

OO L I T E



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Blue Mountains Speleological Club

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BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUBOOLITE

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CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Editorial	2
CAVES OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS - PART 4 (Bull's Camp)	3
CAVES OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS - PART 5 (The Cave Hotel)	5
CAVES OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS - PART 6 (Shelter Cave, Wentworth Falls)	7
WORD PUZZLE (Kylie Coleborn)	31
MEMBERSHIP CONTACT LIST	32

TRIP REPORTS

	<u>PAGE</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
Bendethra Apr 88	9	Bungonia Aug 88	18
Borenore Apr/May 88	9	Jenolan Jun 88	21
Jaunter May 88	10	Jenolan Sept 88	22
Jenolan May 88	11	Nelungaloo Oct 88	22
Canomodine May 88	11	Timor Oct 88	23
Bungonia Jun 88	12	Iona Nov 88	23
Wyanbene/Wee Jasper Jun 88	12	Tarrangobilly Oct 88	23
Cliefden Jul 88	13	Walli Sep 88	26
Tank Stream Jun 88	13	Tuglow Aug 88	26
Coco Creek Jul 88	14	Iona Aug 88	27
Wee Jasper Jul 88	15	Campbells River Aug 88	27
Jenolan Jul 88	15	Kempsey Nov 88	27
Royal National Park		Cliefden Christmas Party	
Aboriginal Engravings Jul 88	16	Nov 88	28
Golong Jul 88	18	Jenolan Nov 88	29

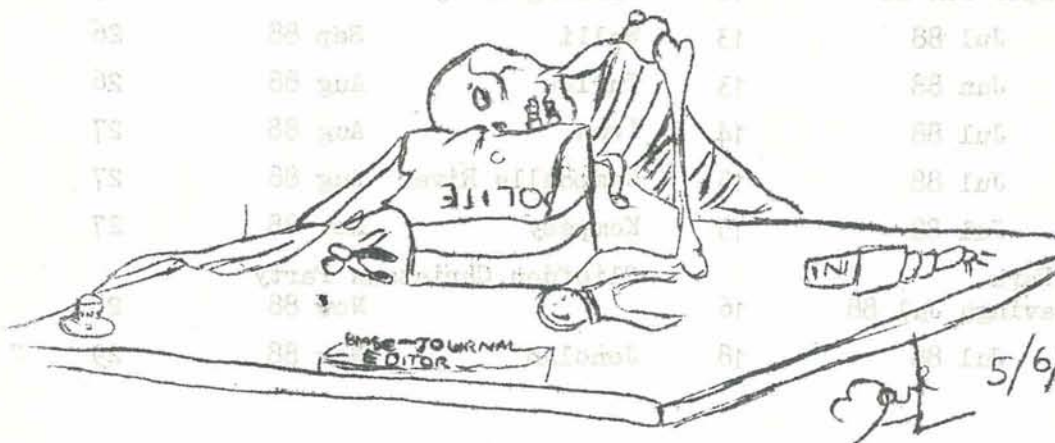
INTRODUCTION

Due to rising costs and lack of funds we are again using our duplicator. It was hauled out, cleaned up and put to use, however, it appears that not all the bugs were this easily removed. A few gremlins still remain and the end result remains unpredictable.

Now all we need is the rest of the club members to send in material for Oolite.

Editor
Louise Coleborn

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



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO ME!

Caves of the Blue Mts.

PART 4

BULL'S CAMP (Woodford)

By Gary Coleborn

The old 18 mile Hollow Stockade has been cut by the Great Western Highway and the section west of the railway Bridge is now known as Bull's Camp Picnic Area.

Today Bull's Camp is often referred to as 20 mile Hollow in public. This is due to early documents using the names interchangeably. In earlier times these places were identified by the number of miles they were from Emu Ford on the Nepean River, thus, 17 mile Hollow (now Linder) 18 mile Hollow (Bull's Camp), 20 mile Hollow (Woodford) and 24 mile Hollow (Lawson).

In 1835 the 18 mile Hollow (Bull's Camp) was used as a base for the convicts employed in repairing the Bathurst Road. It was also used as a Military Police Post to protect the travellers and gold shipments of the 1850's.

Between 1842 - 1844 Captain Bull was in charge of the road camp. He believed in more humane treatment for convicts, then his predecessors, so the first thing he did was to send the 'flogger' back to Sydney. He also gave convicts a proper burial at which he read the burial service. Up until his appointment the convicts were buried anywhere in the bush.

In 1866 railway workers camped in the area of Bull's Camp while the first single track line was under construction and in 1896 they returned to construct a deviation to the line.

Bull's Camp today has little left to show for its period of convict occupation but what is left is as usual surrounded by folklore.

THE DUNGEON:

The Dungeon is located in the sandstone on the left of Bull's Camp Picnic Area. It is a small sandstone cell, which was once locked by a gate and often contains as much as 18cm of water. It is believed to have been used to store road building tools but legend has it that it was at times used as a place of punishment.

THE FLOGGING STONE:

The Flogging Stone is a low, sloping, sandstone rock engraved with parallel grooves, one writer claimed that it was used by a blacksmith to prevent the anvil slipping, while others believed it was made to give the 'flogger' a better foothold, thus the name 'flogging stone'.

THE POWDER CELL (MAGAZINE):

The Powder Cell is located on the opposite side of the Great Western Highway and is a small sandstone cave which was once used to store gunpowder for road building.

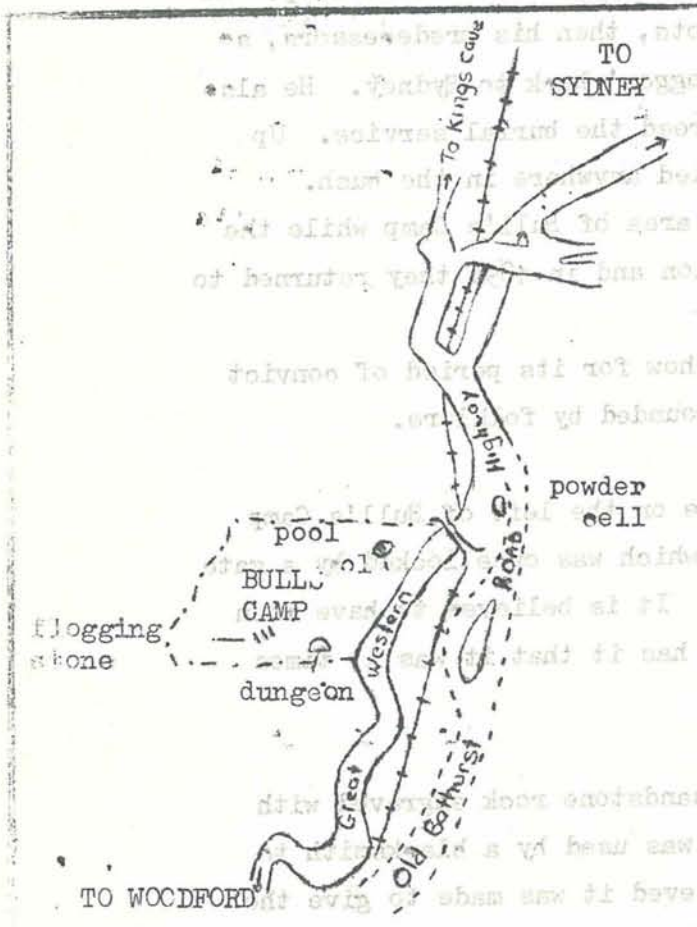
BULL'S BATH AND CHAIR:

Bull's Bath and Chair are believed to have been destroyed over 70 years ago during railway construction but a 'chair' in the railway cutting opposite and a 'bath' in the creek are still shown today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Hungerford, M.E; Donald, J.K.; 1982: Exploring the Blue Mountains.
Powell, Greg; 1980: Bushwalking - In the Blue Mountains.
Searle, Allan.E; 1977: The History of Faulconbridge, Linden & Woodford.
Blue Mountains Speleological Club; 1986: Map of the Dungeon.
Blue Mountains Speleological Club; 1987: Map of the Powder Cell.

SKETCH SHOWING FEATURES OF INTEREST
IN
THE OLD 18 MILE HOLLOW



Bulls Camp - Woodford

THE DUNGEON

Mapped: Dec. 4, 1987

L.Coleborn

T.Coleborn

Instruments: Sisteco

SM-3602

compass

Fibreglass Tape.



PLAN

Vertical Cross Section

MAP NO. BMS1

BMSC MAP NO. 100

The Powder Cell (Magazine)

Mapped: Sept. 6, 1986

L.Coleborn (dr)

T.Coleborn

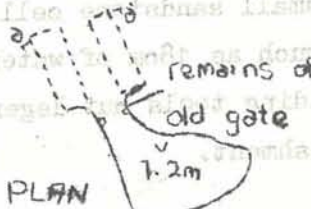
K.Coleborn

Instruments: Fielders

Compass &

Fibreglass

Tape.



PLAN

Vertical Cross Section

metres



GRADE: CRG 4D

SCALE: 1:100

MAP NO. BMS1

BMSC MAP NO. 9A

Caves of the Blue Mts.

THE CAVE HOTEL (Mt. Tomah)

by Louise Coleborn

The Cave Hotel is situated on the left hand side of the Bell's Line of Road between Mt. Charles and Mt. Tomah and is often referred to as Cave Hill. Near the cave on the rockface is an inscription, which is deeply etched into the sandstone:

THE CAVE HOTEL
BY
T. SHEARWOOD

Who was Shearwood? Was he an escaped convict or one of the gold diggers, whose luck had run out on the goldfields and as a result tried to make his fortune with this road-side shanty.

Maybe he was just a bush swaggy who decided to make his home there and engraved the inscription to welcome other travellers in order to relieve the loneliness of the long, cold nights.

The cave is about four metres above the Bell's Line of Road and can only be reached via a short narrow track. It is a small open cave with a sandy floor.

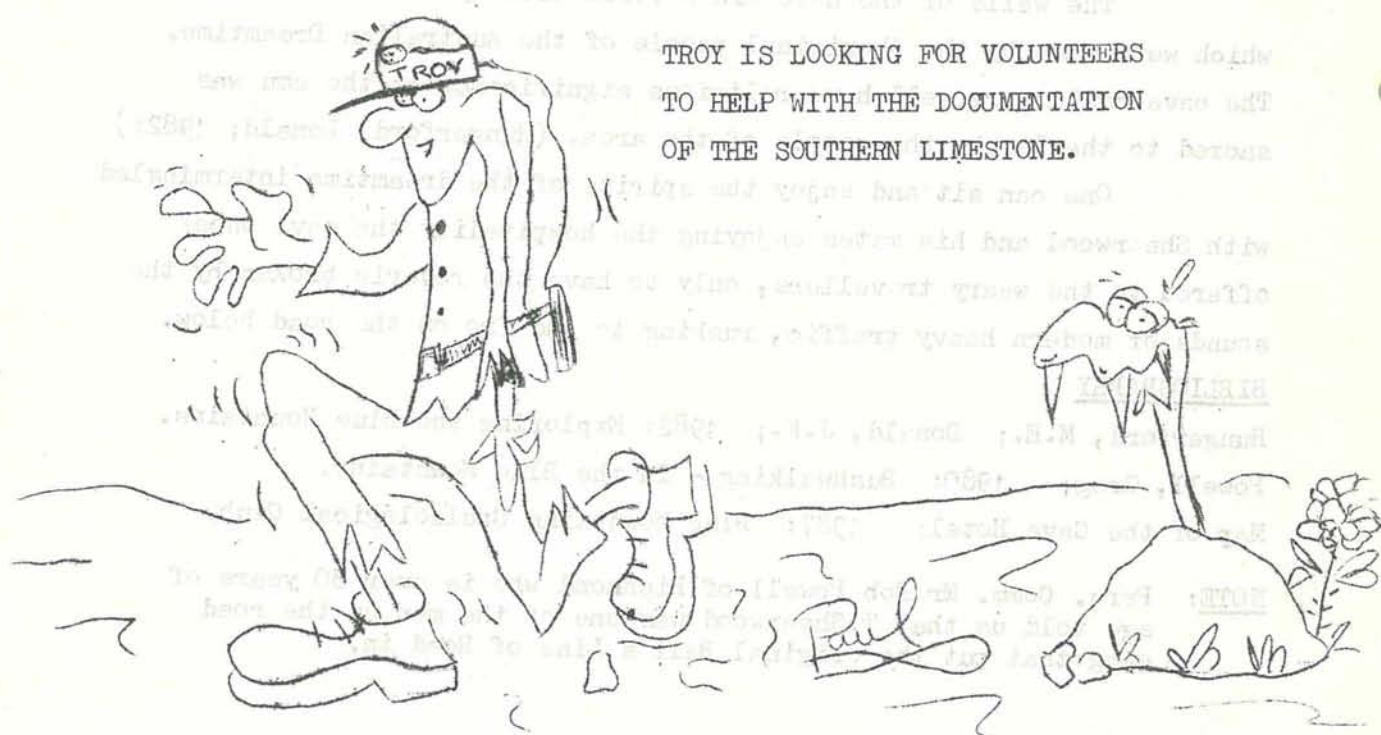
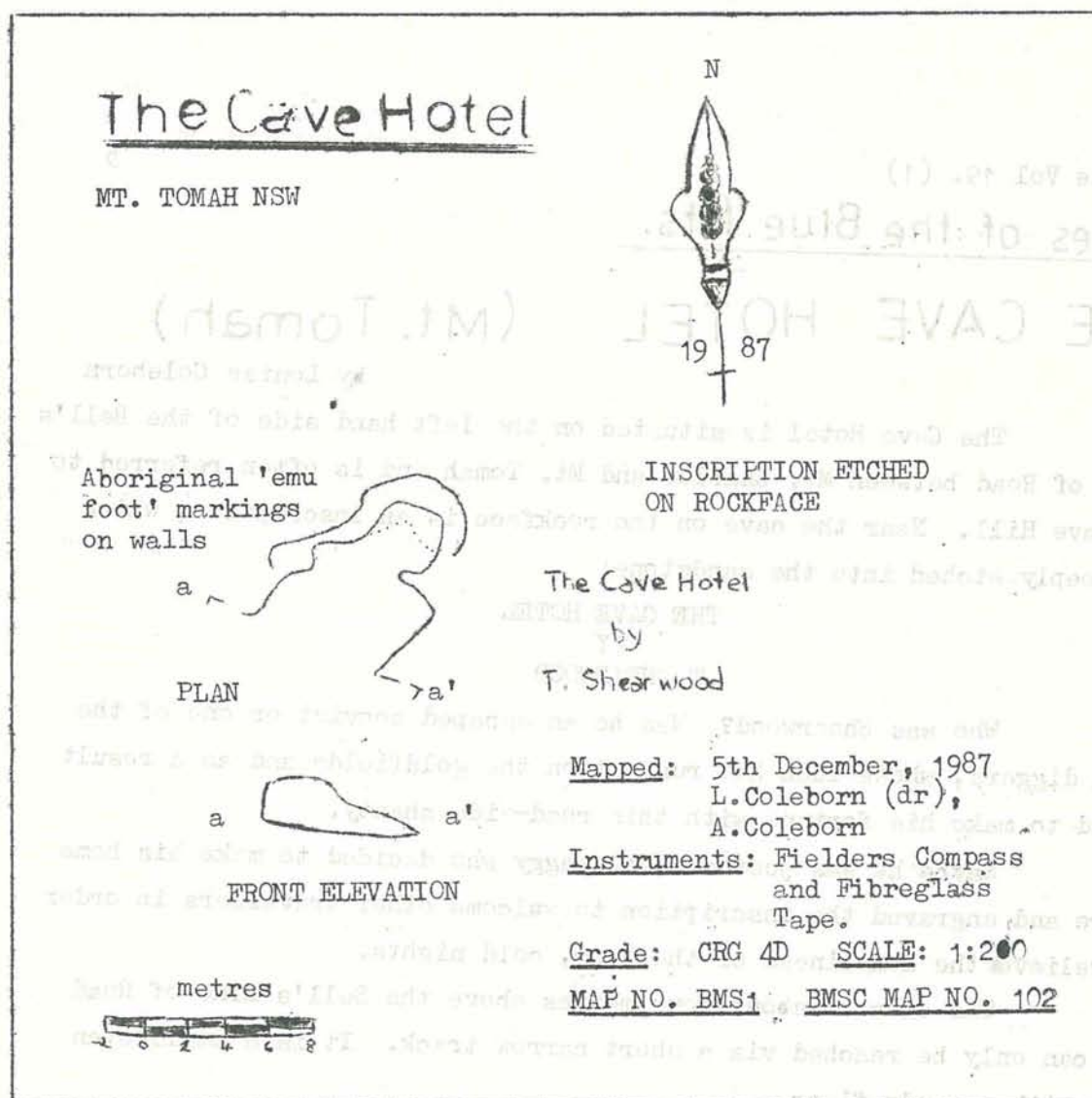
The walls of the cave are covered with 'emu Foot' markings which were made by the Aboriginal people of the Australian Dreamtime. The cave could very well have religious significance as the emu was sacred to the Daruk, the people of the area. (Hungerford, Donald; 1982:)

One can sit and enjoy the spirits of the dreamtime intermingled with Shearwood and his mates enjoying the hospitality the cave once offered to the weary travellers, only to have the reverie broken by the sounds of modern heavy traffic, rushing to and fro on the road below.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hungerford, M.E.; Donald, J.K.; 1982: Exploring the Blue Mountains.
Powell, Greg; 1980: Bushwalking - In the Blue Mountains.
Map of the Cave Hotel; 1987: Blue Mountains Speleological Club.

NOTE: Pers. Comm. Mr Bob Powell of Richmond who is over 80 years of age told us that T. Shearwood was one of the men on the road gang that put the original Bell's Line of Road in.



Caves of the Blue Mts.

Part 6

WENTWORTH FALLS [Shelter Cave]

By Loaise Coleborn

To locate the cave drive west along the Great Western Highway to the top of Boddington Hill, then take the King's Tableland Road. Follow this road for about 2km then turn right into Hordern Road, then left at the T. Junction towards the deer park gate. Just past the gate is a short track on the right to a large rock outcrop. The cave is at the far end of this outcrop.

The cave is situated at the top of the cliff face and offers magnificent views to the south-west across the Valley of the Waters to Mount Solitary. This cave like many others in the Blue Mountains has been formed over thousands of years by the action of wind and water eroding the sandstone face.

The history of this caves occupation is known only to those who have dwelt there and the complete story may never be told. All that is left today are remnants of a by gone era.

From the remains today we know that the cave offered more than just shelter from the elements. A concrete and sandstone wall has been constructed across the front of the cave. Built into this wall is a fireplace and a door way in which the remains of the hinges may still be seen.

There is no history or record of Aboriginal occupation of this cave so its history is only of a recent origin.

A good supply of drinking water was obtained by building a concrete and sandstone cistern just around the uphill corner of the cave. And by building a diversion dam along the edge of the cliff top to channel water down into a sediment trap and then through a pipe into the cistern. A hole through the wall at the deepest point of the cistern would once have been filled with a pipe and a tap to complete a sophisticated water supply. The cistern is 2.5m long by 1.2m wide and the depth ranges from 0.65m to 1.12m.

The cave itself is a typical sandstone overhang although the floor sediments appear to conceal other small tunnels under the back wall. The back wall of the cave is covered with a variety of graffiti, the oldest inscription being 1932 and of interest is the word PRIVATE with an arrow underneath, written in cement.

If the 1932 inscription is genuine it would put it at the time of the Great Depression (1929 - 1932) when many of the Australian population were out of work and homeless.

This area has a tranquil beauty and if the casual visitor were to take the time to look amongst the shrubbery above the cave, they would be rewarded

with the sight of one of our most remarkable terrestrial orchids, Caleana major (Flying Duck Orchid) and also clumps of Cryptostylis subulata (Moose Orchid or Tongue Orchid).

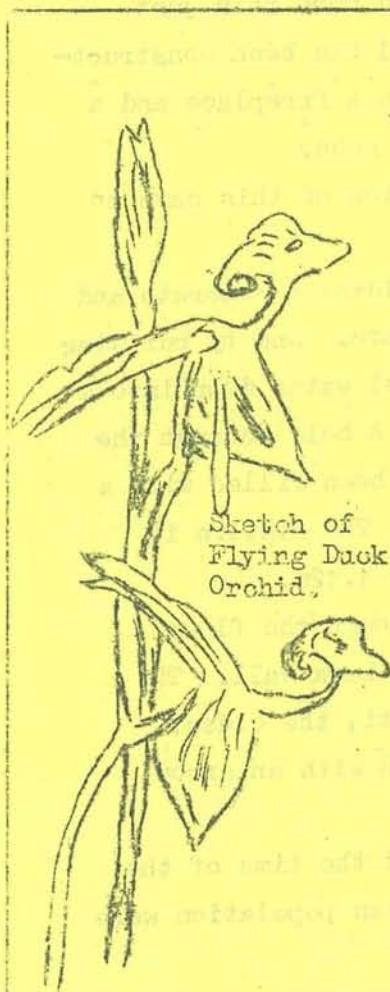
The man made alterations to this cave make it rather unique among the sandstone caves of the Blue Mountains.

Bibliography:

RENTCUL, J.N.; 1985: Growing Orchids: Book 4; The Australian Families.

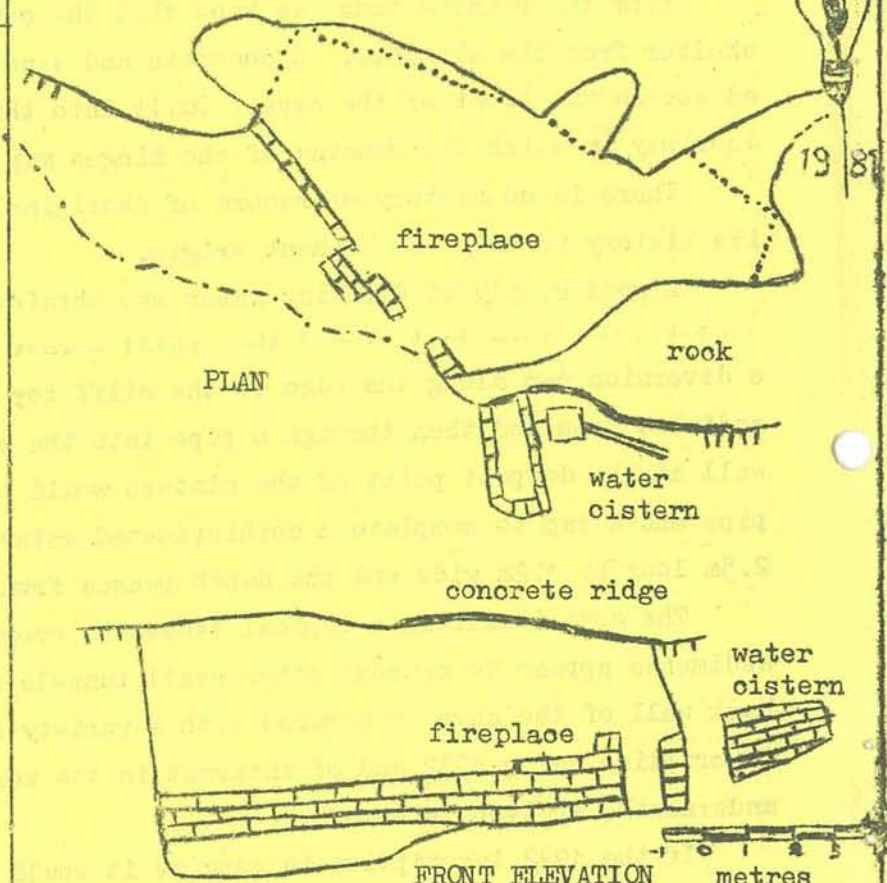
'Non Aboriginal occupation' pers. comm. S.James National Park Ranger. N.P.& W.S walk 1988:

Blue Mountains Speleological Club; 1987: Map of Wentworth Falls Shelter Cave.



SHELTER CAVE

WENTWORTH FALLS N.S.W.



Surveyed: 31-12-87 L.Coleborn (dr)
T.Coleborn, A.Coleborn

Instruments: Sisteco SM-3602 Compass and
Suunto FM-5 clinometer and
Fibreglass Tape.

Grade: CRG 4D Scale: 1:100
MAP NO. BMS1 BMSC MAP NO. 104

TRIP REPORT

UNLESS THE AUTHOR OF A TRIP REPORT IS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED,
AUTHORSHIP MAY BE ASCRIBED TO THE TRIP LEADER.

BENDETHRA

Date of Trip:- 23rd - 24th April, 1988

Members Present:- David Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn.

Leaving Friday night Kevin and I headed off for the weekend. Five and a half hours later we arrived at the Big Hole camping area. The next day we headed for Bendethra. Turning left at Pikes Saddle along a fire trail which was said to be in poor condition. And it was (imagine driving up a hill over football sized rocks with a little dirt between them). Access to this area is thus only by 4WD, trail bikes or walkers.

On arriving at the Deua River which is surrounded by camping areas we followed the signs to the caves. The walk is 4km long and then another 350m up a hill.

The track to the caves is flat and mushrooms were abundant. A doline on the left is reached after 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ km, and at 4km a dry efflux is encountered. The hill was climbed and a large walk in entrance was found. The cave is large like an arch, there are no rockpiles or squeezes and the formations are massive, 30m high by 5m wide. A ladder and a wire rope are provided for easy access. Only the minimum equipment required for this cave.

Wattle appears to grow very thickly on the outcrops in this area and to find other caves it would require a large group to spread out.

On Sunday we did the tourist section of Wyanbene. Water levels were lower than normal.

Monday we walked to the Big Hole and saw a large wooden viewing deck, which looks ugly. We did the Big Hole then headed for home.

* * * * *

BORENORE

Date of Trip:- 30th April - 1st May, 1988

Members Present:- Kevin Coleborn.

Aim of Trip:- OSS Exploration trip to Borenore.

CAVES VISITED:

Cathedral Cave, Dead Cow Cave, No Air Cave and Fox Cave.

Saturday morning we went out to Borenore. We explored the Cathedral Cave. This is a medium size cave. But why the Cathedral Cave? I don't know but OSS said they would try and find out.

Next was Dead Cow Cave! This name is self explanatory. The cave now has logs over the entrance probably to prevent further incidents, which gave the cave its name. After a short climb down, a tunnel leads off to the end of the cave. A squeeze near the end leads to some dry formation.

We then trogged up the creek to Twin Sister rocks, where Russel found a small shaft which looks like it goes down about 10m. After this we headed to No Air Cave! Where some of the more adventurous or some might say stupid stuck their head in, only to come face to face with a 70 ft drop.

While some of the group rested others went off to find Fox Cave, which Ian eventually located. It is below No Air Cave and the entrance is between some rocks with rubbish and debris around it. There has at some time been a fire in the entrance. After digging out a large rock Ian attempted to go in but due to loose boulders he didn't go in. So I went in!!!! After moving the large loose rock we all chimneyed down about 40 ft. to find extensive passage and thousands of small skulls.

We then went off to the Quarry while the others explored Fox. We missed the Quarry but found a couple of caves along the track near the creek. While having lunch we saw a sugar glider. Then we headed back to Ian's for the night.

The next day we headed off to Canomoline. We split into two groups one to continue with the survey of Diprotodon and the other group to do a touristy. We headed straight into the Birth Passage and then surveyed on down to the MUDDY.... Section! The water was down about 30cm which made the mud really sticky, oozy, slushy and squelchy. One of the party went head first into the mud. We also saw a frog in this section.

We then headed back to the homestead for afternoon tea before heading for home.

Reported by Kevin Coleborn.

JAUNTER

At. May, 1988

Members Present:- David Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Lachlan Wilson,

Leaving Friday night Kevin, Lachlan and I headed off to Shooters Hill for a wet night. The next day we met Peter Dykes and son at the gate at the end of Jaunter Road, from here we turned left along a road easement to his farm.

Peter pointed out the features and then left us to explore while he continued to build his shed. We soon found the entrance to Trickets Arch (which had a lot of water in it). We then trogged all over the hill finding a few smaller caves and dolines.

We then found the Efflux of the Arch, which is on two levels. We entered the Upper one first. This contains some squeezes and was mainly dry.

in the lower part of the Arch the floor was wet
vi. of the Arch was a few small caves and dolines.
The lower part of the Efflux was a small cave with a few small
dolines and a few small caves and dolines.

The final squeeze was not pushed and a hole in the floor was not descended. We then entered the lower passage, which is an active stream. Kevin and Locky pushed a wet squeeze to find a sump. As Kevin and Locky were already wet they pushed a wet part of the Influx to find a waterfall and another sump, while I trogged down to the Tuglow River to explore the bluff and caves in this area.

We met back at the hut and helped Peter for the rest of the day. The next morning we headed down the Tuglow River to explore another Bluff, however, no large caves were found. An efflux was seen but the blackberries were thicker than Borenore. On the way back Kevin and I explored River Cave and Kevin pushed every squeeze. We then went back to the hut and said goodbye to Peter and went home.

JENOLAN

Date of Trip:- 14th - 15th May, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Lachlan Wilson, Tony Zimmerman, Steward Driver.
Members of OSS.

We met OSS on Saturday morning with the intention of going to Great North Cavern. We collected the key off Ernie who said that the Dry Syphon may be up. We headed off to Mammoth. On entry we took the normal route to the Skull and Crossbones and then made our descent to Central Lake, which was slightly up.

In the next section we had some difficulty in locating the Dry Syphon, many leads were explored and eventually we found it. On arriving at the Dry Syphon we decided not to continue to Great North Cavern as some of the younger members were getting tired. Kevin and I decided to go through the Dry Syphon. A small creek was running in from the right and the pool was flowing to the right. That night we camped at the Pig Farm.

The next day we headed up the valley for Serpentine after being told that most of Spider was flooded. We then entered Diggins Diggins by mistake, it doesn't connect to Serpentine. So we entered Serpentine and did the Little Canyon squeeze, which was a bit wet.

We then said goodbye to OSS and went to Dymers. Kevin and I went into the Upper Section and found some pretty de-trog areas with deep holes. We then left the cave and went home.

CANOMODINE

Date of Trip:- 28th - 29th May, 1988

Members Present: Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Lachlan Wilson,

Visitors:- Len Baker.

We stayed at Ian's place on Friday night and headed off in the morning for Canomodine. We collected the keys and followed Kevin to Diprotodon. We descended until the Armchair Squeeze, where Len decided it was a bit awkward for his first squeeze so Locky escorted him out. Kevin and I waited on the otherside of the squeeze for Locky but he couldn't fit! So he returned to the surface. Kevin and I had a look around the cave and then we headed out.

Next was No. 4, Locky and I descended until it got awkward for us to continue without a tape. We then looked in No. 5 and then found Main Cave, which is quite pretty and was an easier start to caving for Len.

That night we stayed at Ian's (except Locky) and headed for Borenore the next day. At the Arch a few tight squeezes were pushed by Kevin. Then up to Cathedral, Dead Cow and then down to Tunnel and Verandah Caves.

Len found Borenore much better suited for the beginner.

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BUNGONIA

Date of Trip:- 4th - 5th June, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn.

The first cave we decided to enter was B4-5. Our aim was to complete the Extension. We searched for its entrance and came to a small, very wet squeeze, which we went through, only to find we were at the entrance again. So we decided to try from the Shaduff end, which was totally blocked by sand and would require extensive digging. A high aven in Shaduff was then climbed to find some excellent formation. It is suspected that this aven could lead to the B17 gate, which has been recently blocked by sand bags.

We then went back to the B4-5 to try once again to find the Extension, but with no luck as it was full of water. So we headed for Canberra Hole & Steampipe for a through trip and then almost bottomed Drum Cave (the sump was up). Then descended Grill and we found an extension to a ladder pitch. CO2 was encountered near the very end, so we decided to try and bottom it in the morning.

The first cave of the day was Grill and we managed to bottom it in spite of high CO2 levels (5%) in the lower region of the cave. We then looked at UNSWSS Hole and went to the top of the first chimney. We put our heads in at numerous holes, watched a party descend Drum and then went for a look at Jerrata Falls and then Gorge in flood! We then descended the pitch in Drum. When we came out we left for home.

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DAVE'S MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

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

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Graeme White, Tony Zimmerman, Len Baker, Lachlan Wilson, Stewart Driver, 9 Members from OSS.

We arrived at the Big Hole camping area on Friday night only to find it had been hit by recent heavy winds. The next day after a late start we

entered Wyanbene at 12 noon. OSS was planning to enter an hour later and follow us to Frustration Lake. The water was flowing well, however, the pools didn't appear any deeper than normal. The water crawl seemed to have a few loose rocks at the base which made it easier on the knees? On reaching the chamber near the Gunbarrel we had lunch and looked for the way in. We could just see the top with Tony's K-Mart globe but the rope, which use to hang down, wasn't there.

Len, Tony and Kevin went out while the rest of us continued to the 'Lake' through Ceasars Palace and down into the water, up a climb, down a tape, along a stream, up a chimney and down a hand-line and we were there. Everyone seemed surprised at the size of the Lake and its depth.

We then headed out, had tea and went to sleep. The next morning we met at the Big Hole at 10am and the Ranger said it was closed. So the BMSC group went to Yarrangobilly thermal pool, while OSS decided to climb the Bluff at Wyanbene.

After a swim we drove to Wee Jasper for the night, to find a toilet block, free electric BBQ's but no shower.

The next day we did Dip Cave with Kevin, Len and Graeme abseiling in via the daylight hole. We then went almost to the end of Series 5 and then came out. Kevin and Len decided to ransik while the rest of us walked out.

We then went home with a surprisingly good run along the Hume.

* * * * *

CLIFDEN

Date of Trip:- 2nd - 3rd July, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker, Tony Zimmerman, Louise & Terry and family.

OSS Members:- Bruce Howlett + visitor.

The first cave for the weekend was Taplow Maze. We went to the Railway Tunnel and then to the Blue Room to see the Blue Stal and then came out. We then went to Malongulli and saw the unusual formation called the Nazgul as well as the Barrier Shawl and the Lake. A loose boulder was seen at the top of the ladder pitch.

The next day we did Nothing and saw the skeleton and then helped Bruce with the survey in Swansong.

* * * * *

TANK STREAM

The two parties of (15) met at Curtin Place at 1.30pm for a tour of the Tank Stream on Sunday the 19th June, 1988.

The Tank Stream was a 40m wide freshwater stream that flowed from the marshy swamp area, which is now Hyde Park down a series of small waterfalls to the sea at Circular Key.

In 1790, after a bad drought, the stream area was deepened and made into Storage Tanks, hence its present name, 'Tank Stream'. Each tank was 5m deep and held around 20,000 litres of water.

By the 1850's the stream had become very polluted, it had virtually become an open sewer, so it was covered to prevent the spread of diseases.

The Tank Stream is no longer a beautiful, freshwater stream but nor is it a diseases filled sewer. It is now a storm water channel and allows the turbulent storm water to make its way to the sea, beneath the concrete jungle above.

The section of the Tank Stream that we saw on the tour was a cross section of three eras.

1800: The Stone Arch Construction. Which was made from carved blocks of sandstone. Each block having the insignia of the person who had carved it. This section was approx. 1.5m high and 3m wide.

1878: The Brick Oviform: This section was small and egg shaped. It was approx. 1.2m high and 0.8m wide.

1975: Reinforced Concrete Box: This section was the same as storm water channels seen all over Sydney with none of the nostalgia of the previous sections. This section was approx. 3m wide and 1.5m high.

Although the tour was only for half an hour it was an enjoyable stroll through our earlier history with even a feint reminder of a time when the Tank Stream was a haven for diseased rid vermin.

References:

The Tank Stream; 1988: Brochure of Water Boeard.
Good Weekend; 1988: Underneath Sydney.

Kevin Coleborn
Social Secretary

COCO CREEK

Date of Trip:- 9th July, 1988.

Members Present:- Dave Noble, Lachlan Wilson, Tony Zimmerman.

Leaving at 9am we set off for a new area which we had seen on a map. The first stop planned was the Old Torbane Mine and then Limestone Creek and Spring Gully. However, we were scared off by the signs telling you to stay away. So we headed for our next choice 'Coco Creek', where we approached the property owner, who mentioned a cave over the hill a bit. We drove along the road a bit and his son caught us up and took us to the entrance, which we would never had found otherwise.

The surface of the rock isn't limestone and the rock in the cave changes from limestone to a brittle shale. The cave is about 400-500m in length and contains some unvandalized formation. Much of the cave is walk through and any further leads would be in the final chamber or in the high avens along the way. Bats were present throughout the cave and they didn't seem disturbed at our presence.

After leaving the cave we trogged over the hill and found no further entrances. Some possible dig sites were seen but these were left for another day.

On leaving the area we thanked the farmer and told him of the cave. He told us we were the first speleo's (or anyone) to visit the cave over the past $1\frac{1}{2}$ years.

From here we headed to Alum Caves, which are small overhangs in an unusual conglomerate in a small valley near the railway line near Running Stream.

WEE JASPER

Date of Trip:- 16th - 17th July, 1988.

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker.

Leaving Friday night we set off for Wee Jasper and arrived four hours later. The first cave we visited was Punchbowl, we descended the pitch and looked around the cave and then came up the pitch. We looked in Signature and Dogleg on the way back to camp.

The next day we had a look in the Gong Room and then abseiled into Dip Cave through the Daylight Hole in Series 4 and then came out. We decided not to go and do Dogleg as Kevin had forgot his shorts.

On the way home we stopped at the bridge on the Murrumbidgee and explored the limestone nearby. We found two untagged entrances and numerous blocked entrances. We didn't enter them as we had left our lights in the car.

JENOLAN

Date of Trip:- 23rd - 24th July, 1988.

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Andrew, Peter and his girlfriend.

On arrival at Jenolan we were told of high water levels in the caves and the flooding that had occurred a week ago. We set off for Mammoth and descended to Central Lake only to find it higher than it had been a month earlier. However, most people managed to get wet feet (except the T.L.). We then continued to the Dry Siphon and as usual only Kevin and I would go through. So it was back to the Railway Tunnel and on into Oolite. Where the Lower River was a Lake, which Kevin wouldn't swim through. We then headed out of Mammoth.

The next day we went to the top of the Cloud Pitch in Dwyers.

ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

ABORIGINAL ENGRAVINGS

Date of Trip:- 10th July, 1988

Members Present:- Lionel Baker (T.L.), Terry & Louise Coleborn & family, Brian & Carol Skinn & family, Ricky Brett, Carolyn Tunks.

Visitor: Norton.

We all met at the designated spot and then headed off to the first site.

1. Sebastopol Trig:

This site is situated just off the Princes Highway south of Heathcote. Local theory holds that this site was an important meeting place between the tribe of the mountains and the Sydney tribe. It being most likely used as a Trading Place. The practice of trade had an important place among the Aboriginal people. Trading allowed local groups to obtain raw material such as ochre and pituri, which were not always found in their own territory.

The large rock surface is covered with a variety of engravings including a human figure, a figure which resembles a cow, an emu, a large indetermined figure, two kangaroos with boots on, a small hand and arm, a fertility sign, a sign for the meeting of the tribes and also a sign which is believed to be a signature of the tribe in this area and is found on many of the sites in this local area. There are also several axe sharpening grooves.

A short distance away can be seen another figure of a man, which is partially covered with sand and road wash off, but a channel has been cut below the site and after the recent heavy rains it appears to be cleaning the debris from the site.

2. South Wattamolla:

We were all extremely impressed with the Intaglio engraving (this is an engraving out into the rock forming a sunken relief). Along the edge of the Intaglio are many axe sharpening grooves. This type of engraving is rare and we were very lucky to be able to see one at first hand.

Nearby is another set of engravings, firstly a 'birth site' which has two female figures, one with an umbilical cord and a smaller child like figure beside them. Within a few feet of this is a set of engravings consisting of six large figures, all holding hands as if celebrating (it resembles a corroboree).

On the opposite side of the road is a smaller site with three small fish, a larger fish and a human figure.

3. Maian-Bar Heights:

At this site we saw a figure of a man with a penis reaching to his feet. He is wearing a three-pronged headdress. North of this site is an indetermined engraving of a geometrical shape.

On the opposite side of the road we again saw the 'signature' like engraving, previously seen at Sebastopol's Trig site and also a set of 'Y' engravings, which are also found around the sites of this area, again believed to be a type of signature.

Further along we saw engravings of two large whales facing each other. North of this site is a very large whale engraving on a large, flat rock area, overlooking the south-west arm of Port Hacking. It was in this delightful setting that we had our picnic lunch before moving on to the next site.

4. Millers Hill

At this site we saw a figure of a man with a penis reaching to his feet. He is wearing a three-pronged headdress. North of this site is an indetermined engraving of a geometrical shape.

4. Artillery Hill:

This was the last site that we visited and it was reached after a short walk beside a beautiful, crystal, clear stream. The engravings are on the rocks surrounded by a delightful rock pool area with small waterfalls. They include; A large kangaroo, a hunting scene consisting of two small wallabies and the hunters footprints, a variety of different fish and of particular interest was the 'metal' axe grooves around the rock pools. It is thought that these grooves were made by an early trading axe similar to the one found in another section of the park.

Our thanks to Lionel and Norton for a very enjoyable and informative day.

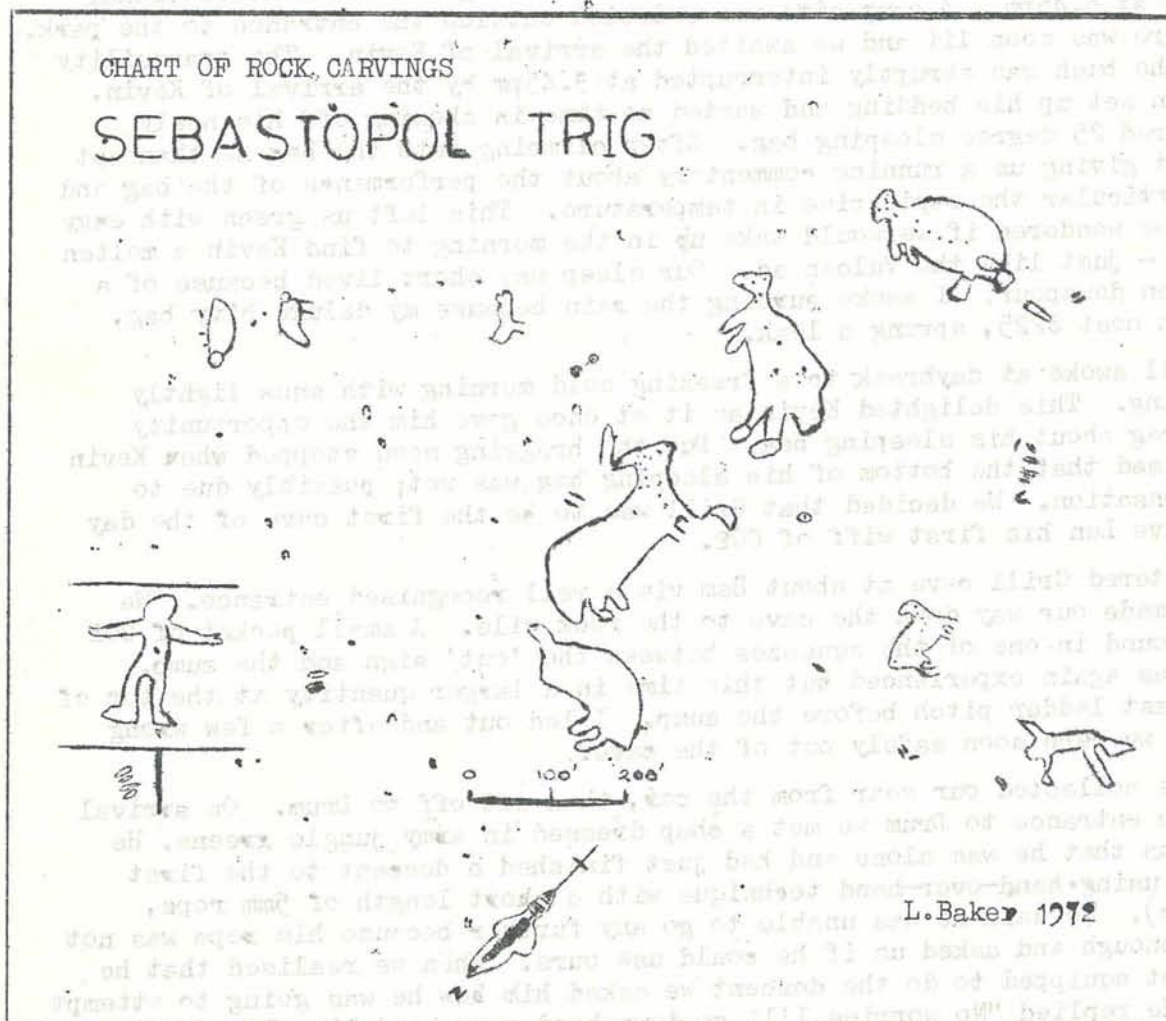
Reported by Louise Coleborn.

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COLONG

Date of Trip:- 30th - 31st July, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn,

Visitors: Troy Magennis, David Zammit.

Orange Speleological Society: We were invited by OSS members to attend their trip to Colong.

We arrived late and went to sleep. We left for the cave at 9.30am and went under at 10am and came out around 5.30pm. The next day we trogged the Bluff opposite the Arch and up the Bluff opposite Coral Cave. A few small holes were found but no major ones.

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BUNGONIA

Date of Trip:- 6th - 7th August, 1988.

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Len Baker, Kevin Coleborn.

Dave and Len arrived at the entrance to the Bungonia State Recreational Park at 8.45pm. A camp site was selected outside the entrance to the park. A fire was soon lit and we awaited the arrival of Kevin. The tranquility of the bush was abruptly interrupted at 9.45pm by the arrival of Kevin. Kevin set up his bedding and wasted no time in showing off his newly aquired 25 degree sleeping bag. After climbing into the bag he than set about giving us a running commentary about the performance of the bag and inparticular the rapid rise in temperature. This left us green with envy and we wondered if we would wake up in the morning to find Kevin a molten mess - just like the Vulcan ad. Our sleep was short lived because of a sudden downpour. I awoke cursing the rain because my deluxe bivy bag, which cost \$225, sprung a leak.

We all awoke at daybreak to a freezing cold morning with snow lightly falling. This delighted Kevin as it at once gave him the opportunity to brag about his sleeping bag. But the bragging soon stopped when Kevin realised that the bottom of his sleeping bag was wet; possibly due to condensation. We decided that Grill was to be the first cave of the day to give Len his first wiff of CO₂.

We entered Grill cave at about 8am via a well recognised entrance. We then made our way down the cave to the rock pile. A small pocket of CO₂ was found in one of the squeezes between the 'out' sign and the sump. CO₂ was again experienced but this time in a larger quantity at the top of the last ladder pitch before the sump. I led out and after a few wrong turns we were soon safely out of the cave.

We collected our gear from the car, then set off to Drum. On arrival at the entrance to Drum we met a chap dressed in army jungle greens. He told us that he was alone and had just finished a descent to the first ledge using hand-over-hand technique with a short length of 5mm rope, (crazy). He said he was unable to go any further because his rope was not long enough and asked us if he could use ours. When we realised that he was not equipped to do the descent we asked him how he was going to attempt it. He replied "No worries I'll go down hand-over-hand like I was taught in the Army"! When we explained it wouldn't be a good idea, he soon left.

Dave descended the 150 ft. pitch setting up the various re-belay at the usual places on the way down. Kevin gave Len instruction on crossing re-belay using the 3rd ascender technique. Len then descended down to the second re-belay where Dave was waiting. Dave then showed an alternate method of crossing a re-belay using a Cows-Tail. Kevin then followed. A second long length of rope was carried through the cave and was used to rig the 60 foot pitch. The bottom of the rope was then carried through the cave in the hope that it could also be used to descend the 20 foot pitch. This was done but using a razor blade. Len rigged the 20 foot pitch and was first to descend. We followed the cave down as far as we could to the 4 inch air space but was unable to go further due to sand blocking the way.

Dave was first to ascend the 150 foot pitch. After Dave crossed the first re-belay he waited for Len to assist him on the change over. Len ascended the rope and experienced no difficulty in using the cow tail method for the change over. Then Kevin ascended the rope, de-rigging the re-belay as he went. We exited the cave at 4pm and then went to Argyle to allow Len to attempt the entrance squeeze.

On arrival at Argyle, Len was full of enthusiasm until he saw the squeeze. He was unable to fit thru despite a lot of coaxing from Kevin and Dave. We then headed back to Grill car park.

When we had arrived back at the car park we noticed that the car belonging to our army friend, whom we met in Drum, was still there. Kevin said that he mentioned that he intended to do Grill on his return from Drum. This concerned us a little as about five hours had elapsed since we last saw him. After some discussion we decided that it would be best if we were to enter Grill and go as far as the foul air warning sign, figuring that as he was a complete novice to caving he would see the sign and would go no further. At 5.15pm the three of us entered Grill. Approaching Crystal Palace we heard cries for help and sounds of a rock being struck on a ladder. A short time later we were confronted by a very scared but relieved fellow standing next to the ladder. He explained that his only torch had failed three hours ago and he had attempted to use a cigarette lighter which also failed. At a last resort he attempted to use a cyclume stick but was unable to see. After all that he decided to stay put. We then led him out of the cave and to the car park.

That evening Len chatted with a member of the cave rescue squad about the rescue. He was very interested and passed on a job well done.

Sunday 7th: After a quick bite of breakfast we headed to Mass Cave. We had a look around and after finding nothing of great interest we headed off. At the exit to Mass Cave we took the lower of the two paths and headed further around the side of the canyon.

We then located the entrance to Chalk Cave about 100m from Mass Cave and commenced to set up the abseil. The end of the rope was fed thru a small dug out under a large rock then securely tied. We descended about six metres to a ledge where a re-belay was set up. After changing over at the rebelay we carefully negotiated a ledge which was made tricky by a deep, narrow crack positioned in the centre of the ledge. Both of us negotiated the ledge safely and descended to the bottom of the cave. We had a look around and noticed some digging had taken place against one wall. It appeared that the digging was abandoned and then refilled. This was possibly done within the past six months as a bolt bracket positioned on the wall above the dig was relatively new looking. After having a look around we decided to return to the surface.

Dave elected to go first. As he neared the top of the ledge Dave progressively pulled the rope out of the crack by pushing his feet against the

wall below the ledge. When the rope was clear of the ledge he climbed over the crack. Len elected to position the rope about 4" to the right of the crack. About 30 foot up the rope Len's sit harness belt came undone and the harness fell down about his knees. This caused only a minor amount of trauma as he was still held against the rope by the top ascender rope through the chest harness. Len rectified the problem, then continued up the rope. The cause of gear failure is unknown as the buckle was securely done up prior to the ascent. One possibility could be that the Karabiner, which was attached to the sit harness dislodged the buckle, because of the constant pulling of the ascender ropes. Len experienced no difficulty getting himself over the ledge by the use of the hand-over-hand technique! (Kevin would have been proud - a big improvement over the Dip Cave).

Dave then climbed the last six metres but was not happy with the start of the climb, because he had to swing over the previous pitch before the rope slack was taken up. Once he had taken the first few steps things got back to normal. Len experienced little difficulty with the start of the climb, mainly because after clamping onto the rope he closed his eyes and went for it! At the finish of the ascent we climbed through the top of the cave to view the flowstone. The flowstone was quite dirty but still interesting; one could only imagine what it looked like when first discovered. After viewing the flowstone we headed back towards Hogans Hole.

We entered Hogans Hole and made our way thru the various passages towards the Hairy Traverse. Dave demonstrated to Len the technique of crossing the traverse, but due to the long drop, Len did not appreciate it and requested a handline. Dave set up a handline and Len had no problems with the traverse. Dave pointed out the way to the B4-5 Extension. We then headed out the Fossil Entrance. At the bottom of the Fossil entrance, Len practiced his climbing skills and then made his way up the 22 foot pitch without any difficulty.

After leaving Fossil Entrance Dave then headed off to show Len, Steam Pipe and Canberra Hole. Then we troddled off to Argyle to allow Len another go at the squeeze.

On arrival at the Argyle entrance, Len was again full of enthusiasm but this was short lived when he positioned himself in the squeeze. Despite a lot of coaxing from Dave, Len could not proceed past the half way point in the squeeze. Voices were heard at the entrance so we waited for the party to enter the cave. After five minutes and still no sign of any one, we headed out. When we got outside the cave we were met by a lady and two fellows. She explained that she was waiting for her husband who was amongst a party of thirteen who were an hour over due. We escorted the two fellows into the cave and waited at the entrance squeeze for the return of the other party. After about fifteen minutes voices were heard shortly followed by lights. The two fellows showed an interest in caving so we then asked them if they would like to see Grill and they accepted. We told them we would meet them at the Grill car park.

On arrival at Grill the two fellows were waiting with one of their mates. We then headed off to the cave. The party descended as far as the Crystal Palace then headed out via the upper passages. All members of the party had a great time, in particular our novice cavers who seemed to relish the mud squeezes. Although they were not suitably dressed for the trip, they did not seem to care about getting their Sunday best dirty. We all returned back to the car park and the three visitors left soon afterwards.

After packing the car and having a hot shower, we returned home. A most enjoyable trip was had by all who attended (except for our army friend who will think twice about caving alone).

Reported by Len Baker

JENOLAN

Date of Trip:- 25th - 26th June, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker, Tony Zimmerman, Graeme White, Rick Brett, Lachlan Wilson

Visitors: Greg Lacey and Rebecca.

Len, Kevin and Greg arrived at 10pm to find Dave and Tony huddled around a roaring fire. After setting up camp we all settled down for the night.

After a quick breakfast we all moved off to the Guides Office to see Ernie and to meet up with Lachlan and Rebecca. We headed off to the Playing Fields and then set off to Wiburds Lake Cave.

After a four Kilometre walk, we finally arrived at the entrance to Wiburds Lake Cave.

We entered the cave via the usual entrance and after contemplating the way on we decided to go to the Yawning Gulches. Descending the Yawning Gulches using a handline we finally got to the bottom in one piece; then went on. We all arrived at the Lake safely although a few members of the party nearly went for a swim. At that point some of the party went on while the rest waited. When the rest of the party arrived we all headed back. When we entered the main chamber a rope was seen hanging from the top of one wall.

After lunch we set off back to the car park. On the way back the entrances to Mammoth were visited. When we arrived at the car park, Lachlan and Rebecca left for home, while the rest of us set off to Ian Carpenters Cave.

The cave was entered about 3pm by all the members. However, after negotiating the first vertical descent, Len suffered severe cramping of the leg and had to be hauled out by Tony with a length of 2" tape. Len then went to the car park and lit a fire. Approximately thirty minutes into the cave, Tony could not fit thru a squeeze and was forced to return to the surface to wait for the others. Dave, Kevin and Greg continued on. After pushing thru some very tight squeezes which required a lot of effort, the party finally got through the connection to Rho Hole. After having a look around Rho Hole the party exited about 6pm and met up with Tony and Len.

Back at the Pig Farm we were met by Graeme who had arrived about 10am. After collecting firewood we spent a couple of hours sitting around the fire then we all retired for the night.

Sunday morning we left the Pig Farm for the Guides Office around 9am. Whilst Dave was discussing with Ernie the days activities, Kevin and Len waited in the Guides Office next to the heater. It could not be helped but to overhear one of the Guides answer the phone by saying what sounded like "God's Office". We were amused at this and Kevin decided the Guides Office should in future be referred to as God's Office. At the completion of the formalities we set off to trog the first hill on the right in the Southern Limestone. One of the older members of the party (Len) was on his last legs after climbing the hill. Finding nothing of interest, we returned after about two hours.

About midday we all set out for Bottomless Pit. Approximately thirty minutes was spent in rigging the various pitches with Dave doing all of the underground work. One of the lengths of rope which was being lowered into the cave broke free because of a poorly tied knot. Dave then ascended the cave, then with Graeme returned back to the car to fetch another length of rope.

Whilst they were away (about thirty minutes), Rick set up an abseil for Greg to obtain instruction prior to his first ever descent/ascent into a cave. When Dave and Graeme arrived back with the rope it was then lowered into the cave by a very securely fastened knot. After all the pitches were set by Dave, who remained at the bottom of the cave, Rick, Graeme and Greg descended into the cave. Tony and Len elected to stay above.

Kevin seized the opportunity to try out Len's newly acquired SRT ascenders. Kevin then descended into the cave. The party was in the cave for about four hours before returning to the surface.

At the end of the days activities, all members returned to their homes.

Reported by Len Baker

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JENOLAN

Date of Trip:- 10th -11th September, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker,

Visitors:- Ray & Greg.

We all entered the cave at 10am and proceeded on to the Perculator. The next squeeze was the top of the Cloud Pitch and Len had trouble getting through so Kevin led him out. The Cloud Pitch was then descended. Then the mud started, we traversed along the slippery ledge, Dave first and he set up a tape for the rest of us. We negotiated the pitch above the Chocolate Box then into the Chocolate Box itself, more mud. The climb out of the Chocolate Box was assisted by a rope but still difficult because the mud made the rope difficult to grip. We then climbed up through a squeeze, over a pool and then another awkward climb was negotiated. Then on into the Slop Through. After a few more climbs we crawled through mud to a very pretty section.

Beautiful white formation, heliotites in the roof and massive, white flowstone combined with stals. At this point Greg found that his camera didn't work. We stopped for lunch after negotiating the rockpile and final pitch.

Dave and Kevin bottomed the cave as Greg was feeling a little tired. Then we headed out carrying a tonne of mud on us and our gear. We surfaced at around 8.30pm and headed back to camp for dinner and a chat around the campfire.

Reported by Kevin Coleborn

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NELUNGALOO

Date of Trip:- 30th October, 1988

Members Present:- Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker, Tony Zimmerman.

We had been invited to attend an OSS trip. We all arrived at 10.30am and headed underground. It only took about an hour to see the cave. We then had lunch and headed for home.

TIMOR

Date of Trip:- 22nd - 23rd October, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker,
Troy Magennis.

All arrived at Timor at 12 o'clock Friday night and found somewhere to camp so we crashed for the night and all had a great nights sleep except for Troy who was awakened by a cow!

In the morning we went up to TR 2 Belfry Cave, where Troy led us around for about two hours. Then we explored for more entrances and we totaled around eight hours caving for the day, entering Main and a few others.

The next day we went and had a look at TR 7-8 Hill Cave and then onto TR 15 Glen Dhu Cave.

Good weekend had by all, eleven hours underground.

Reported by Kevin Coleborn

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IONA

Date of Trip:- 5th - 6th November, 1988

Members Present:- Kevin Coleborn (T.L.), Len Baker, Tony Zimmerman,
Troy Magennis, Terry Coleborn and Louise Coleborn
& family.

Visitors:- Ryan Beaver.

Saturday we went to Tugalowa and a couple of hours was spent in the M...U...D!

Sunday was spent in the Shaft Cave, Iona. This is the new vertical cave on the hill. We showed Tony and Troy the same sections we had explored on our last trip here with OSS, then we explored a higher level and checked out a couple of squeezes.

A really beautiful area especially the thermal river!

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YARRANGOBILLY

Date of Trip:- 1st - 3rd October, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker,
Lachlan Wilson, Warren Lacey, Troy Magennis, Tony
Zimmerman.

Visitors:- Mick Williams, Rebecca.

We arrived Saturday morning and met the Ranger at the top turn-off to Yarrangobilly, he gave us the keys and he told us we could camp at the top of the cutting on the fire trail to Eagles Nest. We went and set up camp.

We then headed off to Eagles Nest. We entered the cave at the Y3 entrance and headed on through the cave, stopping at the Red Room to take photos and then onto the Deepest Dig. There was a dead possum at the bottom and some signs of flooding. We then exited the cave via the Y2 entrance. We noticed there were more lines through the cave indicating the path to follow.

After exiting the cave we went to the thermal pool for a swim and then tea around the camp fire. The Ranger turned up and we told him that the Red Room in Eagles Nest could do with a clean but could only be done when there was more water flowing in the cave, otherwise the formation below would be dirtied by the run off. He decided he would like to come to North Deep Creek with us so we met him at 9.30am the next morning.

On arrival at the cave we had problems with the lock on the gate. As we couldn't unlock the gate we by-passed it. We headed straight to the duck-under, where Dave and Kevin proceeded through. Forty minutes later they returned to the awaiting cameras. We then left the cave and headed on down to the thermal pool for another swim and then back to camp for tea and crashed for the night.

Early the next morning we were taken for a trip through Jersey Cave and shown what the Rangers were doing in there. Next we went into Old Inn and down to the lake and out. Some areas of formation need cleaning in Old Inn.

Reported by Kevin Coleborn.

WALLI

Date of Trip:- 3rd - 4th September, 1988

Members Present:- Rick Brett (T.L.), Carolyn Tunks, Kevin Coleborn, Tim Pearson, Dave Noble, Len Baker, Tony Zimmerman.

After seeing the property owner we all headed on to the caving area to set up camp.

After camp was set up we headed on down to WA 42 Lake Cave to do some exploration. We proceeded on into the cave and I asked the Walli Novices to find the way on; It was Carolyn who eventually looked up and found the way on; We all proceeded on leaving Len at the squeeze to wait for Tony who was running late. With the rest of us crossing the hole and down to the Lake Chamber, to again find it extremely dry.

This time we looked around some of the back passages and high up at the back of the Main Chamber to try and find some more cave. We had soon found the rest of the cave, heaps of passages and some unique formation. We had explored every nook and cranny so we decided to head back out of the cave. One important thing we had noticed was that all of the formation was extremely active, this being the first time I have seen it like this for years.

The climb out of the Lake Cave was uneventful and then it was all of us looking for spiders crossing the entrance hole. Once out past the Squeaky Squeeze, if you have been there you will know where I mean, we found Tony and Len waiting for us. From here we exited this dusty part of the cave and then out into the fresh outside air.

After lunch we trogged up and was soon on our way to WA 12 Piano Cave. Once at the entrance we all hung up our wet weather gear and started on our way into the cave; the first squeeze was uneventful and it was then down through the series of False Floors and on to the Main Chamber. Once into the Main Chamber I pointed out to the rest of the group, the old entrance to Piano Extension. Upon closer inspection of the Extension we found that there was quite a breeze blowing through a small opening just below the cemented section of the passage. Whilst looking at this hole Kevin decided to light his emergency candle so we could get an idea of the airflow through the opening. Kevin had six matches and one piece of striking material. Soon enough five matches were tried without success and then the sixth, this time with success, but the candle caught fire very slowly and the match quickly burnt and instinct told Kevin to blow out the match, which he did very quickly, one problem though was that he also blew out the candle, so I suggest one should carry more than six matches into a cave.

After a while we decided to make a move out from the cave. We wondered if the signatures and names found on the cave walls and the dates were real.

Due to pouring rain it took us three hours to get the fire going and cook tea.

Upon awakening on Sunday morning we were greeted with sunshine, so we all had a pleasant breakfast around the fire, and then we all trogged up and headed back to Piano Cave for another look around. Kevin led the way into Piano losing two of his party on the way in through the False Floors. The two people purposely tagged at the rear of the group to note what action the TL would take, when he realised some of his party was missing. Upon arrival at the Main Chamber Kevin noticed that Tim and myself were missing. So he waited for some time and then came looking for us. Eventually we were found, so we all went back to the Main Chamber to discuss what he had done wrong and what to do if it had been a real exercise.

Discussions over I pointed out to Tim and Carolyn the location of Piano Extension, which is where we were heading to later in the day. When we got back at the Main Chamber I decided to take a group photo. It would have been great, but there turned out to be no film in the camera.

We decided that we had better move on out of the cave so we had time to do the Piano Extension, so Kevin led the way out, keeping a close eye on the tailend of the group this time, eventually we were out of the cave and we all thanked Kevin for doing a good job underground.

We were shortly at the crest of the hill at the WA 35 entrance, looking into the horrible looking entrance hole, wondering who was going to go in and check out the size of the pitch. Kevin volunteered and whilst he had his head down in the hole Tim and I set up the traces and tapes ready for the ladders.

We hooked two 10m ladders together and passed them down to Kevin who had moved into the entrance hole. Kevin was soon on belay and making his way down the ladder, then we heard a muffled yell, telling us to hook another ladder on as the others didn't reach the bottom. Another ladder was quickly hooked on whilst Kevin waited on a ledge halfway down the hole, and shortly after this Kevin had made it to the bottom without any problems.

Next to go down was Tony then myself and then Dave followed by Len, who had decided to abseil in. Once we were all down we had a look around us. This had been the first trip (BMSC) into this cave for some seven or eight years.

There wasn't a great deal of formation at all but in the passage which joins back to WA 12, there is a great skeleton of a wombat or some type of ancient looking animal? Which is located in the wall; or even a prehistoric creek bed. There appeared to be a lot of conglomerate type rock covering the animals main body but its skull was clearly visible.

After sussing out a few passages we decided to head back to the ladder as time was getting away. The climb out was uneventful except for my light falling whilst I was about 60 ft off the ground. We were all soon back on the surface so we rolled up the gear and headed back to camp.

Once back at camp we packed away the tents and all our other gear and headed for home.

A great trip was had by all.

TUGLOW

Date of Trip:- 20th - 21st August, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Lachlan Wilson,

Visitors: Rebecca, Garry and Locky's mates.

We headed out to the caves on Saturday morning after camping at Jenolan State Forest on the Friday night. We then crossed the Kowmung and most managed to cross ok (well the Diahatsu stalled and filled up with water). We parked at the top of the hill, as the usual access track to the caves had recently been closed.

We then walked to the cave, where a ladder was set up on the pitches and we then descended to the river level. First we went down stream to the sump, the river seemed to be at its normal level. We explored some of the passages in the lower area and then headed back to the base of the climb, where the others decided to return to the surface.

The Book Room and the pretties were seen. Looking at the book it seems that less than half the parties entering the cave actually get to this chamber. We signed the book and then headed up the left-hand branch to where it chokes off in a rockpile, which could be pushed. As the others were waiting for us we headed back to the surface.

We said goodbye to the others and then headed to the Boyd River camp site for the night.

We had hoped to do Kalang the next day but this was not to be as on the way to Kalang the trusty Lada Niva sunk in a bog and it took us all morning to recover. We thus only did a tourist trip to K-nangra instead.

IONA

Date of Trip:- 27th August, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker,
Members of OSS.

OSS had invited us on their trip to Iona. Leaving Friday night we spent the first night in the snow on Mt. Bindo and then headed off to the property 'Iona' on Saturday morning. We walked to Tuglow Falls while waiting for Ian to arrive.

After Ian arrived we headed for the cave 'Shaft Cave' which had a large pitch. This cave was muddy in parts and very clean with good formation in other areas. The entrance pitch is about 22m with a 5m pitch further inside the cave. The cave has prospects for further leads as some higher areas appear to be unexplored.

After leaving the cave we trogged around the hill for a while, then it rained so we headed for home.

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CAMPBELLS RIVER

Date of Trip:- 28th August, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), David Bearup, Tony Zimmerman.

Leaving on Sunday morning we headed off for Red Rocks State Forest and down to Campbells River, which was high from Saturdays rain. The two limestone bluffs were located, however, only one entrance was found (and this was below water level).

It seems that most of the caves are at river level so a dry period would be the best time to visit this area. After leaving the river we had the famous Oberon tea and then came home.

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KEMPSEY

Date of Trip:- 12th - 13th November, 1988

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker,
Troy Magennis.

Visitors: Norm and Troy's friend.

We met Len at Kempsey on Friday afternoon and then headed off to a rest bay 8km south of Kempsey for the night. Kevin and the rest arrived at 2am and after a short sleep we all headed off to Yessabah Caves.

On arrival at Yessabah we were greeted by 'no entry' signs, so we decided to enter and ask at the miners office if we could have a look at the caves.

They said we could as long as we go over their mining operation.

So it was up the hill through the thick 'lantana' which was a new experience for Kevin, who enjoyed bashing a trail through it for the rest of us. The first descent size cave found was YE 22 Wishing Well. It had a small pothole type entrance, which looked like a wishing well. From here we descended into the cave proper, where we found a rift at 45° which we ascended. There was a squeeze at the top. On exit from the cave Kevin and Troy found a stinging tree, however, they survived their contact with no allergic reactions.

After a trot around a doline, the next big cave YE 1 Bat Cave was entered. The cave was full of bats and bat shit and thus, our time here was only short. From here we descended the cliff via YE 2 and returned to the cars. These caves have only a limited life so anyone wishing to visit them should go there soon.

Next it was off to Moparrabah for the big cave of the weekend. After a little looking the entrance was found by two stinging trees by a billabong on Parrabel Creek.

On entry we followed the basic rift chamber line until it went south. The area to the south was then explored with another entrance being found. Len got a bit worried by the length of time we were away and let us know for the rest of the weekend (we will let him know when we go exploring in the future). However, after meeting up with the others again we continued our exploration and found another large bat colony.

Further exploration in this area led to another exit so the party decided to leave the cave at this point. We then walked up Parrabel Creek to the cars. From here we headed to the Macleay River to set up camp and have a swim.

CLIEFDEN

Date of Trip:-

26th - 27th November, 1988

Members Present:-

Kevin, Gary, Terry & Louise Coleborn (4), Carol & Brian Skinn (3), Graeme White (1), Jack rly Jack Chorley (1), Warren, June & Ian Lacey, Greg Powell, Tim Pearson, Troy Magennis, Len Baker, Michelle Nickerson, Ricky Brett, Carolyn Tunks,

Visitors:

Karen, Brad, John, Col, Louise (1), Elizabeth.

This weekend was the Ben Hall Festival, where Greg and his boys were doing a re-enactment. So we decided to have the BMSC Christmas Party on the Saturday night and when Carol and Brian were transferred to Melbourne it was decided to make it their Farewell Party also.

We all arrived sometime on the Saturday and decorated the hut for the nights festivities. Saturday afternoon a small group went to Carcoar to see the Bushranger Re-enactment. Then it was back to the hut to begin preparations for the party.

During the evening a short slide show was held highlighting Brian and Carols thirteen (13) years association with BMSC. This brought back alot of good memories for all of us. After a short speech by Rick, Brian and

Sunday was spent caving and then cleaning the hut ready to go to Carcoar for the Sunday Bushranger Re-enactment.

Kevin Coleborn
Social Secretary

* * * * *

JENOLAN

Members Present:- Rick Brett (T.L.), Carolyn Tunks, Greg Lacey, Len Baker, Warren Lacey, Kevin Coleborn, Troy Magennis,

Saturday morning saw everyone meet down at the camping area and after a casual breakfast we got the necessary keys from the Guides Office.

It was a difficult climb to the entrance so it was decided that Greg and myself would carry a ladder and some rope up over the hill and make our way around the edge of the hill until we were directly above the entrance. Once at this point we found a suitable tie off point for the rope. The rope was set up and Greg abseiled down taking the ladders and trace with him. Once Greg was safely into the cave entrance I untied the rope and dropped it down to Greg.

We were all eventually in the first part of the entrance passage when Warren spotted a lone Sooty Owl watching us with its huge eyes. We all passed the owl without it even moving a feather. Then onto the first chamber. This chamber was dry and well worn from tourist trips in the old days. After a scout around we found there were no leads from this chamber, other than the way onto the next chamber and then through a small but fairly easy squeeze into the last chamber. With not much to do in this chamber some of the group started to head out, whilst Greg and myself poked our head down a small passage at the end of the chamber, where we observed some old signatures including J. Wilson. After some time had passed we decided to exit the cave. The party descended the ladder leaving Greg and I to drop it down and then abseil double rope from the entrance. A good trip was had by all in this small cave.

After departing False Frenchmans we headed back to the cars for a quick lunch. With lunch finished we were soon on our way up the valley heading for Dwyers. With the cave entrance eventually located we all made our way in. We headed straight into the Main Chamber before the Perculator, where the visitors were shown some more exciting formation than what they saw in False Frenchmans.

We then proceeded on to the Perculator, where we spent some time showing the visitors what a 'mild' squeeze was. With the fun over we decided to make a move from the cave as time was getting away. The trip from the cave was uneventful and we were soon back out in the blazing heat. Everyone made their way back to the cars, where our Saturday group departed for home, leaving the rest of us to make our way back to camp.

Sundays Plans were to head up the Southern Limestone and trog around Camp Creek. Kevin, Len Troy, Warren and myself had eventually found some enthusiasm, so we trogged up and made our way to No. 3 Car park, where we left the cars and made our way up over the first hill towards Camp Creek. The entire afternoon was spent searching along the southern and northern sides of the creek. A small efflux was sighted 25m directly up the hill on the southern side of the creek. We also noted some cave locations and rough directions to some possible digs.

With the afternoon getting away we decided to head back to the cars so we could head for home.

* * * * *

THE CLUB HAS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR SALE:

BMSO Club stickers	@ \$0.50
BMSO Metal Badges	@ \$2.00
BMSO Embroided Badges	@ \$3.00 <u>NEW</u>
Caving Passport to Adventure - Stickers	@ \$1.00
Miners Lamp Bulbs	Low @ \$1.20 ea.
	High @ \$2.00 ea.
	Halogen @ \$4.20 ea.

The above maybe purchased through the Club Treasurer, Carolyn Tunks.

PO Box 37
Glenbrook NSW 2773

* * * * *

1. The Big Hole
2. Marble Arch
3. Dripstone
4. Double Fishermans
5. Swansong
6. Bowline
7. Broken Column
8. A long rope
9. Leak in the Creek
10. I'm at the end of my rope
11. Muddy Overalls
12. Lost in a cave

13. Split Rock
14. Taplow
15. Bottomless Pit
16. Ring leader
17. The Andes Mountains
18. Get away from it all
19. Cross Country Skiing
20. Glow in the dark
21. Underground river
22. Waterfall
23. Bad Habits
24. 4 Wheel Drive

17	the + ee mountains	9	Crleakeek
18	get it all	10	My rope I'm
19	country	11	Muddy ALL ALL
20	the glow dark	12	C. A. V. E.
21	ground river	13	RO CK
22	M A T E R	14	Top
23	HABITS	15	PIT
24	W W A W W e e e e e e e e drive	16	H D E E L R
		17	ROPE
		18	col umn
		19	LINE
		20	Swon
		21	FISHERMAN
		22	Stone
		23	M H R B
		24	The HOLE

Compiled by Kylie Coleborn

WORD PUZZLES

Lionel BAKER	PO BOX 44 ENGADINE	2233	02 5204224	T
Brad BARNES	6/601 Upper Heidelberg Rd HEIDELBERG HEIGHTS	3081	03 4501412	T
Len BAKER	65 Bunnal Ave WINMALEE	2777	047 541917	F
Ian BOGG	29 Scott Street SPRINGWOOD	2777	047 512838	T
Ricky BRETT	5 Willis Street ROCTY LILL	2766	02 6252380	T
Carolyn TUNKS	" " "		"	F
Jack CHORLEY	Northgate MOUNT TOMAH BILPIN	2758	045 672124	T
Merry & Louise COLEBORN	15 Springfield Cr SPRINGWOOD	2777	047 514587	T
Gary COLEBORN	15 Springfield Cr SPRINGWOOD	2777	047 514587	A
Kevin COLEBORN	" " "		"	T
Graham CUMMINGS	1 Kipara Cres WARRAGAMBA	2752	047 741202	A
Stuart DRIVER	C/O POLICE STATION ORANGE	2800	065 613952	P
Tony ELLIS	36 Western Ave BLAXLAND	2774	047 391528	T
Allan GOODWIN	6 Jersey Ave LEURA	2781	047 841218	P
Micah HUNTER	C/O ATTU RAAF RICHMOND	2755		P
Warren LACEY	68 Joslin St KOTARA SOUTH	2288	049 523897	T
Bob & Cindy MANN	93 St Georges Cres FAULCONBRIDGE		047 515293	A
Don Mo CANN	93 Macquarie St WINDSOR	2756	045 773706	P
Greg MAGENNIS	46 Robertson St MERRYLANDS	2160	02 6323258	P
Paul McKENDRY	35 Moore St GLENBROOK	2773		P
Graham NELSON	PO BOX 94 NARRABRI	2390		H
David NOBLE	34 Murri St BLACKHEATH	2785	047 878342	T
Tim FEARSON	1/4 Stokes St LANE COVE	2066	02 4277370	F
Greg POWELL	37 Frederick St VALENTINE	2280	049 467903	T
Barry RICHARD	C/O CAVES HOUSE JENOLAN CAVES	2786	063 356239	T
Brian SKINN	25 Tamarind Cres WERRIBEE	3030	03 7410113	T
Ron THOMAS	14 Waratah Rd WARRIMOO	2775	047 536479	F
Graeme WHITE	7 North Circle BLAXLAND	2774	047 392440	T
Jacklan WILSON	21 Cumberland St KATOOMBA	2780	047 824262	F
Sony ZIMMERMAN	60 Lurline St KATOOMBA	2780	047 822825	T
Greg LACEY	15 Powell St HOBARTVILLE	2753	045 705321	P
Dave ZAMMIT	16 Brenda Ave LIDCOMBE		02 6461481	P

FEES ARE NOW DUE

T	Trip Leader	
F	Full Member	
P	Prospective Member	
A	Associate	
H	Honorary Member	
	Full Member	\$23.00
	Prospective Member	\$17.00
	Associate	\$17.00 (Single / Family)
	Family Membership	\$28.00 (ASF \$6.50 for each extra)

GLEN

COLLIERIE



Journal of

Blue Mountains Speleological Club

Vol. 19 No. 2

BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB

OOLITE

Vol. 19 No. 2 (August, 1989)

Editor: Louise Coleborn

CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
CAVES OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS - PART 7 (The Pheasants Cave)	2
CAVES OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS - PART 8 (Shaws Creek Aboriginal Caves)	4
ISSACS CREEK - IC 25 by Warren Lacey	8
CONTACT LIST	18

TRIP REPORTS

Queensland	Dec 88 / Jan 89	9	Bungonia	April 89	13
Jenolan	February 89	90	Jenolan	April 89	13
Colong	March 89	10	Cliefden	April 89	14
Bungonia S/R	March 89	11	Timor	April 89	15
Yarrangobilly	March 89	13	Jenolan	May 89	16

CONGRATULATIONS TO RICK AND CAROLYN WHO ARE TO BE MARRIED ON 2nd SEPTEMBER.
WE WISH YOU BOTH ALL THE BEST FOR THE FUTURE.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:-

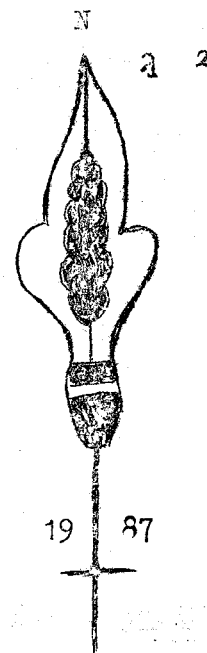
Dave Zammit, Greg Lacey, Greg Cook & Luke Foster.

CAVERS OF THE MONTH - JULY - Troy Magennis & Tony Ellis for organizing
a great weekend at Cliefden.

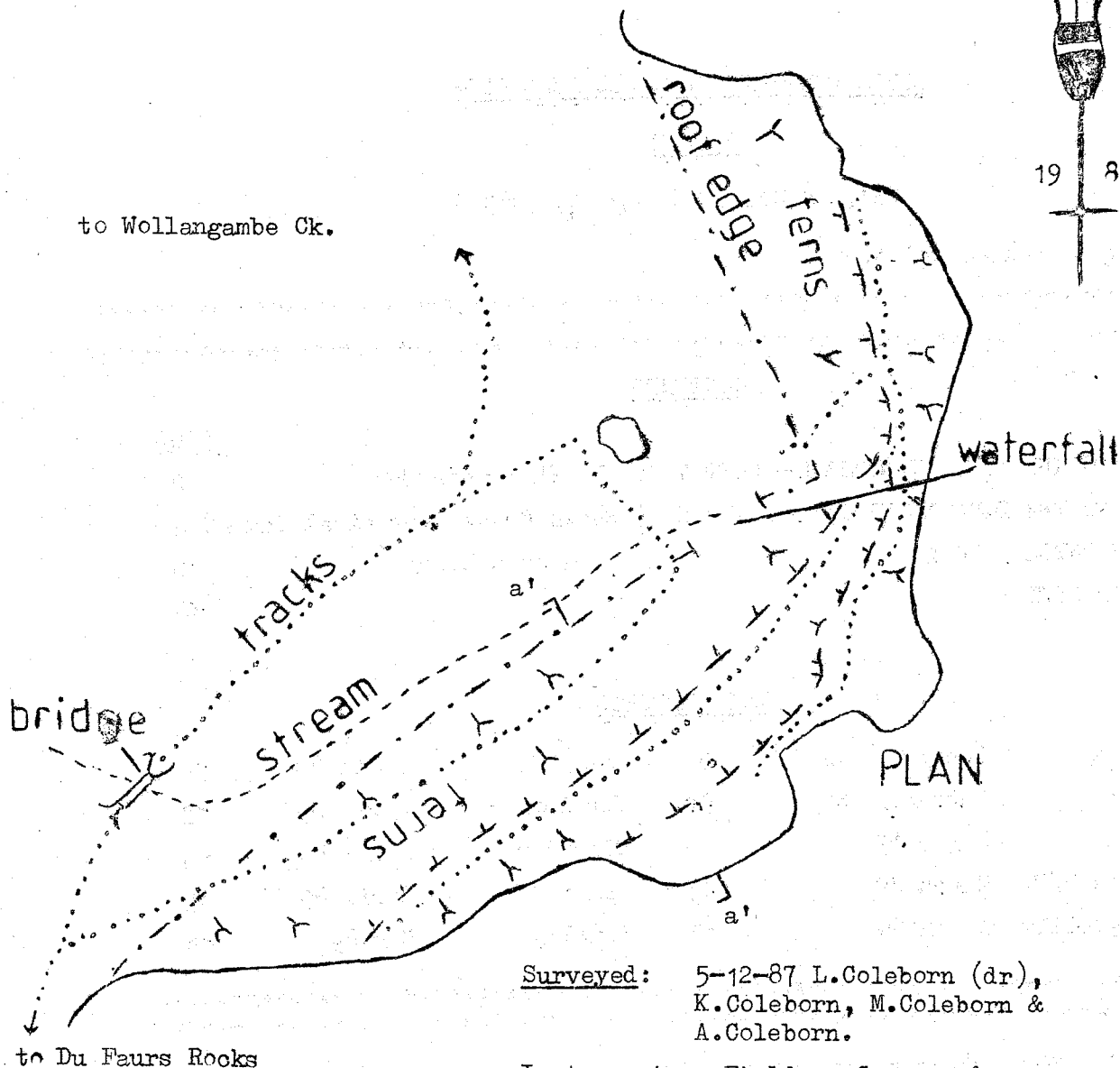
NEW CAVE FOUND BY WARREN IN SOUTHERN LIMESTONE, JENOLAN. He has named it
F... It's Warm!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GREG AND ADAM POWELL.

PHEASANTS CAVE Mt. Wilson



to Wollangambe Ck.

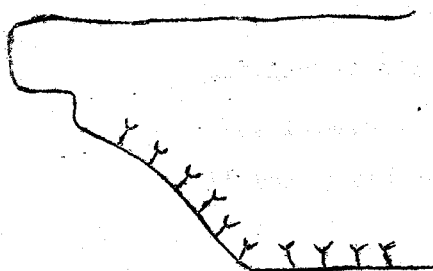


Surveyed: 5-12-87 L.Coleborn (dr),
K.Coleborn, M.Coleborn &
A.Coleborn.

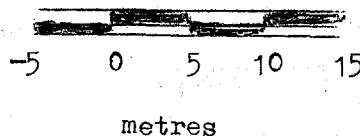
Instruments: Fielders Compass &
Inclinometer, Fibre-
Glass Tape.

Scale: 1: 500 Grade: CRG 4D

Map No. BMS1 BMSC Map No. 103



VERTICAL CROSS SECTION



Caves of the Blue Mts.

Part 7

THE PHEASANTS CAVE (Mt. Wilson)

By Louise Coleborn

To locate the cave take the road to Mt. Wilson from the Bell's Line of Road. The road to Du Faurs Rocks leaves The Avenue at the Fireshed. The track to the cave leads off to the right about 20m before reaching Du Faurs Rocks. After climbing down the first few steps, it is an easy walk for about 300m and then a short, steep climb to the base of the cliff. The cave is only a short distance from here.

The Pheasants Cave is a large, sandstone overhang, which has formed at the head of a gully. A small waterfall cascades over the centre of the cave and begins its slow journey to the Wollangambe below.

Unlike the Wall's Cave, Blackheath, which was formed by an ingrown meander. The Pheasants Cave was formed by the action of wind and water, but it would have been predominantly water action, which shaped the cave, level by level.

The cave has formed in several levels. The upper level requires a short climb of 2m and is dry and now the home of many wasps. The middle level and base of the cave are extremely wet. In fact while we were surveying the cave it wasn't unusual to find oneself knee deep in mud.

Tree ferns and other smaller types of ferns decorate all but the upper level of the cave. The area around the cave is an idyllic spot for a picnic. Large tree ferns and other ferny growth providing a beautiful, tranquil haven, beneath the stately gum trees.

But why the Pheasants Cave?

Looking back at the history of Mt. Wilson, we find that the development took place around the 1870's and a lot of the well to do purchased their Summer residences here. At least half of the founders of Mt. Wilson were of English origin.

The name the Pheasants Cave originated because it was the name the early settlers gave to our native lyrebird (Pers. comm. G. Powell 1988). The lyrebird was probably sighted here quite often then as the rainforest

vegetation around the Pheasants Cave would have been an ideal habitate for this wonderful bird of mimio.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hungerford, M.E.; Donald, J.K.; 1982: Exploring the Blue Mountains.
Powell, Greg; 1980: Bushwalking - In the Blue Mountains.
Smith, Jim; 1986: How to see the Blue Mountains.
Map of the Pheasants Cave; 1987: Blue Mountains Speleological Club.

1

PART 8

Caves of the Blue Mts.

SHAWS CREEK (Yarramundi)

Aboriginal Rock Shelters

By Louise Coleborn

To locate No. 1 cave site, take the Hawkesbury Road from Springwood and descend the hill after the Hawkesbury Lookout. The cave is situated on the left-hand side about 100m Springwood side of Shaws Creek bridge, near the remnants of the old road.

On the flat rock near the old road is an Aboriginal engraving of a kangaroo and a joey with 'kangaroo foot' markings forming a track which can be followed for a short distance. Also a few sharpening grooves may be seen near the engravings. On the face of the rock is an engraving of an Aboriginal in profile but this is not thought to be genuine.

To the right at the base of the rock is a small, shelter cave which was at some time occupied by Aborigines of the Daruk tribe. This area would have made an ideal site for a camp for the nomadic Aborigines. A cave to keep their cooking fire alight and to shelter in during times of heavy rain. Fresh, running water and a permanent water hole within 100m of the cave.

Standing on the large, flat, sandstone rock, it is easy to envisage

a 'Daruk tribesman' squatting on the rock, rhythmically sharpening his axe to the metallic tink, tink of the Bellbirds, echoing through the Eucalypt trees below.

Cave site No. 2 is located on the right-hand side of the road about 200m downstream of Cave No. 1. This cave is a dry overhang 32.2m in length with a maximum width of 5.6m and a height of 3.1m. There is a clear, fresh water stream flowing past the entrance to the cave.

This cave was excavated in 1979 / 80 by E.D. Stockton. His findings showed that the Aboriginal occupation dated back before 13,000 BP, as they still hadn't the dates for the lower levels.

Cave No. 3 is located 2klm upstream of Cave No. 1. It is a very spacious cave with a length of 14.6m and a maximum width of 8.6m and a height of 4.7m. A beautiful, fresh water stream flows and cascades into a deep pool of cold, sparkling water a few metres below the cave.

This cave could have also been occupied by Aborigines. The cave protects from the elements and offers a dry haven. The ceiling of the cave has been blackened at some stage by fire; (Note: This could have been by bush fires); also the floor of the cave is flat and dark in colour. Upstream from the cave there are a few sharpening grooves around the rock pools. The rock here is a hard sandstone / conglomerate and the sharpening grooves are narrower than those seen around the rock pools at Lynchs creek and the Rock Shelter No. 1. Two kilometres upstream is a swamp area and other smaller caves. The Burrawang Palm grows in abundance on the hillsides. The crushed nuts of this palm were eaten by the Aborigines after they had been leached and cooked.

The deep pool below Cave No. 3 is surrounded by large ferns and is used as swimming spot by most of the locals. The area has a cool, tranquil beauty and is protected on one side by high rock walls and on the other by tall Eucalypts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kohen, J.L; Stockton, E.D; Williams, M.A.J; 1981: "Where the Plain and Plateau meet; recent excavations at Shaws Creek Rock Shelter, Eastern N.S.W.." Australian Archaeology, Vol. 13 pp. 63 - 68.

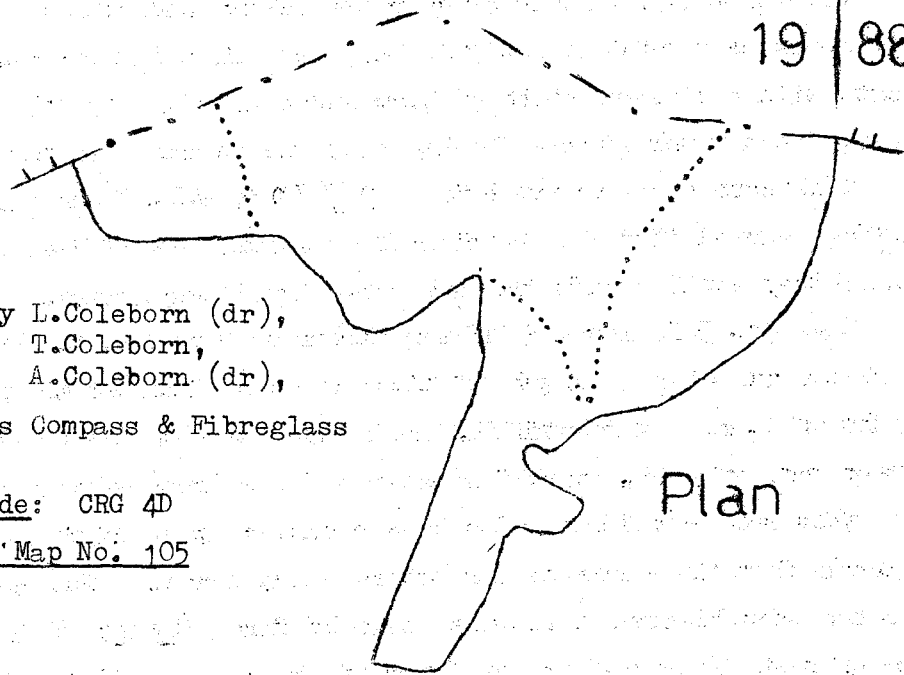
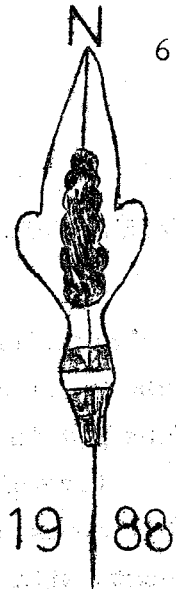
Powell, Greg; 1980: Bushwalking - In the Blue Mountains.

Maps of Shaws Creek Cave No. 1, Cave No. 2 & Cave No. 3; 1988

Blue Mountains Speleological Club.

SHAWS CREEK

Aboriginal Cave No.1



Surveyed: 10-2-88 by L.Coleborn (dr),
T.Coleborn,
A.Coleborn (dr),

Instruments: Fielders Compass & Fibreglass
Tape.

Scale: 1:100 Grade: CRG 4D

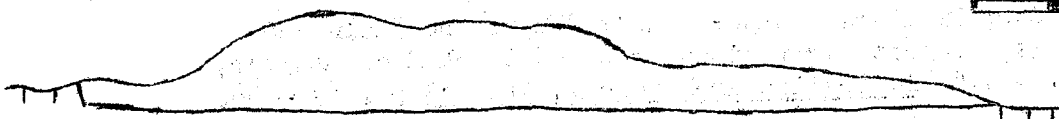
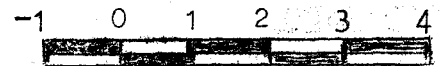
Map No. BMS1 BMSC Map No. 105

Plan

Kangaroo & joey rock engravings

axe sharpening grooves

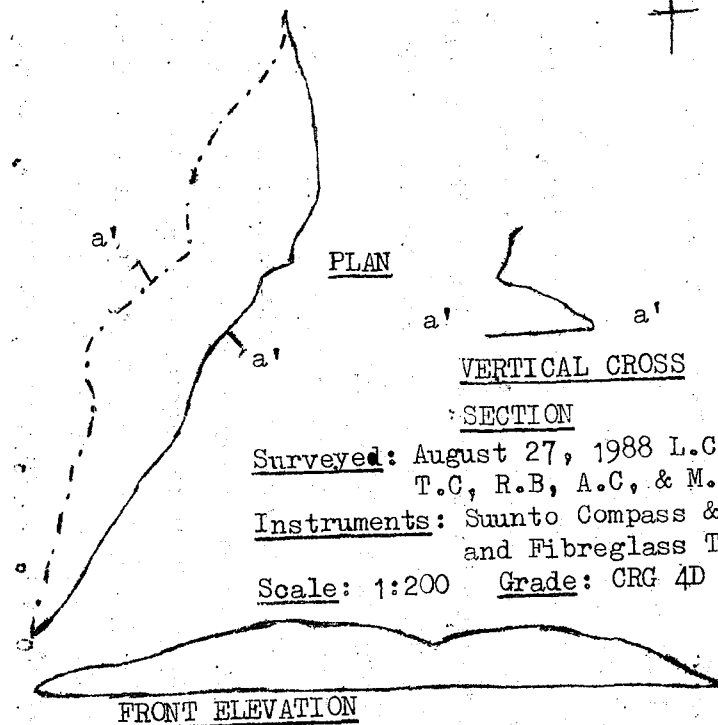
'kangaroo foot' markings



Front Elevation

SHAWS CREEK

Aboriginal Cave No.2



Surveyed: August 27, 1988 L.Coleborn (dr)
T.C, R.B, A.C, & M.C.

Instruments: Suunto Compass & Inclinator
and Fibreglass Tape.

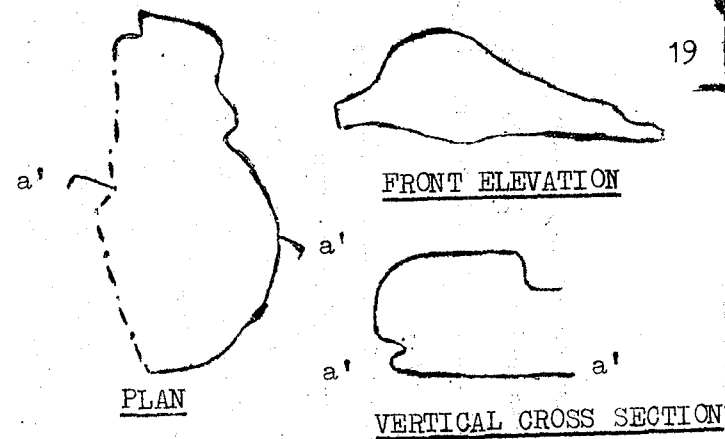
Scale: 1:200 Grade: CRG 4D

Map No. BMS1 BMSC Map No. 108

-2 0 2 4 6
metres

SHAWS CREEK

Cave No.3



Surveyed: 30th October, 1988
L.Coleborn (dr),
T.Coleborn

Instruments: Suunto Compass and
Inclinometer and
Fibreglass Tape.

Scale: 1:200 Grade: CRG 4D

Map No. BMS1 BMSC Map No. 112

-2 0 2 4 6
metres

IC 25

By Warren Lacey

The 'rediscovery' of IC 25 at Issacs Creek, Timor poses some interesting questions. The cave was relocated by John Pinkevitch and Darren Armitage (Newcaves), hiding near some blackberry bushes in late October, 1987. The cave has a tag.

The cave was entered and found to head down a steeply, sloping shaft for about 3m or so and ending on a pile of rubbish. Some of these camp disposables were removed. One person informed the discoverers at the time, that the cave headed down and at the base headed back to the right a short distance (not specific) and stopped. So it does go somewhere!

Digging has been undertaken on at least six occasions by a small, keen circle of cavers from Newcaves, BMSC and the odd misguided Scout, to dig out this shaft in search of glory. At least 3m of rubbish, rock and dirt was removed from the shaft, which allowed only one person at the time, till a passage was revealed. Lo and behold the passage went to the right. More digging allowed access to the passage.

So the cave was and is known by 'old' cavers. How did it miss the re-tag by SSS in 1974? Why was there so much infill in the shaft and passage? Was it deliberately filled in?

The profile of the material removed showed roughly 1m of rubbish and dirt, some large rocks (with fossils) and dirt, and finally clay. Various bone fragments have also been collected from the muck. It's easy to understand the rubbish but observation of the cave entrance area doesn't seem to support the idea of wash and collapse into the entrance shaft. Hence was it filled in?

The cave is situated close to the main campsite at Timor about 6m-8m above the creek. The entrance is a tight inverted T shape immediately onto a shaft 6m-7m deep at an angle of about 75-80 degrees. It can be chimneyed but a ladder now makes access easier. Some flowstone appears on the wall of the shaft. At the bottom it is obvious that the shaft continues but the passage leads off to the right. This passage is inclined at about 10° and can be seen to go for some 4-6m. Numerous

roots enter the passage and there are a couple of dry stalactites.
Digging will reveal more passage, back under the main shaft. Maybe
there is a battleship.....

* * * * *

TRIP REPORTS

UNLESS THE AUTHOR OF A TRIP REPORT IS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED,
AUTHORSHIP MAY BE ASCRIBED TO THE TRIP LEADER.

QUEENSLAND

Date of Trip:- 16th December, 1988 - 29th January, 1989
Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker,
Troy Magennis.

Chillago Caves area was visited for 3 days and visits were made
to the Queenslander, Royal Arch, Spring and other smaller caves in the
area.

A day was spent at Mt. Etna.

Hours Underground: 26

* * * * *

JENOLAN

Date of Trip:- 4th - 5th February, 1989.
Members Present:- Kevin Coleborn, Louise & Terry Coleborn and girls (4)
Ricky Brett, Carolyn Tunks, Graeme White & Jessie,
Tony Zimmerman, Len Baker, Don McCann, Troy Magennis,
Barry Richard, Dave Noble.

Visitors: Gwen, Allan & Selina Fairweather, Siobhaun Doyle.

Aim of Trip: Annual Dinner and Annual General Meeting.

Most of us arrived by the set time of 12 midday and were waiting...

at the Caves House for lunch. Mum, Dad and the girls hadn't arrived by 1pm so we decided to go in and have lunch.

After lunch Dad arrived and said they had broken down at the bottom of Mt. Victoria. So we all decided to put the AGM off until the Sunday morning and go to their rescue.

The night some stayed at the camping ground discussing Southern Limestone documentation, while a group of us set off in the wet to do Dwyers.

Sunday morning we all met at the Green Room for our 1989 Annual General Meeting. The meeting was chaired by Gwen Fairweather and the following members were elected.

President:	Rick Brett	Librarian:	Graeme White
Secretary:	Len Baker	Map Co-Ordinator:	Graeme White
Treasurer:	Carolyn Tunks	Journal Editor:	Louise Coleborn
Equipment		Publicity Officer:	Tony Ellis
Officer:	Terry Coleborn	Social Secretary:	Carolyn Tunks
Committee	Kevin Coleborn	Records Keeper &	
Members:	Graeme White	Trip Secretary	Louise Coleborn
ASF Delegates:	Troy Magennis		
	Louise Coleborn.		

Our thanks to Ernie and Barry for the use of the Green Room.

Kevin Coleborn
Social Secretary 1988

COLONG

Date of Trip:- 4th - 5th March, 1989

Members Present:- Kevin Coleborn (T.L.), Len Baker, Troy Magennis, Graeme White.

After a reasonable start in the morning. We began to walk to the top of Acetylene Spur. On the way we noticed some vehicles parked near the top. We walked down the spur and up the creek, the walk taking a while, we didn't get there until lunch time.

After lunch we went to the Main Cave, as I was the only one who had been to Colong before and I didn't remember much! We fumbled our way to Kings Cross. On our arrival we signed the visitors book and had a look around and then regrouped to head on to Woolfs Cavern. After a wrong turn we finally found a bit I could distinctly remember, as I got stuck there on my last trip. We continued on to some areas proving mind boggling, but we did reach Woolfs Cavern and Troy and Graeme took some photos. Len and myself went down to the Beach. We then left for the entrance and had a quick trip out but with some encounters with the Ghost!!!

We exited the cave to find the other group to be very loud and some of our party opted to move camp. But we stayed and they retreated in the direction of the Arch. After cooking tea we all went to sleep.

The next morning was spent looking for new caves on the hill opposite the creek. One possible entrance was found near creek level.

Then the walk out! Some didn't like it and said, "I'm never coming to Colong again!"

A good weekend was had by all.

* * * * *

BUNGONIA SEARCH & RESCUE

Date of Trip:- 11th - 12th March, 1989

Members Present:- Rick Brett (T.L.), Carolyn Tunks, Len Baker, Kevin Coleborn, Troy Magennis, Dave Zammit, Dave Noble, Warren Lacey.

Saturday morning saw us all awakened by the 6.30am Siren, this eventually saw all of us dragging ourselves from our wet tents, from the downpours which occurred on Friday night. By seven thirty breakfast was over and we checked out our group team and colours, which were on the notice board.

By 8am, everyone attending the cave rescue weekend was given a general de-brief about the weekend. This was followed by a lecture about back injuries and the usage of the R.E.D., which is a device used when transporting patients with suspected back injuries. We were also shown how to use the new style neck braces, which are uncomfortable, but very effective against further neck or back injury.

After morning tea we were given more lectures, this time about stretcher usage and how the stretches should be lifted. This was followed by a talk about safe working loads on ropes, karabiners and gibbs, which was then followed up by displays on lifting and braking devices. Then it was off to lunch.

With the lunch break over it was back to the lecture area for more talks about pulley systems and loads. The time had now arrived when we were instructed to trog up and form our teams ready for the underground exercises. The team all the BMSG members were in was called GREEN 1. Our team was combined with a group from Queenbeyan S.E.S. After the necessary radio messages were relayed we departed for B 15 Shaduf Cave.

After arriving at the entrance to B 15, we were asked to proceed into the cave and make our way to the artificial retainer wall near the B4 - 5 Extension. After reaching this point we waited for our observers to arrive. Before to long the tail end of the group arrived with the observers following.

We were quickly given our task, which consisted of a patient, who had fallen and broken his ankle, we had to then treat our patient and remove him from the cave.

This exercise was soon in full swing, with myself being chosen as the leader, I then organised for two of the group to make their way from the cave, so they could help. Meanwhile, Dave, Len and Kevin started to set up some tapes and karabiners so the pulleys two-way

braking and hauling systems could be prepared for the first movement of our patient; meanwhile, the other half of the group stabilised the patient and fitted a makeshift splint to the ankle, by using some pieces of timber which had been washed into the cave. Eventually, we started moving our patient from the cave. Dave Z and Troy were helping with the calls to Len and Kevin, who were doing the hauling on the rope, whilst the others assisted the patient.

With almost two hours gone, we had managed to move our patient about 100 metres and again Dave Noble, Kevin and Len set up a hauling system for a more difficult section of the cave. This time our observer intervened, as our choice of belay point was considered unsuitable for the haul, which had to be undertaken. After a short delay Kevin had re-set the hauling system by chocking the belay point and then, re-belaying it again. We were soon on the move again. This time with everything operating well. With another difficult climb behind us and everything moving along really well, when our observers called a stop to the rescue, due to the fact that we had run out of time. We were then all asked to make our way from the cave and wait outside.

Once out of the cave we sat down and discussed the rescue and the areas in which we thought could have been improved upon. These included such things as; not discussing patient details in the hearing distance of the patient and the choice of belay points. After our discussion was over our observers praised the whole group for a really good effort.

As the clubs safety officer I thought that all of the BMSC group performed exceptionally well during the exercise.

We had soon departed the cave and made our way back to camp for tea.

Day 11 Sunday:

6.30am Sunday morning we were all woken by that dreaded siren again. We had soon polished off breakfast and then made our way back to the 1 lecture area for some displays on Braking Systems and 3:1 Hauling Systems. After the lecture was over we were asked to trog up and make our way to the marshalling point. Once we were all together we were then asked to make our way to B 16.

Once at the entrance we were asked to rig the entrance pitch and head into the cave.

Whilst most of us were still coming down the first ladder, Kevin had already set up the second pitch and made his way down the ladder followed by Dave and Len, it was at this point where Kevin had to become the patient, again suffering from a fractured ankle.

Len took charge of the situation and the necessary messages were relayed from the cave then it was time to treat the patient and to set up a hauling system so we could assist Kevin up from the first pitch. Len and Dave 'immobilised' Kevin's lower leg, whilst the rest of us set up the ropes and pulleys.

We eventually had all the gear set up and were about ready to start moving the patient from the cave, then, we again ran out of time. It was a quick dis-assemble of the tapes, ropes ect. So we could make our way back up the ladders and out of the cave.

When we had all reached the surface, the first pitch was de-rigged and a discussion was held on the exercise. One of the biggest problems in this cave appeared to be communication and the difficult spot in which the rescue had to be executed from.

Although we had a couple of small hiccups, our observers again expressed their satisfaction in the way in which the exercise had been carried out.

We were soon all making our way back to camp for our de-brief, then it was time to pack up and make our way home.

YARRANGOBILLY

Date of Trip:- 24th - 27th March, 1989

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker, Troy Magennis, Tony Zimmerman, Ricky Brett, Lachlan Wilson

Visitors:- Dave Bearup, Andrew Devitt.

We visited Y10, Y7 and Y12 and Eagles Nest. We also visited Coolamon, having a look in Main, Barbers and River. The Baptist cavers also visited some caves with us.

* * * * *

BUNGONIA

Date of Trip:- 8th - 9th April, 1989

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker.

Drum was descended to the squeeze and a new entrance into Drum was found.

We also visited Grill, Chalk, Putrid Pit, UNSWSS Hole and College Caves. CO2 was lower than in early March but still present in all caves.

* * * * *

JENOLAN

Date of Trip:- 15th - 16th April, 1989

Members Present:- Rick Brett (T.L.), Troy Magennis, Warren Lacey, Dave Zammit, Louise Coleborn, Terry Coleborn, Cheryl Coleborn, Carolyn Tunks.

Visitors:- Paul.

Aim:- Documentation of the Southern Limestone.

Saturday morning we all met down at the usual camping area. After we set up the tents we made our way to No 3 car park, where we trogged up and made our way towards the Southern Limestone. A short distance along the track Dave pointed out a small hole at the base of the cliff, so we decided to go and have a look to see if it was promising. The hole was tagged, so we looked it up in the index to discover it was called 'Hobbit Hole', which is a small cave which contains signatures by Voss, Ross Wilburd, Ward, Brown ect. Some of these dating back to 1884. Not only did the chamber contain signatures but it was teeming with wildlife; bats, spiders, crickets, little bugs and an albino spider.

Plot t

We plotted the cave on the surface map. I think we had walked past it for about four years without even knowing its whereabouts. After we had finished poking around the small chamber we made our way up the bluff until we came to the big Doline at the top of the hill. Again this was marked onto the surface map.

As the day progressed we moved further up the valley noting as many caves as possible.

Later in the afternoon we entered Split Rock Cave and did some digging, which added another two metres to the cave. After some time had passed we decided to depart the cave and make our way back down the valley recording any features along the way.

Finally we reached No. 3 carpark and felt satisfied with the days work we had completed. It was then back to the camp, where we met up with Terry, Louise and family, who had arrived during the afternoon.

Although we were using damp timber we managed to get a descent fire going after tea was cooked. So we sat around the fire discussing the days work and wondering about the prospects of the Southern Limestone.

After breakfast on Sunday morning it was decided that we head back to the Southern Limestone instead of doing Wiburds Lake Cave.

We were soon organised so we departed for No. 3 Carpark again, letting the Guides Office know where we were going on the way through.

This time there was myself, Warren, Cheryl, Louise and Troy making our way up the valley to try and locate some more entrances to caves we didn't have marked down.

Although we did a lot of trogging we only found one entrance that wasn't marked down and that was Photon Cave, which we must have near fallen in about a dozen times on previous trips; without knowing where it was.

This cave is located about ten (10) metres below Shaft Cave and about fifteen (15) metres to the north.

Another discovery we made was that of Shaft Cave. This cave could also be known as 'Crackpot' or is there another cave?

With time getting away we decided to make our way back to the cars so we could get back to camp to pack our gear.

With the necessary trip form filled in at the Guides Office we departed for home.

Caves Located and Plotted:

J 275 Hobbit Hole, Doline on the first hill, J23, Split Rock, Shaft Cave, 046, J282, J277.

* * * * *

CLIFDEN

Date of Trip:- 22nd - 23rd April, 1989

Members Present:- Louise & Terry Coleborn, Troy Magennis, Michelle Coleborn, Kylie Coleborn.
Members of OSS and 14 boys from Sydney Grammar School.

Aim: Hut Working Bee.

We arrived Saturday night to find the hut empty. Believe it or not it was 10pm and OSS were caving.

They had spent Saturday working on the hut. We put up our tent and Troy climbed into his Bivvy Bag and we were all soon asleep. During the night sometime OSS arrived back and Troy was visited by a fox.

Sunday Terry, Glenn and myself worked on the hut. Troy and Michelle went with Ian Curtis, who was leading a tour to Gable and Swansong. After taking Troy and some others through Swansong, Ian then led a trip to Gable and delegated Troy to lead the Fourteen Grammer School Boys through Swansong. The Master was a little worried when Troy had difficulty re-finding the entrance, but soon relaxed when Troy seemed to know his way around the cave.

Reported by Louise Coleborn

* * * * *

TIMOR

Date of Trip:- 29th - 30th April, 1989

Members Present:- Dave Noble, Kevin Coleborn, Warren Lacey,

Visitor:- John Pinkevitch (Newcaves)

After meeting at Issacs Ck we moved on up to Crawney via 'Glen Dhu', chatting with Mrs Moore, who showed us some photos of the caves 'out her back door' and investigating some entrances.

Once down on Wombramurra Ck the limestone was easy to locate as the road goes right through it. In typical fashion the outcrop has a luxuriant growth of blackberries and other assorted, thorny flora. Trogging up Limestone Oaky Ck. we found little limestone but lots of aforementioned flora. Heading NW over the outcrop we found one cave. The Karst Index notes C1, 2, 3, so imagine our delight to find C4.

The hole - definite cave-type entrance, complete with stinging nettles and lace curtain of blackberries, was observed, contemplated and deduced to be a small cave following a rift. It was not entered as we'd all conveniently left our overalls in the cars. (Was it really the sub-conscious warning of hazards like snakes and CO2 so succinctly outlined in the Index? Kevin getting too old for this game)

Further trogging on the eastern and western sides of Wombramurra Ck. produced nothing (not Nothing) but a few grey kangaroos, Wallabies, one eodidna, a fat black snake, an expiring Hyacinth orchid (Dipodium punctata) and a shower of rain. C4 was again contemplated but not entered, settling instead for a load of firewood and a nice campsite. But Warren hadn't finished yet! One more small outcrop had to be investigated across the creek much to the others disgust, but interestingly they still came. Alas, nothing.

Morning under the whispering myalls at Wombramurra Ck was most pleasant. A visit from a local found us telling him the location of the cave not him telling us. So much for local knowledge.

Back to Issacs Ck for some 'real' caving. Kevin was introduced to the delights of TR 25 and Dave, though he'll deny it, was a little bamboozled in TR 7-8. (Must've been the head first down the flattener.)

The 'Dynamic Duo' descended TR 3 unaided and all delighted in the heliotites in TR 4. This cave has a lovely section of dog-toothed spar.

Heading across the hill to Main (TR 1), Dave became separated and was consumed by the Blackberry Monster. In vain we waited. Warren grovelled in TR 21 to the lone bent wing. Main was a deafening roar of drips splattering all over the place. Many formations have been reactivated in the last 18 months giving some 'jewels' to what is often considered a bland, boring system. Some oolites have shown remarkable progress in 12 months on the Ballroom Floor.

A quick Cook's tour for Kevin of entrances 22, 16, 11, 10, 5 and IG 25 and back to the car for lunch. The lacerated pulp of Dave was recovering having escaped. With little ado he fled with Kevin. Those who've out their teeth on Timor will be back.

Reported by Warren Lacey

JENOLAN

Date of Trip:- 13th - 14th May, 1989

Members Present:- Rick Brett (T.L.), Troy Magennis, Kevin Coleborn, Dave Noble.

Visitors: Martin Brett, Doug Taylor, Greg Cook, Jason McHatton, Paul Lowes, Robert Craft.

On our arrival on Saturday morning we set up our tents at the pig-farm and then made our way to the guides office to make the necessary arrangements.

We made our way to No2 carpark, where we left the cars and headed down the stairs for the valley below. We stopped at J 153, the Balcony, to view the Devil's Coach-House along the way. We were soon on our way again finally reaching the creek and then making our way along the track towards Alladin.

After a short time we had reached the entrance to Alladin, where I gave the guys a run down on the David Sima episode and pointed out where he had entered the cave. I then unlocked the gate and we made our way into the cave. This was the first time underground for Martin and Doug and they were both impressed with caving by the time we had reached the first lower chamber. I still believe that although this part of the cave has been vandalized, it is still in fairly good order. We then moved across to the next chamber where there is more room and took some photos of the formations and also pointed out what the formations were called to our visitors. We soon decided to leave so Dave lead the way on with everyone following behind, and when Dave was about 10 metres from the entrance he stopped and waited for everyone to catch up. We then asked the guys how far away from the entrance did they think we were. The answers varied from 100 metres to 20 metres, so everyone quickly became aware of what it was like to become disorientated in a cave. We then continued on until we were out of the cave.

The next cave to be visited was McKewons Hole, so we made our way up the valley stopping to take a photo of the Doline at the playing fields. This doline is normally dry but today it was $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water.

We then made our way up the valley crossing the creek precariously as it was flowing very fast compared to its normal standard of being dry.

Finally we reached the entrance to McKewons, where we could hear what sounded like a car travelling along a dirt road. After we entered the cave we discovered that the noise wasn't coming from any car, it was being created by hundreds of bats flying and darting through the cave. We all tried to avoid the chamber where the bats were, and explored the rest of the cave. We then made our way to where the inscriptions were on the wall so Troy could photograph them. After Troy had taken his photos he mentioned the name 'Wiburd' and next thing he ended up waist deep in a hole full of freezing cold water. After extracting himself, he vowed never to mention 'that name' again whilst underground. We then poked around the cave a little more before leaving via J.71 entrance.

Sunday morning we made our way to No3 Carpark, where we left the cars and headed up the valley past Camp Creek to the start of the last hill.

At the bottom of the hill just near the big Doline Dave, Kevin and Troy started digging at a wombat hole whilst the rest of us started making our way up the hill to do some surface trogging. Part way up the hill I looked down at a noise expecting to see the familiar skink, but about $\frac{1}{2}$ metre in front of me was a 2 metre Red Belly Snake, I succinctly lost another five years off my life as I backed away from the buggler. After the snake had moved away we continued cautiously onwards up the hill working our way south looking for more possible digs. With time running short we decided to make our way back to Cooke's Cave so we could photograph Cooke's signature.

Before entering the cave Troy took us up the hill about 10 metres and then about 50 metres North to point out a possible dig. The dig looks prospective but time was still short so we made our way back to Cooke's Cave to take the photos.

We entered the cave without any trouble except for loose rocks and managed to get some good shots of the signature. We then exited the cave which is a little difficult due to lack of footholds and the slippery rocks due to the amount of moisture in the cave.

Finally everyone had made their way out of the cave, so we packed up the ropes and made our way back to the cars.

A good weekend was had by all.

* * * * *

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THE CLUB HAS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR SALE

T	Trip Leader	
F	Full Member	
P	Prospective Member	
A	Associate Member	
S	Subscriber	
	BMSC Club Stickers	@ \$0.50
	BMSC Metal Badges	@ \$2.00
	BMSC Embroided Badges	@ \$3.00
	Miners Lamp Bulbs Low	@ \$1.20 ea
	High	@ \$2.00 ea
	Halogen	@ \$4.20 ea

The above maybe purchased through the Club Treasurer.

Carolyn Tunks
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OO L I T E



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OOLITE

Vol. 19 No. 3 (March, 1990)

Editor: Louise Coleborn

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Caves of the Blue Mountains - Part 9 (The Kings Table Aboriginal Shelters)	2
Caves of the Blue Mountains - Part 10 (Fraser Creek Aboriginal Cave, Winmalee.)	5
New Book: Jenolan: The Golden Age of Caving. By Basil Ralston	5
Cave Rescue at Timor. By Warren Lacey	7
BMSC News!	7
Archaeologist Claim Oldest Bone; (News Clipping)	8
Tasmanian Tiger is Back - Or is it! (News Clipping)	8
Bushrangers Bring Back Gold Rush Era; (News Clipping)	9
Greg's New Book Lists the Districts Wonders; (News Clipping)	10
Bushwalks in the Hunter Valley. By Greg Powell (New Book)	10
Top Guide for Hunter Bushwalks; (News Clipping)	11
Bushwalking Through History - The Blue Mountains. By Greg Powell (New Book)	11
Quiz! So You Think Your A Good Caver? By Ian Bogg	12
BMSC's 1990 Executive.	25
Contact List 1990	26
Order Form: for Greg Powell's Books	27

TRIP REPORTS

Wisemans Ferry Aboriginal Sites.	By Louise Coleborn	14
Map: Devil's Rock Aboriginal Shelter.		15
Wyanbene.	By Cheryl Coleborn	16
Cliefden - Observation Trial & Speleo Sports. By T.Magennis & T.Ellis		16
Jenolan - Southern Limestone Documentation 1990.	By Troy Magennis	18
Jenolan - Clean up Barralong Day.	By Troy Magennis	24

TROY MAGINNIS IS OUR NEW JOURNAL EDITOR PLEASE GIVE HIM YOUR FULL SUPPORT.

SEND IN AN ARTICLE FOR YOUR JOURNAL

Caves of the Blue Mts.**THE KINGS TABLE
(Wentworth Falls)****ABORIGINAL SITES**

By Louise Coleborn

To locate the Kings Table Aboriginal Site take the Kings Tableland Road from the top of Boddington Hill, Wentworth Falls. Then turn right into Queen Elizabeth Drive. About 300m along this road a track leads off to the right to the Kings Tableland Trig. The Aboriginal Site is a short distance along this track on the right.

The Kings Tableland is a prominent hill with an area of large, flat, patterned rocks. On the large rock areas are small pools with tool sharpening grooves nearby. These grooves have been defaced by people rubbing stones along them.

To the right of this area is a beautiful lush, green hanging swamp. A hanging swamp is a unique collection of green grasses and plants usually found at the head of a valley. The plant masses filter the water seeping from the ground as well as acting as a large water storage sponge. This enables streams fed by hanging swamps to flow all year round.

A narrow track leads off to the left to the base of the rock outcrop. To the right of the base of the cliff is a small sandstone shelter cave which was used by Aborigines to shelter from the wind and rain. Of particular interest is the wind eroded avens within the cave.

Back where the track comes down off the rock is another track which continues on to the left. This leads to a larger rock shelter which is in two levels. This is an archaeological dig site and was excavated by E.D. Stockton. Carbon dating (this is the process by which the age of archaeological and geological specimens can be determined by measurement of the Carbon 14 content) of the charcoal and one artifact found within the site showed occupation to be 22,000 BP.

On the right wall of this cave are kangaroo and emu 'foot markings' outlined in charcoal and another marking which is symbolic of afternoon (Pers. Comm. 1987: Stuart James N.P. & W.S. Ranger.). High up in the wall of this cave are several very unusual hollow, pipe-like rock formations. They appear to have formed out of the ironstone.

The area around this site is typical of the wind blown escarpment of high open areas with an abundance of low growing heath vegetation. This is the area where the rare pink Flannel Flower can be seen and also the miniature Flannel Flower only 1cm across.

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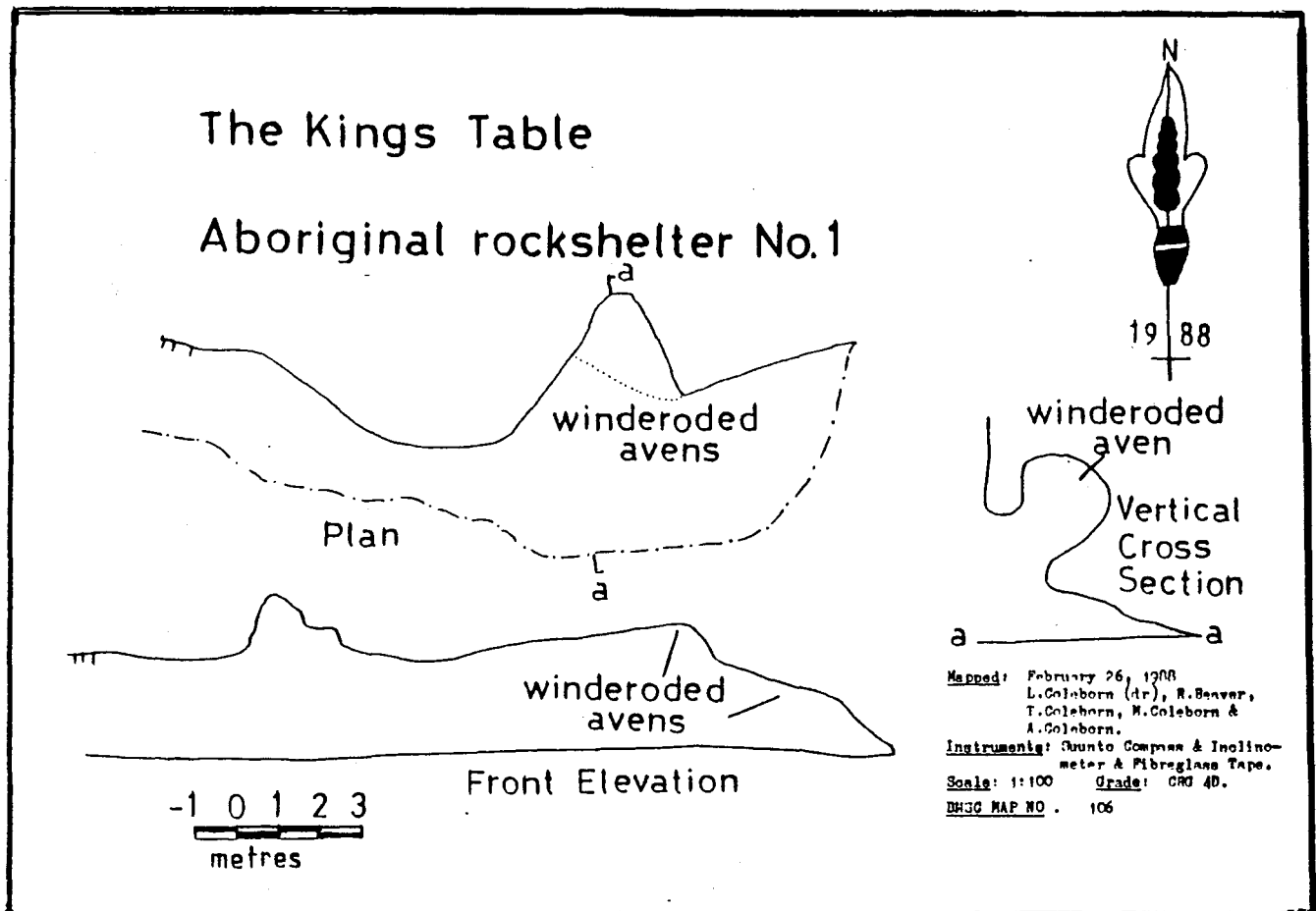
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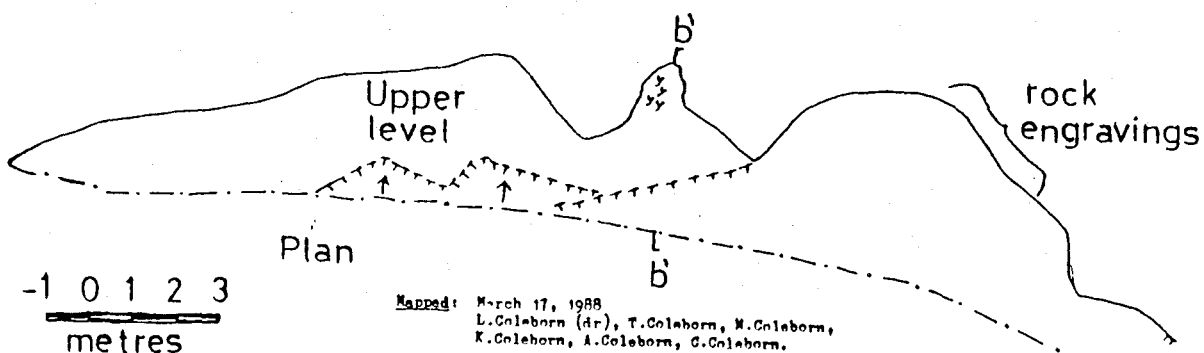
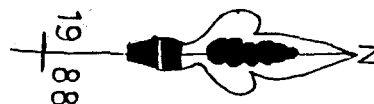
Field Trip to Kings Table Aboriginal Site; 1988: Eugene Stockton.



The Kings Table

Aboriginal rockshelter No.2

Scale 1:100



Mapped: March 17, 1988
L.Coleborn (dr), T.Coleborn, M.Coleborn,
K.Coleborn, A.Coleborn, G.Coleborn.

Instruments: Suunto Compass & Inclinometer and
Fibreglass Tape.

Scale: 1:100 Grade: CHN 40

BKSC MAP NO. 107

The Kings Table

Aboriginal rockshelter No.2

SCALE 1:100

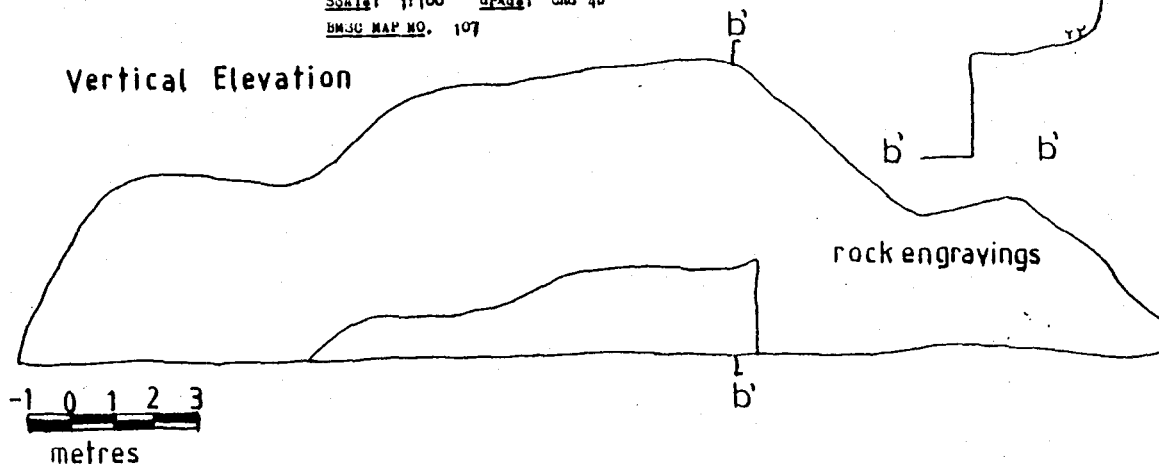
Cross Section

Mapped: March 17, 1988
L.Coleborn (dr), T.Coleborn, M.Coleborn, K.Coleborn,
A.Coleborn, G.Coleborn,

Instruments: Suunto Compass and Inclinometer and Fibreglass
Tape.

Scale: 1:100 Grade: CHN 40

BKSC MAP NO. 107



Caves of the Blue Mts.

PART 10

Fraser Creek

Winmalee

Aboriginal Cave

By Louise Coleborn

This Aboriginal cave is on private property. The cave is situated about 5m above Fraser Creek, Winmalee. It is one of many caves along the low cliff line but is the only one with art in it.

It is a small shelter, only 11m in length and 3m wide. The art is at the south end of the cave on the east wall and consists of fairly large charcoal drawings, the largest of which is approximately a metre in length.

The drawings consist of a kangaroo and joey, a boomerang and another figure which could be a shield or possibly a fish. The art is well preserved.

In the creek below the cave, there is a small pool with some sharpening grooves. It has also been recorded that another cave with art exists at the head of Fraser Creek, but I have not yet located it. The cave is said to have a drawing of a human figure.

The area around the cave is thick bush and there is no actual track from the creek up to the caves although there is a narrow track along the base of the cliff line.

References:

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Map of Fraser Cave; 1989: Blue Mountains Speleological Club.

Book Review

In mid-February JENOLAN: THE GOLDEN AGES OF CAVING. by BASIL RALSTON, a former guide at the Caves, will be published.

'We join with Jerry Wilson, 'Voss' Wiburd and Ron Newbould and their companions in sliding on the seat of our pants, squeezing through rib-busting or crevices and viewing now-familiar cave formations by the light of wax-dripping candles, to unveil this magical underground world.' (Three Sisters Productions Pty Ltd.)

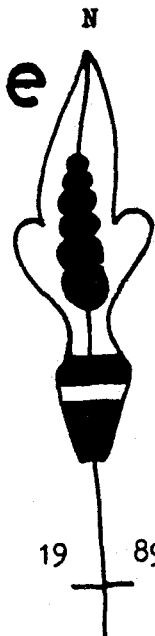
We would like your members to join in this exciting experience. The book should be available at a local book store but if not we would be happy to supply it direct. Copies may be obtained from:

Three Sisters Productions P/L
PO Box 104 Winmalee 2777

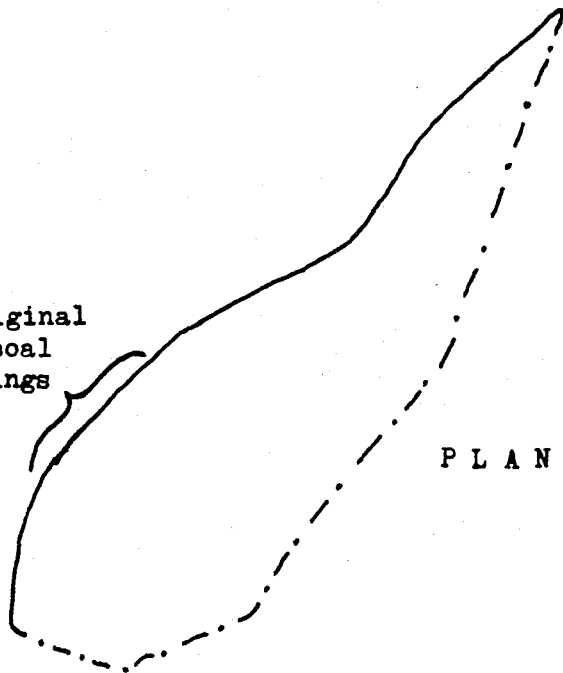
for the recommended retail price of \$9.95. We will pay the postage and packing.

M.J.Baker
Managing Editor

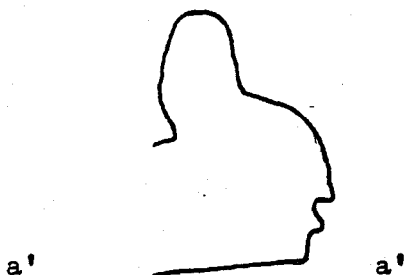
FRASER CREEK Winmalee Aboriginal Shelter



Aboriginal
Charcoal
Drawings



PLAN



VERTICAL CROSS SECTION

Surveyed: 18th January, 1989
L.Coleborn (dr),
C.Coleborn.

Instruments: Suunto Compass & Fibre-
glass tape.

Grade: CRG 4D Scale: 1:100

MAP NO. BMS1 BMSC MAP NO. 114

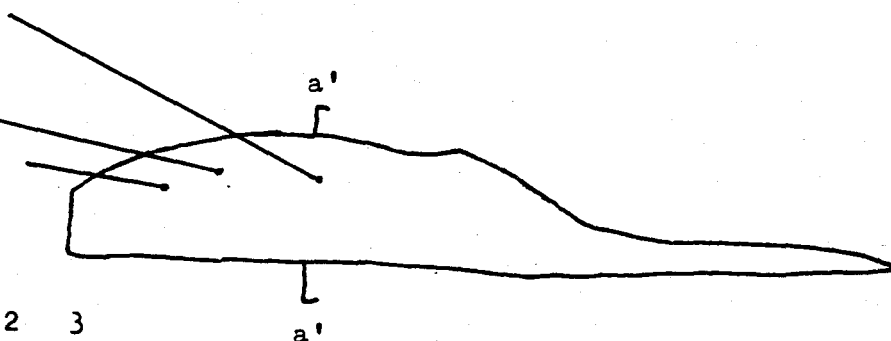
shield or fish

boomerang

kangaroo & joey



METRES



FRONT ELEVATION

Cave Rescue at Timor

On a recent scout training course at Issacs Creek Caves an incident occurred that required quick action in moving a party to the surface. The cave was TR5, Nibelung Cave, and the party an Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*).

A ladder for the 30' pitch was rigged and the first person descended to the first ledge. On looking into the lower section of the pit he saw what he thought was a dead kangaroo, till it moved! Wow! What an exercise I thought. Lucky I've attended a cave rescue weekend, I'll be able to put some of this hauling system and patient management into practice.

Now being very wary of those little things called claws, we assessed the situation and took its photo. The 'roo appeared to be uninjured and a little weak, possible dehydrated but obviously sick of this cave tour! Assistance was sought from camp with a blanket and car luggage net being brought up. A simply hauling system was set up.

To get the 'roo into a position for removal took some care on the part of the two Venturer scouts. It wasn't too impressed with having a blanket thrown over its head but it was soon bundled up in the net and ready to be lifted. It was a simply matter to haul the 'roo straight up the shaft and did he ever look pleased! Once out he gave a little kick and bounce and nearly jumped back down the hole. Now out it was obviously taking time to readjust to the daylight as it didn't bound off but deposited itself in a little rock alcove near the cave entrance. A few logs were thrown over the cave entrance and we departed to leave the 'roo in peace.

Warren Lacey

BMSC NEWS

1. Congratulations to Tim Pearson on his recent marriage.
2. Congratulations to Lachlan Wilson and Rebecca on their recent marriage.
3. Congratulations to new Grand-Parents Barry & Robyn Richard on the birth of their new Grand Son.
4. Well done Greg, the two new books are great.
5. Welcome Graeme Kates to BMSC.
6. Troy Magennis and Louise Coleborn are the 'Cavers of the Year' 1989. Troy for the mammoth effort he put into the Southern Limestone project & Louise for her dedication and devotion to the club.
7. Don't forget January 1991 is our Silver Anniversary (25 Years) and we will be planning a BIG celebration.
8. 'Happy Birthday' Lionel Baker and Ricky Brett!

Archaeologists claim oldest bone

By PETER QUIDDINGTON,
Technology Writer

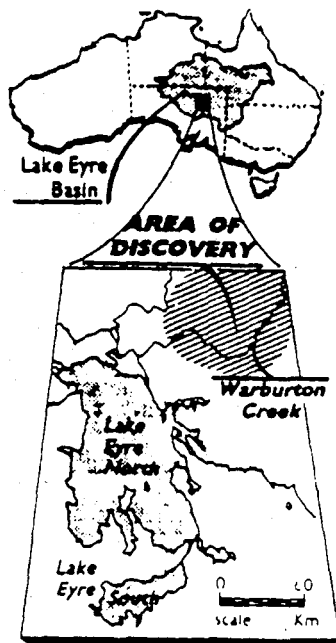
A fragment of a human skull found on an ancient river bed in Central Australia is set to rekindle debate over how the continent was colonised.

Preliminary dating of the fossil, indicating it could be up to 60,000 years old, is prompting claims that it is the oldest known human remain found in Australia.

The discovery, in what is now the arid interior, could lead to a dramatic revision of theories on human migration across Australia, according to the group of archaeologists who made the find.

They say the discovery suggests the early habitation of the Lake Eyre basin, and supports the theory that migration occurred by a flow of people into the central region, later spreading out to the coast along the river systems. The orthodox view is that the process took place in the reverse direction.

The research team, from the



Australian Museum, South Australian Museum and the Australian National University, came

upon the fragment in May during a survey of areas north of Lake Eyre.

The find has been kept under wraps, partly because of growing resistance by the Aboriginal community to the study of early human remains, either in institutions or in the field, and demands for the return and burial of specimens.

The claims are expected to draw strong criticism from other scientists, who believe that a single dating method, and such a small specimen, is insufficient evidence to go on.

Dr Steve Webb, leader of the research team, said from London this week that overseas researchers were advising a cautious approach to the preliminary dating, although he felt it was necessary to alert people to the discovery because of the obvious need for further research in the Lake Eyre basin.

The dating of the bone fragment was done by "chemical matching", a process involving

the comparison of fluorine levels from the past.

Mr Jim Caldwell, a geochemist at ANU, who did the dating, said fluorine levels in the skull fragment were twice those found in the Mungo Man skeletal remains, which date around 40,000 years. He said he believed the skull fragment was the first real evidence of human bone older than the Lake Mungo find.

Mr John Magee, a geologist with the team, noted: "The dating methods give us a relative age."

He said it showed the bone was placed within the same age group as that of large extinct mammals also found at the site, which date from 40,000 to 60,000 years old.

"We have done a number of other tests on other bones at the site, including much younger samples of rabbits and cows, and these suggest that there is no anomaly in the fluorine uptake," he said.

The Sydney Morning Herald

Thursday, November 10, 1988 3

Wednesday, April 30, 1986

Page 9

Tasmanian tiger is back — or is it?

By BOB BEALE,
Science Reporter

Secrecy and conflicting opinions surround claims by a skilled bush tracker that he has proof of a small group of Tasmanian tigers living in the south-west of Western Australia.

A Perth naturalist, Mr Athol Douglas, has described the alleged find as "the single most important wildlife discovery of this century".

But a prominent Sydney zoologist, Dr Ronald Strahan, says he and other experts are "interested, puzzled, but by no means convinced" that the discovery is authentic.

Tasmanian tigers, or thylacines, are generally thought to have disappeared from mainland Australia thousands of years ago. They survived in Tasmania until modern times, the last known wild specimen being captured in 1933 and dying in Hobart Zoo three years later.

But Mr Kevin Cameron, of Girrawheen in Western Australia, claims to have seen a pair alive last January in forest not far from Perth.

Reports of sightings by Mr Cameron first emerged in November 1984, when he said he had colour photographs of a thylacine digging into the base of a burnt-out jarrah tree, its head and forequarters obscured.



A museum specimen of the Tasmanian tiger.

Those intriguing photographs have now been published in the British *New Scientist* magazine, accompanying an article by Mr Douglas, a former senior experimental officer with the Western Australian Museum.

Mr Douglas is convinced that Mr Cameron's photographs and "nearly perfect" casts of thylacine footprints are genuine. He describes Mr Cameron as being of Aboriginal descent and intelligent.

"I find it inconceivable that anyone with his background could possess colour photographs of a thylacine, as well as the casts and

his detailed and exact knowledge of the animal, unless he had actually seen a thylacine.

"Kevin ... says he has seen at least four separate animals on a number of occasions, and that once his dogs bayed he'd up a thylacine on a log. This animal was a female and had a full pouch."

He says Mr Cameron correctly described the animal's drunken gait and the fact that the males were darker than the females. He reported tracking a thylacine hunting feral pigs, and found thylacine footprints around the headless carcass of a kangaroo.

Dr Strahan, a former director of Taronga Zoo and now a zoologist with the Australian Museum in Sydney, said yesterday that Mr Cameron had shown him colour photographic prints but had not told him about the casts.

Although the prints were "very, very suggestive" of a thylacine, they were "not particularly well defined".

Mr Cameron had declined to show him the original transparencies, nor would he allow a computer enhancement to be made. "He gave no reasons, except that he wanted to make money from them."

BUSHRANGERS' BRING BACK GOLD RUSH ERA



— Picture by STEVE HOPKINS

The bushranger is arrested as, from left, Greg Powell, Dave Dlar and Darren Arm'tage stage a Rovent re-inactment.

● By ALANA HOUSE

TAKE heart those of you who think Australia's history is boring, a group called Rovent is out to prove you wrong.

Rovent is made up of members of the Scout Association of Newcastle. They perform re-inactments of the gold rush period of Australian history.

People who have visited the Buttai Barn, near Kurri Kurri, may have had first-hand experience of Rovent. Once a month the group performs a re-inactment as entertainment for diners.

The re-inactments at Buttai Barn aim to show a more light-hearted side to Australia's history. The actors dress in bushranger and trooper costumes and stage shoot-outs on the dance floor.

The air fills with smoke, guns loudly fire blanks and bushrangers and troopers shout threateningly at each other.

After several minutes bushrangers crash to the ground, one by one, wounded and dying.

The troopers always win the mini-battles since, of course, justice must be done.

The performances leave audiences smiling. With a little imagination they can believe, for a few minutes, that they were part of an actual hold-up.

Continued on Page 2.

Rovent 'bushrangers' bring back the gold rush era

Continued from Page 1.

Mr Greg Powell, a coordinator of Rovent, explains that this is exactly the aim of the group.

'We have three basic principles; to educate, to be exciting and to be entertaining,' he said.

'The performances at Buttai are a more humorous side to Rovent, but people are still learning about their history from our costumes and gear.'

'The costumes we use are as authentic as possible,

we take them from photographs and paintings of the time.'

The Rovent group participates in more serious events, such as last weekend at Muswellbrook for the Australia Day celebrations. They gave a historic talk and performed a re-inactment.

'We don't advocate violence, the point is to show that Australia does have an exciting past,' Mr Powell said. 'We show how things were back then.'

Blank ammunition is used in all performances and Rovent actors are licensed to use their guns.

The group has performed at the Newcastle Highland Tattoo, the Newcastle Show, Fort Scratchley, Speers Point Park, schools around New-

castle, Raymond Terrace Historical Society and at various school fetes.

Outside the Newcastle area they have performed at Jenolan Caves and the Ben Hall Festival at Carcoar.

A non-profit organisation, Rovent members receive no payment except a nominal sum for expenses.

The group emphasises their role in raising money for charity. A re-inactment can be staged in which a person is held to ransom by bushrangers. A hat is passed around to spectators, then the bushrangers are accosted by troopers and the money is handed over to charity.

Rovent can be contacted through the Scout Association of Newcastle.

GREG'S NEW BOOK LISTS THE DISTRICT'S WONDERS

There's lots to look into

YOU'VE heard of the seven wonders of the world, but do you know about the Hunter's seven natural wonders?

What they are and their locations are contained in a new book written by author Greg Powell of Valentine.

The book titled *Bushwalks in the Hunter Valley* is more than just a guide to bushwalking routes.

It is a lively and informative book, providing tales of bushwalking and anecdotes of memorable occasions in the Hunter Valley.

Greg's affinity with the bush and its history is evident from his writings and photographs as he takes his readers into the world he loves and of which he never tires.

He specialises in historical walking, researching and retracing the routes of early Australian pioneers, explorers and bushrangers.

An author of note, Greg, a teacher at Warners Bay Primary School, has written several books, including *Bushwalking in the Blue Mountains*, *Ben Hall Country*, *Thunderbolt Country*, *Mad Dan Morgan Country* and *Bushwalking through History - The Blue Mountains*.

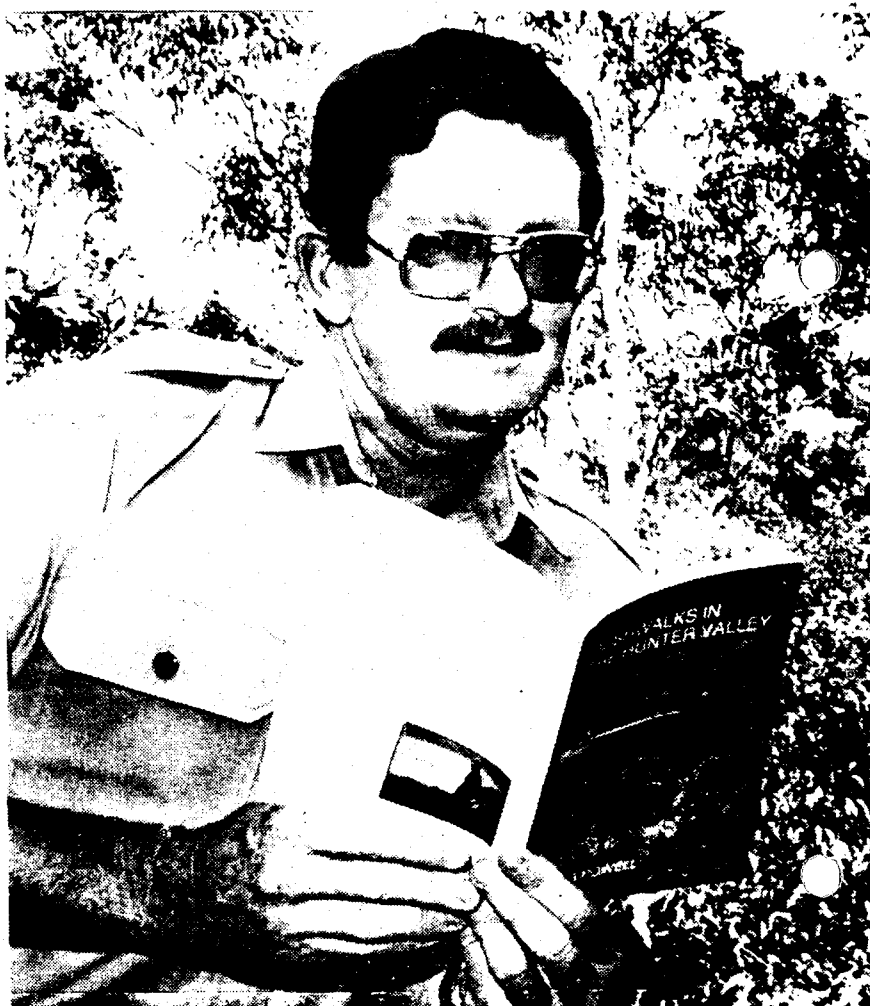
He is currently working on a fourth in the bushranger series about Ned Kelly Country.

Bushwalks in the Hunter Valley contains a wealth of information and ideas for walking with photographs, maps and sketches providing additional insight.

The 21 walks featured in the book range from the Central Coast/Somersby Falls in the south, to Gloucester and Murrumbidgee in the north and the Goulburn River in the west.

They include the Barrington Tops, Munmorah State Recreation Area, the Watagan Mountains, Green Point, the Great North Walk, Tomaree National Park, coastal walks, and the Williams and Paterson Valleys.

The book is available in most local book shops and retailers.



GREG Powell with his book.

BUSHWALKS IN THE HUNTER VALLEY by Greg Powell

More than simply bushwalking routes, this lively and informative book provides tales of bushwalking and anecdotes of memorable occasions in the beautiful Hunter Valley

Greg Powell offers a wealth of information and ideas for walking in this fascinating region, with photographs, maps and sketches providing additional insight. This book will entertain and inspire anyone interested in walking. For those who already know the area, after reading this book you will see familiar places with fresh eyes.

Full colour cover, quality presentation, 160 pages, \$12.95

Top guide for Hunter bushwalkers

Bushwalking Through History
— *The Blue Mountains*;
Bushwalks in the Hunter Valley;
both by Greg Powell; Macstyle
Publishing; \$13.95 and \$12.95.

Review by
DENIS BUTLER

WHEN these two bushwalk books arrived I offered them to the man who more than anyone else in Australia is qualified to review them. Nobody can know New South Wales on foot better than Selby Alley, who was discovering its treasures when the 20th century was just a pup.

Selby regretfully declined, saying that age had caught up with him. But he gave the books, unread, his imprimatur by noting: 'Greg's a good man; he knows his stuff.'

From my far more limited knowledge of bushwalking in the Hunter Region (occasional) and the Blue Mountains (almost never) I can say that Greg Powell deals excellently with his delightful subjects.

The Blue Mountains book offers energetic readers a chance not just to seek out the pleasant and well-known walks of today but to trace the steps of the early white explorers, beginning with Dawes in 1789. Today's bushwalkers can find out what history was really like by tackling country Dawes took three brutal days to cover on that first unsuccessful attempt to penetrate the Blue Mountains.

They can also follow, sometimes with difficulty, the paths of Pater-son, Hacking, Bass, Everingham, Barrallier, Caley and others who, unlike Blaxland and his class of 1813, found the Blue Mountains impenetrable.

south on the Colo River out to the Upper Hunter and north on the coast to Port Stephens.

Those indolent souls (I'm one these days, I confess) who restrict their bushwalking to an occasional shuffle in the Watagans or an easy saunter down Mooney Mooney Creek from Somersby Falls will find many equally simple strolls in this

book. And those who want it tough can take their pick, though once they've read the author's account of a search for Gloucester Falls they mightn't be in too much of a hurry to go off the beaten track on foot.

This is one area where Greg Powell's books deserve commendation. They don't gloss over difficulties. If a section of a bushwalk is likely to be unpleasant, or boring, they say so.

In one area, though, *Bushwalks in the Hunter Valley* could be improved. The author lists his seven pick spots, his seven wonders of the region. But the index misses mentioning most of them, thus leaving the casual reader in the dark about where they are. I imagine that the spectacular cover picture is of the Doyles Creek Arch, but anyone unfamiliar with the Hunter will have to read the whole book to find where Doyles Creek is.

And no, this observation about the index's inadequacy isn't just a nitpick; it's a guide. For if I wanted to make a safe bet, it would be that *Bushwalks in the Hunter Valley* will stay in print for decades. It's top class, and written by a man who has trodden every step of every walk he describes.



SATURDAY MAIL Hunter's bushwalking wonders

Bushwalks in the Hunter Valley is more a general handbook, and an excellent one. Its many walks, well illustrated with maps and photographs, range from the gentle to the arduous, and explore from the

The Newcastle Herald, Saturday, December 2, 1989

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of either of Greg's books they should be available at your local book store.

If you are unable to obtain a copy then there is an order form attached to the end of this journal.

Both Greg's books are informative, but they make enjoyable reading. The books offer the reader a lot of scope for further adventures but in Greg's books the emphasis is always on returning safely.

Louise Coleborn

BUSHWALKING THROUGH HISTORY - THE BLUE MOUNTAINS by Greg Powell

The author describes the routes of the first explorers who tried to find a path over the Blue Mountains. Sketch maps, locality maps and photographs of the region highlight the challenges faced by those early bushwalkers, most of whom were turned back, defeated by rugged cliffs and deep gorges. Follow in their footsteps and enjoy the spectacular natural features and beautiful scenery which has changed little since those early days. In addition to short, scenic walks in the Katoomba area, longer treks can be undertaken into some of the less accessible areas. For the more adventurous, there are walks in the upper reaches of the Kowmung River or cliff-climbing and abseiling in the gorge and canyon systems.

Full colour cover, quality presentation, 192 pages, \$13.95

SO YOU THINK YOU ARE A GOOD CAVER ?

(Reprint Oolite Vol.6 Nos. 1-3)

By Ian Bogg

Then try this quick quiz on terminology,

be honest with yourself - no cheating.

Fill in the missing words - easy, simple and quick, no time limit.

1. A natural cavity in a rock large enough to be entered by man is called a _____.
2. The exploration, description and scientific study of caves is known as _____.
3. The entering and exploration of caves is called _____.
4. A person directing the activities of a caving party is called the _____.
5. A _____ is a very large chamber within a cave.
6. The uncontrollable fear of being in a confined space is referred to as _____.
7. A _____ is an excavation made to discover or extend a cave.
8. A _____ is a passage which is wide and so low that movement is possible in a prone position only.
9. A sedimentary rock consisting mainly of calcium carbonate is _____.
10. A speleothem hanging downwards from the roof of a cave is a _____.
11. A small irregular formation projecting at an angle other than the vertical is a _____.
12. An irregular opening through a thin rock wall is called a _____.

HOW DID YOU GO ?

EASY - THEY DID NOT REALLY TEST MY

INTEL LECTU AL CAPABILITIES !

OH ?, THEN TRY THIS LOT.

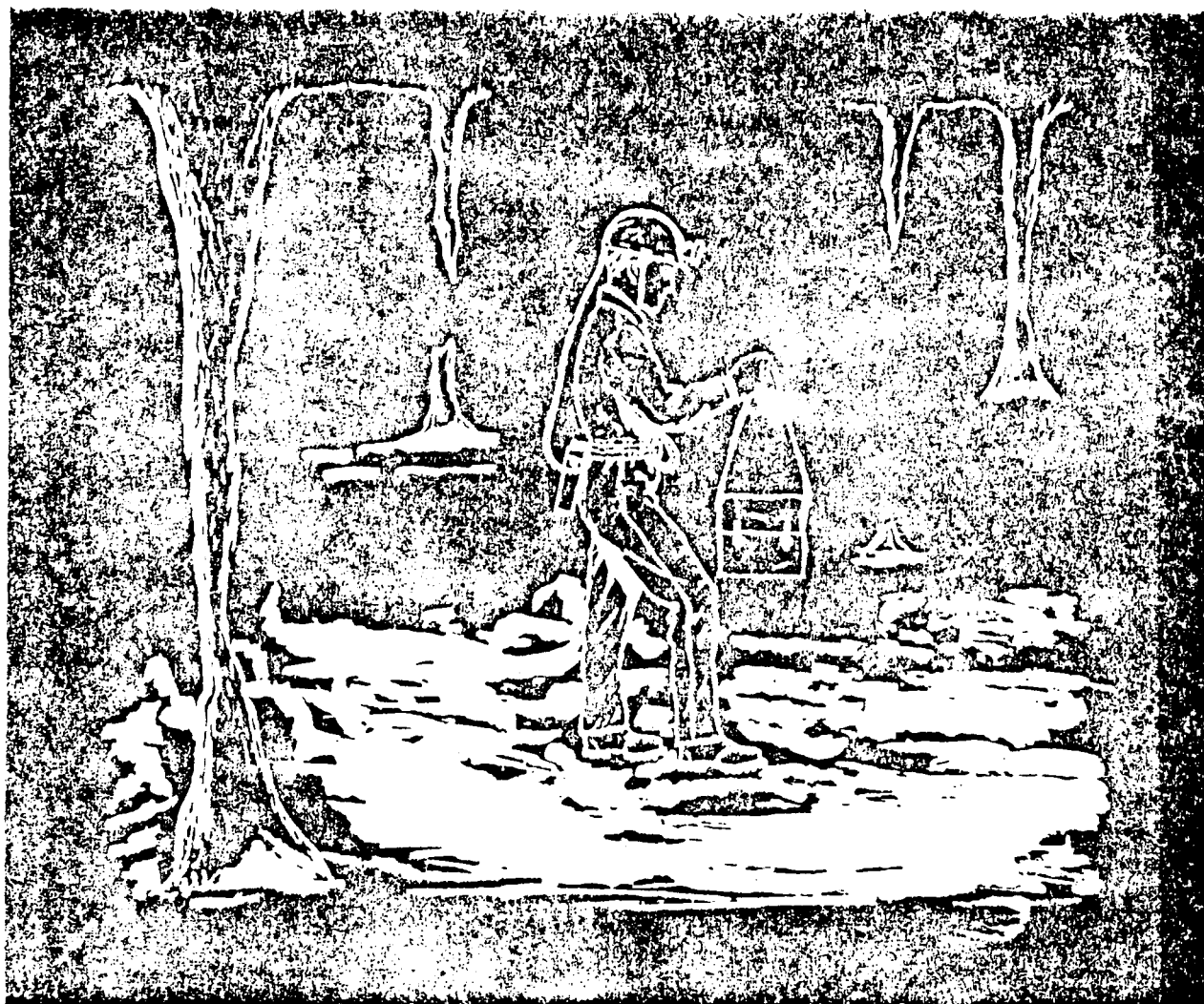
13. Limestone recrystallised and hardened by heat is _____.
14. A rare crystalline form of CaCO_3 , which is heavier and orthorhombic is _____.
15. Terrain with special landforms and drainage characteristics due to greater solubility of certain rocks in natural water is commonly referred to as _____.
16. _____ is hydrated calcium sulphate.
17. _____ is a soft plastic speleothem consisting of calcite, hydrocalcite, hydromagnesite or huntite.
18. The _____ zone is where voids in the rock are partially filled with air, through which water descends under gravity.
19. A _____ is an animal living permanently in the hypogean domain, but also living permanently as an andogean or epigean in the same region.
20. The slope of a bed with a horizontal line in the same direction is called the _____.
21. _____ are small, rather regular spaced asymmetrical hollows formed by turbulent water.
22. _____ is a complex of irregular, interconnecting cavities with intricate perforations of the rock.
23. The network of tubes or half tubes is called _____.
24. The oldest speleological Club/ Society within Australia still in existence is the _____ which was formed in _____.

HOW DID YOU GO ? -

You didn't get all the answers - YOU DIDN'T ?

Hell man, then for your edification, you had better turn to page 17 quickly, you are in need of some urgent assistance.

TRIP REPORTS.



UNLESS THE AUTHOR OF A TRIP REPORT IS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED,
AUTHORSHIP MAY BE ASCRIBED TO THE TRIP LEADER.

Wisemans Ferry Aboriginal Sites

Date of Trip:- 19th February, 1989

Members Present:- Louise Coleborn (T.L.), Terry Coleborn, Graeme & Jessie White.

Report:-

We met at McGraths Hill and then proceeded on to Wisemans Ferry. Where we visited the following sites.

(1) Lily Pond - Old Northern Road:

Around the small pools of water are several sharpening grooves.

(2) Devils Rock Site - Maroota. (This site requires a permit from the NP&WS. First we photographed the engravings, which are located about 100m from the fence enclosure.

The main engraving is located on the northern end of the outcrop and is of an ancestral being, which probably gave the site its name (Devil Rock). This figure is 4m tall and is identical to the great All-Father Hero, Baiami, of the SE Australian tribes.

The next engraving is of an emu 3m tall with a clutch of eleven eggs. At the opposite end of the rock is another devil figure believed to represent Daramulan (the son of Baiami) with his shield and totem, the emu.

The presence of both hero figures demonstrates the sites immense importance. Aborigines living in the Maroota area are said to have avoided this area known as (Debbil Debbil Rock).

Other engravings include a series of weapons (Boomerangs, shields, a sword and clubs), a fish, kangaroos and a dotted line linking the ancestral beings.

One kilometre north west of this site is a small shelter cave with paintings and stencils. The paintings are made from yellow and red ochre (which is obtainable as iron oxide in the Hawkesbury sandstone), charcoal and white pipe clay.

The most impressive art in the cave are the stencils of the weapons done in white pipe clay. These include a stone axe, boomerang and a small fishing spear. We surveyed the cave and the map will appear with this report when published.

(3) South Maroota Site:

This site is located beside the Old Northern Road about 2.8 km from Windsor - Castlehill intersection. The engravings are smaller than the previous site:- There is a Baiami, emu, kangaroo and other indeterminate figures.

Lunch was had at Wisemans Ferry, then we crossed the Hawkesbury River by Funt and then headed towards St Albans.

(4) McDonalds River Cave:-

This cave is situated one kilometre past the old cemetery beside the river on the uphill side of the road. There is a charcoal drawing of a man, other miscellaneous drawings in charcoal and white, numerous hand stencils and a large white star shape.

From St Albans we crossed the Macdonald River and returned to Wisemans Ferry via the Webb Creek Road. A short detour was made out along the ridge to photograph the ' segmented kangaroo '.

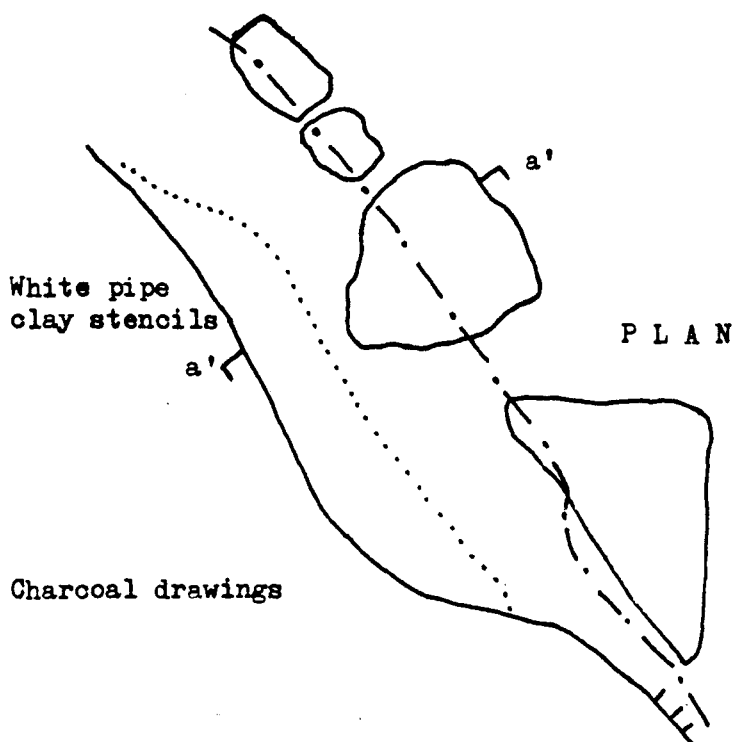
(5) Macdonalds River Site 2(SIM):

This site is situated on the eastern side of the fire trail, which traverses the main ridge. On the northern end is a shield and some 'emu foot ' markings. The southern end is dominated by two large kangaroos 3.3m long. The northern one is divided into twenty two sections and there are twenty one puncture marks, mostly concentrated around the neck and head. Between

DEVIL'S ROCK

A BORIGINAL SHELTER

MAROOKA



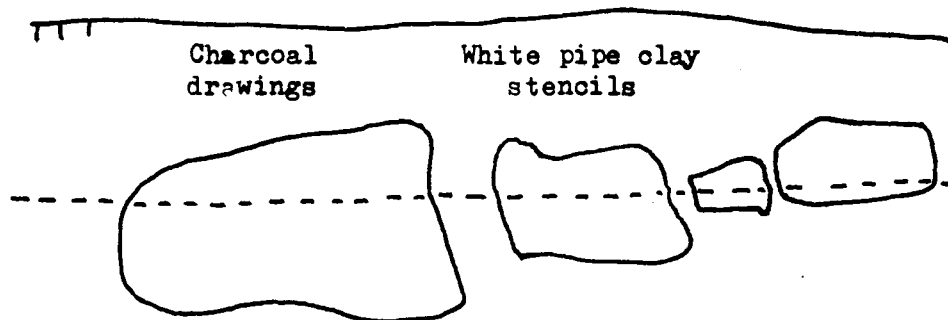
Surveyed: 19th February, 1989
Blue Mts. Speleo Club
L.Coleborn (dr).

Instruments: Suunto Compass and
Inclinometer with Fibre-
Glass Tape.

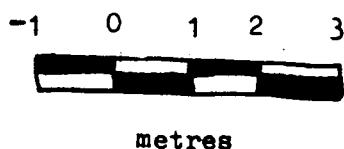
Grade: CRG 4D Scale: 1:100
BMSC MAP NO. 115 MAP NO. BMS1.



VERTICAL CROSS SECTION



FRONT ELEVATION



the two kangaroos there are two smaller kangaroos or wallabies. The tail of the lower kangaroo crosses a figure of a man.

(6) Webbs Creek Cave:

This was the last site visited. It is situated on the left of the Webbs Creek Road just before the large bridge to the castle and is about 50m from the road. It is a large open cave with scattered stencils in cream coloured ochre or clay. There are stencils of hands, a small stone axe and a hand with two fingers missing.

References:

SIM, I.M.; Rock Engravings of the Macdonald River District NSW; 1966:
Occ. Pap. in Aboriginal Studies No. 7:

McCARTHY, Fredrick; Records of the Australian Museum Vol. XXIV No. 14; 1959:
"Rock Engravings of the Sydney Hawkesbury District."

* * * * *

Wyanbene

Date of Trip:- 10th - 12th June, 1989

Members Present:- Dave Noble (T.L.), Kevin Coleborn, Len Baker, Tony Zimmerman, Lachlan Wilson, Stewart Driver, Troy Magennis Cheryl Coleborn.

Visitors:- Martin and Rebecca.

Report:-

Dave, Kevin and Len arrived early Friday night. Kevin and Dave set up the equipment to Frustration Lake in only two hours. Troy, Martin and myself arrived later that night and the others arrived sometime on Saturday.

Saturday morning, Dave, Kevin, Len, Martin and myself went to Frustration Lake with a short detour to the Gunbarrel. We spent six hours in the cave.

Sunday we went to the Big Hole and Kevin, Dave, Lachlan and Stewart abseiled in, while the rest of us watched.

Sunday afternoon we all went in different directions; some home, some to Kosciusko and some to Mt. Selwyn.

Reported by Cheryl Coleborn

* * * * *

Cliefden

OBSERVATION TRIAL

Date of Trip:- 1st - 2nd July, 1989

Members Present:- T.Ellis & T.Magennis (T.L.), T&L Coleborn & Family, C.Coleborn, K.Coleborn, R.Brett, C.Tunks, T.Zimmerman, G.Cook, D.Zammitt.

Visitors:- G.Coleborn, K.Cox (2), Magennis Family, G.Kraushaar, S. Myer & S.Marsh

Report:-

The car observation trial went off well and those who took part had an enjoyable weekend. It got underway from Katoomba at about 8.15am on a crisp but fine morning.

Ten cars and about twenty or so people were involved and the first leg took them almost to Hampton via a circuitous route with a few cars going the wrong way a few times and some of the clues a bit hard to find and others a little hard to understand.

The second leg led to Bathurst with a break for lunch and some more confusion occurred along the way.

After the break the third leg wound its way to a nice little town called Newbridge to the west of Bathurst. Everybody was getting the hang of it by now and it went a little easier and most teams put in a better result on this section. Leg four was more direct but the clues must have been more cryptic, judging from the remarks made later.

The finish was at Mandurama near the shop and all the contestants arrived before dark complaining about the sunset, which made the last few kilometres a bit uncomfortable, with the sun shining in the drivers eyes.

Everybody went on to Cliefden for tea and the marking of the answer sheets. After the post mortem, slides and prints of the clues were shown and also some slides of Tassie and Jenolan Caves were shown. Most of us then drifted off to bed but some sat by the fire until quite late (so I was told).

After breakfast, Speleo Sports was the go! With a crawl through some funny formations under a landcruiser and a plastic, soapy flowstone, then mapping a cave after taking out a bucket of rubbish, (Tetanus), and then pushing a car a few miles! All in full caving gear.

Tony Zimmerman proved to be the hero of this ordeal. The most entertaining was Ricky Brett. And the most gutsy performance went to Michelle Coleborn, who was a close runner up.

Car Trial Results:

1. Greg Kraushaar	76	5. Kevin Coleborn/ Dave Noble	69.5
2. Rick Brett	74	6. Mr Magennis	68.5
3. Dave Zammit	73	7. Stuart Myer	67
4. Scott Marsh	71	8. Terry Coleborn	57
5. Gary Coleborn	69.5	9. Greg Cook	55

* * * * *

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE A GOOD CAVER EH !

Oh ! you thought you could save time ?

Then why turn to this page ?

SORRY about that.

No b——y answers - at least
-not here.

PS.

The club librarian is only too willing to grant you access to the most comprehensive and extensive speleological library that is to be found on the mountains.

You could then search for the answers yourself,

COULDN'T YOU Mmmmmmmh ?

Southern Limestone Jenolan

Over the past twelve months BMSC have started to get serious about documenting the Southern Limestone.

To start with, what we needed to know was the location of all the tagged features in the area. This is easier said than done, because documentation for the Southern Limestone is vague and scarce to say the least. Following leads and trip reports from other clubs and societies, only seven locations out of the fifty three tagged caves still remain unknown.

Set out below are the trip reports for the year for the Southern Limestone Area:-

15th April, 1989:-

Setting out from No. 3 carpark the party followed the track south for 300m. A small, horizontal, half moon shaped, entrance could be seen low on the opposite side of the creek. This entrance is very obvious from the track and is tagged J275. The cave has various names. The guides know it as 'Penny Farthing Cave' but SUSS know it as 'Hobbit Hole' (TR SUSS Bull. 34(3):74).

From this point we climbed the steep hill and followed the ridge to a large collapse, situated on the top of the hill above the first creek junction. Dropping straight down J23 Bottomless Pit was encountered. From J23 the party dropped to creek level and followed the main creek bed south past Heffalump Trap. Then continued up to Split Rock to do some digging. The breeze issuing from this cave is still EXTREMELY strong.

Returning to the area high above the second creek junction on Sunday, two tagged caves were noted, J279 & J277. J279 has been known for many years and is traditionally known to the guides and BMSC as Shaft Cave. However, when it was tagged by SUSS in 1984 they named it 'Crackpot' (SUSS Bull. TR. 23(3):74). J277 Photon Cave is about 10m lower and 20m north of Crackpot (SUSS Bull. TR. 23(3):74).

Dropping down to the creek junction J282 a nettle filled doline was observed, (SUSS Bull. TR. 23(3):74). Also noted was J46 Goats Head Cave, (ISS traditional name). It is at creek level following the western tributary.

14th May, 1989:-

The party made their way south, rejoining at the second creek junction. At this point Dave Noble, Kevin Coleborn and myself dug a small hole just below J282, possibly making a connection. The dig proved to be 4m long entirely in dirt, (mostly dug by a wombat). From this point the party split up and searched the area between the second creek junction and Cookes Cave (J291) at the base of a small cliff. Some of the party then entered Cookes Cave and photographed the E.Cooke signature.

22nd July, 1989:-

This trip was organised so that Ernie Holland could show us what he knew about the Southern Limestone. Making our way to the top of the hill just south of No. 3 carpark we followed the ridge around to the large boulder collapse. At the same height, just to the south, at the base of a 3m cliff, above a grassy slope, a small untagged cave was shown to me, it was blowing out extremely hot air.

Dropping to creek level and following Camp Creek south, Heffalump Trap was admired. Heading up from this point Split Rock was encountered. Ernie showed me the location of J274, this cave contains the signature of Vic Ebberton and would not be found by the description in the cave tagging book. From here we traversed around the hill to the Shaft Cave area, where J278 was noted. J278 is half way up a 10m cliff, directly below Shaft Cave J279, above the second creek junction.

At this point we moved to the next bluff south and examined a fresh 4m earth collapse close to the top of the hill, discovered by Ernie approximately two months before. We then moved down the hill and slightly south to Cookes Cave J291, where we entered to examine the prospects. Returning north Ernie was shown the possible dig found the previous trip, commenting that the prospects were good. Heading back over the hill overlooking No. 3 carpark (above the breach) J296 Vic's Pot was shown to me, (SUSS Bull. TR. 24(3):74).

23rd July, 1989:-

Retracing the steps of the previous day this time with a large party, progress was extremely slow. However, a discovery was made in the third bluff, higher and about 60m north of Cookes Cave J291. The cave proved to be a low cave with 10m of passage. Extremely warm air was issuing from the cave, which was very welcomed. On the return trip Shaft Cave could be seen steaming.

12th - 13th August, 1989:-

Having a poor response to a Jenolan Southern Limestone only trip, Troy and Greg followed the Lucas Rocks track south, around and up to the Lucas Rocks area, passing J290 Winch Cave on route. From here we separated and searched without significant success the area south and below to the east of the higher point. The terrain in this area is extremely steep, if you slip it would be a quick 100m fall onto the rocks below.

Luckily, Sunday there was a greater showing and the group set off to find the Southern Limestone Traverse Tags, placed in 1977 by members of SUSS. Tags 4S to tag 14S were eventually located, but it seems that tag 3S, which should be located at the drain entrance has been cemented over.

J270 Gibber Cave (SUSS Bull. TR. 17(1):27) was located on the next bluff, 40m past the first creek junction on the eastern bank approximately 20m above creek level.

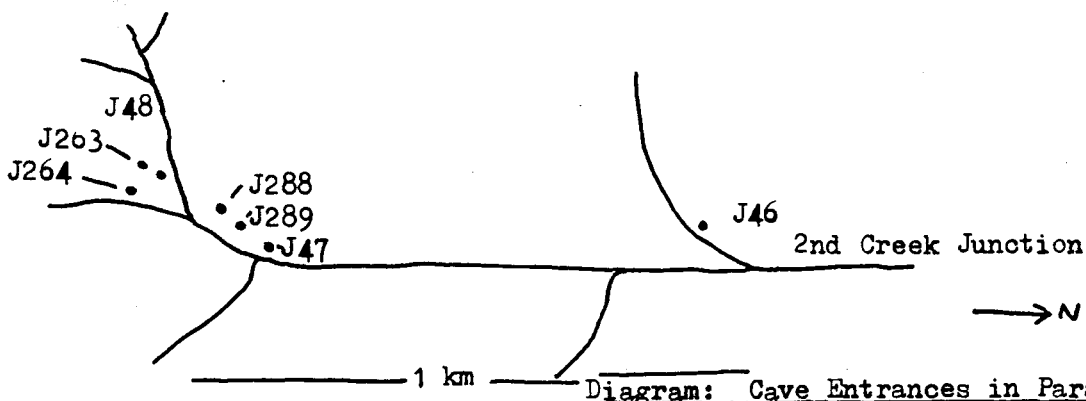
J268, J269 (SUSS Bull. TR. 15(8):176) was located by Tony Zimmerman across the creek from Gibber Cave on a bearing of 80° magnetic from J270 entrance tag.

9th - 10th September, 1989:-

Once again with only two starters on Saturday Troy and Greg headed towards the Southern Limestone. Our aim was to find entrances in the Paradox area, that is located at the far end of the valley. Some entrance tags were roughly tied in to the SL Traverse, using a Suunto Compass, these included J46, J275, J270 and J23.

The tagged caves found in the Paradox area include:-

- J47 The Southern Limestone Spring.
- J48 Paradox Cave (NB. This cave is strickly off limits).
- J288 - J289 Funnel Web Cave.
- J263 5m directly above Paradox Cave entrance.
- J264 On the southern side of the Paradox Bluff.



Sunday with some more help arriving in the form of the Coleborns. The party set off to resurvey the Southern Limestone Traverse. The creek obviously wasn't as overgrown when the original survey was completed by SUSS in 1977.

Using a tripod mounted Forestry Compass and Fibreglass tape the present stations were resurveyed in about five hours. The traverse was then continued with two other stations being added (15S and 16S) details to be published at a later date.

A lot of work needs to be done if this traverse is going to reach Paradox and have all the Southern Limestone caves tied in to it.

30th September, 1989:-

Saturday was organised to be a combined tagging and photo-tagging trip with Troy and three members of SSS (John Bonwick, Simon Bland and Russel Bridge).

Eight features were tagged and photo-tagged with another three entrances also being photo-tagged. Below is a list of the caves and a short description as entered in the cave tagging book by John.

J294:

This cave has a triangular entrance about 0.5m high with approx. 3m of tight horizontal passage. This cave was breathing out. It is located at the top of a steep, grassy slope with small outcrops of rock about and is 10m higher than J23 Bottomless Pit and slightly to the west overlooking first tributary creek.

J295:

This feature is a large rift with collapsed rock at the bottom. Approx. 15m long and 9m deep. A small through cave leads off the back at the deep end. The tag is also at the deep end. This is located at the highest point above the first creek junction.

J296:

A dig at the base of a small 4m cliff, approx. 8m above main creek level. A small hole about 1.5m to the left gives a vertical view (not accessible). This tag is located about 80m upstream of the first major creek tributary junction.

J297: Heffalump Trap:

A deep collapsed pit approx. 8m deep, 4m west of the main creek bed located next to the 14S SL. Traverse tag. J297 Tag is on a rock 1m from the edge of the pit.

J298:

The entrance is approx. 0.5m diameter in rocks (dug out). The cave is mostly horizontal passage leading to a chamber. Very dry and dusty. Location (approx. 200m) upstream of the second major tributary on the western side of the main creek approx. 3/4 of the way up the hill.

J299:

Small dig about 1m deep. Obvious solution development. At the base of a small outcrop 15m south and 5m higher than J298.

J305:

A fresh soil collapse surrounded by rock about 4m deep with an entrance diameter of 2m. First reported by Ernie Holland in May, 1989. Located 15m directly above J299.

J306:

Entrance 0.3m wide and 1m high with horizontal passage. Located in a rock outcrop about 30m above the roadway, slightly north of the old quarry. 5m higher and 3m north of J267 Midden Cave. First entered 11 Sept. 1989 by Greg Cook.

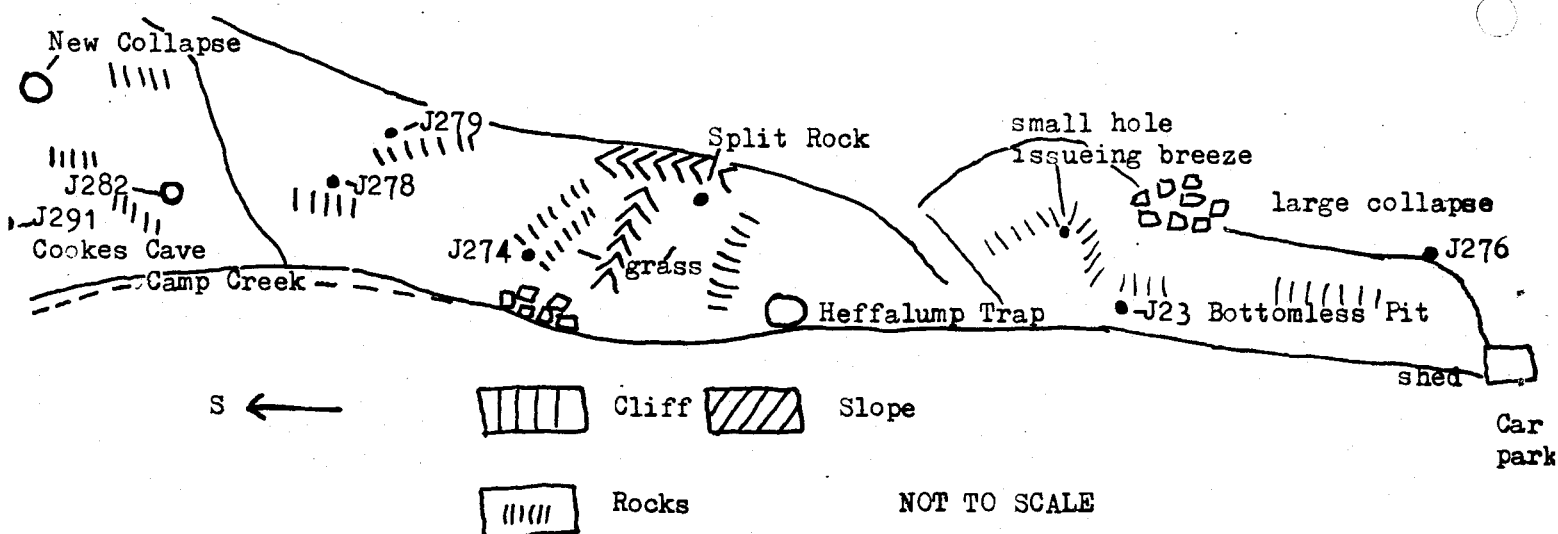


DIAGRAM: Location of Caves in the Southern Limestone Photo-tagged Sept. 30, 1989

1st - 2nd October, 1989:-

Luckily for the Coleborns turning up Troy did not have to battle the Southern Limestone alone. In 1969-70 members of BMSC entered a cave in the Southern Limestone that was named Camp Creek Cave (Oolite 1(1):22-23 and Oolite 2(3):31). This cave contained signatures of S.Sealy and E.Cook and V.Wiburd 11.1.98. The description that was published about the location of this cave was very vague.

In 1987 a cave was located by BMSC and was tagged J291 Cookes Cave. The cave contains a signature E.Cooke 11.1.9? (Oolite TR. June, 20th 1987). The descriptions to both caves location and features are similar but some doubt still exists if they are the same cave.

After some research of unpublished Trip Reports, Troy uncovered two Grid References to Camp Creek Cave. After plotting both G.R's on the Jenolan 2" - 1 mile sheet, we discovered that the two references were a kilometer apart with one of them in the location of J291 Cookes Cave.

We immediately set out to search the other area. After four hours of unsuccessful searching we called it quits for the day and turned our efforts to finding J292 Cow Pat Cave. This was also unsuccessful. So the mystery of Camp Creek Cave still continues!

On Monday, being alone Troy searched the area above the No. 3 carpark for entrances. Also roughly tying in known tags for easier relocation. I also spoke to Bill Richie about the history of J151 Coronet Cave. He showed me the approx. location of its entrance.

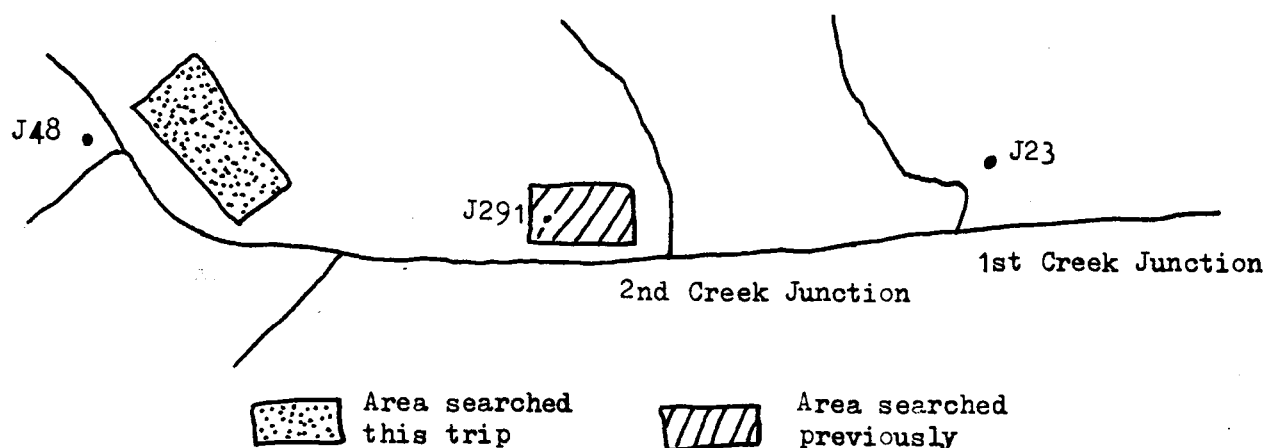


DIAGRAM: The Search for Camp Creek Cave.

21st -22nd October, 1989:

Most of Saturday was spent surface surveying from one of the Show Cave survey markers to the existing 4S Southern Limestone Traverse Tag. A permanent Survey Station was placed and called BMSC2.

BMSC2 is on a rock on the western side of the creek, level with the entrance to the drain. Its height is the same as the first landing of the steps rising to the Seismograph Station. The rest of the day was spent searching for the entrance to J151 Coronet Cave.

On Sunday the group entered J151. This cave is extremely delicate and well decorated. I suspect the only thing saving this cave from destruction is that its location is not widely known. No ladders are required for this cave, however, two handlines (10m) are essential.

The afternoon was spent tying entrances J276 Midden Cave and J306 to the traverse. Midden Cave was also entered and explored.

11th - 12th November, 1989:

The morning was spent looking for the J271, J272 and J273 entrances. This search was unsuccessful, mainly due to the consistent rain, making the grassy slope and rocks very slippery. It was decided to survey the cave discovered 23rd July, 1989 now tagged and called 'Warm Cave'.

J305 the new collapse, J291 Cookes Cave, J279 Shaft Cave and Photon Cave were visited.

With the weather clearing it was decided to spend Sunday on the eastern side of Lucas Rocks above the Blue Pool. I was especially interested in finding a cave reported to me by Mr B. Ralston and Mr R. Newbould, containing formations like 'knitting needles'.

After following the base of the cliff around from Grand Arch a small hole was found fitting the description. However, none of the party felt silly enough to attempt the climb. Moving south slightly we climbed almost to the top traversing north at the base of the second cliff line. It was here that J149 was found. J149 consists of one 5m x 6m x 3m chamber and slightly to the left of this entrance is a walk-through trip. There were many signatures contained in the chamber (listed below). Further north of this is J148 the old Lucas Cave Entrance, (entering through the Sole of the Boot). This is a very large Arch entrance and JC Wiburd's signature is in a lead next to the gate. Entrance to the Lucas Cave through this way is only possible with a key.

Signatures

Big Red	FW	DV	TM
1/9/21	1973	BC	1940
		1949	

2nd - 3rd December, 1989

After much deliberation on a course of action for the day we set off from the No. 3 carpark and headed up onto Lucas Rocks. The aim was to check out a hole on the eastern side made mention of by Ron Newbould. Visited J148 Old Lucas Entrance and Signature Cave before rigging an abseil to find this hole. Brad entered the hole some 5' and it was tight. Entry and exit of this hole was made whilst perched precariously in a narrow joint. Was this Newbould's hole?

During the afternoon we set about to locate J266 a short distance above J267 Midden Cave. Peter located the hole, overgrown with grass at the base of a small wattle. The ladders were rigged and I descended. After the initial small entrance section the cave quickly opens out into long, deep rift chamber some 15-20m long and 20-25m deep. The pitch is free hanging for about 8-10m and the bottom rests against dry flowstone. Down the length of the rift are long shawls. At the bottom is a flat floored chamber. Signatures on the wall are of JC Wiburd, J.C. Edwards 7/12/03; Joe Luchetti; J. Batcheldore, G.J. Cunyngham(e) 4/10/04 and Larry Baker, Ron Newbould 2nd September, 1965. There is also a complete wallaby skeleton.

On Sunday we walked up Camp Creek checking out a survey line. At the creek sink near J282 we began searching for J281 Chomp Cave and J280 Interference Cave. It wasn't long before Peter found Chomp Cave hiding in the grass, out of which quite a strong breeze was blowing. Greg entered Chomp, sliding slowly and carefully down and along the rift. He entered some 10m or so till it became too constricted but could see it still going down at least another 5m. On the way out he managed to drop a drill bit.

Some 3m below Chomp a small excavation revealed a cave. This to had a small breeze blowing out and its close proximity to Chomp would indicate a connection. This cave, tentatively named Chump, is about 6-7m long and 2-3m deep and is a bit unstable with a few loose rocks.

During the afternoon we trogged Block 4 south from J298 Warm Cave and J305 Honey Pot. Only one hole of significance high up near the Shattered Bluff. Is this J292? Still to find - the original BMSC Camp Creek Cave?

So ended another useful weekend in the Southern Limestone!

December Report by Warren Lacey

Thanks to the following for their support in 1989:-

Troy Magennis	Graeme Kates	Russel Bridge	Dave Zammit
Greg Cook	Alex Hay	John Bonwick	Doug Tayler
Terry Coleborn	Darren Armitage	Simon Bland	Graeme White
Louise Coleborn	John Pinkavitch	Ernst Holland	Janien Floyd
Cheryl Coleborn	Chris Wharton	Kevin Coleborn	Dave Noble
Ricky Brett	Brad Papworth	Warren Lacey	Carolyn Brett
Peter Cook	Martin Brett	Tony Zimmerman	Casio Azze (Brazil)

TROY MAGENNIS

AREA CO-ORDINATOR

Anyone with any information on Southern Limestone could you please contact Troy Magennis - 46 Robertson Street, Merrylands. 2160 (02-6323258). He would love to hear from you, especially members from other clubs who have carried out work in the Southern Limestone.

Anyone who would like to help Troy with the mammoth task of documenting the Southern Limestone, don't hesitate in giving Troy a call.

If you can help here are some of the permit dates:-

16th -17th March, 1990

21st -22nd April, 1990

19th - 20th May, 1990

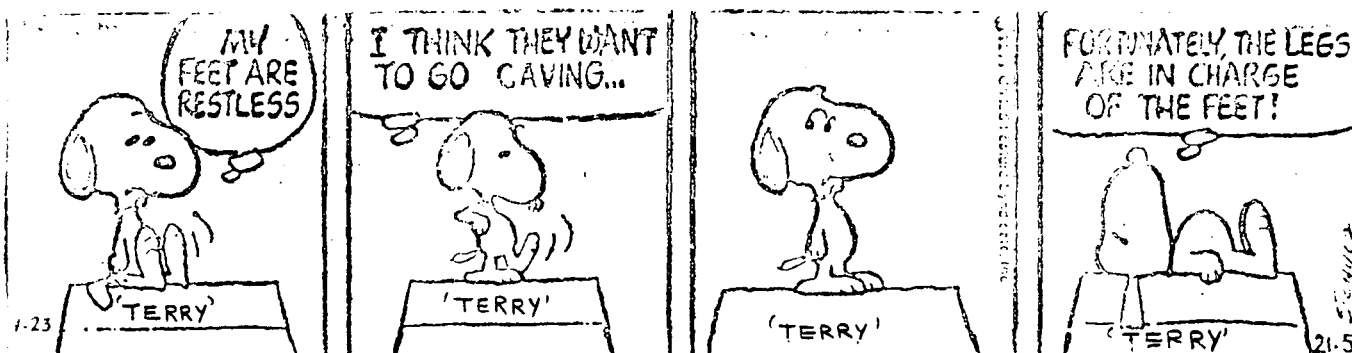
16th - 17th June, 1990

21st -22nd July, 1990

18th - 19th August, 1990

COME HAVE AN ENJOYABLE WEEKEND. BRING A PICNIC LUNCH TO ENJOY ON THE GRASSY BANKS OF THE CRYSTAL CLEAR CREEK. SPEND THE DAY CLAWING YOUR WAY UP STEEP SLOPES! FIGHT OFF GIANT WOMBATS! SHARE THE SLOPES WITH HUGE BROWN SNAKES AND THE CAVES WITH FUNNEL WEBS! NO QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED BUT IT HELPS TO BE A LITTLE CRAZY!

RING TROY.



Cleaning Barralong Cave

Date of Trip:- 21st January, 1990.

Present:- Troy Magennis, Ernst Holland, John Bonwick, Robert Lindsay, Basil Ralston, Michael Ralston.

Report:-

Entering Binoomea Cut at 9.45am we made our way to, and headed past the Grand Column towards the Red and White Temple, collecting all rubbish enroute.

Entry to the Barralong is high on the left at the bottom of the last set of steps before the Red and White Temple.

After Robert returned from the Guides Office with a key for the gate, we all headed on to Marky's Cavern. This Cavern was known in JC Wiburds time and appears on Trickett's maps. This is where Ron Newbould and John Cully had the good fortune of finding a way through the rockfall to the first streamway and Barralong. Bill Marks was unfortunate because he had been digging in the far corner of this chamber for sometime, inching his way towards the Barralong Cave. (It is possible JC Wiburd also dug here!) This is as far as Basil and his son went as they were still tired from the previous day in the Red Cave. (Not bad for 69 years!)

It is this first streamway, that gave the cave its name. A side stream joins the main streamway, hence, the Aboriginal name 'Barralong' which means - Meeting of the Waters - .

From this point a tight rockfall is followed until the passages open out. This is where the formation begins. Barralong Cave contains extensive arrays of helictites and aragonite crystals. Brightly coloured, orange flowstone covers the walls and you find yourself treading carefully in rimstone pools on the floor. Long, white straws and columns cover the rest of the areas that are left.

We passed the 'Masterpiece' formation, that lay shattered on the floor, the victim of a mindless accident. However, too much time could not be spent admiring the formation, we had a job to do; cleaning the cave.

In 1964-5 Basil Ralston ran power cable from the switchboard at the Grand Column through almost the entire cave, electrically lighting it. Some of this cable and light fittings still remained and was removed as well as other pieces of historical interest.

After dropping down a handline assisted climb, we found ourselves at the main streamway. It was here that we found the original scaling pole (also built by Basil) that John Cully used to enter a high level lead across the deep lake from here. He used an old tractor tube to float across and assemble the pole with a ladder attached to the top. The scaling pole was carefully disassembled by John with the aid of a hammer found in the corner and also removed. They are now in the care of J.C.H.A.P.S.

We then made our way out of the cave struggling with the poles and bags of rubbish.

Exited Binoomea Cut approximately 1.45pm.

Trip report for the Red Cave to be written by Basil for SSS Journal.

Troy Magennis

Our President Elect always keeps
in touch with our Rank & File Members.

RICKY BRETT



Our Secretary Devotes many hours
to great Volumes of Correspondence.

LEN BAKER

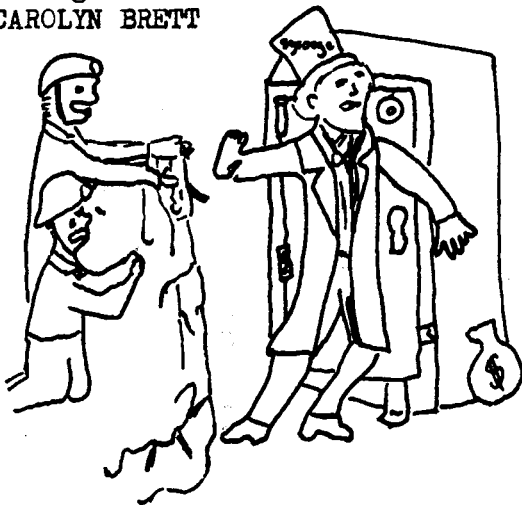


Our Safety Officer will
be allowed to receive
visitors next week.

RICKY BRETT

As we are not a wealthy Club
Our Treasurer Scrupulously Guards
astage of Club Funds.

CAROLYN BRETT

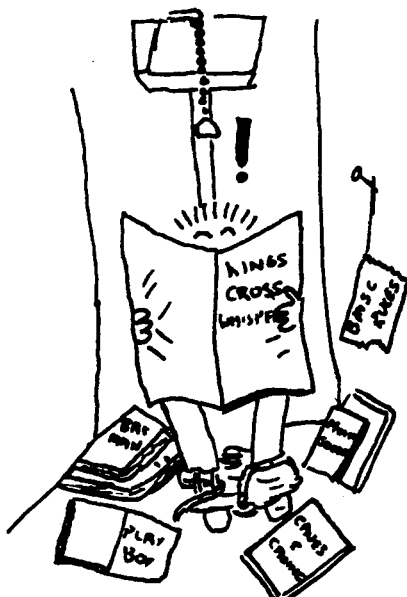


The Equipment Officer is responsible
for Inventory & Regular Maintenance
of Club Equipment.

DAVE NOBLE



Rare Qualities of
Persuasive Diplomacy
RECORD KEEPER
TROY MAGENNIS



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Researching & Indexing our Reference
Library. GRAEME WHITE



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CHERYL COLEBORN

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