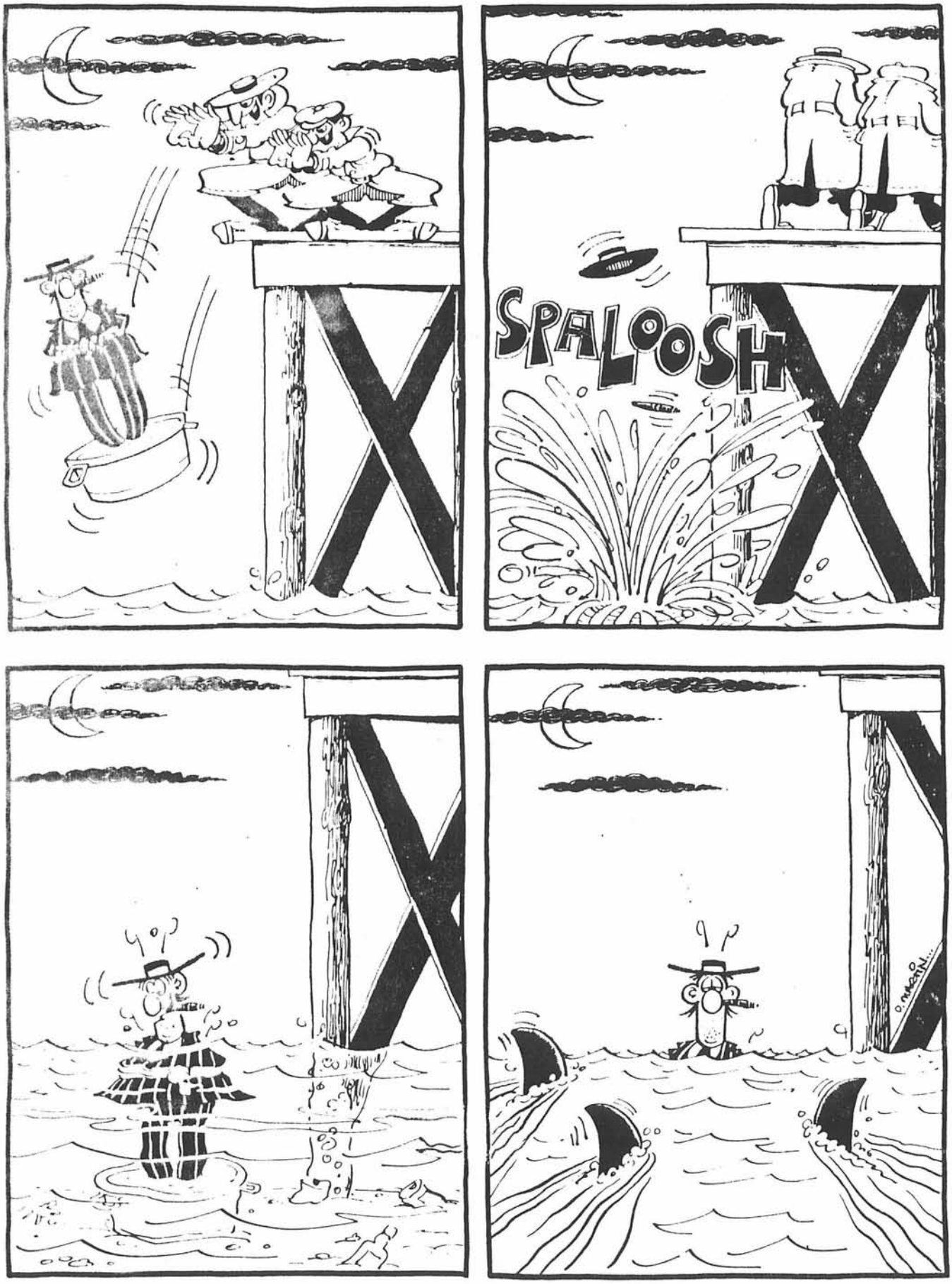
PRESETTING FOCUS
An easier and more reliable method of focusing on a moving subject—a method used by many professional photographers—is to preset the focus of your lens on a spot which the subject is to pass close to. In the shots above, the lens was focused on a stone in the road. It is still important to follow the subject in the viewfinder, but there is no need to touch the focusing ring. (It is just as easy to follow an out-of-focus image in the viewfinder.) When the subject reaches the spot where you have focused, it then comes into sharp focus and you release the shutter. If you are using a zoom lens you can preset the focal length as well, to make sure that the subject fills the frame when it reaches the chosen position.



DEPTH OF FIELD
The area in sharp focus will depend on the chosen lens aperture.

Work this out from the depth of field scale on the lens, or by using the preview button. Remember that the depth of field is 1/3 in front of the focus point and 2/3 beyond.

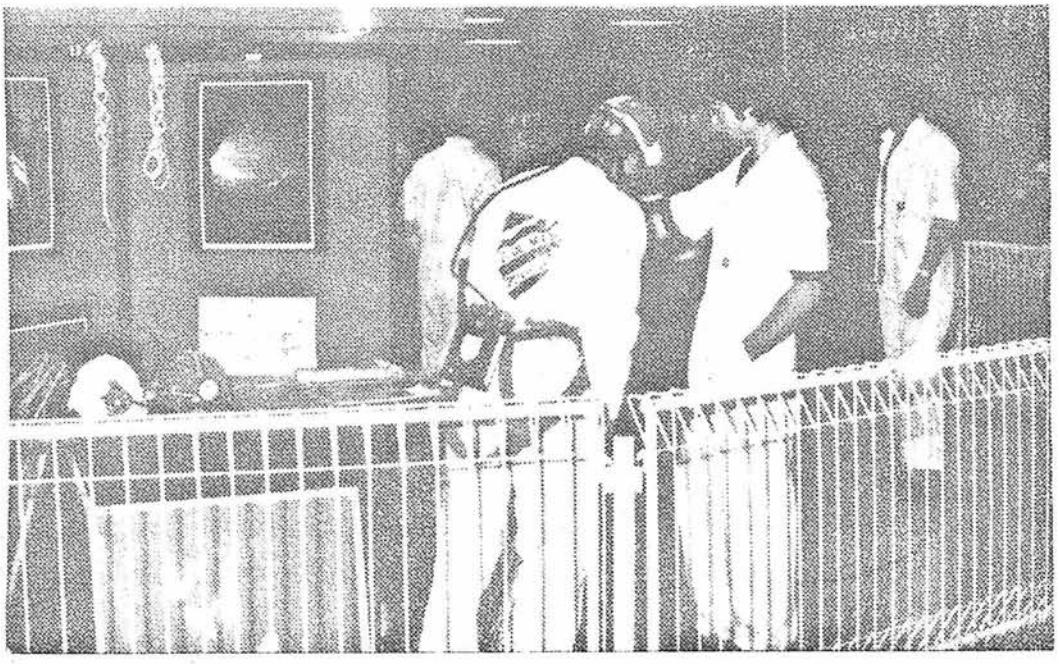
ONE DARK NIGHT ON THE EAST COAST



OOLITE

Journal of

Blue Mountains Speleological Club



Vol. No.3

OOLITE

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

VOL. 14/3

CONTENT

DECEMBER 1984.

Edited and Published for B.M.S.C. by Paul Sammut.

Subscription and Journal exchange enquiries to be directed to the Secretary, Blue Mountains Speleo Club, P.O. Box 37, Glenbrook N.S.W. 2773

Publication Date: October 1984, for
9th November '84 meeting.

This is the final edition for 1984.

INTRODUCTION

The club journal has changed quite a lot over the years, each time we have a new editor the journal is changed. Now it has become my turn to change the style of the journal. Although this job was hard due to the lack of material, from members, to be printed. Happily, lack of material is not the case with this edition.

Oolite is now photo-copied and photographs can be printed with each story. This means members can write less and instead add photos with their stories.

There are many subjects that you can write about, as our journal is based on outdoor activities and not just caving. So if you see a story in a paper or you like Bush Walking, Crosswords, Photography, Cars, Jokes, etc, or you just like to Gossip, write it down and send it to your journal editor. If you have sent material and it hasn't been printed in that issue, it will go in the next edition. So don't stop sending material in.

As this is the last edition of Oolite for 1984, I would like to thank all those who have contributed articals for printing in the journal and do hope everyone will help next year with stories.

I would like to wish everyone a very Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

1984 EDITOR

Paul Sammut

RAIDERS OF SPLIT ROCK CAVE

Jenolan Caves 1984, 20 miles from the caves (due to using the new campsite).

A warm sun beats down upon a grey-green valley, casting a shadow of the lone caver wandering aimlessly in search of a new dark hole to crawl in. Years of blasting winds and bitter cold had hardened his face into something resembling a craggily sculptured Bust.

Brian Skinn, Tall, Lean and Gruesome was wandering in ever increasing circles (thiking he was a big wheel) since deserting the Air Force at RAAF Base Abandon Hope. The whole purpose of this aimless wandering was to try and find the elusive Wooly Rhinosceros. Unbeknown to our Big Wheel, his movement was being watched eagerly by a pair of beedy eyes peering through a set of binoculars. These beedy eyes and the rest of the body belong to I.V.E. Gotta-Digit, head member for the Organisation, Suctin (Sydney Underground Cave Thieves International Network).

I.V.E. Gotta-Digit and his four Cronies were hiding amongst a small rock outcrop on high ground watching Brian, waiting to see if he would lead them to his new discovery named Split Rock Cave. Unfortunately for Suctin, Brian was not even thinking about Split Rock at this stage, he was to busy making up new Friday jokes. The Suctin member finally realised that Brian wasn't thinking about the cave because they were tired of throwing up at his jokes. After they recovered from this they agreed that one way or the other they were going to get Split Rock.

Brian eventually got his mind back on caving and started a track in the direction of the caves. His progress was stopped by a strange object spinning around in front of a car. Cleaning his glasses,was he seeing things, approaching the car to see what the object with all the shiny parts was. Once there he realised that it was Graeme with all his caving gear on and that he caught his fingers in the alternator pulley again. Brian pulled Graeme loose after he turned the engine off. Asking Graeme if he required any medical assistance. Graeme said,"I have a stitch plate and plenty of tape to fix it" (Friday humour, contageous isn't it). One day he might learn that you can't count the revolutions per minute of the pulley with his finger stuck in it as you can't see a watch properly.

Suctin had been watching this experience of Graeme which seemed about as good as Brians jokes. I.V.E. Gotta- Digit realised that he and his cronies had to find the cave before Brian turned it

Cont. from page 2.

into something major. Brian was met by some B.M.S.C. cavers so Sucti members craned their necks and stretched their ears in a vain attempt to hear B.M.S.C. give away their secret, but it wasn't to be. All that they were discussing was what caves they were going to see and Split Rock wasn't one of them.

I.V.E. Gotta-Digit and his Cronies finally gave up. After watching Brian all day long and the strange events, A couple of them went back to check the visitors book, All the B.M.S.C. cars and question the Guides, anything for a hint on Split Rock. Their efforts proved useless so they went home after thinking about Brian's jokes and threw up again. If only they had waited a bit longer they could have had Split Rock because just as they were out of hearing range Brian told the others that he decided he was going to do some more digging in Split Rock Cave.

As the party disperses our last scene is that of our Big Wheel donning his cap and heading off amongst the mountainous shadows as the orange winter sun slowly decends to make way for the cold winter night and the eerie shadows of the full moon.

THE END

THE WEED.

PHOTOGRAPHIC BASICS

Exposure Meters

By selecting the right shutter speed in conjunction with the right aperture, the light sensitive material receives the correct exposure so as to reproduce a full range of tones. The problem is which combination do you use?

Although it is possible to assess varying lighting situations by eye, for certainty of accurate exposure most photogaphers rely upon an exposure meter.

The exposure meter is an instrument designed to calculate the intensity of light and show this information in the form of shutter speed and f/stop combinations to suit the sensitivity of the film being used.

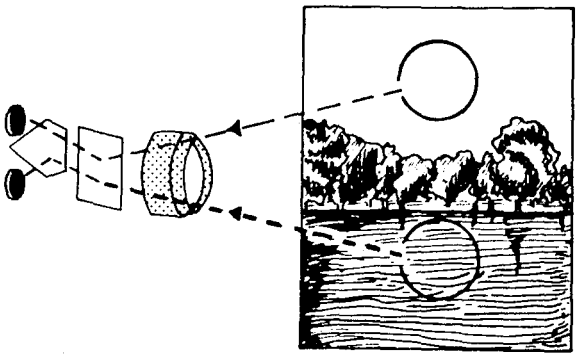
This is done by using a light sensitive cell. In earlier stages of development, this was a metal called selenium which activated by light, generated an electric current.

Now, the most popular metering method is a photo-resistor cell, generally made of cadmium sulphide (CdS), which when under the influence of a slight current from a small battery, will vary its resistance according to the intensity of the light falling upon it.

This is a fast, accurate and more compact method of metering and scientific development made it practical to incorporate it into compact cameras.

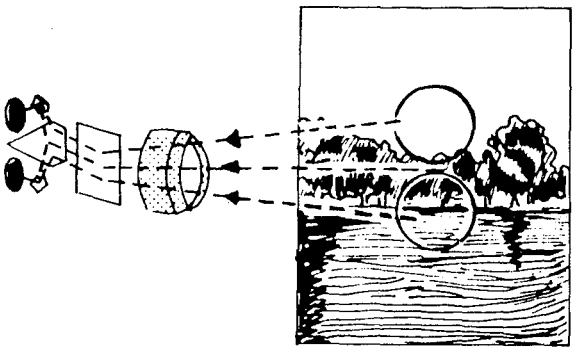
Can You Trust It?

Still problems remain in arriving at the correct exposure. The subject may contain a range of brightness outside the latitude of the film. In this case, a decision as to whether to use an average exposure or one for a specific part of the scene must be made.



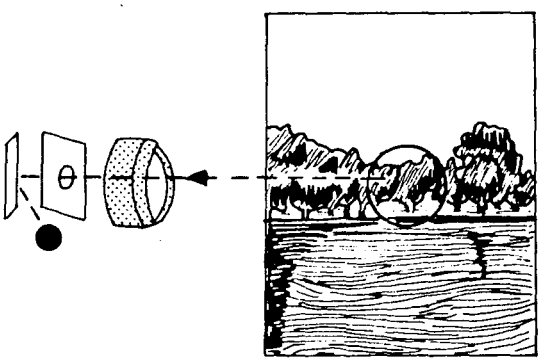
This method normally uses two cells which are angled for good coverage of most of the subject. It results in an integrated reading of the whole scene but with increased sensitivity of the two areas marked.

(1) The Overall method



In this method, by overlapping the areas of sensitivity a centre zone of increased sensitivity is created; the centre normally being the important area of the scene and hence this method overcomes any disadvantage of the overall reading method.

(2) The Centre-weighted method



Cameras fitted with spot reading meters give accurate results but require careful handling. Spot readings are taken of highlights, shadow, and medium density tones and the user selects a mid-point for his exposure setting.

(3) The Spot method

This situation is commonly encountered in high contrast light situations such as at the beach, on the water, or when shooting against the light.

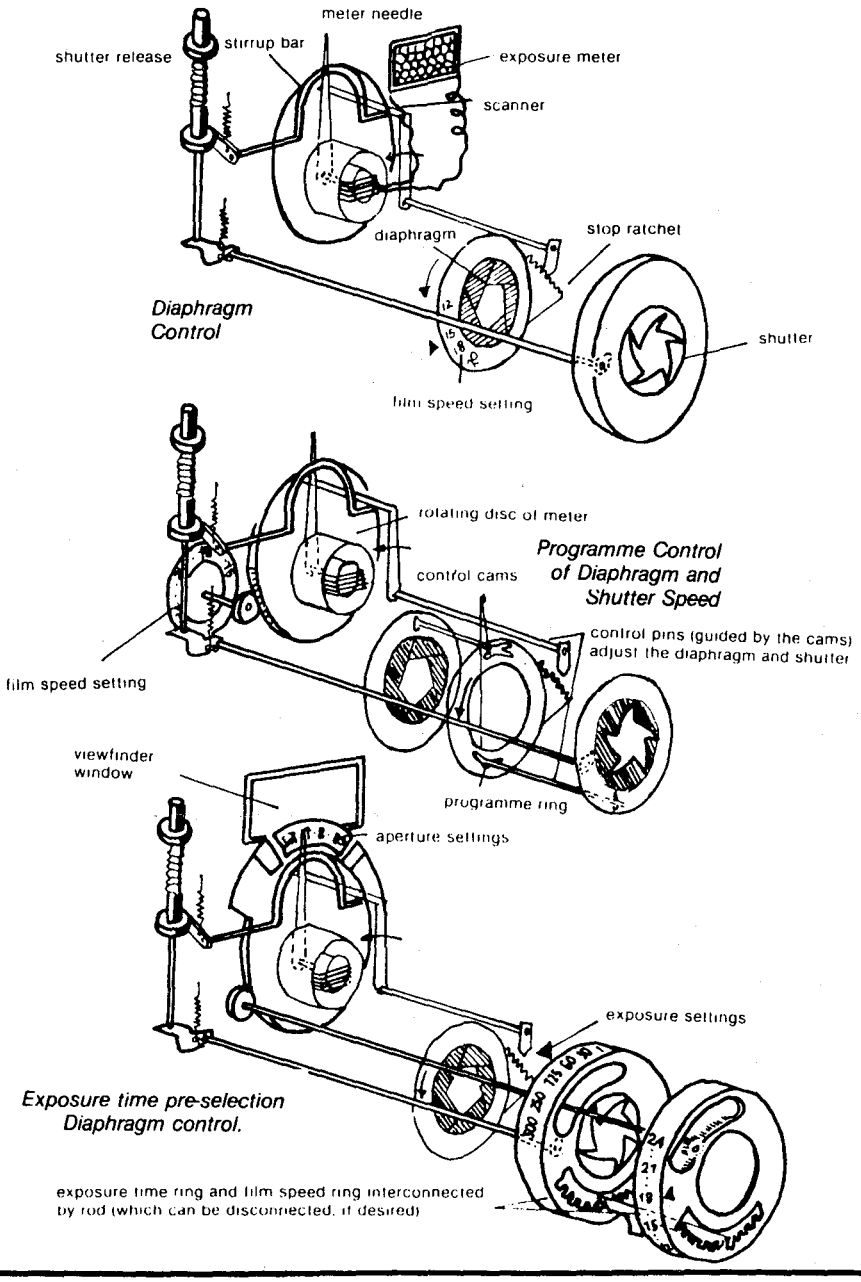
Meters can be used to measure the light reflected from the subject, or the light falling on the subject.

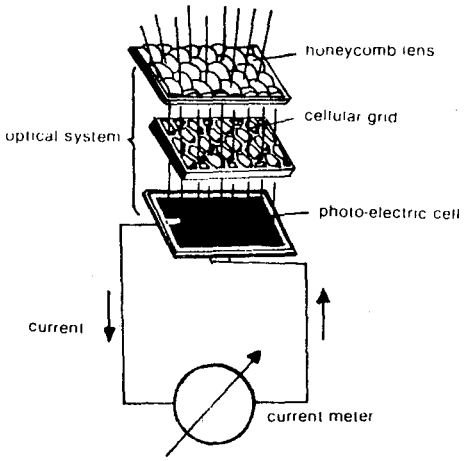
With the latter method, the meter is held in the subject position and pointed towards the camera. This is called an incident reading and many meters have an attachment to collect the light from the widest possible reading angle.

A third metering method is to take a close-up reading of a small area which is of the most concern to the photographer. This is called a spot reading.

Because of the problem of so many pictures having a large bright area of sky which over influences the meter reading, camera manufacturers using built-in meters have adopted a variety of methods to ensure accurate readings. These include the overall, the centre weighted and the spot reading methods.

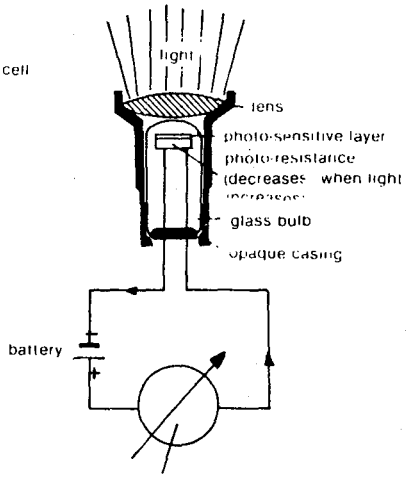
Whatever system is used, the photographer must be accurately aware of the metering type and its likely effect upon the picture he is taking.

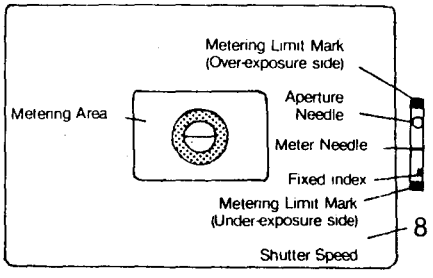




Main Functional Parts of an Exposure Meter.

Photo Resistance (Schematic)





The information found in a typical viewfinder; position of shutter speed indicator, aperture indicator, etc. vary from model to model but most show the information included in the diagram.

PHOTOGRAPHIC BASICS Flash

The rapidly advancing technology of flashguns has resulted in an ever increasing sophistication which, to a large extent, has taken out all the calculating, guess-work and uncertainty.

The heart of the electronic flashgun is a glass tube of xenon gas. When it receives a charge from the condensers, it ionises the gas.

The output of the flash is measured in watt/seconds or joules and depends primarily on the capacity of the condenser.

Guide Numbers

The first thing to consider when choosing a flash is how much power do you need? Indications to the power emitted are mostly given by the manufacturers in guide numbers.

Our electronic flash comparison chart shows the guide number of most of the guns currently available on the Australian market.

This GN is given at 100ASA and in metres. Exposure is mainly controlled by the speed of the flash, so after the camera has been set at the correct synchronisation shutter speed, all that remains is to choose the right aperture.

This is discovered by dividing the guide number by the distance in metres from the flash to the subject. The answer to this simple sum is the right f/stop.

For example, for 100ASA the Toshiba QC105 has a guide number in metres of 33; therefore 33 divided by 3 metres equals 11, or rather f/11.

The intensity of light diverging from a point source falls off rapidly the further the source is removed because it has to cover a greater area — our old friend the Inverse Square Law. That's why we have to do a new calculation for every different flash-to-subject distance.

But you don't need to worry about all this schoolboy theory. Most guns have a simple easy to use calculator which solves the problem with a minimum of fuss.

Some of the more sophisticated electronic flashes have one or more guide numbers as they are able to operate on varying power level settings.

Automatic

And if dial calculators are not your bag, then you have a wide choice of quite inexpensive flashguns which have an in-built computer to do the whole job for you.

These are controlled by a small light sensitive cell mounted in the flash gun. Measuring the light reflected back from the subject, the cell cuts off the further transmission of flash when it has received the correct exposure. And, of course, all this happens at the speed of light.

With this method, once the aperture has been set at a given value, the distance can be varied within the limitations of the power of the flash without making any manual exposure adjustments. Flash point-and-shoot photography has arrived.

Some guns have more than one range of distance controlled by automatic operation. This allows a little more freedom in selecting the aperture and covers a greater distance for the auto flash range.

Another new development allows the sensor to be detached from the gun and placed on the camera. This way, no matter where the flash is held an accurate automatic reading is assured.

Thyristor Circuitry

One of the main factors affecting battery life is the amount of energy needed to recharge the capacitor.

Following the development of auto flashguns, it was realised that at close distances only a part of the capacitors charge was necessary to give the correct intensity of light.

Rather than lose the balance of the charge, an energy saving circuit using thyristors was developed which enabled the rest of the charge to be stored. Consequently, battery drain and recycling time are considerably reduced and a flash can be ready to fire again in as little as half-a-second.

Tilt Head

Direct flash is often not the kindest way to photograph a sitter. The sun does not mainly beam across your right shoulder at a 45° angle to the sky.

Accordingly, some guns are designed with a swivel head that allows the flash to be directed at the ceiling without having to remove it from the camera mounting.

If the ceiling is not too low and of a suitable reflective quality, the light will be flooded back in a more diffused and natural manner.

Some automatic guns have been designed so as the sensor remains facing forward and, even while the head is tilted, only measures the light reflected back from the subject. This way automatic exposure calculation is possible even with bounced flash.

Power Source

Most of the light compact electronic flashes are powered by two or four penlight batteries; with the need for the maximum number and power of flashes having to be balanced against the weight and volume of space required by the batteries.

Some guns are powered by rechargeable nickel cadmium batteries, or even directly from the mains. Others, particularly professional units, are powered by wet-cells carried in separate shoulder packs and these units are capable of delivering enormous power to the flash tube.

Angle of Coverage

While some of the more sophisticated guns allow the angle of light coverage to be varied, most of the inexpensive models are designed for use with standard to medium wide-angle lenses.

In order to match the light spread

into verticle or horizontal coverage, some guns have a swivel foot which allows the flash to be swung around to the right direction without having to remove it from the camera.

Synchro Contact.

In an attempt to do away with flash synchro cords, it has become popular to design guns with the electrical contact in the foot of the flash and coupling directly to the accessory shoe of the camera.

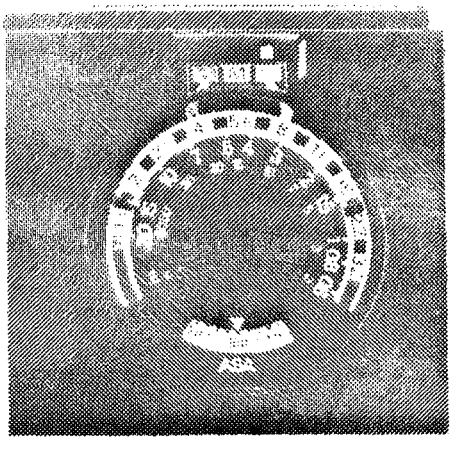
This is known as a 'hot shoe', but special accessories are available which do permit the flash to be used 'remote' from the camera.

Accessory Capability

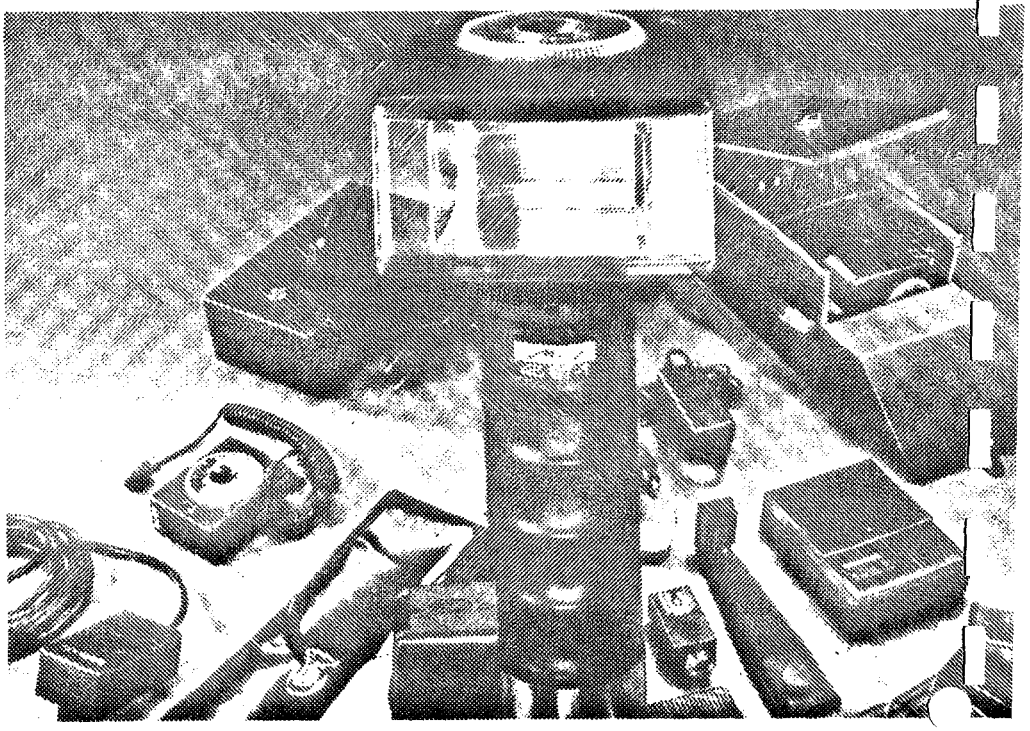
The latest trend in electronic flash design has been to allow for the easy addition of such accessories as to control light output, angle of coverage and colour. One particularly useful new feature is the provision of a reflector card which attaches to the gun to bounce the light back in a soft and pleasant manner.

The whole impetus of electronic flash research and development is to build more and more compact guns returning more and more power and versatility at a lower price.

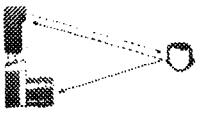
Now, a small investment can procure you a reliable sun which you can slip into your pocket to await your command. □



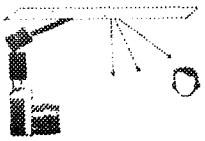
A typical flash exposure calculator.



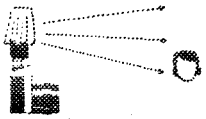
Direct Flash
This is the normal way flash is used. be careful to avoid reflective surfaces which may bounce light back to the lens and surfaces behind the object which will cause a shadow in the photograph. With colour the 'red-eye' effect is due to direct reflection of light from the retina; to overcome this move flash away from the camera.



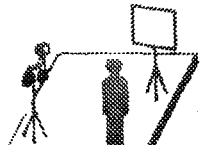
Bounce Flash
Directing the flash at walls and ceilings gives a soft light without hard black shadows on the background; ceilings should be white otherwise, in colour, the subject will pick up a hue from the ceiling. Don't forget to open up the aperture to allow for the extra distance that the light has to travel.



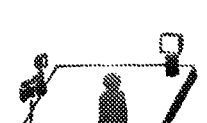
Diffused Flash
Where bouncing is not practicable, or where you require a more directional but soft light, a hankerchief over the flash gun (but not the camera lens or the sensing cell of automatic flash guns) will do the trick. Allow for the hankerchief to absorb half the light output.



Using Reflectors
If walls and ceilings do not provide enough reflected light then a separate reflector maybe required, such as an 'umbrella' or a reflective surface. Projection screens can be used as reflectors; remember that light will be reflected at the same angle at which it strikes.



A Second Light
If more light is required then a fill-in lamp may be necessary; this can be used to drown shadows cast by the flash, but make certain that light outputs are not equal on the subject as this will tend to give a flatter image.



Three Lights
For complete flexibility in lighting situations the use of flash plus two separate lights is ideal; it allows the user to create shadows and highlights as he desires.

PHOTOGRAPHIC BASICS

The Film

As early as 1737, it was discovered that silver salts were light sensitive, but it wasn't until 1827 that a Frenchman, Joseph Nipce found a method of fixing the image.

However, probably the most significant step was the discovery of the negative process in 1835 by Fox Talbot. With a view of a window of his home in Lacock Abbey, Fox Talbot used 'photography' in much the same way as we do today.

Modern monochrome photographic film consists of a light-sensitive coating upon a flexible transparent and non-inflammable base made from polyester acetate.

For many years film support was made from acetate. However, acetate has given way to a polyester, a plastic which has greater dimensional stability, and a high resistance to tearing. It is made by a process known as ester-interchange. An ester is a compound of acid and alcohol. In this case the ester is D.N.T.

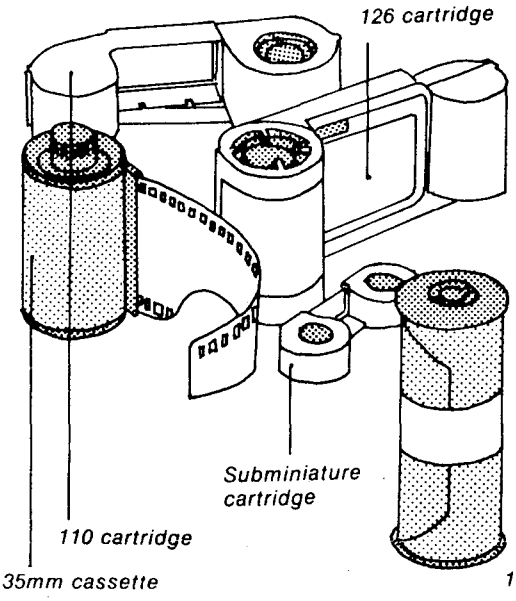
It is dissolved in ethylene glycol in a reactor and a catalyst is added. Upon heating, a reaction starts. To hasten reaction a vacuum is applied, and the glycol begins to distill out of the reaction flask.

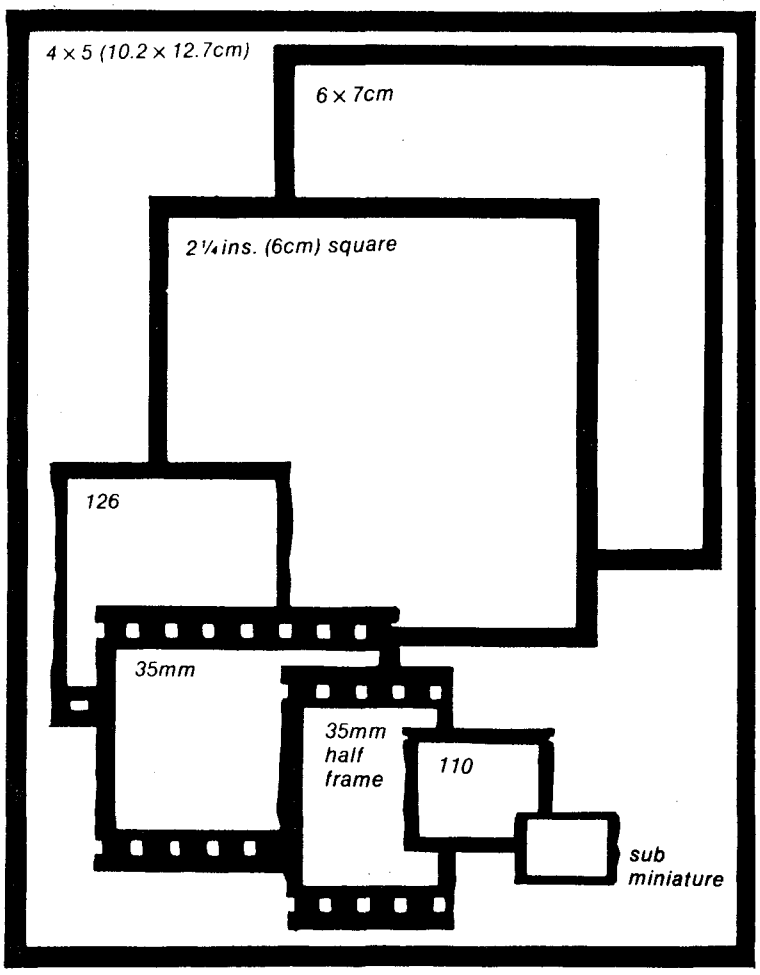
As the condensation proceeds, the mixture becomes more and more viscous and is tough when the reaction is complete. The polymer is squeezed out of slotted dyes and is immediately cooled to form a pliable transparent sheet.

The Emulsion

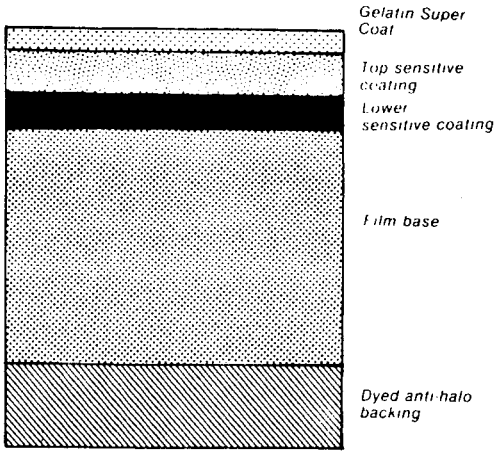
The film support may receive any number of a side range of photographic emulsions and each emulsion is designed to meet a precise photographic need.

Film Packing & Formats





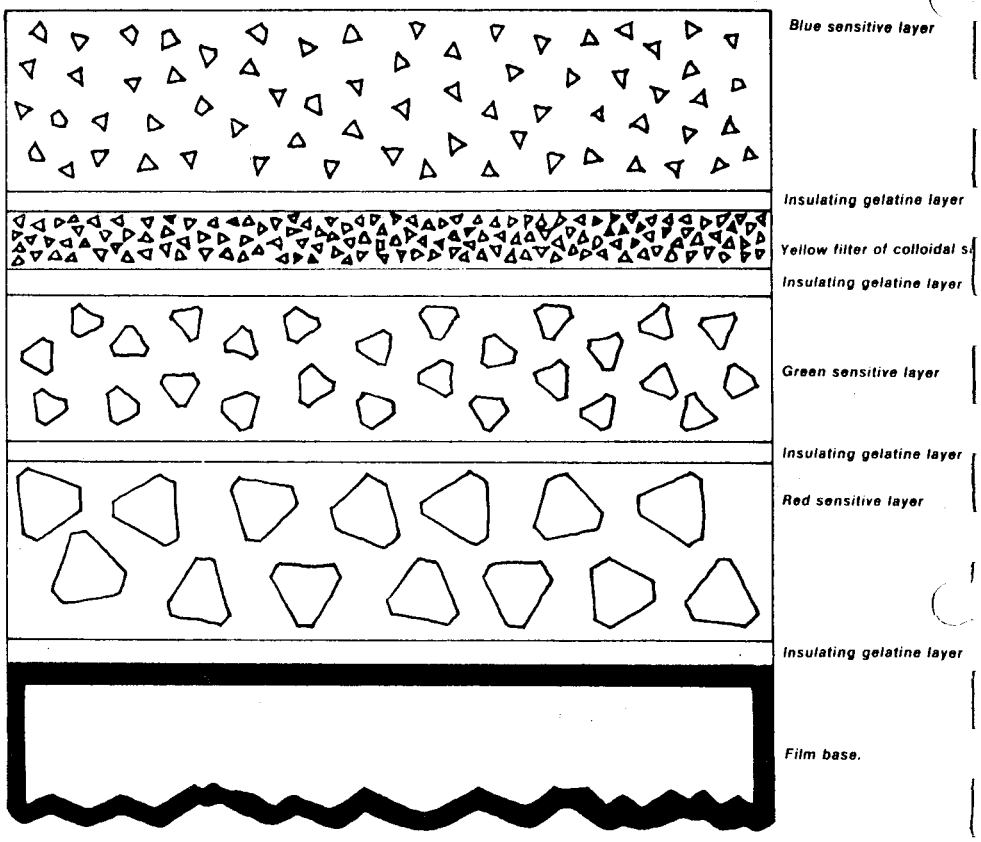
Cross Section of Black & White film.



The ingredients from which emulsions are made include the following:

- The first group is called silvers, which are white crystals of silver nitrate. The chemical is made by dissolving the bars of pure silver in a quantity of pure nitric acid to form silver nitrate.
- The next group of ingredients is salts. These are white crystals of potassium bromide, or iodide, or chloride.
- Next comes gelatine, which is extracted from animal hides. It is basically the same as that used in the preparation of foodstuffs, but much purer. This material carries the light sensitive silver bromide grains evenly throughout the emulsion while preventing them from clumping together. No single gelatine provides all the qualities desired so various types are blended.
- Next comes water, large quantities of it. Ordinary drinking water has too many impurities, so it has to be distilled.
- Ammonia solution is added in certain circumstances, particularly on X-ray film, to help control emulsion speed and contrast.
- Orthochromatic or Pan-chromatic dyes are added to increase the range of colours to which the emulsion will respond.
- Finally dispersions are added. These are jellies which carry the dye-forming agents called couplers. They are the necessary components of all colour film emulsions.

Cross Section of Colour Film



In a making room, a 'kettle' is filled with distilled water, gelatine and salt and brought to the desired temperature. The operator runs in the potassium bromide and follows it seconds later with the silver nitrate. This is a critical operation as

At a later stage more sterilised gelatines and doctors are added before the emulsion is returned to refrigeration.

Later, the cans of emulsion are tipped into a kettle. This is the stage of the process when the emulsion takes on its precise photographic characteristics.

The emulsion chips are remelted and brought to the desired temperature and in go more doctors, sensitising dyes and dispersants

Coating

The finished emulsion is coated onto the film support on machines called tracks.

The emulsion is sent down to the track head, but before it arrives it passes through a series of filters to remove any chance contaminates.

Finally the emulsion reaches the coating head and automatically and evenly spreads over the moving sheets of film support.

The film is then chilled, dried, conditioned and ready for final

Schoolboy ordeal in crevice

Once again someone gets trapped in a crevice. Here we have a 14-year-old boy who spent nine hours trapped in a rock crevice before being freed by rescue teams.

Darren Griffiths, of Portland, near Lithgow, fell six mts into a crevice at Blackfellow's Hand, about 15 Kilometres north of Lithgow, while on a Portland Central School camping trip.

It took the Lithgow Volunteer Rescue Association, the Police Rescue Squad and two members from the Sydney Rescue Squad, which had to be flown in by Police helicopter, plus other rescuers from Katoomba and Bathurst to free Darren from the crevice.

It seems everytime you pick up a news paper or listen to the news someone is either lost or trapped in the bush somewhere. This is mostly caused through public ignorance in the dangers of bush walking or caving. There should be more publicity in showing the dangerous side of bush walking and all outdoor activities rather than the glamourous side all the time.

Then the Volunteer Rescuers may be able to spend more time with their own families.

GARRY'S FAUNAL NOTES
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FAUNAL NOTES No. 1 : Some Reptiles and Amphibians of the Cliefden Caves area (N.S.W.)

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by Garry Webb

This is the first of an irregularly occuring series of notes on the fauna recorded in New South Wales caves and surrounding areas. Further information of fauna found in Cliefden caves area and other caves visited will be presented in subsequent notes.

Reptiles

Family Chelidae (Tortoise)

Chelodina longicollis (Common long-necked tortoise).
One adult individual was found in the creek due notth of the hut.
Disappeared into weed infested creek when disturbed.

Family Gekkonidae (Geckos)

Oedura lesueurii (Lesueur's velvet gecko).
Commonly found under the bark of large yellow box (Eucalypt melliodora).

Underwoodisaurus milii (Thick-tailed gecko).
Two individuals were found under slabs of limestone near Tet-anus Cave Cl 65 west of the farmhouse.

Family Scinadae (Skinks)

Carlia tetradactyla.
One individual was found beneath a limestone slab near Tet-anus Cave Cl 65 . The remains of another were found in Murder Cave Cl 2.

Cryptoblepharus virgatus
Commonly found foraging and basking among loose bark of yellow box (Eucalyptus melliodora) trees.

Morethis boulengeri

Amphibians

Family Hylidae (Tree Frogs)

Litoria caerulea (Green Tree Frog)
One individual found in J.Section of Taplow Vane C15. Apparentl found quite commonly in caves. Individuals are being marked by toe clipping to follow their movements through the caves.

Family Leptodactylidae (Ground Frogs).

Limnodynastes dumerilii (Eastern banjo frog).
Common in small creeks in the area particularly after rain. One dehydrated individual was found in Tet-anus C1 65.

L. tasmaniensis (Spotted grass frog)
Found under corrugated iron sheets around the farmhouse and shearing shed.

Ranidella signifera (Common eastern froglet).
Found calling in small creeks in the area.

Uperoleia rugosa (Red-groined toadlet).
Found calling from the grassed edges of a dam, east of the farmhouse.

****

CONCERN OF ROCK DANGER
++++++++++++++++++++++++++

Jeff Davies, Abseiling instructor, Mittagong, has written to the Sun newspaper about his concern on potentially dangerous activities being promoted on television.

They are rock climbing and abseiling. He said,"When the potential thrillseekers and dangerfreaks in our community see these ads along with "Norm" telling us to get out from behind our TV sets and into the great outdoors, then through the inevitable "spanner in the works" someone will become a statistic. Then people like myself must risk our own lives to retrieve them."

CAVE FAUNA N.S.W.

PART 7 MILLIPEDES AND CENTIPEDES

SECTION A MILLIPEDES

Millipedes belong to the order Diplopoda and are sometimes mistaken for centipedes though are only directly related.

Millipedes are amazing creatures, their most obvious characteristic being their enormous number of legs. Moulting is a regular occurence throughout its life and with each moult millipedes acquire an extra segment, and since each segment has two pairs of legs a millipede gets longer and acquires more legs as it grows older. As with centipedes drought is a millipedes worst enemy as it also thrives in damp places.

Millipedes from the order Diplopoda have been recorded from:-
1. Tricketts, Castle and Meat Safe Cave, Yarrangobilly, N.S.W.
2. Argyle Hole, Drum and Grill Caves, Bungonia N.S.W.

Also small white millipedes from this order have been seen in Grill Cave near the mudslide.

The millipedes around the cave entrances probably belong to Paradoxosomatidae, but some species of Sphaerotrichopidae have been recorded from well within caves and are first and second level troglophiles, (Smith 1967). In most cave areas the epigean species would be an accidental visitor to dolines and cave entrances.

SECTION B CENTIPEDES

Centipedes belong to a group known as Chilopoda. They are characterised by a distinct head and a flattened, elongated body of 15 to 173 segments. Their clawlike appendages on the first segment function as jaws. Each segment has only one pair of legs.

They are usually found under stones and logs but can also be found in the soil. Despite their hard cuticle, which forms a kind of armour around the body, centipedes are not at all resistent to dehydration and quickly die when deprived of dampness. Some species have adapted so they are able to survive the enviroment of the deserts throughout the world.

SCOLOPENDROMORPHA

Ethmostigmus sp. is the epigean species from Cliefden area and has been recorded from Taplow Maze, Cl 5, Cliefden.

Family Scolopendridae

Sp. indent. has been recorded from Mullamullang Cave, Nullarbor Plains. This species was completly blind and is

believed to be endemic to the area.

SCUTIGERAMORPHA

Scutigeramorpha are the group of long legged centipedes. They have a fairly short body but on the other hand they do have 30 to 40 legs which are unusually well developed. It knows how to use them and its speed over the ground is considerable. Often a leg will be lost on route, since they are very fragile and easily broken. When this happens a marvelous regenerative mechanism comes into operation and a new limb grows on the scar of the old one. It is a nocturnal creature and prefers damp dark spots, often penetrating caves and cellars.

Family Scuterigidae

Scutigera sp. has been recorded from Johannsens Caves, Queensland (Wellings 1969), and also from Royal Chillagoe where it is known as the purple cave centipede. Scutigera sp. is the epigean species in the Cliefden area.

SYMPHYLA

There are recordings of Symphylids from East Deep Creek, River and Meat Safe Cave, Yarrangobilly, and also from several of the caves in the Coolemon area.

Symphylids are common in the leaf litter around cave entrances and so are readily washed into the cave entrances. Therefore they are usually considered to be accidental visitors.

REFERENCES

Dunkley J.R. and Wigley T.M.L., 1967: Caves of the Nullarbor.

Sydney Speleological Society, 1969 : Chillagoe, "Communications", Occasional Paper No.3.

Sydney Speleological Society, 1972 : Bungonia Book, Occasional Paper No. 4.

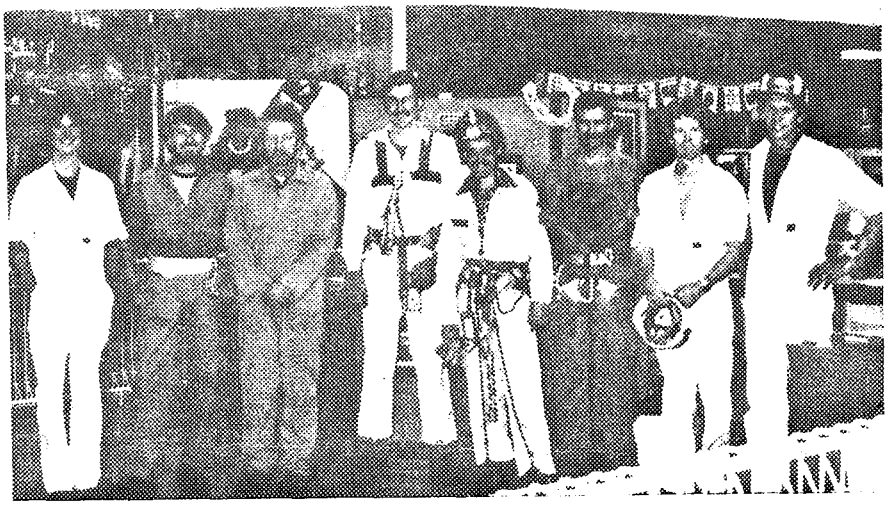
Identification for Cliefden, 1981 : Noel Tate, Macquarie University.

By Louise and Terry Coleborn.

BMSC PLAZA DISPLAY

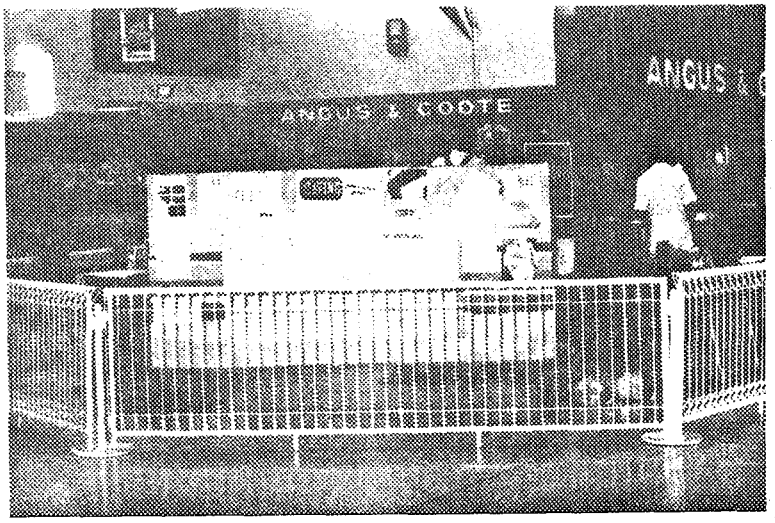
By PAUL SAMMUT.

B.M.S.C. held a display at Penrith Plaza on Saturday 8th September 1984. Members attending the display where Chris Warburton, Chris Olson, Tony Ellis, Brian Skinn, Steve Ross, Graeme Cummings, Gary McGuigon, Jack Chorley and a short visit by myself.



Members started setting up the display at 7.00am and was ready for show by 8.30am.

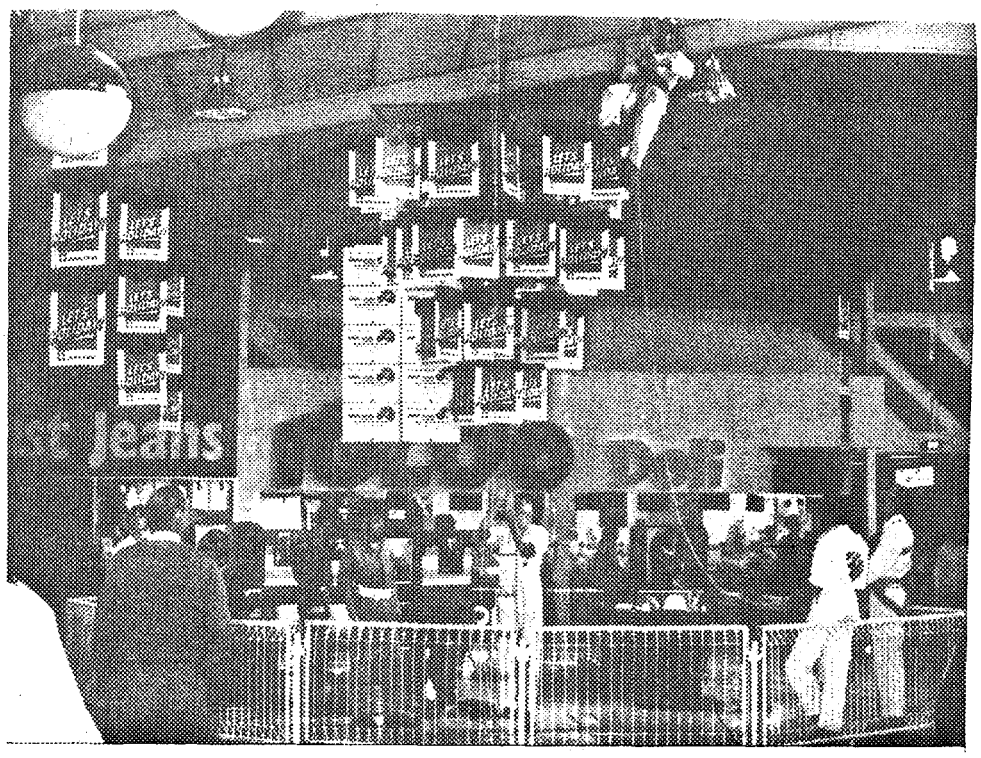
The display had generated quite a lot of public interest. There was a very good display of Photographs, Slides, Books and Equipment.



Display being set up

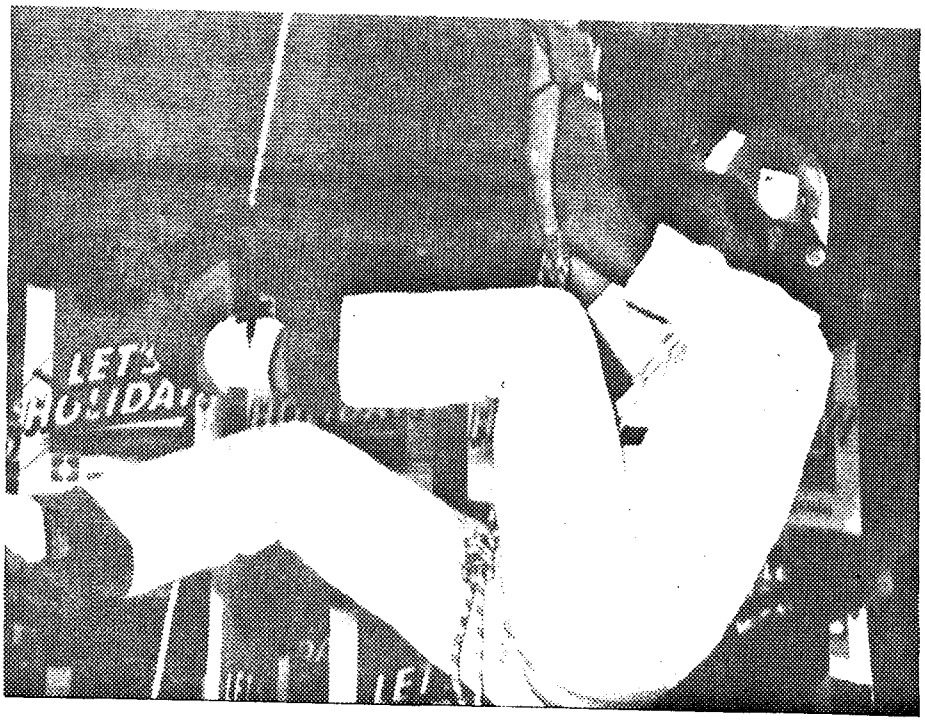
Left: Brian fitting single rope, bracket into place.

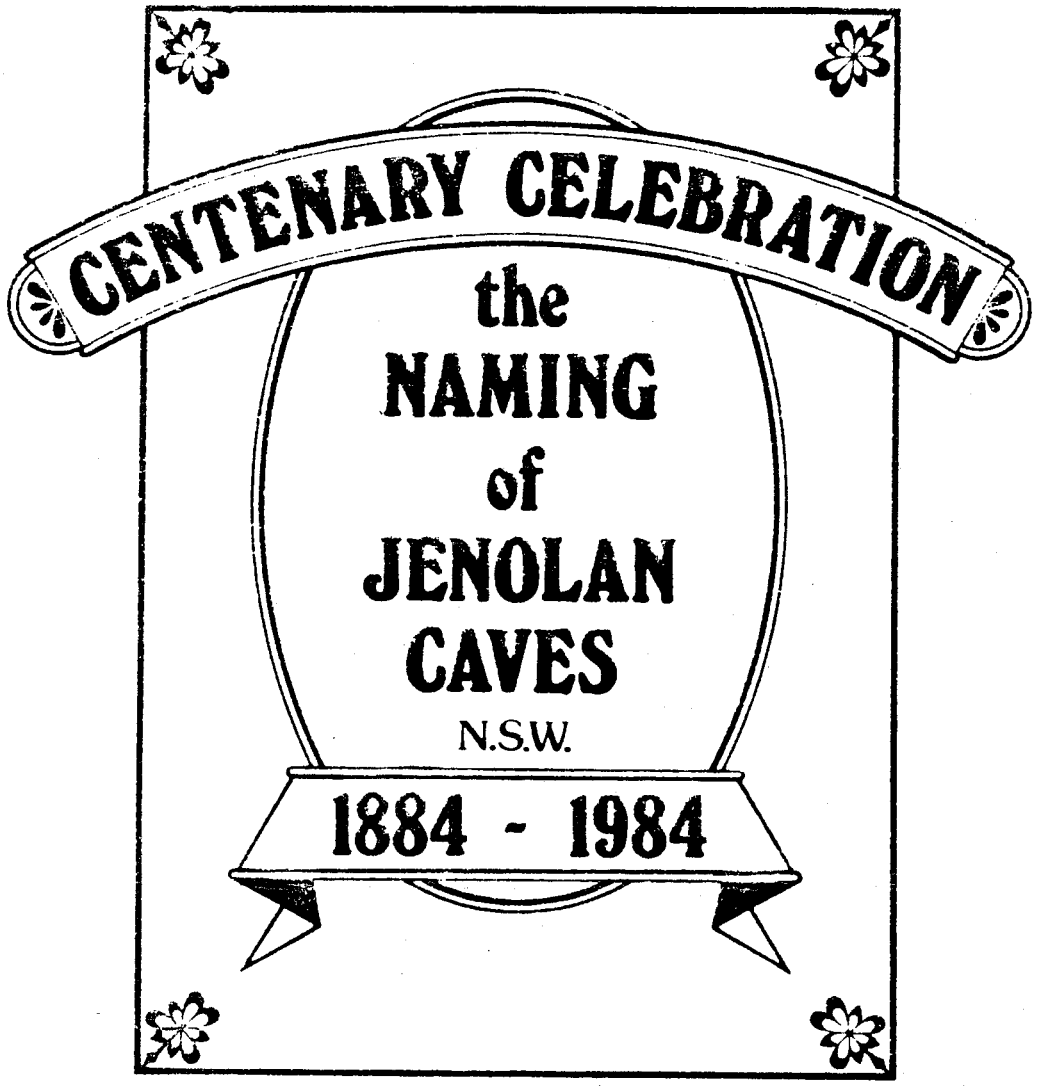
Bellow: Graeme up in the air. Public look on.



Left: Steve shows the public how to climb a ladder, Jack and Chris on belay.

Bellow: Jack shows how not to climb a wire ladder.





Saturday, 18th August
&
Sunday, 19th August, 1984

When a historical occasion arises at Jenolan, the staff certainly know how to celebrate. Such was the case recently when a weekend was set aside to commemorate the naming of the caves 100 years ago.

Our Historical Re-enactment group had been invited to provide some excitement for the weekend.

Hoop skirts and top hats added to the old world charm of Caves House as staff and guests wandered about in period costume. The Colonial Ball began at 8.30pm but was soon bailed up by the bushrangers.

After an exchange of shots the bushrangers left, and the defeated Troopers vowed revenge the next day.

A portrait of Jeremiah Wilson, the "Crown Prince of Guides" was unveiled by his Great, Grand daughter, Janet Bryant, in the 'Jeremiah' Bar. The black and white portrait shows Wilson sitting below Camp Rock in the Grand Arch. Even the ghost of Jeremiah was present at the unveiling. Actually there were at least two Jeremiahs present, as one of the attractions on Sunday was Jermiah's descent through "the Sole of the Boot" in Lucas Cave.

Supper was served in the foyer at 10.00pm but as we had indulged in a marvellous dinner in the Dining Room, we had to decline the yummy looking scones and damper.

A full historical program was proided for on the Sunday, with Guides and other Staff looking the part in their ancient gear.

At 11.30am our big moment came. Ron Newbold in Top hat and Tails read the naming declaration from Camp Rock in the Grand Arch. Ernie, also in costume assisted him with the microphone. It was very effective and the huge audience down on the roadway was most impressed.

At the conclusion of the declaration the bushranger chief appeared on the rock and with the crack of the stockwhip, the battle began. Not since the Ribbon Boys battle at Abercrombie has such a battle taken place. Five more bushrangers appeared high in the rocks above Imperial Cave while the Troopers took cover on the boulders at the top of the Lucas steps. Shot guns blazed as the crowd stared up in amazement. The Grand Arch setting was magnificent.

Thanks Robin and Barry for your hospitality.

Naming of Jenolan Caves GREG POWELL.

The existence of the caves was known to the local aboriginal tribes who called them "Binoomca" meaning "dark places in the mountain."

Between 1835 and 1838, an escaped convict named James McKeown is believed to have used the area as a hideaway, however his practice of stealing from the early farmers in the Oberon area ultimately led to his recapture, often he had been tracked to the Caves by James Whalan.

After learning of the existence of the Caves from his brother, Charles Whalan commenced regular visits to explore and to bring interested persons to the Caves. During this period they were referred to as "Bindo Caves" after a mountain near the present road between Hampton and Oberon.

Later they became known as the "Fish River Caves" which continued until the 1880's. However this name was shown to be inappropriate as the waters of the Fish River flow to the west, whereas the caves water flow to the east - separated by the Great Dividing Range.

Approximately 14 kilometres to the east if Mt. Jenolan, which has been used as a marker point by Sir Thomas Mitchell in 1834 in mapping the County of Westmoreland Parish he named Jenolan.

As the Caves were located in this Parish the name "Jenolan Caves" first suggested by William Cooper, was selected as the most appropriate and gazetted on 19th August, 1884.

Jeremiah Wilson was appointed "Keeper of the Caves" in 1866 and occupied that position until 1900. Affectionately called the "Crown Prince of Guides", Wilson pioneered exploration and development of the Caves for 40 years.

TRIP REPORTS 1984

CLIEFDEN

Date: 7th-8th April,

Aim: Taplow Maze dig and Limestone Creek trog.

Members; Terry Coleborn (TL), Louise Coleborn, Ricky Brett, P Cooper.

Visitors: Gary and Kevin Coleborn, Glenn cahalan.

Report

Saturday: In the morning we checked C150-51.

C150 is a much more difficult version of the Taplow "Chock-a-Block" Squeeze. The rock in this case completly fills the passage except for a 0.5m air space at the top. Negotiating it on the way in is merely undignified the return journey is B..!!?? awkward.

The cave basically splits into two arms both of which end in an upward sloping crack, the top of which is filled with a boulder choke where there is a noticiable air flow.

Rick was able to negotiate the boulder pile in the left hand arm for some distance, however the rocks are very unstable.

After completing our investigation we headed across to Taplow and Rick took the party down to 'Realm of Gondor'. On completion of the dig, puts Taplow unofficially just over the 3004m length.

Sunday: This was spent trogging Limestone Creek from the Belubula to the bridge near Mullongulli.

During our investigations of 'Rose Hill', Ricky had the nasty experience of coming face to face with a brown snake. Discretion being the better part of valour Rick decided the only steps to take where long and fast and in the opposite direction.

At this point we decided to leave the limestone to the snakes and roses and get the hell out of there.

Terry Coleborn

CLIEFDEN

Date: 5th-6th May.

Aim: Complete surface traverse of Taplow Bluff. Survey Peters Pit

Members: Terry Coleborn (Tl), Louise Coleborn.

Visitors: Lisa Callaway, Kevin Cheney, Kevin Coleborn, Gary Coleborn, Cheryl Coleborn, Kylie Coleborn.

Report:

Saturday - After a late start we headed down to Taplow Bluff to do a surface traverse.

Commencing from Taplow entrance the line runs south to the cliff line and then around the Bluff to a point above 50-51 entrances. From this point we shot a bearing to a small doline and then Cl31. We then continued the line across to the fence then back up to the small depression on the top of the hill and from here to the small stand of trees on the hillside not far from Taplow entrance and then to the Taplow entrance.

Sunday - It was pouring rain. At around 9.30am the rain had eased so we decided to survey Cl85 cave.

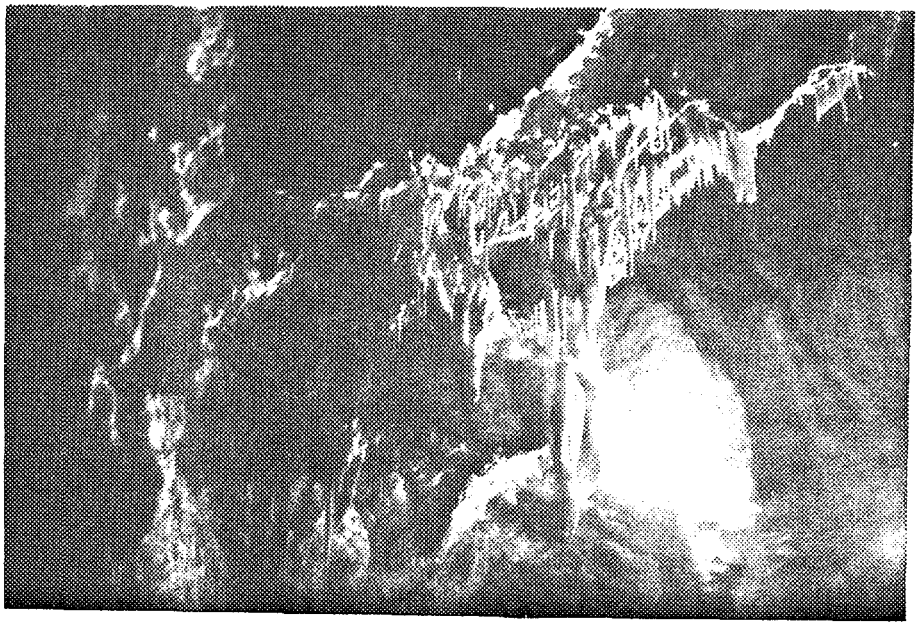
After the survey we cleaned the Hut and went home.

Coming Soon

Read Your Next Oolite

JENOLAN

Split Rock Photograph



Date: 12th-13th May.

Aim: Visit Rho Hole, Hennings, Little Canyon Cave & Split Rock.

Members: Brian Skinn (Tl), Stu Nelson, Greg Powell, Warren Lacey, Chris Olsson, Ricky Brett and Janelle Comrie.

Visitors: Mike Pollack, Ian Carr-boyd.

Report:

Trogged up we headed up the vally to find Little Canyon Cave. In the cave we found a dig, so a digging session commenced after which an entry was made into the full extent of the dig. Every possible avenue for a future dig was made but to no avail. The cave had filled up with gravel since the previous trip making some parts totally inaccessible, without a lot of digging.

We ventured into Hennings and found the gate alright. The only thing it had been broken from its anchors. One must ask the question, Who would break a gate, vandals or ASF affiliated clubs or both?. At this point in the cave much rubbish has been left, papers, flash bulbs, etc. Again who is responsible ?

On the way out Stu and Mike found a Helectite being formed. Water is actually being forced under pressure and this makes an unusual squirting noise.

Next day we spent three hours in Rho Hole.

Brian Skinn.

CLIEFDEN

Date: 2nd-3rd June.

Aim: To locate Tombstone area and Cl 171.

Members: Terry & Louise Coleborn, Lionel Baker, Mark Warburton and members of O.S.S.

Report:

Saturday morning Ian remained behind to fix the back verandah, the rest of BMSC. and OSS. headed off to find the Tombstone area.

It took us a couple of hours to locate the Tombstone outcrop. Michelle and Kylie located Cl 83 and Cl 66 and the OSS. boys Cl 63.

Saturday afternoon both groups went to Trapdoor where Terry continued on with the survey which would be completed in August.

Sunday was spent in the Malongulli outcrop in attempt to find Cl71. This cave is an 8m deep tight rift and is near the only kurrajong tree on the hill. We also tried to locate Cl 82 which is suppose to be near by. We found a small rift with netting but could not find any tag if one was small enough there is a small hole at the bottom of the rift which appears to continue on.

BMSC. and OSS. discussed having a joint trip in August to pool information and work out a plan for future work in the area. OSS. is to invite other individuals or clubs who have information relating to the area.

LOUISE COLEBORN.

CLIEFDEN

Date: 7th-8th July.

Aim: Survey caves located in Tombstone area.

Members: Louise & Terry Coleborn and family.

Report:

Saturday morning we headed off to the Tombstone area to commence surveying.

Cl 83 consists of two chambers with a tight interconnecting passage of 5.5m, the left hand chamber is a large space underneath the rocks with several holes to daylight. Just inside the main entrance a small passage goes off to the right. Cheryl ang Gary surveyed the interconnecting passage as Terry and I don't fit. A small daddy long leg spider which had very large palps and an opaque body with 5cm long two tone brown striped legs was found.

Cliefden cont.

Cl 66 is a large vertical rift which had previously been surveyed to a depth of 8m. Our micro speleos where able to ladder to the bottom which is another 7m deep.

The rift has two ledges. The first one being about 8m bellow the tag and the other end of the rift 2m lower.

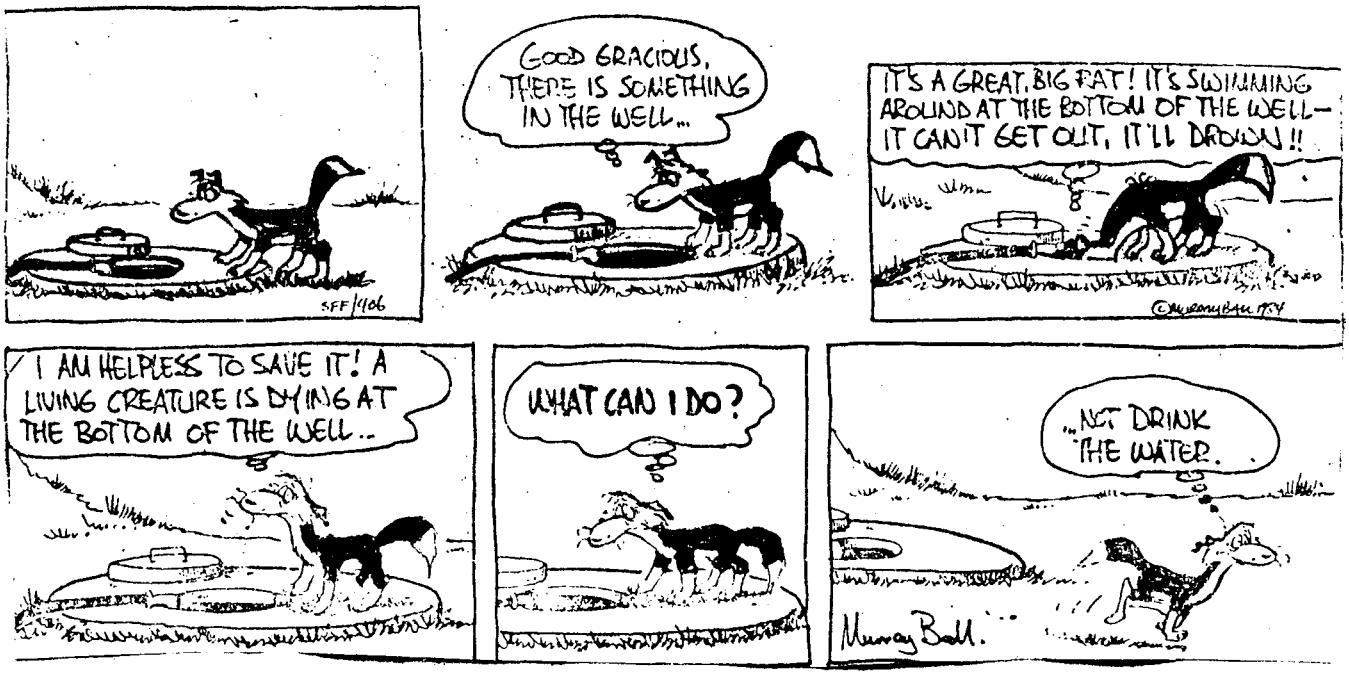
Cl 63 Gary was able to get through the tight rock pile entrance only to find that he was standing over a small deep hole.

The whole of the area near Cl 63, 66 is a series of deep vertical rifts some with only a very small entrance which is impassable. Walking back we measured the small dig which is in a doline and tagged 77.

After lunch we took some buckets of hot water to the shearers quaters and disinfected all the floors, shelves, tables, etc. On the way back Terry decided to check the water and was horrified to see a couple of dozen mice, wheels up, in the tank. So after permission we cleaned out the tank. It will be necessary to carry water until they get rain.

It was nearly 5.00pm when we cleaned up and handed the fees for the hut to Bruce.

Louise Coleborn (TL).



JENOLAN

Date: 25th-26th August.

Aim: Dyers, Wyburds, Mammoth and Split Rock dig.

Members: Brian Skinn (TL), Ricky Brett, Steve Ross, Graeme Cummings, Tony Zimmerman.

Report:

Up the valley in raincoats we trogged, gratefull when J41 loomed in front of us. At that height snow was falling, so an entry into the cave was made.

Back down the valley and into Mammoth. As usual the lower entrance was bloody wet, in fact so was the rest of the cave. Horseshoe Cavern, the mud slides, were very wet in the Railway Tunnel, and Central Lake was partially filled. The depth was approx. 8-12feet and crystal clear.

Sunday after an early start found us digging in Split Rock. A few energetic types enlarged the entrance and some photographs were taken of the wet formation in the top chamber. Digging then commenced down at the bottom and much progress was made. The digging is now being carried out through larger loose rock with more open airspace between each rock. The draught still is strong enough to blow out a candle, so as long as the draught blows we dig.

Brian Skinn.

Above photograph is of wet formation in Split Rock.