

VOL. 12 NO. 1

JULY 1976

# SPLENOIDUM SPLENDENS



The Newsletter of the

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB

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Acknowledgements

- Cover Design: From a slide showing Maurice Bell "scribbling" in the Lake Chamber at Wyanbene. Photo and cover by kind permission of John Furlonger.
- Maps: Reprinted from "Helictite" Magazine. Reproduction by Peter Hart.
- Editor: Matthew Webber
- Assistant Editor: Peter Hart
- Typing: Bernice Burrows (C/- Sports Union)

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EDITORIAL

We are pleased to announce that at last the first issue of "Speleograffiti" for 1½ years has arrived in the hands of our esoteric band of cavers.

An apology must be offered for the lateness of this first issue of the year. This, unfortunately, is mainly the result of apathy on the part of most members (particularly trip leaders) who in certain cases have failed to submit reports as required by regulation B5 of the Club.

On a more positive note, I hope that through the remainder of the year "Speleograffiti" will be built up into a going and viable organ of the N.U.C.C. To assist this, it would be appreciated if anyone with reports, articles or jokes they would like to see in the next issue (hopefully early September) could place them in the Caving Club box in the Sports Union. This should alleviate the problem of people trying to track me down to hand material in.

This year I hope that we will see an increase in the number of trips over last year's effort. This is the main reason the club exists, and so to provide information for members about this, maps of several popular caves have been reproduced later in this issue (ripped off from "Helictite" Magazine). Included is a description of Wyambene Cave. As well as providing a valuable reference source, these maps should help readers who did not go on some trips to visualise where the parties went as described in their reports.

While on the subject of trips, I should point out to members that they do not need to wait for an organised trip by one of our regular leaders. If you are interested in doing a trip, don't sit around on your backside waiting for something to happen - go out and organise one yourself! Our equipment officer, John Masala, should be contacted to get the necessary gear, while maps can be obtained from acting librarian Peter Hart. How to contact these people is detailed elsewhere in the magazine.

Thanks for help in the production of this issue must go to Peter Hart (our Vice-President, Publicity Officer and Acting Librarian!) who completed the time-consuming and wearing task of transferring the maps onto stencils.

Good caving for the rest of the year. I want to see you at our next trip.

Matthew Webber,

EDITOR.

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MINUTES OF THE 1976 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB

The meeting opened at 8.16 p.m. in the Physics Lecture Room 8 on 17/3/1976.

Frank Bergersen was in the chair.

Apologies. - Marjorie Coggan  
Rod Sparks.

Minutes of the last A.G.M. were read and accepted - John Masala  
- John Furlonger.

President's report presented by Frank Bergersen and accepted -  
Frank Bergersen.

Treasurer's report presented by Patrick Mooney - \$22.13 in bank account.  
- accepted David Bowden.

Equipment Officer's report presented by J. Masala and accepted -  
Peter Hart.

All positions were then declared open and the following persons elected to the 1976/77 executive and committee.

President	John Masala	H. 959442	W. 633157
Vice-President	Peter Hart	H. 813317	
Treasurer	David Bowden	H. 498214	
Secretary	Bronwyn Winter	3A Corin Dam Huts	
Equipment Officer	John Masala	(as above)	
Committee Members (3)	Peter Comans		
	John Furlonger		
	Rod Anderson (position is at present, vacant)		
Newsletter Editor	Matthew Webber	Rm. 28 Burton Hall	
Librarian	Rod Anderson	(position is at present, vacant)	
Publicity Officer	Peter Hart	(as above)	

General Business

Sports Union Meeting - Tuesday, 23rd March.  
Those attending - John Masala, David Bowden, Peter Hart.

David Bowden - a recruiting drive for members  
- discussion held. Advertise activities more.

Frank Bergerson to John Masala,  
"What is happening to equipment that hasn't arrived from  
U.S.A.?"  
John Masala will chase up.

(N.B. Since A.G.M. this equipment has arrived. For details, see  
Equipment Officer's report.)

4.  
JULY 1976COMING TRIPS  
(as of the A.G.M.)

1. Landrover Club - Peter Comans 20-21st March to Bendethera
2. Yarrangobilly - 27- 28th March John Masala.
3. Wee Jasper - 4th April Pat Mooney
4. Wyanbene - 10-11th April Rod Sparkes
5. Bushwalking - David Bowden.

Next General Meeting 12th April 8.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1975

1975 has been a quiet and somewhat difficult year for the National University Caving Club with only a relatively small (about 12) number of trips having been run. New members and prospective members of the club are reminded that the level of activity of any club is directly related to the amount of interest and enthusiasm shown by the bulk membership.

The number of trips run during 1975 thus indicates a general lethargy amongst members, a situation which it is hoped will be remedied in the 1976 caving year.

Preparation for the Australian Speleological Federation's 11th Biennial Convention to be held at Christmas time 1976 are well in hand, the National University Caving Club and the Canberra Speleological Society acting as co-hosts to the conference. In this regard the club must recognise its responsibilities in 1976 to ensure that the 11th conference is a success. The A.N.U. Sports Union is to be thanked for the assistance which they have already given.

Furthermore, in 1976 the Caving Club must continue to foster good relations with A.S.F., Australia's national caving regulatory body, to which the National University Caving Club is affiliated. Good relations with the A.S.F. will lead to better caving.

I am pleased to report that the administration of the club is in good shape and the club has satisfied nearly all of its obligations to the A.S.F. and other points of contact throughout Australia. It is hoped that our good administrative record is not allowed to lapse in the future.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the 1975 executive for their assistance throughout the year and I extend my good wishes to the soon-to-be-elected 1976 executive for a successful coming year. Due to personal commitments I will not be standing for re-election this year.

FRANK BERGERSEN  
(1975 N.U.C.C. President)

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT 1975/76

The past year was rather quiet as regards trips, so the equipment to a large extent did not suffer too much wear.

New Equipment

The Blue Water III rope which was originally ordered two years ago still has not been received though delivery is expected early this year. \*

Damages

Most of the damages this year have resulted because of aging rather than use. Four of the lead-acid lamps expired during the year. Two were four years old and were club equipment, the other two were donated by ex-members and were likewise about four years old.

Two 150 foot nylon number 3 ropes will have to be retired this year due to age effects, but the Blue Water is expected to amply cover their duties in most instances.

Lost

No gear was lost this year.

Basic-Equipment List - As at 1/4/1976

Ladders:	1	x	17'
	6	x	30'
	4	x	50'
	1	x	49'
Rope Nylon:	1	x	300'
	3	x	150' (to be retired)
	2	x	120'
	1	x	90' - only for gear hauling.
Manila Ropes:	1	x	120' - tow rope
	1	x	100' - function undefined.
Lead - Acids:	9		with spares
Chargers:	2		complete charging units and attachments.
Carbide Lamps:	11		- unspecified conditions.
First Aid Kits:	2		
Bash Hats:	20		
Karabiners:	19		
Prussikers:	2		pairs of Jumars
			1 pair hiblers
			3 clogs
Scaling Pole:	6	x	6' sections

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Miscellaneous: G - pick  
 Star drill  
 Expansion bolts, pitons.  
 Brace and bit.  
 Quantity of fluorescein  
 Compass and tripod  
 3 x 100' tape measures

JOHN MASALA  
 (Equipment Officer N.U.C.C.  
 1975/76)

\* Recently the Blue Water III rope was received by the Club.

### NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB

#### 1976 Information Sheet

##### ABOUT THE CLUB

National University Caving Club was formed in 1964 with twelve members. Soon after it was affiliated with the A.N.U. Sports Union. We receive an annual grant from the Sports Union which enables us to obtain equipment so that we can do any cave on the Australian mainland or run several trips simultaneously.

In 1969 NUCC was accepted as a full member of the Australian Speleological Federation. This enables us (along with the other 18 ASF societies) to visit caves in such areas as Cooleman, Tuglow, Wombeyan, Colong, Yarrangobilly and Jenolan, that are not open to members of the general public, and as these are among the best caving areas in the state, is of great benefit to us.

##### CAVING TRIPS

NUCC runs trips most weekends throughout the year. Trips are usually one or two days, but occasionally longer trips are run at Easter, on long weekends or in the vacations.

A wide variety of caves occur in the Canberra area and should satisfy most tastes, viz: long, short, large, small, wet, dry, cold, warm, deep, shallow, and dark or very dark.

After a period of introduction cavers eventually become more specialised into such categories as cave mapping, photography, exploration, numbering and recording, touristing, walking, drinking or just plain slothing around.

Membership fees are only \$3.00 per year, and for this members get free use of club lights, bash hats, ladders, ropes etc., get sent the club newsletter about 4 times per year, and the ASF newsletter quarterly. Members also have access to the club library which contains numerous books and articles on caving and all aspects of speleology (as well as many cave maps).

\*\*\*\*\*

Every year a number of trips are organised to introduce new members and others to the sport of caving.

What to Bring

1. Cut lunch (students in hall should organise beforehand).
2. Change of clothes.
3. Some old but sturdy clothes to wear underground. A boiler suit is ideal.
4. Sturdy footwear. Rubber soled boots are preferable (Anything but sandals or thongs will do.)
5. Towel.
6. Torch. The Club has some lights, but due to the numbers likely on the first few trips, there may not be enough.
7. A bash hat if you have one (motor bike helmets not suitable). Once again, due to the numbers involved, the club may not have enough.
8. Petrol money. Should be about \$1.50.

Transport

We need people with cars to help carry people out there. Petrol costs will be reimbursed.

CAVCONACT 76

## THE ELEVENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Time: Monday December 27 - to Friday December 31, 1976

Place: The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

Host Clubs: National University Caving Club and the Canberra Speleological Society.

Program:	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday (27)	Registration and Committee Meeting I	Official Opening and sessions	Social gathering.
Tuesday (28)	Sessions	Sessions	Photographic competition and exhibition.
Wednesday (29)	Sessions	Sessions	Caveman's Dinner
Thursday (30)	Sessions	Speleosports	Field Trip Organisation
Friday (31)	Committee Meeting II and start of field trips.		

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**Field Trips:**

There will be both pre and post-Convention field trips. Pre-Convention trips will be informal but arrangements will be made with controllers of selected caves and cave areas so that some caves will be available to people as they make their way to Canberra. Post-Convention trips will be scheduled to allow people to visit the most prominent caves and cave areas in southeastern New South Wales, eastern Victoria and the A.C.T. Both limestone and non-limestone cave areas will be included.

A special karst geology field trip is being arranged through the co-operation of Joe Jennings (ANU), Mike Owen (BMR), Bob Nicoll (BMR) and Andy Spate (CSIRO). This trip is designed as a followup to a paper to be delivered by Joe that will review aspects of karst geology and will show both the caver and the specialist alike some prominent features of karst development in southern NSW.

A special Convention guidebook will be available to serve as a guide to the selected caves shown on the pre-field trips. The guide will be available to pre-registrants for use on the way to Canberra.

**Photo Competition:**

A photographic competition will be held in conjunction with CAVCONACT 76. Entries will be divided into categories such as:

Scenic	-	ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND
Scientific	-	
Humerous/personalities	-	

Separate divisions for colour slides, colour prints and black and white prints will be catered for.

**Call for Papers:**

Sessions planned will cover a broad spectrum of cave related topics. These will include geology, geomorphology, techniques, photography, conservation, biology and anthropology/archaeology. Persons interested in presenting papers or chairing sessions on any of these topics or any other cave related subjects are invited to correspond with the organising committee. More information will be circulated in due course.

**Information and Correspondence:** Requests for information and all correspondence concerning CAVCONACT 76 should be directed to:

CAVCONACT 76, C/- Neil Anderson, 18 Arabana Street, Aranda. A.C.T., Australia, 2614.

WEE JASPER TRIP REPORT (13/5/76)

Party: Peter Hart (L), Philip Allen, David Reith.

In the early morning on Thursday, 13th May our small but ambitious group left for the small village of Wee Jasper, S.W. of Yass.

After a 1½ hour journey along the scenic route, we arrived at our destination at 8.30 a.m.

For starters we inspected Signature Cave (WJ7) as Philip Allen and David Reith had not seen this. We made a special detour to check whether the Tunnel, the lower entrance to Punchbowl (WJ8) was still cemented off. I am happy to report that it has not been dug out and is providing an effective barrier against vandals.

As we still had plenty of time before lunch and felt active, we descended the 28' pitch entrance to the Gong (Extension No. 4 of Dip) and made our way to the gong room, which we all agreed was in excellent condition and beautiful.

When we emerged from gong we had our lunch and proceeded into dip (WJ1). For the remainder of the afternoon we explored in succession: No. 2 series, No. 3 Series (in particular the No. 3 extension), the main chamber of the No. 4 Series and some of the No. 5 Series.

We emerged at 7.00 p.m. and after some cleaning, returned to the road.

PETER HART.

Editor's Note: You may wish to refer to the maps.

WYANBENE TRIP REPORT (20/6/76)

Party: Peter Hart (L), Michael McKenzie.

On the morning of Sunday, 20th June, our small party proceeded towards Krawaree, via Captain's Flat. We reached the Gundillion turnoff to the cave and easily forded the Shoalhaven River.

As our luck would have it, a small amount of rain had fallen over the previous couple of days, and the track in was slippery. (You guessed it, we got bogged!)

The local farmer came to our assistance and pulled us out with his tractor. Finally, after an hours delay we reached the camping ground.

Before entering it, we had lunch and some people from C.S.S. (Canberra Speleological Society) arrived.

At approximately 12.00 o'clock we entered the WY1 entrance and made our way along the stream passage. The cave is at present relatively dry, and the flowstone climb to the blowhole was not at all slippery.

We proceeded as far as "Aitcheson's Bypass" and explored "Aitcheson's Avens", before returning home.

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On the outgoing journey we managed to remain unbogged, but had to help the C.S.S. people out of one.

The local farmer has suggested that we write to the Tallaganda Shire Council requesting that the track be upgraded (Our Secretary is attending to this.)

PETER HART.

Editor's Note: No maps of Wyambene available, however a comprehensive description is given in the maps section.

#### WYAMBENE CAVE DESCRIPTION

For the benefit of those who have not been to or heard of Wyambene, I will give a brief description.

Wyambene Cave (WY1, WY2) is located about 48 km South of Braidwood, near Krawaree. The cave has been surveyed by NUGG and 1830 m. of passage are mapped, making it equal 3rd longest in N.S.W.

At the WY1 entrance there is a small ladder which leads to the stream passage. If one follows this upstream, a sump is reached. At this point, one has the choice of turning into the former tourist cavern (used in early 1900's) or climbing a flowstone wall and passing through a hole known as the blowhole (because of the strong breeze usually associated with it).

From here, it descends via an 8m. ladder pitch and rejoins the stream passage. Following this, one passes a number of interesting chambers, such as the "Jailhouse", "Cleopatra's Bath" and "Helictite Chamber".

Up to this point, the caver has managed to keep reasonably dry, however things will soon change when the "wet stretch" is reached. This section almost completely saturates the person who is keen enough to proceed this far. Fortunately this may be partially avoided by "Aitcheson's Bypass".

Eventually, the passage opens up into the "Rockfall Chamber". At the top of this, to the left, one gains entrance to "Caesar's Hall" a large chamber of impressive dimensions. On the right of "Rockfall" is a passage leading to the "Gunbarrel Aven", a large rising shaft 110m. high and yet to be properly explored.

In the roof of "Caesar's Hall" there are a couple of holes, also unexplored. It is thought that these may be part of the upper levels and may connect with "Gunbarrel" as well as bypassing the sump at "Frustration Lake", which is at present the end of the cave.

At the bottom of "Caesar's Hall" is a pool of clear water which becomes muddy on disturbance and is known as "Diarrhoea Pit". A few more 6m. climbs brings one up to "Frustration Lake" and the known end (?)

卷之三

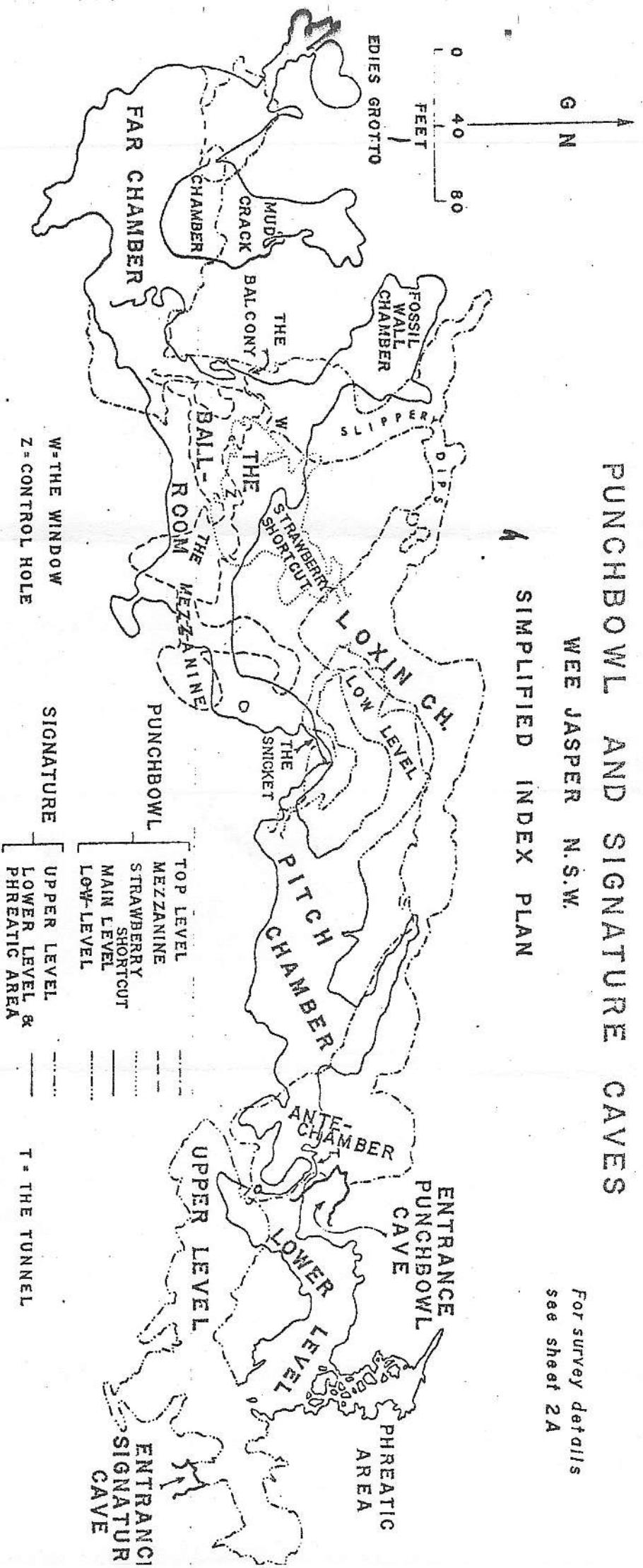
ANSWER PASSPORTS 1 OF 51 NOV

# PUNCHBOWL AND SIGNATURE CAVES

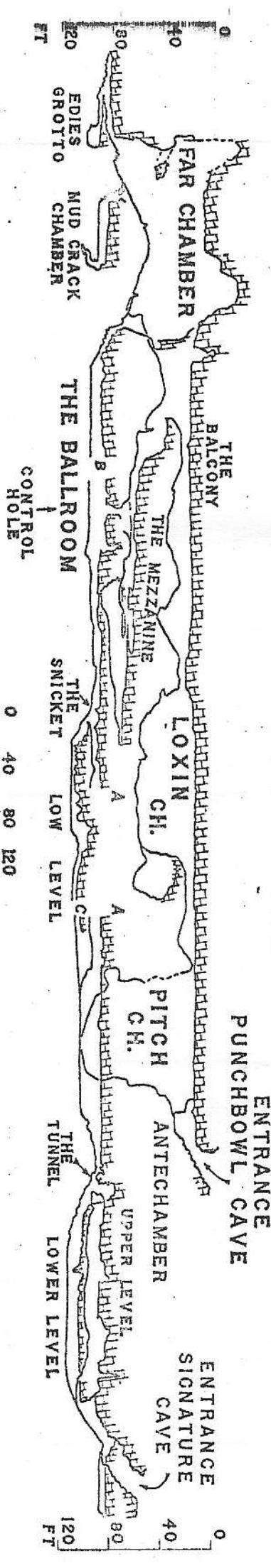
WEE JASPER N.S.W.

For survey details  
see sheet 2A

## A SIMPLIFIED INDEX PLAN



## LONGITUDINAL SECTION



i-A & B breaks only. C long length of passage not shown

N.B. scale of section different from that of plan

SHEET

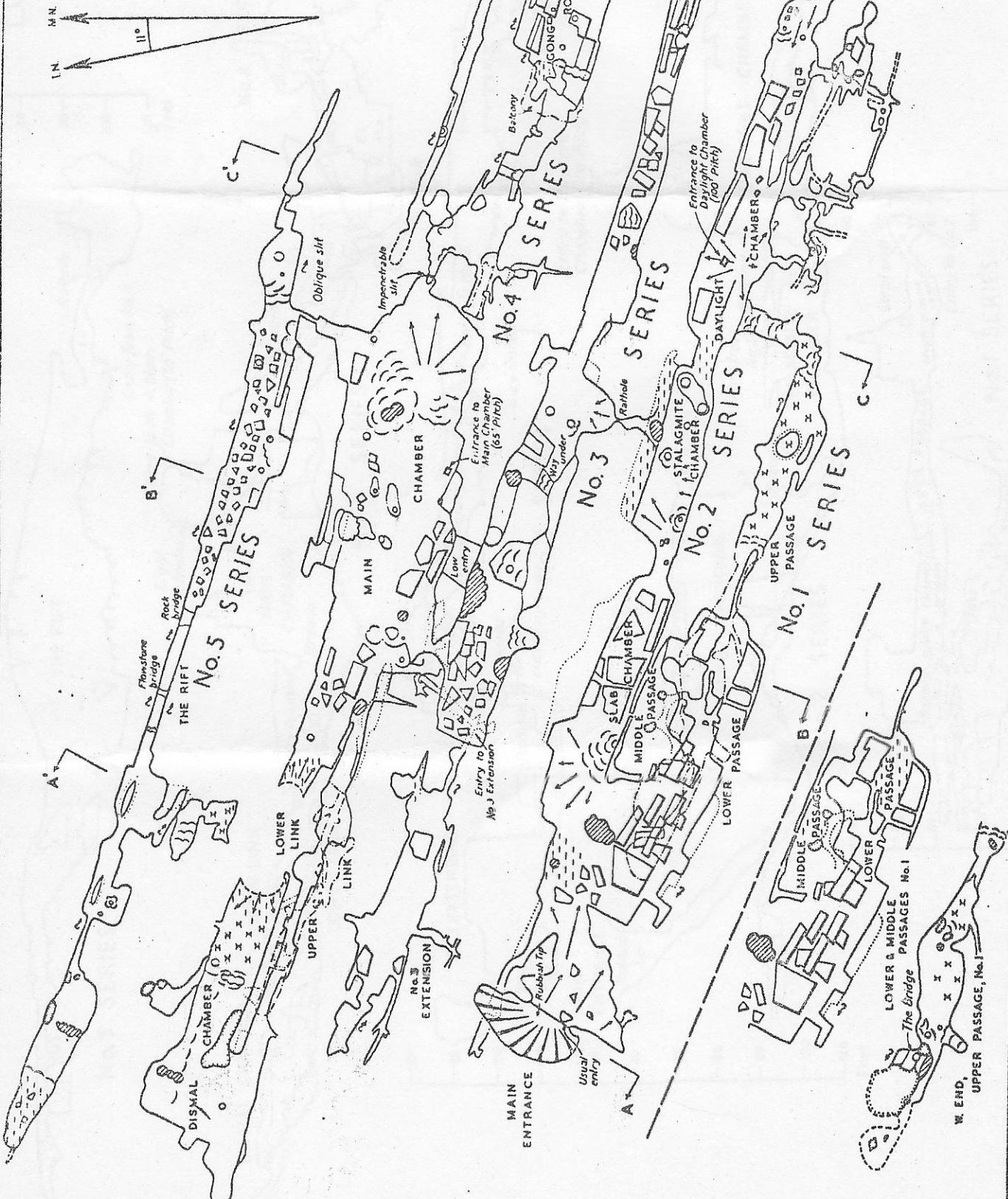
# PLAN OF THE DIP CAVE WEE JASPER, N.S.W.

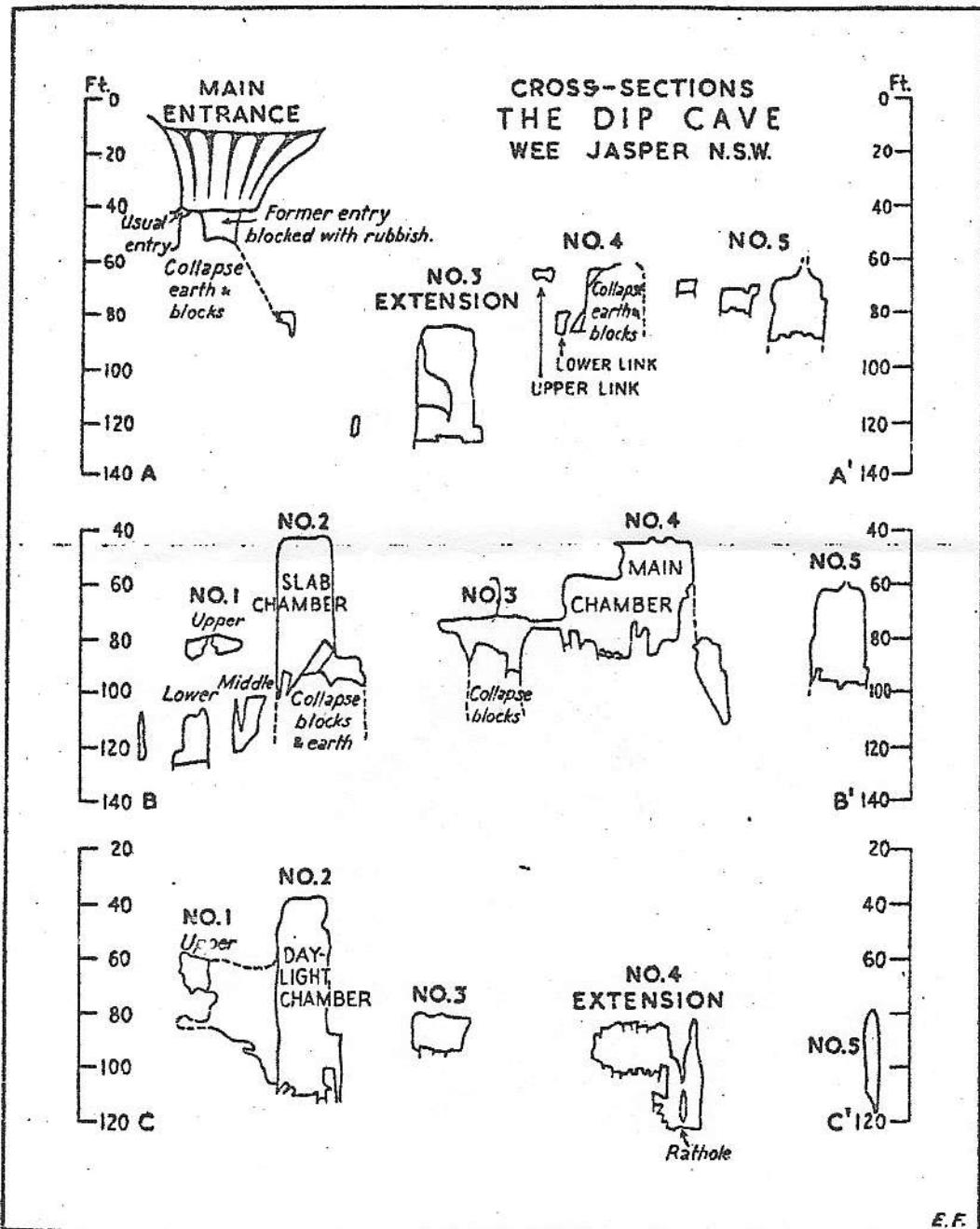
## NOTES

- (1) Surveyed in 1955-57 by J.N. Jennings, D. Moore, E. Smith and other members of the Canberra Speleological Society
- (2) Plied by J.N. Jennings and D. Moore
- (3) Instruments used - hand prismatic compass, Abney level, steel and metallic tapes, hydrogen balloons. Standards - C.R.G. Grade 5, for main passages and chambers; Grade 4 for small side passages.

## LEGEND

- ◀ Shape of cave floor  
 □ Angular blocks (schematic)  
 - - - Red earth or clay  
 X Bat guano  
 - - - Lateral extension at floor level  
 - - - Passage above another  
 - - - Passage below another  
 - - - Current marking  
 ⌈ Vertical cavity downwards  
 ⌋ Vertical cavity upwards  
 ⌈ ⌋ Column  
 - - - Floor - & drip stone from roof to floor on wall.





COMING TRIPS

- 10th-11th July: Wee Jasper Exploratory trip. Punchbowl will probably be visited.  
Contact John Masala.
- 17th-18th July: Bendethera with Landrover Club.  
Contact Peter Comans 959071.
- ? ? ? A trip to Wyambene, to explore and possibly survey the upper levels is being planned. Interested persons contact John Masala or Peter Hart.
- ? ? ? A trip to Yarrangobilly, in particular to continue our dig in "East Deep Creek Cave" is anticipated. Those interested, contact John Masala or Peter Hart.

If you wish to lead a trip, come to our monthly meetings!!!

4th August, Physics Lecture Room 8.

Next Meeting: 7th July, Physics Lecture Room 8.

(Watch the notice boards for further meetings)

LIST OF EXCHANGE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

- Baptist Caving Association  
Bermagui Speleological Association  
Blue Mountains Speleological Club  
Canberra Speleological Society  
Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.  
Central Queensland Speleological Society.  
Chillagoe Caving Club  
Endeavour Speleological Association  
Highland Caving Group - Canberra - Liverpool  
Illawarra Speleological Society  
Kempsey Speleological Society  
Launceston Speleological Club  
Macquarie University Speleological Investigation Group  
Metropolitan Speleological Society  
N.S.W. Institute of Technology Speleological Society  
Northern Caverneers  
Orange Speleological Society  
Papua/New Guinea Cave Exploration Group  
Peninsula Speleological Group  
Southern Caving Society  
Speleological Research Group of W.A.  
St. George Area Caving Team  
Sydney Speleological Society  
Sydney University Speleological Society  
Tasmanian Caverneering Club  
University of N.S.W. Speleological Society  
Victorian Speleological Association  
Western Australia Speleological Group

Family history

Like his father, I didn't understand much about my dad's family, but I did know he had a brother and a sister.

My dad's brother was a teacher and my dad's sister was a nurse.

My dad's parents were farmers and they had a large farm in the countryside. They had a house and a barn and a garden and a small plot of land.

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Relationships with other members of the family

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