

COOL LITE



Journal of
Blue Mountains Speleological Club

Vol. 9 No. 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

February 12th, 1977.

It is with great pleasure and also deep sadness I present this 11th Annual President's Report.

The club has completed its 11th year of formal existence as a speleological club and it has been a very active one in many ways, particularly on the sporting side of caving, although some members have developed a wider scientific interest in the many activities of caving.

I would like to urge all members to keep up the level of activity that has existed over the last twelve months and it is very encouraging to see, although I would like to see more serious projects being undertaken in 1977 to further a greater dedication in the science of exploring caves.

One of the most active and dedicated club members met with a tragic accident that has left us all very stunned.

We are going to miss the "Good day folks" and "the next Cliefden trip will be".

I don't want to say much more because my thoughts and all our thoughts have been summed up very well in the newsletter written by Greg Powell. We will never forget Phill's dedication and enthusiasm which has inspired us all. I personally feel a deep sense of pride to have been able to have known Phill. I would like all members to give serious thought to the way Phill's name can be perpetuated in some form, not only to be remembered by our club but by all speleological clubs throughout Australia.

In conclusion I would like to thank all other committee members for the time and effort they have put into making 1976 such a successful year.

SECRETARIAL REPORT

February 12th, 1977.

Fellow Members,

It is with great honour that I present the 11th Annual Secretarial Report of the Blue Mountains Speleological Club. It has been a very good year socially as well as caving activities.

Membership: Our club membership strength is 37, comprising 27 full members and 9 prospective members with 2 honorary members. We have had an increase of 6 new members in 1976 - 3 of whom have gained full membership and been very active members of the club.

Activities: The support of members given to club activities has been very good. The club had 22 caving trips last year.

Journal: 1976 saw only one issue of our Journal coming forth. It is our journal and it needs the support of every member if it is to be successful.

Overall 1976 has been an excellent year. In closing I would like to thank those members who have given both myself and the club their support. Thank You.

Louise Bilger.

DEDICATION - Phillip Coburn - Killed 8.12am Tuesday 18th, Jan. 1977: aged 23.

Well dear friend it may seem strange that this Newsletter is written to you, as you will never read it. As the last newsletter that you will receive, I felt that it should be directed toward you. I know that you won't mind others reading it to.

Your passing has brought sorrow to many, many people: people whose lives are much more enriched for having known you and for having been associated with you Phill, during your short though rewarding life you have achieved what most people would take many normal lifetimes to do. You still had so much to live for though, and the world would be so much better off had you fulfilled your normal life. There would not have been, on that train, another person more qualified, capable, or willing to help and assist fellow passengers, than yourself; yet you were not even given that opportunity. I know I speak for everyone when I say that the mountains will seem a little lonelier now without your good cheer and inspiring way of life. We will always cherish the many fond memories you have provided us with over the years.

I personally find it difficult to imagine life without your presence and it will take some time to become used to it, if ever. You were that kind of friend.

At our meeting I will be moving that we apply to have the house at Clifton dedicated in your name, after all it was always Phill's Place and will now seem empty without you.

Farewell dear friend; Greg.

TRIP. REPORTS

Tuglow 26 th- 27 th June 1976.

Members present; B Richard TL, P Coburn, T Coleborn, K Bilger, L Bilger.

Aim; To survey three caves found on previous trip.

We drove into Tuglow the back way through Shooters Hill to the arranged camping spot only to find Karl, Louise, and Terry not there. They kept on going and we caught up with them at the top of Tuglow Bluff. "Two Wheel Drive Datsun" I'm not so sure, must have another look underneath.

After an early lunch we trekked up and set off surveying. First cave was Moonmilk T4, total length of passage 51 M. A surface traverse was then plotted to Wombat cave, the three entrances being tagged T16, T17, and T18. The squeeze into the lower chamber was again negotiated by Phill, a possible dig in this chamber could extend the cave. The traverse from T16 to T19 was completed. Next morning we surveyed Waterfall cave T19, we then went over to Window cave for a look around and to show the others where the voice connection to Tuglow Main.

B Richard.

Cliefden 31st June - 2nd July 1976.

Members present; P Coburn TL, G Miller, K Bilger, L Bilger, J Cummings, A Cummings, G Cummings, A Cummings, P Powell, T Matthews, B Richard, T Coleborn.

Visitors; R Sparkes, J Sparkes, J Anderson, P McKendry.

Aim; Exploration and photography.

Saturday started quite well with the temperature above 0 deg.

The river was extremely cold all feeling being lost after about 5m. Taplow Maze appears to be mostly dry and dusty until

one gets a fair way in then it turns to the usual cement like

Cliefden mud. We proceeded as far as the Railway tunnel with

people coming and going out of passages all over the place.

This is an interesting cave, a change from the usual Cliefden

style. How the party managed to find their way back to the entrance is anybody's guess.

Later a small group of us went into Yarrawigah, Abseiling the two top pitches and out the lower entrance. While we were in there we did some exploring and a lot of photography.

Sunday morning another group went into Yarrawigah the same way and taking more photos.

Monday we went over to Mollongulla to take more photos mainly of the Wazgul formation.

P Coburn.

Bendethera 28th - 29th August 1976.

Members present; K Bilger TL, L Bilger, T Coleborn, B Skinn, P Hedger, G Cummings, A Cummings, J Cummings, Visitor; J Charley.

After an eventfull trip in with the Datsun we arrived at where we thought the limestone outcrop was at 12.30 pm. Saturday. Some time later it was decided this was not the right place and set about locating where the caves really were. This later objective was achieved at about 4.00 pm.

Tea was partaken of and a hardy group went back to see if they could locate any caves, this proved to be a difficult task and only two caves were found a dig into a rockpile and BD 2 Efflux Cave.

Sunday morning we left early as the Datsun front end was not it's usual self after being attacked by Barry's Landrover on the way in. Due to this the trip out was a little slow but we made it alright and continued on home.

K Bilger.

Yarrangobilly 11th - 12th September 1976.

Members present; K Bilger TL, L Bilger, T Coleborn, B Skinn, P Hedger, J Hedger.

We arrived at Yarrangobilly Village about 2.00 am. and set up camp. More snow fell during the small hours of the morning adding a little to the snow already on the ground.

Breakfast over we headed for the Guides office to check in and find out where to locate the caves we could visit. We arrived at Castle Cave at about 1.30 pm. and spent the next few hours exploring and photographing. This cave has some very good formations which range in colour from almost clear to red/brown.

Being keen cavers we went back that night to see Harrie Wood Cave although not as big as Castle tis is quite a good cave and a large number of photos were taken.

Sunday morning saw us in Jillabenan Cave for some more photography.

K Bilger.

Hollanders River 25th - 26th September 1976.

Aim; Exploration south of Budthingaroo.

A few small caves were found but in general it was a disappointing weekend.

Wyanbene 2nd-3rd-4th October 1976.

Aim; Exploration.

Members present; K Bilger TL, L Bilger, B Skinn, P Hedger, T Ellis, P Sammut, R Ellis

Visitors; J Hedger, R Ellis, J Milner.

Saturday saw us underground at 9.30 am., we went into the old tourist section. A lot of time was spent here exploring and taking photos. We then went up through the Keyhole to continue our search for something new. All passages as far as the Watercrawl were looked at. Several areas of good formation were found and photographed.

Sunday we were back in the cave at 8.30 am., continuing on from the Watercrawl we again looked at all leads and found a lot of cave not previously known to our club. We went as far as False Ceasars on this trip.

Monday we decided to have another look at any passages in the area up to the Keyhole and although we pushed all leads nothing was found and so ended a good weekends caving.

K Bilger.

Cliefden 23rd - 34th October 1976.

Aim; Photography.

Some of us had a look at a possible dig Saturday morning but had to call a halt due to a lack of digging tools. We then went over to Mollongulli to have a look at the Barrier Shale with thought to cleaning it which was attempted with some successful results. After this we had a look at the Nazgal again on the way out. Whilst negotiating the squeeze the earth fill started to collapse no injuries occurred except to nerves.

Next morning Barry Karl and myself went back to clear all the offending loose dirt and rocks to try and make this area a little safer.

Cliefden 30th - 31st October 1976.

Aim; To continue the dig and look at Main and Murder.

Unfortunately the dig did not go far so we did some more trogging till the rest of the men arrived, we then headed off to Main where we visited most parts of the cave.

Later we had a look into Murder and sent the new chums off around the maze and sat back and watched them go round several times.

Next morning we headed over to see Boonderoo returning after lunch in time to meet the others coming back from their attempts to find a dig that would be somewhere.

P Coburn.

Ben Hall Festival, Cliefden - Cliefden Festival.

Date 27th - 28th November 1976.

Aim; Social Weekend.

Saturday all converged on the small village of Carcoar, together with many thousands of people for a very memorable day. Some members and visitors took part in the parade and won one of the best period dress prizes. The highlight of the day was the reenactment of a gunbattle between the bushrangers and the local trooper. Camp was made at Golden Gully outside Carcoar.

Sunday we all left Golden Gully at 9.30 am., for Cliefden Homestead for our prearranged inspection. We were met by the ladies who run the property, who are the granddaughters of William Montague Rothery of the homestead at Cliefden Springs. Rothery moved up from the Belubula River side in the 1830's. The old ruins of the first home can still be seen on the flat opposite Taplow Maze cave. The new homestead which we inspected dates back to the 1840's and is still very much as it was last century. The ladies have collected many artifacts which are on show in the spare stables. The wool press dated 1812 is still being used each year.

We saw the bullet holes in the window boards where John O'Moally fired the warning shots as the servant was ringing the bell, which is still standing.

As far as the caves and the limestone are concerned the settlers seemed to show little interest. Perhaps the enticing grand arches of Jenolan and Abercrombie, being absent from Cliefden, deterred them from entering the unimpressive holes. The ladies don't think that their grandfather or farther ever went in the caves. Only one of the sisters has entered Main Cliefden She remembers a top and lower entrance and a lot of mud and water. That's Cliefden alright.

G Powell.

Abercrombie 14th - 15th February 1976.

Aim; To collect bat tags, notes and photography.

Members present; Just about everyone.

First thing Saturday was a visit to Long Tunnel to check out tag numbers on the bats. Leaving the party at the entrance a small group proceeded to the Western tunnel only to find disturbed the bats; we turned off our lights to let them settle but to no avail. The result, no bats caught.

Later we headed over to A17 - 14 about halfway down there appears to have been a movement and we couldn't go any further as the passage is blocked.

Sunday Paul made some movie with the help of a group of ham actors disguised as speleologists, the results of which we hope will be good.

Jenolan 27th - 28th March 1976.

Aim; To further explore J 58.

Members present; A Fairweather TL, M Sammut, P Sammut, A Cummings, G Cummings, J Cummings, L Bilger, B Richard, L Baker, M Treharne.

Members left camp at 9.45 am. for Wybirds Lake cave. We split into two groups the first going into Wybirds the other going into J 58. This cave links up with Wybirds Main via a very low river passage. Two passages lead off to left and right the one to the left is the connection to Wybirds the other leads to another chamber with mud floor and clean walls ceiling. There is a passage leading off to the right again and a slope of about 45 deg., at the top is an opening which gives access to another chamber about 20 ft. down. In this chamber is a sinkhole, choked with mud which has enlarged since the last time we were here.

crossing this sinkhole 12 - 15 ft further on there is a hole going two ways. The passage on the left leading back to the 45 deg. incline, the right leads in a roundabout way back to the 20 ft. pitch.

On leaving J 58 we met up with the other party who reported that Wybirds main was flooded. With this information my party wanted to see the lake. We headed back to camp in heavy rain.

Sunday the group decided to check out the fire trail into Tuglow via Kanangra. The Kowmung was about four feet higher than normal.

No attempt was made to take a four wheel drive across.

A Fairweather.

Hollanders River 8th - 9th April 1976.

Aim; Exploration.

Members present; L Baker TL, P Coburn, B Richard, G Powell, P Hedger, D Cavey, S Smith, J Anderson, T Coleborn, K Bilger, L Bilger, B Skinn.

After the arrival of Greg we headed off towards Budthingeroo Trig.

On route we found a new fire trail running north to south and after studying Dunphy's map and Phill's map, consulting the compass we decided the trail could swing west further on. We continued on in this direction for a while but as the trail still headed north we decided to cut through the bush and head west.

After a long hike up hill and down dale and a near mass rebellion we arrived finally at the East Hollanders Creek. We followed this onto the junction of the main river.

We climbed through some rough country and at one point we had to climb up a sheer river bank. We stopped for lunch under a clump of trees where we found our first outcrop. This was a small outcrop supporting a wombat's hole running through it. After lunch we followed the river down to where the Budthingeroo Creek joins Hollander's River. Here a large outcrop was found undercut by the river. The party then spread out to search for bits and pieces which took about an hour or so.

Being late in the afternoon we gave it away and headed back to the cars via a spur.

L Baker.

Abercrombie 22nd - 23rd May 1976.

Aim; Bat banding.

Members present; B Richard TL, I Bogg, L Baker, K Bilger, L Bilger, T Coleborn, M Sammut, P Sammut, B Skinn, M Treharne, J Cummings A Cummings, G Cummings, A Cummings, G Fairweather, A Fairweather, T Matthews, T Ellis,
Visitors; G Hurst, L Hurst, I Wood, C Cahilty.

The trip was held after a lecture on bats and bat banding at our Friday night meeting. Everybody arrived Saturday morning. We trogged up for the interesting and educating bat banding trip that was to follow. The party was split into small groups one going with Ian Wood to learn what we could about the banding of bats and the other groups proceeded to check other caves in the area for further colonies of bats. The only bats found were in Long Tunnel Cave and over the weekend 50 bats were banded. These being:-

20 females,

30 males,

Saturday night a slide show was held at Mike and Nita's.

B Richard.

Cliefden 29th - 30th May 1976.

Aim; Exploration and Photography.

Members present; F Coburn TL, L Bilger, C Miller, B Richard, T Coleborn, G Powell.

Things got off to a slow start Saturday morning. We proceeded down to the Bellubula River, it was so cold despite being 11.30 am. that there was 2mm thick sheets of ice across the water.

Upon leaving the river we went to the Bellubula River. Mary

Upon locating the upper entrance to Yarrowigah we proceeded in via a squeeze section including a 420 deg. corner. Terry dropped into a hole belayed on all our tapes tied together. He ended up dropping out of a hole in the roof of a large chamber, about 6 m. off the floor. A plaintive cry was heard quote "Bleep Bleep gpt a bleep ladder" unquote. We all climbed into the chamber and started to explore taking photos as we went. Greg found the way to the lower entrance. Terry Louise and myself continued to take photos. Next was to try to locate Taplow Maze, guess what we still havn't found it.

The temperature at 11.00pm, that night was -3deg.C and went down to about -7 deg.C overnight. At 9.00am, next morning it had warmed up to -1 deg.C with a king frost. We went into Main to try some PF 100 flash bulbs, the results should be very interesting. From here we went up to Helictite Wall to show Terry who had not seen it before, more photos being taken.

Quote of the trip: Wake me up at 10.00am or 10 deg C which ever comes first. by Greg Powell. P Coburn.

Bungonia 12th - 14th June 1976.

Aim; General Caving.

Members present; P Coburn TL, K Bilger, L Bilger, B S Kinn, T Coleborn P Hedger, T Ellis, M Ellis, R ellis, D Ellis, T Matthews, G Cummings, Visitors; mE Miller, M Dickson.

With enthusiasm rising with the temperature we headed for the B5 practice cliffs to sort out jumars and to teach people to abseil. Karl, Graham, Terry, Peter, Tony and myself proceeded to Drum, this an unreal abseil and sure bears climbing down a ladder. We continued on but only got as far as the 20m. pitch, at this point a match would no longer burn so we decided to head back out. Karl, Graham and myself jumared back up the 50m. pitch. It took another two and a half hours to belay the other four up the ladder. The ladder rungs were very cold and caused some problems, and a cold wet party that arrived back at camp.

Next morning we set off to B 24 we onlt got as far as the bottom of the ShaleBand when we encountered bad air and had to turn around. A hard time was had getting the packs up through the rockpile. While on the way out there were a couple of rockfalls neither causing any injuries.

Later some of us went down into Grill, Karl, Ethel and Peter went as far as they could until they were turned back by bad air near the

end of the right hand extension.

Monday morning Earl, Graham and myself decided to have some jumaring practice by abseiling in B7 and climbing out B14.

P Coburn.

Bungonia 18th - 19th September 1976.

Aim; To teach some scouts to cave.

Members present; P Coburn, G Powell, + sundry scouts.

This proved to be a very hectic weekend. With people coming and going in and out of caves everywhere, on Saturday we saw Argyle, Grill, Fossil, Hollands and Odyssey.

Sunday saw us all off into the Gorge to have a look at the area in general, it was a very pleasant walk.

P Coburn.

This is a short extract from Phil's Snowy Ski Tour Trip with the 1st Kotara Venturers and Rovers.

Date; 30 - 8-76. - 5 - 9 - 76.

Monday; We all arrived at Jindabine and had to camp out as the scout hall was full.

Tuesday; Practice day at Dead Horse Gap.

Wednesday; We skied to Seabirds Hut, a very eventful trip.

Thursday; The weather does not permit us to carry out our plans and the day was spent around the hut.

Friday; Continued our trip to Mt Kosciusko and reached the top. Then on to Mt Townsend after that Lake Albina Hut. We returned for another night at Seabirds Hut.

Saturday; Back to Thredbo to return the skis and head for home. Camped the night near Canberra.

Sunday; Finished our journey home.

P Coburn.

While on holidays at Coonabarabran in July 1976 Phil and Carrol visited The Pilliga Sandstone Caves which proved to be very interesting. The caves are in an outcrop of rock on the top of a hill out in the middle of the Pilliga Scrub area. The outcrop is about 3kms. in circumference and about 15 to 25ms. thick. The caves are around the outside. It is thought that the caves were formed by waves lapping against the rock when the area was under the Great Artesian Lakes. This is thought to have caused the erosion marks in the sandstone.

P Coburn.

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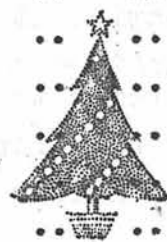


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THE SPELEO BUSHRANGERS.

by Greg Powell.

Now be honest with yourself, can you think of a cave system in N.S.W. that is not associated with a bushranger? If these evil doers had banded together to form a Speleo Club it would have been the biggest and richest that the State has ever seen. However they did all their caving alone or in small groups and I doubt whether they would have gained membership to A.S.F. anyway. They had atrocious safety records.

Lets now examine the exploits of some of these Speleo Bush-rangers and to keep it brief we will refer to them as B.M.S.C. (Bushrangers Mutual Speleological Club).

We will begin with our old faithful James McKeown (whom Jenolan Guides will quickly refer to as an escaped convict, not a bushranger) who explored the open arches at Jenolan in the 1830's. His caving career was short as he was soon evicted by James Whalan. Perhaps McKeown should have applied for a permit for the weekend. His grave is said to be at Hazelgrove near Oberon though as yet I have not been out to see.

We must leave Jenolan now as it's future becomes far to law abiding and travel across the ranges to Abercrombie, the haunt of many a bushranger.

History tells us that Ralf Entwistle and his Ribbon gang fought it out with the 39th Regiment around the Arch in Nov. 1831. Three of the gang were shot and the remaining ten were captured after three days when their ammunition ran out. They were hanged in Bathurst in February 1832. The leg irons on display in the Arch date from this time. So ended the longest cave inspection at Abercrombie, imagine the cost for tickets.

Now we must be careful when we read of references to Abercrombie that they refer to the Caves, and not the Abercrombie Ranges. I can find no reference to the fact that Ben Hall used or even visited the Abercrombie Caves

wednesday. He had friends in the Abercrombie Ranges whom he visited when travelling between the Lachlan and Goulburn districts, but the caves were to well known in the mid 1860's for them to be used as a bushrangers hideout. The caves had been known and visited by everyone from miners to Governors for thirty years prior to Ben Hall's day. They had been surveyed, explored, lived in and built on (dance floor) before Ben Hall even turned to unlawful pursuits.



Hardly a place for any self-respecting bushranger to try to stay concealed and a bushman such as Hall would never let himself be caught in the natural enclosed trap which is Abercrombie Caves.

However if any bushranger of note ever used the caves to advantage it would have been Johnny Piesley whose "territory" was The Abercrombie area. He ranged in the late 1850's teaming up with Frank Gardiner for a few famous shootouts with police in the Abercrombie area. If Piesley used the caves, it would only have been for a short time as he was caught and hung in 1862.

Assuming then that Ben Hall avoided the Abercrombie "traps" and was not going to be caught like Entwistle, we will follow him back across the Lachlan Plain where mail coaches crossed, "Ben Hall permitting". In his own Weddin Mts' he used sandstone and quartzite overhangs for shelter and storage but did he use limestone caves?

In the Bungonia Book a reference is made to the possibility of Hall, Gilbert and Dunn using those caves in 1865, but as the book suggests, this is doubtful. They were not in the Goulburn area long enough to use the caves. Furthermore the area was unknown to them, the police were close (in a matter of months all three would be dead) and the unknown terrain at Bungonia would not lead to a safe getaway if the police did close in on them there. Besides they were not up on S.R.T. and they had forgotten their ladders this time.

Earlier in 1863 the hooves of the gang's horses clattered over limestone, at Cliefden, when the gang was raiding in the area. The caves at Cliefden and Walli are not the type that would be attractive to an outlaw. They were hard to find with small entrances and a little close to Carcoar and the "traps". Even old William Montague Rothery the owner of Cliefden who was tied in a chair while bushrangers enjoyed themselves at his expense never entered the caves. Perhaps the early miner / settler cavers were attracted by the large open arches such as Jenolan and Abercrombie, which resulted in the early popularity of these areas and not others.

The Nelungaloo Caves near Parkes have the distinction of being called Ben Hall's Caves. "The Lachlan Tourist" writes "The legend suggested that Ben Hall frequented an Inn on the Forbes-Bogan Gate road and that this escape route, if strangers were sighted, involved horses tethered in Goolbang Creek and a swift ride upstream to a cave. The legend also suggests that Hall rode into the cave mouth from the creek and that the cave could be negotiated for a mile underground.

S.U.S.S. who have been working in the area have been unable to prove this legend and although the caves are near where Ben Hall was shot, the area is a little bit too far north for Ben Hall to have visited too often, but who knows. As George Knox, the Superintendent at Abercrombie Caves puts it, "Of Ben Hall we are sure of three things only. Where he was born, where he lived and where he died. All else is mere speculation." Not a bad policy to remember, especially in relation to cave areas.

Moving now to other areas we find reference to a man called Glover who was said to be a member of the Hall gang (I find no reference to this) and planted gold in the Cooleman-Blue Water-holes area.

At Timor, The Main Cave is supposed to have "F Ward 1885" written on the ceiling. Fred Ward was the name of Captain Thunderbolt, New England Bushranger who was shot in 1870, YES 1870.

While another inscription in carbon on the ceiling in Cleatmore Cave near Braidwood reads " T Clarke 1862". The Clarkes (one was Tom) roamed this area before turning to bushranging. As a bushrangers haunt Cleatmore Caves are ideal. The Clarkes were hanged in 1867. The inscription may be genuine though the style of handwriting does not look old. However the fact that the month and year are given adds to it's authenticity.

The Hunter Valley bushranger " Jewboy " Davis is said to have stored his loot on Pilchers Mountain. There are caves at Pilcher's Hill, near Dungog. Where you ask??

Well maybe they caved, maybe they didn't. Whatever the case the legends will continue to grow and facts will become as foggy as a pair of spectacles in Main Cliefden.

We do know however of Bushranging Speleo's which are active today either collecting loot from tourists before a cave inspection or after a speleo trip in the form of trip fees.

References;

- | | |
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| Snowy Mountain Walks - Geehi Club, | Department. 1970. |
| 1971. | |
| Jenolan Caves - B.Dunlop - 1969. | |

EQUIPMENT HANDLING AND MAINTAINANCE

With the accent on safety in caves, it is a must that the club equipment be handled with care and kept in first class condition;

ROPES :

Ropes must be subjected to close and detailed inspection after use for wear or damage. External wear is signified by slight burring of the fibres, this does not weaken a rope as much as internal wear and damage. Internal inspection may be carried out by gently opening the strands of the rope and examining the inside for wear or damage due to abrasive particles such as sand, small rocks ect. If there is internal wear it is a warning of age and weakness.

Wear or damage can be minimised by careful handling, i.e.:-

1. Do not tread on the rope or allow rocks to fall on it. Ensure that suitable packing is used to prevent rope from contacting abrasive surfaces.
2. Ropes must be protected from corrosive chemicals and fumes.
3. Do not leave ropes exposed to strong sunlight for long periods.
4. Never dry a rope near a fire or expose it to extreme heat.
5. Pack the rope in a bag to prevent damage during transport underground.
6. The ends of natural fibres ropes should be whipped to prevent fraying.
7. The ends of nylon rope should be fused together.
8. Ropes must not be stored wet, they must be dried in a cool airy place, hung in loose loops.
9. A rope which has been subjected to a severe shock, undue stress or shows evidence of wear or damage MUST NOT BE USED AS A LIFELINE, it should be destroyed, or alternatly it should be clearly marked as being unsafe.
10. Knots must not be left in ropes as damage may result.

LADDERS;

Ladders must be subjected to a periodic examination for damage or wear. This may take the form of external wear, internal friction corrosion or abuse.

External wear can be reduced by protecting the ladder from abrasion on rocks.

Internal friction is more important than external wear and is harder to detect as is corrosion. After use the ladder should be thoroughly cleaned before storing.

Wear may be minimised by:-

1. Avoiding reverse bends which are detrimental to the wire.
2. Keep ladders and traces clear of corrosive substances.
3. Protect ladders from sharp edges.
4. Wire rope ends must be properly secured to prevent fraying.
5. Never climb ladders wearing boots having nailed soles or clip type fasteners.
6. Ladders should be carried in protective bags.
7. Ladders should be stored in a well ventilated place.
8. Frequently check attachments and rung joints.
9. Ladders subjected to severe loads or stresses should not be used.

NOTE: If there is any doubt about any equipment refer to the equipment officer or safety officer.

MAINTENANCE OF LAMPS AND BATTERIES:

Provided that the lamps are given reasonable maintenance you should receive long and satisfactory life from them under the most arduous conditions provided that the following procedures are carried out:-

1. Never use a lamp for more than 9 hours without recharging.
2. Top up with pure distilled water with the battery in an upright position and only filled to the bottom of the fill line.
3. For best light output bulbs should be changed every three months. Adjustment of the beam can be achieved by screwing the bulb in or out in the holder.
4. Any lamp not in constant use should be cycled 9 hours discharge and recharged.
5. To place lamps on charge; place lamp on the charging key and turn counter clockwise 180°;
6. Lamps should be topped up and given one cycle of discharge and charge before putting into service.

NOTE: If there is any doubt whatsoever about the condition of our equipment, please refer it to our Equipment Officer or Safety Officer for ratification.

REMEMBER: - We have an excellent safety record within the club -
LET US KEEP IT THAT WAY:

LIST OF BOOKS IN B.M.S.C. LIBRARY.

T.Coleborn.

- Australian Caves and Caving.
by Wolfgang Kahrau.
- Australian National History -Vol 18/6 June 75!
Special Issue on Australian Caves.
- Australian Speleo Abstracts Vol. 1-8.
by S.S.S. & A.S.F.
- Australian Speleology 1971.
by A.S.F.
- British Caver
Vol. 56,57 & 58.
- Bungonia Caves.
By S.S.S. Occasional Paper. No.4.
- Communications.
by S.S.S. Occasional Paper. No.1.
- Exploration & Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan.
by J.R.Dunkley and E.G.Anderson.
- Film Catalogue.
by Sports and Recreation Service.
- Guidebook to the Caves of Southeastern New South Wales and
Eastern Victoria.
by R.S.Nicoll and J.B.Brush. & CAVES AROUND CAMBERRE. by
J.N.Jennings.
- Karst. (An Introduction to Systematic Geomorphology Vol.7.)
by J.N.Jennings.
- Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society.
Occasional Papers:- No. 1. Steam Cleaning of the Orient Cave.
No. 2. Discovery of Imperial Cave.
No. 3. Discovery of Barralong Cave.
- Mount Etna Caves.(1970. 2 editions).
by U.Q.S.S.
- Mount Etna and the Caves.
by Ellery Hamilton-Smith.
- National Geographic Society Magazine-June 1964 Vol.125 No.6.
Explore America Underground.
- Potholing and Caving (a know the game book).
Don Robinson.
- Papua New Guinea Speleological Expedition.
The report of the 1973 Nuigini Speleological Expedition
in the Muller Range.
- Single Rope Techniques (a guide for vertical cavers.).
Neil R.Montgomery.
- The Caves of Jenolan 2. The Northern Limestone.
by S.U.S.S.
- The Romance of Jenolan Caves (1933)
by W.L.Harvard.
- The Underground Rivers of Puerto Rico (2 copies)
by G.J.Nelson.
- Speleo Handbook 1968.
by A.S.F.
- The Destruction of Qld. Caves.
by U.Q.S.S.
- Mini Conference - Mudgee -(Paper).

SPELEOLOGICAL PERIODICALS IN B.M.S.C. LIBRARY.

<u>TITLE:</u>	<u>Publisher:</u>
Aragonite	St George Area Caving Team. Bound Vol.1.
A.S.F. Newsletter.	Australian Speleological Federation. Bound Vol.1 & 2.
Bermagui Caver.	Bermagui Speleological Association. Bound Vol. 1.
Calcite.	Highland Caving Group. Bound Vol.1.
C.C.O.G. Journal Grothadda.	Campbelltown Caving and Outdoor Group.
C.E.G.S.A. Newsletter.	Cave Exploration Group of South Australia. Bound Vol.1.
C.E.G.S.A.	Annual Reports. 1971-1976.
Cave.	National University Speleological Society. Bound Vol.1.
Descent.	Orange Speleological Society. Bound Vol.1.
Down Under.	University of Queensland Speleological Soc. Bound Vol. 1 - 2 & 3.
Evil Sevac.	Endeavour Speleological Assoc. Bound Vol.1.
Explorer.	Central Queensland Speleological Society Bound Vol.1 & 2.
Helictite.	Journal of Australian Cave Research. Bound Vol.1 - 2 - 3 - 4.
I.S.S. Newsletter.	Illawarra Speleological Society Bound Vol.1.
J.S.S.S.	Journal of Sydney Speleological Society Bound Vol.1 -2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 -7.
Kalori.	Blue Mountains Wildlife Conservation Soc. Bound Vol.1.
Labyrinth.	N.S.W. Institute Technology. Bound Vol.1.
M.S.S. Journal.	Metropolitan Speleological Society. Bound Vol.1.
Nargun.	Victorian Speleological Association. Bound Vol. 1 & 2 - 3.
Nuigini Caver.	P.N.G. Cave Exploration Group. Bound Vol.1.
Oolite.	Blue Mountains Speleological Club. Bound Vol. 1 & 2.
P.S.G. Bullaton.	Peninsula Speleological Group. Bound Vol.1.
Quaver.	MacQuarie University Speleological Group.
Spar.	Univ. of NSW. Speleological Society. Bound Vol. 1 - 2 - 3 .
Speleograffiti.	National Univ. Caving Club. Bound Vol.1.
Southern Caver.	Southern Caving Society of Tasmania. Bound Vol.1.

Stop Press	Original Journal Of S.S.S. Bound Vol.1.
S.U.S.S. Bull	i Sydney University Speleological Society, Bound Vol. 1 - 2 - 3.
The Very Latest.	Camberra Speleological Society. Bound Vol.1.
Trog.	Kempsey Speleological Society. Bound Vol.1.
The Western Caver.	Western Australian Speleological Group. Bound Vol. 1 & 2.

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LIST OF MAPS HELD by LIBRARIAN 1977.

Endless Cave, Kincumber. Long Section of daylight Chamber.
 Surface Traverse of T4, T16, T17, T18, & T19. Tuglow.
 Waterfall Cave T19, Tuglow.
 Wombat Cave, T16, T17, T18, Tuglow.
 Moonmilk Cave, T4, Tuglow.
 Dip Cave, Wee Jasper.
 Signature and Punchbowl Caves, Wee Jasper Cave Area.
 Caves South of Braidwood, Sketch Map of Area.
 Bendethera Caves, Area map (sketch).

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WHERE THE ACTION IS... and one for the pothole!

Back to the caveman life clambers Alan Hubbard.

(EXTRACT from "High Life", a British Airways magazine dated
 June, 1977.)

Only the British could celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee
 be disappearing down a hole, the deepest one they can find. All
 being well, the Union Jack will be implanted this summer some
 8000 feet under a mountain known as Kuh-e-Shahu just to show
 that anything Sir John Hunt can do on Everest in Coronation
 Year, members of the British Speleological Expedition can do in
 reverse.

Kuh-e-Shahu stands somewhere in Iran, and it's subteranean
 roots might reveal cave depths down to the 8000 ft., which, if
 plumbed successfully, would almost double the distance consid-
 ered the world record set in the French Pyrenees.

The leader of the 20-strong expedition, Richard Stevenson
 30, from Priddy, in Somerset, says they are doing it all for
 Queen and country. "When we realised this was Jubilee Year,
 it occured to us that as someone had already climbed the highest
 mountain, appropriately enough in Coronation Year, the only
 place to plant the Union Jack was in the deepest possible cave
 we could find." As a by-product, the team (average age 26) will
 carry out scientific reasearch ,if requested, and will also assist

in a BBC film on blind cave fish.

All members of the team are leading potholers from Wales and the West Country, and this expedition is just the tip of the stalagmite as far as the sport- for that is what it is considered - is concerned in Britian.

It is generally recognised that every weekend, more Britons, pro rata, are concerned in more sports and leisure activities, than any other nation on earth. The fact that we are often quite as good at whatever we are doing as the others is relatively immaterial.

For the accomplished speleologists, however, the performance of our intrepid lads in Iran will have a sort of World Cup quality of anticipation about it. For once, if we hit rock bottom, won't we have done well.

Extract from 'High Life'. M.Sammut.

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TRIP REPORTS:

~~Y~~errangobilly 29th, 30th January, 1977.

AIM; Familiarisation and Photography.

Members Present; K.Bilger TL, B.Skinn, T.Coleborn, L.Bilger.

We all arrived Friday night after an uneventful trip. Saturday we checked in at the guides office, Then set off with map and directions to find Y50.

About 4.00 pm. that afternoon accompanied by much bad language, we gave up looking and went back to Cotterill's. Sunday we were back to the guides office for more directions to Y50. After another 2 hours scrub bashing, we found the bloody cave, what a relief.

The next problem was the gate, if anyone thinks "Odyssey" gate was good wait till they see this one. Anyway into the cave, it consists basically of one large chamber and contains an astounding array of formations. Then comes the "Hill" which has to be climbed to reach the car.

Monday dawned bright and sunny again, Terry had a bad toe, so Brien and I went to have a look at Y5, a discription of which is in one of the A.S.B. Newsletters. WE did not see the high level as we didn't have time to look for the way up to it, but what we saw was very good. At the end of the cave is an active stream entering so we climbed up to see where it was coming from, It runs out of a small hole in the wall. The climb down was a hard one as one was generously assisted by gravity, and a lack of handholds.

On the way back to the entrance we discovered two forms of life in the water in the cave, but, having no containers to collect specimems in, we left this till another trip. At the Entrance we stopped to watch the lizards, which abound there, for a while, then headed back to camp to pack for home, which we did after returning the keys and maps to the guides office.

K.Bilger.

TRIP REPORTS

ABERCROMBIE 12th, 13th February, 1977.

Aim; Social Weekend- Annual General Meeting,

Saturday night after the meeting a fancy dress party was held costumes being restricted to period costumes of the early days of Abercrombie. A prize was awarded for the best costume.

Later a wine tasting was held which almost turned into a drunken orgy. Prior to the wine tasting some movie film taken on previous trips was shown, also some slides were shown.

P.Sammut.

BUNGONIA 26th, 27th February, 1977.

Aim; General Caving.

Members Present; K.Bilger, TL. B.Skinn, T.Coleborn, L.Bilger, J.Cummings, A.Cummings, G.Cummings, B.Richard.

This started as a trip to Bendethera, was changed to Wyanbene and due to some heavy rain and a flooded river ended as a trip to Bungonia.

People continued to arrive at all hours till Saturday dawned. We split into two groups, Brien, Terry and Myself to do B51-16 using SRT and the rest to do some photography in Grill. After 4 hours in B51-16, we climbed out being unable to find the connection from 51 to 16.

After lunch we assaulted the cave from B16 entrance to try and locate the connection this way, which we did after some hard work. Meanwhile the others had spent the day looking into every hole they could find in Grill.

After tea the "keen members" decided to have a look at Acoustic. The big pitch is not hard to find as it is well named. We rigged the pitch from a large rock in the middle of the passage and proceeded down. At the bottom of the pitch there is a short walk to another drop about 6 metres down, we decided not to go any further on, so back up the pitch, a good climb, and back to camp after only two hours underground.

Sunday morning saw us off to B24, again SRT, except Graham and Peter who were going to ladder out. A very small quantity of CO₂ was encountered at the bottom of the Golden Fleece Pitch, but got no worse further down.

We went to the bottom of the Shale Band, then up into the new section for a quick look, then we headed out.

After derigging the pitches we headed back to camp after 5 hours underground, packed up and headed home.

K.Bilger.

FIELD DAY AT THE PORTALS

20th March, 1977.

Members present. T.Matthews, Tony & Donna Ellis, Paul & Angela McKendry, Carol Miller.

It was 2.20pm before we were all there, and everyone was eager to get started.

The afternoon was spent practising belaying and ladder climbing and learning to abseil and jummar for the newer members, Although only a few members turned up and a lack of equipment, no one could have asked for a better day.

C.Miller.

TRIP REPORT.

CHURCH CREEK + RAIN = KOWMUNG HIKE. 4th, 5th, 6th, March, 1977.

Members Present; G. Powell TL, T. Matthews, K. Bilger, G. Cummings,
Visitors; D. Remme, R. Etherton, J. Lark.

Although it had been raining for two weeks before this trip, it was decided to go ahead with the planned expedition and hope for better weather.

Rain fell all the way to Jenolan Caves where chocolate biscuits were consumed in the Grand Arch, while rain fell heavily outside and the mist rolled in. The final leg of the trip to Kanangra Walls was also done in the rain and mist.

After changing a flat tyre we set off across the Kanangra Tops at 2am Saturday morning. At this time the rain stopped and the mist lifted to reveal the whole area brilliantly lit by a full moon. Mist swirled up out of the gorges as we sloshed our way across the tops with the track winding ahead like a silver ribbon. Torches were not needed to find the way. We passed the Kanangra Trig and descended to the Coal Seam Cave to spend the remainder of the night.

When we awoke, the mist had rolled in again but began to clear as we descended the long ridge over Bullhead Mountain and Cambage Spire to the Kowmung. This route is gradual until Cambage Spire is reached then it drops very sharply to the Kowmung gorge, sometimes over sheer cliffs. Care must be taken.

As anticipated, the Kowmung was in flood so we had a well deserved swim, pitched camp on a grassy flat near the junction with Christy's Creek and had lunch.

A sudden heavy thunderstorm sent us scattering for cover but it soon cleared so we decided to walk up the river bank to see if we could cross it anywhere to get to the caves. We walked to the Church Creek junction but found the river impassable with very deep, fast flowing muddy water all the way.

On the return to camp the sky cleared to a cloudless blue and brilliant sunshine was shed over the river oaks, rocks, cliffs and water of the picturesque Kowmung River Valley. We swam and got sunburnt for the remainder of the afternoon and as a fine mist rolled down the valleys and the sun shed its last brilliant rays on the mountain peaks towering above us, we enjoyed our evening meal and sat around the camp fire. The night was very warm and we wandered along the rocky river bank to watch the full moon shining silver on the rushing waters, then retired to bed under a cloudless sky.

Sunday morning saw us up early so as to tackle the long climb out before the weather became too hot.

"In 1802 the explorer Barrallier wrote of this ascent in his log."

"I sent early in the morning two of my men to the summit of the mountain, at the foot of which we had spent the night, to see whether it was passable to travel on its crest."

Their report was far from being satisfactory. They had tried several places without success, and had been obliged to come down, running great risks. They assured me that all the mountains were like as many pyramids by the side of one another; that should it even be practicable to get to the top of one of them, it would be necessary to descend it and ascend another and that the dangers were evident without the slightest appearance of success."

Barrallier's unsuccessful attempt to cross the mountains ended near here.

The ascent was most grueling all the way to Cambage Spire but the view was inspiring and the river below looked inviting.

As we climbed higher towards the walls we stopped now and again to enjoy a cool can of drink that we had stashed, on the way down.

Lyre-birds scattered, cockatoos screamed overhead and the white torrents of water cascaded from the cliffs to the gorges below as we threaded our way along the ridge, back over Bull-Head Mountain, around Cottage Rock past the Coal Seam Cave and at last up on to the Tops. The view was breathtaking, the sun shone brilliantly on the peaks and gorges to the east to engulf Katoomba and Cloudmaker Mountain. Below us in the Kanangra, deep torrents of silver water cascaded and thundered into the gorge below, in an unbelievable spectacle of nature.

As we raced the storm back to the cars, the sights and sounds that we experienced this weekend far outpaced the slight disappointment of not being able to reach the Caves because of the flooded Kowmung.

Although there were only seven people on this trip, our experiences were so memorable and beautiful, that to me, the presence of an eighth member was always evident.

G.Powell.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR.

On our next trip to Church Creek, we must open our eyes and take in some of the beauties of nature. If it is there for one member it is there for us all to experience.

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BUNGONIA: SEARCH AND RESCUE. 12th, 13th March, 1977.

Members Present. B.Richard, TL. C.Miller, B.Skinn, J.Cummings, A.Cummings, T.Coleborn, L.Bilger, K.Bilger, G.Cummings.

After a short briefing session on Saturday morning we were divided in to teams. We were working with members of St George Area Caving Club.

Our first exercise was a vertical lift, with a lylo as a stretcher out of Grill Cave daylight hole.

The rescue was carried out successfully with only one minor problem. A rock was dislodged on the edge of the hole before the lifting took place and it landed next to the patient who was prepared ready for lifting, but position directly under the shaft. The lesson to be learnt from this is, move the patient away from directly under pitches, while the pitch is being rigged.

The second rescue involved a search and access and treat injury. Grace Matts playing the hysterical mate of the injured. It involved two problems, first to calm down an hysterical mate and find out the problems, e.g. the condition of patient, where the patient is located and how it happened. This was a very good exercise as the patient was from the St Johns Ambulance, Goulburn and was made up with various injuries which looked extremely real.

The third exercise involved treating a patient that had fallen down a crevice and was suffering from a broken pelvis and femur. This exercise entailed a horizontal stretcher carry through Fossil Cave. No great problems were encountered apart from the injured person continually slipping further down the crevice, while being treated. This was overcome by being able to get underneath the patient and supporting him while the first aid was being carried out.

The fourth exercise involved a horizontal assist to a patient with a badly lacerated leg out of UNSWSS Hole.

This exercise is more difficult than it sounds. You will know what I mean if you know UNSWSS HOLE - a long wet flattener type cave, no more than two feet high with a seven foot drop in the middle. The first aid on the exercise was administered and the rescue carried out successfully.

Sunday morning was the debriefing session. The emphasis was the need to cave safely because it is extremely difficult to rescue anybody even from the most simple caves after an accident.

B.Richard.

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.

TIMOR CAVES - 26th, 27th March, 1977.

Members present; B.Richard, TL. G.Cummings, L.Baker, P.Sammut.

Arrived campsite 1.30am on Saturday, set up camp then into the cot for a good nights sleep.

After breakfast we headed off to the Isis river area to meet the Hills Speleo Club.

The first cave visited has been known for some time except for two new sections which have been dug out, revealing quite a bit of good clean decoration with one section containing a excellent bone deposit. The entrance is in the process of being gated.

The second cave visited is a completely new one which was found by the Hills Speleo Club and the entrance was dug out 12 months ago.

The entrance is at the bottom of a 20ft gated rift. Their trip leader negotiated the horizontal squeeze at the bottom of the rift followed by myself until I stated that I could not breath, just as I was trying to sort out why I was not feeling the best, The Hills Speleo Club leader came flying through the squeeze mumbling " let me out I can't breath. Yes bad air in a daylight rift only 20ft from the surface, that bad that a gas lighter wouldn't even light, so this cave we were not able to see, but I was told it is very biologically important with troglaphiles animals everywhere plus good decoration.

We then proceeded further around the hill to the Lake Cave stopping on the way to check their 60 feet dig which looks to have good prospects.

The lower entrance of the lake cave was negotiated after unlocking the very secure gate. This entrance has been dug through a rock pile in a small doline that has been used over the years as a rubbish dump for building material and farm machinery. At the bottom of the rock pile, the lake was encountered, then there was a great deal of discussion as to who was going any further (in other words who was going to get wet first). I followed the hills speleo guide and the rest of the group followed. Getting wet up to the waist and later up to the shoulders was well worth it, the decoration is exceptionally good for Timor. Straw stalagmites everywhere, very active and very clean.


A duck under was negotiated with again excellent formation and a further 100 ft of passage ending in a square half dry chamber. The squeeze between the lower and higher level was pointed out but it being full of water we decided to look at the top entrance, which is higher up the hill.

We returned to the surface and made our way up the hill to the top entrance. Graham attempted the entrance squeeze and gate and decided that discretion was the better part of valour and backed out mumbling something about short legs and getting out again.

I followed the Hills Speleo Leaders down through the gate and dropped into the final chamber and down through a dug out solution tube to the next chamber. Here again confronted by more wading in the lake type chamber, only this time swimming is required to view all the decoration.

Both sections of this cave (upper and lower) are very important biologically, in the lower section we encountered small troglaphiles shrimps in the water., and the upper section contained black beetles which we had to coach out of the way to enable progress through the dug section to be made.

Returning to the surface proved a little difficult pulling oneself up through the 24" diameter steel pipe they have used to surround the gate.

 Saturday night we were invited to be victims for Greg Powell's scouts, to be rescued from the Belfrey Cave. This is part of their caving course which was being conducted over the weekend.

Sunday we joined them for their de-briefing session and gave them a short talk on conservation in caves and safety in caves and then joined them on a trip through Timor Main.

Leaving Timor area around lunch time we headed for home with a detour to Burning Mountain.

Burning Mountain has proved very interesting in more ways than one, on arriving at the end of the road we discovered that a nearby 44 gallon garbage tin contained the remains of a number of Army ration packs which we scavenged before proceeding up the walking track to view the natural burning of the coal seams. The three quarters of an hours walk up the mountain was certainly worth while one, to see this natural phenomenon, the section now burning just looks like a scene from Rotorua in New Zealand.

Next time we will take caving gear to explore the crevices where the coal has been burnt out. Some of these seams have been 6 - 8 feet wide.

The return journey was uneventful and we arrived home at 10pm.

B.Richard.

"MOUNT WINGEN - THE BURNING MOUNTAIN"



Soon after the first white men settled in the Upper Hunter, a farm hand named Smart who was employed at Cressfield Station, just north of Scone, saw smoke rising among the hills to the north-east. He thought at first that it was a bushfire, but day after day went by, and instead of moving or dying out, the smoke rose continuously from the same spot.

Smart investigated then returned hurriedly to Cressfield to announce that he had discovered ' a volcano! In March, 1882, the news made headlines in the Sydney newspapers, and before long several expeditions were made to the mountain, named by the aborigines, "WINGEN" (meaning "fire") to study the supposed volcano.

On close examination, it was found to be a seam of thick coal, deep under the earth, that had been burning slowly for thousands of years and emitting sulphurous smoke.

The mountains is still burning. The fire moves at a rate of about one yard each year, its path clearly visible among the cracked, stepped rocks that had been subsided as the coal seam below them burns out.

Perhaps the fire was caused by heat generated by the oxidation of sulphur in pyrites; perhaps a burning tree fell across an outcrop of coal - no one now can say.

The mountain is still burning and fifty years ago, the smoke was visible from scone on a clear day, but it is gradually diminishing. A few miles to the south, an eastwest fault cuts the seam, which is part of the Greta coal series. In the far distant future, when the fire reaches that point, the mountain may cease to burn.

Access to the burning mountain is by a 1½ mile walking track from the new England Highway three miles north of Wingen. A car parking area is provided just past the bridge over the railway line. One then walks through a gate on the southern side of the highway and follows the ridge. The track is marked by red indicators on trees. There are two short, steep sections in the first part of the track, but from then on it's an easy walk around the side of the hill. This walk is through the burnt-out area to where the mountain is still burning. The Burning Mountain is on private property and the lighting of fires or carrying of firearms is prohibited.

YARRANGOBILLY: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th April, 1977.

A.M. General Caving & Photography.

Members present: K. Bilger TL, B. Skinn, T. Matthews, C. Miller
L. Bilger + 4, T. Coleborn, J. Cummings, Alma Cummings, Ann
Cummings, G. Cummings.

Visitors: E. Miller.

Friday morning after talking to Kevin Parkers we went into Eagles Nest with UNSWSS. At the end of the first two chambers most of the party returned to the surface while five of us continued on to Rims End, which was very good as is most of the cave.

Saturday we went for a walk up the river from the tourist area to look for the Hanging Spring and the Natural Arch but we failed to find either.

Sunday we split into two groups. Four going into Restoration Y50 for photography and five going into Harrie Wood also for photography.

Monday four of the group from Harrie Wood trip on Sunday went into Restoration for some further photography. The rest of the group went for a tourist trip into Jersey Cave.

On the way home we went to "Talbingo Dam" and Power Station.

K. Bilger.

ABERCROMBIE: 28th, 29th May, 1977.

Aim; Survey in the Northern Limestone.

Members present; B. Richard, P. Sammut TL, B. Skinn, G. Cummings, G. Powell, (C. Haywood, N. Haywood,) visitors. T. Matthews. D. Anderson.

Well to start off we arrived at Abercrombie at 12.30am. Abercrombie the country of the WET, WET, WET, weather.

However, Friday was the start of an eventful weekend for Barry.

To start with Barry burnt his arm while putting anti-freeze in the radiator of his Landy. Then came a \$15.00 fine for blinding a copper's eyes with his driving light on the LANDY. Then while undoing his campervan at Abercrombie he nearly chopped his finger off. He then drove off in the LANDY without disconnecting the campervan electrical socket from his landrover. THEN GUESS WHAT? He then backed the Landrover into the campervan and broke two tail lights. Then he decided he shouldn't have come this weekend and went to bed.

SAT. Several set off to do some surveying in the Archipelago Mr Knox while others explored a few small holes in the area.

SUN. Brien, Greg, Barry and David went to have a look at Rabbit Trap while Ted, Graham and the girls went to have a look at Stable.

Everyone left for home at 3pm that afternoon except Barry, Brien and myself. We helped to repair the Landy's wiring for Barry.

P. Sammut.

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CLIEFDEN -WALLI : 23rd, 24th, 25th April, 1977.

Aim; Exploration and photography .
Meteorology.

Members present; K. Bilger TL (Walli) T. Coleborn TL (Cliefden), L. Bilger, B. Skinn, R. Holland SSS. R. Holland SSS, L. Baker L. Anchor SSS, S. Anchor, T. Ellis, A. McKendry, R. Ellis, D. Ellis, T. Matthews,

WALLI

Three hours was spent in Piano Cave. Where the temperature and Humidity were taken.

Date; 23/4/77 Time 11am. CAVE; Piano Cave.
Air Temp outside: 56°F Air Temp. IN cave. 61°F, Water Temp 61°F.
Humidity; 76%

Date; 23rd/4/77. TIME; 3pm. CAVE; Oolite/Stovepipe.
AIR TEMP. OUTSIDE: 61°F. AIR TEMP. IN CAVE; 56°F.
HUMIDITY; 92%.

Area trogged around Piano Cave and Piano Extension for prospects of any new caves.

Oolite Stovepipe system explored for three hours. Photographed calcified tree roots in upper section.

K. Bilger.

CLIEFDEN;

BOONDEROO: Four members entered Cl 3 and made their way to the sump to clean the white flowstone that had been covered with mud. There wasn't a lot of success as mud would have to be dug out. Will take shape object next time to clean mud out with.

MUD ON FORMATIONS is UNFORGIVABLE, so if we are to continue to see our caves in their natural beauty. PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE.

Molongulli Cl 69-Cl70.

We proceeded to Molongulli to give the kids some more experience at laddering. After setting up the pitch at Cl70 entrance Bob then Louise went down and found that the rain had caused some more colaspe, making the entrance very dangerous. So we decided to go back and have a look at Tetanus Cave near the house.

I went down first and found myself standing on a pile of RUBBISH at one end of a medium chamber. Bob came down and we explored the leads at the far end. None of them go very ~~far~~ far, so we went out. Some of the decoration in the cave could have been excellent if left as nature made the cave and not USED AS A RUBBISH PIT. In the middle of some rubbish at one end was small collection of Oolites.

T.Coleborn.

CLIEFDEN MAIN CLIEFDEN.

SATURDAY: We headed straight to the Boot Room where some party members spent some time in photography. Then to the Gong Room for our search of the Noonameenah Connection. Only one small low passage seemed to fit the description given to us. Even this appears to lead nowhere. Some connections we found to the Laural Room and many other grottos filled with water and crystals lead off the Main Gong Room passage.

The Main Cavern was followed for about 100 meters with still more to go. The migration was begun to Helictite Wall via Laural (mud) and Elephant Anus. Here more photography, while others inspected the crystals in the lower parts.

A set of larger passages opens up above the crystal sump. They are well decorated with flows and shawls, brilliant against the red mud. The full extent of the Main right hand passage remains unknown, but it reaches high into this right hand wall area.

Some members ventured as far as the slopy rock area and the Crystal Room above it. A return was made directly via the short cut to the Boot Room.

SUNDAY: Glimpses of the Main Chamber were taken as we climbed rapidly to the Boot Room. On the way to Helictite Wall a passage in the right hand wall, in the vicinity of the Elephant Anus leads up in a similar way and with similar decoration to the one in the right hand wall at Helictite Wall mentioned in Saturdays trip (Connection of these two caves is likely refer to Map).

On the slopy rock and then to the crystal room and passage to the Apparitions. In this area a great deal of time was spent photographing. The mud of this area is sadly being spread right across the white Flowstone and pool crystals in the old stream passage. A view underneath the false floor where pool rims cross the path, is worthwhile to see the huge white crystals. Many of these are over 15 cms long (6") with smaller calcite crystals springing off them.

Raymond and Dion went forward to ferret out the multitude of passages in the Apparition Area. They found a chamber new to all of us. It is large and V shaped (refer to Map) It is long with beautiful canopies of colours from white, fawn, orange to the deepest red and brown. Pools of crystals are set into the flows and helictite. Worth mentioning are the one we called the Horses Heads. A higher passage forms a T at the end of this chamber.

Sunday saw trips to Trapdoor and Murder, while Robert Ellis and Mark Dixon dug steps to the Trapdoor entrance to make the ascent easier. On Sunday afternoon the main reason for the Cliefden trip was carried out. Phillip Coburns memorial board was installed on the wall in the hut. This depicted photo's, newsclippings and text on a red felt background covered with perplex. This will now be on view for all future visitors to Cliefden.

Later some members walked down the creek behind the hut to the Belubula. I cannot recommend this walk too highly to all Cliefden visitors. The mammoth rim pools and flow stones in the creek cannot be adequately described here. They must be seen to be believed, preferable in good sunlight and in winter when the willow leaves don't hide the size of the rim pools. The Belubula can be reached in less than 1 hour of casual walking.

Most members left on Sunday, while some stayed till Monday morning and visited the Rothery Sisters at Cliefden Homestead where they were presented with some coloured photos taken there during clubs visit last November. The ladies were most appreciative.

G.Powell

YARRANGOBILLY: 11th, 12th and 13th June, 1977.

Aim; Further exploration.

Members present;

K.Bilger TL, B.Skinn, T.Matthews, G.Cummings.

Visitors; J.Charley.



Report;

Saturday after checking in with Allen Norman, and checking up on the caves we could visit, we headed up the Castle track for Harrie Wood, where we spent about an hour. Next was about two hours in Castle. The difference in the two caves was appreciated. We then went back to Mill creek to locate and explore the swallet Y29, about an hour was spent looking around in here. Quite a bit of photography was indulged in during the time spent in these three caves. On the way back to camp we had a look at Y10 doline.

Sunday morning we were a little slow starting, it may have been due to the cold, everything but the running water in the river was solid ice, that included tents, sleeping bags ect. Anyhow we eventually got underground after inspecting and photographing the ice at the entrance. About 5 hours was spent exploring the Y10, as far as the extensions from Strahaven Chamber, we also found the new section being surveyed by U.N.S.W.S.S.

Having been asked to, we looked at the possibility of gating the cave. This would be a difficult task. That night we had tea and slept at Kevin Parkers at Talbingo.

Monday we did a bit of photography in Jillabeen. Jack and myself then went on a tourist trip into North Glory Hole, while Brien, Ted and Graham did some electrically repairs in Jersey.

We left for home after this, deciding to do a tour through Cooma and Canberra on the way.

★ ★ ★
K.Bilger. ★ ★ ★

JENOLAN: 25th, 26th JUNE, 1977.

Aim; To select a suitable campsite for the proposed overnight stay in July.

Members present; T. Matthews, B. Skinn, G. Powell, T. Ellis, G. Cummings, P. Sparkes, J. Anderson, W. Brown, K. Rugg.

Report;

On reporting to the guides office we agreed to check out Mammoth flat for supposed untidiness and to report on our finds. We found the speleo camping area extremely tidy except for the portable toilet enclosure which had been dumped there. It would be better removed from the site.

Most members abseiled into the Cavern. The choice of using the rockpile descent into the Southern section was made for us since we had missed the forty foot. The trip to Oolite Cavern was uneventful, but one was amazed to notice tiny seedlings growing deep in these tunnels fed only by the energy of passing cave lights.

The river was extremely low and a trip deeper into the Southern Section would have been possible without getting wet.

The climb into Upper Colite was led by Brien, who found he was a bit too long to fit comfortably into the sinuous muddy upward squeeze. This climb must be regarded as difficult and this is a steading factor controlling visitation to the Pisa Room. Only two parties had been in since our last visit in 1975. Most of us had our cameras. Many promising shots were taken including some in three dimensions using Tony's Sd adaptor.

Return was made to the surface via the Rockpile. Greg and the Newcastle fellows then spent an extra hour exploring the Railway Tunnel as far as the ninety foot drop while the rest of us ascended on the single rope.

On the second day Brien, Graham and myself went into the Central Section. The aim was to select a campsite for the proposed overnight practice trip in July. Water was found in the sand passage and this would enable us to camp in Horseshoe Cavern should we wish it. We made our way as far as the waterfall passage near the 'dry siphon' via Skull and Crossbones, Central Lake, Central River and the Middle Bit. The campsite used by SUUS in 1961 was passed. There is excellent water here, but the site is small, suitable for a party of 4 or 5 members.

T. Matthews.

CLIEFDEN: 2nd, 3rd July, 1977.

Aim; To prepare the site for the permanent attachment of Phillip Coburns memorial Plaque.

Members present;

T. Matthews, R. Sanderson.

Visitors;

C. Kimmorley, N. Haywood, C. Haywood.

Report;

We arrived Saturday morning made the necessary arrangements with Mr Dunhill and shortly afterwards made our way into Cl 1. The first thing was to select the right place for the plaque. Having done this to our satisfaction we made our way slowly into the Boot Room and as far as Helictite Wall.

Corbett found caving not quite as he had expected but never-the-less put up a very determined effort, improving his technique all the way. Robert showed true skill at caving which is not unusual since he has been caving for about 4 years,

On Sunday, Corbett volunteered to chip the stone required for the setting off the plaque. The task turned out to be a mammoth one taking about 2 hours of painstaking, determined flaking. The effort was rewarded by an excellently sited and well protected, flat location. However the drilling of holes still needs to be done. A new template and alternative drilling arrangements will be made by next trip.

While this site preparation was going on the rest of us ventured into Murder cave. This was very muddy, even dangerous at the traverse beyond the gate. I decided it would be safer to retreat from this point, so we spent about an hour in the upper ungated section of the cave.

Ted Matthews.

JENOLAN; MAMMOTH CAVE; 9th, 10th, July, 1977.

AIM; To gain experience in camping underground for long periods.

Members present; B.Skinn TL, K.Bilger, P.Sammut, G.Cummings.

Report;

Due to some unforeseen circumstances we arrived half an hour late at 8.30am, so after checking in at the Guides Office we moved on up to Mammoth Flat and readied ourselves for the trip.

10.00 oclock saw us energetically engaged in lowering the packs down the 60' entrance pitch, then after we shouldered our packs, at the bottom we moved on to Horseshoe Cavern saying farewell to the sunshine for 24 hours or so.

We left our packs at Horseshoe Cavern and continue on to the next possible campsite with Paul and Graham going via Central River and Karl and myself forcibly lowered down the 90' at the end of the Railway Tunnel. Finding, That much damage to the packs and The mud would stop us getting our packs through to this site. We agreed to camp in Horseshoe Cavern. But not to be outdone we continued on through the passage, past the junction and eventually made it to the Gazora in the north-west passage, where we stopped for a breather then returned to the Horseshoe Cavern for a well earned dinner.

After eating and resting for an hour or more. Karl, Graham and myself sauntered off to find the Naked Lady Chamber (and no we didn't find one) , while Paul guarded the camp from the inside of his sleeping bag. A couple of hours later we returned and pottered around camp adding the final touches to the campsite, then Karl spent two or so hours picture taking assisted by myself, while the others made their tea.

But by 10.30 that night we were all in bed, satisfied with the events so far. By about 7 the next morning we were all up and preparing breakfast and preparing for a trip to the the Oolite Chamber. Paul and Graham had a look at the chamber while I showed Karl up the chimney to Upper Oolite, which he climbed in about 20 minutes. After looking around a little he climbed down , then we all returned to camp having a look at the 'grinning monster lake' and the incredible sand passage on the way.

After repacking all our gear and cleaning up the campsite we made our ways towards the entrance by carrying, pulling and dragging our packs for about half an hour which wasn't easy I can tell you. But by 2 o'clock that afternoon we had raised all the gear and were standing in sunshine again having completed 28 successful hours underground. The entry and exit from the cave was made easy by us finding the lower entrance, saving us Jumaring or laddering out, but is this enlarged hole good or bad for the cave,

All in all, valuable experience was gained by those members present especially me.

B.Skinn.



FIELD DAY AT THE PORTALS. 17th July, 1977.

Aim: Single rope technique for members.

Members present: T.Coleborn, L.Bilger, B.Skinn, M.Sammut, K.Bilger, J.Charley, R.Sanderson, A.Fairweather.

Apologies: T.Matthews.

Report:

The afternoon was spent teaching Jack and Robert the various techniques involved in ladder and rope work. Robert was put through his knots and both he and Jack did their ladder work for their membership requirements. No SRT Starters showed up who are participating in the Oddys therefore it was agreed the Oddyssey trip in September, should be changed to ladders.



Terry Coleborn.



FOUR WHEEL DRIVE TRIP - CHURCH CREEK; 23rd-24th July, 1977.

Aim: Exploration and photography.

Members present: T.Matthews TL, G.Powell, G.Gummings.

Visitors: Mr K.Remme, D.Remme.

Report:

Permission had been granted for a number of 4WD vehicles to enter the Yarranderie area, arrangements having been made for us by Mr Klaus Remme. Klaus, together with son, Dion, and friend Gregory made up the rest of our party.

At about 12-15am on Saturday we gained entrance to Mr Langs property and proceeded to an old homestead "Twin Peaks" to bed down for what was left of the night. Morning saw us jogging at first then four wheel driving through this truly idyllic place.

Just for fun we climbed Mt Yarranderie before lunching on oranges and more oranges. Then, by sinuous and tortuous trail to a sort of car park? above the main cave.

The cave was entered during the afternoon and we spent about 3 hours underground. All members of the party were familiar with cave except for myself and Graham. The cave presents no problems even for inexperienced members in any company visiting the cave. Cave decoration is quite profuse, clean and colourful in parts. Vandalism remains at a minimum due in part to the extreme difficulty in arriving at the cave.

Sunday after another pleasant evening at "Twin Peaks" saw us visiting the historic mines cemetery and P.O. of the old town.

Return was made via Colong Swamp to Mr Langs gate and finally through snow bedecked pines to Oberon and home.



T. Matthews.



CLIEFDEN - PLACING OF THE PLAQUE IN CLIEFDEN MAIN. 30th, 31st July, 1977

Members present: T. Coleborn, TL. L. Bilger, K. Bilger, J. Charley R. Sanderson, G. Powell, L. Baker, R. Sanderson, C. Miller, A. Fairweather T. Matthews.

Trip Report:

The object of the weekend was to place the plaque for Phill in Main. This was accomplished on Saturday morning. The attendance on Saturday was remarkable, 10 B.M.S.C., 20 O.S.S. and approx. 15 visitors plus a couple of others, who had heard about it on the local news the day before.

Sunday, Murder was searched for the long lost green stal. It was never very lost, only slightly misplaced by somebody who must have moved that section at sometime or other. It was formation well worth finding. The left-hand branch was also investigated and some new (to us) passage was found. After leaving Murder we proceeded to "the dig" which still may or may not go. A word of warning next time you come to Cliefden bring your shovel and your strongest back.

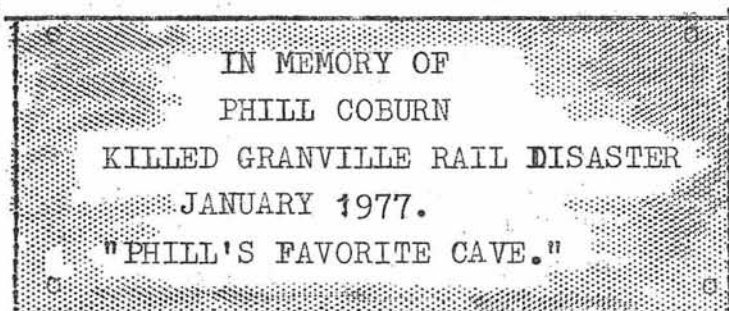
Greg, Robert, Lionel and Ted left after lunch, so Karl and I took Jack and Cheryl into Yarrowiggah for a couple of hours. It pays to be a micro-bod, when it comes to getting up that chimney. The youngest of us had no trouble at all.

Monday was spent doing some photography in Main and cleaning up the hut. A pleasant weekend and one enjoyed I hope by all.

Terry Coleborn. TL.

PLACING PLAQUE IN CLIEFDEN MAIN.

A plaque was placed in Cliefden Main entrance on Saturday 30th July, 1977 by members of the Blue mountains Speleological Club, as a tribute to the memory of Phillip Coburn a fellow friend and caver.



Cliefden Main was Phills favorite cave. Not a weekend went by when we were at Cliefden, that he didn't pay a visit to Cl 1, photographing the Giant Stal in the Main Chamber, Helictite Wall or the Crystal Room as his slide collection, will verify.

On Saturday morning the 30th July, members of B.M.S.C. gathered outside the entrance to Cl 1 and commenced the work of preparing for the plaque.

That afternoon members Orange Speleological Society and friends from the Leo Club joined Phill's family and friends of B.M.S.C. to place the plaque in the entrance. A cameraman from CBN 8 was supplied by O.S.S. to record the event for the local news.

After the plaque was placed, members of B.M.S.C. took Phill's family and friends from the Leo club on a tour of Phill's favorite cave to show them some of the mysteries, which lured Phill back time, time again to this underground paradise.

Phill will be missed by his friends in the club but I am sure everytime they visit Cliefden Main Cave his presence would be felt. A trip through Main wouldn't be the same without him.

L.Bilger.

JENOLAN; 27th, 28th August, 1977. 

Aim; Exploration in Mammoth.

Members Present; K.Bilger TL, J.Charley, R.Sanderson, B.Skinn.

Report;

Saturday

We arrived at 2-15am and checked into the guides office. We entered the cave at 10.30am proceeded to Horseshoe Cavern via the 90 foot, then down to Middle Bit, Central River and the Junction. At this point we explored a small passage just before the dry syphon, after this we looked despairingly for the way onto the Great North Cavern.


Later we retruned to Horseshoe Cavern and had something to eat and then headed towards the Southern Section, but on reaching the 40 foot, two of the group began to get cramps in the legs, so we made our way out of the cave.

Back at camp we had tea and crashed into bed.

Sunday;

We went out to Tuglow for a drive, and to check on the number of people using the cave, there were not many people there.

While we were in Mammoth we checked out the reopened J13 entrance with a view to regating with a lockable gate, a report was left with J.Culley in reference to this matter.

K.Bilger. 

YARRANGOBILLY: 1st, 2nd, 3rd October, 1977.

Aim; Check out Y10 for gating and Photography.

Members Present; K.Bilger TL, J.Charley, T.Matthews, B.Skinn.

Report;

Saturday; 1-10-77

Jack and myself checked out Y10 in respect of locating a suitable position to gate Rimstone Chamber and Straw-Haven.

This operation would require four separate devices, two permanent and two lockable. The permanent fixtures would be located, one in the new bypass to Strawhaven and the other in the dug out entrance to Lofty Chamber.

The lockable gates could be located, one in the squeeze entrance to Strawhaven and the other in the squeeze at the top of the dirt slope up to Rimstone Chamber. We also took quite a few photos in the two main areas of decoration.

SUNDAY; 2-10-77

The four of us went into y61 for some general caving and to photograph the lower section.

MONDAY:

We cleaned up Cotterills and then went down to report to Allan. We packed our gear and left about 1pm for home.

K.Bilger.

BUNGONIA: 15th, 16th October, 1977.

Aim. Familairisation of area.

Members present: B.Skinn, TL. M.Sammut, K.Bilger, J.Charley, C.Miller, R.Sanderson, G.Powell, T.Ellis, R.Ellis, (M.Dixon Ericka Goodwyn) visitors.

Report; Saturday;

After I arrived Saturday morning we set off to Grill cave basically to show Erika what caving was all about and to show the other members who hadn't previously been to Grill where the pretties once where. Nothing exciting happened except that Karl went into the foul air to see if he could find any trace of a couple of blokes who were supposed to be ahead of us. Only to find a headache for his troubles instead. Assuming the other two would not have gone past the foul air we proceeded to head out and arrived at the surface three hours after entry.

After lunch we were attacked by swarms of Blowflies in Hogans Hole and at the same time we had to endure breathing large amounts of fine dry dust literally sprinkled with airpockets just to make it interesting. All the same the two hours spent underground were most enjoyable. Then after a quite rest in the sun most of us spent an hour grovelling through UNSWSS Hole enjoying the narrow confines as against the larger caves we had entered before.

Sunday;

Sunday morning saw us abseiling into B51, looking forward to crossing the Dragons Teeth and worming our way through the Spokeshave Squeeze, but neither formed any true barrier. Carol did get stuck in the Dragons Teeth but Sir Karl lent a helping hand and she was free from the dragons evil clutches, racing up over the last teeth and quickly through the squeeze. (Phew)

Another fifteen minutes saw us out in the sunshine again after a most enjoyable two hours underground.

Sunday afternoon before we left, was spent practising our abseiling, jumaring and ladder techniques on the bluff overlooking Hogans Hole.

Brien Skinn.



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR.

