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newsletter of the

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING
CLUB

SPELEOGRAFFITI

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Editor

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2.

Editors - Phil Shepherd, Maurice Bell.

EDITORIAL - WHAT IS CAVE CONSERVATION?

What has happened to our general rule --

"Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints".

The aim of Speleologists and cavers is best summed up in the conservation report of A.S.F. "P.29 Speleo Handbook" --

The..... Speleological Society believes that all caves are worthy of protection from damage, intentional or otherwise. Accordingly, every member shall endeavour, within the limitations of necessary and carefully planned speleological research and exploration, to leave each cave entered as first found. Caves will not be littered with waste of any kind. Markings will not be made unless essential for survey purposes. No part of a cave will be broken or removed unless careful consideration indicates this to be necessary for speleological purposes. No specimens shall be collected except for specific scientific research.

Are you proud of your record? Every cave that we enter should be left exactly as it was before we entered it. The responsibility for this does not lie with the Trip Leader, but with each person entering the cave. The Trip Leader cannot understress the importance of this to each member of the party.

But this matter is never stressed enough. It is far too common to find in caves discarded batteries, carbide, flash bulbs, lolly papers and other rubbish. It takes no extra effort to take the spent flash bulbs out in the box in which you brought them in. Anything which you take into a cave has to be carried in some container so why can't this container be used to carry the old one out? The blame is too easily palmed off onto non-speleo groups -- Scouts etc.

"One of the more disturbing aspects of the problem, however, is the fact that disfigurement of caves is occurring at the hands (or feet) of speleologists themselves." *1

This is the only way you can explain the mess in caves in protected areas; areas such as Yarrongobilly. At Yarrongobilly, the East Deep Creek Cave has changed from one with sections of pure white formation to one which is now a sorry substitute. And all this in less than a year!!

3.

Y - 58, a cave recently discovered by our own Club, has a chamber of immense beauty. To enter the chamber a passageway walled by white flowstone is negotiated. Certainly, it is difficult, but not impossible, to enter without dirtying formation. There is now a brown walk-way. With just a little care this need not have happened.

Removing formation or any geological sampling is completely out. It is far too easy to say "one little piece won't hurt". "In most areas it is illegal; in none is it justifiable" *₂

It seems that each one of us must constantly be aware of the fact that a moments carelessness can cause irreplaceable damage. E.H.S. states that probably no society in Australia is 100% conservation minded. Let's make N.U.C.C. the exception.

SAVE COLONG !

*1 E. Hamilton-Smith --- Caves and Conservation
Report adopted by A.S.F., December, 1962
Speleo Handbook (1968) PP 21-30.

*2 Greg Middleton --- Practical Cave Conservation
Stop Press. August, 1969.

EDITORS NOTE.

Congratulations to Noel and Paulette Call.
A daughter, Amanda Jane, on 29 March, 1970.

seed I - written on two or both sides of envelope letter A
and numbered eight from your 4. This relates to other material you
already know a more detailed copy may come I have only one copy of this
material dated and written and been advised this material has
COMMITTEE 1970.

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A 1 contributions to Speleograffiti will gratefully be accepted
by Phil Shepherd.

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

A cordial welcome is extended to our new members. I hope your initial taste of caving leads to many more trips throughout the year and to this end I suggest you equip yourself with a torch, boots and waistloop etc. Camping gear can usually be hired, borrowed or shared so do not let this item deter you from our overnight outings.

All members should aim to attend at least one trip per term, and remember our membership drive does not end in orientation week so bring along your friends.

The schedule of first term trips includes visits to caving areas not usually frequented by this club. I intend to encourage this trend even at the expense of cutting down the number of trips to our more regular haunts, although there is no reason why both areas cannot be accommodated in our schedule provided sufficient enthusiastic people can be found among our ranks.

The club, through its frequent outings over the past two years, has produced a nucleus of keen, experienced members who have passed the "tourist" phase of our sport and are looking for new thrills. For their benefit I shall endeavour to instigate a more definite and systematic programme of cave hunting and surveying. If anyone has any doubts as to the type of work we could be doing I refer them to the latest A.S.F. newsletter which mentions several projects that the Sydney bogs have undertaken in what geographically can be termed "our area".

All men dream of setting records, your president is no exception, and while it would be personally satisfying if numerous discoveries were made during my tenure of office, our main aim shall be the continuation of a first class safety record. My job, in liaison with the committee, is to create the right environment for safety. This includes selecting responsible trip leaders and making people aware of the dangers of caving and how they may be minimised. Your role is to practice these recommendations. Safety is a personal thing.

Trip leaders are particularly reminded of their responsibilities, not only with regards to safety but also in the general behaviour of the party where its actions may reflect with discredit on the club.

Most decisions on the general affairs of the club, and locations of the trips are made by the committee. Members are invited not to treat its proceedings as some mystic ritual and should feel free to question its logic. We cannot incorporate your ideas if we don't know about them.

To sum up the caves are waiting, the trips are planned, come along and enjoy yourselves.

N. CALL.

P.S. A personal thanks to the editors (past and present) and to the Sports Union typist for their efforts in preparing this newsletter.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES (To the end of 1969).

NUCC has just completed its most active year ever. This is due no doubt to the enthusiasm of some of the old members, as well as the enthusiasm shown by some new members. During the year the club conducted some 45 trips to 15 areas in NSW and VIC., the details of which are summarised below.

Area.	No of trips.	total	No. present.	average.
Avalon Beach	1	4		4
Bendethera.	1	6		6
Bungonia	6	39		6.5
Buchan.	3	18		6
Colong.	1	10		10
Marble Arch.	2	8		4
Mt. Fairy.	1	2		2
Narrangullen	1	4		4
Ravine.	1	4		4
Red Rocks (field day).	1	6		6
Talbingo.	2	6		3
Warroo.	2	6		3
Wee Jasper.	6	45		7.5
Wyanbene.	8	45		5.6
Yarrangobilly.	9	74		8.2
	45	277		6.0

Areas to which we had the most trips -

Yarrangobilly	9
Wyanbene	8
Wee Jasper	6
Total number of areas visited	15
Total number of trips	45
Total number of people who went on club trips	277
Average number per trip	6

Summary of the year's activities cont.

BENDETHERA.

A familiarisation trip was carried out, so that we now know what is there and how to get there from the Krawarree side.

BUNGONIA.

Argyle Pot was successfully bottomed on a combined trip with CSS, in all 5 NUCC members and 3 CSS members reached the bottom in five hours.

GOODRAVALE. (*wyena*)

Surface exploration, during which a number of caves were found, mainly fissure systems, some of which had over 100ft. of passage.

TALBINGO.

Surface exploration. After several trips there, the club has decided that there is little if anything of interest.

RAVINE.

Surface exploration, limestone is not of cavernous variety, being calcareous shales. Several insignificant holes were found.

WARROO.

Search for the elusive Warroo cave, unsuccessful so far, but the entrance to the Cat Hole was found. Bloomfield Pot was also discovered, along with several sinkholes.

WEE JASPER.

Surface exploration and numbering. WU 61+62 near Dip, and WJ 63-67 south of the farm house at the foot of Punchbowl Hill, these are all fissure systems, one of which has a 50ft. ladder pitch.

A dig was also carried out in Church cave for a possible extension - unsuccessful.

WYANBENE.

Another high aven was found in the Aitcheson's bypass area.

The lake was reached on four separate occasions, and on the last of these the lake was crossed by means of a lilo. The bottom way into Gunbarrel was found after

Summary of the year's activities cont.

many previous unsuccessful attempts to find it.

YARRANGOBILLY.

Discovery of Y58 in doline adjacent to North Deep Creek during the Easter trip.

Y50. (Restoration) entrance relocated and relocked.

N&S Glories linked via the sump and maze in S. Glory.

A possible link between Glory and Jersey was also looked for - unsuccessful, but during the search a well formed upper level was found in N. Glory.

Some excavation was also carried out in Y55., to see if it could be linked to N. Glory, also unsuccessful, but another pretty extension in the south wall of N. Glory which may link with S. Glory was found.

Y59. (bruiser pot) was discovered in the hill across from the Rangers Station.

In September a large chamber was discovered in Y58., and has been named Rawlinson Chamber. From this chamber the cave drops 60ft. into North Deep Creek. A grade III survey to to the chamber was carried out, and an attempt was later made to do a grade 6. survey, however the instrument was faulty, so we had a photographic trip instead.

A Thylacine scull was found in Y58, and created much interest at the CSIRO when it was brought back to Canberra.

A small breathing hole near the Coppermine efflux was enlarged but contained nothing of interest. 728

Over the Xmas - New Year period numerous holes along the gorge were entered, however nothing of interest was found.

An efflux found on the eastern side of the gorge just downstream of the Harriewood Gorge, requires further exploration. ~division tunnel

The southern end of the Pine forest was looked at, as was an outcrop in the village, where several tight fissures were found.

CAVE SAFETY.

This page was originally intended to contain a list of DO'S and DONT's in relation to cave safety. However upon reading the following article I realised that it could do more to promote cave safety than anything I could write.

READ IT, THEN THINK!

"On Saturday the 22nd of May, 1965, U Thant called once again for confidence in the United Nations, South Melbourne held out Essendon in a tight finish, and John Bryant fell fifty feet in the Drum Cave and died.

John was not an extraordinary young man. He was eighteen, about the age of most fresher cavers in the NUCC. After a hard day's caving he was tired, like most of us get. The first pitch in the Drum is 135', a little larger than most of us had tried, but not of extraordinary size. John had climbed about fifty feet when he slipped and fell. How many of us have slipped on a ladder? The knot he had tied in his safety line gave way, but how many people in this club know that a bowline* will not hold under stress in a nylon rope? His compatriots did not know where his car keys were, and so had to run to Bungonia village for help, about seven miles away, but how many drivers let people know where they put the car keys, and how many people pay attention when they are told? No nothing that afternoon was unusual, except that John Bryant became Australia's first death in an organised caving club. (not NUCC)"

The article then goes on to describe details of an NUCC trip, which took place just three weeks after this incident, on which a potentially dangerous situation was created due, initially, to the lack of fitness of some of the cavers.

A discussion on cave safety then follows;

"You see the problem boils down to three factors: gear, knowledge and fitness. The first is the responsibility of the trip leader, but the other two are entirely in your hands.

Skills can be learnt on field days and on actual caving trips. Practice is also essential, so go on more trips, and when at home practice things like knot tying. You could also try chimneying in the back hall. Don't just follow blindly into a cave but look behind you for guide features that can be used on the way out.

Cave safety cont.

"Fitness is an everyday affair, play squash, walk to Civic, instead of driving there, run around the oval, or the block at night. Have a good nights sleep beforehand, and plenty of breakfast before you leave".

(* A bowline is quite safe in the ropes used in this club provided:

- All slack is taken out of the knot when it is tied.
- The knot is finished with a few half hitches.
- Slack is kept to a minimum when belaying.)

The following points reflect some of our present attitudes to safety;

1. The car journey to caves is turning into a race. (Slow down drivers)
2. A field day was organised for the 21st of March to instruct new members in knots, etc:- only two freshers nominated to attend.
3. Experienced club members are caving with only one light source. (No - a mini torch is not an acceptable secondary lighting system).
4. The First Aid Kit has been left behind on several recent trips. - it should be the first item to go in the boot of the car.

N. CALL.

LIMESTONE IN THE INDI RIVER, LIMESTONE CREEK, AND STONY CREEK AREAS.

During the Christmas Holidays, I spent about 4 weeks in the area to the N.E. of Benambra (which is about 20 miles N.E. of Omeo in Victoria). Most of the time I was taking soil samples, and looking at all limestones in the area for signs of mineralization. Needless to say, the only Mineralization that we found had already been mined away! However I got to see many limestone outcrops, and a few caves.

There are two different limestone units in this area; the Cowombat Formation (mainly shales) has a few limestone lenses, and the Buchan Limestone outcrops in some areas.

At the 'poplars', a good camping site about 6 miles south of Tom Groggen, there is a reasonably sized deposit of the Cowombat Limestone, with caves I-1 to I-10. Only 5 of these are listed in the A.S.F. Handbook, and the reports are fairly discouraging. One large doline looked promising but we did not have time to have a look underground. (I didnt have a lid, and was dead scared of splitting my skull in two).

Further south on Limestone Creek, there are 15 caves in a couple of limestone lenses. None of these looked really promising. The handbook supports this observation. However, to the east of these caves, on Stony Creek, there are several largish deposits, and here there is at least one promising cave; this is L.C.8. The handbook is rather vague about this cave, but mentions the fact that there is quite a good flow of water from it.

Access to the area is by a track (only recently put in) that runs from the tin-mine road where it crosses Limestone Creek, and follows the creek up to the poplars. The Limestone Creek caves are on the way, and the caves at Stony Creek require a walk of about two miles from the same road. A 4x4 vehicle would be needed to get to the northern caves (there are some very steep grades), but one could probably get into the Limestone Creek and Stony Creek caves in a car with high clearance.

DAVID GIBSON.

ON ATTENDING THE A.G.M.-1970

Members who did not avail themselves of the opportunity to attend the 1970 A.G.M. and help to elect the year's committee really missed out on an occasion this year. For the benefit of those who weren't there (and perhaps for some of those who were), a brief resume of the happenings might be in order.

The meeting opened with an interesting recitation by Ken Palmer entitled "Minutes of the 6th. Annual General Meeting" which was received acceptably by the members present. This was followed by a dissertation from Noel Call, in his capacity as part-time treasurer and money lender, on what we had managed to spend, \$200 plus on last year, accompanied by round figures on the blackboard. After this, John Furlonger - interim equipment officer in the absence of Dave Christie- presented a report on the state and quantity of equipment possessed by the club.

The outgoing president, Mr. Michael G. Webb, was then called upon to deliver the president's address for 1969. Not recalling having given a similar address in 1968, Mike gave us the saga of developments in the club for the above two years which account held us all rapt for the duration.

The committee for 1970 was then declared vacant and nominations were called (no pun intended) for the various positions. There were many surprises here, the first of these being the unopposed election of Noel Call as our beloved president for 1970.

Noel then took over the chairmanship of the meeting and called for nominations for the position of Vice Secretary (if you thought that it was Vice President you now know better). That position was filled by the "admirably equipped" Ken Palmer. We were then treated to the spectacle of our noble Vice Secretary fulfilling his secretarial duties while nominations were called for (again no pun intended) the position of Secretary. Here Paulette Call (&Co.) was elected unopposed. Noel did not seem to like this idea as he continued to call for nominations for Secretary for the remainder of the elections.

He was persuaded that what was really needed was a Treasurer, Equipment Officer and three Committee Members. The positions of Treasurer and Equipment Officer were filled by John Brush and John Furlonger respectively who were quickly elected unopposed. There were four nominations for the three committee member positions- Maurice Bell, Phil Shepherd, Michael Webb and Mike Alting.- Careful organisation of the method of voting ensured that each member in turn could watch the relevant parts of the voting and to thereby ascertain which people had, in fact,

On attending the A.G.M.-1970 Cont.

voted for them. (Maurice was seen to write a short list of names on the cuff of his shirt). Mick Alting was the (un)lucky one who missed out on election but was made club librarian/records keeper.

The 1970 committee having been determined, Noel then turned the attention of the meeting to a literary masterpiece on the blackboard entitled "Coming Trips". A number of areas not previously visited by the majority of members of the club were proposed as venues for trips. There were also a number of apparently undiscovered areas - Cliefdon and Yarrangbilly for example - which were suggested.

The meeting then closed for a very good supper prepared by Paulette Call (many thanks for those present) and to see some of the slides taken on various trips over the last couple of years.

JOHN FURLONGER.

P.S. There was apparently some confusion during the meeting as to who was who, as one member was heard to comment after the meeting on Noelette having become Secretary this year.

Old cavers never die, they just smell that way.

ATTENTION WYANBENEITES!

The following extract from a trip report dated 27/3/1965 may be of interest to all those who worship at that grotty hole across the Shoalhaven:

"About 11 a.m. a party of 7 entered the cave and made their way along the gruelling stream passage. A month previously two club members had discovered a remarkably large and interesting chamber. The purposes of this expedition were to see if the exploration could be extended further and to photograph some of the exceptional formation in this chamber. Several possible exits were investigated, but it was not until late in the day that the cascade of rimstone pools was traced back to the entrance to another stream passage. It was obvious that the narrow passage has not been previously entered so it was with great enthusiasm that the discoverers forged ahead. Soon the passage opened up into a big chamber with a smooth sandy floor. The passage led off to one side but ended shortly in a vertical shaft, apparently leading to an upper level. About 30 foot above the floor on this chamber an opening to another stream passage was in evidence. However, all attempts to climb up to this entrance failed through lack of equipment. This climb is by no means beyond the clubs capabilities.

In all about 7 hours was spent in the cave on this occasion. A return trip to Wyanbene in the near future is a must for it is seldom that such a promising opportunity to break new ground presents itself."

No details of a follow up trip can be found in club records. "Where in the hell were these people?"

N. CALL.

TRIP REPORT SECTION

The Award of the Golden Quill for the best trip report of 1969 goes to Noel Call, for his report on the Colong trip (Vol.6 No.6 page 13).

TRIP REPORT

WYANBEBE

Saturday, December 20th.

Present: Maurice Bell, John Brush, Bob Dyne (UQSS), John Furlonger.

This trip was intended to show JB and MB the way through to Lake Chamber and to give Bob Dyne, a visitor from the University of Queensland Speleological Society, a look at what caving is like in this area.

We left Canberra at the usual unearthly sort of hour and after a eventful trip during which we scored a magpie and a cockatoo we arrived at the cave. We had been expecting to have to walk from the Shoalhaven as had been found necessary a few weeks earlier, there having been a fair bit of rain between times. However, luck was with us and the river was down sufficiently for us to cross without incident - although we did get bogged once further on.....three well-muscled young men leapt rapidly from the car and soon solved that problem.

Bob donned his snow-white trog suit and I took the usual picture of the football-guernseyed Maurice-ape to finish my film and then we headed underground. JB and MB set the ladder at the Blowhole while I showed Bob around Mud Chamber. ("The formation in here is much better than we get at home.")

We followed the usual route through into Caesar's Hall where we stopped to brew up. -- No cups.--Take heed others who find themselves in this predicament. Drink ye not directly from mud-spattered, soot-encrusted billy, nor from your precious and much-valued bash hat. Soup packets make excellent drinking receptacles for all but the purist who would insist on a spoon anyway. Beware, however, lest you squeeze said packets prior to or during the partaking of soup, causing soup to overflow, scalding honorable body and making waste of soup so carefully carried into cave.

After this break, we journeyed gaily on through Diarrhoea Pit (Bob was delighted at this). to Anderson's Wall. (I don't know if this is what was originally called Anderson's Wall, but it has become known as such to members of this club). After hearing many hairy accounts of it, JB and MB were both singularly unimpressed with it. It is after all only a relatively easy chimney.

Down the ladder from here and a quick scramble in the mud and we were in Lake Chamber. After partaking of the waters we stood around in the water and got splashed while others photographed us playing at being brass monkeys. (The water was pretty cold).

The photographic gear was carefully packed away again and we headed back towards civilisation. We stopped to brew up again in Caesar's Hall, but with the last two remaining packets of soup nearly ready for consumption by the ardent cavers, come clumsy individual (MB No MB names MB mentioned MB) upset the billy. It was quickly refilled from the stream at the bottom of the chamber and after a hot nourishing drink of muddy water we headed once more for the entrance with a short stop to show Bob Cleopatra's Bath.

The journey home was uneventful except for the scoring of one rather large hare just before the Captain's Flat turnoff.

We trust Bob enjoyed his first really wet cave.

JOHN FURLONGER

YARRANGOBILLY

1st-4th January.

Present: Ken Palmer, John Brush, Maurice Bell, Dave Sadler, John Furlonger.

Ken and Dave went up on the afternoon/evening of the 31st. and JB, MB and myself left at about 8.50 p.m. with the intention of getting to Kiandra in 1969. Unfortunately, we had problems with the bonnet lock and the electrics of the car and despite playing rally drivers at every possible opportunity ("I looked out the left hand window of the car and saw the right hand side of the road") on the way up through Brindabella, we failed by ten minutes to beat 1970 to Kiandra. Fortunately it was still open.

Having celebrated the arrival of 1970 and whistled at the barman, we decided a little sleep might be in order. We had been informed of a hut in Kiandra where we might stay the night, so carefully following the directions given we inspected a D.M.R. building - much to the consternation of the night watchman. We then decided to go to Yarrangobilly Village and set up camp there

This we did, and after spending some minutes examining some interesting literary (& Pictorial) items and the time then being nearly 3 a.m., it was decided to pay a social call on Mick Alting, Roger Curtis and Gary ? who were camped near the Coppermine turnoff. After noisily and fierily greeting them and receiving a merry greeting in return from Mick, we returned to camp and went to sleep (?).

After about 3 1/2 hours we were all up again, bright and cheerful after out long night's rest. After a quick breakfast and taking a series of pictures of Ken & Zing, we chugged off to the other camp.

This was followed by a trip down to the Ranger Station and thence up the valley to look for interesting holes. We crossed the river to get onto the western side of the valley and while doing this, Dave tried to show us all how to swim (wade?). We travelled possibly a mile upstream without finding anything of significance. At this point a spectacular-looking hole was seen in a cliff face on the opposite bank and it was decided to investigate.

After much effort and clambering around the cliff, we managed to reach this hole only to find, as is so often the case, that only a very small water passage led off it and that this quickly closed down to a size too small for further progress to be made. The rest of the party then returned to the Ranger Station, while Maurice and I investigated a number of holes in the valley below Jillabeanan. At this stage it started to rain so we also returned to the Ranger Station.

Having requested and been supplied with the keys to the C.W.A. Hall in Yarrangobilly Village, we shifted camp to there. We had something to eat and after setting up receptacles to catch the numerous buckets of green dye emanating from the two new(ish) tents, we headed into Kiandra for the evening.

The next (rainy) day was spent in Y58 on a largely photographic trip. (It had been intended to map Y58 but unfortunately there was water in the theodolite). A very good set of photographs was obtained - Maurice has a series which starts at the entrance and goes right through into and around Rawlinson Chamber.

It was mid-afternoon by the time we got out and it was still raining so we headed back to the hall and there proceeded to hold a "Volley-Balloon" tournament (Rules obtainable from any member who was present) for the remainder of the evening. A make-shift pack of cards was made up from the remains of about 47 packets and we sort of played cards for a while (Ken owes Maurice \$\$\$).

It was still raining next morning (3rd.) and we spent our time hopefully wandering around in the pine forest near the village but did not find much at all. (Small wonder - later investigation showed

we had just looked at a small corner of the limestone outcrop there instead of most of it as we had thought). Five very wet people returned to the hall to dry out and then spent the afternoon in Kiandra wishing that the rain would stop and watching Ffred give a demonstration of how to play pool ("You know what you have to do if your side does not get any of their balls before black is sunk?", "Never even looked like it.")

The morning of the 4th dawned to the sound of yet more rain (seemed to be the beginning of 40 days and 40 nights, but the sewers had not yet started to back up.) so we packed up and went down to the Ranger Station again. MB and KP went down to wire up the gate of Castle (Grotto?-Ask Maurice) for Stuart; while JB, Dave and I helped Stuart dig up a post which seemed to be dug about 350ft., into the ground near the old ticket office .

By now we were a bit fed up with all the rain, so we headed for home via Cooma.

JOHN FURLONGER.

WEE JASPER

10th January, 1970.

Present: Ken Palmer, John Furlonger, Beverly Riley (visitor from UQSS), Gail ??, and John Brush.

This was originally scheduled as a Narrangullen trip, but due to the uncertainty of the trip being held at all, I neglected to ring up Jack Thompson at Good Hope and book a boat.

When we arrived out there, a boat could not be found anywhere, so we decided to go to Wee Jasper. Here, we found a boat available for hire, but not feeling energetic enough to row it 20 miles around L. Burrinjuck, we decided to do Dip 4 ext. (WJ 24).

So we did.

At it was then almost lunch time, we drove back to Wee Jasper creek where we had an extended lunch break, during which JF proceeded to dismantle his car, on the pretence that his radio was not working. After reassembling it (the radio still did not work) we left for home.

JOHN BRUSH

BUCHAN.

24 - 26th January, 1970.

Present: Noel and Paulette Call, John Brush, John Furlonger and Maurice Bell.

The above party spent a very enjoyable day at Buchan over the long weekend. The following caves were visited:

HONEYCOMB, M41.

The name is appropriate as this cave consists of a few small chambers, on various levels, interconnected by a maze of passages. The whole of the cave was easily covered in 4 hours, a fair portion of this time being spent in looking for a reported 150' pitch. It was not located, the deepest encountered being only about 70'.

BABY BERGER, M14,

After a short corkscrew descent, a squeeze was encountered which ended abruptly in a large pitch (130-150'). Good belay points were at hand, and a ladder descent was made without difficulty. Nothing of interest was found at the bottom, so the party returned to the surface. Underground 4 hours.

S.S.S. CAVE, M44.

Upon entry, via a 50' ladder pitch, the party settled down to rest while Maurice extracted a few specimens from the bone deposits for which the cave is noted. A methodical programme of exploration was then undertaken. However on finding a small mud-filled chamber the inevitable happened, and the trip-leader found himself caught between two waring fractions as dirty (?)* sticky mud flew left, right and centre. With sore mud-filled eyes the party then groped it's way to the surface after 3 hours underground.

N. CALL

*Ed.

BIG HOLE.

7th February, 1970.

Present: From NUCC, Noel Call, John Furlonger, Rosemary Nicholls, John Brush and Beverly Riley (Visitor from UQSS). From CSS. John and Mary Mendum, Roger Curtis, Neil Fisher, Nigel Rough and Michael Bright.

After all meeting on the Braidwood road we proceeded in convoy like fashion through Dempsey's and on to the foot of bald hill, where Roger showed us how to succeed at getting bogged without really trying. The following walk up the hill was a real killer as we

burdened with numerous eskys after hearing that 90 degree temperatures were forecast.

Everyone became a bit worried when we realised that we had thrown over all available ladder, and it was still not touching the bottom, but fortunately it was only about 3ft too short.

In all 7 people made the descent (3 from NUCC and 4 from CSS), and by the time the last few reached the bottom it was raining, so much for the weather forecast, and the sadly neglected eskys 340ft above.

After a mad pig chase (which escaped through an open gate) involving 4 cars and 11 people, we left for home via Captains Flat.

JOHN BRUSH.

NARRANGULLEN.

14th February, 1970.

Present: Noel Call, Ken Palmer, John Furlonger and John Brush.

After the last (scheduled) Narrangullen trip I thought it would be wise to ring up and book a boat (wise move).

Due to numerous delays we did not get to Good Hope until after 10 am, but were soon on our way around the lake. About half an hour later we arrived at the entrance and had lunch before heading underground.

One of the aims of this trip was to get into the upper level, however, as the only likely looking hole we found needed a scaling pole we decided to forget this idea, and go and look at the sump.

We then proceeded to divert the river into a number of large rimstone pools which we watched fill up for the next hour or so, becoming sick of this we decided to go around and have a look at the efflux, after which we left for Good Hope, with Ken showing us how to stall the boat without really trying, on the way.

When we arrived back we spent a good hour trying to get the keys out from Noel's secret (and inaccessible) hiding place behind his bumper bar.

This 8 hour trip could be subdivided into four equal parts,

Namely,

- 2 hours driving,
- 2 hours caving,
- 2 hours boating and
- 2 hours at the Royal in Yass (playing pool).

JOHN BRUSH.

WYANBENE.

21st February, 1970.

Present: Noel Call, Maurice Bell, John Furlonger, John Brush.

This was judged as the most successful trip for many months by the people who were on it, as we did everything we had intended. There were a number of things, noted on previous trips, that we wanted to look at.

A hole up near Cleopatra's Bath was looked at and found to lead into a small hole crammed with a large number of undamaged helicites. On the way out of this hole JF showed us how to get stuck without really trying - he got his head, one arm and a leg out, but could not get the rest through.

The next thing we wanted to do was to look at the avens near Aitchesons bypass. Here a hole in the floor was investigated but did not lead anywhere. However JF climbed up a narrow, muddy fissure and found another aven, which showed no signs of having been entered before, he then made an unsuccessful attempt to climb it. Noel and I also had a go at climbing in one of the other avens, but gave up after 30-40ft due to lack of handholds, or skill, or nerve or something, or even a combination of all three.

Rockfall was the next stop, where we assembled a primus and made some soup. While we were drinking it Noel and I thought we heard voices coming from Caesar's, then we heard the sound of falling rocks (MB said it only a natural rockfall), and then more voices which became recognisable as they approached, it was John Mendum and a group from CSS who has passed us while we were in the avens.

From rockfall we made our way into Gunbarrel through the side entrance, found the bottom route out and then returned to retrieve our ladder, which we needed for trip to the lake.

After a quick trip to the lake (everyone free climbing what we call Anderson's Wall on the way) Noel proceeded to ~~inflate~~ the lilo which we had brought in with us. He then threw himself onto it and disappeared out of sight around the corner, on returning he picked up a passenger (JF) and disappeared once more. JF and I then did the same, having a good look at everything on the way.

Not wishing to freeze, we departed quickly for the surface, taking a total of 1 1/2 hours for the trip out from the lake, and emerging after 10 1/2 hours underground.

The four of us present on the trip are confident that Wyambene can be extended, and next trip it is proposed to take an even closer look at the lake with a pair of goggles, as all of us thought we heard the sound of running water at the far end of the lake, though this may have been an echo from the downstream end.

JOHN BRUSH.

WYANBENE: Fresher Trip, Saturday 7th March, 1970.

Present: Noel Call, Maurice Ball, Ken Palmer, John Brush, Dave Hughes, Mike Webb, Bill Campbell, Bruce Calran, Phillipa Wisdom, Michelle Chamberlin, Margaret Blakers, Ann Pickering, Andree Wright, Phil Shepherd, Greg Hambleton, Dave Gibson, Greg Anderson, Dave Shaw, Gary Vinyard, Leonie Ford, Linda Bazzel, Russell Stokes, Barry Thomas, John Furlonger.

Left Burton Hall car park at 8.50 a.m. and after a very slippery and muddy ride after the ford, arrived at the entrance around 11.00 a.m. The party then split up into four groups led by Maurice Bell, Noel Call, John Brush and myself. There follows a report by each of the group leaders.

Group One

My party consisted of Bruce, Pip, Margaret, Michelle, Bill and myself. We spent some time getting through at the Blowhole (which was a bit of a bottleneck - there were two more groups behind us waiting to get through) and then stopped at Cleopatra's Bath where Bruce had his spirits dampened somewhat.

From here we went through the wet stretch to the accompaniment of many gleeful cries of joy and thence to Gunbarrel. From the end of the wet stretch, on a running battle (mostly verbal) was carried on with Noel's group as they tried to overtake us from the rear.

We then went on through Rockfall and Caesar's to Diarrhoea Pit where members took great delight in undergoing mud pack beauty treatments. We then returned to Rockfall with somewhat fewer lights than we had started with. Here we partook of the warm soup which the good fairy had left for us before heading back to the entrance carting all the gear with us.

It was about 9.15 p.m. when we got out and we all headed for the Shoalhaven where we had a barbecue. About 1.00 a.m. Sunday we decided to head for home but I rather successfully missed the ford and became very much bogged. It was about 2.15 a.m. before we got out of the river - many thanks to Noel & Co. for coming back to fish us out - and we finally got home about 4.30 a.m.

JOHN FURLONGER.

Group Two and Four missing.

Group Three

Present: John Brush, Andree Wright, Dave Hughes, Dave Shaw,
Ann Pickering and Gary Vinyard.

Due to the large number of people present and not wishing to cause a traffic jam, we gave JF's group a 10 min. start however this proved to be useless, as we caught them up and bypassed them and bypassed them at the stream, and went into mud chamber. By the time we returned, JF's group was at the blowhole, and Noel's group was just behind us, also waiting to go through the blowhole. (Problem - how do you fit 20 people into the blowhole area without causing traffic congestion?).

We then made our way into Caesar's, looking at Helictite and Gunbarrel on the way. At Caesar's we met MB's group, and then followed them out into Rockfall, where we made soup (we even remembered to bring mugs this time). While we were drinking our soup we saw all 3 other groups (who said Wyanbene was a big cave).

After thawing ourselves out we headed for daylight (or so we thought), but when we emerged after $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours underground it had all gone. So we sat down and waited for 2 hours until the other groups emerged.

JOHN BRUSH

A.N.U. CAVING CLUB.

FUTURE TRIPS

- EASTER; 27-30 March. Buchan. Leader: John Brush. Investigation of Murrindal and East Buchan areas.
- 12 April Wyanbene. Leader: Phil Shepherd. To dive the Lake.
- 15 April General Meeting: Room 8, Physics Building. See notice boards.
- 25-26 April Wee Jasper. Leader: Ken Palmer. An easy weekend.
- 2-3 May Tuglow. Leader: John Furlonger. Familiarization and photography. Walk-in trip.
- 16-20 May Yarrangobilly. Leader: Maurice Bell. Survey of Y58, Y59 and surface survey on west of gorge opposite Coppermine area. A hectic trip.
- 23-24 May Wombeyan. Leader: Phil Shepherd. Familiarization.
- 30-31 May Cheitmore. Leader: Noel Call. One day only to Cheitmore proper. This may become a weekend trip, keep your ears open.

NOTE :

- 7 May Meeting at John Brush's for those going to Yarrangobilly
- 3 June Monthly meeting. Special attractions.