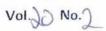


Journal of Blue Mountains Speleological Club



OOLITE

Journal of the Blue Mountains Speleological Club

Post Office Box 37

GLENBROOK NSW 2773

VOLUME 20 NO 2	CONTENTS	January 1991
		Page.
EDITORS VIEW		2
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	3-4	
OFFICE BEARERS HON	OUR ROLL	5-6
B.M.S.C. CHRONICLE		7-11
PAST MEMBERS HISTC	RY	13-19
CURRENT MEMBERS H	20-24	
INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAP	HIES	25-37
CARTOONS		38-40

 $\left(\left(-\right) \right)$

Edited and Published for B.M.S.C. by Brian and Carol Skinn

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS HONOUR ROLL

YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	EQUIPMENT OFFICER	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
1981	T. ELLIS	K. BILGER* L. COLEBORN	G. CUMMINGS	J. CHORLEY L. BAKER	T. MATTHEWS
1982	T. ELLIS	R. BRETT	G. CUMMINGS	J. CHORLEY	T. MATTHEWS
1983	B. SKINN	R. BRETT	G. CUMMINGS	J. CHORLEY	L. BAKER T. ELLIS
1984	B. SKINN	R. BRETT	G. CUMMINGS	J. CHORLEY	L. BAKER T. MATTHEWS
1985	B. SKINN	T. COLEBORN	G. CUMMINGS	R. BRETT	L. BAKER T. ELLIS L. BAKER
1986	B. SKINN	T. COLEBORN	G. CUMMINGS	L. COLEBORN	T. ELLIS L. BAKER
1987	B. SKINN	B. BARNES* L. WILSON	G. CUMMINGS	T. COLEBORN	G. WHITE L. BAKER
1988	B. SKINN	L. WILSON	R. BRETT	T. COLEBORN	T. ZIMMERMAN D. NOBLE
1989	R. BRETT	LEN BAKER	C. TUNKS	T. COLEBORN	K. COLEBORN G. WHITE
1990	R. BRETT	L. BAKER	C. BRETT	T. COLEBORN* D. NOBLE	K. COLEBORN T. ZIMMERMAN

(* Resigned)

(4) OOLITE Vol 20 No 2

 $\langle \bigcirc$

Ô

5 .

OFFICE BEARERS HONOUR ROLL

× 1 - 1

~

YEAR	JOURNAL EDITOR	LIBRARIAN	SAFETY OFFICER	SOCIAL SECRETARY	RECORDS KEEPER	PUBLICITY OFFICER
1968	G. NELSON K. PICKERING I. BOGG		J. GALLARD			
1969	R. PETERS	J. FITZGERALD	J. GALLARD		I. BOGG	
1970	D. WARD B. McWILLIAMS	J. INGLETON R. THOMAS	J. GALLARD A. GILL		I. BOGG	
1971	A. SILVERSTEEN* K. PICKERING	R. THOMAS* A. THOMAS	A. GILL* K. PICKERING		G. FAIRWEATHER	
1972	K. PICKERING	U. MUMBY		B. MARSHALL	G. FAIRWEATHER	
1973	K. PICKERING	R. JARVIS		A. FAIRWEATHER	G. FAIRWEATHER	
1974	K. PICKERING	R. JARVIS	R. THOMAS	B. MARSHALL	G. FAIRWEATHER	
1975	K. PICKERING	P. COBURN	G. POWELL	M. SAMMUT	G. FAIRWEATHER	
1976	K. PICKERING	P. COBURN	K. BILGER	A. FAIRWEATHER	L. BILGER	G. POWELL
1977	K. BILGER	T. COLEBORN	B. SKINN	P. SAMMUT	C. MILLER	G. POWELL
1978	K. BILGER	T. COLEBORN	K. BILGER	P. SAMMUT	L. BILGER	B. MARSHALL
1979	K. BILGER	J. CHORLEY	B. SKINN	C. MILLER	E. GOODWIN	C. OLSSON
1980	K. BILGER	J. CHORLEY	K. BILGER	C. SKINN (MILLER)	E. GOODWIN	C. OLSSON
1981	K. BILGER* I. BOGG	J. CHORLEY	K. BILGER* T. COLEBORN	G. BAXTER	L. COLEBORN	K. BILGER* I. BOGG

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (5)

OFFICE BEARERS HONOUR ROLL

YEAR	JOURNAL EDITOR	LIBRARIAN	SAFETY OFFICER	SOCIAL SECRETARY	RECORDS KEEPER	PUBLICITY OFFICER
1982	I. BOGG	J. CHORLEY	T. COLEBORN	T. MATTHEWS	R. BRETT	I. BOGG
1983	P. SAMMUT	J. CHORLEY	T. COLEBORN	T. ELLIS	R. BRETT	R. BRETT
1984	P. SAMMUT	J. CHORLEY	R. BRETT	C. SKINN	R. BRETT	R. BRETT
1985	P. SAMMUT	S. ROSS	R. BRETT	C. SKINN	L. COLEBORN	T. ELLIS
1986	P. SAMMUT	S. ROSS	R. BRETT	R. HYSLOP	C. SKINN	T. ELLIS
1987	R. BRETT C. TUNKS	G. WHITE	R. BRETT	K. COLEBORN	G. COLEBORN	T. ELLIS
1988	B. SKINN	G. WHITE	R. BRETT	K. COLEBORN	L. COLEBORN	T. ELLIS
1989	L. COLEBORN	G. WHITE	R. BRETT	C. TUNKS* T. MAGENNIS	L. COLEBORN	T. ELLIS
1990	T. MAGENNIS	G. WHITE* T. ZIMMERMAN	R. BRETT	C. COLEBORN	T. MAGENNIS	T. ELLIS

NOTE

In 1988 the NEW position of MAPPING CO-ORDINATOR was created

1988 G. WHITE

1989 G. WHITE

1990 G. KATES

(* Resigned)

 \bigcirc

(6) OOLITE Vol 20 No 2

()

5

B.M.S.C. CHRONICLE

ú

1966	 * Inaugural meeting held to form B.M.S.C. * Initial fees 10/- (\$1.00) membership and joining. * Initial A.S.F. membership application - rejected. * Myles Dunphy produces Hollander's River map for club. * First official trip held - Tuglow Main Cave, Tuglow.
1967	 * B.M.S.C. emblem designed by John Spinney. * Metal ladders introduced into B.M.S.C. * Trip Fees levied for first time at 20 cents per trip.
1968	 * Membership requirements introduced. * First Safety Officer appointed. * Second A.S.F. membership application submitted. * Founding President (G.Nelson) resigns to go overseas. * First major cave discovery - Harry's River at Jenolan. * Down Under (Oolite) published. * Discovery of Moonmilk Cave at Tuglow. * Lead acid batteries introduced into club. * First joint interclub trip held with M.S.S. * Members loose home in bushfires (Bill Devine Snr & Jnr).
1969	 * First Librarian appointed. * Tuglow conservation issue - gating (K. Pickering/I. Bogg) * B.M.S.C. advised A.S.F. application successful. * Journal name changed to Oolite. * First biospeleology trip held - Tuglow. * First underground weekend trip held - Window Cave, Tuglow. * Club buys 2 A.P.C.M. shares - "Save Colong Campaign". * Abercrombie Caves first major project activity. * Discovery of "Tuglow Skull". * First extended cave trip - Tuglow area for 3 weeks. * First cave survey - Harry's River Cave at Jenolan. * B.M.S.C. produces September '69 issue of A.S.F. Newsletter. * Discovery of "Hekix Land Snail" deposit - Belfry, Timor.
1970	 * B.M.S.C. attends 1st A.S.F. Committee Meeting, Melbourne. * P.O.R. Handbook produced. * Discovery of Limonite deposit - Glenbrook National Park. * First formal minerology study started - Limonite. * Club conducts S & R simulation - Punchbowl Cave, Wee Jasper. * Oolite extract appears in Column 8, Sydney Morning Herald. * Gun Barrel aven, Wyambene illuminated for first time. * Central Regional Council formed - (BMSC, HCG, MSS) * First Oolite photograph - roof formation at Timor. * Membership Cards introduced.

1971	 Club metal lapel badge produced. First photographic competition held. Discovery of Fracture Cavern - Dip Cave at Wee Jasper. Back door route into Tuglow pioneered by B.M.S.C. Underground Rivers of Puerto Rico published. Embroided B.M.S.C. name tapes introduced. David Williams photo's appear in Women's Weekly. Ailsa Thomas becomes first woman office bearer. Australian Speleology, 1971 reprints Oolite articles. Graeme Nelson returns from Puerto Rico. Club uses R.D.F. equipment for first time. First major dig commences - Grove Cave, Abercrombie.
	* Correlation of Cathedral Cave to surface - Abercrombie.
1972	 * Formal Committee Meetings introduced into club. * Membership grades varied - include Honorary & Assocaite. * Graeme Nelson & George Knox become Honorary Members. * Club buys first compass - Bruntons.
	 * Discovery of "Kens Kurious Kavern - Jenolan. * Tuglow data swap with HCG, SUSS and UNSWSS.
	* Members attend their first A.S.F. Conference - NIBICON.
	 * Ken Pickering presents paper at NIBICON, A BMSC first. * Members participate in Histoplasmosis survey. * Club advised of First Australian recording of cave spider. * Gwen Fairweather becomes first woman Committee Member. * Australian Speleology, 1972 reprints Oolite articles. * Publication of "Inside B.M.S.C."
1973	 * Club gates main shaft Tuglow Main Cave, Tuglow. * G. Nelson guest speaker, Barbara Dew Memorial Lecture. * B.M.S.C. included in Australian Conservation Directory.
	* B.M.S.C. cave data input to ASF Handbook on Tuglow.
	 * Club conducts tours through Grill Cave and lights cave electrically for the first time - "Keep Bungonia Issue". * Club publishes first major caves list on Abercrombie
1974	 * Public display at Penrith Plaza. * Ian Bogg becomes Convenor N.S.W. Liaison Council - 7 yrs. * Recovery of oldest recorded bat ring. * First financial investment - N.S.W. Building Society.
1 975	 * Members join Cave Rescue Group. * Conservation Issue - "Needles Dam" at Cliefden.

ź

Ć

 \bigcirc

(12 simulation 20

1**9**76

(

- * Club sells A.P.C.M. shares.
- * S.R.T. introduced to club.
- * First movie production.
 * Member wins CAVCONACT photo competition (print) I Bogg.



Wyanbene - 1976

1977	 * Greg Powell in print - Australian Outdoors. * Barry Richards joins Kimberly Expedition. * Members go to Tasmania for first time. * Phill Coburn killed in Granville Train Disaster. * Club gates lower entrance to Mammoth Cave - Jenolan. * Surveying of Taplow Cave, Cliefden commences.
1978	 Club submits gating proposal to Jenolan Management. Carol Miller - N.S.W. Liaison Council Secretary - 2 yrs. Caver of the Month Award introduced. Record number of caving trips held - 34. Club purchases duplicator for Oolite.
1979	 * Ian Bogg - joint paper to A.S.F. WACON Conference. * First marriage between club members, Carol Miller/Brian Skinn. * B.M.S.C. participates in Imperial Cave, Jenolan Centenary.
1980	 * Club holds Talent Night. * Jenolan gating proposal accepted. * Springwood Neighbourhood Centre - becomes fixed venue for club meetings.
1981	 * Kosciusko National Park Management Plan - submission. * Clubs first "sprogette" born - Larissa Jane Skinn.
1982	* Greg Powell appears in Women's Weekly, in print.

1983 * Discovery of cave at Billy's Creek. Taplow survey completed. * B.M.S.C. publishes first club Handbook. 1984 * Discovery of Split Rock Cave - Jenolan. Comment on Kanangra-Boyd National Park plan of management. 1985 * Second Penrith Plaza Display. * Cavers guide to Taplow Cave - Cliefden, published.
* 20th Anniversary Celebrations - Cliefden. 1986 * 20th Anniversary Dinner held at Cliefden. * Louise Coleborn becomes clubs first woman Equipment Officer. * Documentation of the Sandstone Caves in the Blue Mountains commenced. * B.M.S.C. help O.S.S. with the Cliefden Hut working bees. * The beginning of B.M.S.C.'s battle with "Funnel Web" in the Southern Limestone. * Halley's Comet weekend held at Cliefden.



²⁰th Anniversary, Cliefden - 1986



Ian Bogg & Lionel Baker Recipients of Long Service Award - 1986

1987

* Memorial Wollangambie Li-lo trip held in remembrance of Phill Coburn.

- * Greg Powell has two books published: Thunderbolt Country & Ben Hall Country.
- * B.M.S.C. selects Caver/Cavers of the Year for the first time. Kevin Coleborn & Tony Zimmerman.

1988

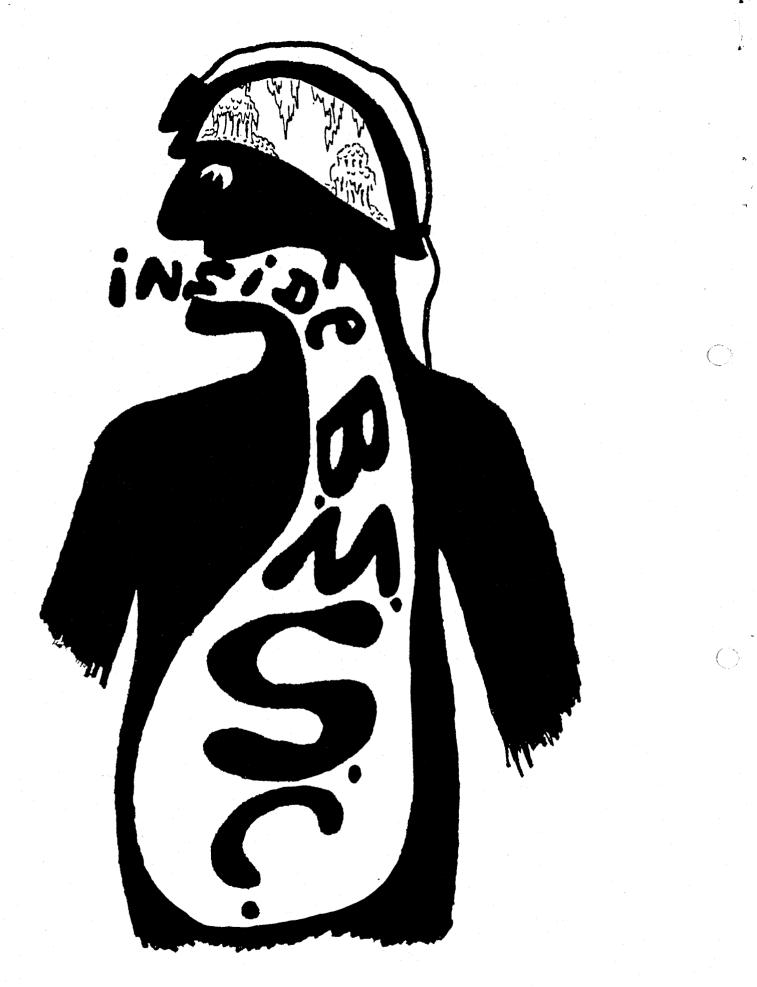
- * New embroided club badges produced.
- * Greg Powell has another book published: Mad Dog Morgan Country.
- * 1988 B.M.S.C. Cavers of the Year: Len Baker & Dave Noble.
- * B.M.S.C. holds a trip to Chillagoe.
- * B.M.S.C.'s first Aboriginal Engraving trip held by Lionel Baker to Royal National Park.
- * New positions of Mapping Co-ordinator added to Office Bearers.
- * Greg Powell has two more books published: Bushwalking through History The Blue Mountains & Bushwalks in the Hunter Valley.
- * Brian & Carol Skinn move to Melbourne.
- * Southern Limestone is handed over to Troy Magennis.
- * President Rick Brett & Carolyn Tunks are married.
- * Cavers of the Year: Troy Magennis & Louise Coleborn.
- * B.M.S.C. holds trip to Nullarbor.

1990

1989

- * B.M.S.C. mountain climbs in Peru: Kevin Coleborn, Graeme Kates, Iain Lynch.
- * Lionel leads another Aboriginal Engraving Trip this time to Kur-ring-ai Chase National Park.
- * B.M.S.C. mountain climbs in New Zealand: Kevin Coleborn, Graeme Kates, Iain Lynch & Troy Magennis.
- * B.M.S.C. makes preparations for its SILVER ANNIVERSARY.
- * Cavers of the Year: Rick Brett & Cheryl Coleborn.

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (11)



(12) OOLITE Vol 20 No 2

PAST MEMBERS

JOHN ANDERSON

John is one of our Newcastle boys and he joined the club in 1976. He was only a member for two years. His first trip was to Bungonia.

TOTAL HOURS 47.5

BRAD BARNES

Brad joined BMSC in 1985 and was also a member of Hills. In that two years he obtained the position of Trip Leader. Brad's first club trip was to Walli. TOTAL HOURS 185

GEOFF BAXTER

Geoff joined the club in 1980 and caved with BMSC on and off over the next five years. Geoff's first trip was Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 122

KARL BILGER

Karl joined the club in 1975 and was an active member until 1980. Over that five years Karl obtained the position of Trip Leader and was the club's Journal Editor for four years. Karl's first club trip was to Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 645

KATHY BILGER (RADDATZ)

Kathy joined the club in 1980 and was only a member for a short time. Kathy's first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 72



WILLIAM BROWN

William is one of our Newcastle boys, he joined the club in 1975. William's first trip was Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 39.

LEWIS CAREY

Lewis joined the club in 1975, he was also one of our Newcastle boys. Lewis's first trip was Bungonia.

TOTAL HOURS 42

JOEL CHARLEY

Joel joined the club in 1978 and caved on and off for four years. Joel's first trip was Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 71.5

PHILLIP COBURN

Phill joined BMSC in 1974 and was a breath of fresh air to the club. Phill remained a very active member until his death in the Granville Rail Disaster 1977. Phill's first trip with the club was to Jenolan. Phill was Librarian of the club in 1976 and began a comprehensive indexing of the club's library. He also introduced SRT to the club. TOTAL HOURS 242.5

JANELLE COMRIE

Janelle joined BMSC in 1982 and spent two years caving with us. Janelle's first trip was Jenolan.

TOTAL HOURS 120.5

PHILL COOPER

Phill joined the club in 1984 and only spent a few months with the club. Phill's first trip was to Jenolan.

TOTAL HOURS 19

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (13)

TERRY CORCORAN

Terry joined the club in 1971 and was very active for the two years he spent in the club before his transfer. Terry's first trip was to Bungonia.

TOTAL HOURS 91.75

ALMA CUMMINGS

Alma joined the club in 1975 and spent the next three years as a member. But the club didn't loose touch with Alma and Jack, who hosted many of our AGM's and also a fancy dress. Alma's first trip was Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 66

ANN CUMMINGS

Ann joined the club in 1975 and spent two years with us. Ann's first trip was to Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 67

GRAHAM CUMMINGS

Graham joined BMSC in 1975 and was a very active member over the next 13 years. Graham was our longest serving Treasurer, a position he held for seven years until his resignation in '88. Graham obtained the position of Trip Leader and over the years matured into one of the club's best Leaders. Graham's first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 544

JACK CUMMINGS

Jack joined the club in 1975 and spent the next three years with us. Jack began his caving many years before joining BMSC and shared some really historic cave photos with the club members. Jack's first trip was to Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 96.5

JOE DALZELL

Joe joined BMSC in 1970 and was only with the club a short time. Joe's first trip was to Wee Jasper.

TOTAL HOURS 70.5

GEOFF DEANE

Geoff joined the club in 1971 and was only with the club for a few years. Geoff's first trip was to Bungonia. TOTAL HOURS 71.75

WILLIAM DEVINE (JNR)

William joined BMSC in 1968 and was an active member for two years. William's first trip was to Hollanders River. TOTAL HOURS 92.5

WILLIAM DEVINE (SNR)

William joined the club in 1968 and was only a member for three years. William's first trip was to Hollanders River. TOTAL HOURS 95.5

DAVE DIAL

Dave is one of our Newcastle boys and joined the club in 1976. He was only with us a short while. Dave's first trip was to Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 17.75

GERRY DOHERTY

Gerry joined BMSC in 1985 and was only with us for a year due to his move. Gerry's first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 34.5

ROBERT ELLIS

Robert is one of our junior cavers and caved with BMSC as a family member over three years. Robert's first trip was Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 63

ALAN FAIRWEATHER

 $\mathbf{L}^{\mathcal{D}}$

Alan joined BMSC in 1970 and was an active member until his move to Abercrombie as a Cave Guide in 1978. Alan held the position of Equipment Officer for two years and was the Club President in 1977. Alan's first trip was to Jenolan. TOTAL HOURS 197.5

GWEN FAIRWEATHER

Gwen joined BMSC in 1970 and was an active member until Alan obtained the position of Cave Guide Abercrombie in 1978. Gwen held the position of Treasurer for six years, was the first women committee member and was the club records keeper for five years. Gwen's first club trip was to Mudgee.

TOTAL HOURS 101.5



Allan Fairweather Barry and Robyn Richard - 1976

TREVOR FOWLER

Trevor joined the club in 1987 for a year. Trevors first trip with the club was to Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 18

WALLY GABB

Wally joined the club in 1980 and spent three years with us. Wally's first trip was to Jenolan.

TOTAL HOURS 53

JOHN GALLARD

John was one of the founding members of the club in 1966. he held the position of Equipment Officer for the first two years. John is a National Park Ranger and remained a member of the club until 1971.

TOTAL HOURS 16.5 in the records, but he would have many more.

DAVE GARDENER

Dave joined the club in 1980 for a short time. Dave's first trip was Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 22.5

ALAN GILL

Alan joined the club in 1969 for three years. Alan's first trip was to Tuglow. TOTAL HOURS 163.5

ERICA GODWYN

Erica joined the club in 1977 and remained a member for four years. Erica held the position of Records Keeper for two years. Erica's first trip was to Bungonia. TOTAL HOURS 158

ALLAN GOODWIN

Allan joined the club in 1988 but didn't get away caving.

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (15)

STEWART GRIERSON

Stewart joined the club in 1974. Stewart's first trip was to Jenolan. TOTAL HOURS 14

SANDRA HAND

Sandra joined the club in 1974 for a short time. Her first trip was Wyanbene. TOTAL HOURS 15

CORALIE HAYWOOD

Coralie joined the club in 1977 for a short time. Her first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 25.5

NATALIE HAYWOOD

Natalie joined the club in 1977. Her first trip was to Abercrombie. TOTAL HOURS 12

PETER HEDGER

Peter joined the club in 1976 and remained for only a short time. Peter's first trip was to Bungonia.

TOTAL HOURS 28.5

M HOPE

Joined the club in 1976. The first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 10.5

KEN HYNES

Ken joined the club in 1969 for three years. Ken's first trip was to Tuglow. TOTAL HOURS 138.5

PETER KUYPERS

Kipper joined the club in 1982 for two years. His first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 40

RICHARD HYSLOP

Richard joined the club in 1982 and remained with the club for four years. Richard's first trip was to Jenolan. TOTAL HOURS 144.5 1.1

P

BOB JARVIS

Bob joined the club in 1967 and caved with the club for the next six years. Bob's first trip was to Tuglow. TOTAL HOURS 119.5

ROBERT JOEL

Robert joined the club in 1972 and remained with the club for three years. His first trip was to Abercrombie. TOTAL HOURS 93.75

PHIL JONES

Phil joined in 1981 for a short time. His only trip with the club was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 8

KEN KECK

Ken joined BMSC in 1969 and remained an active member until 1972. Ken's first trip was to Timor. Ken is now a member of MSS. TOTAL HOURS 172

EDDY KING

Eddy is another of the Newcastle boys and only remained with the club a short time. Eddy's first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 10

IAN LACEY

Ian has caved with BMSC on and off since 1976. He is now a member and past President of New Caves.

JOHN LEONARD

John caved with BMSC in 1982. His first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 27.5

(16) OOLITE Vol 20 No 2

PAUL McKENDRY

£

Paul joined the club in 1979 for a year and then rejoined in 1988 for a year. Paul's first trip was to Canomodine. TOTAL HOURS 16.5

ALLEN McCLELLAN

Allan joined the club in 1982 for a year. Allan's first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 20

DARREN McGUIGAN

Darren joined the club in 1983 for a short time. His first trip with the club was to Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 29

BARRY Mc WILLIAMS

Barry joined in 1969 and held the positions of Journal Editor and Secretary each for a year. His first trip was to Hollanders River. TOTAL HOURS 339.5

ELLERI MORGAN-THOMAS

Elieri joined the club in 1977 and remained with the club for a couple of years. Her first trip was to Bungonia. TOTAL HOURS 30.5

GARETH MORGAN-THOMAS

Gareth joined in 1980 for a short time. His only trip was to Cliefden. **TOTAL HOURS 11**

TERRY MACINANTE

Terry joined the club in 1970 for a short time. His first trip was to Wee Jasper. TOTAL HOURS 55

BRIAN MARSHALL

Brian joined the club in the early seventies and held the position of President in 1973. His first trip was to Church Creek. TOTAL HOURS 29.25

STEVE MARTIN

Steve joined in 1981. His first trip was to Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 16

ANGELA McKENDRY

Angela joined the club in 1977 for only a couple of years. Her first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 125.5

CHRIS NASH

Chris joined in 1985. His only trip was to Jenolan. **TOTAL HOURS 9**

STUART NELSON

Stuart joined the club in 1984. His first trip was to Jenolan. **TOTAL HOURS 13**

CHRIS OLSSON

Chris joined the club in 1977 and caved on and off until 1984. Chris's first trip was to Bungonia.

TOTAL HOURS 102.5

KEN OZANNE

Ken joined the club in 1979 and remained with the club until 1980. Ken's first trip was to Canomodine.

TOTAL HOURS 54

PETER PAYNE

Peter is yet another of our Newcastle boys and joined the club in 1975. His first trip was to Bungonia.

TOTAL HOURS 59.5

ALAN PHILLIS

Alan also known as "WOOFIE" joined the club in 1969. His first trip was to Walli. TOTAL HOURS 51

KEN PICKERING

Ken was one of our founding members of 1966. Ken was Secretary in 1966 and 1967, then President for 1968, 69 and 1970, Treasurer 1971, Safety Officer 1971, and Journal Officer from 1971-1976. Ken's first trip on clubs records was to Bungonia. TOTAL HOURS 285.75

MICK POLLACK

Mick joined the club in 1985 and stayed for only a short time. His first trip was to Jenolan.

TOTAL HOURS 46

STEVE ROSS

Steve joined the club in 1984 and was club Librarian in 1985. Steves first trip was to Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 56

KEVIN RUGG

Kevin is another of the Newcastle boys and he joined in 1976. His first trip was to Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 31

MONICA SAMMUT

Monica joined the club in 1972 and was an active member until 1978. Monica's first trip was to Abercrombie. TOTAL HOURS 144

PAUL SAMMUT

Paul joined in 1972 and was an active member until 1980. He was Social Secretary for two years and Journal Editor from 1983 to 1986. Paul's first trip was to Abercrombie. TOTAL HOURS 188.5 P.

ROBERT SANDERSON

Robert joined the club in 1977 and was an active member until 1981. Robert's first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 240.5

JOHN SHIELS

John caved with the club for a short while in 1980. His only trip was to Wyanbene. TOTAL HOURS 6.5

ADRIAN SILVERTSEN

Adrian joined in 1970 for a couple of years. His first trip was to Wee Jasper. TOTAL HOURS 90

PAUL SINFIELD

Paul joined in 1979 and caved with the club for a year. Paul's first trip was to Cliefden.

TOTAL HOURS 35.5

ROGER SMITH

Roger joined in 1987 and only caved for a short time. His first trip was to Wee Jasper. TOTAL HOURS 36

PHILLIP SPARKES

Phillip is one of the Newcastle boys and joined in 1977 and remained a member for three years. His first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 29

KIRSTY STEWART

ð

Kirsty joined in 1978 for only a short period. Her first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 19

BERNIE STEVER

Bernie joined in 1981 but only caved once on a trip to Wyanbene. TOTAL HOURS 11

AILSA THOMAS

Ailsa joined in 1967 and caved until 1971. Her first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 47

LES THOMAS

Les joined in 1967. His first trip was to Tuglow. TOTAL HOURS 12

STAN THOMAS

Stan joined the club in 1967 and stayed with the club for six years. He held the position of Treasurer in 1968, 1969 and 1970. Stan's first trip was to Bungonia. TOTAL HOURS 391

ROBERT TOMPSON

Robert joined the club in 1981 and only caved with the club for a short time. His first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 16

MIKE TREHARNE

Mike joined in 1970 and caved with BMSC for the next six years. His first trip was to Mudgee. TOTAL HOURS 141.5

UNITA TREHARNE

Unita joined the club in 1970 and caved with the club for the next four years. Unita's first trip was to Mudgee. TOTAL HOURS 181.5

ALLAN TREMBLE

Allan joined the club in 1978 for only a short time. His first trip was to Tuglow. TOTAL HOURS 15.5

KRIS WARBURTON

Kris otherwise known as "TOAD" joined in 1983 and caved for a couple of years. His first trip was to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 52

MARK WARBURTON

Mark joined the club in 1982 and stayed a member until 1985. His first trip was to Bungonia.

TOTAL HOURS 70.5

COLLEEN WARD

Colleen joined the club in 1968 and remained a member until 1971. Colleen's first trip was to Colong. TOTAL HOURS 201.5

DAVID WARD

David joined the club in 1968 and remained a member until 1971. His first trip was to Tuglow. TOTAL HOURS 314

GARY WEBB

Gary caved with the club during 1981. Both his trips were to Cliefden. TOTAL HOURS 15.5

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (19)

CURRENT MEMBERS

LEN BAKER

Len joined the club in 1988. In that year he was voted 'CAVER OF THE YEAR' for sponsoring an awareness of safety within the club. In 1989/90 Len was the Club Secretary and in 1990 he gained Trip Leader Status. TOTAL HOURS 297

LIONEL BAKER

Lionel has been a member since 1969 gaining Trip Leader Status in 1970. He has held a committee position in 1971, 1974 to 1976, 1979 to 1987. In 1986 Lionel was awarded a long service award for his service to the Club over the many years.

TOTAL HOURS 834

(The most hours in the Club)

DAVID BEARUP

David joined in 1988 and his first trip was to Colong. TOTAL HOURS 25

ANDREW BOGG

Andrew is one of our junior cavers. He joined the Club in 1987 and his first trip was to Wee Jasper.

TOTAL HOURS 39

IAN BOGG

Ian joined the Club in 1967. Over the years Ian has held many positions: President 1971, 1978 to 1980; Secretary 1968, 1972 to 1974; Committee Member 1975; Journal Editor 1968, 1981 and 1982; Records Keeper 1969, 1970; Publicity Officer 1981 and 1982. In 1986 Ian was awarded a long service award for his service to the Club. In 1974 Ian became the Convenor of the NSW Speleological Council, a position he held for seven years.

TOTAL HOURS 471

CAROLYN BRETT (nee TUNKS)

b

Carolyn joined in 1986 and attained Full Membership in 1988. She has been the Club Treasurer in 1989 to 1990 and Social Secretary in 1989. TOTAL HOURS 115

RICKY BRETT

Rick joined in 1980 and has held several Club positions: President 1989 and 1990; Secretary 1982 and 1983; Treasurer in 1988; Safety Officer 1984 to 1990; Records Keeper 1982 to 1984; Publicity Officer 1983 to 1984 and Journal Editor in 1987. Rick attained Trip Leader Status in 1982.

TOTAL HOURS 630

JOHN (JACK) CHORLEY

Jack joined in 1977 and was a member for twelve years. He held the position of Equipment Officer from 1980 to 1984 and Librarian from 1979 to 1984. Jack attained Trip Leader Status in 1979. TOTAL HOURS 579

CHERYL COLEBORN

Cheryl is another of our junior members. She began caving with BMSC at the age of four (4). She officially joined the Club in 1989 and soon attained Full Membership. Cheryl was the Club's Social Secretary in 1990.

TOTAL HOURS 42

GARRY COLEBORN

Garry joined in 1986 and remained a member for two years in which time he attained Full Membership. TOTAL HOURS 76

KEVIN COLEBORN

Kevin is another of the up and coming cavers in the Club. He joined in 1987 and attained Trip Leader Status in 1989. Kevin spent over 200 hours surveying Taplow Maze at Cliefden before he was old enough to officially join the Club. He held a committee position in 1989 to 1990, Social Secretary 1987 and 1988. Kevin was awarded the Caver of the Year in 1987 for his continuing support to the Club. TOTAL HOURS 606

LOUISE COLEBORN

Louise joined the Club in 1975 and attained her Trip Leader Status in 1983. She has held many positions within the Club: Secretary 1976, 1977 and 1981; Equipment Officer in 1986; Journal Editor in 1989; Records Keeper in 1985, 1988 and 1989. Louise was awarded the Caver of the Year in 1989 for her devotion and dedication to the Club.

TOTAL HOURS 360

TERRY COLEBORN

Terry joined the Club in 1976 and attained his Trip Leader Status in 1981. Terry has held the following positions over the years: Secretary 1985 and 1986; Equipment Officer 1987 to 1990; Librarian 1977 and 1978. TOTAL HOURS 593

GREG COOK

Greg joined in 1989 and although he is one of our newer members has spent several hours assisting with the Documentation of the Southern Limestone at Jenolan. TOTAL HOURS 31

STUART DRIVER

Stuart joined in 1987 and has caved with the Club on and off ever since. TOTAL HOURS 118

TONY ELLIS

Tony joined the Club in 1975 and soon attained his Trip Leader Status in 1976. Tony held the position of Club President in 1981 and 1982. He has also been the Club's Publicity Officer since 1985. TOTAL HOURS 320

LUKE FOSTER

Luke joined the club for a short period in 1989.

TOTAL HOURS 10

MICAH HUNTER

Micah also joined the Club for a short period in 1989. NIL HOURS

GRAEME KATES

Graeme joined BMSC in 1989. He was previously a member of Hills and still maintains a close affiliation with the Hills Club. Graeme is an official Trip Leader and has just returned from a trip Mountaining in PERU with fellow club members Kevin Coleborn and Iain Lynch.

TOTAL HOURS 2 (BMSC ONLY)

GREG LACEY

Greg joined our Club in 1988 for a short time.

TOTAL HOURS 32

WARREN LACEY

Warren joined in 1976 and has since attained trip Leader Status. Warren spends a lot of his time as an Adventurer Scout Leader.

TOTAL HOURS 108

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (21)

TROY MAGENNIS

Troy joined in 1988 and is one of those members which only come along now and again. He has attained his Trip Leader Status and is the Co-ordinator for the Jenolan Southern Limestone project. Troy has held the following positions: Social Secretary 1989; Journal Editor 1990; and Records Keeper 1990. In 1989 Troy was voted the Caver of the Year for his work in the Southern Limestone.

TOTAL HOURS 180

CINDY MANN

Cindy has been an Associate Member of the Club since 1984. TOTAL HOURS 37

ROB MANN

Rob has been an Associate Member of the Club since 1984. TOTAL HOURS 37

TED MATTHEWS

Ted joined in 1972 and was an active member for the next twelve (12) years. He attained his Trip Leader Status in 1976. Ted was Club Secretary in 1975, 1978, and 1979. He was also a Committee member from 1980 - 1982 and in 1984. TOTAL HOURS 608

DON McCANN

Don joined in 1988 for a short period. TOTAL HOURS 17

GRAHAM NELSON

Graham joined in 1966 and is one of the founding members of the Club. He was the Club's first President. Graham was awarded the status of Honoury Member in 1972. TOTAL HOURS 84.5

MICHELLE NICKERSON

Michelle joined the Club in 1985 and remained a member for the next four years. TOTAL HOURS 55

DAVID NOBLE

David joined in 1985 and attained his Trip Leader Status in 1987. In his five years with the Club David has recorded an average of over 100 hours caving a year. David held the position of Equipment Officer in 1990. In 1988 he was voted Caver of the Year for his effort in leading over 26 trips in a year. TOTAL HOURS 657

TIM PEARSON

Tim is one of the Newcastle Boys and joined BMSC in 1986. He attained his Full Membership Status in 1988. TOTAL HOURS 88 ()

GREG POWELL

Greg joined in 1974 and has remained a member for the next sixteen years. He attained his Trip Leader Status in 1976. Greg held the position of Publicity Officer in 1976 and 1977. Although Greg moved from the mountains in the late seventies he has remained in contact with the Club and it's members over the years. TOTAL HOURS 266.5

Greg Powell with Club members at Bungonia 1975

BARRY RICHARD

Barry joined in 1969 and attained his Trip Leader Status in 1971. Barry was the Club President from 1974 to 1976; Equipment Officer in 1972 to 1973 and was a committee member from 1977 to 1979. In 1986 Barry was awarded a BRONZE MEDAL for BRAVERY for his part in an hazardous mountain top rescue of a young boy. He has now also been granted Life Membership of St John's First Aid. Barry moved to Jenolan in the late seventies but has kept in close contact with the Club and it's members. TOTAL HOURS 409

GLEN ROBINSON

Glen is one of our new members joining in 1990. Glen's first trip was to the Nullabor where he spent 52 hours caving. TOTAL HOURS 69

Cliefden - Near Taplow Maze. From left - Terry Coleborn, Brian Skinn, Tony Zimmerman, Graham Cummings. At front - Cheryl Coleborn

BRIAN SKINN

Brian joined in 1976 and attained his Trip Leader Status in 1977. He was our longest serving Club President from 1983 to 1988. He also held the following positions: Safety Officer in 1977 and 1979; Club Secretary in 1980 and Journal Editor in 1988. Brian was also awarded the Caver of the Year in 1979 for leading a successful club trip to Mole Creek in Tasmania.

TOTAL HOURS 804

CAROL SKINN

Carol joined BMSC in 1975 and was an active member for the next thirteen years until they moved to Melbourne in 1989. But even with the move Carol and Brian still help with the Journal printing. In 1978 Carol was elected Secretary of the NSW Speleological Council, a position she held for the next two years. Within the Club Carol has held the positions of Treasurer in 1979 and 1980; Social Secretary in 1980, 1984 to 1985 and Records Keeper in 1977 and 1986. Carol attained the Status of Trip Leader in 1978. TOTAL HOURS 305



OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (23)

RON THOMAS

Ron was one of the founding members of the Club in 1966. He remained an active member until 1974. Then after the 20th Anniversary Dinner in 1986 he rejoined the Club again. Ron held the position of Treasurer in 1967; Equipment Officer from 1968 to 1970 and committee member in 1971 and 1973.

TOTAL HOURS 234

GRAEME WHITE

Graeme joined the Club in 1986 and remained an active member for the next four years. Graeme held the following positions Librarian 1987 to 1990; Mapping Coordinator 1988 to 1990 and committee member in 1987 and 1989. TOTAL HOURS 144

LACHLAN WILSON

Lachlan joined the Club in 1987. He held the position of Club secretary in 1987 to 1988.

DAVE ZAMMIT

Dave joined in 1988 for a short time. TOTAL HOURS 27

TONY ZIMMERMAN

Tony joined the Club in 1983 and has been an active member over the years. He attained his Trip Leader Status in 1987. Tony has held the following positions: Committee Member in 1988 and 1990 and Club Librarian in 1990. In 1987 Tony was voted Caver of the Year for the support he gave the Club over that year. TOTAL HOURS 480



- Just Caving -Phill Cooper and Tony Zimmerman

INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHIES

LIONEL BAKER

My first taste of caving was at Ashford Caves which is about 70 kms from Inverell. I went there with my Brother-in-law looking for bone material for his science classes. In the early 60's I went on a tourist trip to Jenolan Caves.

In 1968 I joined BMSC My first trip was to *Wee Jasper* and my trip leader was Ian Bogg.

Tuglow is my favourite cave, it is every type of cave in one. *Cliefden* is my favourite area, where I have spent many wonderful weekends. Remember the rocket days.

The things that stand out most in my time with BMSC is the group activities and the companionship over the years.

CHERYL COLEBORN

My first cave was *Boonderoo*, *Cliefden* when I was three. I don't remember much of it but there's a picture of me exiting through the entrance covered in mud.

I've caved with BMSC for 15 years but only been a member for the last two. I have spent many of my earlier years (the one's I can remember) at *Cliefden* surveying in *Taplow Maze*. But in later years I discovered they weren't the only caves in N.S.W.

So I have spent many weekends recently at areas such as Wyanbene, Jenolan & Yarrangobilly.

My favourite area is *Cliefden* but I enjoy a cave that goes, doesn't matter in what direction or how many loops, just as long as I can explore eg. Lake Cave, Walli & Taplow Maze Cave, Cliefden. Happy Anniversary BMSC

KEVIN COLEBORN

BMSC for me started when I could hardly walk. Grill Cave, Bungonia being one of the few caves I remember popping out the hole near the entrance. When I was about seven or eight my real caving started at Cliefden in Taplow Maze. Some people may not like Taplow but when you spend as much time in it as a select few of us did, it grows on you. It is not really very pretty but it's pretty sporting and that's what I like.

I then met Dave Noble and I was set.

Bungonia is a spectacular sporting area and I never get bored doing the same caves twice. One day we did Drum Cave three times. I also really like wet caves as they are really sporting.

Even though I belong to two caving clubs now, BMSC is a lot more friendly towards me. I see the same with Hills but I just fit in better with BMSC.

I also rock climb, canyon and ski and now I do ice climbing as well.

I always enjoy teaching new members like Len, who wasn't much at *Canomodine* (his first cave) but now is a Trip Leader.

Sporting caves will always give me the most enjoyment so I am looking forward to going to France next year to some 'real' vertical come technical caving.

Thanks BMSC Happy Anniversary.

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (25)

LOUISE COLEBORN

My first association with BMSC was in 1974 at *Jenolan*. I was on a guided trip through the *River Cave* and my guide was the President of BMSC Barry Richard. Soon after this a letter to the club and a visit from Ian Bogg and so began my time with BMSC

My first trip with the club was to *Cliefden* and my trip leader was Phill Coburn. *Taplow Maze* is my favourite cave probably because of the friendships formed during the several years it took to survey and map it. *Cliefden* will always be my favourite area, so much has happened there over the years and there are many fond memories lingering there.

When I think of BMSC many things spring to mind. Firstly, Phill Coburn, I will always miss his vibrant free spirit. Other memories are:

Walli - with its ten foot high thistles, tiger leaches as big as fish, trogging in 40C heat and *Piano Cave*!

Cliefden - with ice on the Belubula River at midday, our Bonfire nights held around the old hut, being towed up from the river by Big Red, unforgettable with a long tow rope and winding road and the fun times in Rick's ute.

Wyanbene - crossing the Shoalhaven and 'the swim' in Frustration Lake.

Yarrangobilly - and 'haunted' Cotterils Cottage and the night spent singing around the campfire accompanied by Phill Cooper on guitar and the howling of the dingoes.

Jack Cummings Peach wine and the day we did the B4-5 Extension at Bungonia.

BMSC is many things to many people but

(26) OOLITE Vol 20 No 2

what has made BMSC special to me is the lasting friendships which have grown and blossomed over the years.

Ŀ

()

Happy Anniversary BMSC. Thank you for the wonderful memories.

TERRY COLEBORN

My caving started from a weekend trip to Yabgy with Brian Skinn. Although we only saw the self guided cave it was enough to convince me to go to Tasmania with Brian to visit the Mole Creek Caves.

On our return to Sydney, Brian wrote to BMSC and so began an association which has lasted for fourteen years.

My favourite cave is *Taplow Maze* at *Cliefden* (you have to have been there to appreciate that), and *Cliefden* is my favourite caving area.

Caving has provided many memories and good friendships and that is what I appreciate most.

GRAHAM CUMMINGS

I first joined BMSC in may 1975 after being introduced to it by Ted Matthews, and the first caving trip was one led by Barry Richards to *Bungonia*.

Prior to this I had been caving off and on with my parents and also with various bushwalking clubs.

During the years with the club I visited just about every major caving area in N.S.W and also some of the Tasmania caves. There were too many trips to recall in any detail but one always remembers the enjoyable trips to *Cliefden* etc.

Some things stick in my mind ie.

Keeping almost completely dry in the water crawl in Wyanbene caves.

Pushing so called 'too small' passages in Taplow Maze on various survey trips.

Entering the extension of Trapdoor Cave.

Squeezing through the rabbit squeeze at *Abercrombie Caves*.

Belonging to the club wasn't only going on caving trips, there were many enjoyable social activities ie the car rallies, field days (I remember teaching some of the members how to abseil on the cliffs behind our house) and the Christmas parties and so on.

During this time I also introduced some of the members to the delights of canyoning in the Blue Mountains.

After a few years I was coerced into the job of Treasurer, a position I held until 1985 when due to the escalating cost of affiliation I moved on to my other sport - Bushwalking.

Since leaving the club my caving activities have declined, but even so I've managed to visit quite a few caves ie. *Chillagoe*, *Camooweal* and *Mt Etna* in Queensland, the majority of the tourist caves in Victoria and South Australia including Kangaroo Island and also the non restricted caves in N.S.W. Just recently I've visited *Jones Creek Caves* in the Ettrema Wilderness area. About the only thing I've yet to complete is the exploration and survey of *Billy's Creek Caves* - one of these days.

()

At this point I would like to make some comment on the change in gear and techniques used. During the early seventies there was little high tech. equipment available.

<u>Ropes</u> - mainly laid nylon or manilla. This changed over the years to the sheathed ropes ie. Bluewater etc.

<u>Abseiling</u> - I learnt the 'classic method' in the beginning then progressed to 'over the shoulder'. Harness's were virtually non existent. Then came the Whilans Harness (most comfortable) and the use of breakbars etc, finally whaletails emerged.

<u>Ascending</u> - Originally by Prusik Knots very slow, or by ladders. The prusik method has been replaced by mechanical means ie. Gibbs, Jumars etc. I recall the resistance some of the older members had when Single Rope Techniques were first introduced.

Lighting - Prior to joining the club we mainly used carbide lamps or home made held torches. This was replaced by the Miners Wet Cell lamps still used today. Nowadays my main Light is the Petzl Zoom Headlight, much more compact and reliable.

My thanks go to the members of the club for the many pleasant memories I have of trips and social gatherings that occurred during my years with the club. I sincerely hope the Club continues into its second quarter of a century.

See you all in January at Jenolan.

JACK CUMMINGS

CAVING - 50 YEARS OF IT.

Looking through a current caving catalogue admiring all of the specialised goodies my thoughts - like most Oldies - went back to the 'good' old days. Let me bore you with some of them.

1940

Australia was at war, and I was a primary school boy at a loose end on a Saturday

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (27)

afternoon in the Sydney suburb of Leichhardt. No money for the pictures - television wasn't invented yet - so go for a walk along the local railway cutting to look for tadpoles. For the first time I realised that the creek in the cutting came from a 3 metre concrete hole in the rock wall. Peering in all was dark & gloomy except way off it seemed was a ray of light. Screwing up my courage I walked into the dark - which I found wasn't so completely dark - and finally found myself looking out at gutter level at a road two blocks away.

That was it, I was hooked.

Over the next few months using a candle & matches and then, a vast improvement, a jam jar filled with kerosene with a piece of string through a nail hole in the lid as a wick I explored a large area of the suburbs storm water system.

LATE 1940's

Apprenticed and bushwalking as my main recreation. Still interested in underground exploration and whenever opportunity occurred would look at old mine workings, tunnels, sea caves and limestone caves such as those in the *Royal National Park*, *Colong*, *Billy's & Church Creek*, *Bungonia*.

Only one caving club in NSW at that time so I became an associate member of Sydney University Speleological Society.

SUSS was mainly in the Jenolan area at this time. The reason was lack of transport. Only rich people had cars, the average person went on foot, bus or train.

As an example - A trip to Jenolan

1. Obtain permit to visit cave

2. Friday night train to Mt Victoria. Sleep at station

3. Saturday a.m. pay milk & mail run driver \$1.00 to ride on tray-back of his lorry to Jenolan

4. Arrive Jenolan 11.30am. Cave around

Mammoth area. Oolite Cave had just been discovered. Saturday night meet guide and collect keys to Tourist caves as last trip for day finished. Spend rest of night exploring and photographing tourist areas and exit to meet Guide bringing in first tourist party on Sunday morning. ħ

()

5. Couple of hours sleep and ride back on mail truck to Mt Victoria & home.

Laborious wasn't it.

For other areas it was similar, *Bungonia* meant a walk from Marulan whilst *Colong* area entailed a bus ride from Camden to Yerranderie and walk in from there.

Equipment used during this period was -

<u>Ropes</u> - 1 1/4" manilla was standard - bulky & heavy.

<u>Ladders</u> - First ones were produced by SUSS under the leadership of Henry Fairley-Cunningham. They were constructed out of army disposal aircraft control wire & aluminium tubing.

<u>Clothing</u> - Overalls if not to far to walk otherwise your ordinary walking gear.

<u>Helmets</u> - virtually non existent, most people wore fell hats with either a piece of sponge rubber in the crown or your second tee shirt stuffed in it.

<u>Lights</u> - Candles, Hand held torches, but batteries were expensive, or you made up your own type of head torch - large 26 hour duty miners carbide lamps.

<u>Rope Techniques</u> - Abseiling by the over the shoulder method, if you were doing enough of it you sewed a strip of carpet over the shoulder & crotch. Ascending was done by prusik loops which everyone used as a belt whilst underground.

<u>Photography</u> - There was two choices, either black & white with high speed emulsion to 200asa or Kodachrome rated at 8asa. No electronic flash gear of course and the flash bulbs were far to expensive so the usual illumination was Magnesium Ribbon or by home made flash powder. Surprisingly these worked very well, all the early Kodachrome on sale at *Jenolan* were by this method. The only problem was after each exposure it took 20 to 30 minutes for the white fog to dissipate.

1950

By now more people were becoming interested in caving, SUSS would only allow a limited number of associate members and so from members of the Rucksack Bushwalking club of Sydney came a new society - Sydney Speleological Society.

SSS was an instant success with large numbers of people joining up. Unfortunately the methods and attitudes towards caving left a lot to be desired and problems arose with the Department of Tourism. With caving to controlled areas now becoming difficult attention was turned to other areas, many hours being devoted to studying the Geological Survey of NSW by O. Trickett (1893). One area that interested myself was caves called by Trickett, The Belubula Caves. It was many years later that I had an opportunity to visit these caves now called Cliefden.

Around the early 1950's the first drive yourself hire cars became available in Sydney. The most common was a Austin A40 sedan, it was discovered that if you crammed 8 people into one - three across the front, three across the back and two sitting on the knees of the back seat passengers and leaning over the front seat - we could afford to hire one on the weekend.

Suddenly our caving horizons expanded, Bungonia, Wombeyan, Yarrangobilly were possible. Despite the above I continued to come to Jenolan. Alma and I had married and money was too scarce for longer trips. Work carried out at Jenolan included exploration to the underground river in *Mammoth*, where in an attempt to prove where the river surfaced we emptied a tin of Aircraft Personnel Sea Rescue Powder into the river and turned the Blue Lake a vivid green for three days. The *Jenolan* people were not amused, also the discovery of the extension of *Glass Cave*. The report of the Glass extension caused a lot of trouble between SUSS & SSS as after being published in SSS journal a large party of SSS went to have a look and caused a lot of formation damage.

An article in the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs yearly magazine aroused my curiosity. It described a trip into *Colong* and the finding of a new extension called *Wolffes Cavern* in 1942. Further trips not being able to relocate the area. I had been in and around the Colong area quite a bit and this was the first I had learned of an extension. One of our group owned a Series One Landrover and four of us decided to systematically look for *Wolffes Cavern*.

The route into *Colong* in the early 50's was via Burragorang Valley, Yerranderie swamp and down a gully called Green Gully. One usually trogged up completely to walk Green Gully as the nettles ranged between 4 & 8 feet high.

Five consecutive trips were made and then beyond Kings Cross area Alma found a small opening which eventually allowed access to the Wolffes Cavern Extension. Subsequent trips found an easier method of entering the area. Unfortunately I was not able to carry out a detailed exploration of Wolffes Cavern as Alma & I moved to Victoria where we joined the Victorian Cave Exploration Society.

VCES was mainly interested in the Buchan area although trips were taken to the basalt volcanic cave and the buried glacial Morraine Caves at Drooin. In all we spent 18 years in Victoria with the children being brought up in an bushwalking/caving environment.

1970

Back to NSW and Warragamba. Private walking and caving trips both in NSW and Tasmania, South Australia & Queensland. Our children now teenagers were told of BMSC by their teacher Ted Matthews and so began a very enjoyable period of good caving trips and pleasant social gatherings.

1980

Age takes its toll and I find I am not as supple as I was so caving becomes only an occasional pastime.

1990's

Looking back at the vast and quickness of the changes to both equipment and attitudes over the last 50 years makes one wonder what the next 50 will bring.

I personally feel that each generation will get as much fun I ever did or at least that is my hope. gas at the bottom.

The gas wasn't very high and we got right to the bottom and wandered about over the black sandhills and saw the water. Then shortness of breath forced us up to the next level where we couldn't find a crystal cascade. Although this cave was locked and only RESPONSIBLE cavers had access the cascade was completely covered with mud!

What a start to caving. After that I caved in most areas the club went, mostly *Cliefden* and *Jenolan*. My children, Robert and Donna also caved with BMSC and as a family we had many fine trips and made lots of good friends.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of holding many positions within the club. All in all my association with BMSC has been a pleasure I would not like to have missed.

IAIN LYNCH

TONY ELLIS

I am married to Maree and we live at Blaxland, our two married children live nearby.

I joined BMSC in about 1976 after seeing an article in the local press. I rang Barry Richard to find out and was on the phone a couple hours (he has the gift of the Gab) and soon after I went to *Bungonia* on my first trip.

What a first trip it was. After a quick look in *Grill*, to see how much I might panic, off to *Odyssey*, unstable rockpiles, short pitches, long pitches, shale slopes, always wet, and One day in the rural suburb of Glenorie, three young boys played happily. They had constructed a delicate network of hay bail tunnels and unwittingly had developed an artificial form of caving.

()

This was how I was introduced into the sport of Spelunking. Over the ensuring years I passed through the novice ranks, visiting *Bunga's* a few times and achieved the grand warrior Status.

The 89/90 AGM at *Cliefden* initiated a significant change to my caving career. Not only was it sporting, but it was fun! So with the help of a close affiliation with various members of the Coleborn family I joined the Speleo Club in May 1990.

Since then I have only been on a few *Jenolan* trips, (Southern Limestone).....might have had something to do with the fact that I was 12,000 kilometres away.

Now having returned from an extremely successful and fantastic trip to Peru, I look forward to more good times with BMSC

TROY MAGENNIS

My first cave with BMSC was Dwyers Cave (J41) at Jenolan. Anyone that knows this cave will understand why I have been caving since. (At the Southern Limestone).

Although I have enjoyed only 4 of the 25 years that BMSC has been active I understand why the members are so dedicated and keep caving week after week.

GREG POWELL

Oolite Vol 6 No 1-3 (1974) records a ground trogging trip to *Copperhania* near *Abercrombie* led by Ian Bogg. That was my introduction to caving with BMSC I also had an article in that issue on my experiences in the *Musgrave River Caves* in Papue New Guinea.

As a young school teacher (Leura and Faulconbridge) in the Blue Mountains in the early seventies, I sought loonies of my own nature. The local paper reported such creatures climbing the rafters at Penrith Plaza Shopping Centre. They were the BMSC and I couldn't wait to join up.

Nearly twenty years later I find the club just as friendly and adventurous as in those early years. The club then provided me with great companionship and adventurous weekends. Meetings were held in members homes which made for extremely friendly gatherings and very close ties between members. Caving took up every second weekend and social functions filled the gaps.

Back "home" in Newcastle I was the Caving Co-ordinator for Newcastle and Hunter Area Scout Association. This entailed the running of many Caving Courses for Venturer Scouts, some of which led to close ties with the BMSC A steady trickle of Newcastle people began to realise the worth of BMSC and thus began the membership of the "Newcastle boys". The first were Lewis Carey, Peter Payne and William Brown in 1975. There are still "Newcastle boys" in the BMSC today ie Warren Lacey and Tim Pearson.

BMSC caving was wonderful. The club was not too heavy, safety records were excellent (and still are) and weekends were great fun.

Abercrombie was a favourite haunt and we had the run of the place. At first we camped in Mike and Nita's house at the top of the hill, then we moved down to the camping area. Allan would always give us a fascinating night inspection and in return we worked and surveyed. We held A.G.M.'s on the dance floor, made bushranger movies and picked blackberries. *Abercrombie* days were great days.

Then followed wet windy Wyanbene and Barry drowning the Holden in the Shoalhaven (no concrete bridge then). Bungonia and the great Odyssey trips. Jenolan and the extensive northern limestone- Mammoth.

Walli and the 3 metre high thistles and tiger leaches in the creek. Hollander's River ground trogs with a sick kangaroo and Lionel being chased by cows. Church Creek through the snow in Graham's Ning Ning and meeting a man at *Yarranderie* who lives on oranges while his feet are twisted up behind his neck. *Church Creek* defeated by a flooded Kowmung on a beautiful bushwalking weekend.

Kempsey, Pilcher's Hill, Glenbrook, Canomodine, Joadja, Wollangambie, Ghost House and many more exotic locations all hold fond memories but none so fond as Cliefden.

Cliefden is BMSC and BMSC is Cliefden.

We have left much blood, sweat and tears there. Phill's spirit lingers there. The echoes of two decades of laughter can still be heard there. History and adventure abound there. Exploration is rewarding there. A generation has matured there.

Cliefden is hard to write about. We all hold treasured memories of the place so why try to write them down. *Cliefden* lives in all our minds.

Why has BMSC lasted for a quarter century. Is it it's versatility, caving, bushwalking, ground trogging, li-loing, canyoning? Is it the friendliness of its members? Is it the great social contacts? Is it it's sense of purpose and the desire to get a job done? Is it its commitment to safety ethics and conservation?

BMSC is all of these things. All of these things kept hold of me for ten years after I left the mountains. Its hard to let go of such a great club.

BARRY RICHARD

Up until 1969 my leisure time was spent rally racing and being Secretary of the Torana Viva Car Club, but that all changed when I began caving with BMSC My first caving trip with the club was to *Colong* and my trip leader was Ron Thomas. This was a memorable trip with us getting lost in the maze and the arduous return up the *Acetylene Spur*.

Over the years I have enjoyed the sporting challenge offered by such caves as Wyanbene and Tuglow but I particularly enjoyed the physical challenge offered by Herberts Pot, Tasmania.

For decoration, *Croesus & Kubla Khan*, Tasmania offer a refreshing, untouched beauty but none could surpass the beauty of *Chevalier* at *Jenolan*.

My favourite area is *Cliefden*, which brings back pleasant memories of good friendships in particular Phill Coburn, who was a great mate. I remember the day he brought his Suzuki and he arrived around home to show it to me.

Over the years BMSC and its members have provided me with many fine memories such as using the directional finding gear while surveying and mapping at *Abercrombie*. The gating of *Tuglow*, which was quite a task, putting down the railway lines, then the many hours spent welding the mesh on. The ride into *Tuglow* with twelve of us hanging off a short wheel base landrover.

()

I will never forget the *Wyanbene* trip, when my holden got stuck in the Shoalhaven and the water was rising up to the new speakers I just put in. Soon after this I brought a landrover.

The thrill of finding a new cavern in *Dip Cave, Wee Jasper* and the nights spent around the camp fire swapping yarns and the friendships formed with the club members; Ian Bogg, Ron Thomas, Graeme Nelson,

(32) OOLITE Vol 20 No 2

Lionel Baker and many others over the years.

Beside the caving aspect I also enjoyed the contact with other organisations such as A.S.F. and the N.S.W. Speleological Council. I found my time spent as the *Tuglow* Coordinator rewarding. We found two caves and surveyed and mapped seven.

BMSC along with M.S.S. & H.C.G. formed the first rescue group, they were collectively known as the Central Regional Council. It was at one of these rescues that one of my less pleasant memories occurred. One of the party had fly blown meat with maggots, so he brushed off the maggots, soaked the meat in wine and cooked it.

The highlight of my time with BMSC would have to be the three years I was the club President.

Since my move to Jenolan in the late seventies I haven't been an active member of the club. My time these days is spent with other volunteer organisations such as the Bushfire Brigade and St John's First Aid. But BMSC will always hold a special place in my memories.

STEVE ROSS

"TO BE CONTINUED"

My first experience in caving was early 1984 when I dubiously accepted an invitation from Brian Skinn. This invite was to be at *Cliefden*, and I had no idea what to expect.

Upon arrival at *Cliefden*, I became more settled knowing that in the morning the nerves would set in. The reason for this was that we were going "underground" for a 5 -6 hour trip in *Taplow Maze*.

Morning arrived, and everybody prepared

themselves for the trip. We set off for *Taplow* and I must admit that I was impressed with the trip to the cave. It wasn't until I entered *Taplow* that the magnificence of this "sport with a difference" set in. I was amased at the scenery that was here, and only a priveleged number of people ever see it. The dry throat from the dust, the scratched and bruised knees were nothing compared to what I was experiencing.

After we returned to the hut, cleaned up and recovered, it was then I realised that I was totally hooked on caving. I had one more trip to *Cliefden* after that which was the 21st Anniversary.

All my caving since then was at Jenolan and just as exciting. Many an hour was spent in *Mammoth*, on both exploring and adventure. The *Woolly Rhinosceros* is still elusive, but like everybody else I hope that one day it will be found (preferably by BMSC) This and the supposed *Wiburds Lake Cave* will be an outstanding asset for whoever finds them.

The Jenolan experience was very rewarding for the fact that there is so many caves, and no doubt more to find.

CAROL SKINN

"GOING BACK IN TIME" -

My memories of BMSC go back a long way but at the same time are as vivid and clear in my mind as things that have only just happened.

I was introduced to Speleology on the weekend of 25th/26th October, 1975 by my sister, Louise, when I was invited to tag along on a trip to "Cliefden". Needless to say this was the first of many enjoyable and exciting trips that would follow to Cliefden

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (33)

and other caving areas in New South Wales as well as Tasmania.

It was that same weekend that I met up with someone who in time became a very special friend and companion. His name was Phillip Coburn. Phill was tragically killed in the Granville Train Diaster on 18th January, 1977, but his dedication to outdoor sports and activities especially his time with BMSC will always be remembered by the people who knew and cared for him as well as those who are now benefiting from the work that he had done.

The first club meeting I attended was held at Phill's place in February, 1976 which was when I became a prospective member of the club.

It was also at that meeting three fellows turned up enquiring about the club. They were Brian Skinn, Terry Coleborn and Peter Hedger. I can remember thinking at that time "Who are these Yobos?" and "Look what the cat dragged in!" Well, I can only say now that first impressions are not always accurate. You see, Brian is now my husband and Terry my brother-in-law. And I must add, they're not so bad after all, as a matter of fact that first meeting when I look back on it was probably a major changing point in the history of BMSC with the more established members leaving the mountains area and being unable to continue actively with the club, a "NEW BLOOD" was needed and Brian and Terry seemed to fill these positions well.

As time continued, I was privileged to visit many caving areas such as *Walli*, *Jenolan*, *Wee Jasper*, *Bungonia*, *Narrangullen*, *Tuglow*, *Cliefden* and many others. Each area has its own individual mystique and in each area your experiences can be so different. You never know what the weather is going to be like but it didn't matter, it wasn't the weather you were going for, it was the chance to photograph formations which were there for the "taking"...it was for the thrill of the sport and the challenge of conquering parts of the cave you knew would be out of your reach... it was for the need of enjoying a weekend away with friends and comrades.

As well as caving, BMSC also had its share of "Social Outings". The Xmas parties were always something to look forward to. And Ten Pin Bowling was another big hit. There was even the occasional Bucks Night (or weekend), 21st Birthday party and of course we can't forget the wedding get-togethers.

One thing I do remember well is the clubs 20th Anniversary. The celebrations took place at "Cliefden" at the shearers hut. Louise and I did a lot of the lead up to the big weekend. It seemed an impossible task at first. How were we going to get all the "party" food up to *cliefden*? and more importantly how were we going to keep it refrigerated? After months of preparation, invitations were being sent to past and present members to celebrate such a prestigious occasion. A grand total of approximately 100 people attended this weekend. Although the weekend was a fabulous success I will never forget the stench that came from the verander of the shearers hut when we arrived on the Friday afternoon. Not even the strongest disinfectant and our best port made any impression. When a ram decides to go - he decides to go!

I congratulate all past and present members of BMSC for achieving 25 years of safe caving and friendship among each other. May BMSC continue to thrive on the excitement of its young up and coming members and the experience of its dedicated and hardworking past and present members for many years to come.

BRIAN SKINN "CAVING FOR LIFE"

"It feels like I've been caving all my life.", my body tells me almost all the time. And yes looking back, my life has really evolved around caving for around 23 years. That's a caving life full of never to be forgotten memories, memories that started in Tasmania as a boy of six years on my Grandfathers' farm at Caveside near Mole Creek.

All those years ago, my Grandfather and Uncle, whilst having smoko on the farm, would grab the torch, sometimes my brother and myself and poke their noses into the many caves that littered the farm. From the very first day that I saw my grandfather disappear from sight down what seemed a very dark scary looking hole in the ground, I was hooked. Many more mini caving adventures on the farm followed, which really re-enforced my view that one day I would 'do it for real'. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine how much my life would centre around the obsession, the thrill, the daring or the romance of 'just going caving'.

Back in the late 60's at the Latrobe High School (Tas) a few of the teachers were cavers. They formed a school caving club of which I and my two best mates were foundation members. My first cave was *Black Shawl* at Caveside, which as it turned out was just over the fence from the caves I had visited on the farm many years earlier.

My second ever REAL cave, only about 2-3 weeks later, was *Kubla Khan*. On that trip my caving life almost ended, along with my real life. We were on our way out through the River Alf, after about nine hours under, when immediately after unclipping from the static belay, I fell off the top of the Stalactite Shuffle, bouncing off the two walls as I went. I woke up under water, my light had fallen off, my helmet was rammed as far as it could go on to my head, and I was at the bottom of the river, alive but in a state of shock. All attempts to climb back up failed so I was assisted up to the next ledge where I was examined and declared 'another shuffle victim'. At that point I had lost all confidence in my ability or lack of it and had to be helped all the way out. Not a very good second trip I thought.

My two mates and myself left school but continued caving, sometimes with our teacher mates from school, but mostly by ourselves. The next few years found us in many caves, sometimes in life threatening situations, others in the glory that can only be 'a cave at Mole Creek'. A true apprenticeship into the life of caving.

I joined the Air Force soon after and could only go caving during my leave periods back home. This continued for a couple of years, until I met Terry Coleborn. I took Terry over to Tassie and introduced him to caving which he took to like a duck to water. Another trip soon followed, this time we went fully armed with a plethora of camera gear and to this day I look back on those photos, and I'm sure Terry does to, and think that they are some of the best cave photos we've ever taken.

We found a book on caving "Australian Caves and Caving" with the addresses of all the ASF clubs in the back. After a little pushing from Terry, BMSC received a letter which was to become the beginning of many friendships, good times, a marriage for both of us (to cavers), and the beginning of a new chapter in our lives.

February 1976 saw Terry, Peter Hedger and myself at a BMSC caving meeting feeling out of place amongst all those strangers. BMSC, being what it is soon made us feel welcome and we were soon all talking about our past caving adventures and planning the next trip. We joined that night in anticipation of those trips.

Our first trip was a 12 hour *Wyanbene* epic, one of many into what I consider to be a classic NSW cave. Countless more trips soon

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (35)

followed, meeting more people who have become really good friends with one of 'those people' becoming my wife. Carol and I met at the first meeting but didn't see things eye to eye for a long time. Fate eventually found us at the Church in 1979 with many of our caving friends celebrating with us.

Soon after joining I discovered that the club just didn't run itself as many thought, and I might add still do. My involvement at club level inevitably followed. Safety Officer, Secretary, ASF Rep, and finally the honour of holding the position of Club President. I found that my first love - caving - was being equalled by the enjoyment of contributing at club committee level, something that to this day I still enjoy. Even though Carol and I are many miles away in Victoria, we both look back at those days in the Club as days never to be forgotten.

The highlights for me are many. High on the list would be taking the club to Mole Creek in Tassie two years in a row, the many Wyanbene trips, the many trips to Jenolan particularly Mammoth and finding Split Rock and Funnel Web in the Jenolan Southern Limestone. I really thought I was going to die in Split Rock that day I dug the entrance and entered for the very first time. But that is another story. More highlights were helping in a small way with the epic survey of Taplow Maze at Cliefden and the really hard, hairy SRT caving that Karl and I managed to survive at Bungonia. Many other trips spring to mind, too many to elaborate on here, but a common thread is woven amongst them all - good mates, good times, and good caving.

So my body tells me that it thinks I've been caving all my life. Well so it should, I have been.

RON THOMAS

I suppose caving to me started back in my daydreams when at the age of 10 at school I made up a composition (essay) on "Being Lost in a Cave". Sandstone crevaces always drew me to investigate fully and the sheer thrill of "Going underground" on guided trips through *Jenolan* and *Buchan* in Victoria were the only limestone caves I visited during those young years.

At Xmas 1960, with 5 other mates, using an NRMA map and in 2 cars we set out for *Tuglow Main Caves*, finished up on Tuglow farm and camped next to the river for 4 days. The owner said "It's just over the mountain and it's only a small hole in the ground".

Not having a clue really we walked and walked and walked without ever finding anything that faintly resembled a cave in that area. The only caves we found on the farm were very small and not very satisfing.

Out came our NRMA map again and this time headed to Bungonia, finally satisfying our yearn to cave by exploring the *Grill Cave*.

Five years lapsed, I married and joined the local Baptist Church at Glenbrook.

()

In July'65 we had a Sunday School Anniversary and the speaker on that occasion was a member of Baptist Caving Club, the Reverend John Giles of the Lithgow Church. Basing his children's talk on caving, the illustration was of all places "Tuglow".

Boy did I sit up and listen! After Church I cornered him and with 5 other guys we lined up a trip with a few from the Lithgow Group.

Graham Nelson, Merv Knight and myself

from that original trip were 3 of the 6 foundation members.

These days most cavers know the *Tuglow* System so I won't go into detail but our trip consisted of a jaunt around the "Diamond Mine", then a single rope down to the river. From here along to and around the eflux and extension above, before setting out upstream, stopped only by a waterfall.

In 65 the upper level was known of but very few

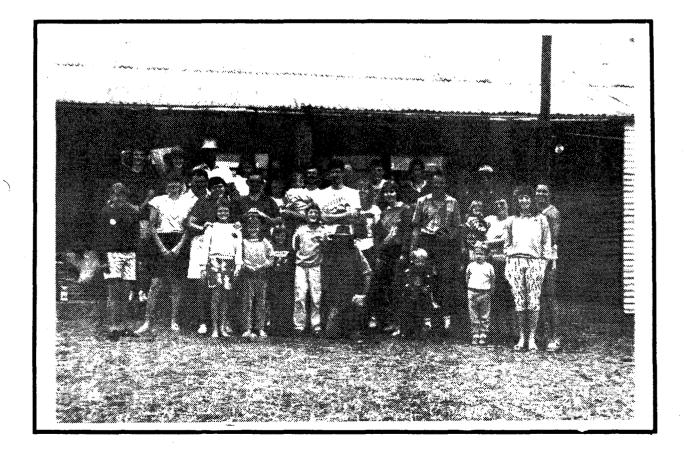
groups knew the way, with our Sunday commitments, one day trips were most suitable for us so many trips followed to *Tuglow* trying to find the elusive upper level.

Tuglow and Colong were my most visited systems in those early days.

Graham Nelson was still at University and began to talk with SUSS members and along with with his travelling friend Ken Pickering, slowly the club came into being. Member No 5 was friend and National Parks & Wildlife Service's ranger John Gallard with years of caving experience. I remember an early trip in Graham's Austin A40, John was in the back, we pulled up at the saddle on Boss Mountain and climbed out. John had changed colour, fine dust coated all the back and when he hopped out the spot where he sat was the only clean area.

'72 to '84 were lean years as far as caving goes, when finally re-entered a cave it was just as though I had been caving on a regular basis.

The thrill and excitment was just the same as at the beginning.



OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (37)

These Cartoons were compiled by Kevin and Troy. They see traits of BMSC members in them? Can YOU see any?



10 U

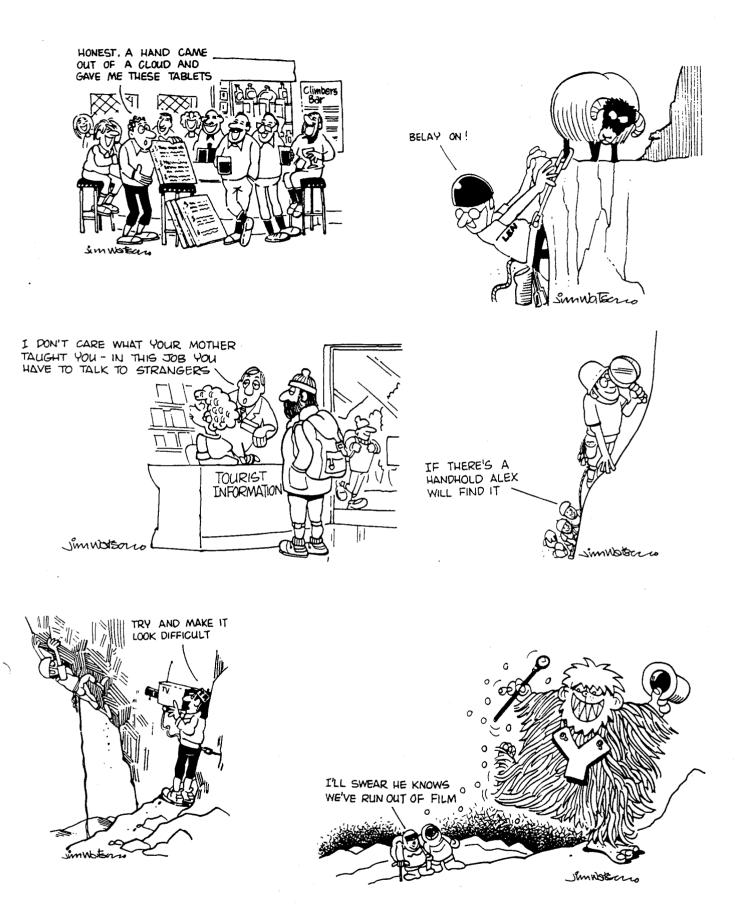
()



DON'T BOTHER COMING UP, WE'RE COMING DOWN



(38) OOLITE Vol 20 No 2



١

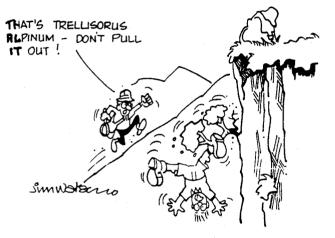
ж 1

5

OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (39)









рх С

<u>}</u>

62

ę

эс Х Х

 $\left(\begin{array}{c} \end{array} \right)$

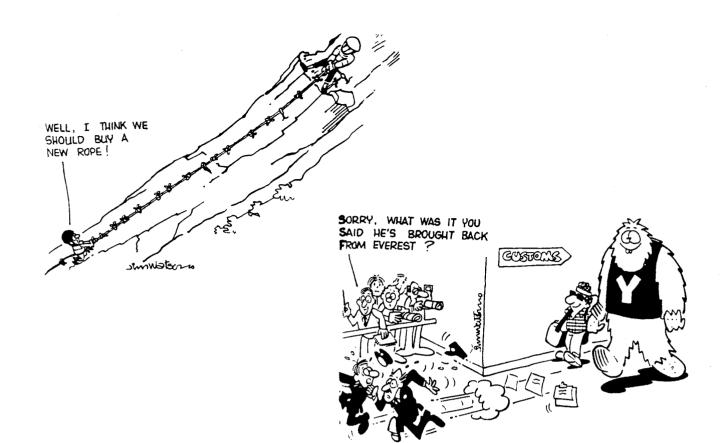
Wats no



PROBABLY THE LATEST MIRACLE THERMAL FABRIC FOR HIKERS



EVERYTHING IN THE SHOP IS COMPLETELY WATERPROOF, SIR



DO YOU HAVE TO TRY OUT EVERYTHING? 6 25 RE 0 simuoteau

¢

ţ.

.4

C

č

4

()

MY PLANS FOR A SOLO ROUND THE WORLD WALK HAVE HIT A SNAG. HE WON'T GO Π



OOLITE Vol 20 No 2 (41)

BMSC SILVER ANNIVERSARY 1991

8

(42) OOLITE Vol 20 No 2