

# COLLIE



Journal of  
*Blue Mountains Speleological Club*

Vol. 21 No. 1

JOURNAL OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS  
SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB

OOLITE

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VOLUME 21 NO 1

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Edited for B.M.S.C. by Warren Lacey.

Subscriptions and Journal exchange enquiries to be directed to the  
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Glenbrook N.S.W. 2773.

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On the 26th January, 1991 the Blue Mountains Speleological celebrated its 25th Anniversary at Jenolan Caves.

### Members Present:

Terry, Louise, Kevin & Cheryl Coleborn, Carol Skinn, Lionel Baker, Barry Richard, Dave Noble, Len Baker, Glen Robinson, Troy Magennis, Rick & Carolyn Brett, Tony Zimmermann, Tim Pearson, Iain Lynch, Warren Lacey.

### Visitors:

Elizabeth Pearson, Anne-Marie Coleborn, Greg Ford, Judy & Cheryl Magennis, Kylie & Michelle Coleborn, Dot Cage, Judy Lynch, Allan & Gwen Fairweather, Robyn Richard, Larissa & Belinda Skinn, Jacki Sidey, Ethel Miller, Geoff Haliday, Paul, Sue & Naomi Sammut, Greg, Brenda, Benjamin, Adam & Lachlan Powell, David & Scott James, David McDonald, Vanessa Fergusson, Graham Cummings.

The following best wishes were sent by those unable to attend.  
Monica Sammut, Ron Thomas and Unita Treharne.

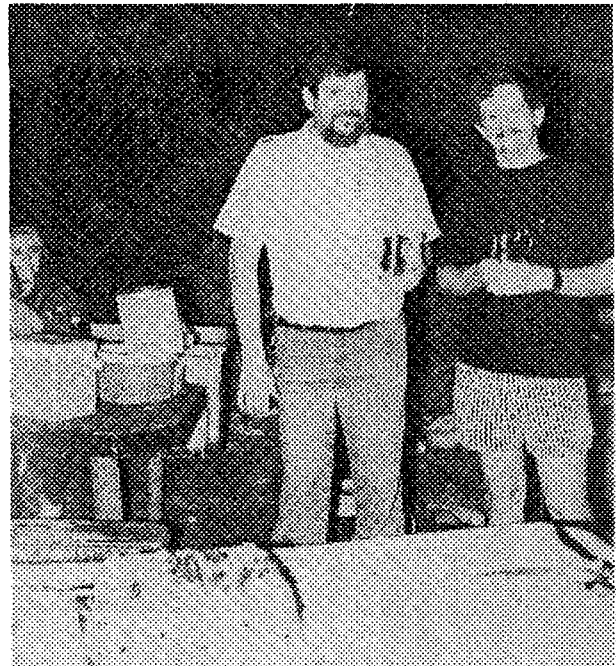
### Report:

The weekend began with the Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Hydro. The following members were elected to the Committee as Office Bearers;

President:	Rick Brett
Secretary:	Len Baker
Treasurer:	Carolyn Brett
Equipment Officer:	Dave Noble
Committee Members:	Kevin Coleborn Troy Magennis
Trip Secretary/ Records Keeper:	Cheryl Coleborn
Mapping Co-ord.:	Troy Magennis
ASF Delegates:	Louise Coleborn Troy Magennis
Social Secretary:	Louise Coleborn
Publicity Officer:	Tim Pearson
Librarian:	Tony Zimmerman
Journal Editor:	Warren Lacey

At the AGM Cheryl Coleborn and Ricky Brett were named Cavers of the Year for 1990.

After the elections we all made our way up to Barry Richards home to view the BMSC Anniversary



Long Service recipients Barry Richard and Greg Powell

Video, which was put together by Brian, Carol and Louise. The video contained prints and slides of members of BMSC which were taken over the past 25 years. With the appropriate music 'Simply the Best' and 'We are the Champions' the video was enjoyed by all those present. Following the video Greg played another video which was a copy of 'Bushrangers at Abercrombie' that BMSC made in the late 70's.

After the video was shown we all headed back down to the Hydro for the night celebrations. Terry was already there with a large barbeque going and did a great job to getting everyones meat cooked.

The Hydro proved a wonderful setting for tea. The lights danced on the water below and a cool breeze sighed through the casuarinas overhead.



25th Anniversary celebrants

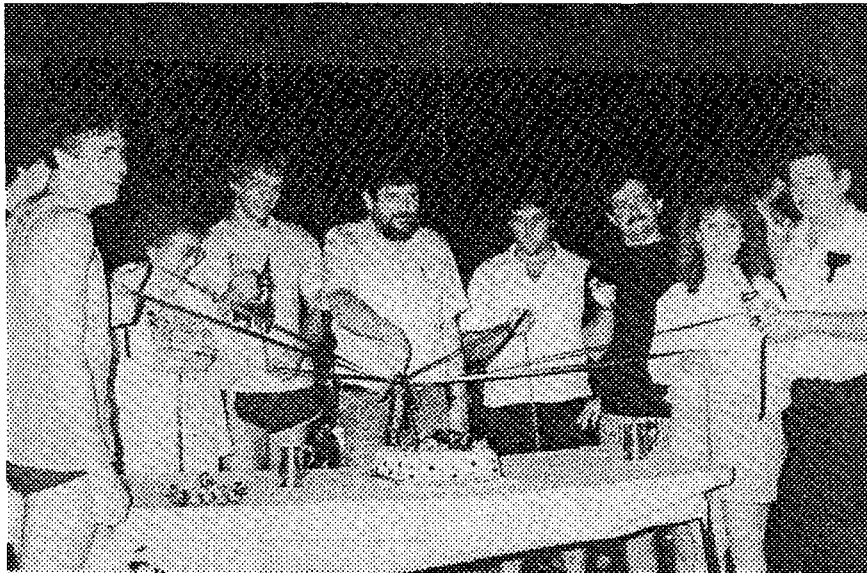
When everyone had finished their tea it was then time for the formal celebrations. Rick as Club President began with a short speech and then it was time to present the Long Service Awards. Carol was called upon to introduce our two recipients and to inform all present of their club history. Our recipients of the 25th Anniversary Long Service Awards were Barry Richard and Greg Powell. Both were presented with an engraved pewter mug and the best wishes of all present.

Rick then presented the 'Certificates of Recognition' which were given to the following present and past members for their service to BMSC; Ian Bogg, Len Baker, Lionel Baker, Rick & Carolyn Brett, Cheryl Coleborn, Kevin Coleborn, Terry & Louise Coleborn, Troy Magennis, Warren Lacey, Tony Ellis, Dave Noble, Brian & Carol Skinn, Ron Thomas, Lachlan Wilson, Tony Zimmerman, The Cummings Family.

Louise then called forward Barry Richard to cut the Anniversary Cake assisted by the 1991 Committee; Rick, Carolyn, Dave, Kevin and Troy holding the pale blue ribbons symbolizing the new blood in the club and past long serving members; Greg Powell, Allan & Gwen Fairweather and Lionel Baker holding the dark blue ribbons

which were used to symbolize the beginning of the club.

The remainder of the evening was spent renewing old friendships and making new friends.



Cutting the Anniversary Cake

Sunday several groups went caving in Mammoth.

Our thanks to following members:-

Carol & Brian Skinn for putting together the video and publishing the Anniversary edition of OoLite.

Louise & Terry Coleborn for making and decorating the cake, organising the photos for the video and the material for Oolite.

Ethel Miller for typesetting the invitation.

Troy Magennis for photocopying the invitations and certificates.

Barry Richard for his home as venue for showing the video and also for organising the day.

The following members for lending their photos in order to produce the Anniversary Video; Warren Lacey, The Coleborn Family, The Skinn Family, Dave Noble, Graeme Kates, Troy Magennis, Greg Powell, Ron Thomas, Lionel Baker and Steve Ross.

Thank you to all those present for making the Anniversary Celebrations into such a wonderful day.

Cheryl Coleborn  
Social Secretary 1990.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Supplementary terms for inclusion in the BMSC trip leaders handbook.

Aragonite :	supporter of past U.S. president.
Air Pocket:	Dave's stubbies.
Belay :	hold up at the top of a pitch, good excuse for a chat.
Bolt :	what visitors do after a day in the Southern Limestone.
Brake bar :	pointless pastime at Caves House.
Canopy :	found on Suzukis and Hiluxes.
Cave :	there are some in the Southern Limestone.
Cenote :	above B.
Crab :	found in sea caves.
Dark Zone :	more horrendous than the twilight zone.
Decoration:	given to long serving club members who don't cave all that much anymore.
Dig :	produces a feature that requires tagging.
Eccentric :	Southern Limestone trip leader.
Fault :	it is always someone elses.
Hydrostatic Pressure :	after 5 hours in a cave .....
Lake :	rumoured to be in Southern Limestone.
Meander :	a pleasant day exploring the Southern Limestone.
Phreatic :	low cost accommodation.
Rift :	inter and infra fracture in speleo groups.
Siphon :	A.S.F.
Strike :	a dispute between group and trip leader about visiting Paradox.

## Blind spiders found in Nullarbor cave NMH 6/8/91

A SPECIES of blind, underground spiders believed to be extinct has been discovered alive in a cave under the Nullarbor Plain in South Australia.

Similar to trap-door spiders, the *Trogloidiplura lowryi* is one of only three spider species in the world to be blind and live underground, the Head of Arachnology at the Australian Museum in Sydney, Mr Michael Gray, said yesterday.

'The spiders were forced into caves millions of years ago when Australia's climate dried up,' Mr Gray said.

A lot of species were forced underground, but only 12 have survived to become troglodytes.

He said animals forced under-

ground had to evolve and adapt to their surroundings, genetically re-organising their entire make-up.

'They lose their sight, develop pigmentation and their limbs lengthen with cave adaptation,' he said.

Mr Gray found eight juveniles of the rare spiders in a cave under the Nullarbor Plain on an expedition into the desert last month.

He said there was a great deal of life under the Nullarbor that could not be seen because of cave-ins and collapses, preventing people from entering the cave.

'Insects can get in, however, and that's what these spiders feed on,' Mr Gray said.

AAP

## DISCOVERY OF AN UNCHARTED CAVE.

The cave is located on a steep and rocky ridge near the walk that leads to Rocky Creek Canyon in the Wollemi National Park.

The cave consists of a long, medium size passages and is composed entirely of sandstone. These passages are similar but larger than that of the sandstone cave at Leura, however, not as long. In total there would be 40 - 50 m of passage.

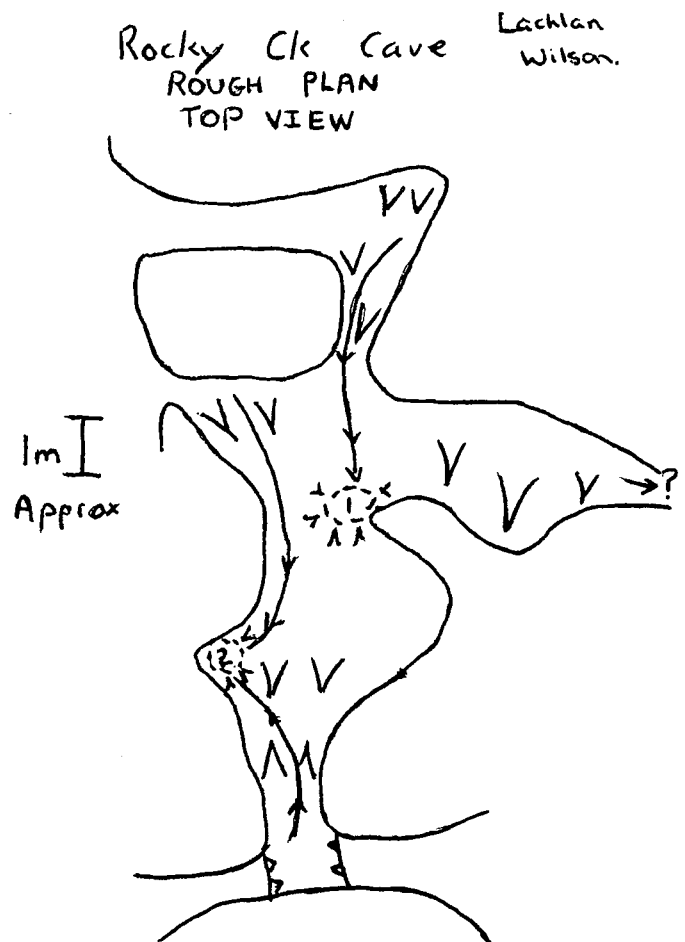
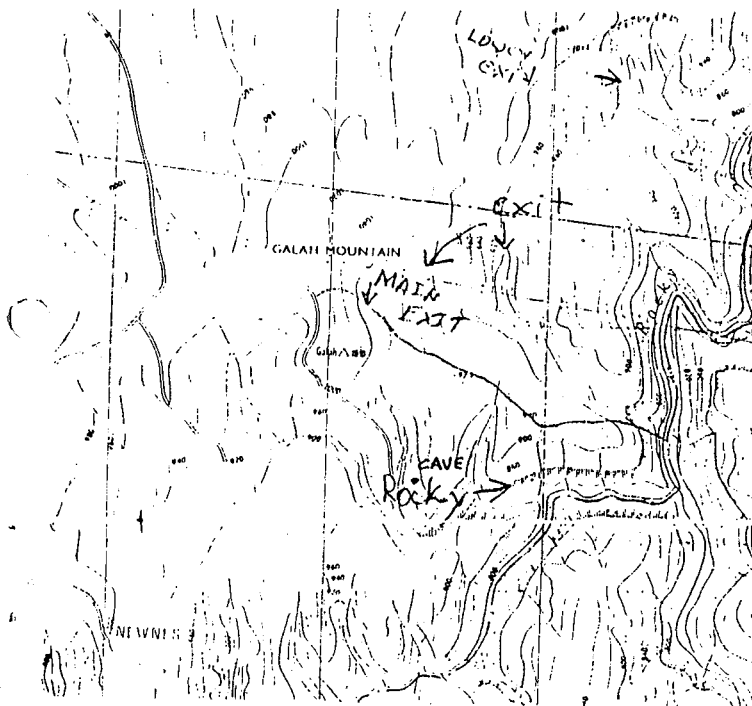
Two small, but not impassable holes are yet to be explored. These are No.1 and No.2 on the map. Water entering the cave appears to flow down No.2 and is the best prospect of the two. No.2 however is very loose.

Another small cave is located above the main cave but does not connect. This is about 10m long and ends in a small chamber.

The main cave is easily comparable to that of the Leura Cave and that of the Bushrangers Cave at Mt Victoria. Small formations are visible and the cave is partly solid rock and partly in rockpile. The cave is not formed by an overhanging cliff.

The cave was first explored 11th February, 1991 but first discovered in June, 1989. I think it is well worth exploration and mapping.

Lachlan Wilson.



# NULLABOR 1990

Date: 22nd December, 1990 to 21st January, 1991.

Members Present: Dave Noble (TL), Kevin Coleborn, Glen Robinson, Peter O'Loughlin.

## Report:

**Day 1:** The first day we drove to Cockburn via Dubbo and Broken Hill. (1118)km

**Day 2:** We went to the Flinders Ranges and found Aracoota Cave and spent an hour there. Guano used to be mined from this cave.

**Day 3:** We walked around Wilpena Pound to Edowi Gorge and also up to St Mary's Peak. That night we slept at Brachina Gorge.

**Day 4:** We went rock climbing at Rawson Bluff on the south end of the Pound. The grade 13 climb was done after a long walk in humid 36 degree humid heat. That afternoon we drove to Warren Gorge for the night.

**Day 5:** Drove over to Buckeringa Gorge and climbed there on the 'Piton Wall' and did a couple of 19's, a 16 and a 12. That afternoon we drove to Whyalla and spent the night at the tip.

**Day 6:** We drove to White Wells Micro-wave Tower, one of the few landmarks in that area.

**Day 7:** We caved at White Wells, New Cave, Murrawijinie 1,2,3 and Allen's Cave. That night we slept at the entrance of Warbler Cave.

White Wells: This is a doline with a 5m drop down a shonky ladder to a chamber with lots of side passages.

New Cave: Is similar to White Wells except that we set up own ladder to a bumper bar.

Murrawijinie: 1.2 & 3 are all similar large shelter type caves underneath the doline.

Allen's: Is a large doline with an Aboriginal excavation in one corner.

**Day 8:** We entered Warbler Cave then Weebubbie, Winbirra, Kutowalla and Abrakurri.

Warbler: Is a large doline with the ladder pitch belay from the car. There is a rock scramble down

into the cave. The cave isn't extensive in length but it has large passages (approx 100m in width) and has a lake.

Weebubbie: In this cave we came upon some other speleos doing a clean up. The cave is fairly long with large lakes. We took a rubber dinghy in and took turns at paddling it around and swimming in the lake.

Winbirra: This cave is a long boulder scramble down to a lake.

Kutowalla: Is only a doline.

Abrakurri: Has the largest chamber in Australia. We also found some 'volley' prints in here! We tried to take some photos but had little success.

Chowilla: Is a large doline.

**Day 9:** We did Old Homestead North, which is very mazy and we were geographically embarrassed for about 1/2 hour or so and then we did Old Homestead South and pushed it as far as it seemed safe. It becomes quite unstable. These caves were reasonable dry but are known to be quite at times. Old Homestead is the longest cave on the mainland apart from Jenolan. It is 12.1 km in length.

After caving I went for a walk to try and find the RDF survey while the others signed the walls of the hut. That night we camped at the hut.

**Day 10:** That day we went down near the main highway to Webb's Cave, Witches, Kelly's and Thampana.

Webb's, Kelly's & Witches are all small caves with numerous amounts of decoration.

Thampana: This cave normally has 80km/hour winds blowing out the entrance, but dissappointingly it was quiet when we were there. We explored most of this cave. That afternoon we drove to Madura pub and spent New Years Eve around the bonfire and playing pool.

**Day 11:** Did Mullamullang Cave, the fourth longest in Australia. The first time we did to the end of each fork. The cave has very large passage ways and you boulder scramble for 5-6km to the end. We swam in a couple of different lakes within the cave.

**Day 12:** We again entered Mullamullang Cave and this time did the Easter Extension where there were

lots of salt formations - halites. We again found 'volley' prints! This time in 'Coffee and Cream'. The rest of the day was spent doing Kestral 1 & 2, Spider Sink, Midura Cave and Nurina.

Kestral Cave: Requires abseil in, prussik out. A boulder scramble leads to a large chamber.

Kestral 2: Is a walk in doline to a large chamber.

Spider Cave: Is a large doline.

Midura Cave: This is a walk through cave, not very extensive and heavily trogged.

Nurina Cave: Is a tight rift over a lake. Very sporting and enjoyable.

That night we camped at Moonera.

**Day 13:** We did Cocklebidy, which has a large entrance doline, down a slope to a lake. We took the dinghy in and paddled around looking at the dive lines.

Murra-el-elevyn: A ladder pitch off a tree! Then a scramble down, one way goes high into a rockpile and the other goes down around a lake crawl.

Pannikin Plain Cave: This is a big doline into a very, very unstable rockpile.

That night we again camped at Moonera.

**Day 14:** We drove back to Port Augusta.(1115km).

**Day 15:** We drove through Mt Remarkable N.P. onto Telowie Gorge and then camped the night at Port Pirie.

**Day 16:** Drove down the Yorke Peninsula to look at Coral-lyn Cave. It was found after asking numerous residents its whereabouts. When we finally got there it was locked. That night we camped at Webb's Beach and found some baby sting rays out in the water.

**Day 17:** Had a look around Adelaide, went to the museum and down to Glenelg Beach where we saw a 1m manta ray. Spent the night at Mt Lofty.

**Day 18:** We went back into Adelaide and did some shopping at the outdoor stores and then drove down to Narracourt for a brief look. Driving then into Victoria we camped the night at Mt Arapiles.

**Day 19 to 24:** We spent this time at Arapiles climbing. Lots of climbs between 4 and 22 including Kochong. Glen and Peter left us here and headed

home. That afternoon of the 24th day Dave and I drove to Brian and Carol Skinn's place at Werribee. Spent a long night here playing Pictionary till the early hours.

**Day 25:** Spent the day shopping in Melbourne and suburbs. Spent the night at a national park just out of Melbourne.

**Day 26:** Drove to Mt Buffalo.

**Day 27:** Spent the day climbing at Mt Buffalo doing 'Epic' and 'Small Epic' and watching 'HB' climb a 100m grade 25. Again we spent the night at Buffalo.

**Day 28:** Drove to Mt Hotham and walked out to Mt Feathertop. The 22km walk took us 4 hours. Slept the night at Mt Creek.

**Day 29:** We tried to walk to the top of Mt Bogong but we turned back in heavy rain and cloud at Bivouac Hut.

**Day 30-31:** The last 2 days we climbed at Cosmic County in the Blue Mts.

Caving Hours: 52 for everyone.

Total Money spent for 2 of us: \$885.34 (\$507.10 for petrol and \$378.24 for food).

Total Km travelled: 7986km

Hottest Temperature: 43.5° at Koonalda Cave entrance.

Coldest Temperature: 4° at Buffalo.

Kevin Coleborn.

## CLIEFDEN CAVES 1990 AGM

Date: 17th - 18th February, 1990.

Members Present: Cheryl Coleborn, Troy Magennis, Kevin Coleborn, Dave Noble, Iain Lynch, Marty Brett, Mandy, Greg Ford, Ann-Marie Coleborn, Michelle Coleborn, Rick Brett, Carolyn Brett, Peter O'Loughlin, Louise Coleborn, Terry Coleborn, Kylie Coleborn, Warren Lacey, Len Baker, Lachlan & Rebecca Wilson, Stuart Driver, Tony Zimmermann,

Cheryl & Judy Magennis, Dot Cage and Greg Cook.

#### Report:

We met Saturday morning at Katoomba, with the exception of Rick and Marty who had to leave early to organise the dinner, for the beginning of the car rally organised by Kevin and Len. Well done Louise, Terry and family on winning.

Saturday afternoon we had the annual general meeting where the following executive officers were elected;

President: Rick Brett, Secretary: Len Baker, Treasurer: Carolyn Brett, Equip. Officer: Dave Noble, Journal Editor: Troy Magennis, Records and Trip Secretary: Troy Magennis, Mapping Co-ordinator: Graeme Kates, Librarian: Graeme White, Social Secretary: Cheryl Coleborn, Publicity Officer: Tony Ellis, Safety Officer: Rick Brett, ASF Delegates: Louise Coleborn & Troy Magennis, Committee Members: Kevin Coleborn & Tony Zimmermann.

After the meeting we had the spit of lamb that had been cooking most of the afternoon. After tea a party went to Malongulli, entering at 7.45pm and finishing at 11.15pm. When we returned Warren showed some slides and Dave found some of their recent Nullabour trip.

Sunday morning Cheryl and Len made a quiet departure to Tetanus Cave to set up as patients for the rescue (entering at 10.00am). While this happened Rick gave a talk on safety and circulated a questionnaire to be completed by all members on safety. One of the more senior members thought the aim of BMSC was north! We all know it is west.

At approximately 11.00am everyone left to find Cheryl and Len. Their direction was Taplow but very mysteriously when walking past Tetanus a rope was noticed tied to the belay point. After a

considerable effort on Kevin's part the party decided to investigate the situation further.

Cheryl was 'rescued' using a makeshift stretcher - an ironing board - and a hauling system. The day was successful as it showed everyone how even a seemingly simple rescue is difficult.

After the rescue the party continued to Taplow. The entrance was used to train a few of the prospective members belaying techniques. Four hours was spent in the cave by all those present.

Exiting from the cave we all walked back to the hut, cleaned and packed up and headed off home. All in all a great Cliefden weekend.

#### Hours Underground:

12 hours: Cheryl Coleborn, Dave Noble, Troy Magennis, Glen Robinson, Iain Lynch, Kevin Coleborn, Marty Brett, Mandy.

8 hours: Rick Brett, Peter O'Loughlin, Len Baker.

7 hours: Michelle Coleborn.

4 hours: Greg Ford, Ann-Marie Coleborn.

3 hours: Terry & Louise Coleborn, Kyle Coleborn, Caroline Brett, Warren Lacey.

## JENOLAN CAVES

Date: 24th - 26th February, 1990.

Members Present: Troy Magennis (T.L), Glen Robinson.

Visitors: Peter Brown, Dave McDonald. (H.S.C.)

#### Report:

With some new enthusiasm we set out to locate J271, J272 and J273. With two of us high on the southern side of the Breach we directed the others via a CB radio to possible holes on the northern side of the Breach. Three small holes were noted but not worthy of a tag. No J271, J272 or J273.

Heading south over the first hill, J276 Vic's Pot was located. J276 has a vertical .3m x .3m entrance at the edge of a grassy slope approximately 10m from the top. No.3 carpark and Caves House are easily visible from the entrance. J276 - 328 deg to the top of the Boiler House chimney at -20 deg declination.

Regrouping at the collapse doline at the top of the hill above the first creek junction we descended to the creek level and noted Camp Ck in extremely good flow. The creek was sinking adjacent to the 14S traverse tag (11.45am).

The Heffalump Trap was passed and no water was evident even though the creek was flowing no more than 3m away. The Heffalump Trap is a 5m deep collapse at creek level.

We headed up to J274 Split Rock to check the dig. On entering the cave a quick exit was made on the sighting of a wombat. The wombat being equally as scared of us retreated into the cave to the bottom of the dig - a 4m deep rift. Without help it is doubtful the wombat would be able to escape.

After exiting Split Rock we headed down to survey J284. Some marine fossils were noted in this cave.

Back at No.3 carpark J305 was going to be surveyed, however our surveyor could not fit through the squeeze.

On parking the cars an obvious entrance was noted below the quarry 3m above the groundlevel. This is known as 'School Kids Cave' and presently has no tag allocated. This cave was discovered around 1974-75 by the kids of the Jenolan school (mainly Cully, Holland and Newboulds). This cave was surveyed and is surprisingly large with some unexplored leads - due to formation blockages. There is a lot of pretty formation in this cave.

Another cave, also untagged, 'Quarry Cave' is located in the top right hand corner of the quarry.

Entered by a tight 5m squeeze it opens into a chamber 5m x 5m x 3m high with formation. This cave was opened up during the quarrying for the foundations of Caves House.

The wombat rescue squad was formed and as advised by Ernest Holland we set out to recover the wombat. Enter-ing Split Rock Glenn and David tried to get the wombat to charge them and when it was in range place it in a bag. This was unsuccessful as the wombat would not attack. Instead it dug a small tunnel away from us. Being unable to offer any more help to the wombat we exited and returned to the carpark. On the return trip the creek was now sinking outside Heffalump Trap, 8m upstream of the previous day.

With intent to try again to save the wombat our plans were spoiled by weather and a lack of man power. However Ernie had enough time to show me some entrances that he and some of the guides had found.

1) On the eastern side of Lucas Rocks directly below the TV aerial about 20m from the summit viewed from the mirror next to the bridge at the Blue Pool.

2) Bearings taken from 10m uphill of the 20km/h speed sign.

Bearing  $80^{\circ} + 47^{\circ}$  inclination.

Bearing  $105^{\circ} + 0^{\circ}$  "

3) Bluffs opposite rock walling on the way to No.3 carpark (above Binnomea Cut) somewhere at the base of these bluffs, small through cave.

#### Hours Underground:

Troy Magennis 4, Glen Robinson 3

Peter Brown 3, Dave McDonald 3

Troy Magennis.

# BUNGONIA - CAVE RESCUE WEEKEND

Date: 10th - 11th March, 1990.

Members Present: Rick and Carolyn Brett, Stuart Driver, Kevin Coleborn, Dave Noble.

Report:

Began the course with a lecture on D.V.I. (Disaster Victim Identification) and about what to do at an accident scene in terms of leaving as intact as possible for later investigation by authorities.

Promoted to Yellow this year. Kevin was still having trouble getting off 18. With Rick, Dave and Dave Burnard from Newcaves mixed in with an assortment of paramedics and police rescue and other cavers we were off to B16, Blowfly. we had a victim near the Spokeshave Squeeze. I was pickd in the first group to enter.

Two abseils down, 40' and 20', to a rift chamber. Follow this for a short distance to an awkward squeeze which I found easiest to do on my back. Into a narrow section with the Spokeshave Squeeze. Terry (Police Rescue) did this first. A nasty squeeze climbing up and through a narrow band of rock so that at one point you are balanced on your hip. An 8' drop makes it nasty on the other side. I continued to climb the Dragons Teeth, a tight flattener.

Our patient refused to go through the Spokeshave so our rescue began on the B16 side down an 8' pit. Diagnosis - suspected pelvic injury. Paramedic came in, blankets and a paraguard stretcher. This proved impossible to use in the situation. Patient co-operated a bit in getting out of pit and through the squeeze where he was placed on a stretcher. Lunch was brought down to us in the rift chamber.

I exited after lunch to the surface where I was involved in the hauling party. completed the rescue early though the stretcher collapsed.

Won bottle of wine in the nights raffle. Film 'A Fish Called Wanda' and lots of talk.

Sunday we returned to B16-B51. B51 entrance was rigged to practice hauling systems and testing by lowering a person. Using 2 to 1 system incorporating two Gibbs ascenders and reversable brake to enable lowering of a patient by use of whaletails.

Warren Lacey.

## JENOLAN

Date: 17th - 18th March, 1990.

Members Present: Troy Magennis (T.I.), Warren Lacey, Tony Zimmerman, Cheryl Coleborn, Greg Cook.

Report:

Arriving at 12.30am after attending the BMSC meeting we spent the night at the Pig Farm. The aim for Saturday was to write entrance descriptions for as many caves as possible. Descriptions were written for J275 Hobbit Hole, J273 Bottomless Pit, J270 Gibber Cave, J268/J269 The Rift, J297 Heffalump Trap, J274 Split Rock, J279 Shaft Cave, J278, J277 Photon Cave, J281 Chomp Cave, Chump Cave maybe an extension of Chomp and J282 the nettle filled doline.

Spit Rock was also entered to attempt the removal of the dead wombat (see previous trip report). It seems the cave has collapsed where the wombat was digging and any movement in this part of the cave could collapse the dig chamber completely.

We headed back to the carpark to cook dinner. After this we toddled off to the bar to wait for Mark Starey of SUSS to arrive. Strange reactions occur when you ask people "Are you SUSS?". After much trepidation Mark arrived an interesting night was had in conversation.

Sunday morning was once again spent looking for Knitting Needle Cave. This was again unsuccessful but some other interesting holes were noted. An interesting feature is the 'JW' initials scaped into the mud above 'The Balconey' entrance to Lucas.

The afternoon was spent searching for caves described by Ernie Holland to me on the last trip. The hole pointed out from the road as one Ernie entered in the search for the lost boy proved not to worthy of a tag. In the area above Binnomea Cut one feature was found to be tagworthy. It is located opposite the northernmost end of the older 4 storey building on the way up to No.3 carpark in the northernmost end of the bluff approximately 15m - 20m above road level. It consists of a 6m vertically rising hole ending in a daylight hole.

The day was completed by describing the entrance and location of the two untagged features above No.3 carpark in the quarry area.

Refuge was then taken in the guides office to sit out a heavy storm and finish off the weekend.

Troy Magennis.

## JENOLAN

Date: 21st - 22nd April, 1990.

Members Present: Troy Magennis (T.L), Graeme Kates, Cheryl Coleborn.

Visitors: David McDonald, Peter Brown, Vanessa Ferguson.

### Report:

Weather: Saturday - wet and rainy, Sunday - cloudy, slight drizzle 10 -20°.

Having spent a wet night at the Pig Farm a 9.00am start was made at the No.3 carpark. Graeme, Peter and David

headed off to complete the survey of School Kids Cave. Part of Graeme is still in the cave - skin left on the cave coral walls.

After exiting this cave Peter joined Troy in Quarry Cave to survey it. This cave has a 2.5m decaying shawl as well as other impressive formations. Vanessa had her first taste of a Southern Limestone cave here. We may not see Vanessa again in the Southern Limestone!

The afternoon was spent with Peter and Graeme searching the northern side of the Breach. Their efforts paid off in the relocation of J271. As Jenolan had received over 100mm of rain in a week, Camp Ck was flowing extremely well. It looked more like a Blue Mts canyon which is a change from the normal rocky creek bed.

Sitting by a roaring log fire at Caves House we passed the evening discussing possible sleeping arrangements.

Sunday was spent relocating more tagged entrances in the area on the north side of the Breach. After locating J45 Block Cave it was possible to find J272 and J273. J272 was surveyed by Troy, David and Vanessa, while J271 was surveyed by Graeme, Peter and Cheryl.

A new cave was located by David, 15m north and 5m above J45 Block Cave. It drops 2m into some passage. Lunch was eaten back at the No.3 carpark and then the group headed directly up to relocate J286 and J265. After locating the 2 entrances fitting

descriptions were written. Many brown snakes encountered on the hill.

A fun weekend was had by all. Many 'holes' in the documentation list were filled in. This shows what can be done with enthusiastic people.

Hours Underground:

2 - Troy Magennis, Graeme Kates, Cheryl Coleborn.

3 - Peter Brown.

1 - David McDonald, Vanessa Ferguson.

Everyone spent 2 hours trogging.

Troy Magennis.

## YARRANGOBILLY & COOLEMAN

Date: 24th - 29th April, 1990.

Members Present: Dave Noble (T.L), Len Baker. Kevin Coleborn, Glen Robinson, Troy Magennis, Graeme Kates.

Visitors: Peter Brown, Paul Barrett, Dave McDonald.

Report:

A fine mid week departure for Len, Dave and myself began well from Dave's place with a fully laden vehicle at 8.30pm. From here an otherwise uneventful drive followed down the back road to Goulburn and onto Canberra. After a fuel and refreshment stop it was out into the pine forest for a nights rest just outside of Brindabella.

A cold and windy morning awakened us. Off on the tortuous road to Cooleman we reached here and set up camp and the days caving began.

First on the agenda was a walk up the red track to Murray's Cave where some enthusiastic bushwalkers

were conned into joining us. These people much enjoyed the guided tour of the cave but they could not be persuaded to dive the sump even though we told them it was much lower than normal.

After this and to Len's uncertainty was a climb up the hill to visit Glop Pot and River Cave both of which required a wetsuit for survival in the chilled waters. The duckunders in these caves provided some inspiring sport caving - but didn't appeal to some.

Upon departure from River cave we had our first introduction to Cooleman weather. A previously fine day had turned sour for the walk back and persisted long enough till dinner was over. That evening we paid a visit to the bushwalkers camped near us and enticed them to join us caving the next day - which they did.

Peter and Michael anxiously trogged up and prepared to leave for the days caving - burnt shoes and all. On the way these two reeled in their lunch which had hooked itself on their lines during the night. Shortly after several caves were visited in the region of Blue Water Holes, then Zed Cave and Barber's Cave (CP 15, 16, 17, 18) before a bite of lunch was had. At this stage Pete and Mike decided that caving was a good idea even though Pete suffered a little claustrophobia owing to his large size. After lunch we tried some risky creek crossings with yours truly taking a tumble. It was then off to Frustration Cave and New Years Cave. The former being a rather sharp river passage and awkward climb in and the other a very nasty vertical squeeze entry.

Finally later in the afternoon we visited Cooleman Main left and right. Our new caving associates emerged very muddy and wet into the rain for the walk back to camp for dinner.

Some exciting rallying from Cooleman saw us arrive at Yarrangobilly accompanied by Peter and Mike

whose plans for the weekend were now completely destroyed. First activity here was getting the key to the Cotterils Cottage and finding that there were other inhabitants in the hut. Curious as to who they were we visited the ranger to find that some Horticultural Tech students had some bad luck with the bad weather the night before and were permitted to stay in the hut in our absence.

We left the hut and headed to Old Inn, where Len decided it wasn't his day for caving and left the four of us to it. Not all the lower sections of the cave were visited due to Peter's inability to fit his frame into the squeeze. We did however visit the detrog area at the top. Armed with wetsuits we headed down to the thermal pool for a bath.

Upon returning to the hut we met our co-inhabitants who had graciously collected the firewood and warmed the hut for us. These people provided a pleasant nights activity. Later that night Troy, Peter Brown, Graeme Kates, Kevin and Dave McDonald arrived. That night featured frog hunting and billy cart slides down the highway.

Saturday saw two groups divide - one group to map Restoration and the other to visit Bath House and Instable. It was really interesting seeing Graeme cave with crutches and listening to the sound of crushed cave coral in the Tinkle Tinkle Chamber of Restoration. The surveying group consisted mainly of Hills members with Graeme and myself making the BMSC entrants. After dinner Bath House was visited by night.

Again our hosts provided the fire and food for the night before an early rise. The surveying had to be finished today to avoid another trip down. Meanwhile Dave, Kevin and Len visited River Cave, Frustration and Eagles Nest. We met later that afternoon and headed back towards home.

The combined trip saw over 30 hours of caving done and some 20 caves thoroughly investigated. It also provided a great meeting place for others and

my congratulations go to Mike and Peter who performed so well for two people who had never visited the subterranean before. Also Ryde Horticultural class was terrific in the hospitality they provided. Unfortunately we did not finish the surveying of Restoration but as long as Peter Brown keeps finding new passage we never will.

Finally thanks to all those who attended and especially Dave for his armative guiding in the areas visited.

#### Hours Underground:

Len Baker 16, Kevin Coleborn 16, Glen Robinson 36, Dave Noble 28, Troy Magennis 16.

Glen Robinson

## JENOLAN

Date: 19th - 20th May, 1990.

Members Present: Troy Magennis (T.L), Greg Cook, Iain Lynch, Cheryl Coleborn.

#### Report:

Cold and cloudy, 5 - 10°C.

This weekend was spent tying cave entrances entrances in to the Southern Limestone traverse using a tripod mounted forestry compass and fibreglass tape. These entrances include; J23, J270, J296, J268, J297, J265 and J286.

Four semi-permanent stations were also tied to the traverse.

Saturday night was spent at Allan Fairweather's place watching videos and playing games on his computer. This led to a late start Sunday and due to other committments an early finish that afternoon.

Troy Magennis.

# WALLI CAVES

Date: 23rd - 24th June, 1990.

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

Visitors: Marty Brett, Mandy, Mick Marion.

## Report:

Saturday morning we all met at the Cliefden turnoff after the Defect Stickers and being locked in the back of a Paddy Wagon. WE managed to escape and make our way to the Walli turnoff, with a police escort!.....

Thanks Stuart.

Due to the wet weather the track was almost impassable. We loaded all the gear into the two biggest vehicles and proceeded up to the campsite.

We soon had erected all the tents so we trogged up and made our way to WA12 Piano. We entered the cave and made our way down through the multiple false floors to where the cave opens out to the big chambers. We all then made our way to the main chamber taking in the vast amount of active formation and then we found our way down to the sump. Here there was a hint of CO<sub>2</sub> and a lot of water.

We retraced our steps from the sump and split into two groups to explore the nooks and crannies and also test ourselves in some beaut squeezes. Finally we regrouped in the main chamber where we rested for a while. For the newcomers to Walli we pointed out the cemented entrance to Piano Extension. With fours hours almost up we decided to make our way out so we could have a late lunch at camp.

After lunch we made our way to WA42 Lake Cave, sighting many roos along the way. Finally the

entrance was located and we made our way in, asking the Walli novices to point out the way in the small, dry dust filled chamber. With breathing quickly becoming difficult the way was located and the group moved on to where the ladder is usually set up to the floor below. All stopped with a yell to say that the floor below was covered with water. To my astonishment it was true. After six years of never seeing water in this cave I finally thought the name of the cave was appropriate and not some mystery.

The water would have been 2m - 3m in depth. We decided to chimney across above the lake and make our way to the back wall. This was a lot easier than it looked. Back on terra firma we noted the very wet visitors book which was too wet to sign. From this point we explored some of the back passages. Coming to dead ends we decided to make an exit from the cave. This was uneventful. It was amazing that once past the lake the cave changes from humid to hot, dry and dusty.

Back at camp we started the fire and warmed ourselves. Len and Mick departed for home.

Sunday morning we trogged up and made our way to Horse Hole and set up the ropes and ladders. We all entered the cave via abseiling or laddering and once down made our way to the sump and checked out the horse skeleton. Most of us were also amazed at the amount of animal bones in the sump chamber. Too many to count or identify who owned what. Soon all exploring was over so we made our way back to the ladder and out of the cave.

We all finally made our way back to the surface to the bitter cold wind. Horse Hole has a lot of potential. With the wind biting at us we went back to camp and warmed ourselves around the fire whilst having lunch.

Dividing into groups we headed off to Deep Hole. Once again the ladders and ropes were set and

everyone made their way in as quickly as possible as it was 10° warmer in the cave. Once again we split to explore this cave in small groups. We noted five different sumps containing water, took some photos and headed out. With time against us it was out of the cave and back to pack up all our gear ready to depart Walli once again.

Last but not least a great weekend was had by all.

Rick Brett.

## JENOLAN

Date: 21st - 22nd July, 1990.

Members Present: Troy Magennis.

Visitors: Dave McDonald (Hills), Cheryl Magennis.

### Report:

With a group of three it was decided to extend the surface traverse through the difficult section between the first and second creek junctions. Using a tripod mounted forestry compass, stadia pole and fibreglass tape, ten stations were surveyed. Some of the stations may not be left in a permanent form. The survey was to a grade 6 standard.

To start Sunday we all headed up the Lucas Rocks track around to J149 Old Lucas Entrance and J148. J148 was surveyed and a description written.

Lunch was eaten at the kiosk before Troy and Cheryl followed the base of the cliffline above the Blue Pool up to the grassy gully to the far south. We were looking for entrances and in particular 'Knitting Needle'. Following a description supplied by Basil Ralston..."follow the cliffline to the gully then come back to a slippery rock, look up in this area..". I think we found the cave but did not enter due to the difficult climb.

Troy Magennis.

## JENOLAN

Date: August, 1990.

Members Present: Troy Magennis (T.L), Cheryl Coleborn, Iain Lynch.

Visitors: Peter & SUSS members.

### Report:

We set off and surveyed Winch Cave followed by a quick grade 3 survey of J286. There is obvious signs of digging. Some large spiders were noted (SUSS).

Sunday, joined by SUSS we headed south to J281 Chomp Cave. Pat Larkin entered this cave and penetrated to the bottom of the final chamber. His comment was, "Not a very inviting cave!".

Hours Underground: Troy Magennis 4, Cheryl Coleborn 3, Iain Lynch 3 and Peter 3.

Troy Magennis.

## KURINGAI CHASE N.P. ABORIGINAL ENGRAVINGS.

Date: 1st September, 1990.

Members Present: Lionel Baker (T.L), Terry, Louise and Michelle Coleborn.

### Report:

We entered the park at about 10.00am and inspected and photographed some of the engravings located along the West Head Rd. The following engraving sites were visited by us on the day:-

#### Elvina Track Site.

This site is situated just off walking track No.1. The site contains 56 figures scattered over a tessellated rock. Some of the engravings are faint and difficult to see in overcast weather.

On the northern end of the main site are two emus and the Dreamtime hero, 'Daramulan' whose totem is the emu. Nearby is a large whale.

On two small rocks to the north are three kangaroos and on a small rock to the east is a platypus but this engraving is fainter than the others.

To the SW along the main site near the path from the road is a series of fish, shields, a lizard, flying bird and other animals.

Of particular interest are the weathered holes, which are 20cm in diameter and about 7cm deep occurring centrally in some of the tessellations.

#### Honeyeaters

*The gynea and emus wait for the lithe tribesman  
And the great whales doze, but the fish  
Leap down the flowering sandstone  
Where the honeyeater chickens rage.*

From "Ku-Ring-Gai Rock Carvings" by David Campbell.

#### Lovers and Whale Site

This site is situated 100m north of walking track No.4. The site contains 11 figures. It is really 2 sites close together.

On the very edge of a large rock outcrop is the shield which is on a sloping rock near the bushes. Across the spikey, thick bushes on the larger rock outcrop is a pair of whales. Above the whale is an engraving of a man wearing shoulder and waist bands with his hands raised. We were unable to

locate the bird near the pothole as the area is overgrown with moss.

South of the main rock and well secluded is an engraving of a man and woman engaged in sexual intercourse.

#### The Lovers

*Making love for ten thousand years on a rockledge:  
The boronia springs purple  
From the stone, and we two lay together briefly  
For as long as those two lovers.*

From "Ku-Ring-Gai Rock Carvings" by David Campbell.

#### America Track Site

This site is situated off walking track No.9. About 80m along track No.9 take a small side track off to the right. The site is about 60m along this track. The site we visited contained a large whale and in the outline of the whale was a woman and a stingray. Nearby is a goanna. There are other sites close by that we didn't visit.

#### Woman and Whale

*A whale blows from the sandstone, and a girl  
Dreams naked in those jaws  
Where she is doubly lost, for see the whale  
Is sinking through the rockface like a ghost.*

From "Sydney Sandstone" by David Campbell.

#### Echidna and Fish Site

This site is situated between walking tracks No. 12 and 13 on the western side of the road. This site contains 12 figures and 75 mudoos (footprints). This engraving site is composed of many footprints, a variety of fish, a shield and an echidna.

#### Spiny Anteaters

*Spring comes in gold and purple, and the stone  
echidnas  
Dawdle across the rockface*

*It may be a prickly business  
But their desire goes on forever.*

From "Ku-Ring-Gai Rock Carvings" by David Campbell.

#### Garigal Site

This site is left of walking track No.15. We only visited the first site which contained two large eels with lines across their bodies, a man with a clublike object and a fish engraved in the bottom of a pool filled with water. The water gave the illusion that the fish was swimming.

#### Fish and Moon

*It rained. I sheltered under a low bush  
Uncovering a fish  
That swam, as the moon rose and the pools filled,  
'n scales of silver in those lunar hills.*

From "Sydney Sandstone Rock Carvings" by David Campbell.

#### Basin Track Site

This site is left of walking track No.18. The site is probably the most spectacular of all the sites in the park. There are 51 figures and 2 mundoes. The site has boarded walkways and there are erected identification notices by N.P.W.S. There are several human figures and cultural heroes on the first part of the rock. On the south side the rock is tessellated and the engravings of hunting scenes, fish, kangaroos and wallabies have been drawn in the centre of the tessellations.

About 800m further along the track is another site which contains a large fish with smaller fish inside it and other fish around it. There are mundoes across the site and a wallaby to one side of it.

#### Man and Woman

*All night they looked at the moon. No one sees them move,*

*Though their arms are raised in praise.  
Delicately their ankles cross  
And her fork is an inch-deep groove.*

From "Ku-Ring-Gai Rock Carvings" by David Campbell.

#### References:

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Louise Coleborn.

## KEMPSEY CAVES

Date: September, 1990.

Present: Ron Thomas, Lachlan and Rebecca Wilson, Tony Zimmerman, David and Jeremy Gilchrist, David McClure, Luke Jecks, Chris, Jim, Paul and David Collitt and Phillip (KSS)

#### Report:

A joint trip with KSS and Warimoo Christian Cavers.

About 9.15am Saturday we left to meet David Collitt from KSS at 'Willi Willi' about 30km SW of Kempsey. David lives at Willi Willi and has many small caves on his property. It was not here however that we were to cave but about 10km further on.

We travelled a logging track up into the New England Tablelands. At about 600m elevation we stopped and got changed.

Walking about 700m back down the track we saw David veer suddenly off to his right and started

scrambling down an extremely steep scree covered slope. About 150m down the slope he lead us to a reasonable sized opening WW63 Willi Willi Cave. One party entered this while another went to explore WW67 Merv's Cave about 50m further down the slope.

In WW63 we entered a large chamber then going through a hole off to the right we started a steep descent, half scrambling, half climbing to a narrow rift running N-S. We proceeded to explore both ends finding many small passages and false floors. bats were about and there was a large amount of guano. This cave was dry and consisted mainly of large rockfalls making almost all the climbing areas unstable. Only one passage seemed to continue on past the rift and this was extremely small and very unstable and therefore was not attempted.

The next cave attempted was Merv's Cave. The entrance was extremely tight with only 5 of the 12 man party able to get in. The entrance is a reasonable sized opening with a large narrow rock protruding across the mouth which cuts this opening to less than half its true size. Loose rocks falling from the overhang above the entrance make it dangerous as Ron found out bringing a few kilos of rock down on his head. These caves certainly have not been visited very often. About 15m down the cave ends in a N-S rift.

Back up to the cars we met another member of KSS, Phillip, who was to lead us to Noel's Hole (tag missing).

At about 800m elevation and about 5km further along the track we descended a long steep ridge to suddenly find ourselves amongst a small pile of limestone boulders. Finally finding the small entrance Lachlan squeezed in and descended about 15' of a narrow, long, vertical passage. A small vertical squeeze made the going difficult especially since the rocks were unworn and clung to your overalls. The last group in the cave was 1982.

Lachlan attached 60' of ladder at the top of the first pitch about 20m below the squeeze and then advised that only the better climbers should enter. Six entered but only four proceeded down the ladder when it was realized we needed another ladder to reach the bottom, which we did not have. This section could perhaps be climbed without a ladder.

We exited the cave and headed to an arch about 5km further up the track and at about 850m elevation. Here was a large bluff of limestone surrounded by rainforest and lots of boulders. Many entrances to caves were seen but as it was getting dark and we had a long slow drive back we decided after a quick look to head back to Mr Thomas' place.

Next day after church, Crescent Head to do a bit of 4WDing on the beach and for Tony and Lachlan to have a swim we headed For Yessabah Caves. These are jointly controlled by a quarry and a farmer, the quarry owning a part and the farmer the other. After receiving the farmers permission we went down to join SUSS who were mapping entrances of the caves. We decided since our group was only five (the others had left to visit friends) that we would slink all over the bluff looking for entrances. The bluff takes up the entire hill which is perhaps half the size of Colong bluff. In the course of a few hours we had found some 20 entrances on the side of the bluff not controlled by the quarry. These included; YE 54,57,59,83, 31,49,80,11, 59,41,36,33,104,47, 50,22,23,28,29 and 72. YEX was also found but is in the paddock below the bluff.

Total caving hours 5 and trogging hours 2.

Lachlan Wilson.

# JENOLAN

Date: 17th - 18th November, 1990.

Members Present: Troy Magennis, Warren Lacey.

## Report:

Arrived after midnight at the Pig Farm after being hit a glancing blow by a kangaroo and dodging two wombats. Saturday, fine and mild. I met Troy at No.3 carpark and after a chat with the guides and Ernie we wandered up to Paradox.

From the second creek junction we climbed up past J298 and J305. I was looking for an entrance I'd seen last year near the shattered bluff south from Cooke's Cave. We didn't find it till later in the day.

On reaching Paradox we had some morning tea and checked on the bats. We completed surveying the entrances J48, J49, J288-J289 Funnel Web tying them into the creek junction. J289 has silted up somewhat since it was first entered in December, 1988. A wombat is still in residence there.

Only a small flow of water was coming out of sediment some 3m from J47. Little flow from Paradox. The main creek sinks at the edge of the limestone some 30m above Paradox.

After lunch we followed Camp Ck and climbed up to the Kanangra Road. Back down we trogged the bluff opposite Paradox. On returning down the valley we found the hole we'd looked for earlier on in the day. Photographed some donkey orchids, *Diuris aurea*, on the way back to the cars.

Sunday we went searching for 'Knitting Needle Cave'. This was originally described by Ron Newbould and Basil Ralston but 'lost' for the past 20 odd years and it wasn't the first time that we had looked for it.

We climbed the track from No.3 to Lucas Rocks and dropped down from the saddle on the eastern side along the base of the limestone cliff. Some 40-50m down I observed a lump of calcite crystal below 2 holes some 4m above. Troy had noted these holes on a previous trip but had not entered.

I climbed up to the first hole and looked in. Through the low entrance I could see some formation about 4 to 5 metres in. Troy entered first. We had plans to survey the cave but Troy soon found it was too big to bother with this trip.

The cave is some 25-30m long. It is entered from a small balcony entrance through a tight squeeze and along a low 4-5m passage. A walk in 'L' shaped chamber is reached. There is quite a deal of formation in particular a small patch of helictites that are straight and matted just like knitting needles. Found a well concealed candled 'RN' signature. One lead was not pushed.

A good find!

The cave is very old and would be on a similar level to the Old Lucas Entrance and Signature Cave. After a bit of lunch we informed the guides of weekends work, grabbed an icecream and cleared off home.

Warren Lacey.

# BUNGONIA CAVES

Date: 24th - 25th November, 1990.

Members Present: Dave Noble, Troy Magennis, Glen Robinson, Kevin Coleborn.

## Report:

Just a usual trip to Bungonia except on the trip calendar it said technical. So we drove to Bungers on Friday night - how many times have you read

that on a report hey! Then seems the trip calendar said technical so I talked Dave and Glen into going caving, no easy feat at 9.00pm. We trogged up and headed off to B86 College Cave.

We negotiated the rift, free climbed the pitches, crawled in the mud, breathed the CO<sub>2</sub> and after an hour headed out, no harm in that. But I couldn't let them go to bed yet could I! So I say "How about Grill? We can go and see how high the CO<sub>2</sub> levels are." Not keen at all I dragged the other two off to Grill. We meandered our way down the jungle of ladders experiencing relatively low CO<sub>2</sub> levels. We didn't have a ladder so I said, "I haven't seen the other sump yet. I think it is that crawl over there." So off I crawled already in CO<sub>2</sub> and the others followed.

After a while of grovelling on our bellies and at half height I managed the tight rift near what I think was the end. Dave saying "Let's get out of here, CO<sub>2</sub> levels are just too high." Throwing a stone down a hole I heard a splash and assumed it was the sump. We headed out slowly trying not to bring on the headaches. So another hour and a half.

Then we hit the showers and off to bed. Dave and Glen sounded like they were up pretty early but me being trip leader didn't wake till 8.00am.

First up was Blowfly cordelett. If we ran into trouble we could free climb the other entrance. There were three pitches. We rigged one and derigged the same one and went second on one so that we could all do the cordelett technique and not miss out on anything.

Dave your first. He entered the cave and after a while called me in to abseil the first pitch. I looked at the main and only anchor - a jammed knot. Grin and bear it I abseil down. Dave got a similar laugh from Glen. Dave pulls some strings and moments later we have our rope. Great pitch for your first really free. Looking at our string on the last pitch is

pretty scary. Now committed I free rig the second pitch with a mono bombproof anchor but suspect redirection. But the rope was free.

Glen rigged the third pitch also getting it free. Now at the bottom we do the hard part - exit. Since all the pitches have string we have a rope and jumar gear so we go about getting out. We get out with no problems.

We decide to hit Argyle. There is no other entrance to climb out so its more exciting. Troy was supposed to be here by now to stay on the surface and come and get us if anything goes wrong. He wasn't there but we were keen so under we went.

We got to the junction of the two sumps after five pitches. Pulling the last one down we turn and begin to head out. As we are pulling our rope into position it snagged. I thought to myself, "Stop holding it Glen", but no he wasn't. Do we stay here for the rest of the weekend? A good hard tug and the rope is free. Safe for this pitch but would any of the others snag? We were out without anymore problems and find Troy in the Drum carpark looking very dead. Back to camp for tea.

About 8.30pm I managed to talk Dave and Glen into going to Drum to cordelette it. They thought I was crazy. But under we go leaving Troy with an alarm clock to come and get us at 11.30pm.

I rig the main pitch. Hard rigging down to the ledge then swinging off on the bolt with a figure nine jammed in to a 6mm mallion. Glen and Dave giving heaps of confidence saying things like; "People die doing things like that!". Once the anchors out of sight and feeding out string everything is OK.

Once at the bottom Dave followed finding one twist in the main rope and the string. Glen found a twist the other way. So Dave either put one in and Glen's taking it out or Glen's putting one in after debating

who's right or wrong. We pulled the string down and it really was hard.

We looked around and went to the top of the second pitch. I prussiked frog for the first time. We reached camp in time to turn the alarm off.

Next day we did Blowfly again with Troy. We must have confused him as he was tying ropes in his knots. After that we went for a walk down the gorge then drove back to Troy's place to watch some slides and break into Glen's car.

13 hours caving.

Kevin Coleborn

## JENOLAN

Date: 26th - 28th January, 1991.

Members Present: See AGM and Anniversary Report.

### Report:

As everyone no doubt knows this was the 25th Anniversary meeting of BMSC. Several caves were visited at one time by various groups hence this report is only for the cave trips described below.

Since the meeting was due to start at 2.00pm on Saturday those of us present visited the Temple of Baal and River Caves for some photography of various points of interest before returning to the meeting. This meeting lasted about an hour before all adjourned to Barry Richard's cottage for viewing of the club video. Thanks to Barry for allowing 40 or so people to be crammed into his living room. It was then back to the Hydro for the BBQ and anniversary party.

Sunday morning saw Dave, Tony, Scott and myself head to Mammoth for a lightening trip to Twiddly-Om-Pom and the Great North Cavern. This was a great fitness exercise. The remainder of group visited the Railway Tunnel and Lower River.

The Great North trip is a classic. It is an inhospitable place which is relentless in its nature and demands the greatest care as any accident would be a disaster. After four hours of crawling, squeezing, flattenings and dunkings we emerged soaked from head to toe from Twiddly to meet Warren and Brad at the entrance.

Monday was a little more leisurely. Most of the members had packed up and gone home early leaving only Dave, Tony, Scott and Dave James and myself to visit the northern limestone. The aim was a full Wiburds exploration. We entered almost every corner of the cave and found the lake dry. The trip was not without incident. As I was climbing a 40' pitch to a ledge which entered into a rockpile I noticed that it moved above me I quickly headed back to the climb and found it a little more scary on ascent. With joined tapes for a handline I managed to exit safely. Next time a rope is a must.

With all but the three Daves and myself outside, we exited and headed for home.

A neat weekend and my thanks go to the BMSC organisers and the staff of Jenolan for their co-operation without which the weekend would not have been as successful.

Glen Robinson.

Earlier on the Saturday, Brad Papworth and I had walked up through the northern limestone to the ruins of Rowe's Hut. This was the first time I had been this far up past Hennings. Had a squiz at the phalactite and scared off a few pigs on Rowe Flat. Noted the doline at Century Bluff and Blowing Hole. These areas are worthy of further exploration and familiarization.

After lunch we participated in Glen's tour of the Baal and River Cave. It is not everyday you see someone caving with a driving light!

Sunday involved taking groups into Mammoth. Dave, Tony, Glen and Scott went to G.N.C while thirteen tourists explored the Railway Tunnel with guest guide Graham Cummings. Up as far as the Ninety Footers we played on the mud slopes.

On the main groups exit I took Brad through the rockpile at the Forty Footer down to Lower River and Oolite Chamber. Lower River was at the lowest level I had seen. Took some pics in Oolite and returned quickly on realizing the time and that the G.N.C party would soon be out.

We spent some 30 minutes crawling through the rockpile trying to get out. I was sure we'd climbed to high but leads seemed to go on. Brad found an exit. Out we popped into the Entrance Chamber at the top of the jug handle access to Cold Hole. Very interesting! At least this is one way to gain better knowledge of a cave by becoming disorientated. On exit from the cave we met Dave's party resting in the creek bed. They had not been out 10 minutes.

Warren Lacey.

## PIGNA BARNEY / GLOUCESTER

Date: 2nd-3rd March, 1991

Members Present: W. Lacey (T.L.),  
D. Noble, K. Coleborn, G. Robinson, T.  
Zimmerman

Report:

It appears the reason for being on this trip was a return trip for Kempsey Speleos. In any case

Warren informed the club that four BMSC members could appear. Hence in the darkness of Friday night four of us rolled up in Dave's vehicle amidst a herd of 4wds at Woko National Park camping area.

Saturday morning saw Warren roll up. Ian and Gary from Newcaves informed us of the plans. Well since nobody in our group had been here before the next one and a half hours drive to Pigna Barney was a wee further than expected until finally Gary parked the car and pointed across the valley to the hill containing the caves. So off we went, down then up, because where else does one find cave entrances but at the very top of the hill.

A brief lunch before the five of us, and various Newcaves people, entered PB1 to annoy swarms of bats and soak up heaps of guano before arriving at the final pitch where even thicker clouds of bats awaited us. Using a ladder we descended the 30' pitch and a crawl and stroll saw us at the end of the downward trip. Fortunately Dave had just purchased a new altimeter which told us the creek was 5m or so below. On exit the bat roosting chamber was visited. Kevin decided he could squeeze out the PB2 entrance, while the rest of us exited from whence we came.

It was then a matter of tugging upstream to the waterfall and to see where the creek disappeared under-ground. Not finding either of these we climbed the steep hill back up to the cars. It was then another hour and a half back to Woko dodging large numbers of cattle along the way.

After dinner, some discussion and knife throwing we turned the clocks back an hour and retired to bed - tents, swags or cars.

Sunday morning saw BMSC heading off to Gloucester Caves some 20km east of Gloucester. All went to plan except that while Warren, Kevin and myself were parked at the homestead, Dave and

Tony drove straight past, so we began a 20km chase to catch them. Returning to the farm we found no farmer so headed across to the caves.

First cave was G12 Glowworm Sieve. This descended through Gothic style rock pile and blocks, with numerous glowworms and fossils, to a stream passage that ended in 30m of water filled passage and a good wash. The cave ended at a sump some -20m below the entrance. Being unable to go further we exited for lunch.

After lunch we headed over to the doline of G11 Cascade Cave. The first thing we found was a football and many small entrances. Entering the largest hole we negotiated the rockpile through to bedrock passage and an amazing array of 'bolt' fossils and down to another stream passage. This passage was followed for a short distance before it ended at a calcite covered pool. The level of this pool was at a similar level to that in G12 according to the 'magic' watch.

With no more to be seen we crawled out of the hole, disrobed and filled in the visitors book. It was then back to Gloucester for a swim and a game of 'Catch the Bunya Nut' and off home.

Thanks to Newcastle speleos for the invite and the guiding.

Glen Robinson.

## BUNGONIA CAVE RESCUE

Date: 9th - 10th March, 1991.

Members Present: Dave Noble, Glen Robinson.

Visitors: D. James, S. James, P. O'Loughlin, D. McDonald.

### Report:

Once again that time of year to observe and participate with the Cave Rescue Group, Police Rescue, S.C.A.T. Paramedics and S.E.S. in the cave rescue exercises.

Friday night four of us rolled into register then headed off to Drum Cave for a warm up before returning to find Dave in his N.P.W.S. vehicle. Shortly after we visited B15 Shaduf to investigate the apparently collapsed entrance before returning to sleep.

Saturday at 6.00am the siren sounded to advise the start of the days activities. After breakfast and briefing we went into our groups with Dave and myself heading for B16 with yellow group to extricate a victim with a fractured pelvis from the bottom of the system. For the purpose of the exercise B51 did not exist.

The group split into sub groups. Dave was left on the surface while I ventured underground. The actual rescue won't be described but suffice to say 15 hours later the victim emerged. The rescue itself taught some valuable lessons and some observations are noteworthy.

1. The situation should be assessed and personal equipment organised for specific purposes before heading underground to avoid too many people which leads to a lack of control.

2. Each person should be checked into and out of the cave to ensure the efficient change over time and check ability of each and personal gear and usage.

3. Communication is essential hence a system required which can accurately relay messages. A mickey phone is good but requires a person both

under- ground and on the surface whose job is purely communication.

4. Evacuation of the patient is not always immediately required. If a mini hospital can be established and the patients condition warrants it, it may be more labour saving and patient caring to do so and only move when fit to do so and all the extracation systems are all in place so a quick relatively painless extraction can be exercised. (This bloke must be a dentist. Ed)

5. The underground controller should be that - if a person is placed in underground control then it is assumed that person is competent, then that person should be allowed to have ultimate control - but still be able to liase with surface control.

6. Too many chiefs lead to a confused chain of command and leads to inefficiency.

Glen Robinson.

6 The Newcastle Herald, Tuesday, June 25, 1991

# Japanese fireflies light way to

TOKYO, Monday. — Japanese food industry scientists have copied the trick that makes fireflies glow to detect unwanted germs in anything from beer to hamburger meat.

Industry sources in Tokyo say the method uses luminescent chemicals, developed by genetic engineering from fireflies, to make any microbes present in food and drink give off light.

The process, developed by leading soy sauce manufacturer Kikkoman Co, could have a huge potential for controlling quality in restaurants and food processing plants.

Fireflies glow when a substance called luciferin oxidises, helped by the enzyme luciferase, which gets its energy from ATP (adenosine triphosphate), a chemi-

cal used for energy metabolism by all life on earth.

Scientists have understood the principle for some time. In 1966, a US rocket carried luciferase to the Moon to test for ATP reactions that would indicate the presence of life forms. No reaction showed.

One problem in putting the 'firefly phenomenon' to practical use has been the high cost of obtaining luciferase.

Unlike luciferin, which can be reproduced by chemical synthesis, this other key ingredient of the mix cannot. It takes about 100,000 fireflies to yield 1gm of the enzyme.

Now Kikkoman technicians say they have succeeded in mass-producing luciferase by genetic engineering, using the fireflies' own DNA (deoxyribonucleic

acid), the basic building blocks of life.

With this hurdle cleared, Kikkoman developed and has just put on sale a 35,000 yen (\$A325) reagent kit to check for food and drink contamination. It is good for 200 tests.

It uses luciferin, luciferase and a so-called surface active agent to make the germs' cells exude ATP and betray their presence by a faint glow visible only to a highly sensitive light meter.

Although the company hopes eventually to sell the kit abroad, it is concentrating first on the domestic market.

Since launching the product in May, it has received more than 50 inquiries from brewers, drug companies, government research centres, restaurants and hotels, Kikkoman officials say.

The method ensures a quick test re-

# future in food quality control

sult but is still too expensive to use in daily quality checks, a quality control official at Suntory Ltd, a major brewery, says.

To analyse a fluid, beer for example, it must be condensed by a fine filter and a surface active agent is added to make the ATP emerge from the germ cells, technicians say.

Then the luciferin and luciferase, stored in freeze-dried form, are mixed with pure water, which is poured into the beer.

If solid food is to be tested, the analyst takes a few grams of steamed rice, say, or mince meat, puts it in pure water and shakes it so that traces of the food with any germs present are detached. The water is then tested in the normal way.

'Luciferin and luciferase react very specifically to ATP and they are good to measure the amount of ATP,' Professor Ben-ichiro Tonomura, who studies enzymes at Kyoto University, said.

Kikkoman's interest in the field stems from the fermentation process involved in making soy sauce. The need to find ways to avoid contamination led them to genetic engineering.

They found that *escherichia coli*, a germ commonly found in the human colon, mass-produces luciferase after its chromosome receives the enzyme's DNA blueprint from the firefly. The germs then copy themselves, multiplying geometrically, to make the enzyme in large quantities.

Late last year Kikkoman acquired a US patent for the gene map and mass-

production technique of luciferase of the Genji Firefly, a kind common in Japan.

An application for a similar patent in Japan has yet to be approved, a company official in charge of patents said.

A US company called Amgen Inc was mass-producing and selling a different type of luciferase, originating from a US firefly, but had not marketed a food-testing kit, the editor of a Japanese biotechnology journal said.

Scientists at Kikkoman, in pure research so far without a practical application, are also studying how they can change the colour of light by replacing some luciferase amino-acids with others.

Fireflies in nature give off yellow, greenish yellow or green light but Kikkoman scientists say genetic engineering can make them glow red and orange too.



## Man Falls 50ft. Into Crevice

By A Correspondent

*A quarter of an hour after the top picture was taken at little-known limestone caves at Barrington Tops at the week-end, Mr. J. Richards (top right) fell 50 feet into the darkness of an underground crevice.*

Mr. Richards is Assistant Manager of the B.H.P.

He was lowering himself into the crevice by a rope, which passed between his hands as he fell, burning the skin from his fingers.

A party of six had gone about 1000 feet into the caves, and had descended about 300 feet before they were stopped by the crevice at the end of a long, sloping tunnel.

They lowered a torch over the edge, but could see only a bare wall of rock. A geology hammer tied to the rope to discover the length of the drop was played out for 50 feet.

Mr. Richards lashed a strong rope around a 6cwt boulder in the narrow tunnel, and tested the knot and the pull. Torch in hand, he lowered himself gradually over the edge and gave a running commentary on the lower section.

### Boulder Moved

Suddenly the boulder, which was on slippery rocks, began to move down the sharp incline towards three other members of the party, who had crouched on the edge of the crevice. It jammed against a jutting section of the cave wall, and stopped about three feet from them.

Mr. Richards had fallen, and as he hit the bottom there was a thud, and the crash of a broken torch.

Two of the party climbed back to the mouth of the cave for help to haul Mr. Richards up to the ledge. The others sat in the tunnel in darkness to conserve the weakening torch batteries, and shivered with cold.

Mr. Richards explored as far as he could and shouted progress reports. At the bottom of the sheer drop, limestone walls rose on three sides. On the fourth side there was a narrow opening, with more caves branching to the left and right. But he could not get into the opening.

When help arrived, the Principa of Newcastle Technical College (Mr R. Basden) took the first position on the ledge, with the other members of the party behind him up the tunnel. All the torches were turned on and stuck in cracks and on rocks to throw light on the job. They hove Mr. Richards to the top.

When the party reached the jet accustomed light, Mr. Basden and Mr. Richards inspected the deposit of white marble near the caves.

On a previous trip, Mr. Basden had commented on the outstanding quality of the marble, and advocated a geological survey to discover the extent of the deposits.

### Thousands Of Bats

The explorers had passed through about eight large caves, and a number of cold, dank passages, where thousands of bats squealed and flew in panic when they were disturbed. They had stooped under dripping stalactites, and slipped on small rocks scattered over the floor of the caves.

There were hundreds of stalactites in every cave, in long, pointed shapes and shawl formations, with a cold drip of water on the end of each one. In a niche in the rock, a miniature cavern of stalactites and stalagmites had formed.

And there was one very large stalagmite in the largest cave—Queen Victoria to the life, frigid and unamused.

Mr. Basden, who went with the party as geologist, said the caves were at an early stage of development. They could be compared with the Timor Caves—a grade below Jenolan.

There was a large quantity of sand and mud on the floor of the caves, and Mr. Basden said water probably flowed through part of the formation during heavy rain.

When the party emerged from the cave mouth, there was a long climb over rugged mountain spurs back to the only road into the area. From there, the mountains at Uralla stood surprisingly near. The ridges to the east disappeared gradually to the coast, and to the west and south, the Barrington Tops and the Mount Royal Range stretched farther than the horizon.

Mr. Basden said that a Barrington Club had been formed in Newcastle last week, to encourage tourists who liked unspoiled mountain scenery, scientific groups studying botany and geology especially, and bush walkers.

He said the Minister for Lands (Mr. Sheahan) was being asked to grant the club a holding on the Tops so that huts could be built and a small area opened.

# Quality Marble In Barrington Caves

High up on Barrington Tops, nearly 4500 feet above sea-level, cold, dark limestone caves burrow deep into the mountain spurs.

No one knows how far the caves penetrate, but one explorer, who travelled alone on the mountain about 10 years ago, is believed to have gone down 600ft. in one set of caves.

It is certain that the cave area is far more extensive than this. The Principal of Newcastle Technical College (Mr. R. Basden) who accompanied an exploring party to Barrington Tops at the week-end as a geologist, said the rock for-

## BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

mation indicated the possibility of a network of caves extending far into the hills.

A good road to Barrington Tops would open the caves to attract tourists.

Mr. Basden said there were huge deposits of limestone and marble in the area, covering many square miles. The rocks had been formed in the Lower Carboniferous period, making them younger than the rock formations at Jenolan. But there was no evidence as to when the caves had been formed.

This is believed to be the only known deposit of white marble in Australia. A stonemason who has taken a lease of one large area, says the marble is equal in quality to Italian marble.

There are also small outcrops of copper along the ridges. Some of these have been worked.

I went to Barrington Tops with the exploring party as an observer. We travelled for upwards of 60 miles towards the east from Scone, over a rough, water-scoured black-silt road that eventually petered out. By guesswork we guided the truck through trees, across ploughed fields and around fallen stumps, till we stopped on the edge of a steep-sided spur, which fell away in uneven lines to a small river.

There, with the silence ringing in our ears, we left the track and began the descent to the limestone outcroppings where the caves were.

When the going was difficult, we used the rope across our shoulders, and the tufts of thick grass at our hands.

About 500yd. down the side of the spur, we turned south-east and worked around the side of the ridges. We had no official guide—he had gone off on a job—but a resident in the party led us towards a steep, narrow, blind gully, ending in a wall of rock.

## 100ft. Drop

At the bottom of the rock, overgrown with bushes, was the entrance to a series of caves which ended inside the mountain, so we had been told, in a sheer drop of more than 100ft.

On the way, we stopped briefly to look at a number of small caves in the rock face.

One cave had a small opening, and I was pushed up on to the rock and tried to go in head first, and sideways.

I got only as far as my head and shoulders and had to be content with flashing a torch into the cave. Beside my head was a stalagmite and the torch showed the cave divided by a rock wall, with two long black tunnels running sideways into the hill.

That was the nearest we got to the large caves.

The weather changed, and we were forced to give up the search before the expected rain fell on the black soil roads, making the return journey impossible.

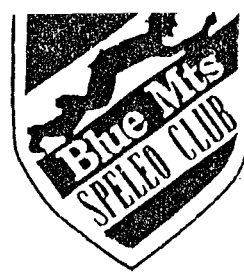
Mr. Basden said we had seen enough to indicate the presence of more caves in the area.

Barrington Tops had never been given the thorough geological exploration which would probably lead to opening the caves, he said.

He said he would join another exploring party within the next few weeks to investigate the possibilities of the caves we did not reach.

*Barrington Tops - caves*

Jenolan Caves



Saturday, 26th January, 1991

**BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB  
SILVER ANNIVERSARY**

**The Members of B.M.S.C.**

Present



Louise Collins  
Jared Innesweather  
Sandra Innesweather  
Garry Innesweather  
Alan Innesweather  
Paul Samuel

Robert Richards

David Samuel

Barry Richard

St. Baker

V. Jones

Rich. Smith

Carolyn Smith

John Smith

John Smith

Tom. Magennis

Greg Powell

Brenda Powell

John Powell

William Powell

Michelle Colburn

Clive man Kru

Cheryl Magennis  
Judy Magennis  
Dad Gogh Thompson

John Smith

John Smith

Elmer Miller

Bethesda Smith

Franklin Smith

Carol Smith

David Smith

Scott James

John Smith

John Smith

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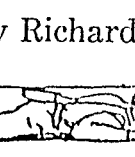
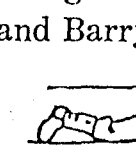
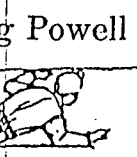
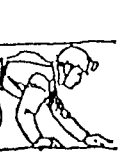
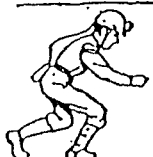
John Smith

John Smith

John Smith

John Smith

A. Zimmerman



Long Service Awards  
Greg Powell and Barry Richard