

# COLLIER



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Vol. 22 No. 1



# JOURNAL OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS SPELEOLOGICAL CLUB OOLITE

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JUNE 1994

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

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By Louise Coleborn

**SLAVEN'S CAVE**

To locate Slaven's Cave take the Portland Road turnoff from the Mudgee Road. A short distance along Portland Road take the Thompson Creek Road. Follow the Thompson Creek Road for around 4.8 km. until you see a small parking area on the left-hand side of the road.

From the parking Area it is necessary to walk through the Falnash State Forest. Cross the open tree area until the fence line is reached, then left along the fence until it turns right. Follow the fence to the right for 200m then head left over a hill to a gully, which leads down to Thompson's Creek. Cross Thompson's Creek, then head up the hill to the powerlines. Slaven's Cave is just over the hill from here.

The Cave is situated at one end of a large doline. The entrance to the cave is a steep, muddy slope to a small hole. From the entrance it is necessary to climb down another steep slope to the floor below. The cave consists of a very large chamber with an aven leading to a small passage. The maximum height of the cave is 7.4m.

The cave is in sandstone and is very impressive as most of it is in total darkness with some small tight passages at the far ends. It formed as a result of the sandstone collapsing and the slope into the cave consists of the rocks.

It is said to be the biggest sandstone cave in NSW and tenth biggest in the world. It is bigger in area than the sandstone overhang at Blackheath called The Wall's Cave.

At the southern end of the cave is a large hole 1.8m deep. It was an archaeological dig. We were told there was no evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

Olive and John Noble led a trip for BMSC members to visited Slaven's Cave in May, 1991. On that trip the members survey and mapped the cave.

Bibliography:

COLEBORN, L.M; Blue Mts. Speleo. Club Trip Report; 1991:  
BMSC Map No. 116: Slaven's Cave; 1991:



# SLAVENS CAVE

Falnash State Forest

Scale 1:200

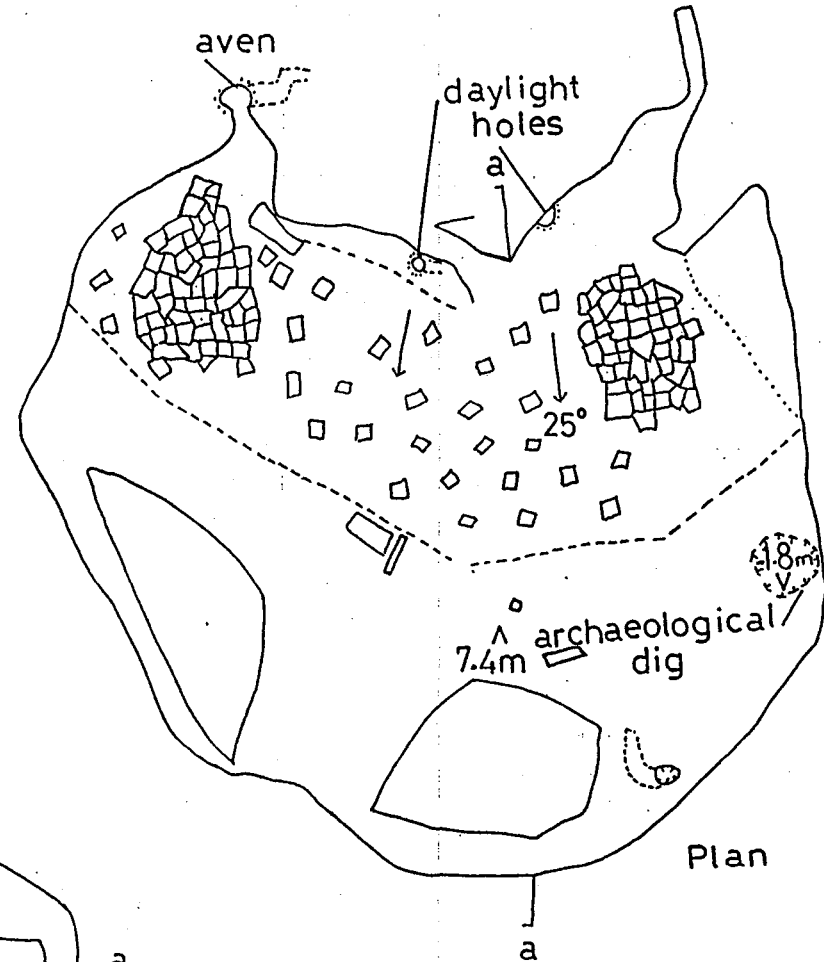
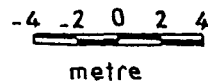
Grade CRG 4D

Surveyed on 19-5-1991 by BMSC

Drawn: L. Coleborn

Instruments: Suunto compass and inclinometer,  
fibreglass tape & Micronta  
electronic tape.

BMSC MAP NO. 116



Vertical Cross Section

# THE CAVING CROSSWORD

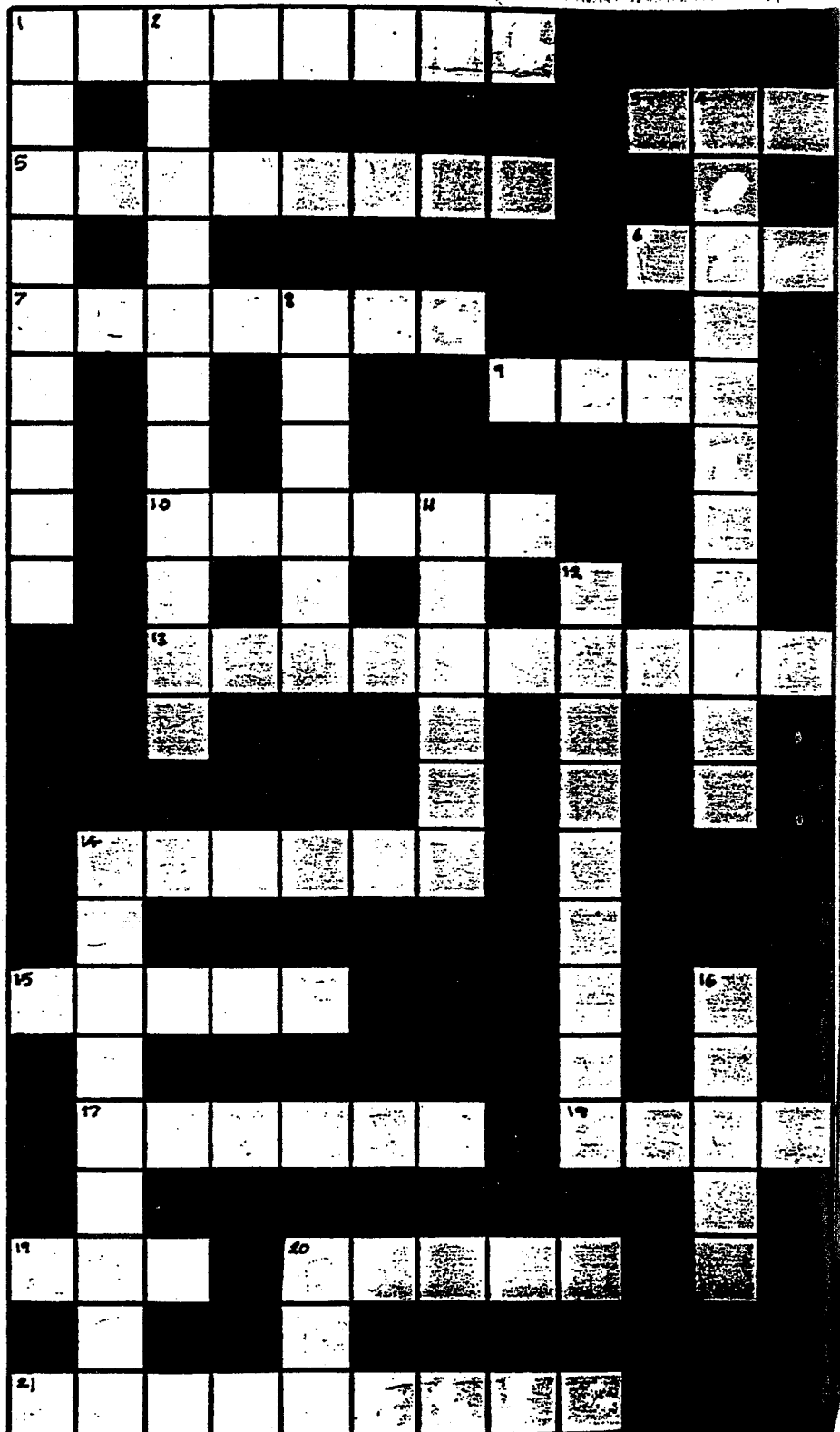
## ACROSS

1. Safety rope
3. The way which strands of rope are twisted around a central core.
5. A soft plastic speleothem.
6. The only mammals capable of true flight.
7. A plot of the shape and details of a cave in a vertical plane.
9. Used to make a belay point.
10. A speleothem from floor to ceiling.
13. In which the residual hills have very steep to overhanging lower slopes.
16. The mineral in the cubic crystalline system.
17. Spliced loop of rope.
19. A partly water-filled, wall sided doline.
20. Straight lines which represent progressive distances.
21. We can't live very well without it.
22. In the Nullabor Plain a shallow, closed depression.
23. A stalagmite with curving or angular form.

## DOWN

1. A sedimentary rock.
2. Thin flakes floating on the surface of cave pools.
4. A network of tubes.
3. A cave into which a stream enters.
11. Limestone recrystallised and hardened.
12. Clearing stones from a route.
16. A stalactite which changes its axis from vertical to give a curving or angular form.
18. A deep, narrow, linear hollow in a karst rock.
22. An excavation made to extend a cave.

Answers on page 32.



## **ELEPHANTA CAVES**

During our travels abroad in October/November 1991, Janien and I had the fortune (or misfortune) to wind up in Bombay for a week or so. Now Bombay is a major metropolis of some 10 million people. A seething mass of humanity going about living in a dirty, polluted, overcrowded city. It has some of the largest slums in Asia and in these there is a certain social class with upper, middle and lower class slums. The upper class slum can be noted by there being electricity and a forest of TV ariels. This situation has arisen simply because too many people have entered the city faster than new housing can be constructed. Bombay is interesting in the social context because it can be seen as a microcosm of the 'new' India.

The city itself is situated on a peninsula jutting out into the Indian Ocean and on the eastern side is a very large bay. Is this Bom Bay or Bombay Bay? Central Bombay is a delightful mix of 19th century British architecture with churches, government buildings, statues, hotels, masses of 1950's style taxis and double deck buses, Victoria Terminus, of which we were informed is an exact replica of Victoria Station in London only bigger, and the rather grand edifice of the 'Gateway to India' stands on the waterfront to welcome all those from the Old Dart in the days of the Raj.

Elephanta Island is about 1 hour by ferry out into Bombay Harbour and a very popular excursion for tourists and locals alike. The caves are inscribed on the World Heritage List of cultural sites and are actually rockcut temples carved into, what appears to be a basalt, the hill. There are about 4 caves in total of diminishing size.

The main temple is most impressive, being about 35m - 40m square and a mass of finely cut and shaped columns that support the roof. Situated around the interior are a series of sculptured panels of various gods of the Hindu religion. The temple is dedicated to the Lord Shiva. One of the statues is of particular renown, the Mahesamurti, shows Shiva in a three faced arrangement representing; the Supreme Being, the Creator and the Destroyer. Each of the panels spaced around the temple tell different stories of the life of Shiva and show a gaggle of his cronies; Garuda, Vishnu, Parvati, Rama, and Shiva, s battle with Ravana.

The other caves in the area are much smaller and were used as small shrines and are of little significance. The temple can be dated by the sculptures to around 600 - 635 A.D.

To wander around the complex is quite awe inspiring. the sheer size of the excavation, to wonder at the amount of work involved and the artistry. To see structures such as this only causes me to wonder at the power that beliefs and religion can hold over masses of people. The arrival of the Portuguese, with their own dogma, in the early 1500's saw a great deal of damage done to the temple in their infinite wisdom and righteous way.

Maybe next time we'll visit the honeycombs at Elura. This stuff is real serious digging.

Warren Lacey.

## CAVERS CONUNDRUM

(Adapted from Speleograffiti Vol. 16 No. 3)

The following problem is not easy ( use a large sheet of paper and have a few spare hours).

There are five cavers from BMSC and each cave exclusively in one of five caves. Each cave is of a different type ( e.g muddy, vertical ect. ) and each caver prefers a particular style ( e.g armchair, grovelling ect.), consumes one of five different drinks ( e.g water, beer ect.) and gets to the caves by one of five different vehicles ( e.g Holden, donkey ect.)

The clues are as follows:-

1. There are 5 caves in a row.
2. The caver Tim caves in a muddy cave.
3. The caver Rick drives a Holden.
4. Water is drunk by the caver who caves in the wet cave.
5. The caver Dave drinks red wine.
6. The wet cave is immediately to the right of the small cave.
7. The caver who likes grovelling drives a Renault.
8. The armchair caver visits the Tourist Cave.
9. Scotch is drunk by the speleo who visits the middle cave.
10. The caver Barry visits the first cave.
11. The caver who likes crawling visits the cave next to the cave visited by the caver who uses a donkey to get to the caves.
12. The armchair caver caves in the cave next to the cave visited by the caver who rides a bicycle to the cave.
13. The speleo who likes squeezing drinks beer.
14. The caver Kevin likes laddering.
15. The caver Barry visits the cave next to the vertical cave.

Who drinks milk?

Who drives the VW?

Who is the Armchair Caver?

You Have enough information and you don't need to guess.

Answers are to be found on page 33.

## NEWNES & WALLERAWANG

Date: 16th March, 1991.

Members Present: K. Coleborn, T. Magennis, G. Robinson, T. Zimmerman.

Visitor: D. McDonald.

### Report.

Some time ago Dave informed me of 2 underground features that existed in the mountains. The first was a vertical system and the second perhaps the largest sandstone cave in the mountains. Consequently a trip was planned and put into operation.

The meeting place was Dave's about 3/4 hr drive to the first site, which is just off the Newnes/Lithgow forest road, to a 4wd track then a short walk. The entrance is a narrow squeeze which opens to a small ledge, where the roof is some 9m-10m above. The entrance chamber has some decoration, mostly straws and small stals and it overlooks the first pitch. This was rigged up and Kevin descended. After about 15m the limestone based walls changed to mudstone and a further 35m down water entered from the walls. Here loose rock could be dislodged easily. The descent was halted at a very deep pool below the pitch. The cave should be entered with an intention of diving. Kevin ascended and we all headed out very dissatisfied.

Next was a drive to the Wallerawang area equipped with a map and a cross for the location which was apparently first noted by the conservation society. The location was hard to find as Elcom had churned up new tracks. We did eventually find it. We entered immediately to the main chamber of some 40m in diameter and a roof height of 6m-7m. The water appears to just soak through the floor and consequently a dig was begun but to no avail. Every lead was

explored but the sandstone nature ensured little development.

So ended an interesting day with some worthwhile prospects and what might loosely be called Blue Mountains Pioneer Caving.

Hours: 3.75 each.

Glen Robinson.

## TASMANIA

Date: 23rd March - 2nd April, 1991.

Members Present: Dave Noble, Glen Robinson.

Visitors: Dean Morgan, Roland Eberhard, Trev, Stu.

### Report:

Leaving home on Friday night in true BMSC style, I picked up Glen at 6pm and drove to Port Welshpool. The boat was 7 hours late which left us with little sleep for Sundays caving. We met Dean from TCC at 10am and he decided 'Tassy Pot'/JF223 (230m) was the only cave we had time for as there was a mix up with our permits which could be sorted out on Monday.

We were underground by 11am and belayed off a large tree fern (it was only a 50m pitch) and there was a bolt 7m down as the first rebelay. I was the last down and as I reached the bottom Dean was rapping off a Nubbin down to the next rebelay bolt. This was a 24m pitch. The next pitch was only 18m so we freeclimbed it. Then it was onto the 71m pitch. We belayed off a bolt with 2 bolts on the way down for rebelay. WOW this pitch was BIG! and very exposed as well. Then it was off into the Horizontal passage, with formation, high avens, railway tunnels and active streams. As my first Tassie cave I was impressed. We headed out at about 5pm. (6 hours)

We sorted out the permits first then headed up the Quarry Rd to Dwarrowdelf. We found the cave easily and went down the first 22m pitch, belayed off a log over the entrance. The next pitch was 30m, so we pulled out the 8mm which hung free after a mud nubbin was slung. The next pitch was 55m with a bolt and rock projection as rebelay. The next was 14m with a trace belay. Then an awkward 37m pitch put you on the top of the 67m final pitch with a perfect 'Y' belay at the top. It was a mist filled pitch and at the halfway neither the top or bottom could be seen (or the walls for that matter). A fabulous pitch! At the base we walked down to the KD and the sump. The chamber was the size of a cricket ground and the top couldn't be seen, (WOW!), and the 60m waterfall from KD added to the roar (FANTASTIC!). We prussicked out of the 321m deep cave. (10 hours)

The next day saw us rope chopping for KD 323m. Lots of 10m 8mm ropes. The scaling pole pitch is easily bypassed. The 4m pitch can be freeclimbed. The 15m handline is handy. The 28m pitch is fantastic as a 50m is heard in the distance. The next 10m is OK, then the 22m which is belayed out along a rift. The 30m waterfall is then passed. The main streamway is next, a marble floored passage, 1m - 2m wide and 10m high. Various 10m pitches follow and then the final 45m pitch is reached. A rope protector or two is handy here. We headed out to find the water had risen a lot. All our dry abseils were now wet prussicks. Needless to say we went up the stream very fast. Some waterfalls were just a blurr of water with a constant roar. We finally reached the 30m waterfall where the dry bypass started. The wind and water filled the chamber here. We left the cave very tired and with heavy packs. (9 hours)

The next day was a rest day so we visited the resurgence and went to the AGM of TCC in Hobart.

The following day we did Owl Pot. The first pitch is 30m and a bolt and rock projection was the belay. Then a short 20m pitch where a large trace is handy. It was then down the rift to the stream and the final waterfall pitch. (8 hours)

The next day was to be 'Niggly', found 12months ago. We were on the 3rd trip and were to explore some new cave and pitches. The 1st 10m pitch was laddered and it was wet. Then 100m stream to the 2nd 10m ladder, and the about 400m of the tightest stream rift one could imagine with fantastic helictites and echidna formation. These were the best helictites I have ever seen, big, long and heading in all directions. Next came the 85m waterfall pitch which we had to traverse across the top of as we were exploring a new section on the other side. We descended a 35m pitch with two pitons for a belay, then a 15m pitch followed by a 30m pitch. We then arrived at the top of a large drop. We only had 110m of rope and as rocks took 7secs to reach the bottom we decided to abort the pitch as it was at least 150m+. So having found the longest pitch in Australia, we headed out. On the way out I asked what was below the 85m waterfall. Roland replied with a 30m, 6m, 32m, 104m, 15m, 7m pitches with a massive chamber at the base with a growling river flowing through it. We left the cave with a 150m+ undescended pitch!!!! and kilometres of unexplored passage. Amazing! (10 hours)

Today was a rest day but we did 'Slaughterhouse' and 'Growling'. We met SUSS in Growling and familiarized

ourselves with the entrance series.  
(6 hours)

Today was our last so we did 'Ice Tube' and 'Growling' canyon style. The first pitch was off a 3mm bolt, 25m, scary, the second was off one Terrier which flexed as the person before me descended (was I over safety conscious). From here on things improved with good rock projections and double bolt anchors. Some of the pitches were wet which added to the thrill. At the top of one was the Vertigo Traverse, which is aptly named as one traverses above a 50m pitch. Fortunately a bolt was placed at the top of the 35m Maelstrom as a back up to the existing one. Well we were now at the base and I got the 100m rope to carry out. The rift was tight, muddy and awkward. We then reached the mainline which is a large railway tunnel with a river the size of the Wollangambe flowing through it. We headed upstream to 'Necrosis' and followed the cairns. We ascended and descended 5 ladders before the exit. A top trip. (10 hours) 60 hours in total.

Dave Noble

## **BUNGONIA**

Date: 13th - 14th April, 1991.

Members Present: D. Noble, K. Coleborn, T. Zimmerman, G. Robinson.

### Report:

The weekend was devoted to having Tony familiarized with SRT. So with an a typical start the rendezvous was set at Saturday morning. Dave and Kevin arrived to see Tony begin the tree exercises and learn what to do when confronted with rebelay, redirections and knots.

Eventually he got the idea and the time came to put theory into practice

in B51. Kevin, Dave and Tony went down B16 while I was to set up B51 and enable the thru trip. I was delayed however when I ran into some people that were in Tasmania when I was. So after a bit of a chin wag I headed in.

The rope was rigged off a chockstone outside and just inside the entrance this was rebelayed off a chocked boulder in the roof which gave a free hand to the first ledge some 5m down. A further rebelay high on the right saw the rope free of the first edge and a sling through out in the rift gives an excellent rebelay to the second ledge some 10m below. Here a chockstone above the ledge allows a rebelay, followed by a redirection on the right just over the edge gives another free hang to the base of the 8m pitch. This gave Tony five crossings to perform.

Due to my delay at the top the others were already at the bottom. They began the 30m ascent to the surface. Tony seemed to have little trouble with the maneuvers so I removed the the rigging and departed.

Still being early the B15 Shaduf entrance was checked out as at the recent Cave Rescue Weekend, Dave and I had found this entrance was washed full of large boulders and made entry extremely dangerous. Since then someone has devoted a large amount of effort into clearing the entrance and breaking up the large rocks. Some loose rocks still exist but the way in is now relatively safe.

Anyway the standard crawl and 40ft downclimb to the Extension was undertaken with Dave heading down the connecting squeeze closely followed by Kevin. Tony refused to follow, so I opted to go out with Tony and enter the B5 and meet the others there. By the time Dave and Kevin emerged the

light was fading and nutrient levels were falling, so we headed back for dinner. The evening was spent looking for some rockclimbers and chatting to members of the Norfolk Caving Club.

The plan for Sunday was Drum, but since Tony was not at home in foul air I gathered it would be another down and up the main pitch. Hence I opted for an offer to take the Norfolk club down the Adytum in B16-B51 as in all their previous visits they had never managed to find it.

Back at Drum, Kevin descended but no one would follow so they left and headed for Jerrara canyon. This turned out to be remarkably dry. On the way through another group was passed, and further on at the last pitch a rope jam ensued. The idea was to wait for the following party to come and release it or prussik up on Kevin's 4mm shoelaces. The latter option was taken and the rope freed. The remainder of the was uneventful. The climb out is becoming extremely loose and unstable.

Meanwhile I had headed into B51 with 6 other cavers, down the pitches and up the Razorblade Squeeze, where at the end this rope and ladders were rigged for the 8m slot down to the top of the Adytum. Here ladders were rigged for the 47m pitch, using 2 flakes, a small bollard and a piton. The Norfolkers then demonstrated their efficiency in ladder ascent before leaving the cave and hauling out a mountain of gear.

Back to the car for a feed, pack up, an extended chat with Don and finally home.

Hours: 5 - D. Noble, K. Coleborn, T. Zimmerman. 9.5 - G. Robinson.

G. Robinson

## YARRANGOBILLY

Date: 25th - 28th April, 1991.

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

Visitors: D. James, T. O'Loughlin, J. Floyd, M. Williams.

### Report:

The annual ANZAC extended weekend trip saw Cotterils Cottage invaded late on Wednesday night. However the presence of a group in the hut meant a night outside in the rain to avoid disturbing them. This later turned out to be CEGSA.

Thursday morning our job was to remove a large quantity of arrows spray painted in Y9 Inn Stable. This cave is located down a track 300m off the highway near a Cooma signpost in a prominent doline. Six of us armed with graffiti remover and brushes systematically negotiated the cave and removed the arrows as they were found. The further in we progressed the more frequent and prominent became the markings. After several hours we had succeeded in removing some 40 large arrows but about the same number remained further down. However with graffiti remover running low and worn out brushes we exited the cave.

A bite of lunch was devoured before heading back down into Bath House Cave - a steeply descending cave with an active stream burbling through it. A short distance inside the entrance is the first waterfall before the 20ft pitch. Tony found out how active the cave was when a pile of rocks at the head of the waterfall dislodged with Kevin right below him. Fortunately Kevin only scored a glancing blow from one of these boulders on his forearm. It was sufficient to stop Dave James going any further. The rest of us ventured

to the bottom and investigated the side passage on the way before heading out.

An interesting evening was spent chewing the fat with the three CEGSA members who had been busy surveying Y7 North Deep Ck.

Friday morning we met Greg (NPWS) at Jersey Cave To remove tons of rubble and concrete from the cave which had been excavated whilst removing the old 110v wiring and to make way for the new 240v set up. The relentless trog carrying packs full of rubble up the 130 or so stairs to the top saw about 2.5 tonnes of debris removed and it could have been more if Dave had laid down his video and carried out some. Early afternoon and Greg decided we had done enough and sent us for a browse around Castle, the old tourist cave, where a couple of hours were spent photographing. It was here we met Mick from SMSS who visited Castle with us and later provided a slide show at the Caves Guest House of his Queensland and Tassy trips. It was then back to the cottage where once again our colleagues providing the entertainment with Peter (CEGSA) proving that foul air does exist at Yarrangobilly.

Saturday morning we bid farewell to the CEGSA guys who would not be there when we returned as a long trip was planned in Eagles Nest. Anyway all of us trogged to Y1 and decided to alter the standard Y1-Y2 trip to a Y1-Y2 trip. Y3 is the high entrance almost immediately above the main entrance and joins Y1 in the rockpile at the end of the rift. Negotiating the connection can be a little misleading but the 40ft downclimb and the 20ft optional pitch keep you informed to the fact that you are on the right track. The gate at 'F... its cold' was reached and this time the wet

grovel was relatively dry and warm. Warren decided to make life interesting by lying in the crawl photographing people coming through and prolonging their agony in the puddles. From here it was a simple doddle to the large chambers of Eagles Nest with its abundant formation. A marked trail is followed through this section to the Y2 exit rockpile. After a few photos and a peep at the deepest dig, Tony volunteered to lead us out. But in the rockpile he suffered acquired navigational dysfunction i.e. he was lost! We showed him the way out. Mick then headed home while Tony and myself headed to Talbingo and the remainder went to the Thermal Pool for a dip. A fun filled game of charades filled the evening.

Sunday morning we packed up and aimed for Y4-Y5 East Deep Ck. Warren and Janien headed down to Castle once more. However the start was delayed when Dave James' car wouldn't go and we had to wait for Dave to return to kick it over. Finally the cars were parked at the Deep Ck/Restoration carpark and began down the fire trail to the East Ck doline. We decided to enter via the top Y4 entrance which is above the main entrance in a high doline that is not visible from the creek. After a bit of a scout around we were able to locate the connection to Y5 and the gate. There is a relatively well trogged path here through the boulder pile before arriving at the first detrog zone. With expectations of good formation we stripped off our outer layers of dirty clothing and gloves and entered the formation chambers which are in surprisingly pristine condition. Some passages are large enough to enter but we didn't for fear of damage. Peter provided some entertainment by taking detrogs to the limit and going streaker mode. Several photos and a visit to the second detrog saw an end

to our visit. The exit was sought and back for a late lunch before heading home. Thanks to NPWS for allowing access to one of the better areas of NSW.

Hours: K. Coleborn, D. Noble, T. Zimmerman, G. Robinson - 21.5. W. Lacey - 13.5

G. Robinson.

## WYANBENE

Date: 4th - 5th May, 1991

Members Present: T. Zimmerman, G. Robinson.

Visitors: A. Debbit, M. Williams, I. Ware, Helen

### Report:

Tony was allocated defacto trip leader after Dave's urgent call to work on Friday. Hence Friday night Tony, Andrew and I headed to Deua National Park. Around 10pm we rolled into the campsite and were invited to join a fire by some friendly campers.

The following morning a frost covered campsite awaited us as we wakened to prepare for the trip into Wyanbene main cave. However Mick was not due to appear till later in the day so instead we gathered wood and basked in the sun, finally heading for the cave shortly after lunch. At the cave we found a group of 30 Venturers wandering in and out of the cave.

Finally they departed the cave and the six of us entered, including Helen who had never been in a cave before. Gradually Helen became used to caving atmospheres including the water obstacles. This combined with Ian's large build made progress a little slow through the keyhole at the gate and the halfmoon squeeze. Several hours later a very fatigued

Helen decided she could go no further so Mick, Ian and her headed out just 50m from the Gunbarrel. Meanwhile Tony and I took Andrew into the Gunbarrel as it was his first trip into the cave. We then turned and headed out aiming to catch the others before they'd a chance to get too far away. Once on their heels again we observed some very spirited effort on Ian's part to negotiate the squeezes finally to emerge into the large chambers and a gentle doddle back through the water to the pitch, (which for those game enough can be freeclimbed on the right). All that remained was to fit Ian back through the Keyhole which he, through his experience and calmness, finally negotiated. A short while later a very relieved Helen arrived at the entrance. It was then back to camp for a late dinner in sub zero temperatures and farewell to Helen who was heading back to Canberra.

Sunday morning was a relatively early start to head to the Big Hole. The mountain of gear was carried up the hill as one group was going down the wall and the other down the middle. Once at the site I immediately began setting up the tyrolean to enable the descent down the middle and Mick set up the rope down the wall. While this was happening the platform slowly filled with interested onlookers, including a group who had been down six times.

As it turned out only Mick and myself ended up descending. Mick conquered two fears; first going down without a bottom belay and second his fear of heights in daylight. Apparently pitches in caves are OK. Anyway Mick descended the wall while I headed down the centre. At this stage a concerned Venturer Leader decided his troops should not witness the centre descent because he considered it sheer lunacy and extremely dangerous.

Once at the bottom we had a good look around but the hole does not have any other development other than what you see. We filled in the book and ascended> All that was required was rolling up the gear and heading back to the cars and make our way home.

A really good weekend was had, especially so because of the unusually laid back nature of the weekend. The surprising part was that we were in Deua National Park and it didn't rain... does this mean we are in a horror drought?

Hours: T. Zimmerman, G. Robinson - 9.5.

G. Robinson.

## **JENOLAN**

Date: 15th June, 1991.

Members Present: Warren Lacey, Kevin Coleborn, Troy Magennis, Tony Zimmerman.

Visitors June Lacey, Mark & Cathy Williams. (Newcaves).

### Report:

Caves visited included Hennings, Serpentine and Henry's Hole.

Began the day with a walk up to Hennings. It was cold and overcast and once at Hennings we quickly entered to escape the wind. With people going in and out and roundabout we were soon at the intermittent sump and didn't push further. Perused the numerous signatures and the small clusters of delicate helictites and aragonites. We exited after an hour with some snaps. Neither of the ladies would pose with the phallactite!

Next cave was Serpentine J72. Through the lower entrance we quickly travelled down to the horseshoe squeeze.

Kevin in his new, bright, fluro green cordura dry suit - which he had to take off - was the only one keen enough to push the squeeze. After much grunting, groaning, twisting, contorting, screwing and sloping in the puddle, he was through. A repeat performance was required to rejoin the rest of the party again. All the first timers to the cave were impressed by the shaping and sculpture of the river meanders.

After lunch at the cars it was then off to find Henry's Hole. This was located by Troy and June. Entering we quickly began the descent. Though a squeeze, round a boulder, climb down. It doesn't take long to descend the 30m or so the bottom. Here Kevin treated us to an impromptu performance. Stranded 15' up the wall without a tape and a dodgy climb back down. Hanging by his fingernails and one ripple of the Bata Glugs, sweating coursing from his brow it looked like our 'wallcrawler' was headed for the 'Downpipe'. That was until Troy lent him his tape. Saved by Troy! Being at the top of the 'Downpipe' it was straight back up to the surface. On the way back up you get a good look at the structure of the cave - rocks resting here, slabs resting there - all good stuff.

All three caves today were interesting in that each offered something different to appreciate. Such days are good for those who are unfamiliar with what Jenolan has to offer the speleo.

Warren Lacey

## **JENOLAN**

Date: 17th - 18th August, 1991.

Members Present: T. Magennis, W. Lacey.

Visitors: P. Brown, Ian (Hills)

Visitors: P. Brown, Ian (Hills)

Report:

Saturday, after an icy start, up to the 'Hole in the Wall' which Troy thought needed further 'investigating'. Leaving Ian and I to investigate, he and Peter toddled up the creek to the second creek junction, pounding in some survey markers.

Back at the investigation Ian and I sifted through lots of 'facts' getting into the nitty gritty of it but coming up with nothing to go on. After lunch we manouvered round some 'solid facts' but these proved inconclusive. Disgruntled we moved over to Gibber Cave which Troy and Ian, being the only two to squeeze in through the entrance, proceeded to survey. This left Peter and I to sit in the sun which we found quite hard to take. Survey completed it was back to the carpark and a drink before dinner.

With a big chill descending on the valley a warm seat in the bar beckoned. Leavings "Peppers by Petzel" Peter and Ian adjourned to the bar while Troy and I visited SUSS at the cottage then back to Caves House.

Sunday J266 Fat Jack's Pit for a bit of SRT and recording of the signaturs. Joined by Mike Lake and friend from SUSS. Noted decaying shawls. Possible scaling pole investigation half way up/down.

After this a trip over to Knitting Needle to look at the hole 3m to the north in the cliff face. After much trial and error the rope was in the right spot and Troy abseiled down. Lots of jokes about the hole only going a metre or so. Troy soon found it was no joke. Oh well. Peter and Ian had a crawl through Knitting Needle. Back to the cars for a late

lunch and a chat to the guides about Luchetti.

Warren Lacey.

## KEMPSEY

Date: 5th - 7th October, 1991.

Members Present: T. Zimmerman, R.Thomas, D. McDonald, L & R Wilson, G. Robinson.

Visitors: D. Hackney (HSC), Gary, Melanie, Damien & Mrs Byrne (OSS).

Report:

The aim of this trip was to visit the caves around the Kempsey area. The long weekend was chosen due to the distance to be travelled. However everyone in Sydney had the same idea. Everyone was to meet at Ron's place who kindly offered his property for use over the weekend. So on Friday we were to meet there. However heavy traffic had four of us arriving at 4.30am Saturday.

Several hours later we headed out to Yessabah the site of mining contention. After visiting the property owner everyone headed up to the monolithic bluff and battled through the lantana and vines in search of whatever could be found. A total of about 30 caves were visited, some which were untagged, and the main bat cave. Tony spent much time around this area videoing bats and cave entrances for further reference.

The only vertical cave here Y2,3 was visited and is very close to the minig site and may well be next to go. One thig is for sure you wouldn't want to be in the cave if blasting was occurring.

With the area fairly well scoured we headed off to Crescent Head for a swim at the beach, but owing to the failing light only the keen ones entered the water. We returned to

camp for a meal and some entertainment with Tony's video.

Sunday was a slow start with several members tending to religious matters and others to the Macleay River for a cool down before heading to Moparabah. On arrival here an obvious entry was noted 10m from the car but on the advice from the lanowner that the main caves were on top of the hill we trogged up in search again of whatever could be found. Several small caves were located and entered including a very sporty little through trip which was achieved by accident as two parties in different caves made voice connection. Damon made the first human contact through a nasty tight squeeze before I followed, the others being a little large. After this a little more trogging preceeded the lantana bash down the hill only to find that the main cave was in fact the one near the car. This was entered from several points by various people and all found to connect. It is a surprisingly large system with some half a dozen entrances scattered throughout the hill. Apparently close to 2km of passage exists and support a large colony of bats and streamway passage. As time was getting on we departed the cave, headed for the cars and battled the poplar plantation back to base.

Monday was planned as a short day as some of us had to return to Sydney at a reasonable hour. Anyway the area today was new found one SW of Saleya Ck. Prospects were low although limestone is present, it is just buried beneath vast quantities of prickly bushes and lantana. An hour or so was spent trogging and getting Dave's car unhung from the ruts before visiting the Natural Arch at Carrai and heading home. This ended an interesting weekend and provided some inspiration to return

at a later date to further explore new prospects. I just hope that next time Mother Nature drops some well deserved rain on the district.

Hours: 11.5      Total caves visited approx 40.

Glen Robinson.

## JENOLAN

Date: 16th - 17th November, 1991.

Members Present: T. Magennis, D. Noble, P. Brown, V. Gillies. (Sunday) Coleborn family, I. Lynch, Byrne family, G. Robinson, D. McDonald, T. Zimmerman, A. Devitt, S. James.

### Report:

Saturday was progressing rather slowly with just Peter and Troy present in the uninviting conditions of slight drizzle. Rain is generally not a problem in a caving area where you can normally escape it by venturing underground, but in the Southern Limestone it halts work rather quickly. By the afternoon we found ourselves on top of Lucas Rocks in a thunderstorm!! Not wise!!

After escaping the storm in th Caves House bar, the rest of the group arrived; Dave and Valda. We ventured again to the top of Lucas Rocks and entered J148 The Lucas Cave "Sole of the Boot" entrance because most of the party had not seen the original discovery point of the Southern Show Caves. From this point we headed up straight up the cliff face, with much coercion by Dave. After about 20m Dave and Valda led off to report back, Peter and I were still trying to work out how to get up, that Dave had found an entrance that did not seem to be tagged.

The entrance indeed did not have a tag and no unaccounted tags are on this side of Lucas Rocks. Dave sped

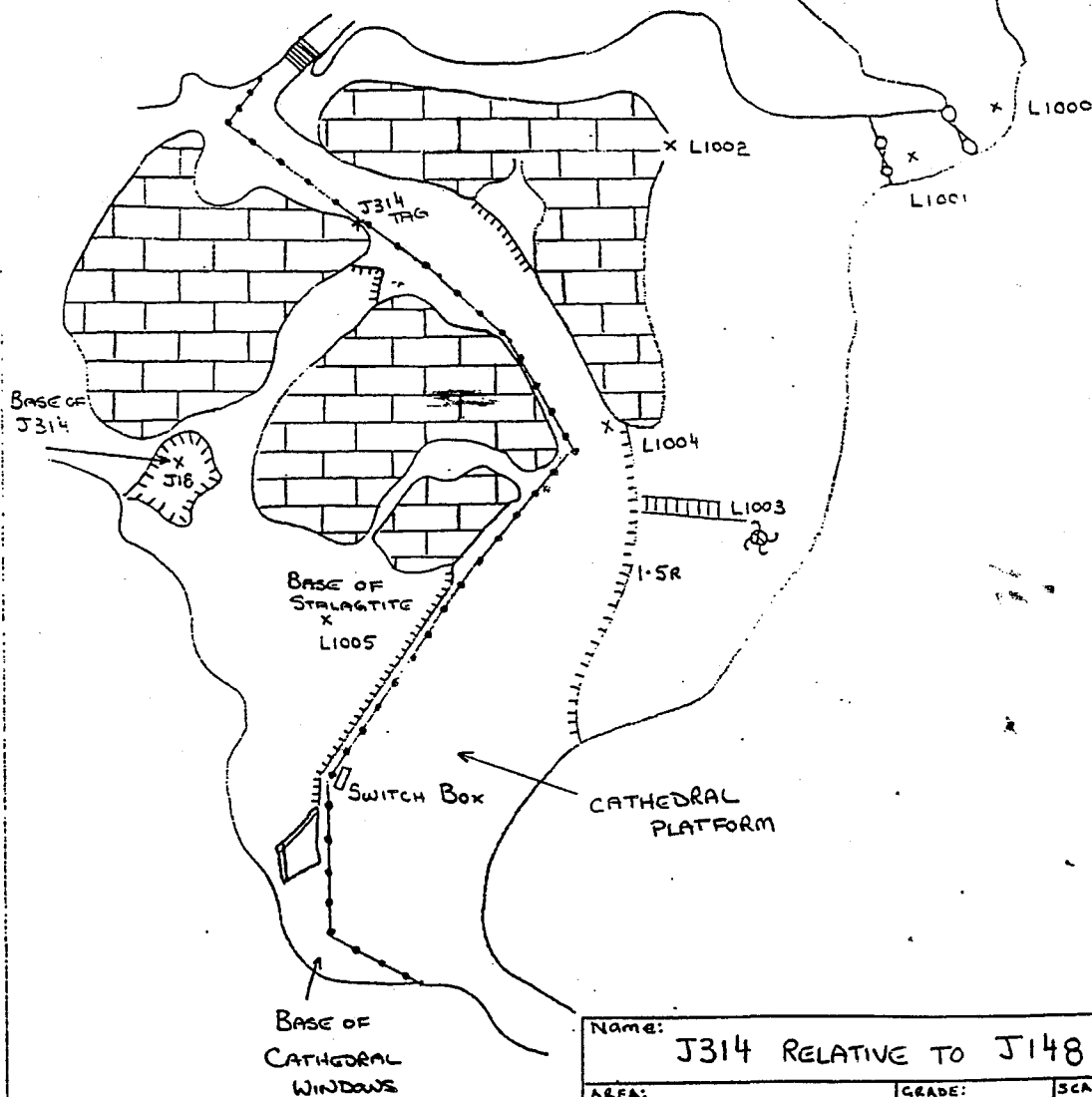
J148

mn'92

0 2 4 6 8 10 METRES

SCALE 1:200

SOLE OF THE BOOT



Name:

J314 RELATIVE TO J148

AREA:

JENOLAN CAVES

GRADE:

4D

SCALE:

1:200

SURVEY:

23-5-92

DRAWN:

GK

24-5-92

GK, TM, KC, PM

off into the cave leaving the rest of us at the entrance unable to climb up, reporting back in 15min that the cave spiralled down for about 15m and then went vertical on the far side of a squeeze. Rocks thrown down the pitch took some time to reach the bottom.

A signature R.C. Wiburd 1910 was noted at the entrance inscribed in a stalactite hanging from the roof. Roy Covosso Wiburd was the son of James Covosso Wiburd who was caretaker and guide between 1885 and 1932. Roy was born in 1894 and hence would have been 16 at the time. We enthusiastically headed off to the Pig Farm to spread the good news and to have our well deserved Christmas party.

Sunday, after Glen, Scott, Dave McDonald arrived, we headed off to No.2 carpark where we set off to the new cave with ladders and ropes. We descended to the entrance from the top of Lucas Rocks rather than repeating the climb upwards from J148. At the entrance Dave again climbed to the beginning of the cave and rigged a ladder for the rest of us. Dave scrambled down to the top of the pitch and rigged a 60m rope. Some rebelayes were needed, successfully rigging the rope clear of roof and wall formation. Tony videoed from the chamber above the pitch and this type of photography holds the future for photographically recording a cave, unfortunately he was reluctant to go down the pitch or to let the camera out of his hands, so a record only currently exists of the top chamber. Dave, Glen and myself were the only three to descend into the lower chamber. The others either did not have SRT gear (ladders would have destroyed a lot of formation and hence were not used) or did not like the look of the vertical squeeze. The cave proved to be more

than I expected having a depth of at least 50m. The cave must come very close to the Cathedral Chamber in the Lucas Cave. After exploring most leads we exited the cave and all headed back to the carpark for lunch before the group minus myself went to Coronet Cave (J151) to add detail to the existing map. I went into the Lucas Cave to see if I could pick the point of most likely connection, if any, with the new cave.

Overall a very successful trip with the discovery of a fairly major new cave at Jenolan. This should prove to all that the Southern Limestone still holds great prospects for new cave discovery, as this entrance was very large and obvious at close quarters. The opportunity awaits anyone willing to make the effort. A map of J314 is on the previous page.

Troy Magennis.

## TASMANIA

Date: February, 1992.

Members Present: G. Robinson, D. Noble.

### Report:

This report has been reduced. Ed.  
Mole Creek

Wet Cave - Georgies Hall.

Wet Cave can be classified as a beginners - its open passage, pebble floor and silent stream provide a welcome change to the dusty grovels predominant on the mainland. It is however exceptionally dark and draughty and you will get wet up to your knees. Generally the streamway meanders through relatively wide passage of walk through height. Many dry by-passes exist around the deeper bits and formation is limited to pockets of inactive speleothems scattered throughout the cave. The passage continues almost unchanged

for around 1km until the easy going ends and the rockpile is reached. One must begin to get muddy and exhibit some exertion here as the various squeezes and the route through the rockpile is negotiated.

Once through the rockpile there is a contrast of several very large interconnected chambers rising to a higher level. This is Georgies Hall and one immediately notices the contrast in colours from Wet Cave as the gunmetal colouring gives way to richer browns and yellows. Consequently this cave has worthwhile photographic potential, it is also relatively warm.

All that is required from this cave is to locate the entrance to exit. This is relatively easy, however the route out of the steep sided doline may prove tricky for some.

#### **Honeycomb.**

This is perhaps the most entered cave at Mole Creek. This is due to its ease and close proximity to the camping area. It has many entrances and daylight holes throughout its length and offers a maze of passages of varying degrees of difficulty. A great deal of time can be spent in this cave particularly if you're prepared to grovel a little, as the majority of the cave is walk through size passages. The total passage is well over a kilometre, it also consumes the water from the efflux of Wet Cave which is only a hundred or so metres upstream. The stream does flow through the cave but it is at a lower level and is encountered occasionally.

#### **Lynds Cave.**

Requires a Parks and Heritage Permit. The cave consists of active streamway and is exceptionally well decorated. After crossing the river and then negotiating the entrance, a small

waterfall is scaled to gain access to the ensuing passage up over some boulders where looking up and back a higher entrance can be seen. From here the passage is high and spacious. The streamway is followed past many large golden flowstone walls and large pristine stals. As one proceeds further the quality increases with perfectly white straws and large pockets of snow white flowstone and stals scattered throughout its length. Some 500m in a small side passage off to the right reveals some spectacular aragonite and anthodite formations. One must be very careful here. However a neat low chamber off the end of this passage provides some excellent viewing.

Back at the main stream the passage lowers to a crawl for 100m or so and then opens up to enter a rockpile via a slot over the water. From here the quality of the cave is reduced and formation less spectacular. The end is found at a second rockpile where the water emerges through a sump.

#### **Hastings.**

##### **Midnight Hole - Mystery Creek.**

Midnight Hole is located high up on Marble Hill. It is an interconnected series of pitches, all but the first being rigged off ring bolts. This combined with the fact it connects to Mystery Creek Cave (Entrance Cave) makes it an ideal pull down through trip. There are 6 pitches; 21m, 11m, 34m, 8m, 39m and 49m. The last being the most spectacular as it is a cylindrical pitch some 6 - 8m in diameter. The trick in this cave is to keep the ropes clean as the mud is very abrasive and chews descending devices. We kept the rope in the pack and fed out as required. This also helped us keep the flashes clean on the last pitch.

It must be noted that a true 50m rope only just makes the final pitch. Once

&at the base the only obstacle is the Matchbox Squeeze, some 12" wide, 2' high and 25' long with a wet muddy base. From here follow the walk through passage until it opens into the large chambers of Entrance Cave. Head straight out over the blocks to find the streamway and follow it out against the flow. The entrance can be seen some distance before it is reached as it is quite large. The entrance chamber is filled with glowworms.

We managed to get geographically embarrassed here for half an hour as we visited many of the less frequently visited areas of the cave.

#### Mini Martin.

This is located high up on the western side of the Skinner Track at the base of a gully on a flat platform with a good view of Ida Bay. The entrance is marked with a large tree and tag. I geared up and headed down with a 200m rope stuffed into the cave pack. The first drop is 110m and is anchored to the large tree then again 8m down the shaft off a flake. This then hangs free for the remainder of the drop but only just. When ascending a careful takeoff must be had to avoid swing as a rub can occur about 20m from the top. The first pitch lands on a spacious muddy floor with the second pitch about 10m away down a slippery muddy ramp. To aid in reaching this a bolt has been placed at the base of the first pitch which enables the traverse down to the next pitch. This drops about 20m off two bolt casings which are placed horizontally 4" apart and thus a standard ladder trace can be used to join them. The furthest one out gives the free hang and the other is backup. From the bottom of this pitch one must stay on the rope for another 15m or so to reach the final pitch belay (bolt casing) on the nose to

the right. A 20m drop completes the vertical section of the cave.

At the base the water drips from high above. The way on is down to a large chamber which is a side passage of Exit Cave. To reach Exit Cave head down a steep downclimb (difficult on return) to the streamway. Once here we immediately headed upstream as the infamous Exit rockpile is located downstream and we were not up to expending any energy today.

Exit cave held the title of longest Australian cave, relinquishing this title to Old Homestead in the Nullabor. However, it still would be the largest cave as it still has many passages unsurveyed.

We toured the streamway to the Grand Fissure, a mammoth rift with huge vertical walls. Several of the passages here were explored for some distance until we decided to head back to the Mini Martin side passage, taking the detour via Inner Base Camp, used on the initial exploration. We climbed back up and began the 170m prussic to the top, restuffed the rope and headed back to Hastings for the night.

#### June - Florentine.

##### Niggly Cave.

This is located above the landslip on the Florentine Rd. It is about 45min up the hill through the forest. The entrance is located in a gully underneath a small waterfall, a portion of the stream flows into the entrance, the remainder flows down the gully. The cave was named after the discoverers, Nick Hume and Leigh Douglas. It is appropriately named considering the nature of the first 300m of passage in the cave.

Just inside the entrance is a pitch requiring a 10m ladder rigged off a thread thru. There is no point in SRT

of this pitch. If the water flow is at a normal level you will get wet but not again for the remainder of the trip.

The initial section is through an annoying serpentine passage of fairly high dimension but very narrow with walls composed completely of sharp projections which catch EVERYTHING! One will also end up with very pumped arms carrying a full cave pack at arms length for 45min. After 100m the second drop is reached which again is rigged using a ladder off two projections. The reason for the ladder is the time saving as it is advisable not to wear a harness through the passage where you would have to put it on then take off. If careful on this pitch you can remain dry. After this another 200m of the same water worn passage, with its many levels of partial false floors, sees the the cave drop dramatically as the water plunges down the 85m pitch of the first pitch series.

This however was not our aim for this trip. We were heading across to the 2nd pitch series. This involves carefully traversing across the pitch head over flowstone to the rift above the pitch which is very loose as the walls continually crumble as you bridge the rift for some 30m over the pitch. From here head to the roof to clear the obstruction in the rift. Once this is done begin heading down to a ledge which marks the start of the second pitch series.

The first of these pitches is 35m, very loose and muddy. It is therefore advisable to wait until the previous person has exited the chamber before descending. A couple of pitons banged into a crack provide the anchor which is then rebelayed at the edge and again at about 12m on the nose. The chamber here has a large block on the floor, go around and down this to a

hole in the floor down a small muddy chute into a small chamber where another drop is encountered. The first part of this may be downclimbed but the projection at head height on the left provides the anchor. Allow a 15m and throw in a no. 4 or 5 wire in a crack in the floor at the next ledge for a free hang. The way on here is slightly up and left in a small alcove with a small hole in the floor. It is exceptionally muddy here. Directly through the hole is a 25m drop. This drops into an enormous chamber with small amount of water trickling down beside you as you land. From this alcove in the chamber head down the very muddy scree but not down the pitch. A house sized block chocks the chamber in front of you. Trend right here carefully negotiating the loose traverse around the pitch to the chamber proper. This is full of very large blocks and is very cold and draughty (about 4°C).

We made our way around to the chock block, threw a rock down, yes this is the 200m pitch. I slung a large boulder near the edge, rebelayed it off a terrier near the edge, then headed down the nose about 5m below where another terrier exists and requires a quick draw to free it from the edge, then bingo a beautifully free hanging 190m drop awaits. Casually cruise down here in absolute awe at the size of the chamber and finally touch down in the mud and talus. Tie something heavy on the rops so it doesn't disappear up, then wander around the bottom for a while in the very large, long chamber or climb up and over a few boulders to gain the streamway. By this stage its too bloody cold and a long way back, so begin leg training up the string to the top.

The hard part comes now, derigging and carrying all the gear back out of

the cave. What made it worse for us is that I said I would take the TCC rope from the cave which was left in a pile back at the ledge. We stuffed this into the pack they left and carted it to the start of the first pitch series as we couldn't manage a third heavy pack through the next section.

On the return through the Tiger Tooth Passage we stopped for some photographs before exiting the cave, washing the gear under the waterfall and heading back to the car for a feed.

#### Khazzard Dum

The cave is a Florentine classic. Its active streamway with short well spaced pitches combined with relatively open passageway makes this trip very enjoyable and fairly easy. A total of twelve pitches are negotiated before the bottom is reached.

Enter the cave at the streamsink and two routes exist. The first follows the streamway until it lowers considerably. At this point you climb the scaling pole pitch to the bypass or head under the water at the entrance to the boulders and enter the serpentine passageway which is dry in all but high flow. Follow this passage until a turnoff to the right is noticed. A short distance along here a 5m drop is encountered. A ring bolt on the floor and a terrier on the opposite wall are used.

Follow the passage below through a mud flattener to a sloped narrow slot requiring a 15m handline. A rebelay on this 6m from the deck on a rock projection is all that is required. A short distance along the passage sees a 30m drop off two eyebolts for a perfect freehang to a chocked false floor in the main chamber where the 50m main fall can be seen.

From here climb to the left (the only way off) through an oxbow over the void and continue through the rift to the next drop requiring a 10m rope off an eyebolt on a step below the floor. A terrier on the opposite wall gives a perfect rig. Follow the passage again to reach another 25m drop requiring 30m of rope off an eyebolt on the left. Bridge across the rift using a small ledge on the left to a casing on the right wall. .5m below this is another casing. At the base the stream can be seen but to reach it head through a cleft between the walls and climb down to the base of the main fall then follow the stream.

From here the cave takes the form of a water worn canyon some 0.5 - 1m wide and beautifully clean. The following six pitches are classics. They are shot in the streamway and spread well apart. It is a relief to get wet here, although with some careful rigging this need not be the case.

After about 100 -150m of this passage the first drop is reached. Many solid projections are present. Sling one of these then rebelay on the right just around the corner over the ledge. 10m of rope needed. A little distance further on the next drop requires a climb out on the right up high to two eyebolts. Use the highest of these and a sling on a nubbin on the wall opposite for a freehanging rebelay requiring 15m of rope. This nicely avoids the water. At the bottom is a small pool. Further down is a short drop which is rigged from the ledge on the left initially off an eyebolt and rebelayed off a projection over the edge away from the water. (9m rope required. Some narrower streamway suddenly drops again to a cascade. Again an eyebolt is the main anchor; the rebelay on a ledge out 3m on the left off a projection which

just keeps clear of the water. After the small series of cascades the passage opens and the drop is on the left off a large projection on the floor. This pitch can't quite be downclimbed so the 10m rope is thrown over the smooth rock to the bottom.

A short distance on the final streamway pitch is reached in a narrow slot with a ring bolt in a pocket on the floor on the right. This may be backed up with a 3 1/2 friend then a terrier exists at head height around to the right wall for a good freehang. A few short climbs sees the water disappear down a void - don't slip here. It is possible to rig off a chock down the 45m fall or turn left into a small chamber (the brew room) away from the turmoil. A climb up through a window here and the massive lower chamber of KD is seen. Use a 45m rope. Tie back to an eyebolt in the Brew Room, sling the projection on the window ledge and over you go. Rebelay from the terrier at 15m to give a free drop to the spray filled lower chamber.

Off to the left is the railway tunnel to Dwarrowdelf, of follow the main stream till it sumps then head up and left through the mud and eventually reaching the depths of Moria with the unpassed choke at the end.

Anyway goes down... so out we went, stopping for some photos and finally exiting in time to return to the car and cook dinner before the light vanished.

### Serendipity

Sunday saw us set up for Serendipity awaiting Dean's (TCC) arrival at the end of the 8 road. As usual he was spot on time but without a light. Now since Dean has an allergy to carrying anything, we gave him a lead acid battery (not his usual FX2) and some rope and rigging equipment, which

unfortunately he couldn't take because his pack had a hole in it.

Serendipity is located up from Growling Swallet at the end the 8 road. A marker indicates the turnoff from the Growling track and a series of tapes mark the way to the gully. However, with many more recent finds in the area a plantation of tapes exists, somewhat confusing navigation.

Finally the entrance was located at the streamsink. Since Stu Nicholas had told Dean the entrance was somewhat unstable, we went in search of the second entrance. Not succeeding the swallet was entered and Dean bolted off down through the rockpile. This cave is, again, a Florentine classic, wet, sporty, and by Aussie standards, deep. A classic streamway passage, narrow and meandering, dropping sharply, then culminating in an extensive horizontal system.

Once through the rockpile below the entrance some inspired route saw us at the Cathedral Pitch, beginning over worn flowstone then down a slot. It is rigged from some columns on the left then off a chock in the slot, then free to the bottom. The route is then fairly straight forward to Demios Pitch requiring 40m rope and 10m tieback for the traverse out along the rift to the terrier rebelay. A deviation at 20m off a projection on the left wall completes the rigging and frees the rope somewhat from the water. From here a short series of downclimbs and a jump had Dean disappearing ahead. In order to return we decided to rig a rope for the 'jump' so we could get back up the waterfall.

From here the passage narrows considerably and it has a distinct serpentine nature. Forget about

proceeding through here in high water - you will probably get washed down.

Further down a brief downclimb through some boulders sees Deluge Pitch reached. This lives up to its name as it begins as a ramp tumbling down over the edge spraying water off the walls everywhere. Tie a sling in the rockpile, throw a 30m rope and head down. Then to avoid the water a little go into a small alcove on the right, use a thread on the floor to hang free to the base. Doing this keeps one relatively dry.

Once at the base continue the serpentine passage and as a roar is heard and the floor begins to disappear, climb to a small chamber above the pitch with chocked boulders on the floor. This is muddy and exceptionally loose - anchors are scarce. Use a few anchors and rebelay then off a spike above a hole in the floor for a free hang. On descent avoid the water chute and tension traverse to a large spike on the right, sling it and head to the bottom beside the water - jump to base and run away from the water. This is Phobos Pitch and requires 47m of rope.

The vertical bit ends here so off with the harness and down some distance to where the water sinks. Don't follow it but use the horizontal passage leading off. This passage splits and extends for a long way (a couple of kms). After these had been pushed for a while and Dean had his roll in the mud it was time to head out. I went out first as I had the long rope from the bottom (and it was thick) while the others collected theirs on exit behind. Once at the entrance rockpile being clean and wet, the second entrance was located from below, being too muddy I went out through the water while Dean and Dave got muddy.

After a brief wash of gear in the stream we headed back to the car, changed and headed off to Cauldron and bid farewell to Dean. The afternoon was spent at the top of the Junee Quarry road sorting gear for Cauldron.

#### Cauldron Pot.

Once again we headed up the KD track, this time turning off at Cauldron which is some 10 minutes along the KD track. A taped route partially exists from the turnoff. You can actually hear the waterfall several minutes before the doline is reached. Consequently this cave is also a swallet and the name is appropriate as cold water plummets into a pot sending spray everywhere and giving the appearance of a cauldron filled with logs.

Being such a beautiful day on the surface, I lazed around while Dave headed down to rig the entrance pitch. So armed with the 50m rope he slung a fallen tree, then found a bolt just over the edge, giving a free hang to the bottom. All that remained was to negotiate the large logs which stand in the chamber.

The floor is rubble and timber with the way on being through the rocks in a hole opposite where the water falls. This is Bill's By-pass, a 70m long, steeply declined, sharp sided slot which eventually joins the main stream.

Being a 'pot' not much horizontal passage is found in the higher sections. The streamway passage is comfortably open and contains several drops which require rope work.

The first drop is immediately below where Bill's By-pass re-enters the stream. It is tied off a ring bolt then rebelayed on a projection on the right wall then down a ramp, 20m

rope, to a level bit where another eyebolt on the left wall is used for the 15m chute pitch. This is then deviated 7m, using a No.5 wire or thread through near the edge of the next drop on the knob on the left just above the floor. This is required as the edge is very sharp. Continuing down the clean dark walled streamway is quite pleasant and the water passes under foot. The next drop is off two rockclimbing bolts on opposite walls. These need replacement in the near future. Allow 12m rope. After a few short cascades the diagonal pitch is reached with an eyebolt on the left being the main anchor with the remainder requiring some imaginative rigging on the left sloping wall. Allow 20m rope.

At the base of this a short way down, the passage opens and drops sharply into the bottom chamber. Down a chute on the floor on the right is an eyebolt. From here traverse right and begin the bolt traverse with 3 rock bolts on route. There is a bad rub at the 25m where the wall ends, but a useful placement for a sling is present if you look carefully. This allows a safe descent through the spray to the bottom.

This chamber is some 25m wide, 40m long and 50m high. At the bottom left corner is a tricky climb up and over which leads to the Aucheval Pitch, requiring 15m rope, and is the gateway to several kilometres of horizontal passage and another 40m to the depth - then heading towards the Junee resurgence.

However still feeling ill we decided to leave this section for the next trip and thus casually made our way back out for a relaxing afternoon in the sun at the Old Junee Homestead ruins.

The following day we packed and headed to Mt Field National Park but not before a couple of hours delay as we walked to Maydena to get assistance as the car battery went flat overnight. Once at the National Park we washed, sorted and dried gear before heading home.

Glen Robinson.

## **LIMESTONE CREEK & INDI**

Date: 19th - 20th April, 1992.

Members Present: G. Robinson, D. Noble, T. Zimmerman, D. McDonald, V. Gillies, C. Kemp, D. Hackney.

### Report:

This area is located on Limestone Creek Flats in the Alpine National Park, Victoria. The area is densely populated with tourists in their four wheel drives from Victoria with nowhere better to go and nothing better to do than destroy their cars and their patience.

Consequently, being a large flat area with fresh water at hand, many people do camp here, thus some caves are well used. We set up camp and headed off cave hunting. The caves are well tagged (although Victorian button tags are conservative 1 cent piece size) in a logical order. We managed to locate and explore some 10 caves in the area. Probably the most spectacular being Pendergast which has a sporty water crawl at the base and an extensive maze system above it.

Most of the caves are located in a shallow bluff. Vertical extent is small as many entrances are only several metres above creek level. Suffice to say the small bluff is very honeycombed for its size.

Once the area had been checked out, we headed back for a laze in the sun watching Chris spend hours driving his car around the plain, falling into every hole and ditch that existed. It must be noted that the previous night he rolled the car and spent many hours kicking it back into shape.

Access to Indi caves is via a NSW NPWS permit. The area is located on the foreshores of the Murray and is a bloody pain in the butt to get to as some 3 hours of four wheel driving from Tom Groggin is required. I advise anyone doing this to come in from the Victorian and via the Limestone Creek and Davies Ridge fire trails.

Anyway, get to the Murray where the crossing has been dozed by the NPWS (a wise move), walk to the river and up the hill past the pedlars - and start hiking. We managed to locate half a dozen caves I1 - I6. Most are small but still have enough passage to keep a party amused. Two require vertical gear (a 30' ladder is sufficient), again the Victorian tags are used so bring your microscope to read them.

After checking out these caves it began to rain so we left and began the pic four wheel drive back to Tom Groggin - about half a million steep muddy hills were encountered - and to make it worse we almost had a white out of sleet on the top of Davies Ridge.

Once back in NSW it turned fine, we stopped at Jindabyne for a late lunch and left Chris with the police reporting his accident.

G. Robinson.

## WYANBENE & BIG HOLE

Date: 6th - 7th June, 1992.

Members Present: D. Noble, T. Zimmerman, G. Robinson, T Magennis.

Visitors: G. & D. Byrne, J. Driver, D. Crouther, M. Reece.

### Report:

Owing to the distance involved and the various caving areas in the vicinity, the long weekend was chosen. Wyanbene area planned for Saturday, Big Hole - Sunday, Marble Arch and Cleitmore on Monday.

Anyway somehow I was conned into taking the Oberon Goulburn Highway - what a joke of a road. We cleaned up a wombat on the way and found out how hopeless Four Runners are on hills and flats. Eventually (11pm) we arrived at the Deua campsite near the Big Hole where we found everyone asleep.

After a brisk rise (-6°C) and snapping the ice off the swag, we headed to Wyanbene and commenced to cave. This was basically a guided trip for many of the first timers here. Wyanbene has wide variety of caving facets - water, pitches, climbs, squeezes, mud, dust, formation, lake, all of which make it an interesting trip no matter how many times it's done.

Once at Caesar's Chamber a few of the team were suffering a little hypothermia - so I took them out while Dave took the remainder to the lake for some pickies of the aragonite before returning.

Meanwhile at the exit, the group I had checked out the tourist section on the right as you enter. We exited and put toogether a fire and waited.

During this time Tony had been outside roaming the hills and finding

half a dozen other caves and recorded these on video , as well as locating another bluff some distance away.

The remainder of the group joined us after exiting just on dark and we headed back to the campsite for dinner.

With permits only issued for six months of the year, we just made the 1992 cut-off. Big Hole is, for those who don't know, a big hole. It has a depth ranging from 70m to 100m depending on where you go down. It is 30m - 40m across and vertically sided.

For this trip we made two possible descent routes, one down the middle (Tyrolean) and the other down the southern wall opposite the platform.

For the tyrolean the longest part is setting it up. However, this time I used fishing line/sinker trick to get the rope across the Hole and lowered all the ropes from the descent side. Meanwhile Dave hung off the southern wall and nicely free rigged the other 95m pitch on the wall.

Dave headed off the tyrolean while Troy went down the wall. Since the wall required a rebelay crossing, I stayed up to make sure the changeovers were done correctly, then headed down the centre. This only left Dale, so Dave ropewalked up and checked Dale down.

Once at the bottom, just filled in the book (there are now two) and headed back up the centre, de-rigged it and waited for the others to ascend. Being first timers this took about half an hour each.

During this time Tony played the role of news crew and filmed the whole thing. Also played P.R. Officer as for most of the day the platform was

full of tourists, the majority who thought we were crazy - really!!!

After a couple of hours waiting for little figures at the bottom to appear at the top, James decided to dodge the wall - what an epic - half an hour to work out how to get a rope off a tree ( well the tree was perched on the hole).

Royce and Martin headed back early to get the fire going - very fortunate because on return it was a high speed race to avoid getting bombarded while crossing. Some however did cop it. Thus ended the day.

## JENOLAN

Date: 20th - 21st, June, 1992.

Members Present: D. Noble, G. Robinson, T. Zimmerman, D. McDonald

Visitors: G & D Byrne, A. Elliot, A. Robinson.

### Report:

The BMSC Hilton - the Pig Farm - was our Friday night rendezvous. It is the choice of the positions of Jenolan to all of those discomforts - sun, dryness, warmth, wood etc, that others have to contend with when they stay at the hut; but it is cheaper.

Anyway, with Dave only half asleep, Gary and Damon dead to the world, the remainder of us arrived, kept Dave awake while setting up for the night.

An early rise and off to pick up the keys and off to Rho Hole (J20) and Ian Carpenters Cave (J24). Dave McDonald located the cave on the hill and we wandered up, unlocked and headed in.

Now these two connected caves are only short but provide some inspirational caving. Rho Hole is

exceptionally clean and relatively damage free considering its small passage size and somewhat vertical developed nature. Large quantities of chunky cave coral inhabit this cave and add that shredded overall look to cavers on exit.

Route finding requires some inspired squeezing as half a dozen squeezes are encountered on the way through to link with Ian Carpenters cave. Also passed is some impressive formation that remains undamaged particularly in the Crystal Chamber, Moonmilk Floor and Mulberry Tunnel.

Anyway the task at hand was the connection through the water crawl squeeze to exit via Ian Carpenter. This squeeze is deceptive. Dave had already stripped off his battery and helmet and attempted but couldn't. I had a go next and thought it would be a breeze as it looks quite large, all seems to be going well with half the body through the passage the...stuck! It just happens to be one of those squeezes where for over size 40 chest, forget it! You are so close but still so far. Those behind us immediately turned back as they assumed if we couldn't they couldn't even though a couple were much smaller.

So we exited not before I had blown a bulb, found that my spare bulb canister had been ripped open and the contents lost in one of the squeezes in the cave. Exit on low beam.

Next on the list was Frenchman's Cave. This is fairly frequently visited and as such shows these signs. It is quite a contrast to the previous trip. The path through is well trogged and many of the minor side passages are also trafficked. We did push a few less conspicuous leads but to little avail. The rockpile still remains unpassed and is

unlikely to be. After all had climbed out we headd back to camp for Tony's promised bonfire. After five minutes of watching leaves smoulder he gave up. You see Tony's fires are conservative - you don't use wood - just look at the fireplace and pretend. Consequently we all headed off and found some timber to burn. A short time later the two Steves (Riley and Babka) payed us a visit before departing to the warmth of their homestead.

Sunday was spent idling through Wiburds. Our previous trips through here have left a couple of unfollowed leads which we intended to complete on this visit.

So off we trogged to the northern end of the Northern Limestone, the only delay was while I checked out one of Stve Riley's new prospects along the way. This had a good draught and sizeable entrance but I decided to leave that foe another day.

Back in Wiburd's the majority of the party headed off in the direction of Henry's Dig and Yawning Gulches. From here the tourist trip around the cave was undertaken until the mudslide was reached where Dave and myself shot off up Pitter Patter Passage while the remainder of the party lunched. This passage has a very promising feel about it. Much passage was explored and once at the end the side passages were systematically followed to their ends. One remains unfinished and will require return with a rope to complete. After lunch we headed off for the Lake Loop before exiting. On return we had a bit of time to spare so Dave took a few through the Serpentine cave to test out the reverse knee bends and mud wall climbing. This took a lot longer than expected thus a hurried exit completed the weekend.

Glen Robinson.

## LIMEKILNS

Date: 26th June, 1992.

Members Present: G. & D. Byrne, D. Noble, T. Zimmerman, G. Robinson.

### Report:

Gary had suggested we visit this area in conjunction with other small outcrops in the Bathurst area. Consequently since on the weekend Damon was visiting the landowner, Gary organised a visit on the Friday night.

Limekilns is located approximately 35km north of Bathurst on private property. The limestone deposit is only in the order of a square kilometre and boasts one major cave and several other less significant features.

The main cave was initially an old tourist cave and one of the first caves located in NSW. A path has been dug from the entrance chamber almost through to the lake to allow tourist many years ago to enter. Today the cave shows the signs of these early visitations - well worn, the formations (when present) are dust covered and the floor is well compacted.

We proceeded beyond the end of the old track to visit the lake. Gary dragged a surfboard through to enable him to cross the lake but.... the extended drought had meant the lake had vanished. The marker he had placed on a previous trip was high and dry. This meant we were now able to explore those passages normally flooded. As one can imagine the floor and walls were exceptionally sticky. Also of note in this cave is the level of CO<sub>2</sub> which is elevated throughout the cave and excessively high in the passages under the normal lake. Several animal skeletons were

located in the cave along with dung of various grade of decay.

After exit from this cave Gary had us trogging around looking for other features and to investigate a doline Damon had found the previous week. We found one cave entrance, but little cave and no sight of the doline (it is the middle of the night by now), so we head back to the car and off to Bathurst for the night.

Glen Robinson.

## CANOMODINE

Date: 27th - 28th June, 1992.

Members Present: D. Noble, G. & D. Byrne, T. Zimmerman, G. Robinson.

### Report:

OK where is this place? well it certainly isn't where the deer and the antelope reign because there are too many sheep. To get a vague idea think of Orange and head out on the Grenfell Road for a while and there you are.

Gary teed this one up with the property manager. After a quick social chat with this fellow, Richard his leading hand accompanied us to a new hole he had discovered on his rounds one day. Once there we pulled off a log while Dave got changed, he then threw down a ladder and headed in. The nature of the cave meant that no one else could follow, so we named it "One at a Time Cave". It turned out to be exactly 50' deep and only a couple of body widths wide to the bottom where a snake skin was found. That was it. How disappointing! So after Gary and myself had been down, we threw the log back over the hole (to stop sheep falling in) and headed back to the main bluff.

This area boasts many square miles of exposed limestone. Being badly fragmented and steeply struck there is little in the way of developed caves. Many grikes and holes exist but extensive features are rare.

Once camp was established we headed off to the main bluff and found the main cave, which incidentally is gated, and headed straight inside. As one would expect from the Central West the caves are fairly warm and fairly inactive. The thing that struck us most in this cave was the degree of vandalism that has occurred over the years. Decoration would have once been very dominant, but little has survived the wrath of whoever. Some of the broken formations must have been broken with a sledge hammer. The cave was still quite clean though and did not show evidence of large numbers of people through it. We managed to take several photos in the large chambers of the cave which even though the stals were desicated still had there own beauty.

Many leads were pushed here, one of which involved a difficult vertical squeeze, gradually belling out down to a lake mostly covered by calcite. This area seems to have been very infrequently visited. After a few more photos we departed the cave. On route back to camp another couple of entrances were located but were not found to "go".

The night was spent with Damon and Dave trying to burn Tony's box. They didn't succeed.

Sunday was 'see what we could find' day. Lots of limestone - not much chance of getting into it. What we did learn is that the early tagging attampts had not been recorded and many tag numbers were missing so OSS had begun retagging, which meant at

the moment no features are numbered. We did, however, find three caves.

The first we thought was CH2 located on the southern side of a moderate sized doline on the eastern side of the ridge. The entrance was not quite walk in size and the entrance chamber some 1.5m high, 10m in diameter, with major passage leading off in an easterly direction. Again the cave was well vandalised and somewhat unstable as one proceeded into the rockpile.

The second was a shaft some 8m deep with evidence of a passage leading off at the base. The shaft is fairly difficult to negotiate.

The final cave has a gate inside the cave at a squeeze in the rockpile. This cave is apparently called Diprotodon and the squeeze called "The Armchair Squeeze". One finds this a very apt name as the squeeze is negotiated. From this squeeze a chamber is entered (the camera room) which is well decorated and somehow immune to vandalistic attack. Many photos were clicked off here before we decided to get very physical and push some distance through the rockpile to all extremities that were humanly possible. The passage to the terminal lake was located, as was an alternative involving an incredibly energy consuming vertical squeeze that even had Dave in a lather of sweat and breathless.

The approximate length of passage in here would be over 100m but it is rather invigorating. On exit we all seemed to find different ways out but with expectation of Tony being in the camera room we thought a link would be easy, but as one would expect from Tony - he'd left.

Well that was about it for the weekend. Everyone found it quite

good. The expectation was worse than what we actually found. It is a place to return to.

Glen Robinson.

## JENOLAN

Date: 13th - 14th February, 1992.

Members Present: R. & C. Brett, K. Coleborn, T. & L. Coleborn, L. Baker, T. Zimmerman, T Magennis, B. Richard, S Warring, T. Pearson.

### Report:

Saturday we held the AGM so no caving was done.

Sunday a party of four people consisting of myself (Rick), Kevin, Sue and Tim trogged up ready to head for the Bottomless Pit in the Southern Limestone while the rest of the group headed for the Budthingaroo trig station in search of a grave that Lionel had found many years ago (8?).

Our group arrived at No3 carpark where we departed on foot into the Southern Limestone. Kevin located the cave entrance where we quickly rigged the pitch and abseiled into the cave. Unfortunately the 50m rope was a little short so we lowered the 20m rope down so it could be attached to a stal and make it to the bottom.

Once Kevin gave us the OK we abseiled into the dark depths of the cave. When we all reached the bottom we did some exploring and located the signature of Jeremiah Wilson written in pencil at the very bottom of the cave.

Because there is not much passage at the bottom of this cave we ran out of places to explore so headed out.

Kevin prussicked out first followed by Sue, who was on her maiden prussick which she handled really well. I was next and had all sorts of gear trouble and last was Tim who had an uneventful trip out.

Rick Brett.

## BUNGONIA

Date: 27th - 28th March, 1993.

Members Present: K. Coleborn, S. Anderson, R., C. & Jamie Lee Brett.

Visitors: M. Brett, J. Newcome, Brian, Nicky.

### Report:

Brian, Nicky and Mary drove down Friday night. Rick and crew, myself, Shane and Julie rocked up Saturday morning. We set up camp and I started to set up some ropes in the tree while Rick fine tuned his prusic rig. After some swinging and wrestling I had one redirection and two rebelayes that would test any vertical caver. We also had one rope up the tree just to go up and down. After Rick had tuned his gear he grunted through the tree then we introduced Shane to prusic gear and sent him up and down the tree a couple of times then over the redirection and rebelayes. Marty, Nicky and Brian all were introduced to ladders and ropes then once we were all puffed out we headed underground.

We decided an easy afternoon was in order, so Grill was on the menu. By the time we got to the Crystal Palace we had hit CO<sub>2</sub> and ventured on to the loose boulders, stopped, took some photos, had some strawberry creams and once we were rested in CO<sub>2</sub> we headed out. That night was spent around the fire with human like fireflies in plague proportions or the National Orienteering trial provided some laughs and some dirty jokes.

The next day we headed for B4-5 because CO<sub>2</sub> levels were up in the area and easy trip with two entrances was a good idea. We headed in B5. After some grunting, belaying and the odd picture we were down the traverse then on to the Extension which was full of water. The whole bottom of the cave was full so no further did we go.

We headed for B4 entrance with some exploration on the way out. Once out we ate some of Shane's chocie and went over to Argyle for a trip to the top of the first pitch. But CO<sub>2</sub> stopped us at the flattener so some photos were taken then out. Went and did Mass Cave and walked back to the car via B2, B3, B10 and B12. We decided another trip to do a small cave was in order.

Rick wanted to take Jamie Lee caving for her first trip so we ducked down grill for 15min and she became the youngest BMSC caver. After this we packed and headed home. A great weekend caving and socialising. Thanks to all those present.

Kevin Coleborn.

## CLIEFDEN

Date: 11th - 12th April, 1993.

Members Present: K. Coleborn, S. Warring, C. Coleborn, I. Lynch, S. Anderson, J. Newcome.

### Report:

After a 5.00am start at Toongabbie, we met Shane and Julie at 6.00am at Kingswood then all headed out for Cliefden. We arrived around 10.00am and set up camp and decided Taplow was the order of the day. After a hot walk down to the river we arrived at the entrance and set up the ladder pitch and climbed down. We headed for Wits End, stopping at Ricky's Hole,

Blue Room and Mark's Reward. The Chocablock Squeeze was tried but all attempts were unsuccessful. We then headed out.

Saturday night was spent sitting around the fire drinking cheap wine and playing a firey game of cards.

Sunday we headed for Trapdoor and Yarrawiga. A short trip into both, where Shane thought the BMSC extension was for the birds. Trapdoor was very active with 2" of new growth on some stals noted. It was then out and back to the hut and back home along with the rest of Australia.

Kevin Coleborn.

## BUNGONIA

Date: 22nd - 23rd May, 1993.

Members Present: . K. Coleborn, S. Warring, S. Anderson, J. Newcome, M. Williams, K. Williams, A. Whitmore.  
Visitors: Niel, Tony & Lachlan.

### Report:

After a sleep in and a couple of close speeding tickets, I joined the early birds at Bungonia. On my way in I passed WIN TV driving the other way, an ambulance at the Ranger Station and a couple of helicopters flying around the campsite. After meeting Mark, Kathy, Neil and Alan we set up camp and headed over to the Ranger Station to fill in the intentions book. Here we met Tony and Lachlan and found out there was a fatal accident of a base jumper on the floor of Bungonia Gorge. It wasn't the jump that killed him apparently, it was when he hit the bottom.

We headed down Shaduf to try and make the extension. We found the squeeze connecting the two silted up and

after one and a half hours of digging the party was getting cold so we headed out. Everybody seemingly doing it relatively easily and I was bringing up the rear and just climbing out the entrance when I found Neil in the recovery position and everybody getting the situation under control. After climbing out, Neil got physically exerted I think you would say but after some water and rest he was feeling a lot better.

When Tony yells "I'm on fire", his light has shorted and smoke was coming out of the lead under pressure. Out with the pocket knife and fix it by cutting the cable. Any more problems and we would be having fun. So we headed back to camp, dropped off the casualties, got some firewood and headed for Grill and a good dose of CO<sub>2</sub>.

After following a line or should I say boxes of matches through the cave we got to the Crystal Palace and then down to the false bottom. Matches would hardly light so to put it bluntly we got the hell out of there. Nearing the entrance we could smell rain. Back to the car and camp, in the rain, where Sue and Julie had the fire going.

Tony and Lachlan made the right decision for heading home as did Neil and Alan. But looking on the bright side we got to bed early.

The next morning the sun was shining so we headed down to College for some more CO<sub>2</sub> and some good free climbing. After 3 caves for the weekend we were 10 Bungonia 1. BMSC had a good safe weekends caving.

Kevin Coleborn.

## WALLI

Date: 10th - 11th July, 1993.

Members Present: R, C & J Brett, S. Anderson, T. Pearson, K. Coleborn, S. Warring, Kylie Coleborn, M. Coleborn, T & L Coleborn, M. Brett, G. Cook.

### Report:

After checking with the landowner, we headed up to the campsite to set up tents. When the rest of the group arrived and all were organised we trogged up ready to head underground. A group of 8 people; Rick, Kevin, Tim, Marty, Kylie, Shane and Michelle headed off for Piano Extension.

We rigged the entrance pitch by attaching a trace around a rock close to the entrance then backed it up with a tape around another rock which was close by. I hooked up a 17m and 10m ladder and then headed into the cave so I could feed the ladder down the pitch. Seeing as I was in the cave I tied onto the belay line and climbed down to make sure it reached the bottom. It didn't so another 10m was passed down so I could join it on. Thankfully the ladders now reached the bottom so the rest pf the party could now make their way into the cave. Michelle, Kylie and Marty laddered while the others abseiled in on the 50m rope.

Once everyone was down we explored most of the passages which we could find, did some photography in the pretty section and then located the join between Piano and the Extension. Whilst exploring we noticed how active all the formation was, as on the last trip the cave was like a dustbowl.

After exhausting most of the leads we decided that we should make an exit. Kevin prussicked out first so he could man the belay. All except Tim climbed out using the ladder. The

ladder climb was the longest that Kylie and Michelle had undertaken and they both handled it exceptionally well. We were underground for six and half hours.

Sunday after a slow start and a good breakfast Marty, Kevin, Greg Tim and I trogged up and headed for WA17 Deep Hole. We rigged the pitch with both ladders and rope. Seeing as though it was Marty's birthday, he thought it was great to abseil into a cave for the first time. The rest of us abseiled into the cave and once at the bottom headed off to explore. Again we noticed how active the formation in the cave was and also how sticky the mud on the floor was.

After exploring for several hours we decided we should make our way back to the bottom of the pitch ready for our exit. Once at the bottom we set Marty up in Kevin's spare prussic

gear so he could also do his first prussic out of a cave. Kevin, Tim and I Prussicked while Greg brought up the rear on the ladder. We exited after five and half hours. A superb trip and weekend was had by all.

Rick Brett.

#### Answers to Crossword.

Across; 1. lifeline, 3. Lay, 5. Moonmilk, 6. Bat, 7. Section 9. Bolt, 10. Column, 13. Tower Karst, 16. Halite, 17. Sling, 19. Acenote, 20. Grid, 21. Air, 22. Donga, 23. Heligmite.

Down; 1. Limestone, 2. Floe calcite, 4. Anastomosis, 8. Inflow, 11. Marble, 12. Gardening, 16. Helictite, 18. Grike, 22. Dig.

### CAVER CONUNDRUM ANSWER

Adapted from Speleograffiti Vol. 16 No. 3

- 1) The caver Barry drinks milk.
- 2) The caver Kevin drives a VW.
- 3) The caver Barry is the armchair caver.

CAVER	CAVE TYPE	DRINKS	TRANSPORT	PASTIME	CAVE POSITION
Barry	Tourist	Port	Donkey	Armchair	1
Dave	Vertical	Red Wine	Bicycle	Crawling	2
Tim	Muddy	Scotch	Renault	Grovelling	3
Rick	Small	Beer	Holden	Squeezing	4
Kevin	Wet	Water	VW	Laddering	5

