

*Don Mott*

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C O N T E N T S .

	<u>Page</u>
Editorial. . . . .	2
The Musgrave River Caves, P.N.G. - Greg Powell . . . . .	3
The Gating of Odyssey Cave, Bungonia. - Ian Bogg . . . . .	5
Tuglow Skull - a Mystification.- Ian Bogg. . . . .	6
The Tolwong Mine (Extract from Aust. Gems and Crafts Mag.)	10
So You Think You Are a Good Caver ? - Ian Bogg . . . . .	13
There Really Was a Lost World After All - Syd."Sun" 18.2.74	14
Pollution at Caves - Sydney "Sun" 30.6.74 . . . . .	15
Early Days of Trunkey - Extract from "Trunkey Public School Centenary 1870-1970	16
Penrith Plaza B.M.S.C. Promotion - Ian Bogg. . . . .	16
A.S.F. Draft Abseiling Code. . . . .	18
Abercrombie Quiz - Ian Bogg. . . . .	21
Cave Numbering and Nomenclature, Abercrombie - Ian Bogg. .	23
Membership List. . . . .	25
N.S.W. Environment Centre - Ian Bogg. . . . .	26
Trip Reports.	
Jenolan 23.3.74 - Ron Thomas . . . . .	27
Abercrombie 20-21.4.74 - Ian Bogg . . . . .	28
Wyambene - Flood - Bungonia 27.4.74 - Ron Thomas. .	29
Jenolan 8-9.6.74 - Lionel Baker . . . . .	29
Copperhania 29-30.6.74 - Ian Bogg . . . . .	30
Abercrombie 27-28.7.74 - A.Fairweather. . . . .	31
Cliefden 31.8 - 1.9.74 - Phil Coburn. . . . .	32
Cliefden 15-16.12.74 - Phil Coburn. . . . .	33

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CREDITS - This Volume

Typing - Ian Bogg.

Editing and Production - Ken Pickering.

A N A P O L O G Y F O R A N E D I T O R I A L .o rA N E D I T O R I A L A P O L O G Y .

Well here it is at last, the long awaited Volume 6 of Oolite, and all at once too - Nos. 1,2 &3 all in one hit! The delays gentle reader, have been caused by the perennial problems, an Editor too busy with other problems and little original material from B.M.S.C. members (with one or two exceptions). Even trip reports have been scarce in 1974. Still B.M.S.C. is not alone in its publication problems - I don't seem to have my Nibicon proceedings yet, nor my new A.S.F. Handbook.

Problems such as these must be seen in perspective, however. Rather than being failures, they merely emphasise the solid work that goes into the material that is published. The high standard of recent specialist publications and the regularity of many other Society journals emphasises the growth and maturity of Australian Speleology.

So B.M.S.C. members, take up the challenge and lets see YOUR name in print.

Ken Pickering.  
Editor.

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THE MUSGRAVE RIVER CAVES  
PORT MORESBY. P.N.G.

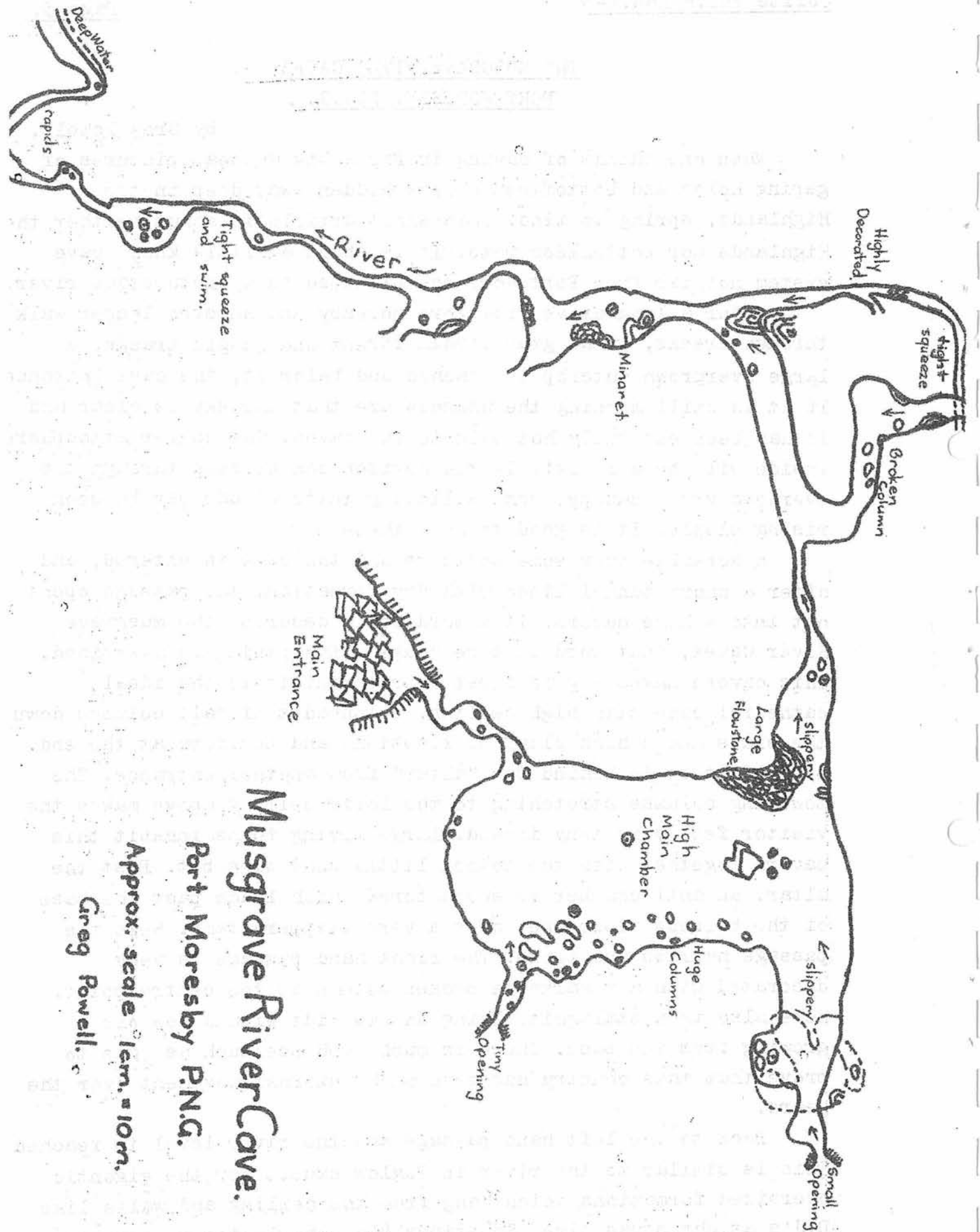
by Greg Powell.

When one thinks of caving in Papua New Guinea, pictures of gaping holes and bottomless chasms hidden away deep in the Highlands, spring to mind. This short article is about neither the Highlands nor bottomless pots. It is about a little known cave system not far from Port Moresby, situated on a picturesque river

After a long drive from Port Moresby and an even longer walk through creeks, kunai grass, rain forest and jungle tracks, a large overgrown outcrop is reached and below it, the cave entrance. If it is still morning the chances are that the sky is clear and it has been extremely hot walk to the caves. The cooler atmosphere inside will be a relief. If the horizon can be seen through the overhead green canopy, some billowing white clouds may be seen rising slowly. It is good to note these now.

A scramble over some boulders and the cave is entered, and after a short tunnel lined with dry formation, the passage opens out into a huge cavern. If a word could describe the Musgrave River Caves, that word must be "huge". Everything is oversized. This cavern makes a good first impression. It is the ideal cathedral cave with high ceiling, colonnades of tall columns down the sides and a high altar of flowstone and boulders at the end. Light filters in behind the "altar" from another entrance. The towering columns stretching to the lofty ceiling above makes the visitor feel very tiny indeed. Large flying foxes inhabit this cavern together with the common little bent wing bat. Past the altar, an anti chamber is encountered which leads past the base of the bulbous flowstone, down a very slippery ramp. Here the passage narrows and forks. The right hand passage is very decorated with a remarkable broken column as the centre point. Here also is a stalagmite lying on its side with a new one growing from its base. There is much evidence such as this to prove that this country has seen much internal movement over the years.

Back to the left hand passage and the river level is reached. This is similar to the river in Tuglow except for the gigantic oversized formations which hang from the ceiling and walls like D.J's at christmas time. Sometimes blue shawls tower overhead then perhaps pure white flowstone cascades down from above. The river narrows and a tight squeeze and swim must be negotiated if



## Musgrave River Cave.

Port Moresby P.N.G.

Approx. scale 1cm. = 10m.

Greg Powell.



the cave is to be explored further. This is one of those "on the stomach with nose above water level" squeezes. The water is only about 30cm deep and crystal clear. The river continues and gets deeper and dirtier. A large eel swims by and the river slips under a rocky ledge out of sight. High above are pieces of stick and grass wedged tightly in the rock. These could have only come in by one means. It is now that thoughts turn to those clouds on the horizon. The water level may rise again soon. It is time to leave. A visit to the upstream chamber reveals fine delicate formations, some of which are growing on a slant, influenced by wind direction from somewhere upstream. Back through the Cathedral with its overawing effect and out into the light again. It is still clear and hot out here but it does pay to be safe. It is hot and humid outside, a different climate to the comfortable water and air temperature of 23°C inside.

-oooOooo-

THE GATING OF THE ODYSSEY CAVE - BUNGONIA.

by Ian Bogg.

We have been advised by the Sydney Speleological Society that the Odyssey Cave, B24, in the Bungonia Caves Reserve has now been gated, and accordingly they have issued a key to all New South Wales clubs and societies affiliated with the Australian Speleological Federation.

They have advised that there shall be no specific restrictions imposed regarding entry to the cave but have requested that both trips and numbers be limited in frequency as Scientific Speleological Studies are being undertaken utilising valuable recording equipment. Their only other request is that the key be used by members of our club, and interstate members of other ASF groups upon request, and that all other requests be refused.

It is therefore drawn to your attention that your committee has agreed to the requests of the Sydney Speleological Society. Applications and or requests to visit the Odyssey Cave will only be considered at the general meetings of the club.

The number of the key issued to B.M.S.C. is B24-4 and will be retained by the secretary on behalf of the club.

-oooOooo-

"TUGLOW SKULL"

a

MYSTIFICATION.

by Ian Bogg.

The mystery of the fabled "Tuglow Skull" began during a bio-speleological trip into the Tuglow Main Cave, TI, Tuglow Caves, on January, 26th. 1969, with the disclosure accredited to Ken Pickering.

Questions began arising almost immediately as to how did the skull get there, how long had it been there, was it complete, had it been vandalised by "souvenir hunters", do others know about it, and more importantly, what is it? Over the ensuing three months our curiosity began to be somewhat aroused, particularly, as the perplexing catch cry "what is it", time and time again, arose in conversation. To satisfy the curiosity, another trip was held specifically to photograph, sketch and record as much relevant detail as possible as the exordium to identification.

In the early stages I was unaware of the problems which existed, had I been, I doubt whether I would have continued, in what was to become a very much personalised project. The following is therefore, the final summation (for my part) in the unravelling of the "Tuglow Skull" mystification.

The Skull lies in the inverted position, embedded some 9 - 12 mm in a flowstone shelf, under an overhanging rock 150 mm above the skull, in an isolated and obscure part of the River Cavern, 70m below the surface and 3.6m above the river. Its relative position within the cave system provides ideal protection for in situ preservation as the area is off the beaten track and as no other bone material has been found, it suggests that the skull may have been introduced into and deposited on the shelf of the cave during a period of high water activity. The skull itself, is remarkable for its very light ossification - the cranial vault is spherical in shape, smoothly rounded, without any ridges, with the bone being extremely thin and light to the extent that one could only describe it as delicate - the palate is horse-shoe in shape with a delicate fretwork of bone at the posterior between the last pair of molar teeth - the premaxilla and maxilla region is covered completely in calcareous deposition - the basal length of the exposed portion on the specimen is 60mm with a breadth of 30mm. The visible dental characteristics are three pairs of molars, all

of which are hypsodont, with four distinct, sharp cusps with no visible signs of decay or wear.

Considerable time was spent in researching the available material and amongst the mammalian collection and palaeontology specimens held by the Australian Museum in an attempt to identify by comparison, using photographs, sketches and recorded details only. Both Messrs B. Marlow and A. Ritchie were unwilling to enter the cave for examination and requested that the specimen be removed from the cave - should we remove the specimen or not, from the cave. It was eventually resolved that the specimen would remain in the cave for the present. This decision was also supported by Dr. Jeanette Hope of the Australian National University, department of Prehistory, with whom contact had been established. She stated, "If it is one of the commoner species, there are several already in museums; if it is some thing rare it is probably safer in the cave for the time being."

Eventually, the following short list of possibilities was established :-

Red-legged Pademelon:	<u>Thylogale stigmatica.</u>
Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby:	<u>Petrogale penicillata.</u>
Rufous Rat Kangaroo:	<u>Aepyprymnus rufescens.</u>
Bush-tailed Rat Kangaroo:	<u>Bettongia penicillata.</u>
Gaimard's Rat Kangaroo:	<u>Bettongia gaimardi.</u>
Long-nosed Rat Kangaroo:	<u>Potorous Tridactylus.</u>
Brush- tailed Possum:	<u>Trichosurus vulpecula.</u>

which was based upon the following

- a) The delicacy of the bone could account for juvenilia development on the larger species, although, it is characteristic of the smaller species.
- b) Generally, the palate region has a tendency to be spherical in shape in macropods, and is even more marked in juveniles, although, some species of macropods do have horse-shoe shaped palates, again, particularly juveniles.
- c) Four molars are present in adult macropods and phalangers, however the last pair do not erupt till late in life and it is not unusual to find specimens with three visible pairs of molars present.
- d) Wallaby skulls have delicate bone fretwork at the palate posterior between the last pair of molars.
- e) The back of the skull is round in macropods and square in phalangers.



Oolite Vol.6, Nos.1-3.

FLOWSTONE BANK

FLOWSTONE BANK.



HEAVY CALCAREOUS  
CRUSTATION  
IN THIS  
REGION

- f) The sharp, hypsodont, cusps tend to suggest that the animal was a macropod rather than a dasyure, perameles etc., The absence of decay or wear could be indicative of a juvenile animal.
- g) The form of the premaxilla and maxilla is indeterminate due to crustation.
- h) The approximate size of the skull tends to indicate that the animal could be penicillata.
- i) The pre and currently known habitats and distribution patterns.

However, positive identification is usually confined to adult specimens and it is not possible, in situ, to establish positive identification, particularly as the dental characters, incisor, canine and premolars are not visible. As such, the afore mentioned listing has been reduced to two possibilities, which for the moment, would alleviate the need to remove the specimen from the cave, particularly as the skull does not belong to any species that is classified as rare. Another aspect regarding the removal of the specimen is that the cave is under the control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of N.S.W., and they would require substantial justification for the removal, as the skull has the protection of the National Parks Act, 1967, as amended.

Nevertheless, if an authority on Australian mammalian terrestrial fauna could be enticed into the cave to examine the specimen, then positive identification should be possible.

The final two possibilities are

Aepyprymnus rufescens.

or

Petrogale penicillata.

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- |                  |   |
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THE TOLWONG MINE N.S.W.

An extract from the Australian Gem & Crafts Magazine, Aug/Sept. 1974. The original author being Dennis Fortowski.

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This mine, situated deep within the Tolwong Gorge, which is part of the rugged Shoalhaven Gorge system, is unique among the mines of Australia. A combination of metallurgical problems associated with a complex mineralogy as well as the remarkable aerial tramways or flying loxes used to conquer the rugged and scenic terrain, all added to the colourful but short life of the mine; features that today remain almost forgotten.

The mine is located about nine miles south-south-east of Marulan. Access may be obtained via Bungonia to the western side of the Shoalhaven Gorge where the ruins of the flying fox occur. From here a foot track takes one down nearly 1200 feet to the river; when the river is negotiable the remains of the smelters can be reached on the eastern side. From here a further foot track leads up the Tolwong Gorge to the mines. The view from the foot track down from the flying fox ruins is breathtaking. Access may be also obtained from Braidwood via Nerriga, where no river crossing is required. The top of the foot track on this side of the gorge commands an even better view than that obtained on the western side.

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Carne, Assistant Government Geologist (1911) visited the workings in July, 1908. He stated that the mine was discovered by John Sivewright in 1904 where the Shoalhaven River has excavated a gorge between 1550 and 1600 feet deep. It was described as a strongly discordant vein-type lode occurring in Ordovician quartzites and slates, the ore being a complex mixture of mispickel (arsenopyrite), stannine (stannite), chalcopryrite and galena. The lode varied from over a few inches to over eight feet in thickness in the largest lenses, with an apparent dip of 30/245. The Tolwong Gorge has dissected the lode in the direction of dip causing the lode to outcrop on both sides of this precipitous gorge. Several adits have been driven into the southern exposure proving the lode over a length of 2283 feet. The highest workings occur 770 feet above the river level and the lowset at 220 feet.

The ore consisted mainly of arsenopyrite with smaller amounts of chalcopryrite. Galena was even less common and sphalerite rare.

Stannite was the tin-bearing mineral in the lode and notably occurred in the 37 tunnel at No.6 opening, which has now completely collapsed. Green and purple fluorite occurred in the gangue. Chalmers (1968) has also reported fine specimens of bournonite from the mine. An assay of the best copper ore was recorded as follows: copper 10.23% (selected ore 14.13%-) Tin 2.10 (selected ore 10.26%) arsenic 8.78%, few grains gold/ton, 2oz 15 dwt silver/ton.

The major problem metallurgically with the ore was the separation of the more valuable products, copper and tin, from arsenic. However, arsenic was the primary product and recovered as an oxide in preliminary roasting. In 1910 Carne again visited the mine and reported:

"In view of the complex and hitherto unsolved problem of stannite metallurgy it was perhaps unwise to model a smelting plant on the slender evidence afforded by the experimental efforts of the Oonah Proprietary, on somewhat similar ore at Zeehan, Tas."

At Zeehan a new method of treatment was adopted where copper and silver were retained by blast furnace matte ing and the tin was discarded as part of the slag. This same method was adopted at the Conrad Mine, Howell, in the New England District of New South Wales on stannite-bearing ore. Apparently stannite was only used for its copper content.

The country rock in the area consists of strongly folded Ordovician quartzites and slates which have been incised by the Tolwong Gorge revealing some very spectacular synclinal and anticlinal structures. These have been responsible for producing some very picturesque waterfalls in the gorge, the highest of which is 50 feet near the No.3 adit. Dolerite intrusions are also exposed within the gorge.

#### The flying fox system

All machinery and equipment, building materials and supplies were brought to the smelting plant site by an aerial tramway or flying fox. This was the only possible way of overcoming the steep terrain. Ore was also transported down the gorge to the smelters by another flying fox system. From the Bungonia side of the Shoalhaven River, at the end of the access road, the flying fox went 2700 feet to the machinery site on the opposite bank of the river, which is 1134 feet below the former. The grade of the flying fox is 1 in 20 near the river to 1 in 5 at the top of the hill.

The western or access flying fox consisted of two fixed steel



ropes, with a 24 ton breaking strain, leading from the braking station at the top of the hill to the machinery site which is 56 feet above the river level. Three supporting trestles occurred near the midway point. The greatest unsupported span was 1700 feet. The ore buckets were hauled on the fixed steel ropes by hauling ropes attached to them which had a breaking strain of 5½ tons and were 5500 feet long. Loads of ½ to 1 ton were carried at 6 to 8 m.p.h. The power came from a 25 brake horsepower motor located at the braking station. When a full bucket was sent down the flying fox containing supplies an empty bucket could be brought up to the braking station without using the motor.

The eastern flying fox was used mainly for ore cartage from the mines to the smelters. Two fixed steel ropes 2250 feet long with a breaking strain of 21 tons 6 cwt went from the machinery site to the despatching station opposite No.6 workings. The hauling rope was 4500 feet long with a breaking strain of 2½ tons. It was driven by a 15 b.h.p. electric motor and had the same capabilities for driving the ore buckets as that of the western flying fox. The greatest span on this flying fox occurred between the machinery site and the only supporting trestle, a distance of 1520 feet with a grade of 1 in 3½.

The electricity generating plant consisted of two loco-type boilers and one compound surface condensing engine having a combined output of 294 b.h.p. Ore crushed to ½" size went into a Leggo roasting furnace which was capable of taking 200 to 250 tons per week. All that remains of the plant today are the two chimneys associated with the arsenic recovery chambers. They are an important marker and stopping place for canoeists who use the Shoalhaven River. They are also regularly visited by bushwalkers whose tracks are found throughout the gorge.

The mine closed down in June 1912, after increasing problems in treating the ore, having had only a short life of production. Most of the machinery and plant valued then at £13,600 was subsequently removed.

From a mineral collector's point of view the mine is always worth a visit, but as many bushwalkers will testify, the area is worth a visit to admire the gorge alone.

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N.S.W. Department of Mines, Geological Survey Annual Reports 1908 to 1913.



SO YOU THINK YOU ARE A GOOD CAVER ?

by Ian Bogg.

Then try this quick quiz on terminology,

be honest with yourself - no cheating.

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

I

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

HOW DID YOU GO ? EASY - THEY DID NOT REALLY TEST MY

INTELLECTUAL CAPABILITIES !

OH ?, THEN TRY THIS LOT.

13. Limestone recrystallised and hardened by heat is \_\_\_\_\_.
14. A rare crystalline form of  $\text{CaCO}_3$ , which is heavier and orthorhombic is \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Terrain with special landforms and drainage characteristics due to greater solubility of certain rocks in natural water is commonly referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.

- I6. \_\_\_\_\_ is hydrated calcium sulphate.
- I7. \_\_\_\_\_ is a soft plastic speleothem consisting of calcite, hydrocalcite, hydromagnesite or huntite.
- I8. The \_\_\_\_\_ zone is where voids in the rock are partially filled with air, through which water descends under gravity.
- I9. A \_\_\_\_\_ is an animal living permanently in the hypogean domain, but also living permanently as an andogean or epigean in the same region.
20. The slope of a bed expressed as the angle made by a straight line along the bed with a horizontal line in the same direction is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
21. \_\_\_\_\_ are small, rather regular spaced asymmetrical hollows formed by turbulent water.
22. \_\_\_\_\_ is a complex of irregular, interconnecting cavities with intricate perforations of the rock.
23. The network of tubes or half tubes is called \_\_\_\_\_.
24. The oldest speleological Club/Society within Australia still in existence is the \_\_\_\_\_ which was formed in \_\_\_\_\_.

HOW DID YOU GO ? -

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

Hell man, then for your edification, you had better turn to page 22 quickly, you are in need of some urgent assistance.

-oooOooo-

THERE WAS REALLY A LOST WORLD AFTER ALL.

A scientific expedition that plunged into the "lost world" jungles of the Venezuelan-Brazilian border area 10 days ago yesterday reported finding new species of plant life.

These were previously unknown to man and were discovered at the bottom of a deep cave, United Press International reported.

"We did not find any dinosaurs" a British journalist and mountain climber with the expedition said.

"In fact, we didn't see any kind of animals down there."

Mr. Nott and two other members of the 30-man expedition that made its way to the towering Sarisarinama Plateau spent six days at the bottom of a deep, crater-like cave where they found

various kinds of new plant life.

The plateau, rising some 5,000ft. above the jungle 500 miles south-east of Caracas, is in the midst of the almost unexplored region that British author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, used as a model for his novel "The Lost World."

Sir Arthur invested the isolated plateau with animal life extinct elsewhere.

From The Sun, 18th. February, 1974

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POLLUTION AT CAVES.

Extracted from letters to the editor - The Sun, 30th. June, 1974

SIR, - THE JENOLAN CAVES, ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL TOURIST RESORTS, IS BEING RUINED BY GOVERNMENT OWNED AIR POLLUTION.

I am from New Zealand, the country which is meant to have all the best scenery in the world. However, when my wife and I arrived at the Jenolan Caves last weekend we were over-awed by the magnificence of that eighth wonder of the world.

To our horror we had been there for only a few minutes clouds of thick black diesel smoke belched into the mountain air, driving birds from the trees and forcing us to reach for our handkerchiefs.

In fact, we left early because of the acrid waste continually drifting into our faces.

On the way out we spoke to a carpark attendant who agreed with us about the pollution, but said "we're public servants and not paid to think."

So with this in mind I am doing something. We can't do anything about it, but you can.

We could not help but notice the signs along the road in the Blue Mountains saying "You can now take a deep breath of pure fresh mountain air." However in the heart of these hills at one of the country's greatest tourist attractions one is confronted with what could be compared with the heart of industrial Sydney, as far as air pollution is concerned.

John Newton, Kogarah.

-oooOooo-

EARLY DAYS OF TRUNKY.

Not long after gold was discovered at Summer Hill Creek in 1851, alluvial gold was found in the Colo and Trunkey Creek. Miners began moving in large numbers to the Abercrombie River (then unnamed) and by 1852 alluvial retrieval operations had begun in Trunkey Creek. At first alluvial gold was found easily and Trunkey had its fair share of tales about men filling the billy can with gold by lunch time. In its heyday the town had 25 hotels, most of them shacks selling adulterated grog. Bushrangers found the area profitable. They frequently raided Chinese diggers on the Abercrombie River.

Later Chand and Authur found reef gold and the settlement took the name of Arthur.

The origin of the name 'Trunkey' is uncertain. It is either the aboriginal name 'Trunkey', meaning 'Old Man Kangaroo', or it was named after a miner who had a trunk-like nose.

Extract from

"Trunkey Public School Centenary, 1870 - 1970"

A mimeographed publication.

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PENRITH PLAZA.

A

B.M.S.C. PROMOTION.

by Ian Bogg.

On Saturday the 30th. March, 1974 the club held a public exhibition and display in the Forecourt of the Penrith Plaza.

The aim of this display and activity was to promote and make the residents of the Penrith and Lower Blue Mountain areas aware of an organised caving club existing in the area. Our display consisted of samples of the various speleo club journals and publications, A.S.F. publications and various hard cover publications on caving for the public to peruse. Copies of cave surveys, tourist publicity brochures, large photographic blow-ups and miscellanea were mounted on display boards and spread around the perimeter of the roped off area. The centre part of the display in the activity area, various items of caving gear and equipment was displayed, eg. ladders, ropes, forms of lights used in caving, various climbing aids, survey equipment etc.

In addition to the static display, continuous practical demonstrations were given to show the public the various techniques of descending and ascending within the cave. From the ceiling of the Plaza, on a specially prepared RSJ anchor, a ladder and rope was suspended, upon which the demo was carried out, all of which had the public fascinated (its amazing what some people will do for a round of applause).

During the three hour display, members of the club rigged out in trad trog gear (cleaned up for the occasion - of course) discussed and answered many questions on caving whilst handing out a small blurb sheet. Whilst our 'artists' were performing aerial acrobatics for the benefit of the multitude they suddenly found themselves being photographed (from all angles) by the Plaza management for publicity promotion.

The end result of the promotion was regarded by those members participating, as being very successful, particularly, as an invitation was extended to B.M.S.C. to stage a "Caving Spectacular" of one weeks duration, by the Penrith Plaza management, the option of which we will be taking up at some future date.

To those members who contributed either materially or physically, many thanks. Our thanks must also go to Andrew Pavey of U.N.S.W.S.S. for the use of his BIG piccies, and to Southern Cross equipment for the use of the specialised gear.

We look forward to your contribution at the next display.

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TO AUTHORS UNKNOWN

The Poet.

We waited for the mailman,  
For the news we hoped he would bring,  
We waited for the mailman,  
For the news he did not bring,  
We waited

and waited

and W

A

I

T

E

D

PS We are still waiting.



A.S.F. DRAFT ABSEILING CODE.

Outlined below, for the benefit of the members of B.M.S.C. is the proposed A.S.F. Abseiling Code, prepared by the A.S.F. Safety Convenor, Mr. Lloyd Robinson. This code is supplementary to the existing A.S.F. Safety Code and it will be presented to the forthcoming A.S.F. Committee Meeting in Brisbane at the end of 1974 for ratification.

Verification re adoption of the Code by the A.S.F. Committee will be given by the club secretary when confirmation is to hand.

Safety Rules for Abseiling.A. SELECTION OF ROPES.

- A1 - Terylene (polyester) or nylon ropes should be used.
- A2 - The minimum diameter of terylene or nylon rope should be 10mm; smaller diameters give too little friction and are too easily abraded and cut.
- A3 - The use of single laid ropes should be avoided on free drops (causes spin).
- A4 - Never abseil on polyethylene or polypropylene using a method where the rope is passed through a metal friction device, as these fibres have a low melting point.
- A5 - Natural fibre ropes should never be used since:
  - i) Cotton or hemp ropes are not strong enough when of a suitable diameter for abseiling.
  - ii) Manilla or sisal are no longer manufactured to a suitable standard.
- A6 - Ropes of unknown history should not be used for abseiling.
- A7 - Ropes that have been subjected to heavy stress (eg. in stopping a severe leader fall or in towing) should not be used for abseiling.
- A8 - If forced to use any sub-standard rope in an emergency, test it first by hanging the weight of two people or the equivalent from it. If the descent is against rock, the classic method of abseiling should be used as the rope is only bent around large diameters. If the descent is free use a friction device descending slowly and smoothly.

B. CARE OF ROPES.

BI - Ropes should be checked before each trip for:

- i) Extensive surface abrasion (light abrasion, causing a fuzzy appearance can be ignored).
- ii) Internal abrasion and powdering at the strand axis (laid ropes)
- iii) Distortion of the lay.
- iv) Decayed, burnt, soft or hard spots.
- v) Areas of reduced diameter.

B2 - Ropes should always be carried in packs, both underground and on the surface.

B3 - All ropes should be kept away from corrosive chemicals. Do not place ropes near batteries.

B4 - The rope should be kept clean as this minimises the abrasive effect of mud and grit. Washing may be carried out in the caving area in streams. At home the best wash is achieved in a washing machine using a mild detergent or pure soap and cold to warm water. If soap or detergent is used it is essential to rinse the rope in fresh water.

B5 - The rope should be kept dry as possible in the cave. Wet grit accelerates rope wear.

B6 - Wet rope should be dried thoroughly as possible in a stream of cool air away from direct sunlight. Only store completely dry ropes - store away from direct sunlight.

C. CHOICE OF ANCHOR POINT.

CI - Take care in the selection of anchor points. Where possible use two separate points.

C2 - Never rely solely on one artificial anchor (piton, bolt jamnut, etc.)

C3 - When the anchor point is rough or the rope travels over dirty surfaces it is advisable to protect the rope with plastic hose or sacking - in some cases a wire trace is useful.

C4 - When people are taught to abseil they should also have lessons in the selection and use of anchor points.

D. EQUIPMENT AND METHOD.

DI - 5cm (2 inch) seat belt webbing (nylon or terylene) is recommended for harnesses. Rope harnesses are uncomfortable.

- D2 - Leather or asbestos gloves must be worn.
- D3 - Except for short pitches, classic and over-the-shoulder methods should not be used. The dangers are:
  - i) Rope burns.
  - ii) Loss of control when descending can result in the person falling off the rope.
- D4 - The twisted knot method should not be used.
- D5 - The recommended method uses the brake bar assembly.  
See "Vertical Caving Techniques".

#### E. BELAYING.

- E1 - Classic and over-the-shoulder methods can be belayed by using a belay rope in the usual fashion.
- E2 - Methods involving friction devices can be belayed from below by pulling the abseil rope taut if the person abseiling experiences difficulties. The abseiler can be controlled from below in any descent by regulating the tension on the rope.

#### F. THROUGH TRIPS.

Here a doubled rope is used. If two ropes are required the best knot for joining them is the double fisherman's knot. The rope can be retrieved from the pitch after the descent by pulling one end. A disposable anchor sling may be needed.

- F1 - Before the last man descends, the rope should be pulled from below to check that it runs freely.
- F2 - Make sure that any knot does not have to be pulled around the anchor point and that it will not catch in crevices.
- F3 - Ensure that the rope is untwisted before pulling down.
- F4 - It is essential that one of the party is a competent prusiker. Only prusik to retrieve a stuck rope where both ends of the rope are at the foot of the pitch and one is anchored.

#### N.B.:

The only way a through trip can be carried out in complete safety is to carry sufficient ropes to double rope all the pitches.

ABERCROMBIE QUIZ.

by Ian Bogg.

NoI. DO YOU KNOW

That the alternative name of the Grove Creek at the Abercrombie Caves, "Burrangylong Creek" is a derivation from the language of the Wiradhuri tribe of aboriginals who frequented the area ?

SURE IS

The original spelling or the form of, "Burrangylong", was "Burran-gilong" which appears to have two possible meanings, according to the linguistic card system at the Australian Museum' department of Anthropology - they are :

a) Place of bad or bitter taste

or

b) Place of hunting.

Reference.

MOORE, D. R. 1974: Aust. Museum Sydney, Dept of Anthropology.  
pers. comms.

No. 2 DO YOU KNOW.

That cave scribbling animals existed in 1870 ?

VERY TRUE

A correspondent (unnamed) to the Town and Country Journal on the 23rd. July, 1870 had this to say regarding Abercrombie Caves

"It is a great thing to carve out a fortune with your sword, or a niche in the temple of history, but it is a much smaller matter to carve your name on the walls of a cavern, or on the time-worn stones of a moss clad ruin. Yet it would appear that the latter mode of achieving immortality is extremely patronised by colonial tourists in search of the picturesque. Unquestionably the Browns, Smiths, Joneses, and Rolinsons, who visit the caverns are all scribbling animals, and ambitious of leaving a name behind them that shall be read by a distant posterity. The ingenuity which some of these gentry display in writing their names in such style that the inscriptions shall remain uneffaceable, is worthy of admiration. It is the only sort of immortality a great many of them are likely to achieve. One gentleman put himself to the trouble of manufacturing a bush ladder out of a sapling, up which he climbed and as a result his name stands inscribed on top of a lofty stalagmite in the Abercrombie Caves, where it will doubtless remain for many future years, more particularly as nobody would

take the trouble of climbing up to it to blot it out.

Amongst the inscriptions on the stalagmites on these caves will be found the names of one of our governors, and those of a large number of residents in the Western Districts. There are thousands of these inscriptions on the walls, but the accuracy of some of these are questionable. We know of one gentleman who chronicled his visit to the caves as the visit of Mrs. Brown and thirteen small children."

No.3 WOULD YOU BELIEVE.

That the recorded number of visitors over a twelve months period at Abercrombie Caves exceeded that of the Jenolan Caves over the corresponding period ?

YOU WOULD BE CORRECT IF YOU DID SO,

The Annual Reports of the N.S.W. Department of Mines for 1894 and 1895 quote the following,

1894	Abercrombie - 1099	Jenolan - 1038
1895	Abercrombie - 1070	Jenolan - 988

-oooOooo-

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE A GOOD CAVER EH !

Then why turn to this page ?

Oh ! you thought you could save time ?

SORRY about that.

No b----y answers - at least  
- not here,

PS.

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

You could then search for the answers yourself,

COULDN'T YOU Mmmmmh ?



CAVE NUMBERING AND NOMENCLATURE.ABERCROMBIE CAVES.

by Ian Bogg.

This is the first definitive report on cave quantification for the Abercrombie Caves area, and it is therefore confined to caves within the boundaries of the proclaimed Abercrombie Caves Reserve.

The listing below is effective as at December 31st., 1974 and shows all the known caves, including multiple entrances, which have been numbered and tagged. All other known caves have been excluded.

The method employed in the tagging of the caves is the use of I6 gauge, 30mm square, stainless steel tags, power fastened at the entrance in either one of the two positions, generally, overhead or at the right hand side of the cave entrance as normally approached upon entering the cave.

Abercrombie Caves Listing.

Tag No.	Cave Name.	Length (M)
I.	Abercrombie Archway.	216
2.	King Solomon's Temple.	76
3.	Cathedral.	60
4.	Long Tunnel	I33
5.	Kohinoor.	27
6.	Bushranger's.	I27
7.		8
8.		7
9.	Grove.	73
IO.	Twister	37
II.	Stink Pipe.	I5
I2.		9
I3.	Shaft.	60
I4.	Connects with I3	
I5.		4
I6.		7
I7.		3
I8.		I2
I9.		9
20.	Bridle Track.	8
2I.		II
22		I4
23.	Warren.	70

24.		15
25.	Connects with 6	
26.	Stable (Top entrance)	43
27.	Stable.(Lower entrance)	
28.		5
29.		9
30.	Connects with 23	
31.	Connects with 23	
32.		3
33.	West Sink.	20
34.	Connects with 33	
35.	Grove Dig. Connects with 9	
36.	Dug Out	12
37.	Mother-in-Law's Breath.	50
38.	Rabbit Trap.	23
39.		10
40.		4

Bushranger's Cave A6 and entrance A25 were formerly known as the Pulpit and Hill caves, respectively, as shown on Triangulation map, Department of Mines Annual Report, 1899. The above listing of cave names is in accordance with current usage or nomenclature. It is not the intention of this report to propose any name changes, but, it will not preclude the possibility of future discussions in this regard.

Upon any member either locating or being informed of new caves within the Reserve, the writer would appreciate being informed of same. (particularly, if the member has explored, surveyed, described and is willing to affix its tag.)

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#### TRIP REPORTS in BRIEFS.

3rd August, 1974	Wine Tasting and B-B-Q at Gledswood Vineyards Narellan. Good fun, Many sore heads.
29th November, 1974	Xmas Dinner, Monicas Restaurant, Emu Plains. More good fun, More sore heads.
All Year Round.	B.M.S.C. Trading Post. More funny goods. More empty pockets.

MEMBERSHIP LIST.

June 1974

ANDERSON, B.	(PM) 18 Mamre Rd. Kemps Creek 2121	
BOGG, I.	(FM) 29 Scott St. Springwood 2777	512001,F
BAKER, L.	(FM) P.O. Box 44 Engadine 2233	594179,F
COBURN, P.	(FM) 12 Rusden Rd. Blaxland 2774	392666,F
DEANE, G.	(PM) 115 Great West'n H'way Valley Heights 2777	
FAIRWEATHER, A.	(FM) 25 Byrne St. Lapstone 2773	6250100,
FAIRWEATHER, G.	(FM) 25 Byrne St, Lapstone 2773	20577,B
GRIERSON, S.	(PM) Grandview Drive Mt.Riverview 2774	392723,P
HAND, S.	(PM) 815 Punchbowl Rd. Punchbowl 2196	5795965,
JARVIS, R.	(FM) Lot 105 Mathew Pde. Blaxland 2774	
JARVIS, R.	(PM) Lot 105 Mathew Pde. Blaxland 2774.	
JOLE, R.	(PM) 11 Musgrove St. Mosman 2088	9699742,
KNOX, G.	(HM) Abercrombie Caves, Trunkey Creek 2741	Abers I
LANGEJANS, J.	(PM) Mackellar St. Emu Plains 2750	215967,P
McNAMARA, G.	(PM) 20 Roosevelt St. Sefton 2162	6448503,
MABIN, R.	(PM) 815 Punchbowl Rd. Punchbowl 2196	5795965,
MARSHALL, B.	(FM) 199 Hawkesbury Rd. Winmalee 2777	512836,P
MATHEWS, T.	(FM) 28 Panorama Cres. Blaxland 2774	
MATHEWS, J.	(PM) 28 Panorama Cres. Blaxland 2774	
NELSON, G.	(HM) P.O. Box 147 Narrabri 2390	1440,P
OCKENDEN, O.	(PM) 22 Clyde St. Dee Why 2099	
PICKERING, K.	(FM) 11 Brooklands Rd. Glenbrook 2773	391346,P
RICHARD, B.	(FM) 32 Panorama Cres. Blaxland 2774	392015,P
SAMMUT, M.	(PM) 24 Graham Rd. Narwee 2209	5341175,
SAMMUT, P.	(PM) Lot 3 Stahls Rd. Oakville 2765	6271602,
THOMAS, L.	(AM) 43 Rogers St. Kingswood 2750	
THOMAS, R.	(FM) 22 Olivet St. Glenbrook 2773	391595,P
THOMAS, S.	(FM) P.O. Box 22 Kingsford 2032	6610616,
TREHARNE, M.	(FM) Abercrombie Caves, Trunkey Creek 2741	Abers I
TREHARNE, U.	(FM) Abercrombie Caves, Trunkey Creek 2741	Abers I
WILSON, H.	(PM) 46 Terrymont Rd. Warrimoo 2775	
CORCORAN, T.	(PM) 1 Carawa St. Mornington, Hobart, Tas.	511129,P

Legend: HM - Honourary Member.

FM - Full Member.

PM - Prospective Member.

AM - Associate Member.

P - Private phone number.

B - Business phone number.

NEW SOUTH WALES ENVIROMENT CENTRE.

by Ian Bogg.

The N.S.W. Enviroment Centre (NSWEC) has been established and was officially opened on the 18th. October, 1974 by the Australian Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Mr. Tom Uren, MP.

NSWEC was established to provide an open community resource base for public enviroment organisations, to facilitate their work in conservation and enviromental issues. The financial base of the centre has been provided by the Australian Government through grants channelled through its National Estate programme and the Australian Conservarion Foundation. The centre operates through a management committee, who take and accept total responsibility for its activities, and is appointed by the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales.

The aims of NSWEC is to

1. Strengthen the options for people to be effectively involved in enviromental questions.
2. Provide a link up between individuals and groups involved in enviromental issues - research, public campaigns, etc.
3. Act as an information service.

As open administration is the important keynote, the facilities and services are available to any society, group or individual within New South Wales concerned with conservation and the enviroment. Meeting rooms, notice boards, library, as well as secretarial services such as typing, duplicating, photocopying, office space, exhibition areas and telephone answering service are or will be available, subject to physical limitations.

As the NSWEC is a new and exciting tool in conservation and enviromental issues they can be contacted by telephoning

N.S.W. Enviroment Centre: Leigh Holloway,  
Pam Howard, ) ... 6600960  
Nicole Bannister, )

National Parks Assoc'n of N.S.W.: Peter Prineas . 6600975

Aust. Conservation Found'n.: Paul Scobie ..... 6607735

or by writing to

N.S.W. Enviroment Centre,  
263B The Broadway,  
Broadway. NSW. 2007

T R I P   R E P O R T S .

JENOLAN.

Date of Trip: 23rd. March, 1974

Members Present: R. Thomas (T.L.), T. Mathews, R. Joel, D. Enright  
S. Grierson, and B. Anderson.

REPORT.

Unlike the other caves I have visited on the left hand side of Harry's River which are basically horizontal and sparse on formation, J4I is vertical and literally covered with formations right from the time you enter. Although much of the formation is dead, never the less it's still beautiful.

The SSS members we spoke to at the camp informed us of the need for seven ladders to reach the full extent of the system. As always on a first time through a new cave, hours were spent familiarising ourselves and after exploring all obvious passages, Ted and Stewart began poking around in a rock fall.

Meanwhile Bob called for a ladder and disappeared down another hole. The passage gave out and as he returned he became wedged and needed a tug to prize him out again. The rock fall seemed now to be the only way on. Ted wriggled through and down what is known as the "Percolator" squeeze.

A rope was lowered and he continued to the bottom and called Stewart after him. There are a couple of small chambers at the base of the shaft, one decorated; the other narrows down to a flattener.

Ted was in for a scare as he emerged from the other end of the squeeze directly overlooking a twelve foot drop and a steeply sloping muddy floor. It was necessary to enter the flattener feet first to enable one to edge out over the drop to waist length and fumble around for rungs of ladder.

At the base of the mud slope are several mud covered stalagmites and then a 30ft. drop onto a ledge by another 20ft which, from the top, looked extremely deep so we turned back at this point. Rising from a sloping ledge is a glorious live white stalagmite 12ft. high and 2ft. thick, spectacular to see and out of reach of muddy hands.

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ABERCROMBIE.

Date of Trip: 20/21st. April, 1974.

Aim of Trip: To continue project work.

Members Present: I. Bogg (T.L.), A & G. Fairweather.

REPORT.

After reporting to the Superintendent and outlining our work for the weekend we headed off to the Grove Cave.

In Grove the long sectional and wall details were added to the traverse line which was surveyed on a previous trip. It resulted in climbing high up in the roof to obtain the accurate ceiling/floor dimensions. After some 3-4 hours the detailing was completed. The remaining details required are :-

- a) The 2 large and 3 small side passages.
- b) The chamber beyond the dug entrance.

It is worthwhile noting that no major differences have resulted when comparing our recent surveys with "Tricketts" original survey.

The Grove on this occasion was extremely wet with a high humidity. On the Sunday both Ian and Allan with the assistance of the aluminium extension ladder explored the high level passages in the Kohinoor Cave.

At the extreme end above the signature extension the ladder was raised to the edge of an apparent balcony which was found to run back some 8 - 10 feet. The ladder was then repositioned for the second and higher balcony which is some 30 feet above the floor. This was found to run back approximately 15 feet with the floor being covered in very loose material making details exploration dangerous without adequate safety precautions. At this point a daylight hole was observed some 30 feet high up in the roof at the back of the balcony.

After derigging we left Kohinoor and headed off to locate the external entrance. This was duly located without much difficulty but not entered as we did not bring sufficient gear along on this particular weekend. The entrance can be found by the intersection of two lines, one directly west from A10 & A11 and the other due north of the east sink.

After spending some time with George Knox discussing the results of the weekend and other points of historical interest we left after a most profitable weekend.

WYANBENE - FLOOD = BUNGONIA.

Date of Trip: 27th. April, 1974

Members Present: R.Thomas (T.L.), B.Richard, T.Mathews and  
R.Jarvis.

REPORT.

Arrived Wyanbene early hours of Saturday morning to find river up and unable to cross even in a four wheel drive. Camped on bank near river.

The following morning we were awakened by Ron at 7am.(they arrived at the river on the previous day and also had an early night.) After breakfast, we again inspected the river crossing which was still unpassable. We decided to still do some caving, so Bungonie became the alternative.

We used the back road around the side of Lake Bathurst. This road cuts about 40 odd miles off the alternative route through Goulburn.

After lunch the Grill Cave was entered and approx. 3 hours were spent exploring the cave.

Although disappointed at not being able to reach Wyanbene, this was partly overcome by the good air in the Grill allowing us to penetrate the cave almost to the bottom.

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JENOLAN (J4I)

Date of Trip: 8/9th. June, 1974.

Members Present: L.Baker (T.L.), G.McNamara, T.Mathews, P.Coburn  
I. Bogg, R.Joel, S.Gesson, D.Gesson,

REPORT.

After reporting we pushed on to Mammoth Flat where camp was set up. There the party split up. Ted Mathews leading the first party in as far as the 50ft. ladder pitch. On the arrival of Ian we started off, finding the entrance without too much trouble. Having a look around before arriving at the top of the Laundry Chute where Ian turned back being the wrong size for the hole. The rest negotiated the passage alright and then on through the flattener to meet up with the rest of the first party negotiating the 50ft. ladder.

On reaching the bottom to our surprise the place was full of mud. After this we went down a 15ft. pitch then up a 25ft. rope pitch where water was found. On treading on the ledge it gave way by

say 2 inches and let a flood down. People on the bottom had fun moving out of the way.

From here we went through a squeeze up about 5ft. and then down 15ft. Here water spread out for about 15ft. with no way around except to wade (swim) or try chimneying with wet muddy gear with us, so one slip meant a wetting.

It was voted that a move for the surface would be made. Removing the equipment went alright, arriving at the entrance at 10pm having gone in at 12pm. The first party one hour earlier.

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### COPPERHANIA.

Date of Trip: 29/30th. June, 1974.

Aim of Trip: Exploration of limestone outcrops.

Members Present; Sat. I.Bogg (T.L.) and G.Powell.

Sun. B.Richard., T.Mathews and A.Fairweather.

### REPORT.

After a pleasant but slightly slippery trip out to Trunkey Creek we made our first orientation stop.

According to our assessment we were to take the first turn on the right out of Trunkey Creek towards Abercrombie, approx. 1 mile. This was duly found and is easily identifiable by a house on the right hand corner and the Belmore Creek crossing a few yards down the road. The name of the road is well signposted.

According to our map reading we would strike the limestone approx 4 miles down the road. Unfortunately this was not the case. A number of probes were made with a short trog to the top of a hill to survey the scenery. No luck - no limestone. We then adjourned to Abercrombie to lunch and to pass the time of day with George and the Treharnes. After lunch and discussions we headed back to trace the road as far as possible.

After travelling some 7 miles we crossed a bridge where we stopped and walked upstream searching for the very elusive limestone. No luck! Although the creek bed was extremely interesting. After rejoining the vehicle we crossed a further two bridges in close succession, we swung around a right hand bend and Hey Presto Limestone. The limestone outcrops in low relief away to the north. A short trog across the limestone indicated no potential. We then pushed on attempting to reach the Abercrombie River, but eventually baulked at a creek crossing and as it was cold, and around 4.30 -

5.00pm we decided to leave it for the others and made our way back to the "Treharnes Home for Retired Speleos".

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ABERCROMBIE.

Date of Trip: 27/28th. July, 1974.

Members Present: A.Fairweather (T.L.), B.Richard and son and M.Treharne.

REPORT.

Gwen and I left Lapstone Friday night and battled a strong head wind to Bathurst. It rained all the way to Abercrombie.

Saturday dawned fine and cold and arriving down at the Caves I found that no members of B.M.S.C. had arrived. Part of the saturday was spent in the Arch taking photographs with reasonable results.

On Saturday we attended George and Olive Knox's 20th wedding anniversary party and had an extremely good time.

On Sunday Barry Richard arrived with his son, Michael. After coffee etc., the party kitted up and headed for the Long Tunnel at 12pm and inspected the entrance for a solution tube which leads up to Cathedral. We then proceeded through and noticed several survey pegs in the floor. Continued to the far end of the tunnel and on the way young Michael found a lower jaw bone (specimen unknown). We headed back through the western passage, a way I have never been, and noticed several small colonies of Bent-wing bats. On close examination three of the bats were discovered to be wearing tags. The numbers were noted and the party headed out at 1.15pm.

After lunch we proceeded to Keck's Hole arriving there at 2.40pm. This hole is very small with a drop of 8ft. into the main chamber through a squeeze leading in a westerly direction. The chamber had an earth floor with shawls on the right hand side. A sketch was made and we exited at 2.50pm.

The party then headed over to Stable Cave entering the top entrance at 3.10pm. The cave was very wet. We proceeded to the 30ft. ladder pitch. I went down the ladder for about 12ft. and noticed a chandelier-like formation. The floor was of cracked dark clay. I had a quick look around then headed for the sump which was full of water.

After I rejoined the rest of the party we proceeded to the lower passage and found that a lot of moonmilk had fallen.

We made our way out at about 4.30pm.

Our Speleo-in-training, Michael Richard, went extremely well and will be a credit to the club when older.

On Monday I rang David Purchase at the C.S.I.R.O. in Canberra and reported the numbers on the bat tags.

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CLIEFDEN.

Date of Trip: 31st August/1st. September, 1974.

Members Present: P.Coburn (T.L.), I.Bogg, R.Joel and K.Pickering.

REPORT.

Picked up Bob at Springwood approx. 9.30 Friday night and then proceeded to drive to Cliefden. Arrived at 1.00am Saturday morning, had a cup of tea and went to bed. We were greeted by members of UNSWSS (Keith Oliver & Co.)

After breakfast we proceeded to a new cave known as C69, no name yet, purpose of trip - two parties, one ground exploration, two survey work. Cave situated back up property road to first house just over wooden bridge, situated over on S.E. side of hill near top.

This cave consists of vast virgin formations, extremely beautiful helictite formations, very fragile and thin, one large shawl about 6" thick 15' high and from 2' to 4 - 5' wide, pure white. There are a couple of helictites on walls and some pretty chambers in some of the most ridiculous places. This cave comes into the sporting category, a rather awkward climb in followed by some not too hard squeezes.

We proceeded to the bottom of the cave, where a sump is located with a small lake enclosing an area of about ten squares before disappearing out of sight. From this stage, after wading through the sump getting wet up to about knee level (by the way the water was extremely cold and some people thought that it wasn't such a good idea after all) we proceeded to explore the cave and managed to go back up about three different levels with tunnels connecting them (one or two interesting squeezes).

After a couple of hours climbing about exploring sections (losing Ken Pickering who we found had proceeded out before the rest) we returned to the sump, where while waiting for the rest of the party, discovered a chamber by clambering up some very slippery muddy rock.



This consisted of one white large flowstone with helictites in the ridges of the flowstone; this was extremely pretty. Under this was a small room with a small helictite wall approx. 3ft square. This chamber went nowhere but it was well worth the dangerous climb to see it.

Meanwhile the rest of the party had arrived back at the sump where one of the chaps from UNSWSS went for an exploratory swim in the lake to see where it went. We saw him disappearing into the darkness under the water (he was attached to a 40ft tape). It did go further but without a longer tape no more progress was made.

Once the water frolics were over everybody proceeded to the surface. From there back to the shack, a clean up and tea, after tea (with a nice log fire) we played cards and then to bed.

Time in C69 - II.00am In - 4.30pm Out.

About the time we were emerging from C69, Ian Bogg arrived after setting out from Springwood the night before at 8.30pm (according to Ian he had some slight mechanical difficulties causing him to drive across some-one's lawn, see Ian for further details).

Next morning after a sleep in, and a hearty breakfast we proceeded to help with a dig in the same hill as C69. On quitting about 3.30pm going back to the shack and packing up, leaving about 4.30pm. Arrived home at Blaxland about 9.00pm after dropping Bob off at Springwood.

A good weekend was had by all.

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CLIEFDEN.

Date of Trip: I5/I6th. December, 1974.

Members Present: P.Coburn (T.L.) and B.Joel.

REPORT.

After picking Bob up at 9.15pm Friday night and proceeded to Cliefden arriving approx. I.00am.

After a hearty breakfast, and finding no B.M.S.C. members present, we proceeded with four members of U.N.S.W.S.S. to Trapdoor Cave on the northern side of the Belubula River. This was basically a survey trip to do a grade 6 survey. (We pulled to pieces a previous one done by O.S.S.) Bob and myself had not been to Trapdoor and although being only a short cave (approx. 2hours to explore) it consists of quite a lot of stalactites, columns, a

large sump, echo chamber, a few muddy sections, tight sections and some one or two hairy climbs. We had quite a lot of fun, I took quite a few colour slides and we both learnt to survey.

We exited about 7.30pm after spending 9 hours underground. Proceeded back to the shack for tea and a good night's rest.

In the morning some O.S.S. members arrived and after they proceeded to Cliefden Main, Bob and I followed later and they only spent  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours in Cliefden Main, in the main chamber taking photos and had to leave because of light failure.

We proceeded out and nearly died because of  $100^{\circ}\text{F}$  plus heat, then hot-footed it to the creek and dived straight in. After a pleasant hour or so we proceeded back to the shack then home arriving about 8.00pm.

-oooOooo-