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Journal of

Blue Mountains Speleological Club



Vol. 17 No. 1

Journal of the Blue Mountains Speleological Club.
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INTRODUCTION.

Once again we have a new Journal editor which means the style and layout of the OOLITE will be changed slightly, compared to the previous issues.

Although being Journal editor is a very big job , it has been made a lot easier due to the fact that, some of the club members have contributed some good articles for publishing.

It would be great to see a lot more, participation from some of our quieter club members towards the journal so we can see some of their writing and story ability.

Basically what we need are any stories one can think up, or any news paper articles you see, cut them out and hand them in at the meetings. Just remember that photo's can also be printed in the OOLITE, so have a look through your photo's and send them in. Last but not least anyone with the ability to draw cartoons can also send them in.

This is the first edition of OOLITE for 1987 and also my first attempt as journal editor, so any suggestions for future editions of OOLITE will be appreciated.

I would like to thank those responsible for the articles which were submitted to me for this issue of OOLITE and I also hope you all enjoy this edition.

1987 EDITOR

Rick Brett

ASSISTANT EDITOR.

Carolyn Tucker

SECRETARY REPORT

1986 was a reasonably successful year for the club, beginning at Cliefden with our 20th Anniversary Dinner. Our membership has remained relatively constant with a gain of a couple of members and a loss of others. We must continue with our articles in the local papers and notices in the outdoor stores.

It is good to see our active young members gaining their Full Membership and moving towards their Trip Leader Status. We must all help and encourage these members if we wish to see our club remain active and continue to grow.

Finally I would like to thank the other Committee members and Office Bearers who have given their time to ensure the success of the club and to all members who have given their support in 1986.

TERRY COLEBORN
SECRETARY

EQUIPMENT OFFICER REPORT

All the equipment is in good order and is clean. A record has been kept of user and use of each piece of equipment. The First Aid Kits have all been updated and several items missing or deteriorated have been replaced.

Items of equipment purchased in 1986 include:-

Suunto Clinometer.

Two (2) Sets of Hire Equipment for visitors and new members and these sets include:- Helmet, Light 4'D cell, Belt, 6m Webbing Tape, Karabiner and Safety Kit.

Those hire sets have already paid for themselves at \$5.00 hire fee for weekend. We have decided to update the lights by selling 4'D cell light and purchasing Pretzl Zooms.

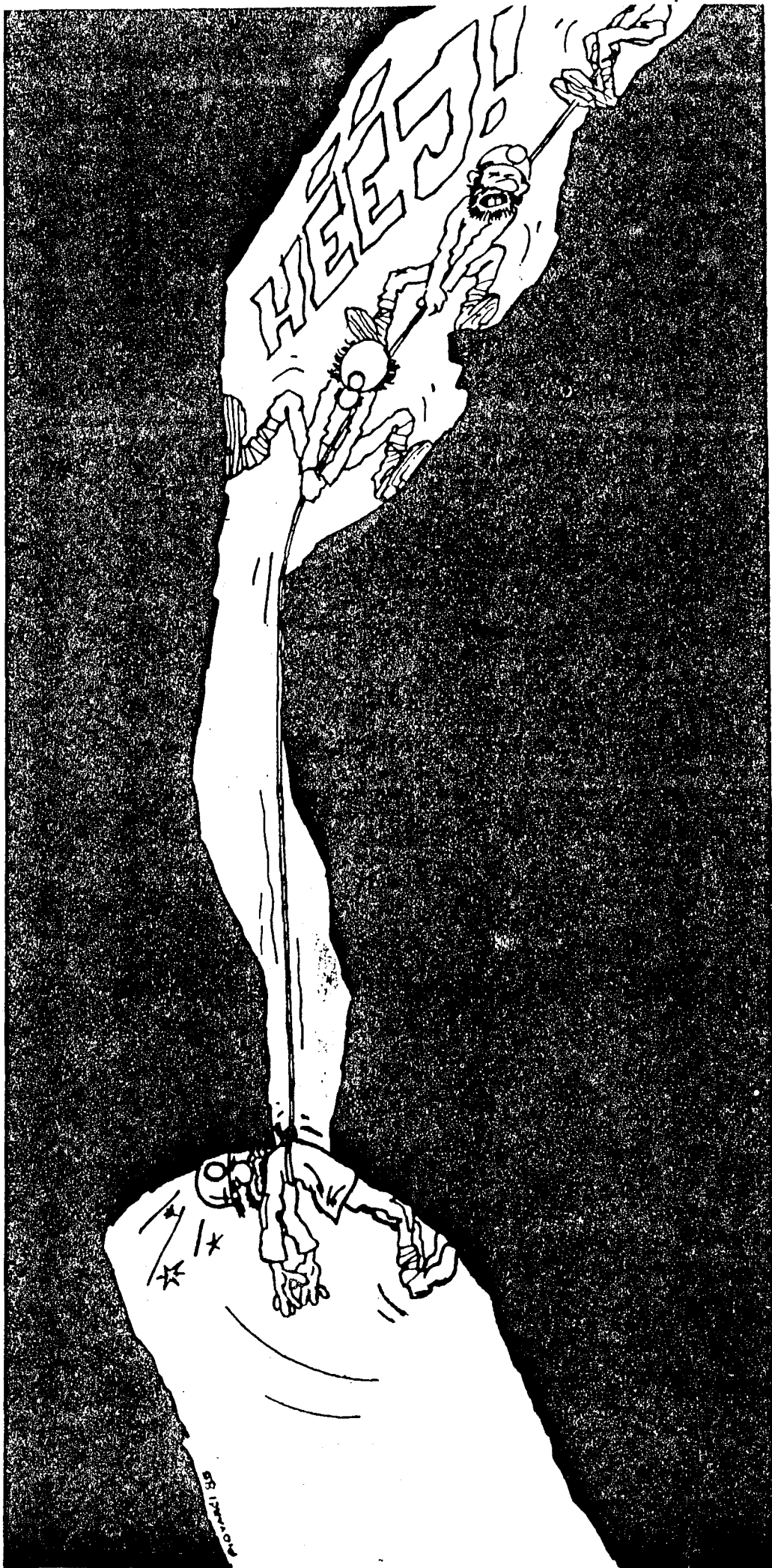
I would like to thank all trip leaders for their prompt return of equipment and for returning it in good order.

LOUISE COLEBORN
EQUIPMENT OFFICER

BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUBEQUIPMENT LIST - AGM 25th January, 1987

The following is a list of equipment that was entrusted to me and handed over to the succeeding equipment officer after the AGM held on 25th January, 1987.

3 x 10m Bonwick Ladders	Screen Printing Screens (B. Skinn)
1 x 9m Bonwick Ladder	1 lg. Metal BMSC Sign (B. Richard)
1 x 17m Club made Ladder	1 Transit Level
4 x 5m Steel Traces	1 Wooden Tripod
2 x 4m " "	Screen Printing Paint.
1 x 2.5m " "	Screen Printing Board
1 x 2m " "	5 Haversacks
2 x 31m 11mm Blue Water Rope.	3 Yellow Vinyl Bags
1 x 15m 11mm Blue Water Rope.	1 Duffle Bag
1 x 12m 11mm Blue Water Rope.	1 Suunto Inclinator (new)
2 x 22m Edelrid Rope.	2 Pretzl Zoom Caving Lights
1 x 44m Edelrid Rope.	AA adaptors. (new)
2 x 4.5m Workropes 9mm. (Superstatic)	1 Fielders Compass mount.
1 x Large Wooden First Aid Kit.	1 SISTECO COMPASS (new)
1 x St Johns First Aid Kit.	
1 x Trip Leaders First Aid Kit.	
1 x Bag misc. First Aid items.	
1 x Fielders Compass	
1 x Fielders Compass (Ian Bogg)	
1 x 20m Eslon Fibreglass Tape.	
1 x 20m Sturdee Fibreglass Tape.	
1 x Convex Rule 5m.	
4 x Helmets	
2 x 6m Black 50mm Flat Tape	
2 x Screwgate karabiners	
2 x Springgate karabiners	Equipment Officer 1986
2 x Webbing caving belts	Louise Coleborn 25/1/1987
1 x Small caving light	
1 x D cell caving light	
3 x Rope Protectors	
1 pr. Field Phones.	
1 Photocopier (Tony Ellis)	
2 Typewriters (Secretary I)	
1 lg. roll of Army green 50mm Flat Tape.	
1 x 3.8m x 25mm Tubular Pink/purple Tape.	
1 x 30m Stilon Reel nylon coated steel tape.	
1 Velbon Tripod	
1 Gestetna Duplicator (Paul Sammut)	
1 3M Copier (Tony Ellis)	
Misc Light Bulbs for sale Total \$81.20	
17 lg x \$2 = \$34	
21 low x \$1.20 = \$25.20	
10 MH x \$4.20 = \$42.00	



CAVE FARMING?

Niah Caves...

Resting hot, sticky and tired after a mammoth trek to the gigantic Niah Caves in Sarawak, the last thing we wanted to think about was soup. Yet that's precisely why the main cave was full of visitors when we stumbled through the west mouth entrance—more than 200m wide and 60m high, a foyer bigger than many a Tasmanian farm. Amid the crowd, we were the only tourist—the rest were locals on their twice-a-year foray into the caves to harvest bird nests for the lucrative Chinese soup market.

Though our heads ached and our legs threatened to collapse, our discomfort was soon forgotten by the spectacle... the indescribable beauty of the cave and the incredible and daring antics of the nest collectors. Our party — three unfit Australian journalists — had been invited to North Borneo to view the spectacles of Sarawak. And this was the most spectacular.

The Niah Caves are overwhelming, yet the world's biggest cave is still a couple of days' walk away. Nevertheless, the Niah Caves are a magnificent second. We reached them following a complicated travel plan, starting from Miri, a grubby town on the



Bird Nest Dealer....

South China Sea near Brunei and Sabah. In a 4WD, we travelled roads that would do the back-of-Bourke proud. And the driver seemed to be in training for the all-Asia Rally, shortening a five-hour trip to four.

We bought bread, bully beef and wara 7-up in Niah township then tore through the last kilometer of dust to the Niah

park Hotel, where a small display alerted us to watch for strangling figs and venomous snakes - and cautioned against disturbing the spirits of the cave. A short ride by longboat across the Sungei Niah River was followed by a long "short 3km walk" along a jungle plankway. Suddenly, after clambering up some rickety stairs out of the jungle, the cave entrance loomed above us in a huge sandstone outcrop.

Sitting 150m inside the awesome cavern, we found the light as bright as a dull day in Melbourne. We eagerly scooped our food, but the two cans of softdrink were no answer to a raging thirst, so our guide's glistening, cool water bottle was gratefully accepted. If we were exhausted then, there was more to come...we'd only just begun to sweat! With torches blazing, we set off towards the interior of the caves. Bats and Birds take turns here to flutter in their millions near the cave's ceiling. Birds by day, bats by night.

The birds are a type of swiftlet which secretes a sticky substance to attach its nest to the rocky heights, which makes it valuable to the Chinese as the main ingredient for bird's nest soup.

As we clambered over slippery rocks, we passed many men high up thin bamboo poles collecting nests. Some managed to cling to the pole while simultaneously holding a candle and plucking the nests from the rock. Their reaction to a camera flash in almost total darkness evoked some interesting reactions in the local dialect. We soon realised that the last thing a bird nest collector wants when 60m up a long string of poles is to be blinded by some crazy Australian's flashgun.



60m Up A Bamboo Pole

But the danger is amply rewarded. The nest collectors are paid nearly \$400 a kilo. And the Chinese have valued the delicacy for so long they have been buying the nest from the locals for 1000 years now. Occasionally shafts of light would beam down from 60m above us, where openings had formed in the cave roof. But mostly the journey was a kilometre-long stumble through the darkness.

Exhausted, and with another two 7-up cans' worth of sweat in our clothes, we emerged through the east entrance to "fresh" 40-degree air. Another half-kilometre along a jungle plank-walk brought us to the Painted Cave, inside a smaller rock outcrop. Our guide unlocked a rickety wooden gate and led us to a room-sized cavern covered with blood-red paintings.

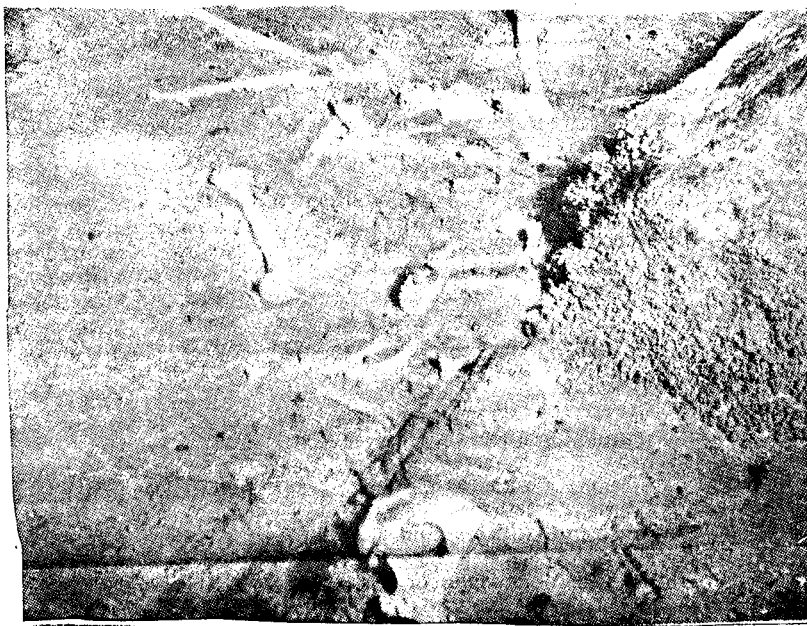
These have marked the walls for 40,000 years - proof that man has overcome the musty smell of bat dung to shelter in the caves for a long, long time. The scramble homeward through the main cave seemed quicker. Youths, backpacks loaded with bird nests, passed our puffing party to weigh in their booty at a dealer's scales near the main entrance. We found it hard to leave our last resting place inside the west mouth. The breath-taking panorama of the jungle contrasted sharply with the blackness behind us.

People Magazine March 87.

Aborigines Object To Display OF Jenolan Skeleton.

Aborigines have protested that the Skeleton Cave at Jenolan Caves, one of NSW's oldest tourist attractions, is "grossly insensitive". The Skeleton Cave features the bones of a 20-year-old Aboriginal who fell to his death in the Cave about 19,000 years ago.

It is one of eight caves open for public inspection at Jenolan Caves, the tourist resort west of the Blue Mountains operated by the NSW Tourism Commission. The NSW Aboriginal Land Council has complained that Skeleton Cave is freely advertised in the commission's brochures.



The Skeleton At Jenolan Caves

In a letter to the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism, Mr Cleary, the council said: "It is obvious from our investigations that tourists visit the site purely to look at and photograph the skeletal remains. "Promoting the remains as a tourist attraction is highly insensitive to the general views held by the Aboriginal community."

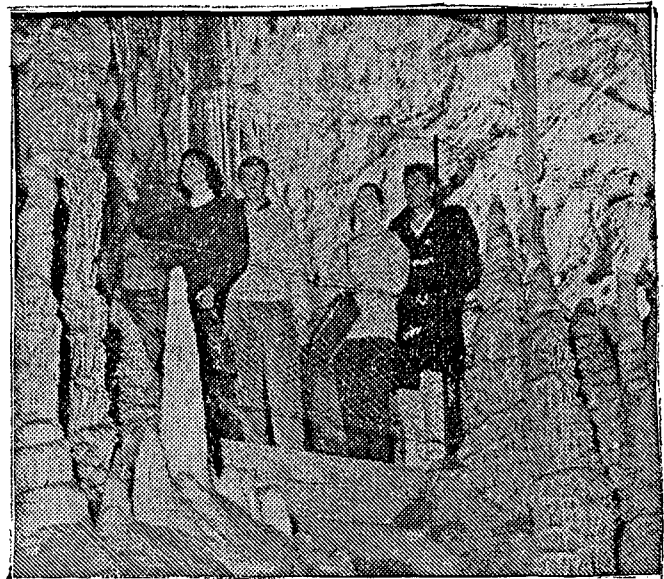
The skelton was "cemented" to the base of the cave by stalagmite formations and could not be removed. The council said the tourist path should be re-routed around the skelton and the enclosure should be closed to the public immediately. The cave should be renamed and the display light illuminating the remains switched off permanently.

The land Council also sent letters to the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Carr, and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Gabb. In its letter to Mr Carr, the council said the public display of the remains and the \$8 admission charge "trivialised what is essentially a sensitive issue for the (Aboriginal) community".

A spokesman for Mr Cleary said that a plan of management was being prepared for the caves. The plan would go on public exhibition and all groups could express their opinions.

"We will certainly look at what the Aborigines have to say," the spokesman said. "This sounds a bit like the Catacombs of Rome. It is not meant as an insult to have the remains on display!"

The NSW Tourism Commission said there was only one visit to the cave per day by a maximum of eight people.



Jenolan Caves

"There are not thousands of people in the cave," a spokesman said.

Is there anybody DOWN there ?

One summers day a decade ago author Alec Maclellan, on a walk in the hills of west Riding, Yorkshire, decided to explore a cave he had found. Its entrance was small and narrow and as soon as he had stepped inside a draught of cold air hit him.

He hesitated, feeling nervous. Ahead of him stretched only darkness, but he steeled himself and entered. He had a powerful torch with him that showed the way - downward on a slow slope. About 10 minutes into the tunnel he stopped, swung his torch around and decided it would be prudent to turn back. A feeling of unease had come over him. Nobody knew he had come to this place.

But just as he faced the entrance he caught, in the corner of his eye, a faint glow of green light which grew more intense. It made him turn and walk towards the source. As he did there came the sound of a gentle humming that gradually got louder, the ground beneath his feet began to vibrate. Then the humming became a rumble. His heart began to pound. The pulsation of the light and the increasing vibration convinced him the tunnel was about to fall down. He fled in terror and collapsed into the gentle sunlight of the outside world.

"The eerie green light was unlike anything I had ever seen before and the rumbling had almost seemed as if it came from some huge piece of machinery."

The experience led Maclellan into an exploration of the legends - and myths - that tell of a mysterious underground world, of people who have hidden from us since time immemorial: of a place where people live in harmony and contentment untroubled by the rest of humanity. It is a legend that is part of all cultures, all races. Jesus is said to have risen from this world to help humanity on the surface before returning DOWN to it and not up into the heavens as the Christian religion tells us.

Is there anybody DOWN there? cont.....

But even more startling, the author says this nether region is connected to all the continents of the world by a gigantic series of tunnels and it is still inhabited by this super race! Basically, he argues, these connecting passageways are partly the result of natural formations and partly the handiwork of the race which created the subterranean nation. They provide a means of global communications.

"That there are mysterious passageways beneath the earth's surface, there is no doubt," he says. He goes on to prove it with extensive quotes from men of knowledge through the ages. The existence of such a world, he says, would explain many of our strange phenomena-such as flying saucers. Maclellan is sticking his neck way out. He admits what he argues could seem weird speculation to most people, but backs every speculation, every argument, with facts from history.

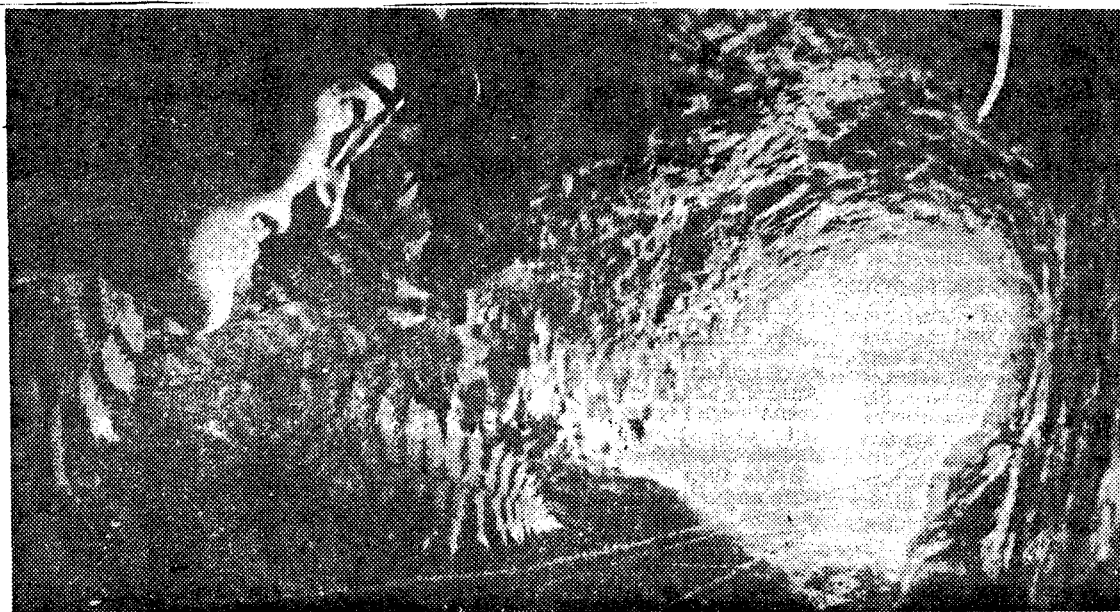


Cave hunter and author C.J. Cutcliffe (left) ... his work inspired Maclellan's book

The present population of this underground kingdom is believed to possess a science superior to any found on the earth's surface and to wield forces of nature of which we ordinary mortals know nothing.

In fact - and here the mystery depends - their civilisation is believed to represent the continuation of the lost continent of Atlantis which was supposed to have been between the continents of Africa and South America and to have sunk 11,500 years ago.

Is there anybody DOWN there? cont.....



With all this, the strange all-powerful, all-knowing race of peace and happiness, Down Under, far more essentially than anybody knew when the phrase was coined about Australia, goes to power. Such a power, such a force that those on the surface who have wanted to influence their fellow men and the course of history have dreamed and schemed to possess.

This is the power of Vril .

Adolph Hitler, the author claims, heard of the mysterious underground world. He sent expeditions across Europe and Asia in search of the entrances to this world. He wanted the power.

Did he find it, too late to change the course of World War II? Maclellan says Vril power is the single most curious factor associated with the legend of Agharti. He likens it in one sense to yoga, which believes it can control life forces in the human body, a personal inner strength. But he also says Vril can be harnessed to cut through solid rock as well as being a destructive force against enemies. His whole argument is enough to make one ask;
IS THERE SOMEBODY DOWN THERE?

Man killed in abseiling plunge.....

A St John's first aid member died instantly when he stumbled and fell about 80 meters while abseiling from Nepean Lookout in Glenbrook National Park.

He was Paul Adrian Young, 25, of Miller Street, Ryde. Mr Young was with five other members of the organisation in a cliff climbing excursion at the lookout. He was abseiling over the top, and was in a position close to the bottom of the drop when he apparently disconnected his harness.

It was presumed Mr Young then tripped and plunged to the base of a steep section of the escarpment. The other members of the group were out of sight at the time, and did not witness the accident.

However, one of the climbers heard a sound as he reached the base of the cliff, and they then located the body of Mr Young.

Police were then summoned to the lookout. They comprised Sergeant D. Hines, Senior Constable G. Hoffmann and G. Peterson with constable First Class W. Mahony and G. Broughton (Springwood).

They were joined by ambulancemen and NPWS rangers.

Pol-Air 1 was called to lift the body to a waiting ambulance.

NOTE:

Just remember that when abseiling tie a knot at the end of your rope before throwing it over the pitch.

Also when rigging up stay a safe distance from the edge of the pitch, this is also advisable after prussicking up a rope, don't unclip until you are at least 1-2 meters away from the edge of the pitch. "One step backwards or a slip could be your last."

SAFETY OFFICER

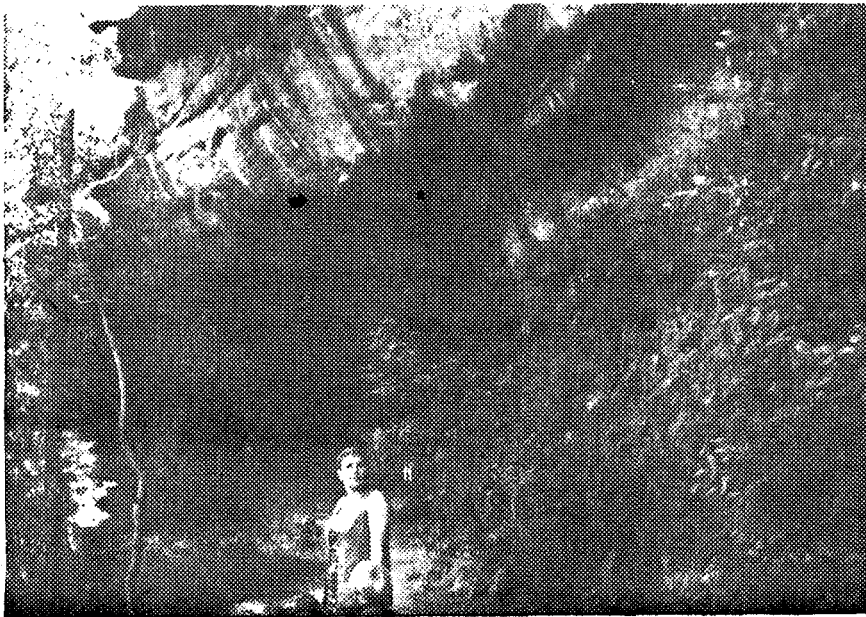
R. Baile

Caves of the Blue Mts. Part 1

THE KING'S CAVE

By Gary Coleborn

King's Cave is located on the northern side of the Great Western Highway near Linden Station. The cave is a large sandstone overhang, overlooking Linden Creek. At one end of the cave there are several small pools of clear spring water surrounded by an abundance of mosses and ferns.



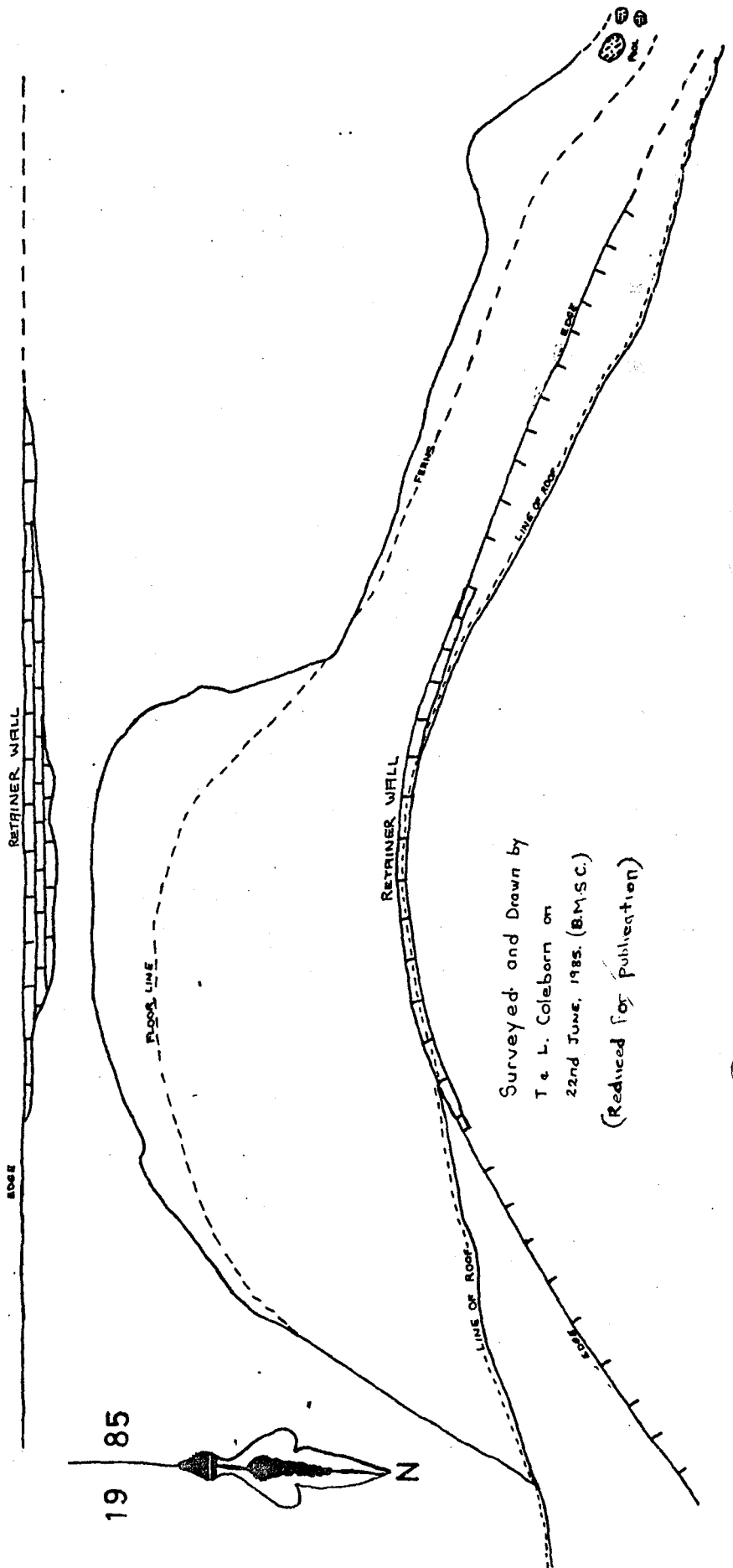
View of King's Cave (east).

Legend has it, that the cave was named after a bushranger named 'King'. And it is claimed that King shot Donohoe (who was a Constable) and buried him on the spot. There is no record of a bushranger King in the mountains nor any report of a Constable Donohoe being shot. So it is asked, " who was Donohoe". Was he just someone passing through that happen to meet his end nearby King's Cave.

KINGS CAVE

LINDEN: Blue Mountains N.S.W

Scale 1:200



Surveyed and Drawn by
T & L. Coleborn on
22nd June, 1985. (B.M.S.C.)
(Reduced for publication)

What we do know is that at some stage the cave was used by aborigines and there are reports of stone flakes still being found within the cave. The floor of the cave has been filled in and levelled at sometime and the fill is held in by a rough sandstone retainer wall across the front.

The cave wall and ceiling have a lot of graffiti but of particular interest is the following:-

KINGS CAVE (in large letters)

MDCCCXXI

I82I I849 I862

From records we are able to find that.....

I82I Lt. Lawson had a road gang in the area.

I849 The Toll Bar was erected.

I862 Beginning of the survey for the railway construction.

The most likely origin of the cave name is that at some time the cave was used as a shelter by the military and the name arose due to its being used by the King's Own Regiment. Thus, The King's Cave. Records reinforce this assumption for in I836..... 57 men of the 4th Foot, or King's Own Regiment were stationed at I7 mile Hollow under Lt.F.F.Campbell. This is also further reinforced by a headstone which was removed from the Springwood Stockade and is now in the Church of England section of the Springwood General Cemetery. The inscription of the headstone reads, " Sacred to the Memory of Francis Smith who died May 5 A.D. I836, aged 43 years, having served for 25 years as a soldier in H.M. 4th, The King's Own Regiment".

Near King's Cave is the headstone of Donohoe. On one side is the original inscription, which is rather weathered and worn from its many years of lying open in the elements. The inscription reads, " In Memory of John Donohoe who departed this life June 25th A.D. I837 aged 58 years". And on the reverse side that all may read the inscription a little easier it was rewritten but for some reason John Donohoe's name was written Donohue.

Although the headstone is located beside the road near where the track leads off to King's Cave. Donohoe's remains are beneath the railway embankment and the headstone was removed and placed in its present location.

Bibliography

SEARLE, A.; 1980: History of Faulconbridge, Linden & Woodford.

James Backhouse, Narrative of a visit to the Australian Colonies;

Map of the Parish of Woodford, County of Cook, 1897, shows the name, "The King's Cave";

POWELL, G.; 1980: Bushwalking , In the Blue Mountains;

WELCH, B.; 1973: ' Kings Cave', Blue Mountains; Journal of P.S.G. page 75;

Headstone in Springwood General Cemetery, Church of England section.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

SANCHOS HOLE.....

August 17, 1986

Present Dave Noble, Brad Barnes, Stuart Driver, Lachlan Wilson, Tony Zimmerman.

One Friday night I got a phone call from Dave who wanted to have a look at this "Limestone hole" near Black Spring.

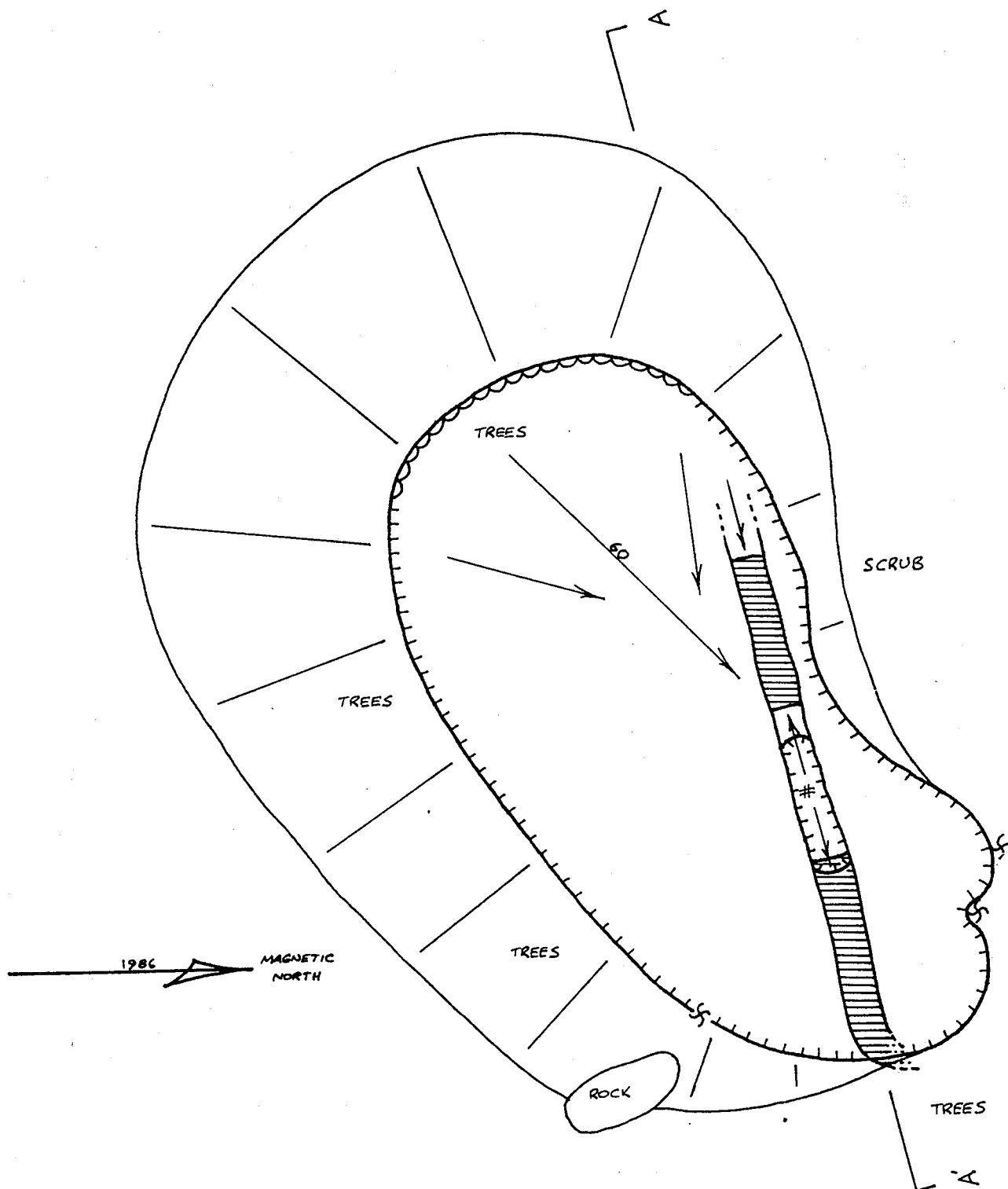
After meeting at Oberon we drove to Black Springs and on to the property owner's house near Campbell's River. After getting permission to enter his property we parked beside the road and walked the 500m to Sanchos Hole.

The hole was obvious by the fenced enclosure around it although the trees and scrub camouflaged the pit. The hole looked bloody deep with a 20m by 30m funnel doline descending to water 40m below. Exploration at the top showed the rock is shale and no limestone mentioned on the map.

We surveyed the top of the doline and rigged a 70m rope down the pitch at the eastern end and a 50m rope down the slope opposite. Dave and I abseiled and surveyed in on the 70m rope while one of the others tried to kill himself on the 50m hand-line. Its good the logs gave some protection at the bottom since the crumbly rocks sent showers into the depths.

At water level is a big leaf litter pile jutting up from the water table. Floating rubbish and probably a few aquatic sheep meant we weren't too keen to swim the long narrow slot that was the bottom chamber. Estimates of distance put the chamber at 17m high.

In hindsight we should have explored further since at the end of October the water level was about 7m higher making the chamber and logs invisible and in January a futher 3m deeper again.



SANCHOS HOLE

I5H-1

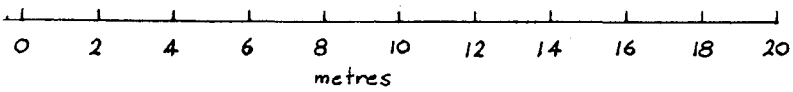
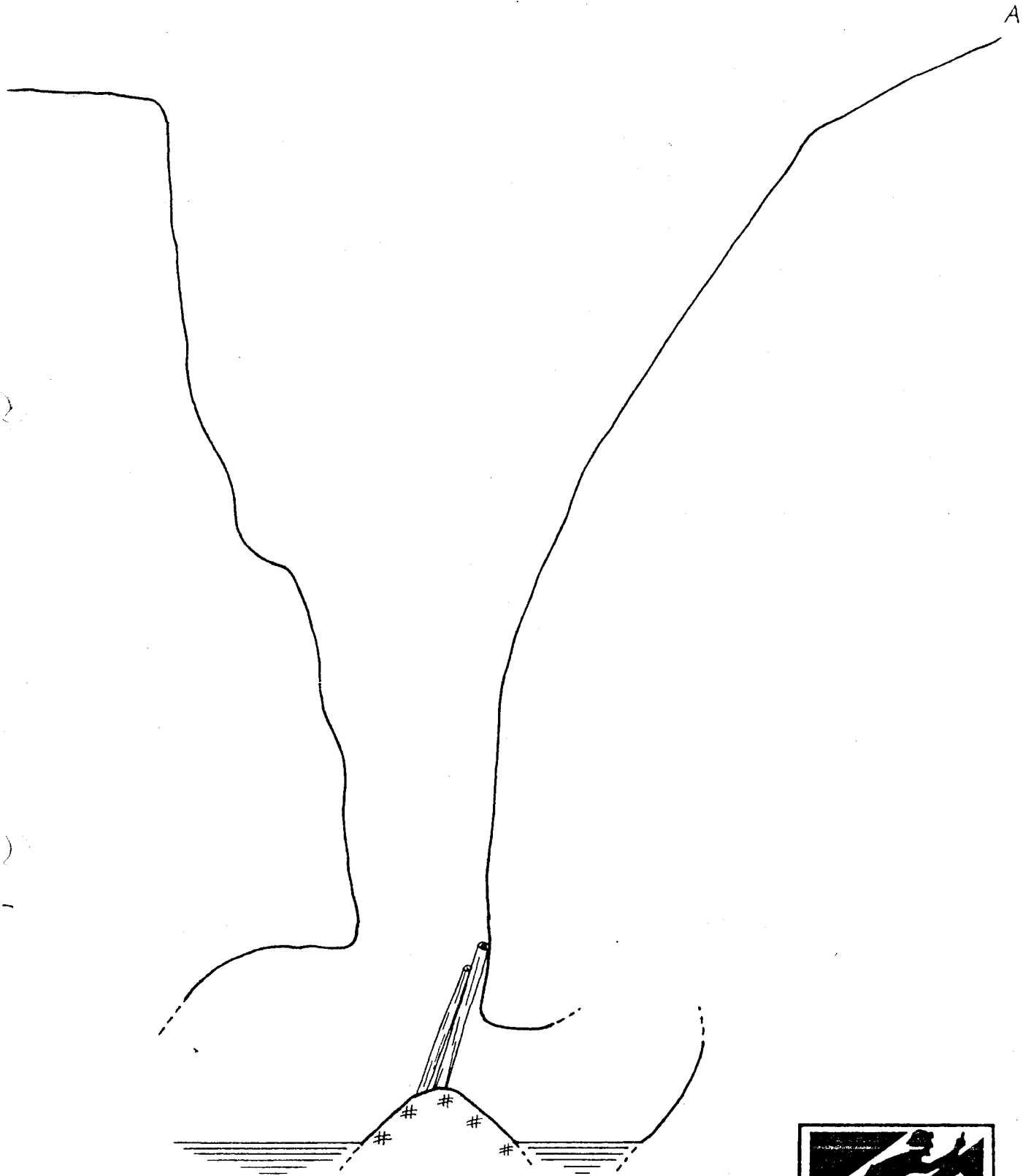
Bathurst general area

ASF Grade 42

Survey BB SD DN LW TZ 17/8/1986

Drawn B Barnes 23/8/1986 Map BMS101

Instruments fibreglass tape, Sisteco compass, Suunto clinometer



SANCHOS HOLE cont.....

Prussicking out presented problems of dodging falling rocks and ascending Dave's new rope that stuck in Jumar Teeth even at the top.

Legend has it that the hole is 170ft deep and has a lower entrance. It seems unlikely the cave would be more than 5m deeper. A lower entrance also seems unlikely since the level of Campbell's River 600m to the east is more than 10m lower than the water table. No other entrance or effluxes were located in this direction.

Brad Barnes.....

BRAVERY AWARDS FOR HELICOPTER HEROES.....

A Bathurst policeman was awarded a Silver Medal, the Royal Humane Society's top award for bravery for his part in a hazardous mountaintop rescue two years ago.

Senior Constable Ian Borland was one of four men to receive awards for a rescue. National Parks and Wildlife Service helicopter pilot George Foster and Barry Richard of Jenolan Caves were awarded Bronze Medals and helicopter Ian Callaghan a Certificate of Merit.

A Society spokeswoman said a schoolboy broke his hip when he fell at Kanangra Walls, near Lithgow, in November, 1984.

A helicopter dropped Constable Borland and Mr Richard on top of a steep mountain spire to rescue him.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, Wednesday, October 22, 1986

HALLOWEEN

FANCY

DRESS

31st October, 1986



We decided to hold this years fancy dress on Halloween. Louise and Terry supplied supper while the men brought wine and the ladies brought cheese for the wine and cheese tasting.

A lot of thought went into the preparation of the costumes and they were many and varied. We had clowns, witches, a skeleton, fairy, gorilla, the hunch back of Notra Dame, a genie, a black cat a Chinese collie, an Egyptian, a pretty little garden flower, Golom from 'The Lord of the Rings', a bag of garbage and some seaweed.

After sampling the wines we then played a variation of Trivial Pursuit with the end result being that Terry Coleborn and Louise Rowles were a tie, even after a playoff so Terry let Louise have the prize for King / Queen of Trivia. Personally I have never seen two people know so much about so little.

Poor Rick and Carolyn dressed as Aliens didn't make it to the Fancy Dress but had some fun of their own when their car broke down and they had to make a phone call from a house in the Suburbs. Rick let Carolyn make the call as she was the least scary of the pair of them.

Those present made it a fun evening for all.

CLIEFDEN.BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUBCLIEFDEN - TRIP REPORTDate of Trip:- 2nd - 3rd August, 1986Aim of Trip:- Lionel- General caving
Terry - Working Bee.Members Present:- Terry & Louise Coleborn, Gary Coleborn,
Tony Zimmerman, David Noble, Jack Chorley,
Richard Hyslop, Graeme White, Greg Powell,Visitors Present: Trevor Fowler, Andrew Butcher, Jill McFarlane,
Katrina Hyslop, Jessie White, Doreen Armitage
(NEWCAVES), Michael Ulph,OSS Members Bruce Howlett, Glenn Griffiths, Ian Curtis +
Visitors from Blayney high school. Barry,
Rhonda and Mark.

As Lionel could not make it Richard and I led the trips for the weekend. Over the two days Main, Murder, Yarrowigah, Trapdoor and Gable were visited.

While Richard led the trips I stayed back at the hut to help with the working bee. Jack and Glenn spent Saturday putting up the two beams they did one fantastic job between them.

Terry ColebornHours Underground

Terry Coleborn.....	3 hours
Gary Coleborn.....	3 hours
Jack Chorley.....	5 hours
Tony Zimmerman.....	9 hours
David Noble.....	9 hours
Richard Hyslop.....	7 hours
Graeme White.....	8 hours
Greg Powell.....	3 hours
Doreen Armitage.....	5 hours
Michael Ulph.....	3 hours
Jill McFarlane.....	3 hours
Katrina Hyslop.....	6 hours
Jessie White.....	8 hours
Andrew Butcher.....	9 hours
Trevor Fowler.....	9 hours

WALLS CAVE

BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB

WALLS CAVE + TRIP REPORT

Date of Trip:- 20th-21st September, 1986

Aim of Trip:- Survey the Walls Cave.

Members Present: Louise Coleborn (TL), Terry Coleborn, Gary Coleborn, Brad Barnes, David Noble, Tony Zimmerman, Ted Matthews, Tony Ellis.

Visitors: Lochlan Wilson, Jill McFarlane, Kevin, Cheryl, Ann+Marie, Kylie and Michelle.

Report:

We arrived at Walls Cave Rd. around 9am and then made our way down to the Walls Cave. We began the survey by measuring the entrance height at several selected spots. David and Terry climbed up to the top of the cave while Brad, Tony and I hooked on the tape measure to carry out the measuring. This went along okay until one of David and Terry's stations ended up in the middle of a 1.5m deep pool. Cheryl was then elected to be this station so she stripped off and headed into the pool.

The Walls Cave has a max. entrance height of 29.9m and a width of 62.9m. The Walls Cave survey was completed at about 2pm so Brad, Lochlan, Gary, Kevin, David and Tony set off to do the Grand Canyon while Terry and I surveyed the underground river section. The Underground river is 22.5m in length and is 2m deep and bloody cold. Upon completing the underground section I thawed out in the sun before heading out to the cars.
Map and article on Walls cave to follow.

Hours spent surveying 4.

Louise Coleborn



CLIEFDEN.

BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUBCLIEFDEN CAVES - TRIP REPORT

Date of Trip:- 13th-14th September, 1986

Aim of Trip:- Working Bee.

Members Present: Terry Coleborn, Louise Coleborn, Gary Coleborn

OSS Members Bruce Howlett, Glen Griffith.

Visitor Rodney (OSS) + 2 CCOG Members

The weekend was spent demolishing the old house. By the end of the weekend three rooms had the flooring up but there is still plenty to be done. Glenn (OSS) put in two of the windows in the sleeping quarters of the hut. By the end of the weekend I was beginning to think BMSC stood for the Blue Mts. Salvage Club.

Terry Coleborn



Terry hard at work

JENOLAN

Date - 6th/7th September, 1986

Aim -

Members Present - Brian Skinn (TL), Brad Barnes, Ricky Brett, Carolyn Tunks, Graeme White.

Visitors - P Gallagher, D Maidement, Tim Pearson, Max & Pam.


Report: The usual arrival at Jenolan early on Saturday morning saw Ernie Holland, the Chief Guide showing us some slides of "the flood", apparently 29.5 inches of rain fell in those three days, which really moved tonnes of Jenolan river gravel down stream, filling up the Blue Lake and the Hydro Weir. Ernie also invited me to sit in on the State Liason Council Jenolan Sub-committee meeting which I agreed to attend. The others under the leadership of Ricky Brett, entered Mammoth and found their way into the Ice Pick Lake via that horrible wedge shaped rift. Later the trip went to the Middle-Bit where they stopped, in favour of returning to check the level of the Lower River. The Central River was noticeably higher then usual, with all the usual stepping stones completely under water. Lower river was inspected and was also higher then normal, however the most interesting aspect was the way in which the Southern route was thoroughly cleaned and still very wet, evidence of a very high water level.

Sunday: 40 minutes from the cars found us sitting next to Funnel Web Cave (Southern Limestone) contemplating the digging prospects. So without much to do we got stuck in. Water was flowing out an efflux 10m to the right and down hill from our entrance so the way on was going to be wet. Never the less down we went getting closer to the water table as we went, until we were digging under water. Then it was noticed through a small hole in the rock, that a passage veered off to the left, so a concentrated digging effort saw the passage open up to man-size, half under water, most uninviting. But it went on, we had found a real cave, it was a goer. Only who was going to **brave** the elements and the water. Brad and I looked at each other in silence. With tapes tied to my feet, I cautiously lowered myself headfirst into the well. God it was cold. Upside down, half my head underwater, helmet full of cold muddy soup, I peered up the passage to be confronted with a teardrop shaped mansize hole through solid rock half submerged in water. Past this obstacle at a slight 10° right turn, further passage could be seen up to a largish looking right hand corner, a distance of approx. 4m. With all this going for it, I chickened out, the conditions were too much, hypo-thermia was a real prospect after only a very short time if penetration had occurred.

Next trip will see the water down, a penetration, a sizeable cave found, surveyed and tagged. What hopes, but I think it will.

Time underground.

Brian Skinn - NIL
Everyone else - 7 Hrs


Brian Skinn
Trip Leader.

CLIEFDEN.

BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB
TRIP REPORT - CLIEFDEN

Date of Trip:- 18th - 19th October, 1986

Aim of Trip:- Hut Working Bee.

Members Present: Louise Coleborn, Terry Coleborn, Jack
Chorley, Gary Coleborn.

OSS Members:- Bruce Howlett, Glen Griffith.

UNSWSS John Williams, Ian C. Ann Williams

Report:-

Saturday: Jack and mum spent Saturday putting up end wall. Glen spent the day putting in windows. The rest of us continued dismantling and storing timber from old house. When we arrived back at the hut we found a gaping hole in the kitchen floor wall where the old stove use to be and a huge pile of brick and rubble in its place. The evening was spent discussing conference trips to Cliefden.

Sunday:

More work was done on the wall while the rest of us cleaned up the mess around the back of the hut. UNSWSS members installed bath and shower. The young saplings were planted and with a water when club hut in use they should do well.

Bench top sanded and coated in clear gloss just before we packed for home.

GARY COLEBORN



JENOLAN

(28)

Date: 18th/19th October, 1986

Aim: To dig Funnel Web Cave, Southern Limestone.

Members Present: Brian Skinn (TL) Ricky Brett, Carolyn Tunks and Graham White.

Visitors: Rolf

Report: With wetsuits in hand and hoping not to use them, we found our way up the valley. But the flamin' efflux was running with no apparent let up compared with the previous trip.

We all started the digging, and rapidly found why we named the cave Funnel Web. We had soon had a further six spiders squashed beneath very big heavy boots, (attached to very nervous feet). An attempt to enter was soon made however the angle of entry was considered too accute and awkward, so further digging was necessary. After much effort a hugh 3 foot by 3 foot boulder was dug out and moved out of the way, allowing a more direct in-line entry.

On with the wetsuits and Rick decided to enter, but only stayed five minutes before severe cold forced him out. To enter Rick had to lie in the water, then Duck Dive under the first rock ledge into more open air space, then move forward with a 10 -15° half twist to the right. I might add this is bloody awkward and terribly unnerving and very very cold, so at this point I would like to thank Rick for his courage and perserverance. He disappeared a body length and a bit before returning, backwards. It was at this point that Rick lost all feeling in his legs and feet, so he didn't have a clue where his legs were going and didn't know that they were banging the rock wall quite hard causing minor injury. When he got out, he couldn't stop shivering, so in the pouring rain we got a hot fire going to bring some feeling back into his freezing frame.

Soon after we moved over to Paradox and spent an hour or so exploring this quite interesting small cave. Due to the large number of bats we didn't stay as long as we intended, so further ground exploration was carried out with a few notable possible dig locations found.

Graham White - 2 Hrs

Rolf - 2 Hrs

Brian Skinn - 1 Hr

Ricky Brett - 1 Hr

Carolyn Tunks - 1 Hr

Brian SKINN
(Trip Leader)

WYANBENE

Date - 18/19th October, 1986

Aim - Exploration

Members Present - Brad Barnes (TL), David Noble, Tony Zimmerman,
Stuart Driver.

Report:

Leaving on Friday morning Locky and Dave headed off for Wyanbene. The 1st stop was Terry's for the equipment (rope and ladder) and then it was on to Warragamba for the permit and Queanbeyan for the key. After a long day we finally arrived at Big Hole camping area where we camped.

After a good nights sleep we awoke and headed for Wyanbene, where we immediately headed for the cave. We went in and found that the key fitted and inspected the tourist section. After an hour we returned to the surface to find the others just arriving.

After some time we proceeded into the cave. Locky and Dave made no hesitation in getting their feet wet as the water wasn't as cold as you would think... We then proceeded to the Blowhole and opened the gate. After examining the lock (which was badly damaged) we debated whether we should lock it behind us at the risk of it jamming. This problem was soon overcome as the gate was able to be opened easily from the inside. The NPWS thinks of everything. We then decided whether we wanted to head for frustration lake (This took about an hour). NO!!! was the reply. After descending the ladder we had morning tea. It was then off through the goal house and up to helectite chamber and down through a squeeze back to creek level. On it was again back through the triangular squeeze. Then it was the water crawl at which Tony and Dave negotiated dryly from past experience, while the rest got totally wet. It was then up to the Gunbarrel, and as no one knew where the lower entrance was we climbed the tricky mud slope. YES, it was big, no one could clearly see the top and the rope was hanging from somewhere. Tony and Dave remembered hearing about a lower entrance, so, went down a hole in the bottom and looked for a way out, and as usual after exploring four deadends, Dave succeeded in finding the exit, and we arrived back at the packs at the same time as the others.

We then had lunch and proceeded on to Ceasars Palace. Tony and Dave arrived first and did some exploring while Brad and the others tried to find their way in. Eventually after some help they made it.

(2)

We then decided to return and left quickly, with Tony leading us back through a tricky squeeze. After getting out we had tea and went to bed.

The next morning we woke to a finer day. So we headed off for Marble Arch, stopping to look at Big Hole on the way. After arriving we soon found the two main caves. The arch itself was spectacular and the waterfall coming out of Modong Cave was a surprise. We headed in and then came out for lunch, we headed back in and found the bats and then came out. We then headed back to the arch where we inspected the Lake Cave which was dry, (except for the creek flowing through) and then walked back to the cars and headed for home.

Hours Underground - 12 Hrs everyone

JENOLAN

Date: 8th/9th November, 1986

Aim: General Exploration

Members Present: Brian Skinn T.L., Brad Barnes, Tim Pearson, Graham White, Tony Zimmerman, David Noble.

Visitors: Stewart Driver, David Maidement, Rolf

Report: After some interesting driving techniques at the top of the "five mile" we all arrived safely at the campsite, set camp and were on our way up towards Mammoth.

I took the normal route, others found more interesting ways of getting from point A to point B. Anyway the dry Syphon was reached with yours truly not liking the amount of water I could see. The Waterfall Passage was flowing ever so slightly more than usual, thus filling up the Syphon from around three inches this side, to a couple of feet the other side. Half the party pushed on and found the squeezes in the Great North Cavern route, then the beginning of the Infinite Crawl, then returned to the dry side of the Dry Syphon. Two even more adventurous trogs were even talked into checking out the Waterfall up the Waterfall passage, boy, did they get wet.

A return was then made with Brad and Tony leading the way out - till they became - not really lost, just not in the right place.

Sunday - Into Foz Hole, I really found the entrance after about 8 years, without any trouble at all - almost. We all found our way into the top of the last chamber without gear to descend to the bottom. Brad and David returned to the cars to fetch the appropriate gear. So down to the bottom and back again, an interesting cave.

Hours underground.

David Maidement - 7 Hrs
Tim Pearson - 7 Hrs
The Rest - 10 Hrs

Brian Skinn
Trip Leader

CLIEFDEN.

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BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB

TRIP REPORT - CLIEFDEN

Date of Trip:- 6th - 7th December, 1986
Aim of Trip:- Hut Working Bee.
Members Present:- T.Coleborn, L.Coleborn, G.Coleborn,
J.Chorley, G.White
Visitors: J.White, M.Coleborn,
O.S.S. Members:- B.Howlett, G.Griffith, I.Curtis .

Report:

Saturday morning was spent in finishing feature wall and putting up the pine above the fireplace. Then after a rather delightful and cooling swim Bruce led a trip to Gable while Ian and the girls cut the timber for the bunks, Jack and Glenn put in the end window in living room and I began the tidying up of the wiring around the kitchen.

Sunday was spent wiring, building bunks, cleaning up the out houses and general clean up around the yard.

It was around 6pm when we had cleaned the hut and packed up to go home.

Hours Underground

Coleborn G.	5 hours
White G.	5 hours
White J.	5 hours
Howlett B.	5 hours

TERRY COLEBORN



CLIEFDEN.

TRIP REPORT - CLIEFDEN

Date of Trip:- December 30 to January 2, 1987
 Aim of Trip:- Pre-Conference
 Members Present: Terry & Louise Coleborn, Kevin Coleborn
 OSS Members Ian Curtis
 VSA Members Lloyd Mill, Tom Whitehouse.

Report:

Arrived at Cliefden around 10pm on Tuesday night after spending two days at Ian's place Clergate. Wednesday morning Ian led a trip to Swansong. Swansong is a small fairly dry cave consisting of a large chamber with a few side passages and is in the process of being surveyed by OSS members. After Swansong, Kevin had a close encounter of the wasp kind and was bitten three times. It is worthwhile noting that Gable outcrop contains many paper wasp nests and extreme caution should be exercised in this area. We then headed back to the river for a swim and lunch with the girls. Due to threatening rain clouds we decided to head back to the hut around 4pm.

Soon after we arrived back at the hut, Lloyd Mill and Tom Whitehouse (VSA) arrived. Malongulli trip was planned for the evening but was cancelled due to onset of heavy storm and preferred relaxation exercises.

Next morning we headed for Main Cave where we indulged in the usual tourist trip. This cave is becoming damaged due to sheer carelessness as well as some vandalism. OSS have instigated some new rules with regard usage of Cl I Main Cave:-

- I. Sewers are NOT to be entered unless the party is on the way out of the cave.
- ~~2. Nobody to proceed past Helictite Wall.~~
2. NOBODY to proceed past Helictite Wall.

We headed back to the hut for a late lunch and then Ian led a night trip to Murder. Friday morning saw us put past memories behind us and head to Taplow Maze all except Lloyd and the girls who showed great commonsense and stayed at hut.

Our trip took in such fascinating sights as the Dungeons, the Railway Tunnel, Metro, Pancake Chamber and the Blue Room Formations although Ian professed to be colour blind and couldn't see a thing. All of those who were new to the cave now appreciate how easy it is to get lost even only 20' from the entrance chamber.

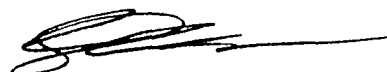
I don't know how the members from UNSWSS managed to move the large boulder at the entrance to the Railway Tunnel but if the report is correct and it did fall on the legs of one of their members without doing any serious damage then he should go out and buy a lottery ticket in every lottery he can as he is one lucky fellow.

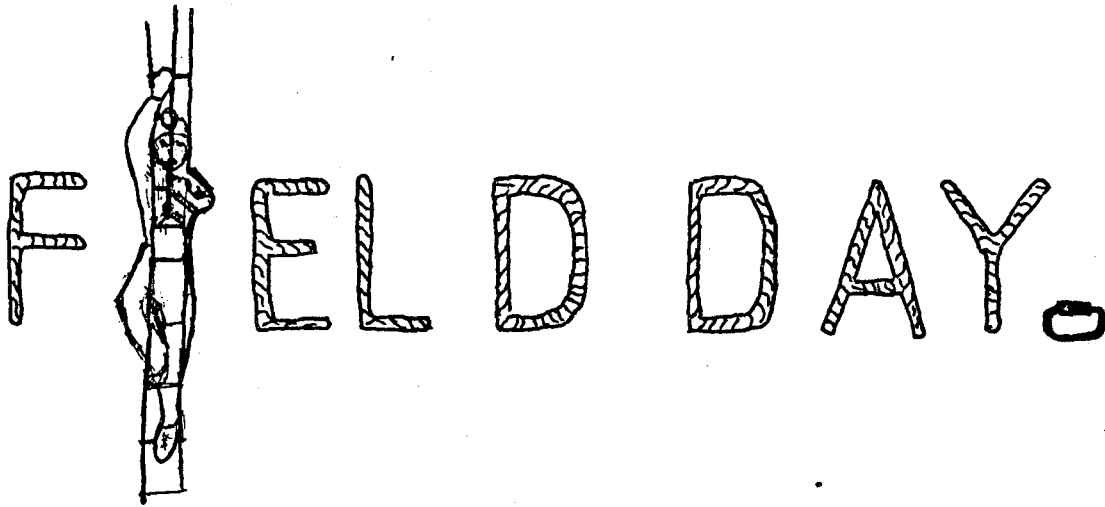
Friday afternoon we cleaned the hut, packed up and then headed back to Ian's place.

Hours Underground

Coleborn T	.....	11 hours	
Coleborn K	.....	16 hours	
Curtis I	.....	16 hours	OSS
Lloyd Mill	.....	8 hours	VSA
Tom Whitehouse	.....	12 hours	VSA

TERRY COLEBORN





Date: 7th March, 1987.
Place: Glenbrook National Park.
Aim: SRT Practice & Full Membership requirements.
Members Present: Louise Coleborn, Terry Coleborn, Lachlan Wilson, Gary Coleborn, Kevin Coleborn, Brad Barnes, Graham Cummings, Graeme White, Tony Zimmerman;

Report:

We all met at the Jelly Bean Pool between 10am- 11am. Brad, Tony, Graeme & Graham practiced SRT and reviewed techniques and equipment. While Kevin & Lachlan demonstrated their Full Membership requirements.

Both Kevin and Lachlan have passed all their requirements with the exception of First Aid. They are both going to do a St. John's First Aid Certificate. When they complete the First Aid they will be ready for Full Membership.

Brad demonstrated to the members present the use of cowtails and several other useful SRT techniques.

Louise Coleborn

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