

# COLLIERIE



Journal of

*Blue Mountains Speleological Club*

Vol. 18 No. 1-3.

WHY DO I DO IT ?

By Basil Ralston.

Why do I crawl here under the earth  
Because on the surface is nothing worth ?  
Nay, I love to see the leaves on the trees  
To hear them rustle soft in the breeze,  
But here in the mud where its darker than night  
I feel I'm at home where the squeezed are tight.

While some would prefer to go out to the Club  
Or lie in a daze on the floor of the Pub,  
I love to come here and squeeze through the rocks  
To bang my head and get blood on my locks,  
To slide in the mud and dig in the dirt  
To push through a squeeze till my buckled ribs hurt.

Then out in a cavern to see a great sight  
The rows of formation, so dazzling white,  
The walls of red crystal that sparkle and gleam  
Reflecting the light from my tiny torch beam,  
The stately columns and halectites rare  
Jewels fit for a palace, I just stand and stare.

Why do I do it, well if you can't see  
That this is the thrill of adventure for me,  
That here in the rocks deep under the ground  
Places of beauty and wonder are found,  
If you can't see the reason, no more will I rave,  
You've not seen the glory of Barralong Cave.

# BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB

## OOLITE

1988

### EDITORIAL

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*This is my first attempt at publishing the Oolite, so read on and let me know what you think should be changed to make it more readable. To save a lot of time this time, I have not re-typed any Articles. They appear as first written, so don't blame me for the content. Remember the better the articles, the better the Oolite.*  
Brian SKINN.  
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# NEW CAVE FOUND!

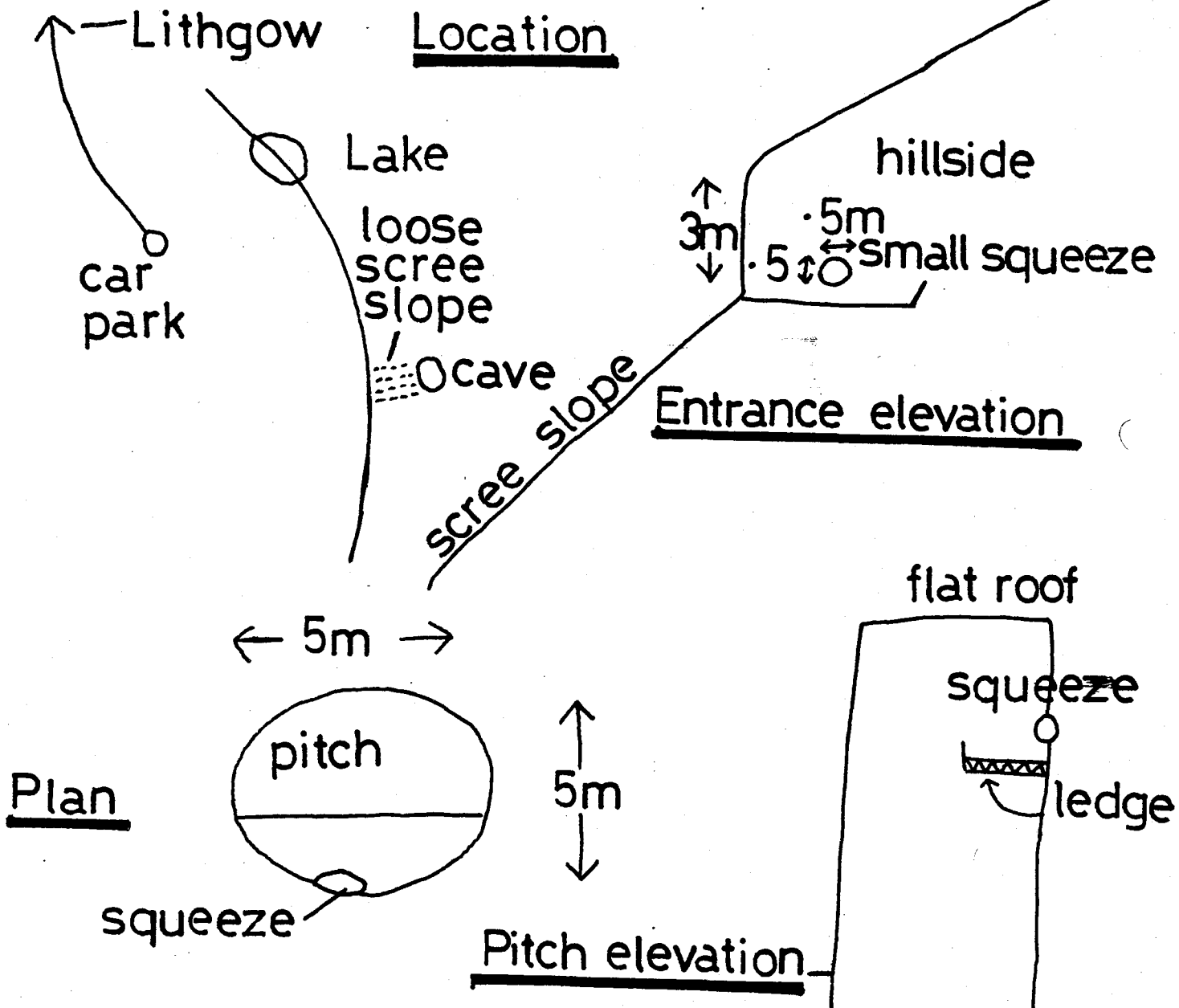
By David Noble

On a recent trog in the Lithgow area a new cave has been discovered. Its location is about 150m downstream from a large lake and then up a 20m scree slope.

The entrance squeeze appears to have been dug in the past as pick marks are evident. The entrance squeeze requires the removal of the battery due to its tightness. The rock appears to be a conglomerate with a calcereous cementing matrix with thin veins of iron running through it. On entry a large 2m wide ledge is met, this has a rubble floor with large iron veins protruding at the edge of the pitch.

The pitch has not yet been descended, however, rocks take about 7 seconds to reach the bottom. And caving lights won't reach the bottom (unless dropped). An active stream can be heard from the top which would indicate further passage. The pitch is large and cyclindrical about 5m in diameter.

If anyone is interested in descending, a trip will be planned in the future and ladders and ropes will be used to further explore the cave. Plastite was also noted in the cave.



Caves of the Blue Mts.

The Bushranger's Cave

By Kevin Coleborn

The Bushranger's Cave is situated on the western side of Mount Victoria below Pulpit Rock. It can be reached by an 800 metre walk from the 'Pulpit Rock' carpark down a steep track, known as the 'Little Zig Zag'.

The entrance to the cave is located high on the side of the hill at the base of a sheer sandstone wall, overlooking the picturesque Kanimbla Valley.

The cave has resulted due to the sandstone cracking and collapsing into large blocks. This is very evident in the upper level. The Bushranger's Cave is one of the larger true caves in the mountains and contains 75 metres of passage.

The origin of its name is uncertain but it would seem that it was at sometime used by 'bushrangers' as a hideout. The bushrangers of the Blue Mountains were convicts from the road gangs who had escaped to the bush. The cave would have made an ideal hideout as it offers a full view of the valley and limited access from the rear. Troopers would have found it difficult to approach the cave without being spotted.

The cave itself is spacious and could accommodate several people offering them protection from the fierce howling winds which lash at the side of the cliff.

The walls of the first chamber are covered with graffiti, the oldest inscription being:-

L. Wilson	C.H. Smith
M. Lawler	C.W. Smith
D. Sinclair	L.W. Robey
8 - 10 - 11	17 - 12 - 11

The Bushranger's Cave has a rugged beauty and is well worth a trip to go and see it.

Bibliography

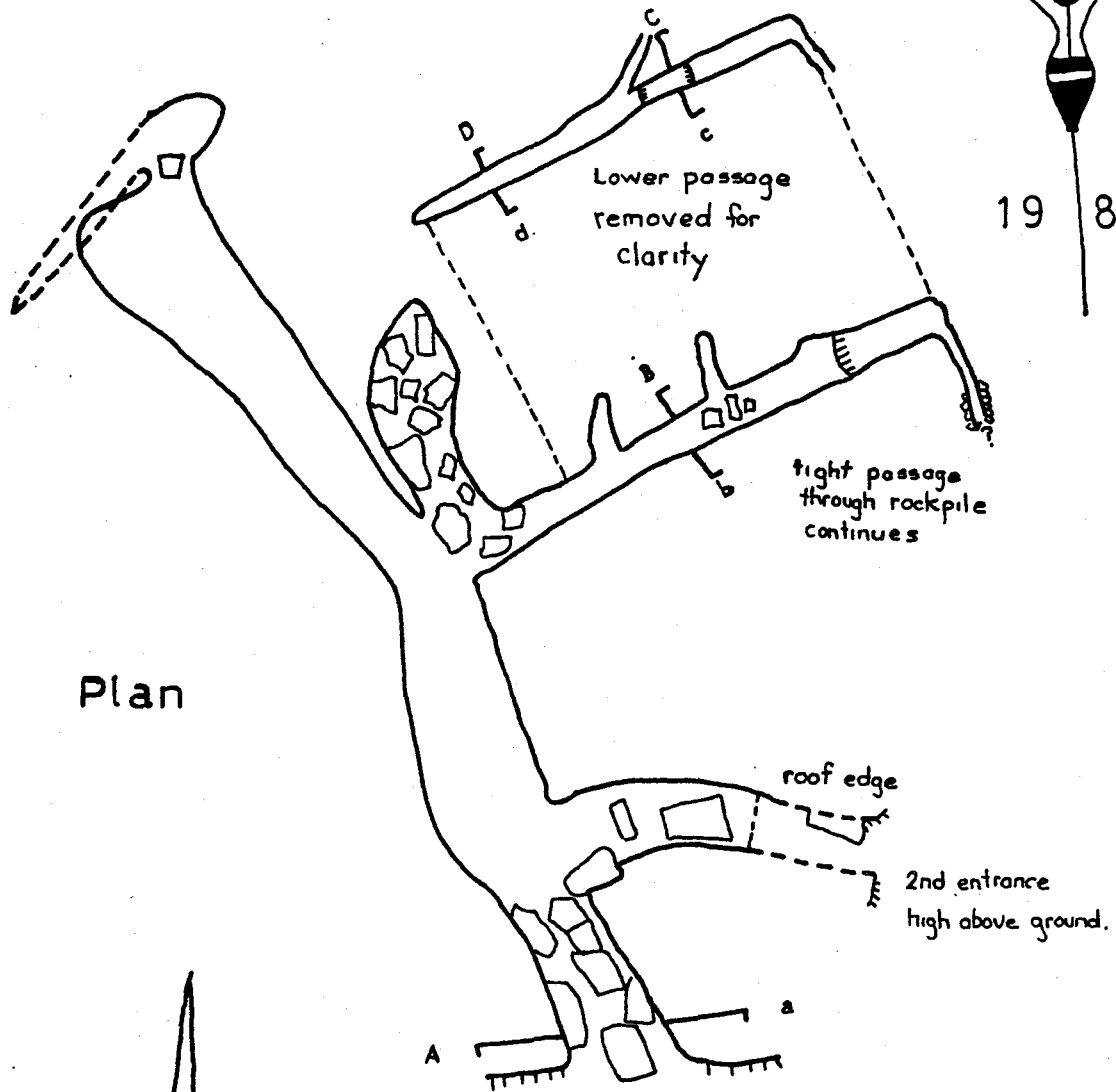
The Blue Mountains; 1972: An Historical & Soenic Study of the Blue Mountains;

Map of Bushranger's Cave; 1986: Blue Mountains Speleological Club.

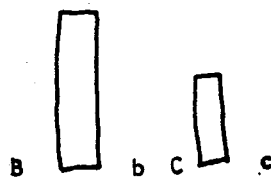
# BUSHRANGER'S CAVE

Mt. Victoria N.S.W.

Scale 1:200



## Vertical Cross-sections



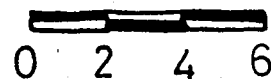
Surveyed on 22-6-86 by K. Coleborn,

T. & L. Coleborn, B. Barnes.

Drawn: 22 6 86 by K. Coleborn (B.M.S.C.)

Instruments: Fielder  
Compass and fibreglass tape.

metres



Caves of the Blue Mts.

Wall's Cave and Underground Rv.

The Wall's Cave and Underground River are reached from a turnoff from the Evan's Lookout Road about 2km. from the Great Western Highway and then by entering the Lake Medlow and Greaves Creek Catchment area, through the turnstile in the boundary fence. To enter this area a permit is required and maybe obtained from the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage & Drainage Board.

In the early 1900's the cave was reached by a cart track through the property 'Minhaven' which made it possible for vehicular access to the flat rock area just above the cave.

The visitor will be impressed by its grandeur and rugged beauty. The cave is decorated with many ferns and their graceful foliage relieves the dark bareness of the rock background.

The Wall's Cave is large, dry and semi-circular in shape and is located on a bend of Greaves Creek. It appears the cave originated as an ingrown meander of the stream and has since been enlarged by natural weathering. The cave floor comprises an upper and lower terrace which are 7m. and 3m. from the bankfall level. The upper terrace dips at an angle of 25° towards the front of the cave.

Archaeological studies have been made of the cave by Dr. Eugene Stockton and W. Holland who found evidence suggesting that the cave had been first occupied 12000 years ago. The tools found from this era were primitive and not much worked where as other tools of the Bondaian type required greater skill in their making. The Wall's Cave provides ideal conditions for aboriginal occupation as it is spacious, dry and has clear running water.

In front of the cave is a stream which winds its way through the tangled vegetation and can be followed for a short distance before steep rocks prevent further progress.

The clear, cold waters of the stream are hemmed in by large overhanging rocks which actually meet for a distance of 22.5m resulting in the Underground River.

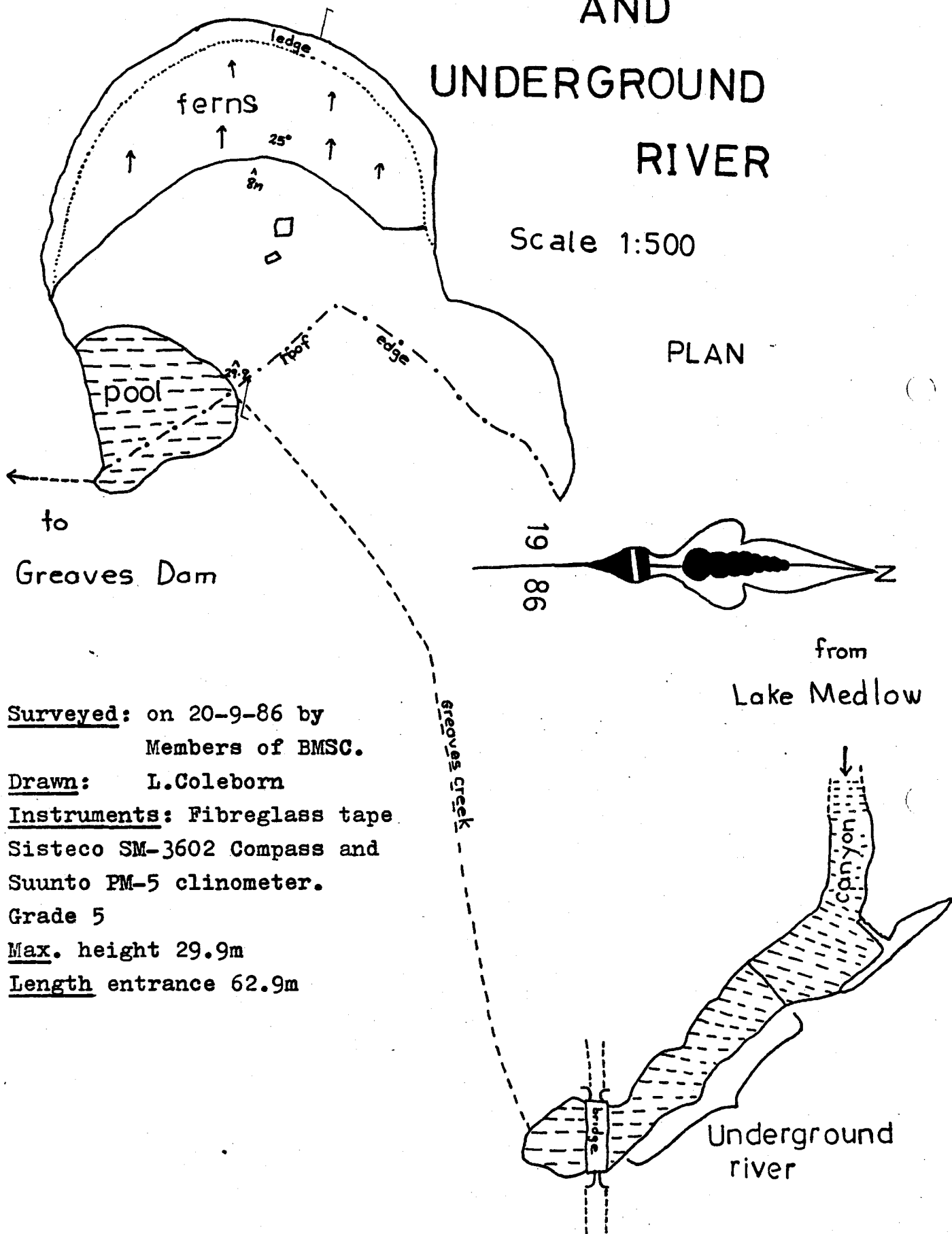
It is a lovely peaceful spot with a rugged even weird beauty with the intense silence only broken by the rippling sound of the stream as it winds its way around the narrow canyon walls.

The Wall's Cave and Underground River were surveyed by members of the Blue Mountains Speleological Club on the 20th September, 1986.

# WALLS CAVE AND UNDERGROUND RIVER

Scale 1:500

PLAN



Surveyed: on 20-9-86 by  
Members of BMSC.

Drawn: L.Coleborn

Instruments: Fibreglass tape  
Sisteco SM-3602 Compass and  
Suunto PM-5 clinometer.  
Grade 5

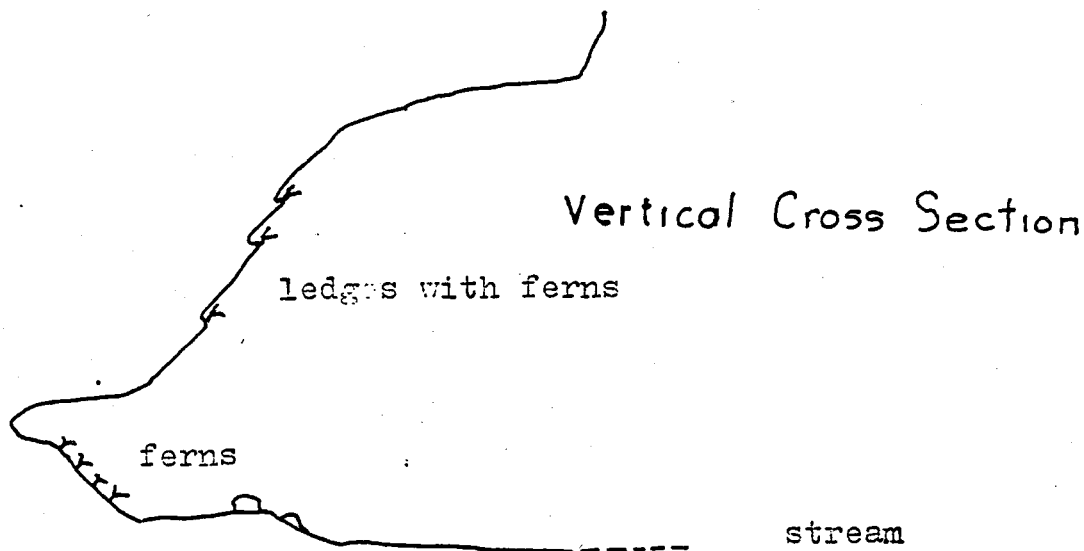
Max. height 29.9m

Length entrance 62.9m



# WALL'S CAVE AND UNDERGROUND RIVER

Scale I : 500 m.



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## Bushranger's cave is genuine

Many people say that Bushranger's Cave at Mount Victoria was never used by bushrangers.

However an interesting article supporting the naming of the cave appeared in the Evening News on Monday August 21, 1899.

"A son of Mr John Skene an old settler of Kanimbla Valley near Mount Victoria while out looking for cattle last week discovered a cave which apparently had been used as a camp many years ago.

The cave contained an

old flint-lock tower musket, sugar basin, cobbler's last, some pieces of leather, an auger, gimlet and some old clothing.

There was also a fragment of a Sydney newspaper dated 1822 with Government notices offering a reward for four escaped convicts.

The musket was loaded with perished powder and slugs and was in good condition."

The newspaper dated 1822 that was found in the cave is a good indication these men were probably

escaped convicts because in that period only travellers with a special pass could cross the Mountains.

In the early days of the Colony many convicts escaped into the Blue Mountains only to be killed by the hostile Aborigines.

Perhaps by taking refuge at Bushranger's Cave these men met the same fate, but how they came to vanish leaving behind their little store of gear will probably never be known.



Inside the Bushranger's Cave at Mt Victoria.

The following is relevant information relating to the survey of the Wall's Cave:-

Maximum Height of the entrance 29.9 metres.

Width of the entrance 62.9 metres.

Depth of the pool at the entrance 1.2 metres.

Length of the Underground River 22.5 metres.

Depth of the water in the Underground River; Minimum 0.6 metres, Maximum 2m.

Of interest was a large native bee's nest found on the blind canyon end of the Underground River. The nest would measure approx. 1 metre by 0.4m.

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Hungerford, M.E.; Donald, J.K.; 1982: Exploring the Blue Mountains; Topographic Map: Katocmba 8930-I-3.

Map of Wall's Cave and Underground River; 1986: The Blue Mountains Speleological Club.

By Louise Coleborn

# Modern explorer retraces historic trek

A NEW chapter will be added to Blue Mountains history when Valentine man Greg Powell leads a trek based on the journey of a previously unknown explorer.

Greg will make the three day trek early next month with four Lake Macquarie Venturers, tracing his reconstruction of the route described by a man called Matthew Everingham, who attempted to cross the Blue Mountains in 1795.

Until the recent discovery by a Sydney woman of Everingham's letterbook, the earliest known attempt to cross the Blue Mountains from a

northern point was by George Caley in 1804.

Greg, who has experienced bushwalking in the Blue Mountains, Barrington and Snowy areas among others, has handpicked a group of Venturers to accompany him on the trek starting on September 8.

Ian Peterson and Frederick Arnall of Warners Bay, and David Scarce and Ian Adair of Fleeahana, all 16, are unconcerned about the expedition. They are used to bushwalking as part of their Venturer training, although for a couple of them, this trek will be the biggest they have undertaken.

If one of those boys cannot make the trip for some reason, David Carlton, 17, of Warners Bay, will step into the group.

Greg and the team will start at Richmond Hill, just over the Nepean River from Richmond.

Greg's trek will finish at Bilpin, after walking via the Grose Gorge and Wheeny Gap, a distance of about 35km.

He said this is only about half of Everingham's journey, and he hopes that this first part will shed light on the route Everingham would have taken for the rest of his attempt, a route Greg would later like to follow.

INCLUDED IN THE NEXT FEW PAGES ARE INTERESTING EXTRACTS FROM THE 1888  
ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES N.S.W. TAKE NOTE OF THE AREA  
AND CAVE DESCRIPTIONS AND THE VISITOR NUMBERS TO THESE AREAS 100 YEARS AGO.  
HAVING CAVED IN THESE AREAS, I CAN ACCURATELY MATCH THE AREAS AND CAVES THAT  
I KNOW, FROM THE REPORTS. THIS SAYS ALOT FOR THE AUTHORS OF THE ORIGINAL  
REPORTS AND SHOWS THE VALUE OF ACCURATELY AND DESCRIPTIVELY REPORTING ANY  
AREA OR CAVE VISITED. - B.SKINN (EDITOR)

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## DEPARTMENT OF MINES,

### NEW SOUTH WALES,

FOR THE YEAR

# 1888.

Presented to Parliament by Command.

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#### APPENDIX No. 7.

Sir, Department of Mines, Geological Survey Branch, January, 1889.  
I have the honor to submit the following progress report on the caves of New South Wales  
for the year 1888.

Since my appointment to my present position, eight months ago, I have had opportunities, when  
visiting the different caves on matters relating to their improvement and management, of noting the great  
and growing interest taken in these subterranean stores of nature's wonders. This is especially noticeable  
when some new cave or branch of an existing cave has been discovered and becomes known; then follows  
what might be termed a "rush" of the district people to view the new wonders, which, having been locked  
up for ages, are suddenly thrown open to the gaze of man. Later on visitors from the metropolis and  
other places outside the district also find time to undertake a visit of exploration.

As is usually the case at all places of public resort, the caves are most crowded with visitors during  
holiday times, and at these particular seasons they form one of the principal attractions to the pleasure-  
seekers of the respective districts in which they are situated, the annual picnic to the caves in fact having  
become quite an institution. In addition to the local visitors, tourists from the other colonies and  
different parts of the world are to be met at the principal caves the whole year round.

The

The great majority of visitors approve of and express themselves well pleased with the precautions taken by the Government for the preservation of the caves and with the works already carried out for their improvement; but regret is often expressed at the acts of vandalism perpetrated at some of the caves when first discovered, and before they were brought under Government control and supervision.

During the past year the following were the principal discoveries of new caves, viz., at Jenolan, a small but very pretty branch of the Elder Cave (*See Appendix A*), and at Wombeyan, a separate series of spacious lofty and beautiful caves (*See Appendix B*). This latter discovery was the means of bringing the Wombeyan Caves into great prominence. In fact, for grandeur and the pureness and variety of the stalactitic formations they rival any other known caves in the Colony. A new cave was also discovered near Araluen; but this not yet having been explored, as it is full of water, no report on same can be made.

Following are particulars showing number of visitors, improvements, &c., at the different caves for the year 1888, viz.:—

#### *Jenolan Caves.*

Number of visitors, 1,829, being an increase on the number for the previous year. A new accommodation house, capable of accommodating about thirty visitors, has been completed, yet during the summer months both this and the old house are occasionally uncomfortably crowded. On this account the erection of another building will soon become a matter of necessity. The owner of the existing buildings and lessee of the ground, Mr. J. Wilson, cave-keeper, has notified his intention of carrying out this work at an early date.

Great improvements have been carried out at these caves in the way of making the outside surroundings attractive to visitors. Plantations and walks have been tastefully laid out and suitable trees, shrubs, and flowers planted. Altogether, it is intended to make the cave surroundings as attractive and pleasing to the eye as possible, in order that visitors, when not engaged exploring the caves, will be able to pass their time pleasantly in viewing the scenery and vegetation around. The improvements at the bathing-hole have been greatly appreciated, and consequently taken advantage of by the visitors. Everything that can be done up to the present in the way of improving the interior of the caves has been carried out. The result is that access to the different caves is now comparatively easy and cases of accident very rare. It is intended to put up a cottage for the engine-driver and new stables during the current year; and also to complete the erection of turbine on the creek, for driving the electric light, in place of the present engine, which work has been unavoidably held over on account of more urgent and necessary works having been carried out in the meantime which exhausted the available funds.

#### *Wombeyan Caves.*

Until quite recently, these caves did not attract much attention outside the district; but since the new discovery of the splendid caves lately reported on (*See Appendix B*) great interest in them has suddenly sprung up. This is at once apparent on reference being made to the visitors' book, when it is noticed that latterly parties have arrived from almost all quarters and in much larger numbers since these discoveries than in any like period for years back.

The number of visitors for 1888 is about 400, being an increase of about 100 on the year 1887.

The principal improvements necessary for enabling visitors to explore the new caves with comparative ease and safety have already been carried out. A tender has been conditionally accepted for the erection of an accommodation house, and the work will probably be proceeded with without delay.

The old caves are both extensive and remarkable, and the surroundings of the whole very picturesque and pretty. Other general and necessary improvements at these caves will, I hope, be carried out in due course.

#### *Wellington Caves.*

Taking into consideration the grandeur of the Jenolan and Wombeyan Caves and their respective visitors' lists, the number of visitors to the Wellington Caves, 1,679, which do not compare with those named for beauty, is remarkable. This is, perhaps, accounted for by their proximity to the town of Wellington, and the fact that "the caves" are the principal resort for picnic and other parties from all quarters of this district. The visitors for 1888 numbered 600 more than those for the previous year.

Being within 5 miles of Wellington, an accommodation house is not required. A cottage for the keeper has recently been erected, and an open shelter-shed for the use of visitors is now in course of erection.

These caves are chiefly remarkable for the number of fossil bones found buried in them, some rare specimens of which have been unearthed by the keeper, who, when not otherwise engaged with visitors, is employed in the collection of them for the Geological and Australian Museums.

#### *Yarrangobilly Caves.*

These caves, situated in the coldest district of New South Wales, are mostly visited during the warmer months, the number for last season being about 200. They are remarkable as regards their extent and the massiveness of the various formations therein. Romantically situated on the Yarrangobilly River, the immense archway or entrance to the caves, and the limestone bluffs standing out in bold relief, together with the wild vegetation around, combine to form a most imposing and picturesque scene.

An accommodation and keeper's cottage having just been erected, it is expected there will be a large increase in the number of visitors this season, a great number of people having signified their intention of visiting the caves when accommodation was provided for them.

#### *Abercrombie Caves.*

The principal feature of these caves, as far as yet known, is the immense natural archway hollowed out of the limestone, the total length of which is 650 feet, and the average width 130 feet. The roof and sides are covered with fine stalactites of various lengths and colours of every shade. A variety of remarkable and pretty views are produced by these, especially when viewed from different points on the elevated terraces

terraces or platforms which project from the sides and run longitudinally for some distance through the arch. A number of caves can be entered from the archway, these mostly present the appearance of winding fissures, which can be traversed in some instances a great distance. Others, a little more spacious, are also met with, the floor of which consist of a thick bed of detritus. No pure stalactitic formations are found in them, they being very dirty, and present the appearance of having been inhabited by bats and wombats for ages.

On account of the gradual destruction of the stalactites in the archway by visitors, a temporary keeper, at a small salary, has been appointed to protect them as far as possible. By this means it is expected the whole will be preserved in their present and still interesting state.

The keepers of the different caves seem peculiarly well fitted for the positions they hold, and great credit is due to them both for their care and attention to visitors, and also for the interest taken by them in the work of exploration at their respective stations. This is especially the case at Jenolan and Wombeyan Caves, where the operations in this respect, carried out by Mr. J. Wilson and Mr. M. Chalker respectively, have been attended with great success; and thus the desires of the enthusiastic visitor to traverse still further these natural inroads into the earth's interior are constantly being gratified.

I have, &c.,

W. S. LEIGHT,

Superintendent of Caves.

#### APPENDIX No. 7A.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Geological Survey Branch, 11 June, 1888.

I have the honor to submit the following report on the new cave recently discovered by Mr. J. Wilson, Keeper, at Jenolan Caves:—

The cave is situated at the extreme end of the Elder Cave, the entrance being reached from this point by an almost vertical descent of about 20 feet over fallen rocks. To the casual observer there would certainly appear to be no outlet beyond this, as you are brought face to face with an immense overhanging rock, which runs up perpendicularly to a height of 30 feet, the front of which is covered with a crystal formation, from which depend a number of narrow shawls, giving it a very pretty appearance. The base of the projecting rock, which is about 18 inches above the ground, is literally covered with stalactites, and these, reaching to within a few inches of the floor of the cave, form a guard of thickly-studded spikes, and completely shut out from view the small aperture beyond, which, after minute examination and some rough work, proved to be the entrance or mouth of a new cave. After the removal of a number of the stalactites, the interior was gained by crawling underneath the overhanging rock a distance of 5 or 6 feet. The cave consists of a long narrow passage, having a total length of about 90 feet and an average width of 4 feet, and may be divided into two parts, as follows:—

The first part, *i.e.*, for a distance of about 50 feet from the entrance, has the appearance of an arched tunnel on a winding inclined plane, the incline being continuous and at an angle of about 45°. The ascent is made over a crystallized rocky formation, which forms the floor of the cave. The sides are well studded with stalactites, which gradually diminish in length as they approach the centre of the roof; stalagmites are not so numerous. To stand upright in this part of the cave, except in one or two places, is out of the question, as the height to the centre of the roof does not average more than 3 feet, and at two points the passage narrows to such an extent that only small openings are left, just sufficiently large to admit of an ordinary-sized man forcing his way through.

The second part of the cave is gained by making a straight drop of about 10 feet from the top of the incline or end of first part. Here the visitor finds himself in a lofty passage, about 40 feet in length and 4 feet in width; and in this small area nature has formed one of the prettiest caves of the whole group. It is really a varied collection of the finest specimens found in the other principal caves. In it are grouped grand stalactites and stalagmites of various lengths and shapes. Columns in clusters, over 10 feet in height, and shawls, rivalling in beauty those formed in the Imperial Cave, but of a different shape, in that they are not flat, but rather of a gouge-shaped section and pointed, are grouped in great variety; in some cases stalactites form the centre of shawls, giving them a rare appearance. Like those of the Music-hall in the Lucas Cave, the stalactites and shawls in this cave, when struck, give out various notes, and from their great number different peals could be rung at the same time, and almost any note sounded. A bed of crystals, having a wonderful combination, similar to the Fairies Retreat in the Imperial, is also found in a cavity on the left-hand side below the level of the floor. A feature of this cave is the remarkable whiteness and transparency of the different formations. To see this cave by the aid of the magnesium light would well repay the visitor for the trouble experienced in reaching it. To open up the cave thoroughly would mean a great expense, and also the destruction of a number of the prettiest specimens; in its present state it is easier to explore than some parts of the Elder Cave, through which a person must first pass before arriving at the new cave. Also, as the Elder Cave is noted for its difficult passages and small openings, the rough exploring of which a large percentage of the visitors enjoy, the new cave is only just in keeping with the rest of the Elder Cave, and the visitor who goes through the Elder thoroughly will not mind the little extra exertion attendant on visiting the new cave. I would therefore suggest that for the time being it be left in its present state, *i.e.*, with openings just sufficiently large to admit one person at a time.

*Small cave adjoining.*—A few yards to the left, and on the same level as the entrance to the new cave referred to, is a small opening in the rock just large enough to enable one to force the body through. This proved to be the mouth of another cave, but of much smaller dimensions, being only about 25 feet long by 12 feet wide, and 2 feet in height to the centre of the roof, which is arched. The bed of the cave is of the same crystal rock formation. All the formations are in miniature compared with the other cave. It has innumerable small stalactites studding the whole of the roof, all of which appear very clear and fresh and in the course of formation. Small columns are ranged all round the sides, and there are a few in the centre, but none of them being more than 1½ inches in diameter, a number of miniature shawls, similar in appearance to those of the Imperial Caves, are also found. On the left-hand side, and near the entrance, is a very pretty coral-like bed, with numerous basins and other formations. Above this bed, and in the immediate vicinity, the stalactites assume a very peculiar and altogether different form to the rest; instead of being pointed, each is tipped with a lime crystal, perfectly shaped, and glittering like a diamond, and

and this being about twice the width of the stalactite, has the appearance of having been stuck on the end of it. This cave can only be seen to advantage by one person at a time, and in a recumbent position, with the head only inside the cave. In this way the whole can be seen at a glance. By the aid of the magnesium light a very pretty effect would be produced, especially when directed on the coral-bed.

I have, &c.,

W. S. LEIGH,

Superintendent of Caves.

The Geological Surveyor-in-charge.

#### APPENDIX No. 7 B.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Geological Survey Branch, 7 September, 1888.

I have the honor to report, as requested, on the new cave recently discovered by Mr. M. Chalker at the Wombeyan Caves, near Goulburn.

The entrance, a round opening about 2 feet in diameter (which it is proposed to enlarge), is situated on the face of a rather steep hill, and is about 200 yards north-west of the mouth of the old cave, and 500 yards from proposed site of the cave-house. After passing through the entrance into the new cave, a perpendicular descent of 25 feet is made, and then a further descent for a like distance on an incline, the passage progressively increasing in size the lower you descend until the bottom is reached, when it opens out into a large chamber about 50 feet by 30 feet, and averaging 10 feet in height. This chamber contains a fine collection of stalactites and columns, &c., and may be termed the "Hall," as the small caves radiate from it in three different directions.

The first branch to the right of the entrance runs about due north about 100 yards in a zigzag line on a comparatively level floor, and averages about 10 feet in width and 12 feet in height. The floor for 20 or 30 feet from the entrance is remarkably pretty in its formation, resembling a stream of crystals overflowing from a large basin, the stream below the main basin being composed of innumerable miniature basins in terraces, each basin being filled with a pure white coral-like formation. Other parts of the floor are covered with spherical stalagmites resembling snowballs. The stalactites in this, as also in the other branches, are grouped more regularly than is usually the case, as they run in almost parallel lines across the limestone roof. These, as well as the other formations, are remarkable for their snowy whiteness and transparency, the only exception being an occasional nest of stalactites resembling terra-cotta in appearance, and so lending a pleasing variety of colour. A very singular feature here is a large column of stalactites having small stalactites, varying in size from the thickness of a needle to half an inch in diameter, projecting at all angles round its base, the whole resembling very much the trunk of a tree with the young shoots sprouting up all round.

The middle branch cave, by far the largest, consists of a chain of chambers, ranging from the size of a small cabin to that of a lofty cathedral. These are formed by immense rocks falling and wedging themselves together in all shapes, which necessitates the making of a number of steep ascents and descents. The chambers are well filled with all the prettiest formations met with in other caves. An instance is also observable of a large column formed by a number of stalactites having been naturally broken across at a point about half-way between the floor and the roof, the broken surfaces being separated from one another by a space of about 2 inches, so that the upper part of the column remains suspended from the roof.

A further extension of this cave was discovered during my inspection, and I may safely say it is the crowning discovery as yet in the whole cave, being a roomy chamber at the extreme end (as far as yet known) of this branch, the floor of which might appropriately be named the "Crystal Lakes," the so-called lakes being a large number of pure white and transparent basins formed into a succession of terraces, each basin being partly filled with minute crystals having the exact appearance of water, the illusion only being discovered by touch. To see this formation alone would repay the visitor for the trouble experienced in reaching it.

The third branch to the left of the last described is comparatively small, and consists of a narrow winding passage, at the end of which is an almost circular chamber, being the main part of the branch. It contains a good collection of stalactites and stalagmites, and also some fine coral-like beds, the floor being of a crystallized dripstone. Fossilized bone deposits are found in some parts of the cave, a few specimens of which I brought down for examination. The roots of the kurrajong tree growing 50 feet overhead appear through the roof of the cave, and seem to take root again below the floor, some of them having a thick crusting of lime. This cave in some respects resembles very much the Imperial and Lucas caves at Jenolan, the former in the fineness, transparency, and delicacy of its stalactitic structures, and the latter in some of its spacious and lofty chambers; and I may safely add that some of its formations, a proper description of which it would be difficult to give, if seen by the aid of magnesium wire or other such light, would be proved to be quite equal to some of the best found at the far-famed Jenolan Caves.

I may add that this discovery cannot be over-estimated, and it adds immensely to the interest of the Wombeyan Caves for those desirous of studying the wonderful and beautiful phenomena of the ancient subterranean river channels hollowed out of the massive marble limestone.

In conclusion, I may state that as time and circumstances permit further explorations will be carried out, it being my firm belief that other large chambers exist connected with this cave.

Recommendations with regard to improvements and opening up of the newly-found caves are submitted on another paper.

I have, &c.,

W. S. LEIGH,

Superintendent of Caves.

The Geological Surveyor-in-charge.

# TUGLOW<sup>-12</sup> AREA

Wombat and Waterfall entrances were located on a B.M.S.C. trip led by Ian Bogg on 8th-9th March, 1975. The entrances are situated north of T4 Moonmilk and at approximately the same level.

Wombat, Waterfall and Moonmilk caves were surveyed by B.M.S.C. on the 26th-27th June, 1976.

Moonmilk ( T4 ) has a total length of passage of 51m and is named for the fine example of soft "moon-milk" formation which covers the walls in the lowest section. ( First entered by B.M.S.C. 1968 ).

Wombat Cave TI6, I7 & I8 has three (3) entrances and there is a possibility of extension from the lower chamber.

Waterfall Cave ( TI9 ) is a small cave with an active stream and waterfall.

## Reference:

Bogg I. 1975: Tuglow Caves; Oolite Vol.7.No.1,2 & 3: 28

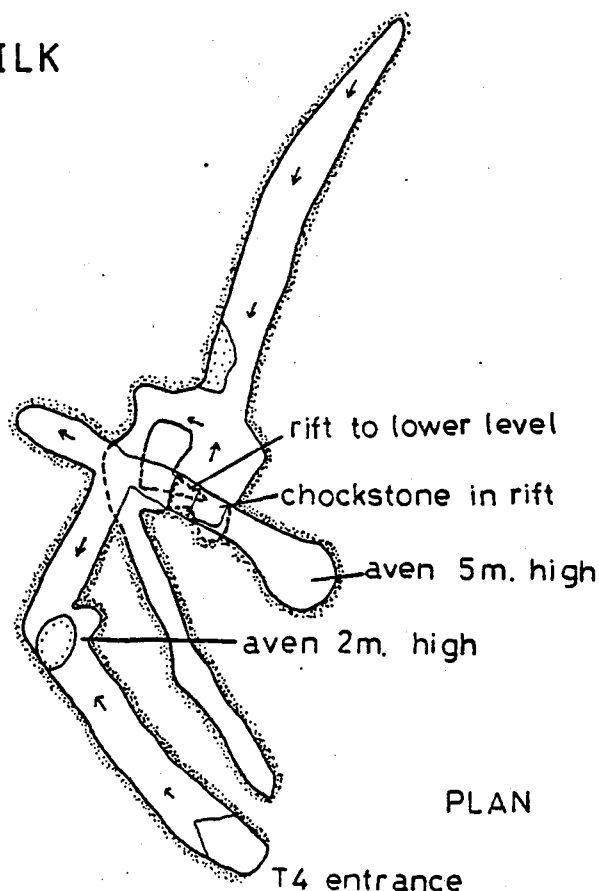
Nelson G. 1968: Tuglow and Hollander's River; Oolite Vol.

I.No.1:20.( Down Under)

Richards B. 1976: Tuglow Caves; Oolite Vol.9.No.1:4.

## T4 MOONMILK

Scale 1:100



PLAN



19 76

metres  
0 1 2 3  
Sheet 1 of 2

SURVEYED: JUNE 76. K Bilger, T. Coleborn  
B. Richard, P. Coburn

DRAWN: by K. Bilger on 26.6.76  
CRG 4

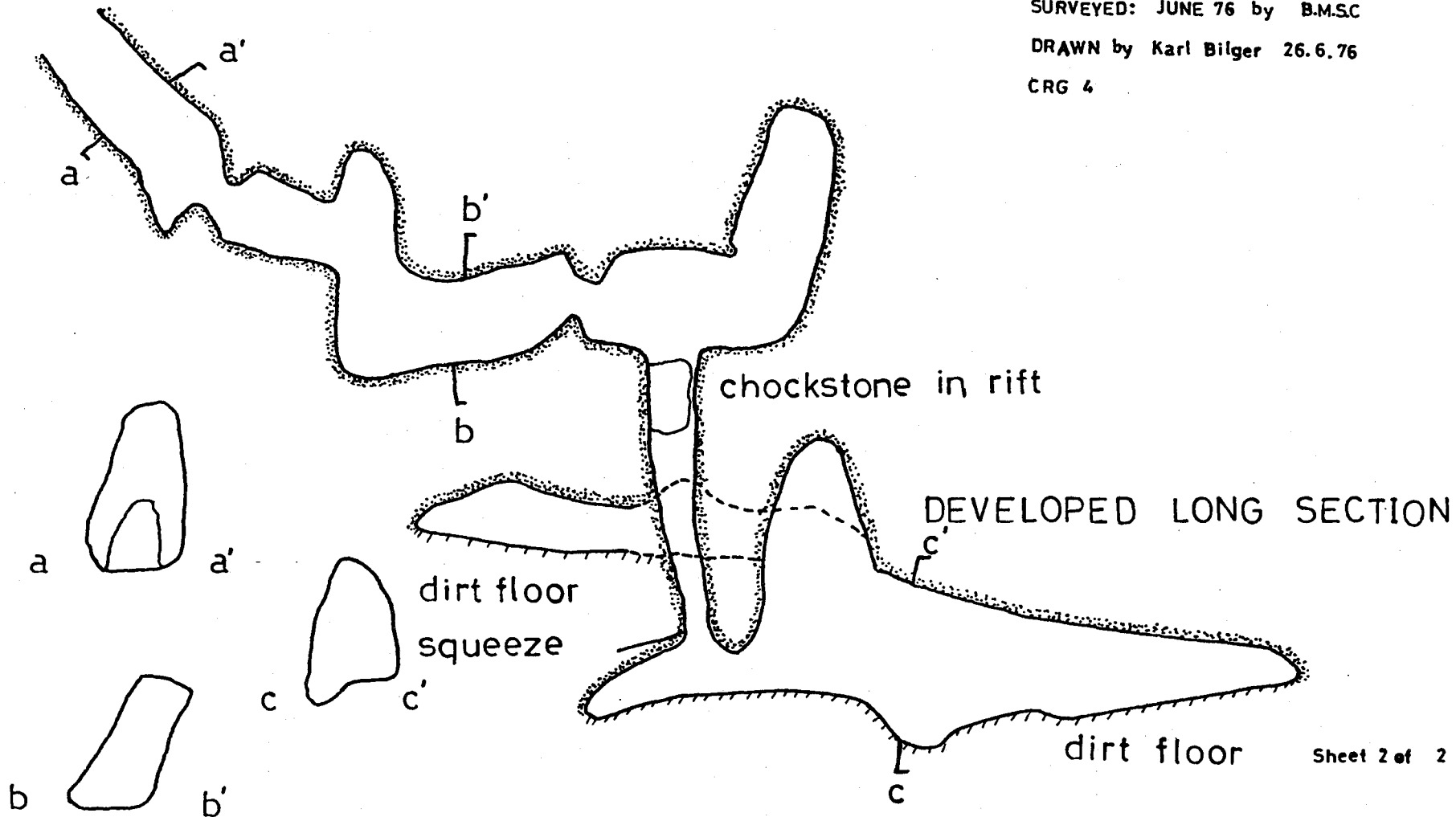
# T4 MOONMILK

Scale 1:100

SURVEYED: JUNE 76 by B.M.S.C

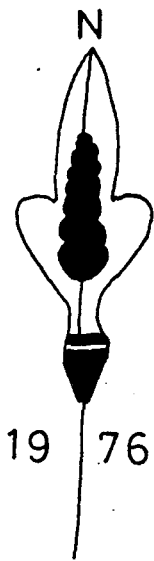
DRAWN by Karl Bilger 26.6.76

CRG 4





# T 16,17,18, WOMBAT CAVE



Squeeze  
1.5m drop

dirt bank

Rocks worn smooth by  
passing of wombats

T16

T17

PLAN

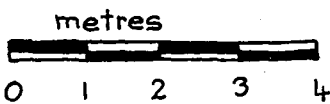
T18

SURVEYED: JUNE 76 by B.M.S.C

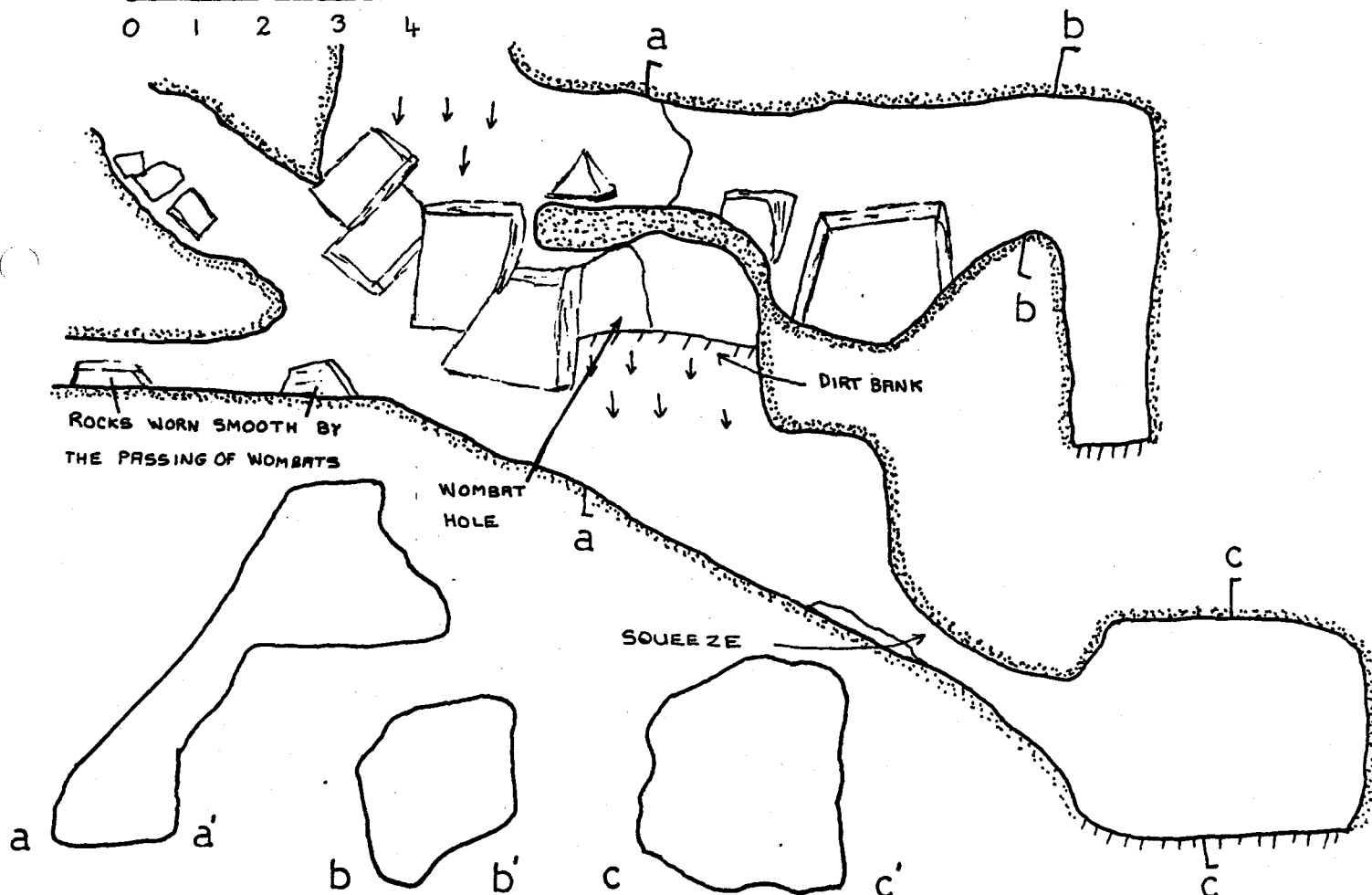
DRAWN: 26.6.76 by K.BILGER

GRADE: CRG 4.

Scale 1:100

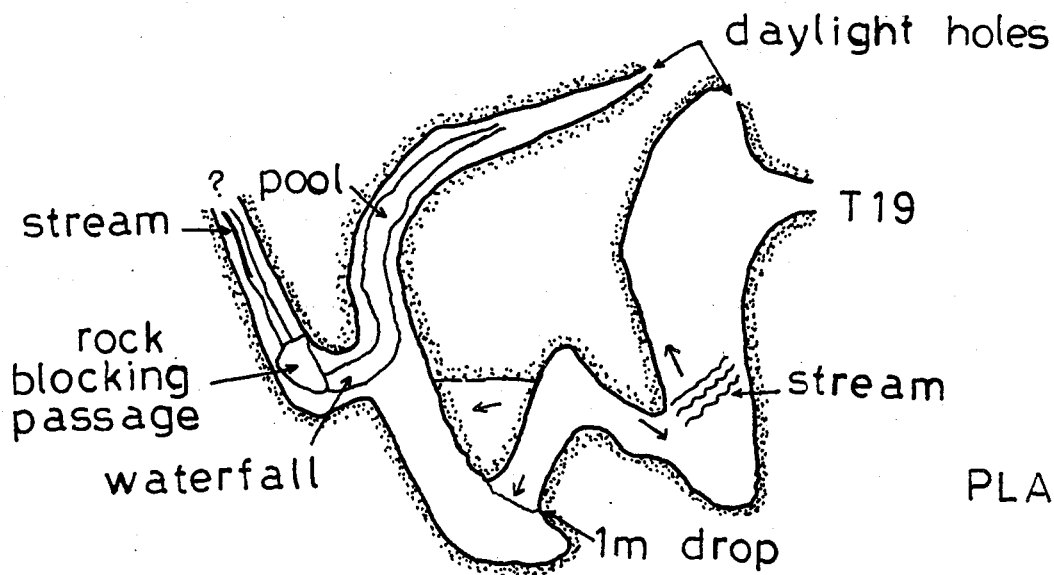


## DEVELOPED LONG SECTION



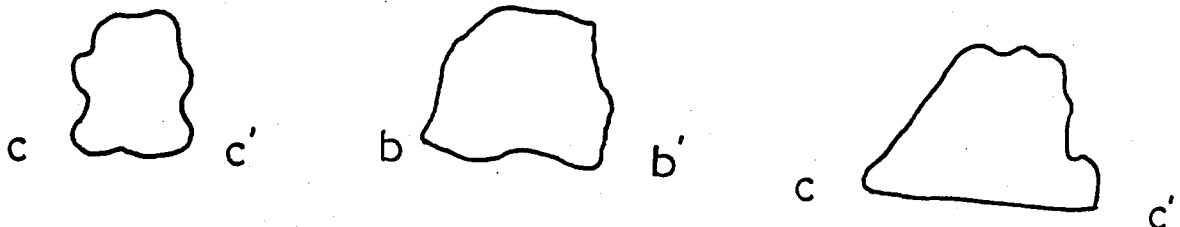
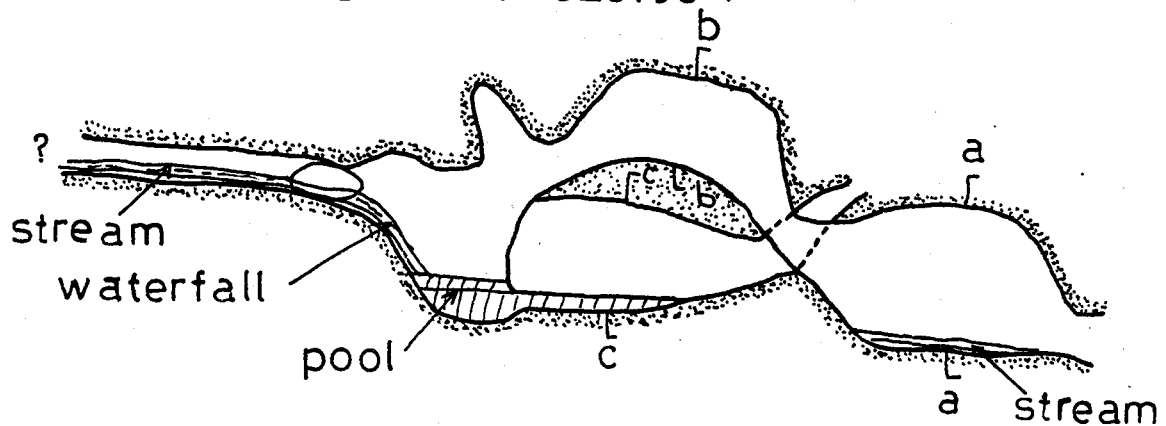
# T 19 WATERFALL CAVE

Scale 1:100



PLAN

## DEVELOPED LONG SECTION

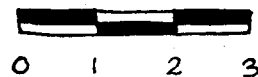


SURVEYED: JUNE 76 by B.M.S.C

DRAWN: by K. BILGER on 26.6.76

GRADE: CRG 4

metres



# TRIP REPORTS

## 1986 - 1987 - 1988

### Bowling Night

Date:- 23rd May, 1987

Present:- The Coleborns, Carol Skinn, Larissa Skinn,  
Lachlan Wilson, Tony Zimmerman, John Miller,  
Natalie Mitchel, Megan Robinson.

Report:

We all met at Penrith Bowl at 7pm on Saturday night. A good night was had by all who attended.

The BEST BALL of the night was Natalies, it went into the gutter and then bounced out knocking over the spare pin.

I think the WINNER for the night ended up being Carol. Using some fancy shots she just pipped John at the post, winning with the last ball.

Over-all I think the rest of us could benefit from a little more practice.....

See you bowling next year.

KEVIN COLEBORN

Date of Trip: 28th March - 1st April, 1986.

Venue: Yarrangobilly.

Members Present. Ricky Brett (T.L), Terry Coleborn, Louise Coleborn, Gary Coleborn, Brad Barnes, Warren Lacey, Carolyn Tunks.

NEOCAVES Members: Tim Pearson, Michelle Nickerson, Tan Lacey, Darren Armitage.

Report:

We arrived around 9am Friday morning. After Brad arrived we collected the key to Janus and Cotterils and went back to the hut to have an early lunch and unpack.

We elected to do Bath House Y8 because it was the closest and easiest walk. Our first attempt located Y9 closely followed by Y10, ( When all else fails take a look at the map) Then by following Rule No I we soon found the Y8 doline which was heavily infested with blackberries. Not to be denied however we enlisted the assistance of a small scouting party ( namely Kevin ) who found a way through the blackberries so we all could go caving.

Y8 Bath House description:

Y8 is a narrow vertical river passage which continues down to a terminal sump. There is no decoration however, it does contain some excellent fossils. The cave was dry during our visit but would be extremely wet and cold if the stream were in fact flowing.

Saturday. With the remainder of the party arriving on Saturday morning we spent most of the day in Y58 Janus. ( see Ricks report).

Sunday. Ricks party went off to take temperatures in Old Inn as they had forgotten the temperature gear on their last trip, while Louise and I took the kids on a hike to the Natural Bridge. The first two km. follows the track to Castle Cave then a lower overgrown track leads down to the Yagby River the last 20m through very thick blackberries. Upon reaching the river a further 2km of hiking up the river was required to reach the Natural Bridge.

The Natural Bridge is negotiable for 10m and then flows through the bottom of a doline before summing. ~~The-bottom~~ We then hiked back along the river track to the thermal pool before heading back to Cotterils. After Y10 the others went to the pool and on their return Tim came in with the news that the starter motor on his Cortina was jammed and that the clutch has gone. Rick, Tim and I pulled out the starter motor and gear box that night. The starter motor proved to be alright however the clutch had all the meat from one side striped off. That night we stayed up and had a look at Halley's Comet.

Monday:

Rick and party went to do temperature in Y6 West Deep Creek while Louise, Tim and I went to Cooma for a new clutch assemble \$\$\$\$\$\$. When we arrived back at Cotterils the remainder of members were ready for the trip home.

The replacement of clutch went smoothly after we discovered that we would have to take the exhaust Manifold off to get the gear box in. Tim left at 6pm for a very noisy and gas filled trip home thanks to a damaged Manifold gasket. Louise and I left early Tuesday after handing in keys at the guides office.

T. COLEBORN  
TRIP LEADER

BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB

TEMPERATURE RECORDINGS

Date: 28th March - 1st April, 1986.

Venue: Yarrangobilly.

Y.58 JANUS CAVE.

<u>Top Pitch</u>	8°C	Moist Soil	<u>Main Chamber</u>	10°C	Air
	10°C	Air-Rock		9°C	Rock
				9°C	Soil(dry)
				8°C	Creek bed (dry).

Y.8 BATH HOUSE

Rock 8°C  
Air 10°C

Y10 OLD INN

<u>Book Room</u>	9°C	Air	<u>Strawhaven</u>	9°C	Air
	8°C	Rock		7.8°C	Rock
	9°C	Stream flowing from outside,		6°C	Rim pool water.

Upper Section ( Detrog sign)

9°C Air  
8°C Water ( rimpool)  
7.9°C Rock

Outside Temperature - Air

10°C - Bottom of doline above the creek.

25°C - At car parked near the top of the hill.

Y.6 WEST DEEP CREEK

<u>Rockpile 20M Down</u>	9.5°C	Air	<u>Entrance Chamber</u>	10.5°C	Air
	9°C	Rock		9.5°C	Rock
	7.5°C	Earth floor.		9°C	Soil

Body Temperature 36°C.

Outside Temperature

15°C Above entrance in Airflow.  
25°C At cars on top of hill.

Date of Trip: 28th March - 1st April, 1986

Aim: Temperature Recording.

Members Present: Ricky Brett (TL), Terry Coleborn, Louise Coleborn, Gary Coleborn, Brad Barnes, Warren Lacey, Carolyn Tunks.

NEWCAVES Members: Tim Pearson, Michelle Nickerson, Ian Lacey, Darren Armitage.

### REPORT:

This Easter saw a good roll up for the Yagby trip, with many members and visitors travelling long distances just to go caving.

#### DAY 1

Terry acting as Trip Leader took everybody through Bath House Cave

#### DAY 2 (Saturday)

With Carolyn and myself finally arriving at Catherels Cottage early on Saturday morning we found that everyone that was expected had already arrived.

After settling up camp and having some breakfast, we eventually dug out our caving gear and got trogged up ready to visit JANUS.

Soon enough we had the cars up to the regular bush parking lot and headed off on foot to find the cave. After 15 minutes or so we found the cave entrance which is in what is called a small Doline. I'd hate to see a big Doline! Anyway everyone scrambled their way down through the entrance and then into a crawl passage where the gate was situated. Once the gate was removed a tricky ladder pitch was set up. Once everybody had negotiated the ladder pitch, Terry and I checked out the map to try and find the way on. It didn't help us much except for the description underneath. After a while we figured on searching around the horrible rock pile and this eventually paid off. We soon found the 25 ft flowstone wall we were looking for. This was freeclimbed and then a hand line was tied up to make the climb easier for the rest of the party. Once past this obstacle we had to find a 25 ft ladder climb, which was eventually found after a couple of us had free climbed down it. This time a 15 ft ladder was rigged to make the difficult climb easier for the rest of the group. From here it was an easy walk to the big chamber. Once in the main chamber, temperature readings were taken in various places, most of the time the air temperature was around 9-10°. Once these checks were carried out it was photo time (if there was a film shop down there they would have made a fortune), after most of the film had run out we did a bit of exploring around the cavern. The pitch which connects Janus and North Deep Creek was also found in this section.

After everybody finished exploring and photo taking, we had a well deserved munchie break and then decided to head on out.

The trip out of the cave was much quicker as we didn't have to try and find our way, as we did on the way in.

#### DAY 3 (Sunday)

Today we decided to visit Old Inn to take some temperature readings which were not done on the previous trip. Everybody that was interested trogged up and then we headed to the cave.

YARRANGOBILLY - 28th March-1st April, 1986 (Con't)

After thrashing through the blackberries and wild roses we made it to the cave entrance. A quick check on the outside air temperature revealed that it was about 22-24°C, but once in the cave it was a different story. The air temperature above the stream was 9%. Anyway we pushed on down to Strahaven and took some more temperature readings which proved to be nearly the same as it was out towards the entrance. Again, some more photography and exploring was done in this part of the cave. After a short while we all headed on for the upper section of the cave and again a bit of trouble finding our way through the small rockpile was encountered. Soon enough we found the way on and then proceeded on to the Detrog sign and again temperature checks carried out. Whilst we were in this part of the cave we all undressed and walked barefooted down the sharp bottom of the stream passage to get a look at some perfect oolites. Once the photos were taken we headed back to get dressed and then proceeded on out of the cave.

Once back at the hut we had a relaxing afternoon and just before dark headed down to the thermal pool for a bath. On the return trip from the pool, Tim blew the clutch in his car, so a couple of hours were spent pulling the gearbox out on Sunday Night.

DAY 4 (Monday)

Early Monday morning Terry, Louise, the kids and Tim headed for Cooma to try and get a new clutch. This left myself, Brad and Gary to carry on with the temperature checks, so we put on our gear and headed for West Deep Creek. Eventually at the bottom of the valley we followed the creek until it disappeared and then to the cave entrance. We headed on into the cave with no formation at all, our temperature checks were carried out and again 10° was the reading. Once this was done we retraced our steps and then back to the cottage to pack up and head for home.

Trip Leader

Ricky BRETT

## TUGLOW

Date - 14-15th June, 1986

Aim - Exploration

Members Present - Ricky Brett (T.L.), Carolyn Tunks, Brad Barnes, David Noble, Tony Zimmerman.

Visitors - Graham White and Lachlan Wilson.

REPORT:

After meeting everybody at the Kanangra turnoff on time, we headed off to find the Kawmung turnoff, after the second attempt we found the correct track. We proceeded on expecting to find Dave and Lachlan at the top car park but when we arrived there was no sign of Dave so we assumed he had headed on to the cave in his little Subura.

Once at the campsite, we found Dave setting up camp, he had somehow managed to get his little 2 wheel drive Suburu all the way to the cave. As for the rest of us the road in was very rough but easy as we all had 4WD vehicles.

After everybody had set up camp and had breakfast we all trogged up and headed for the entrance to Tuglow Main.

Soon we were at the first ladder pitch which saw Dave and Lachlan climb down before we had a chance to set up the ladder. After the ladder was rigged we headed on down and into the rockpile. After negotiating the rockpile we came to the top of the second pitch, where a 40m rope was rigged ready for the nasty climb down.

With everybody at the bottom of the rope we had a munchie break and a quick look around, from here we then headed upstream, a couple of hours later with some tight slippery and awkward climbs behind us we dropped back to stream level again.

From here Dave and Lachlan informed us that the only way to pass the waterfall was to get very wet. Nobody liked the idea of getting wet so we backtracked to try and find the Book Room. Soon enough we found our way up to the Book Room where where ofcourse we signed the book. After a look around we headed in the upstream direction, eventually dropping back down to stream level and coming to another waterfall.

From here Dave and Tony kept going upstream with the rest of the group returning to the Book Room to wait for them.

After a while we heard voices and some flashes of light, sure enough it was Dave and Tony returning. After we all had another munchie break we returned back to the rope for the exit up the first pitch.

The climb up the rope looked like it was going to be very difficult due to the wet and slippery rock, so I decided to tie some alpine butterflies in the rope to make the climb a bit easier. Although we had the loops in the rope it was still a very difficult climb for most of the group. "A ladder would be more suitable for this area of the cave". Anyway after a few slips and slides we had nearly everyone up the rope and waiting at the top of the pitch.

With only Brad left to climb the rope Dave headed on out with Carolyn, Graham and Lachlan. This left Tony, Brad and myself to pack the gear and head on up to the ladder. From here the ladder was climbed and then packed away and again to continue on out of the cave.

### Sunday (Day 2)

After breakfast on Sunday morning Brad, Tony, Graham trogged up. Ready to visit Window-Cave. After setting up the pitch everybody headed in, with some crewd comments about the entrance.

Myself not having a light didn't go underground so I went back and packed the gear into the Nissan ready to head home. About an hour later Dave turned up back at the camp and said everyone was out of the cave, after this I headed home to Sydney.

To say the least a fairly enjoyable weekend was had by everyone.

RICKY BRETT  
(TRIP LEADER)



## CLIEFDEN

DATE - 12th/13th April, 1986

AIM - Halley's Comet Weekend, General Caving and tagging with OSS.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Coleborn (T.L.), Louise Coleborn, Ricky Brett, Lionel Baker, Brian Skinn, Mike Pollack, Warren Lacey, Gary Coleborn, Carolyn Tunks.

VISITORS: John Simpson.

O.S.S. MEMBERS: Ian Curtis, Bruce Howlett, Sue and Duncan Chalmers.

NEWCAVES MEMBERS: Tim Pearson, Michelle Nickerson, Dave Burnard.

I.S.S. MEMBERS: Dave Dicker, Bill Atkins, Michael Gear.

### REPORT NO 1. (Terry Coleborn)

The parties filtered in from early Friday evening through to mid Saturday morning. Friday night Lionel showed us various astronomical bodies as well as Halley's Comet.

Saturday: Various members from four clubs plus friends of the property owner all trogged up for a mornings caving. Brian led a trip to Murder while Rick led a trip to Main (see supplement)

Brian, Ian (OSS) Louise, the girls and myself commenced tagging near Transmission and on the Bagle Bluff, using tags Cl 98 - Cl 104. This exercise proved somewhat interesting due to the presence of many paper wasps and bees. The result being wasps 2, bees 2, us nil.

Saturday Night: Halley's Comet festivities began after tea Saturday night with each group celebrating in their own way. However some conversations would make one wonder? (Ask Brian how BMSC managed to bore 3 to sleep in a very short time).

Sunday: Saw Brian and Rick change caves and carry out a repeat of Saturdays caving. Louise and I spent the morning taking photographs of the karst areas, Kalimna, Taplow Bluff, Fossil Hill, Anticline, Island, Trapdoor Bluff, Gable Bluff and the Tombstone area.

When the rest of the party returned from caving we cleaned the hut and all left for home.

### REPORT NO 2: (Brian Skinn)

Into Murder on Saturday found us all treading our way through the entrance rockpile area, the rest foolishly following me. Eventually, in the first main chamber area, quite a few photos were taken with the assistance of just about everyone. Soon on we pushed up the Left Hand extension, once we found it, to find the what I reckon to be one of the best decorated chambers at Cliefden. Here much time was spent again taking more photos, talking (gossiping) or just admiring the really unique formations which can only be described as "Typical Cliefden".

A return trip out into the warm sunny afternoon soon found most of us in the creek, I hate water.

Sunday, the same intrepid team and Cheryl Coleborn slipped into Main. General exploration was carried out in and around the main chamber, followed by a round-about route to the Bootroom. A trip to Helectite Wall and more gossip. We decided to push to the Noonameena Gate area. Twelve minutes from the wall, Tim and I were up near the gate, the others waiting just back before the final crawl. Alas, soon after, our ineventful return was made, this time finding the Crystal Boot.

Again after another swim we returned to the camp. Soon after with cheery goodbyes we departed for home.

# JENOLAN

Date: 4th May, 1986

Aim: To replace Visitors Book and Container in the Pisa Room-Mammoth.

Members Present: Brian Skinn (T.L.), Brad Barnes, Tony Zimmerman, David Noble.

Visitors: Sheena Sweeting and Graham White.

## REPORT:

Soon after arrival, we trogged up at the usual change area, in front of tourists walking the valley. A more discreet car park, thus change area should be considered by the management authority.

Most of the party followed me through the rockpile while Dave and Tony decended the 40 footer. This method considerably shortened the time it takes to get everyone through this area. Steady progress was made to the Lower River which was surprisingly quite low - nowhere near its normal level.

Shortly after, while the others inspected Oolite Cavern, David followed me up the chimney to Upper Oolite where we rigged a rope and ladder. One day I'll get everybody to climb the chimney just to make them appreciate the niceties of the climb, and to compare the difference in time taken to get everybody up using the different methods.

Finding the Pisa Room completely dry came as no real surprise, as the cave from the entrance was very dry. However the very first pool on the way into the Oval was half full, luckily, as this enabled us to clean up to enjoy the delights of the Pisa Room. Someone, since late late year has walked a small amount of mud onto the flowstone. It would appear that the mud has been picked up at the rear of the chamber and walked back through. There can be NO EXCUSE for doing this sort of damage. In this case the damage is only slight and will not be noticed after the next wet spell.

The new book and hopefully completely waterproof container were put into place replacing the old totally soaked visitors book. The old book will be soon returned to S.U.S.S.

A few very small holes were pushed near Upper Oolite on our return but they didn't go - Brad was too BIG. An uneventful return to the entrance was made, in the knowledge that we had done a little bit in safeguarding a very important part of Jenolan.

BRIAN SKINN

WEE JASPER CAVES.

Date of trip: 24/25th. May, 1986

Aim: General exploration and basic caving.

Members Present: Ian Bogg T.L., Andrew Bogg, Brad Barnes,  
Graham White, David Noble, Tony Zimmerman,

PREAMBLE.

By wednesday night preceeding the proposed trip, we had ourselves a trip - total co-operation - ring the T.L. and tell him we're going - 6 in all. TRIP IS ON !

Arrangements made to meet late Friday evening at the first Wee Jasper turnoff coming into Yass. T.L. and Andrew first to arrive with Graham and David arriving a little later. We wait - weather overcast, little rain, cold, we wait - and eventually give up - no Brad and Tony.

Trip into Wee Jasper uneventful apart from the fact that light rain began to fall and the dirt section around Narrengullen taking control of the Commodore - it goes left, it goes right, it wriggles it tail - all that was missing was the string quartet playing a selection of Strauss's waltzes. On Sunday we had a greater appreciation of this section in daylight.

TO THE CAVES.

Pass through the Wee Jasper hamlet, turn left at the 'T' intersection (DON'T follow Carey's Cave sign), and follow the Tumut signs untill the road crosses Wee Jasper Creek via a low level concrete causeway, then turn right at the 'T' intersection just over the causeway. This is the general camping area.

On the left is a large cleared area whose immediate backdrop is "Punchbowl Hill".

It was pleasing to see that at this stage there were not too many other groups in this part of the world. Selecting our camp site away from the other groups who were camped along the creek our activities were interrupted by the "White Flying Falcon" Brad's Falcon that is - the missing sprogs had arrived ! - much to the mental relief of the T.L. We now had a party of 6 - ideal for W.J. We retired for the night with light rain falling and agreement for an early start.

TRIP REPORT

Saturday.

So much for an early start. Up and away around 9 o'clock after statutory and mandatory safety checks - all in order. With all hands to the equipment we headed for the renowned "Punchbowl Cave".

Heading up towards Punchbowl Hill the "Dog-Leg Cave" outflow was pointed out - obvious entrance. From this point the track is well defined with an obvious starting point being the stile over the fence. Just beyond the fence the track forks, with the L.H. track going up and around the "Fissure Cave" and past the "Anemone Cave" where it rejoins the main track. Track conditions very muddy and slippery.

Suddenly, we arrive at the entrance to a cave with gasps of wonderous delight at the size and grandeur of the entrance - enthusiasm was dampened by the T.L.'s negative reponse to the expected question "this the cave ?" NO. Silently, although a little dissapointed, the party moves off up the hill. Despondency turns to excitement as another cave entrance comes into view - more impressive than "Signature Cave", into which we wasted no time entering the "Antechamber" only to find another group preparing to descend into "Punchbowl". Only 4 in their party - we can be grateful for small mercies.

Basic caving started at this point - put your experience to work lads :- select belay points, rig the ladders, check knots,, and rigging, call signals "on belay, climb, climbing, thats me, up rope, slack etc" check personal hardware (krabs, tapes etc) who has or hasn't been on ladders before ? - WHY - well ahead of us was an impressive 20m descent.

The large column at the top of the pitch is the obvious belay point.

With the T.L. belaying, the party descended into the fabled, mystical depths of darkness, which was punctuated only by the light of the cap lamp, with the silence being broken by the melodic rattle of the ladder against the face and the occasional expletive by the caver on the ladder. With all of the party at the bottom except for the T.L. a bottom running belay was rigged and in no time at all the T.L. was with his party - joy of joys - the only things that have changed over the decade being the few extra inches around the T.L.'s waist and a little less hair on the head - thank goodness for helmets and BIG caves !

Securing our gear to one side of the pitch (in consideration of others and to prevent others from using same) we made a move. At the back end of the "Pitch Chamber" to the left one negotiates the "Snicket", and as the name implies, if you do not exercise care you will snick it. Beyond the "Snicket" we passed through a fine elliptical passage to enter the "Ballroom" which is characterised by a large hole in the roof in the middle of the chamber known as the "Control Hole". "Fossil Wall Chamber" entrance was pointed out but not entered. At the far end of the "Ballroom" is the tallus slope which one must climb up and into the "Far Chamber" which is the largest room in the cave and the only one without a stream cut roof.

Again the guano rich floor (mound) was slippery requiring some degree of caution. Following a short R & R break the party headed down into "Eddies Grotto" which lies in the north west corner of the chamber. Intrepid B.M.S.C. cavers we may be, but the party baulked at the squeeze which contained a small amount of water - no one would get wet !, no one would obey the T.L.! simply amazing, 6 strong B.M.S.C. cavers sitting

around pondering a little obstacle like a little bit of water. Suddenly, the urge of inquisitiveness got the better of us - thin cavers stay dry - bigger cavers get wet. Although the "Grotto" in the past was well decorated, it has been over the years, heavily vandalised.

Emerging from "Eddie's Grotto" we made our way down into the "Mudcrack Chamber" where some explorative initiative was shown and the opportunity taken to examine a bat at close quarters. At the bottom of "Mudcrack" some fine examples of cavers creative mud modelling ability is on exhibition !! Many of the fossils in the foliiferous limestone have been obliterated by muddy handprints and obvious remnants of mud fights amongst over enthusiastic cavers. Back in the "Far Chamber" the more adventurous types climbed up onto the bridge.

Heading back towards the talus slope "Far Chamber - Ballroom" link, a steep slope leads off up to the left taking us into the upper levels of "Punchbowl". From the top of the slope we descended into the "Mezzanine Level" and to the top of the "Control Hole". The route on lies to the right of the Hole along the down sloping ledge which necessitates caution. Following the obvious low level passage, a short jump up opens out at the base of a flowstone slope - one has 2 options at this point - up the flowstone slope or the low level crawl passage to the right. Undaunted, some try the flowstone - a challenge - but gets the better of them. Following the second choice we made our way into the "Loxin Chamber" via the "Strawberry Shortcut". From "Loxin" members found their way into the "Laundry Chute, Window, Shawl Chamber, and the Slippery Dips" - many time around the circuit they went, thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Returning to the "Pitch Chamber" we found that despite our precautions, our equipment had been disturbed with the belay line jammed! which meant that once again the T.L. climbed out without a lifeline. Our lifeline was twisted around the ladder and tied off at the top, FUNTASTIC for some people. Eventually all the party made it up safely resulting in a new experience for some - ladder climbing. Whilst packing up the equipment, the T.L. related the fable of how Lionel Baker got the name of "Shakey Baker"

Departing from "Punchbowl" after 5 hours underground, we headed back down the hill to "Signature Cave" which corresponds with the lower levels of "Punchbowl". From the base of the entrance slope the lower passage leads into the "Phreatic Area" which the myriad of passage was enjoyed - like rats up a drain pipe. The site of the "Tunnel or Eddie Smith's Crawl" was pointed out which used to link the two caves together, but now sealed off. Just back from this point the party moved up through the hole into the upper level of "Signature" to the rimstone pools - unfortunately now badly defaced. It did not take much imagination to picture their former magnificence.

It is a pity that visitors find it necessary to leave their signature in the cave

After some 1½ hours we left "Signature" and headed back to camp where, on the way down the hill some members shot through "Anemone and Fissure Caves". Back at the "Dog-Leg" outflow we resolved to visit this cave after dinner - a fatal mistake - we did not go back.

A pleasant evening was spent around the camp fire which proved a little obstinent to get going, owing to wet wood - but with Dave Noble's encouragement - in every group there has to be a fire fiddler who cannot leave it alone, shift this log..... turn this log..... build it bigger....., we had a respectable camp fire. During the evening we were all exposed to the verbal dissertation by Tony on the attributes of the Mighty Boy, his impending vehicular purchase or is it an over grown matchbox waggon ?

### Sunday.

Dawn breaks with a clear sky and we decide to visit the "Dip Cave" after breaking camp.

The "Dip Cave" is located east of the camping area along the Micalong Road which you follow on past the causeway without turning left. The cave is on the L.H. side of the road just past the cattle grid and is an obvious scar on the side of the hill. Dip is synonymous with Tip.

Cautiously we made our way into the "Dip Cave" amongst a lot of broken glass and headed into "Series 2" which leads off to the left at the bottom of the entrance slope, towards the "Daylight Chamber". Just before the duck under from the "Stalagmite Chamber" into the "Daylight Chamber" the way on was sought, at the insistence of the T.L. Not one member located or spotted the "Rat Hole" untill it was pointed out whereby some of our more intrepid cavers attempted to free climb the wall up to the hole, to no avail. Again the T.L. stated that there existed a more obvious way, and eventually pointed out the balcony from which one can reach the "Rat Hole".

The short climb up into the Balcony Area from the "Daylight Chamber" proved to be an obstacle for some with Tony being successful in negotiating the free climb. Rigging a ladder and belaying the party up and with a safety line rigged along the ledge in the "Stalagmite Chamber" from the "Balcony" to the "Rat hole".

A quick exploratory and orientation trip was undertaken with the notable features being pointed out such as the "Impenetrable Slit", "Series 4" entrance pitch etc. The cave consists of 5 parallel interconnected passages greatly modified by breakdown (rock fall) which is in direct contrast to the "Punchbowl". Series 5 is a high rift like passage and is quite well decorated in places, with many columns being fractured indicating the occurrence of mass movement in the caves history.

Owing to our planned departure time of 3pm from the area, the time spent in the cave was generally for orientation purposes with little exploratory caving being undertaken.

Upon returning to the surface after some 4 hours underground

we trogged around the hillside and located the other entrances into the "Dip" system - "Daylight Chamber" , "Series 4" and the "Gong Room". On the surface, it is difficult to comprehend that below ground some 1000m of large passage is contained in an area of approximately 250 x 90 metres with 40m of relief.

An enjoyable weekend was had by all.

Ian BOGG

## Wollangambie Li - Lo

Date of Trip: Sunday 18th January, 1987.

Members Present: Greg Powell (T.L), Brenda, Benjamin & Adam Powell, Terry, Louise, Gary Kevin, Cheryl, Ann-Marie, Kylie & Michelle Coleborn, Carol Skinn, Peter Brett & Graham Cummings.

Visitors: N.P.A, Members from Newcastle.

### Report

I felt that the 10th Anniversary of the Granville train crash could not go unnoticed. The B.M.S.C. lost a valued friend and a very keen and dedicated caver and outdoors person on that day 10 years ago. To those who remember him, Phillip Coburn, will always bring back fond memories. One of his last and most enjoyable trips was the Wollangambie Ck. Li-Lo.

Members of the Hunter Branch of the National Parks Association (Newcastle) camped at Mt. Wilson on the Saturday night and met up with the B.M.S.C. party on the Sunday morning near the fire station. It was estimated that over 100 people were also on the river that day; quite crowded.

We divided into two groups, Graham led the li-lo party down the track to the creek while I led the family groups down the exit track. A final steep section, unfortunately prevented two of the families from reaching the cool water. We spent some pleasant hours, paddling and swimming in the crystal green water while outside the gorge the heat was intense.

About 15 years ago there was a wooden sign here to show people where to exit from the river. It was later washed away so as a service to other river users, I painted a sign on the cliff about 10 years ago. I repainted the faded sign on this day. A party of bushwalkers li-loed down the river and took offence to the sign and obliterated it. Now no sign exists where there has been one for over 15 years. People who are wet, tired and cold could now overshoot the exit place and a real danger now exists. The N.P.W.S. has been notified.

Our river party arrived at about 3pm. very pleased and inspired by the towering gorges, crystal clear waters, shafts of sunlight and pleasant company.

Young and old then made their way back up the cliff-line and along the track to the cars. It was a great way to spend a hot Blue Mountains Sunday. Phill would have loved it.

Greg Powell (Trip Leader)



# WEE JASPER

Date of Trip:- 28th-29th March, 1987

Aim of Trip:- General Exploration.

Members Present: Ian Bogg (TL), Andrew Bogg, Kevin Coleborn, Stuart Driver, Lachlan Wilson, Tony Zimmerman.

Visitors:- Robert Papworth, Roger Smith.

Having met at the appointed time ( punctually) on the appointed date ( Friday evening ) at the appointed place ( W.J. turnoff Hume Highway Yass) we proceeded convoy style to the caves.

No time wasted in setting up camp and retiring. The prospect of good weekends caving, into the unknown, overcoming obstacles beset regular members. The visitors, well, we have all experienced the mixed emotions of fear, excitement and Intrepidation.

Arising early ( by BMSC standards) we headed off to the Dip Cave for the day. Ahead was a mixed social group preparing to enter the cave and the Gong Room. Since our visit in 1986 the Dip Cave entrance has been cleaned up and a steel cable installed as a handrail. A gentle trip was made to the Daylight Chamber where the T.L's game of " find the way on " was once again played out. Obviously someone must care about Kevin because they had given him a map, why? Someone must also have told him to stick with the T.L. - he followed him like a shadow - was he afraid that the party would be led around the cave passage, around & around & around.

Some cavers cannot resist a challenge, ?. Some cavers like to demonstrate their climbing ability, Lachlan attempted to free climb the flowstone wall into the connecting rathole between series 2 & 3.

The way over the balcony was made easier by a member of the other party inviting one of our party to use their ladder and kindly belaying Stuart up , where upon he set up the ladder and brought the rest of the party up.

Successfully negotiating the obstacles we entered Series 3, where a short R&R break was had. At this point we seperated into 2 groups and explored the eastern end of the Series, including all the lower passages. The ' shadow ' still sticking to the T.L. The cave is still remarkably clean despite obvious use. A number of alternat~~e~~ routes were attempted, but not many of the party could be encouraged to follow the leader.

Rejoining the others we headed down the passage to the Series 3 extension, at the western end of Series 3, having located the extension they were off like rats up a drain pipe with a cat on their tails, except ' shadow ' still sticking with the T.L. This extension was enjoyed with both Tony and Robert popping up in the Series 4 Main Chamber. " Tight squeeze, ad to take me battery off," said Tony. We eventually all rejoined and partook of a light luncheon. At this point we made a return trip back to the surface, particularly as some members were anxious to abseil and SRT the Daylight Chamber, a drop of some 33 metres.

This grand display was given by Stuart, Lachlan, Tony and Roger, who was anxious to display his skills. Other members returned to the cave to witness their skills from below. At htis point the T.L. lost his shadow. The rapid descent award goes to Kevin ( E must learn ow to stop or look to see da bottom). Stuart responded to an unlearned audience by giving an unsolicited dissertation on Frog v's Stair Walk SRT techniques and proceeded to show us his Frog Technique.

After 7 hours we headed back to camp, where upon various Demo's of rope climbing were displayed. Lachlan gets the award (show off) baseball, catchings and 4 aside hit and run with electric wicket cricket.

A pleasant evening around the fire was enjoyed by all, except for a pronounced shortage of seats. The evening was cut short by rain. All in bed by 9.30pm. HORRORS.

Sunday broke with cloudy skies, but before we could away the Lands Dept. Ranger turned up asking for a camp fee, \$4.00 for all of us, not to bad. The mornings activity was to be the Punchbowl. Arriving at the cave we found it all to ourselves and were underground by 9.30am. Members had the choice ladders or SRT.

With all the party down we explored our way into the far Chamber. All members were willing and needed no encouragement for exploration.

From the far chamber sorties were made down into Eddies Grotto, Mudcrack, Diprotodon and up out onto the Bridge. Numerous bats were present. Some members could not fully appreciate the guano pile? 'Shadow' gave a demonstration, of a chemical light display.

We slowly made our way back to the pitch chamber. With some gently encouragement 'shadow' was convinced to follow the other members in attempting the low dusty crawl, by-passing the 'snicket', while the T.L. watched and then took the usual route. Some members are real posers for photographs. While others must have enjoyed the by-pass because they went back for a re-run.

Back at the pitch Stuart SRT'd up and belayed the rest of the party out, after  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours underground. Good to see all members help pack up gear, while others couldn't resist a squeeze challenge at the top of the large column in the Ante Chamber.

On the way down the hill a visit was made into the Signature Cave, where one intrepid caver became disorientated and got himself lost. Stuart can tell the whole story.

Following Signature a quick trip was made down to Dog Leg, on the way pausing to take a brief look at Anemone and Fissure Caves.

This cave sorted out a few cavers as they were confronted by both mud and water. Andrew, Robert and Lachlan, the intrepid trio, pushed their way through this obstacle and surfaced via the half-way-hole. The remainder returned to the surface, but not before they were encouraged to follow the one development along the creek.

We eventually returned to camp at 3.30pm after spending some 13 hours underground for the whole weekend.

A convoy trip was taken back to the Golden Arch Resteraunt at Goulburn, Boy can cavers put away Mac burgers.

An enjoyable weekends caving was had by all.

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## JENOLAN CAVES

### The Great North Cavern

Date of Trip: I4th-I5th February, 1987.  
Members Present: Graham Cummings (TL), Tony Zimmerman  
Stuart Driver, Graeme White, Lachlan  
Wilson, Kevin Coleborn & David Noble.

Saturday I4th

The day has finally arrived, another assault on the long crawl to the Great North Cavern . Funny last time I did this trip I vowed never again, but here I am.

Anyway we all trogged up and with a final adjustment to our knee pads, entered the cave at 10 o'clock. Tony led the way on down past the Skull & Crossbones, Central Lake through the rockpiles with a little difficulty and on to the Dry Syphon. Here we left our packs containing extra lights, food ect. which might be needed on the return trip.

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JENOLAN 14TH / 15TH FEBRUARY, 1987 (CON'T)

After the mandatory munchie break it was on through the Dry Syphon which was almost dry. The first 10 foot vertical squeeze slowed some people due to its tightness, a fore taste of things to come. The 100% Friction Squeeze was pushed through, thank goodness it is not as sticky as it used to be. Once again the passage on from the end of the Gravel Grovel and Thud in the Mud proved difficult to find, but after about 20 minutes we were on our way.

From here it was a matter of squeezing, grovelling, and crawling through various delights such as the Half Moon Passage, the Back Breaker, the Zig Zag and the Serpentine Passage. It was with some relief that we arrived in the Sink Hole Cavern because here you could stand up. However the relief was only temporary as it was back on ones stomach for the last crawl. The Formation Squeeze once again proved tight for some however I noticed that it had been enlarged some what, but with the end almost in sight we all managed to squeeze through. We finally arrived in the Great North Cavern at 2.30pm.

After the usual munchie break it was off to explore the cavern, and about an hour later we were once again back on our stomachs squeezing, grovelling and crawling our way out, mentally ticking each hazard off as we negotiated it. When we finally reached the Dry Syphon it was to find that the people in front had dammed the stream and flooded the Syphon, which meant we got wetter than on the way in. The joke was not appreciated David.

Once we had made and enjoyed a hot "cuppa" we collected our packs and headed back to the surface, arriving there at 7pm. tired and very muddy.

Most agreed one had to go to the Great North Cavern at least once but twice well time will tell.  
Sunday 15th

Due to a distinct lack of enthusiasm it was decided not to go caving today so after leisurely packing up we headed for home.

Graham Cummings (TL)

# Yarrangobilly

Date of Trip:- 15th - 25th April, 1987

Members Present:- Rick Brett (T.L.), Tony Zimmerman (T.L.), Brad Barnes, Gary Coleborn, Roger Smith, Kevin Coleborn, Stuart Driver, Dave Noble, Warren Lacey, Tim Pearson, Michelle Nickerson, Gregg Powell, Carolyn Tonks, Graeme White.

NEWCAVE Members:- Ian Lacey, Darren Armitage.

Visitors:- Andrew Penny, Gregg Young.

S.M.S.S. Members: Mick Williams, Ian Ware, Bob Heatly.

N.P.& W.S. Ranger: Ian Household.

With some disappointment because of members being unable to attend the Yarrangobilly trip got underway with Tim, Michelle and the Laceys arriving Wednesday. Thursday saw Brad, Graeme and Gregg arrive with Roger, Gary and Kevin arriving 3am Friday morning closely followed by Tony and Stuart (5am). Dave and Andrew arrived later that morning with the Powell family being the last to arrive on Saturday.

Friday saw the beginning of caving with the first task being to collect the keys. It was here that we discovered that S.S.S. were also in the area but we had no trouble in arranging programs and keys to avoid clashing. The N.P&W.S. also requested us to take photos of various formations where significant change had occurred, including vandalism.

The first caves entered were OLD INN (4 hours) and RESTORATION (2 hours) by Gary, Kevin, Tim, Michelle, Dave, Andrew and Roger, where exploration and temperature readings dominated in OLD INN and photography in RESTORATION. Tony and Stuart spent 3½ hours in EAST DEEP CREEK with members of S.M.S.S. introducing a group to caving. Brad, Ian and Warren went out to Cooleman Plains as the following report explains:-

Three cars to Coolaman Plain and on the way we dropped off 5 of Warren Lacey's Scout Troop to complete a 70km walk.

Ian Lacey, Warren Lacey and Brad Barnes drove to the camping area via Coolaman Homestead. The camp area was full of 100's of cars, 4WD's ect all out for the Easter weekend. We walked down Caves Ck. and had a grovel in several caves until we reached the waterfall and had lunch. Ian and Warren decided time was running out at 2pm. Little did I know we would walk back via BARBERS CAVE ( 3 entrances). On to Harris Hut and Bill Browns thence back to the car via Limestone Gorge. A total distance of 20km in the day, 16km after 2pm. We met the scouts at 4pm near Harris Hut only 3km off course and 1 hour late. They camped at Coolaman camp area. Total caving hours - One (1) each.

BRAD BARNES

By now everybody was keen to make the best of the weekend and the first major trip was organised - EAGLES NEST. We split up into two groups the first being  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour in front and its members were Tony, Stuart, Gary, Kevin, Roger, Graeme, Gregg and Dave. This first group was to set up the pitch. We entered the cave Via the Y3 entrance and as we did not have a map we found the going a bit tricky. We soon found the midway gate which had been forced open and no longer locked. The second group, Brad, Rick, Tim, Michelle and Warren also found the Y3 entrance tricky. The cave was enjoyed by all and cameras are well worth while. Both parties were underground for  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours. That night Graeme, Gregg, Tony, Stuart, Dave and Andrew entered EAST DEEP CREEK, expecting the gate to be unlocked as with the small padlock it became a very time consuming operation to lock the gate as S.S.S. found out. It took them  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour to do so. Not the best way to accumulate caving hours. Because of this we decided to explore the unlocked section. We soon found the river passage in which we found formations that equal the locked section. ( 3 hours).

On Sunday, Tony, Stuart, Graeme, Gregg, Dave and Andrew re-entered EAST DEEP CREEK, this time with the key, to enable the party to take photos of the two de-trog areas. The only disappointment being that we did not have enough time to explore the river passage with our cameras. (3½ Hrs.) Rick, Brad, Carolyn, Ian, Warren and Greg Powell went underground for 2 hours in RESTORATION CAVE. Sunday also saw the first to leave. Roger to return for his son's Birthday party taking Gary and Kevin with him. That afternoon also saw Graeme and Gregg leave.

A brief trip, led by Rick, had a look at COPPERMINE during Monday morning with Tony, Brad, Tim, Michelle, Carolyn and Dave making up the rest of the party. They were only underground for 2 hours as Brad, Tim and Michelle had to leave that afternoon.

Most of the party had left by Tuesday lunchtime and no caving was done until 5pm. Rick and Carolyn left early morning while Dave and Andrew disappeared around midday, while the Powel Family left in the late afternoon. That night Tony and Stuart entered JANUS CAVE led by a N.P.&W.S. Ranger - Ian Household and a group from S.M.S.S. This cave lived up to reputation and it was an enjoyable 5 hours.

On Thursday we re-entered EAGLES NEST for two reasons. The first to repair the gate connecting Y3 to Y2 and to finish photographing the cave. To do this we spent another 5 hours underground and after leaving the cave we did our best to block up all of the other holes which had recently opened up allowing easy access to the cave. The next cave entered was COPPERMINE during Friday night and spent 3½ hours exploring and photographing the cave. We also noticed some bad examples of vandalism which had not been noticed in the previous trip. ( Photos were taken of this vandalism as requested by the N.P. &W.S. and are enclosed with this report.)



Saturday was the last day of caving for this trip and it was planned to enter WEST DEEP CREEK for an hour or so and then continue on to NORTH DEEP CREEK and do the duck-under but due to WEST DEEP CREEK'S confusing layout and exciting possibilities we spent 4 hours in there and did not enter NORTH DEEP CREEK. The caving done from Tuesday afternoon to the following Saturday was by Tony and Stuart with N.P&W.S. and/or S.M.S.S. members in order to get underground party numbers up to the club standard.

STUART DRIVER

CAVE TEMPERATURES

YARRANGOBILLY CAVES - APRIL 17-20th 1987

Date 17-4-87

RESTORATION Y50 ( Using wet and dry thermometer.)

DRY	WET	Humidity	AREA
17.25°	13.5°	63%	Outside cave entrance
18.00°	14.5°	66%	Inside cave entrance
14.5°	13.0°	83%	Top of the first chamber
12.25°	11.0°	85%	Bottom of first chamber
11.00°	10.0°	87%	Bottom of second chamber
10.5°	10.0°	90%	Bottom chamber
8.5°	7.5°	80%	Bottom of bottom chamber
9.15°	8.5°	90%	Bottom chamber end of red wire.

Date 18-4-87

EAGLES NEST Y 1, 2, & 3. ( Dry thermometer)

DRY	AREA
19.0°	Outside cave
Air 8° Rock 7°	30m into cave
Air 5° Rock 4° Water 3.5°	Bottom of ladder pitch
Air 4° Rock 3.5° Water 3.5°	Passage near gate
Air 7° Rock 6° Water 5.8°	Railway Tunnel

Date 18-4-87

COPPERMINE ( Dry thermometer only)

DRY	AREA
8°	Outside entrance
Air 8.5° stream 8.5°	50m past visitors book
Air 10.0° Rim pool 9°	Upper section above stream
Air 9.0° Rim pool 8° Rock 10°	Upper section near squeeze.
Air 10° Rim pool 10° Rock 10°	At Gate ( SQUEEZE)

NOTE GATE INTO Y50 RESTORATION CAVE NEEDS ATTENTION. THE GATE CAN BE PASSED EASILY WHEN IT IS IN THE LOCKED POSITION.

# Walli

Date of Trip:- 2nd - 3rd May, 1987  
Members Present:- T.Zimmerman (T.L.), L.Wilson, B.Barnes,  
G.Coleborn, S.Driver, R.Smith, R.Brett,  
K.Coleborn, T.pearson, M.Nickerson &  
C.Tonks.

After much arranging it was decided that we would all meet at the Cliefden turn-off at 9.00 am and as usual most of us were late. We got going again around 9.30am, arriving at the caves turn-off at 10.00am and after a small hitch in finding the farm Manager we continued along to the camping area.

The first amuseing time of the trip was when a mad sheep dog followed us from the farm house. For a while it was satisfied by chasing our cars but as we stopped to open a gate the dog spotted a mob of sheep off to the right. It now had a major dilemma on its paws, to chase the sheep or the mad humans. It probably made the wisest choice, it chased the sheep. Not to be disappointed though because it reappeared soon after and remained with us for the rest of the day.

As we set up camp it became obvious that we were going to be in for some dirty weather and therefore Brad decided to camp further down the hill to get out of the wind. It was not long before the rest of the party realised the sence of this and joined him. We were soon underground.

The first cave we entered " WA 38 " was ' dusty and dirty ' and therefore, enjoyable. After a little exploration we found a small passage that led us past a few formations to a second entrance. From here we decided to have a look at Piano Cave " WA 13 " in which we discovered the CO 2 pit. Those who had not previously been to Walli were also surprised with the number of false floors that were in existence. While in Piano the party split into two groups, one of which headed out. After a few photos we left too for " WA 14 ".

We soon discovered that this cave did not have much to offer and we would have surfaced sooner but Tony, anxious to get up as many hours as possible, discovered a small squeeze which opened up into a very small room. We then preceeded to convince others to enter. It was not to long before all of us were crammed in there like sardines. Back up on the surface the expected rain had settled in and we prepared for a damp night.

### SUNDAY

After breakfast it was suggested that we could set up gear in the two pitch caves, Deep Hole and Horse Hole, with a ladder and SRT set up in Deep Hole to enable all party members to enter, while Horse Hole would only be set up for capable SRT users. Deep Hole was enjoyed by all who entered it due to its confusing layout. The party split into three groups. The first of which left Deep Hole to enable us to get a good look at Horse Hole and to give Roger a demonstration of SRT Ascending. We were soon joined by Tony, Gary and Lachlan. While Stuart was entering Horse Hole, Brad, Kevin, Gary, Tony and Roger headed for " WA 42 " leaving Lachlan as the ground party with instructions to follow.

In " WA 42 " Tony and company set up an ambush for Lachlan and Stuart while they waited for them. This ambush would have been successful but Lachlan and Stuart were unable to find the right passage. Meanwhile Rick, Tim and the girls left Deep Hole and went back to Camp.

We soon cleaned up, broke camp and headed home.

PS. The " Whimp Awards " for the weekend were:-

Equal Ist went to Lachlan and Brad for sleeping in their cars because of the rain. Tim, who also slept in a car was excused as he forgot his tent altogether. Third prize had to go to Roger who wasn't satisfied with a ground sheet, or even an air mat. But brought along a bed, complete with sheets, blankets and pillow.

PSS. Although he was not with us for long we must farewell Roger as he and his wife have decided to leave the " Lucky Country " and return to England. From all of us " GOOD LUCK".

## BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB

### TRIP REPORT - JENOLAN

Date - 20th/21st June, 1987.

Aim - 1. Exploration and familiarization of Alladdin Cave,  
Rho Hole and Mammoth Cave.

2. To further dig Funnel Webb (Southern Limestone)

Members - Brian Skinn (TL), Tony Zimmerman, Lachlan  
Wilson, Warren Lacey, Michelle Nickerson, David  
Noble, Rob & Cindy Mann, Ricky Brett, Carolyn  
Tunks and Tim Pearson.

Visitor - Sharon Williamson.

#### REPORT

On to the Cavers Cottage to set up 'the camp', then on down the valley on a particularly horrible looking rainy day. The Alladdin entrance was soon located, providing a welcome relief from the wintery weather. Down the cave we clambered until the wire netting was reached. At this point in time we all marvelled at the 'hardiness' of the cave visitors in the days (early 20th century) when this was a Tourist Cave - could they be equated with the people embarking on the Jenolan Adventure trips today.

Next into Rho Hole where the Mulberry Tunnel was soon located. The cave, this time, was surprisingly not very wet, even the Mulberry Tunnel was fairly dry.

Mammoth was pushed only as far as the Railway Tunnel Rockpile. As usual this end of the cave was very muddy. Its also a fairly well decorated chamber if one knows where and takes the time to look. A few hardy members started the trip into the Sand Passage but returned soon after; I wonder why?

Sunday - Up the Southern Limestone again. On the way Warren and Lachlan located a possible dig/cave. They opened the entrance and entered and then soon after caught up with us at Funnel Web. The cave (Funnel Web) soon had us wondering again. This time the cave was dry, the efflux was not running out the normal entrance but was flowing out lower down the hill. A top entrance was found and digging commenced where rapid progress was soon underway. This is a good prospect for further development. Funnel Web itself was again entered by Rick who reported that the cave was getting bigger, but the first two turns were bloody hard to manoeuvre through.

On our return we caught up with Warren and the others at the Entrance of their 'new' cave. Rick and I entered with Rick descending to the bottom. The cave descends through a tight offset triangular entrance, spiralling down until a 20 foot vertical 6 - 9 foot diameter hole is reached. At the bottom is a reasonably sized chamber with two or three possible dig sites of the chambers perimeter. An inscription on the wall dates the cave, we think, it reads 11/1/9 E. COOKE. Is this 1911 or 1909 or what? Positive identification I'm sure will soon follow. On our next trip we will survey and if not previously tagged, tag it. It has been tentatively named Cooke Cave. - Another major discovery at Jenolan by B.M.S.C. So far we have discovered Split Rock 25 m, Funnel Web, 4 - 5 entrances and approximately 10 m and still getting bigger and now Cooke Cave, approximately 20-25m by 8-10m deep. All major discoveries at the Southern Limestone.

This has been achieved after much hard work over a 7 year period and I wish to thank all those people who have followed me up the Southern Limestone and not complained too much. I'm sure our results are well worth the effort.

Brian SKINN  
Trip Leader

## •HERMOINE the Modern Girl & the International Year of the Bat (it really is) combine for **BAT HINTS!**

BATS HAVE ACUTE HEARING.  
DO NOT SHOUT AT THEM.

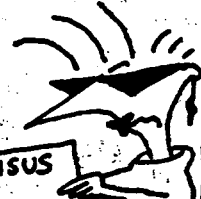


NEVER TUMBLE-DRY YOUR BAT.  
BATS ARE A MINORITY GROUP.



doesn't  
even  
mention  
bats

CENSUS



# JENOLAN.

Date: 15th/16th August, 1987

Aim: 1. Familiarization of Northern Limestone.  
2. Survey and Tagging of Cooke Cave, Southern Limestone.  
3. Further digging of Funnel Webb, Southern Limestone.

Members Present: Brian Skinn (TL), Graeme White, Lachlan Wilson,  
Kevin Coleborn, (Ricky Brett & Carolyn Tunks Sun Only)

Visitors: Sharon Williamson, Jim Keirnan, Andrew Burrell.

## REPORT:

Sat - Arrived and Trogged up for J41, J92 and J13. The carefree gang enjoying the unseasonably good weather made short work of the trip to J41 from the Boom Gate. Upon entry I took the others down into the lower section of the entrance chamber and set them the task of finding the way on. Whilst doing so, Lachlan and myself ducked off and waited for them to find us. Soon we were on our way. Descending through the cave to the right from the main chamber we explored every possible avenue until our return and then on to the Perculator. Graeme, Andrew and Kevin descended through this "mind over matter" hole and went as far as the first pitch then returned rather slowly, it seemed to take ages to get them back up. Half the party climbed out the daylight entrance whilst the others via the normal route.

After a necessary lunch break we trogged up to Wybirds, down into the river passage and found plenty of water. In fact there was water flowing everywhere. A few adventurous bods rackled the "water sirens" found throughout the lower reaches of the cave, but nobody actually fell in - not completely anyway. Some time later after fulfilling our most urgent needs to cave, we returned to the Cavers Cottage.

Sun - An early start found us at Cooke Cave by 10am. Most of us entered and descended to the lowest chamber. Kevin, Lachlan and Jim and Andrew proceeded to dig in an obvious spot and succeeded in extending this "new found" cave into an area where there is a good possibility of finding more passage. Graeme and I surveyed the top of the cave, Graeme then descended and continued the survey whilst the others ventured off to Funnel Webb to continue the dig. However the amount of water flowing from the efflux was the most I have ever seen. It had completely filled the main Funnel Webb entrance offering no possibility of digging at all. We dug the new upper entrance but found the going tough, as it turned a right handed, small corner, six feet in, making digging to difficult to continue. Cooke Cave was also tagged, J291, with a further unnamed hole in a bluff further up the valley tagged J292. A return trip will see another tag placed on another interesting prospect again further up the valley. One can see in for approximately 10 feet, then what - wait for next trip and find out.

Our next trip to Jenolan I intend to take along my slide projector so for those that attend bring your slides and we will make a Cave Slide night.

Brian SKINN  
Trip Leader

# Sun Valley

Date of trip: 6th September, 1987  
Aim of trip: Survey cave in the Sun Valley.  
Members Present: Ron Thomas (T.L.), Louise and Terry Coleborn  
+ (4), Kevin Coleborn, Graeme White and  
Andrew Burrell.

## Report:

We all met at the Sun Valley turnoff in the drizzling rain. Then Ron led the way to the cave. We followed along a narrow lane for about 3km. stopping near Fitzgeralds Creek. We then climbed to the top of the bluff and walked for about 150m. Ron showed us several good areas for setting up ladders and ropes for a field day.

The area along the top of the bluff is a dry sclerophyll type forest while the area along the bottom is very wet sclerophyll to almost rainforest vegetation.

There is a rather steep, slippery climb down into the cave. The walls of which are covered in the rock orchids, Dendrobium striolatum and Liparis reflexa. The cave is formed by a very large rock resting against the cliff face and the inside tunnels are formed by large boulder collapse. The cave would be about 25m in length and 6m in height. The lower entrance has small pools and mixed variety of ferns and mosses.

On the walk back along the bottom of the bluff we saw many orchids, both on the rock faces and the ground. There were Pterostylis nutans, Glossodia major and Acianthus growing in clumps in the leaf litter around the bases of fallen trees. While Dendrobium striolatum and Dendrobium linguiforme were growing in small clusters over most of the rocks.

Our thanks goes to Ron for showing us the cave and the beautiful orchid filled rainforest right in our own backyard. We surveyed the cave and Graeme was volunteered to draw up the map and compile part 5 - Caves of the Blue Mts. Fitzgeralds Ck. cave.

On the way home we saw a most unusual sight. One of the Sun Valley residents needs to mow his roof. Would you believe he actually has lawn growing on the roof of his house.

Kevin and Andrew did some abseiling off the bluff in the afternoon. Kevin also completed his first aid requirements for Full Membership.

Louise Coleborn

# JENOLAN

DATE: 26th/27th September, 1987.

AIM: Southern Limestone Investigation and Survey.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Skinn (T.L.), Graeme White, David Noble, Lachlan Wilson, Kevin Coleborn, and Tony Zimmerman.

REPORT:

We all arrived nearly on time, and made our way 'up the Southern Limestone, and do we have a cave for you' well almost. We rigged Cooke Cave ( J29I ) to make the eventual exit easier, and whilst Kevin, Lachlan and Tony attempted to further the dig, Graeme, David and myself completed the survey. Kevin reappeared some time later to conclude that the dig was not a goer. So not to be daunted we started to remove rock from another hole in the floor to see if it had any prospects, maybe one day we will further it. Up and out, derigged the ladder, and proceeded to demolish lunch beside the flowing creek ( Camp Creek ). Being a very hot day we stripped off our caving gear down to our shorts then methodically combed the hill for the cave that BMSC found in 1970/71, which they called Camp Creek Cave, and as yet, as far as I know, hasn't been rediscovered.

After much cave searching and soul searching we ended up at the two caves that Tony had found a few trips before, on the way though, several more very likely cave sites were found, I call them 'Cavers Sacred Sites' because one day some of them will go. Anyway, back at the two new ones, one we completely surveyed from the inside, the other, the one Kevin got very stuck in, we surveyed from the outside. So, ( J292 ) Cow Pat Cave is born, another in the BMSC Southern Limestone continuing 'mini series'. The other untagged cave is unnamed.

The next day after decamping from the Pig Farm Camp Site we again ventured up the valley to get into and



survey ( J279 ) Shaft Cave. This we accomplished relatively painlessly, again I re-iterate, this cave is an excellent training cave, being approximately 100ft deep and nearly vertical, it has a sound belay point and enough room to perfect the required belay techniques. With this mission completed we returned home in time to watch the League Grand Final on Telly.

The maps of the caves we surveyed will be published together with all the previously surveyed caves as soon as all maps are completed.

Brian Skinn  
(Trip Leader)

BUNGONIA

Sunday, 1st October, 1987

Members Present: Rick Brett, Carolyn Tunks, Kevin Coleborn  
David Noble.

After a few phone calls earlier in the week. It was decided to have a One Day trip to Bungonia. Carol and myself departed for Bungonia early Sunday morning and on our arrival we met up with Kevin and David.

After looking through the Bungonia book I decided to have a look at Drum, Bl3. Once we sorted out the ladders and ropes, we found that we were one rope short to do the belaying on the ladder pitch. Lucky for us Dave had his 100m rope that he had used for canyoning in his car so we ended up needing it as well.

Soon enough we were all at the cave entrance and rigged the 150ft pitch with the ropes and ladders. Soon everything was ready and Dave was the first to abseil into the dark depths of this big hole, followed by Carolyn with myself using the ladder and Kevin doing the belaying. With Carol, Dave and myself at the bottom and Kevin still at the top double checking his gear for the abseil. Kevin was soon underway and loomed out of the darkness above us, finally he was safely at the bottom with the rest of us.

From here we darted back under the pitch to check out the Bat chamber. Once we had a quick look we all went back towards the bottom of the pitch and proceeded on into the dry stream passage.

Out of curiosity I did an air temperature check in the stream passage finding it to be 9 degrees, mind you it was close to 31 degrees outside the cave. Proceeding on we came to another big chamber so I pulled out the trusty matches to check for Co2 and didn't find any trace of it at all.

As we headed deeper into the cave the check for Co2 became more frequent still not finding any sign of the stuff. The 60ft ladder pitch was eventually located so we then rigged the ladder to overcome the obstacle. With the 60ft ladder pitch behind us we headed on over some large rim pools, most of which contained running water and downward deeper into the cave.

The formation down this deep in the cave, although dryish was unique in its own way, most of it wasn't vanaalised and I think the normally high Co2 levels in the cave have definitely helped preserve the formation in a natural access limiting process.. Further on we came to the next ladder pitch this one being 25ft so the ladder was rigged and we headed on down negotiating our way past a large pool of water at the bottom of the pitch. Once we had reached the sump at the very bottom of the cave we all decided to have a well earned munchie break, and also to take a quick temperature reading which was found to be 19 degrees almost 10 degrees difference to the upper section of the cave. We also checked the Co2 level again with the matches and found no Co2 at all.

After our munchie break we headed out of the cave to the base of the entrance pitch. Dave prusicked up first and then Carolyn set out on her tiring ladder climb with Dave doing the belaying, the next one up was Kevin using his prussick gear to ascend the rope, whilst I came up the ladder at the tail of the field. This was an exceptionally good trip enjoyed by all.

# Yarrangobilly

Date of trip: 3rd - 5th October, 1987.  
Trip Leader: Rick Brett.  
Members Present: Carolyn Tunks, Kevin Coleborn, Lachlan Wilson, Tony Zimmerman, Trevor Fowler.  
Newcave Members: Ian Lacey, June Melville, Tony Finn.  
Snowy Mts. Member: Mick Williams.

## DAY ONE:

With most members and visitors having a long drive on Friday night, we ended up having a slow start to caving on the first day.

After we finished cooking breakfast we decided to trog up and head to Y10, OLD INN to do our annual temperature checks on the cave.

Before leaving the cars an outside air temperature reading was done, finding that it was a pleasant 18°C. Once we arrived at the entrance to the cave the temperature was no longer pleasant. For Trevor, June and Tony F. on their first trip to Yagby were to encounter what appears to be an average temperature of 8°C for the entrance to Y10.

Once into the Book Room we filled in the visitors book and proceeded on towards Straw Haven. Once in this pretty chamber some more temperature checks were carried out, and some photography done.

We soon departed Straw Haven and headed on towards the Upper Section of the cave to carry out some more temperature checks. Once we reached the De-Trog another temperature check was done finding it to be 9°C and again the camera came out. After the job was completed we proceeded back to the Book Room and then out of the cave.

DAY TWO:

Y5 EAST DEEP CREEK

With a slow start Sunday Morning, some enthusiasm was eventually found and we soon trogged up and ready to depart for Y5.

Once we all arrived at the car park on top of the hill we departed for the downhill track towards the Y5 doline. Upon reaching the doline, an outside temperature reading was taken finding it to be a familiar 7°C. From here Mick lead the way to the gate with the rest of us following on. We wound our way into the cave until we came to what we called De-trog No1. Once the air temperature was checked we took the opportunity to do some photography in this pretty section.

To get a good look at the formation one had to de-trog even taking the boots off and walking near the formation. Carol and June handled the " cold water " on the formation reasonably well, but it made some of us fellas a bit weak at the knees. Incidentally the water temperature was a lovely 5°C a little on the nippy side.

We were soon dressed again and pushed on to the No2 De-trog area where once again some photography was done and some more air and rock temperatures were taken. The task was soon completed and we departed for the outside world. When everyone had passed the gate I tried to lock the rotten thing but without much success. I soon gave up on locking the gate so Mick then had a go, also giving up. Once again I tried with Kevin giving me some support, and sure enough I still couldn't get the padlock closed. After some time had passed Carolyn came back into the cave to inform us that it was pouring with rain outside and that Tony and Trevor were still waiting for us out in the rain, so the gate was left, and we departed the cave with failing lights.

With the rain persisting and the temp. dropping the trip to Eagles Nest planned for Sunday afternoon was cancelled and a hot tea was cooked on the fire back at Cotterills Cottage.

DAY THREE:

CASTLE CAVE

Monday morning saw Ian, June and Tony depart for their trip back to Newcastle, leaving myself, Carolyn, Lachlan, Tony, Kevin and Trevor to pack up our gear and clean up the rest of the hut. Once Kevin, Lachlan, Tony and Trevor had finished packing their gear, they set off to Y5 to fit the new longer, shanked padlock to the gate of the cave.

After Carol and myself finished cleaning, we locked the hut and headed down to the tourist area to meet up with the others. Upon our arrival we found the others waiting for us, so we quickly trogged up and set out on our way to Castle Cave to do Photo tagging of the old fencing.

Once the cave was located we all headed on in and instantly started photographing the old steel and chicken wire fencing.

Approximately fifty metres into the cave we came across some tourists and a guide that were just completing an Adventure Tour of the cave. After we had a quick talk with them, we then continued on with the Photo tagging.

With almost two, thirty six shot rolls of slide film used up we had finished our job and then made our way out of the cave.

On our arrival back to the cars, Carol and I said googbye to Kevin, Tony, Lachlan and Trevor as they departed for Sydney. With the others on their way, Carol and I went up to the main office and handed in the keys and the rolls of film to Neil and then departed for home.

**Dragon Breath lake revealed**

JOHANNESBURG, Sunday: A team of 40 South African divers and scientists left Johannesburg yesterday for northern Namibia to explore what they believe is the world's biggest underground lake. The location of the lake, called Drachenhauchloch (Dragon Breath Hole), was kept secret till today when the South African Speleological Association revealed it was 60 km from Grootfontein in northern Namibia. — AFP

RECORDED CAVE TEMPERATURES

CAVE Y10, OLD INN                      Date: 3rd October, 1987

<u>Location</u>		<u>C°</u>	<u>Humidity</u>
Outside Air Temperature		18°	32%
Cave Entrance		8°	86%
<u>Book Room</u>	Air	7°	93%
	Water	7°	
	Rock	7°	
<u>Straw Haven</u>	Air	9°	93%
	Water	7°	
	Rock	9°	
<u>Upper Section</u>	Air	9°	93%
	Water	8°	
	Rock	8.5°	

CAVE Y5, EAST DEEP CREEK.                      Date: 4th October, 1987

<u>Location</u>		<u>C°</u>	<u>Humidity</u>
Outside Air Temperature		16°	
Cave Entrance		7°	93%
<u>Rockpile</u>		7°	93%
<u>De-Trog No.1.</u>	Air	5°	92%
	Water	4°	
	Rock	4°	
<u>De-Trog No.2.</u>	Air	6°	92%
	Water	4°	
	Rock	4°	

Rick Brett

Trip Leader

# TUGLOW

Date of trip: 10th - 11th October, 1987  
Aim of trip: Exploration - Main Cave TI  
Moonmilk Cave T4  
Members Present: Ian Bogg (T.L.), Tony Zimmerman, Kevin  
Coleborn, David Noble, Lachlan Wilson,  
Cindy & Rob Mann.

## Exploration - Main Cave

Ladders used to descend to the river passage. Cave reasonably dry and particularly clean and free of rubbish. Disappointing to see carbide deposits within the cave.

During progress the entrance into the Diamond Mine was pointed out and voice connection from within the Diamond Mine established with the main chamber in the vicinity of the broken shawl.

In the downstream end the passage above the Rimstone Cascades was explored, whilst a ladder was rigged above the Dry Waterfall to enable exploration of the lower passage which eventually connects via a vertical squeeze passage to the upper passage.

The shaft behind the dry waterfall was investigated down to water level. Only lead is a "swimming one". The hole through the base of the large rimstone pool was entered (wet) and the connection to the shaft confirmed. Sometime must be spent to 'plumb' the water in this area as it appears to be rather deep - for a future trip.

The Tuglow Skull is still intact.

Upstream, the waterfall and pool was wet investigated (wet suit assisted) - bolts are still in place on the waterfall face. The high level route behind the Organ Pipe was shown to members.

Upstream, both the right and left hand branches along with the new middle bit were investigated, with no new discoveries.

Of particular interest was the absence of bats.

### Exploration - Moonmilk Cave

Moonmilk was shown to some members, whilst 'wet' cavers were in Main Cave. Some digging has been carried out by others. Moonmilk wall has dried out. And again no bats.

### Exploration - Plasticene Cave.

**This cave** was shown to members. General exploration (familiarisation) undertaken. No bats. Cave clean. No new discoveries.

Cave numbers 6,7,8 located in base of bluff along with unnumbered cave in the middle of the track. All of which are small and of little interest.

The unnumbered cave spirals under track and has a second opening in the base of a small outcrop protected by blackberries. A small animal skull ( not prehistoric ) was found in this entrance.

Overall, a satisfactory and partially rewarding with some more knowledge of Tuglow Main.

## Ben Hall Country in pictures

Newcastle primary school teacher Greg Powell has compiled a book dealing with the travels of bushranger Ben Hall.

Ben Hall Country puts the life of the bushranger into chronological order and shows photographs of the sites where the important events took place.

The sites are timeless and Greg believes that looking at the photos can transport the mind back in time to the wild decade of the 1860's.

The aim of the book was not to retell the Ben Hall story but to make it more attractive and believable.

The book is available throughout the Central West, which is the area in which Ben Hall operated.

The author's main hobby is bushwalking, especially when historic locations are involved.

During a six year teaching stint in the Blue Mountains he was able to write his first book Bushwalking in the Blue Mountains which is based on the routes of the early explorers.

It was during bushwalking trips into the Weddin Mountains National Park near Grenfell that Greg really started to get interested in the bushranging era.

The information and photos in Ben Hall Country took Greg 15 years to collect.

He had to do a lot of driving to photograph each bushranging landmark and also had to do a lot of bushwalking.

He said many Central West people had offered information to him during the years and these people, many of whom had passed on, were acknowledged in the book.

Many other people had offered advice, maps and assistance but their names were never recorded.

The simple text in Ben Hall Country is based on recent findings and research by people such as Edgar Penzig, Peter Smith and Kevin Passey.

Ben Hall Country covers bushranging sites in central NSW.

These include Grenfell, Weddin Mountains, Eugowra, Mount Wheogo, Sprowle's Station, Pinnacle Police Station, Carcoar, Coombling Park, Juneee, Demondrille, Wombat, Wallendbeen, Blayney, Caloola, Grubbenbong, Clierden, Canowindra, Bathurst, Gumbila, Koorawatha, Towrang, Black Springs, Binda, Collector, Molonglo, Muthibilly, Blaxland, Araluen, Molong, Mudgeong, Yamma and Forbes.

### BEN HALL COUNTRY



There are photos from all of these places and the author believes it is important to have recorded the sites before they disappear or are changed by progress.

Greg is also releasing other books covering bushrangers exploits. Thunderbolt Country will cover sites in northern NSW. Morgan-Clarke-Moonlite Country will cover sites in southern NSW and a fourth title Ned Kelly Country will cover Victorian sites.

As well as teaching and writing, Greg Powell has been actively involved with the Scout Association for more than 20 years and is a long time member of the Blue Mountains Caving Club and the Kosciusko Huts Association.

His keen interest in conservation is reflected in his membership of the National Parks Association of which he is the trip co-ordinator of the Hunter branch.

As a member of Recent Historical Re-enactments, he has performed bushranging re-enactments at such locations as Lithgow, Benolan Caves, Tuena, Abercrombie Caves, Carcoar and Forbes.



# Spring Creek Canyon

Date of trip:- 31st October, 1987

Present: Dave Noble, Kevin Coleborn.

Leaving on Friday night Kevin and I headed off for Bungonia. With the aid of a map which didn't have our turn-off on it. So we found the rangers girl friend, who had just got out of the shower. She led us to the ranger who quickly.. 'Told us where to go'. After following his instruction... go back a mile to the shearing shed and turn left, through two gates, past a dam, another gate and your there.... We went to sleep.

After an early rise to sunny morning we drove out to the Flying Fox to find mist rising up from the Shoalhaven. We then proceeded to follow the fire trails and goat tracks to Spring Creek. The bush in this area is very thin which made walking easy. Small caves and mines are present in Spring Creek, perhaps they mined copper. The canyon starts with a slide or jump 4m into a deep pool, then a short slide into the next is found.

The first abseil could be jumped 10m, climbed/ jumped, abseil / jumped or slid / abseiled. I abseiled / hand over hand, while Kevin abseiled and slid into the pool below. The second pitch was down a 10m slippery rock into a shallow pool. The third pitch was about 12m down a waterfall into a deep pool. The next was about 45m into a large pool. The sixth pitch was about 100m downstream, past a tricky climb which had a rope set up. This pitch was about 15m to a ledge and then on to the seventh pitch of about 47m. The eighth and final pitch is belayed on the right off a small tree and consists of a 40m water slide where you cannot stand up.

The canyon then enters the Shoalhaven, where we had lunch. As the day had now turned out to be hot and sunny we floated down the Shoalhaven (Li-lo's next time) to the old chimneys. And then up the Flying Fox track to the car. We then headed for Bungonia, saw the ranger, had a shower and went to bed.

The next morning we awoke to meet Rick and Carolyn ready to explore Drum Cave.

David Noble (T.L.)

# BUNGONIA

Date of trip:- Sunday 1st November, 1987  
Members Present:- Rick Brett (T.L.), Carolyn Tunks, Kevin Coleborn, David Noble.

After a few phone calls earlier in the week. It was decided to have a One Day Trip to Bungonia. Carol and myself departed for Bungonia early Sunday morning and on our arrival we met up with Kevin and David.

After looking through the Bungonia Book I decided to have a look at Drum, B13. Once we sorted out the ladders and ropes, we found that we were one rope short to do the belaying on the ladder pitch. Lucky for us Dave had his rope that he had used canyoning in his car so we ended up needing it as well.

Soon enough we were all at the cave entrance and rigged the 150ft pitch with the ropes and ladders. Soon everything was ready and Dave was first to abseil into the dark depths of the big hole... followed by Carolyn with myself using the ladder and Kevin doing the belaying. With Carol, Dave and myself at the bottom and Kevin still at the top checking his gear for the abseil. Kevin was soon underway and loomed out of the darkness above us. Finally he was safely at the bottom with the rest of us.

From here we darted back under the pitch to check out the Bat Chamber. Once we had a quick look we all went back towards the bottom of the pitch and proceeded on into the dry stream passage.

Out of curiosity I did an air temperature check in the stream passage finding it to be 9°C, mind you it was close to 31°C outside the cave. Proceeding on we came to another big chamber so I pulled out the trusty matches to check for Co2 and didn't find any trace of it at all.

As we headed deeper into the cave the check for Co2 became more frequent but still not finding any sign of the stuff. The 60ft. ladder pitch was eventually located so we then rigged the ladder to overcome the obstacle. With the 60ft. ladder pitch

behind us we headed over some large rimpools most of which contained running water and downward deeper into the cave.

The formation down this deep in the cave, although dryish was unique in its own way, most of it wasn't vandalised and I think the normally high CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the cave have definitely helped preserve the formation in a natural access limiting process. Further on we came to the next ladder pitch, this one being 25ft so the ladder was rigged and we headed on down negotiating our way past a large pool of water at the bottom of the pitch. Once we had reached the sump at the very bottom of the cave we all decided to have a well earned munchie break, and also took a quick temperature reading, which was found to be 19°C, 10°C difference to the Upper Section of the cave. We also checked the Co<sub>2</sub> level again with the matches and found no Co<sub>2</sub> at all.

After our munchie break we headed out of the cave to the base of the entrance pitch. Dave prusicked up first and then Carolyn set out on her tiring ladder climb with Dave doing the belaying, the next one up was Kevin using his prussick gear to ascend the rope, whilst I came up the ladder at the tail of the field. This was an exceptionally good trip, enjoyed by one and all.

Rick Brett (T.L.)

# COLONG

Date of trip:- 7th - 8th November, 1987  
Members Present:- David Noble (T.L.), Lachlan Wilson,  
Kevin Coleborn, Tony Zimmerman.  
Visitors:- Andrew Devitt ( Einestein ).

After meeting at Blackheath at 6am we all jumped in the Lada Niva and drove to Colong. We then took our packs out of the Lada, hid the keys and walked to the Arch. At about 10am we entered the Lower Entrance into Piano Cave and headed down to the sump. We then went up into Waterfall Cave and saw the waterfall ( it's not as big as the Tuglow one). Next we proceeded into Onslow Cave through the Fattorini Squeeze. We then dropped into River Cave, had a look at the deep pools and came up. Next was the Hardy Smith Squeeze and then a lap around the maze to reach Kings Cross. We then had a rest and signed the book.

Next it was up to Dripping Water Cave but there were no bats. From here we went through a high tunnel, through the Shoe Jammer Squeeze and around a small circle before entering The Pride of the Valley Chamber. We took the rat hole to Amber Cave and dropped into The River Passage through a small hole. Then we found The Siphon and The Pulsating River and finally we found our way back to the cleft level. We then headed through the Wallaby Cave, Golden Terraces and over the Deep Crevasses to Woof's Cavern. We then had lunch and explored the cavern, then onto the Beach and down the river until it sumped. Then it was up the crevasses to Woof's Cavern and back to Amber Cave via the gate.

We then took the Low Tunnel to the Maze and headed for Terraces Cave. Next it was back through the High Tunnel to King's Cross. It was then out via Solomon's Temple and Lannigans Cave. We left the cave at 5pm. We then had dinner and had a look around the Arch and then went to sleep.

The next morning we decided to climb over the bluff. A few small entrances were found but nothing very big. We then

came to a steep cliff which we descended on the Eastern side. An entrance was found into a large cave. After a squeeze much coral and dry formation were found. A few holes nearby were explored and then we explored the Southern Bluff at its base.

From here we went back down the creek to the Arch, got our packs and went back to the car. We then looked for the key, which was lost so we had to billy can handles to enter the car. We then drove to Mt Werong and explored the Silver Mine near Ruby Falls, which contained wooden rails, bats, dirty water and leeches. We spent one hour in the mine then it was homeward bound after a fun weekend.

David Noble (T.L.)

-oOo-

## Yarramun Canyon

Date of trip:- 14th November, 1987

Members Present:- Dave Noble, Tony Zimmerman, Kevin Coleborn  
Dave (Oberon) Bearup (visitor).

We left the car on a ridge near Mt Cameron. Then headed down the hill, across the saddle, up a hill and along the ridge until we came to the hill above the canyon. We canyoned down to the junction which we had reached the weekend before. This part of the canyon requires scrambling around rocks and shrubs. Tony and I investigated a small cave which the canyon flowed through. Coming to the end of the canyon we decided to stop for lunch. I asked Dave the direction to the cars and found I was right but after lunch I wondered why we were walking out in the wrong direction. Dave told me that by following the ridge the 7km walk was much easier then direct. We reached the cars after about 5 hours walking.

Kevin Coleborn

-ooOoo-

# Bowen s Creek (Nth Branch)

Date of Trip:- 15th November, 1987  
Members Present:- Lachlan Wilson, Tony Zimmerman, Kevin Coleborn, David Noble.  
Visitors:- David Bearup.  
Distance:- 11km.  
Hours:- 7

After leaving Blackheath at 8.30am we headed for Mt Tomah where we left the Subaru. Next it was out to Wynn Rocks at Mt Wilson where we left the Renault and headed straight down to the creek. Lachlan slid in while the others used a tape and Kevin climbed down the canyon was wet early so we had morning tea and put on our wet suits. Next was a few swims followed by a 4m water jump which Tony climbed down with a handline.

The next km. was fairly open with a few interesting moves and a duckunder which Tony walked around.

The next drop was about 4m which Tony climbed down with a tape while the Davids' abseiled. But as David Bearup unclipped the belay point broke off, which resulted in Kevin jumping down with Lachlan. Next was another 13m drop down a waterfall which everyone abseiled down. Tony had a problem at the base with his SRT Device and almost drowned but after help he was able to leave the rope. Maybe he will buy brake bars now. Around the next corner was another 13m drop which was belayed off a wrist size sappling on the right. Tony unclipped before the base and climbed down to avoid his previous experience.

The next section is very spectacular, like Claustral until the southern branch enters. We then had lunch in the sun and despite rumours of a large water jump upstream, no one was interested after warming up. The next stage is a very long creek section with only a few swims. With thunder and lightning around we decided to rest at the exit. (Next time we will exit at the lunch spot). After a steep wet, hail, rain climb up Tomah Spur we reached the cars very wet. And made our way home at about 6.30pm.

David Noble  
(T.L.)

# Field Day

Date: 21st November, 1987

Members Present:

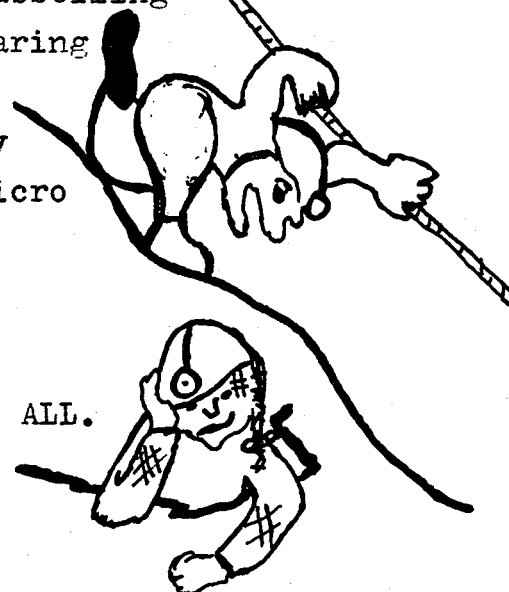
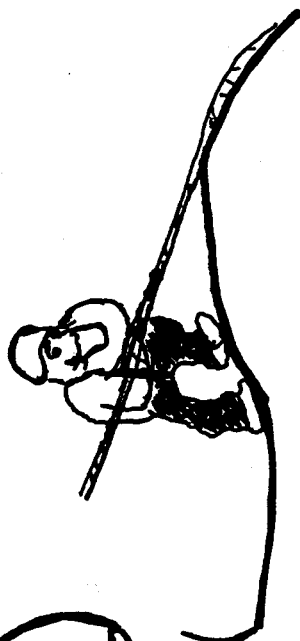
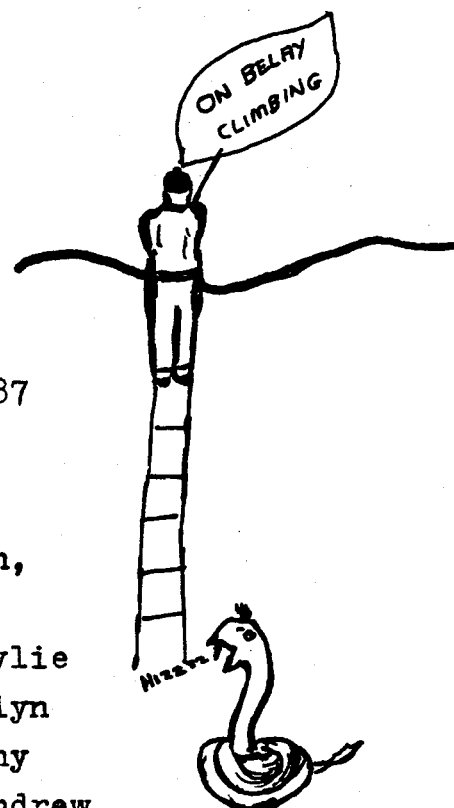
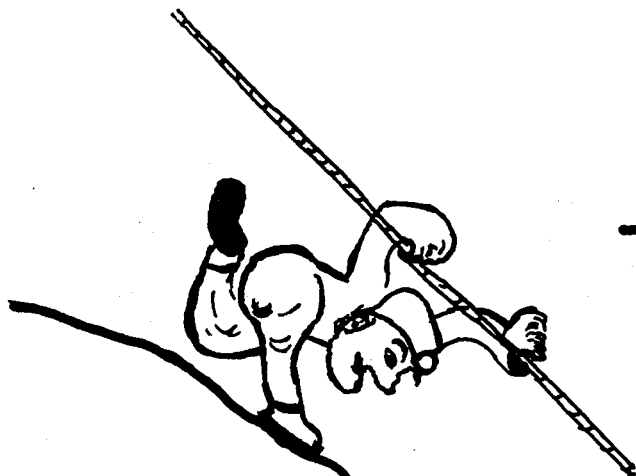
Rick Brett, Terry Coleborn,  
Kevin Coleborn, Louise  
Coleborn, Cheryl, Chub, Kylie  
& Michelle Coleborn, Carolyn  
Tunks, Lachlan Wilson, Tony  
Zimmerman, David Noble, Andrew  
Burrell.

Report:

This field day was held at Sun Valley.  
Several ropes were set up in different  
locations and members spent the after-  
noon, doing their own thing. Some  
just practiced their abseil techniques.  
While others practiced abseiling  
to a ledge and then jumaring  
back up.

Rick and Terry were very  
good at talking our micro  
speleos down in their  
abseil.

GOOD AFTERNOON HAD BY ALL.



## CHURCH CREEK

Date of Trip:- 26th January, 1988  
Members Present:- David Noble (T.L.), Tony Zimmerman.  
Visitors:- Bruce Driver, Andrew Lostia.  
Report:

This was a spur of the moment trip with two friends Bruce and Andrew from work. We headed out to Church Creek for the day.

After arriving at the cave we quickly descended to the Book Room. First we headed upstream to the sump and then we followed the creek downstream by the lower crawl passage and then back through the upper walk through passage. We then went back the way we had come and signed the book and then left the cave. The water level in the cave was almost dry and the efflux was very low. A dead lizard was found upstream in the sump, which could indicate another small entrance.

On the way home we passed through Murruin Creek for a look. We saw no limestone but a good campsite. Further trips to this area will be required to explore it more fully.

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## BUNGONIA & Spring Creek

Date of Trip:- 14th February, 1988  
Members Present:- David Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Tony Zimmerman,  
Visitors:- Dave and Mark.  
Report:

Leaving Katoomba at 6pm we headed off for Springwood where we packed the Lada to capacity with people and gear. Kevin left on his motor bike and the Lada followed.

The next day we headed for Spring Creek, getting lost in Long Gully on the way and this resulted in a climb of Mount Fordham. The water in Spring Creek was low and cloudy. We descended the abseils safely and had lunch by the Shoalhaven which had clear waters.

Descending the Shoalhaven on Li-Los beats swimming, especially in the rapids. We then climbed back to the road via the 'flying fox' track and returned to Bungonia for a shower, tea and sleep.



The next morning was overcast so we decided to head under. First, we looked at the Drum pitch, then into Hollands Hole which we retreated after a tight wet squeeze, then into College Cave via a handline.

This cave contained a small amount of CO2 and had long root formations in the main chamber. This cave has been extensively dug in the past but to no avail. The dig is about 10m long and has a small winch to haul dirt out with. After leaving the cave we headed back for lunch.

We then headed to B4-5 for a through trip and then to bottom Grill. We descended Grill leaving Tony by the horizontal ladder as we descended further. We reached the place where the recent accident had occurred as was obvious by the freshly fallen rocks around and a sign warning of loose rocks. From here we pushed on through high CO2 to the sump where a sign reads 'the end'. A short rest was had and then back up to the surface. Minor headaches were experienced but these soon went after returning to normal air.

We then packed the car, had a shower and headed for home.

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## JENOLAN - Annual Dinner

Date of trip:- 20th -21st February, 1988

Members Present:- Kevin Coleborn, Terry & Louise Coleborn & family, Gary Coleborn, Jenny Leto, James, Barry Richard, Brian & Carol Skinn & family, Graeme White & Jess e, Warren Lacey & friend, Tony Zimmerman, Lachlan Wilson, David Noble, Jack Chorley, David Bearup, Ian & Maureen Bogg.

Saturday morning we gathered outside the Caves House awaiting the arrival of all attending. Around 12.30pm we descended on the Caves House Dining Room with our special guest Ernie Holland in tow. After a really great lunch enjoyed in the beautiful atmosphere of the Caves House we all gathered on the cool grass around the Hydro for our Annual General Meeting.

Ernie Holland gave a short, informative talk on cave management and its associated problems. After the meeting we all did our own thing (?). Some went 4WD-ing others to the Jenolan Historical Society Meeting and some home.

The next day the adventurous gathered together to some real caving. We split into groups and explored Dwyers, Rho Hole and Mammoth. See Dave Noble's Report.

Kevin Coleborn  
Social Secretary

# JENOLAN

Date of trip:- 21st February, 1988

Members Present:- David Noble, Kevin Coleborn, Dave Bearup, Tony Zimmerman, Lachlan Wilson, Tim Pearson, Michelle Nickerson, Warren Lacey & friend, Graeme White & Jessie, Andrew Devitt.

Report:

Arriving at the car park we headed up to Mammoth Cave, leaving the key for the cave in the car so Warren went back to get it. We finally entered the cave and went to the end of the Railway Tunnel. Then we tried to find the Naked Lady Chamber. We then went down to the Skull and Crossbones to the chamber before the Dry Syphon and then up into a canyon type passage, up, up, up and we came back into the Railway Tunnel through a hole in the floor.

We headed out for some lunch and then went to Dwyers Cave where we explored most of the easy cave i.e not past the perculator. Some members lost bets over its location but we eventually all found out where it was.

After leaving the cave a few of us had a swim and then we all headed for home.

Reported by David Noble

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## Bungonia Search & Rescue

Date of Trip:- 11th-13th March, 1988

Aim of Trip:- Bungonia Search & Rescue.

Members Present:- Ricky Brett (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Dave Noble, Dave Bearup, Caroline Tunks, Rob & Cindy Mann.

DAY ONE:

Leaving the mountains on Friday night we headed down to Bungonia Caves. Arriving earlier than we expected ( 10pm ) we decided to do a quick cave, so we headed off for Blowfly B 16.

The entrance pitched was rigged and we abseiled in. The second chimney was abseiled next using the end of the rope, which just reached the bottom. From here we proceeded to the polished squeezes which are very easily slid over. Then it was down the Razor Blade Squeeze, where once sharp limestone would have cut you to shreds, now all the razor blades are blunt

which makes the going easy. From the base of this is the start of the two lower sections. First, we headed over to the B 51 pitch for a look and then down to the sump at this end. We then retraced our steps to the base of the Razor Blade squeeze and had a look at the top of the adytum, which looked most univiting. We then headed out after 2 hours underground.

#### DAY TWO:

After an early start ( with the 'siren' ) we quickly found the others and prepared for the days rescues. Dave Noble was placed in the ' Green team' so the next section is what the ' Green team ' did for the day:-

After lectures in the morning we headed off to B5 for our rescue:- A broken arm, fractured ribs and hypothermia. The set up was a complex one with a three to one pulley system to haul the patient up. There were two members of the team who hauled a belay for the patient and a second belay for the first aider, who climbed the ladder beside the patient. About 5 hours was spent on this rescue from a section of the cave that is only 10 minutes from the entrance.

After the rescue we proceeded back to camp for a good meal and to talk about the days events. At 8pm a call was given for volunteers to help the ' Yellow team '. So Dave Bearup and Dave Noble headed off to lend a hand.

The accident was a diabetic who had fallen and had head injuries and was unconscious in B15 Shadoof Cave. Which is a cave which consists of a long free-climable chimney. A stretcher was used and a hauling system to get the patient to the surface. After 11 hours from the beginning of the rescue the patient was out. The area is only 20 minutes from the entrance.

#### DAY THREE:

An early siren followed by lectures and then into the cave. Shadoof B15 was the scene of the massive yellow exercise, except this time only a broken ankle occurred. Team members lined the chimney to help the patient up while a belay from the top helped to haul slightly. This exercise took 5 hours due to the vertical nature of the cave and the need to rest the patient after ' Hopping ' up a section.

We had a de-briefing and then said goodbye to Rick, Caroline, Dave, Rob and Cindy and then went off to Argyle Hole B31 to attempt to bottom it. After heading under the air was cooler then outside ( it's usually warmer) and in no time we ere at the squeeze (20ft) and then the next squeeze (40ft) and the pitch (40ft). Here Kevin had a headache so we lit a match to check for CO2, it flared but would not burn. Unwilling to prussik in such conditions we decided to head out, checking the CO2 as we went. The match wouldn't burn until we were out of the cave.

Kevin then said, " Let's Bottom Acoustic", so we did. Heading in the pitch was soon reached and descended by Kevin. A lot of rub points were seen on the way down so Dave put a rebelay on the top , which then left the rope free hanging and with no need for rope protectors. The base was fully explored and then back up the pitch which was quickly achieved. We then headed out.

After a quick trip to bottom B50 and a look at the new gate in B17 we headed back to the car. It was then a shower and back home to the mountains.

See Rick's report for the other teams Search & Rescue exercise.

Dave Noble  
S&R Green team

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## MURRUIN CREEK

Date of Trip:- 19th-20th March, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Tony Zimmerman, Lachlan Wilson,  
Stuart Driver.

Report:-

Leaving Blackheath on Saturday after voting. We made our way out to Murruin Creek via the Kowmung River trail. On arrival at Murruin we headed upstream looking for ' caves'. The first one we found was 'LF1' which has a large entrance just above the creek. This cave has a large entrance chamber with small passages leading off it. The first we chose went into two squeezes which Tony and Lachlan couldn't go through so Stuart and Dave went on and explored the bulk of the cave. A loose chimney was descended to a long high chamber with many small leads. Tony and Lachlan found some wombat skulls and balls with a grub in them????

Leaving the cave Locky found 'LF3' "short" and on our way back to camp we found a 'BOOK' and a cave with a puddle full of roots in it. We camped by a moderate sized bon-fire and slept in Bivvy Bags.

The next day we headed to Little Wombeyan and descended two holes which were about 10 m long. Then we went down to the creek for a swim and after this we headed for home ( climbing aviation towers on the way).

Dave Noble  
Trip Leader

# BUNGONIA

Date of Trip:- 1st - 4th April, 1988

Members Present: Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Tony Zimmerman,  
Ian Bogg Andrew Bogg.

Visitors: Andrew Devitt, Robert & Martin.

## Report:

Dave and Tony arrived at my place around 8.30pm and we watched Over the Top before heading off around 11.30pm to pick up Andrew. We headed off from Andrews to Bungonia and on the way we filled up with petrol, well, \$5.00 worth for Dave ( the rest of his money) because I had left my wallet at home. We finally arrived at Bungonia around 3am.

Dave and I slept in our Bivvy Bags while Tony and Andrew pitched a tent. Saturday morning came and went because I didn't get up until 10am. After SRT Practice near Argyle car park we then headed down Argyle about midday and straight into CO2. The first squeeze proved a little difficult for one of our members but he caught us up while we were setting up the first abseil. Tony decided not to go any further so the rest of us headed on down setting up rebelayes on the way. We reached the first sump and then headed back to the 120ft handline. We decided not to do the other sump now but would come back another day to do another six hours caving.

## Saturday:

Ian and the others arrived around 8am and we decided we would do B4-5 via Shadoof B15 entrance. We went straight down to the wet squeeze where four of our party wimped out and the rest of us headed on through the squeeze. We were then soaking wet so we headed on until we hit the B4-5 section and headed on down the 6m. climb and the 5m climb, through the Lavatory Boulder Squeeze. Andrew and Robert had a headache so we decided to head back to the others, who were sitting waiting for us chocking up caving hours. Then we all headed out. Then off to Grill Cave for a quick trip down to where the bird got dropped and we helped some kids and adults out ( shorts T.shirts and thongs). Short trips were taken into B43 UNSWSS Hole & B50. Then it was time for Ian and company to leave for home.

## Sunday:

Dave woke me up early and we headed down to the Drum car park and waited for Tony but he didn't show up. So we headed on in and down the 150ft pitch and into the squeeze. Bad air, so we didn't go on. Then we went to Blowfly, right to the bottom and out via B51. We then decided to do the Drum pitch again before calling it a day.

Monday:

First thing Monday morning we went for a walk down Bungonia Gorge which took us two hours and forty minutes. Then we poked our heads in Odyssey Cave B24 and Hollands Hole or B35. But bugger Odyssey, we decided to have another go at that Drum pitch and this time we did it in 35 minutes. We then spent thirty minutes in Mass Cave before heading for home.

Reported by Kevin Coleborn

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## CLIEFDEN

Date of Trip:- 9th -10th April, 1988

Aim of Trip:- Hut working bee.

Members Present:- Terry & Louise Coleborn & family

OSS Members Present:- Bruce Howlett, Ian Curtis, Glen Griffith, Greg Savage.

Visitors: Megan Robinson.

Report:

We arrived Friday night after a very wet trip out. Saturday morning the sun was out so we trogged the Cliefden hills waiting for the others to arrive. We wern't looking for caves we were looking for mushrooms.

When the others had arrived we set to work on the hut. Glen and Greg continued the work on the bunks, while Terry and Ian put the railway sleepers around the fireplace, the girls cleaned the windows and then helped Bruce and myself demolish some more of the old house.

Arter tea we were entertained with poetry by Bruce and then Ian's slides of his American holiday.

Sunday morning, Bruce, Greg, Terry and I took the girls and Megan down for a quick tour of Main Cliefden. This was Megans first time in a cave and she was suitably impressed with the Cliefden mud. We then cleaned the hut and headed for home after a beautifully fine weekend. We met the rain again at Lithgow.

Louise Coleborn

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