

# SPELEO-

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**GRAFFITI** THE NEWSLETTER OF **N.U.C.C.**

The newsletter of the National University Caving Club.

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Cover Design: By John Brush, from an original entitled 'Furry and eye' taken in Honeycombe Cave at Buchan.

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.....ooOoo.....

## EDITORIAL....

Following recent accidents in a number of places around Australia, (see "A.S.F. Newsletter" Nos. 45 on) and a couple of incidents on our own trips, we feel that the time has come to give some serious consideration to our attitudes towards safety. Accidents can and do happen underground, (we recently had a broken leg at Wyanbene) but one tends to be somewhat more careful underground than while on the surface and it is our procedure while on the surface which was at fault on the two instances listed in this issue. (Wyanbene 7.3.71 and Field day at Mt. Corree 18.4.71).

At Wyanbene, the trouble was a paper error which pointed out a number of deficiencies in the system for booking people in and out on trips. Learning from our mistakes at Wyanbene, a careful check was kept on arrivals and departures to and from Mt. Corree and everyone was told what we were trying to do (i.e. keep careful track of everyone on the trip). Despite the efforts made here, a number of people changed cars at a stop on the way home, without bothering to inform their original drivers of the change. This resulted in some frantic running around to make certain that everyone had, in fact, arrived safely back in Canberra.

In future, if people intend to change cars at any stage on a trip, please inform the driver of the car that you were originally travelling in of the fact.

Also, the trip leader must have all names and addresses of people on the trip. It is not sufficient to know that Jo Blo is bringing an unnamed girl friend or that Jim Bloggs is bringing along half a dozen drinking companions because this will not help us to locate them if they do become lost, nor will it help us if we have to check that they have not become lost (as happened on the two trips mentioned above).

In addition to all the above, and in view of the difficulties involved in handling large numbers (over 20) of people on these trips, the committee decided recently to limit the number of people who would be allowed to go on each trip. With this aim in mind, the purchase of a second first aid kit was authorised so that, if the demand is sufficient, we can hold more than the one trip each weekend.

BoooooooooooooooooooooB

Letter to the Editor.

Dear Sir,

Referring to the "Summary of the Years Activities" Speleograffiti, V8, Nol, p9. While perusing this mine of useless information, my quick and nimble mind in conjunction with my quick and nimble eye and my not so quick and nimble eye could not help but be offensively smitten by the many and glaring mathematical and numerical errors. Deft use of my slide rule and my quick and nimble mind allowed me to calculate, that in fact the average number of persons on a Wyanbene trip in 1970 was 11.7 and not 9.7.

... also Total No of Areas visited was 17 not 18

Total No of trips was 31 not 33

Total No of persons was 238 not 249

Average No per trip was 7.8 not 7.5

I would imply that the deplorable mathematics is a direct result of not crossing your sevens, Mr. Antipseudocontinentalist Brush.

The continental geotectonist....

P.S. Are you 0.7 of a person Mr Brush.

Editors Note: The fault was not due to Mr. Brush's mathematics (although I agree that this may well be suspect) but rather to my somewhat inept typing of the stencil for this article at the last minute. The following corrections should be made to the table:

Add: 1 Marble Arch trip, 10 people present, average 10.

Change: 6 Wyanbene trips, not 5.

Total no. of people present 248 not 249.

(This one was Mr. Brush's mistake.)

Except for this one mathematical error, the remainder of the table was correct with some rounding off of figures.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1971

More than forty club members and visitors gathered in the Physics Lecture Room 8 for the 1971 annual general meeting of the National University Caving Club. After some delay due to the signing up of an unprecedented number of new members, the meeting finally got underway at 8.45p.m.

After the usual rigmarole of previous meeting's minutes etc., the year's (i.e. 1970-1) activities were drawn to a close by the presentation of the Golden Quill Award for the most outstanding (outrageous) article reproduced in Speleograffiti during the previous year. This was the highlight of the meeting. The award went to Mr. John R. Furlonger for his effort entitled: "Wyanbene Saga". The modest author could not be prevailed upon to give a recitation of his own work so this task fell to Mr. Maurice W. Bell, who had been secretly practicing his reading all afternoon. Following much snickering from the gallery, the author was presented with a fine trophy and a scroll depicting a scene which can only be described as being of doubtful veracity. (Bewdy John-do it again).

The president's report, treasurer's report and equipment officer's report were also presented at about this stage. (They are reproduced later). We then moved on to the business of electing the committee for 1971.

Silence reigned when further nominations were called for the position of president, leaving Noel Call as the only nominee and hence elected unopposed. The other positions were quickly filled with a number of new faces on the committee. Noel did an excellent job as chairman, introducing a new position - that of vice secretary (he failed to fill this position last year), which was declined by all nominees. The new committee is listed opposite.

The meeting closed at this point and Joe Jennings (Professorial Fellow in Geomorphology at the Research School of Pacific Studies, A.N.U.) gave an entertaining talk (accompanied by slides) on the formation and development of caves. His talk was followed by supper ("Good stuff"-PCS) and many members continued the discussion with Joe over coffee.

Marjorie Coggan.

COMMITTEE 1971

President:	R. Noel Call	11 Renwick St., Chifley.	493009 (W)
Vice President:	Maurice W. Bell	26 Guilfoyle St., Yarralumla.	812637 (H)
Secretary:	Michelle Chamberlin	Bruce Hall, Room N48	
Treasurer:	John R. Furlonger	12 Norman St., Deakin.	813656 (H)
Equipment Officer:	John B. Brush(V)	149 Pugga Way, Red Hill.	956610 (H)
Committee Members:	Angus Campbell	John XXIII College, Room B107.	
	David Shaw	26 Roebuck St., Red Hill.	95474 (H)
	Garth Keppie	Garran Hall, Room 283.	
Records Officer:	Kenneth Palmer	30 Earle St., Lyneham.	480412 (H)
Publicity Officer:	Marjorie Coggan	Garran Hall, Room 340.	

Contrary to popular belief, our new president's name is not Ronglo.  
 Ask him to sign a petition and see for yourself.

President's Report for 1970.

During the year the club conducted 33 trips to 18 different caving areas. There was an average of 8 persons on each trip, and while this figure may seem low it should be realised that our activities extend throughout the whole year and many of our trips, particularly in the early part of the year, exceeded the average, which is in fact higher than the previous years. (Full stop. -Ed.)

In my opinion the most noteworthy trip was the clubs first visit to Jenolan. Approximately 23 hours were spent underground at the Mammoth and J41 caves. My choice (sic) of Jenolan is based on the high degree of technical skill required in negotiating the caves I have just mentioned.

While there may not be unanimous agreement on my choice of Jenolan as the most noteworthy event, I am confident (sic) that the Yarrangobilly snow trips were the most enjoyable where caving was mixed with pushing cars out of snow drifts and other impromptu incidents that seem to stick in one's mind.

Although no significant discoveries were made the club did a reasonable amount of surface exploration, particularly (sic) at Wee Jasper and Yarrangobilly, two areas that still hold promise for the comming (sic) years.

Other activities of the club included; cave surveying, basketball competitions, publication of our very fine newsletter, (sic) and general meetings come social evenings.

On a more serious note, (ray me doh! -Ed.) the conduct of the trips was, ~~the~~ the whole very good. However a few incidents did occur that could have, but did not mar the clubs excellent safety record. I suggest the new committee continues to revise our saftey (sic) standards, particularly in the field of trip leaders authority and responsibility, to maintain and improve the clubs confidence in its leaders.

7.

I also suggest that priority be given to training new trip leaders.

I end by thanking the committee for its help in conducting the affairs of the club, and all other persons who combined to make 1970 an enjoyable caving year.

N. Call...

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Balance sheet for the period 18/3/70 - 12/3/71.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	\$
Balance brought fwd.	3.65	ASF affiliation fees.	12.00
27 membership fees.	27.00	Supper supplies.	14.81
Equipment hire.	11.20	Equipment purchases.	6.54
Supper receipts.	12.90	Stationary.	1.07
Equipment sale.	1.60		
Bank interest.	1.59		
Lost cheque.	3.37		
	<hr/> <u>\$61.31</u>		<hr/> <u>\$34.42</u>

BALANCE = INCOME - EXPENDITURE = \$26.89.

Petty cash \$ 2.29

Bank 24.60

---

\$26.89.

John (Twigsy) Brush  
Trasherer for the above period.

NOTE: ASF affiliation fees were only \$12.00 since we only had 24 members at the time of payment.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

EQUIPMENT LIST 1971

The club presently possesses the following equipment:

Ropes: 1x320' No.4 Nylon.

1x150' No.4 Nylon.

2x120' No.4 Nylon.

1x90' No.4 Nylon.

90' rope to be replaced this year.

Ladders: 2x50' Bonwick.

4x30' Bonwick.

1x27' Bonwick.

1x18' Bonwick.

3 of the above ladders have 8' traces, the others have 6' ones.

One of the 30' ladders and one of the 50' ladders are due to be replaced this year.

Karabiners: 3xStubai chrome-vanadium T-section D.

4xStubai aluminium alloy D.

4xCassin steel D.

1xStubai steel oval.

Carbide lamps: 9 King type.

2 Pinnacle type.

Helmets: 13 4 of these are to be replaced this year.

Miscellaneous: 2xsoft packs.

1x Geologist's hammer.

First aid kit.

Approximately 100lb. calcium carbide.

100 ft. tape measure.

Copper nails and lights for use in surveying.

Assorted pitons and expansion bolts.

2x star drills.

1 set field telephones with 600' of cable.

Spares for carbide lamps.

2x crowbars.

During the year, we will receive from the sports union the following grant:

2x50' and 1x30' Bonwick ladder.

1x150' and 1x120' No.4 Nylon ropes.

10 helmets.

6 carbide lamps.

2x mechanical prussikers.

In addition to this, the committee recently approved the purchase of a second first aid kit, complete with air splints.

John Furlonger (Equipment Officer  
1970-1)

John Brush (Equipment Officer  
1971-2)

The following communication reached us recently in the main street of Bombala (of all places!), in a somewhat disfigured envelope addressed to:

The Editor(s),  
Speliograffititititi Rag,  
M.U.C.C.

It is reproduced here with no apologies (and with hopes that it may give a few other potential contributors a few ideas) since we are fairly desperate for something to print.\*

ODE TO NOEL

O' aged one, leader of us all,  
What a site to see beneath the earth,  
With classic lines and flowing beard,  
Exuberant glee and jeans displayed below the knee,  
With pension cheque he buys his beer,  
To wife and daughter a loverly site and dear.

His dedicated followers are we;  
'Tis often said he bounced young Philly on his knee,  
We listen as he tells of Wyambene before the caves,  
Of Bungonia before the Gorge,  
And endless other timeless tales.

Why does he grovel in the mud?  
Arr, 'tis his ordained fate,  
For, as a babe, we hear,  
Toilet bowls were his passion,  
Until one day.....a terrible fall  
And then he began to explore, after a fashion,  
The wondrous depths of that abyss,  
Full of water and full of .....

Please forgive my terrible rhyme,  
But after all you read it,  
To the last bloody line!

Neil McAllister.  
(Pretender to the Golden Quill).

\*Meaning no disrespect to Neil's brilliant penmanship. (We don't want to discourage him.)

CAVES OF THE GOODHOPE, TAEMAS, AND WARROO AREAS  
ON BURRINJUCK DAM.

The caves mentioned here were noted on an ANU Geology students field mapping camp, and occur in Devonian limestones near the shores of Burrinjuck Dam. Although little time was available to look at some of the holes it is apparent that many have not been entered for some years, and more often than not the entrances have been barricaded with rocks, wood or wire netting. Some holes have been used as farm rubbish dumps, and in one case this prevented exploration of a promising looking hole.

The region has been divided into 5 arbitrary areas (geographical) - see accompanying map - and the holes in each area have been arbitrarily numbered.

AREA A.

About one mile east of Narrangullen Cave, in the massive Cavan Bluff Limestone.

- Hole A<sub>1</sub>. In a small depression in a wide flat valley. The entrance is not obvious until a few feet away, but approx. position is between 2 prominent trees.  
An impenetrable squeeze a few feet in blocked our progress, but there is a shaft past this constriction.
- A2. Hole on N. side of creek, fissure-like entrance in cliff, wired entrance, silted up: ie needs digging.
- A3. Series of holes in a cliff on S. side of stream.  
Holes appear to follow bedding in a series of shallow folds, may be impassable a few feet in.

AREA B.

On the southern shores of the dam.

- B1. A number of entrances were noted from the water, and all were blocked either by wire or rocks.  
Could be worth a closer look.

AREA B. (cont.)

B2. Prominent entrance(in the massively bedded Receptaculites Limestone) in a cliff just S. of a large inlet. A wide high entrance rapidly narrowing inwards to a small water filled chamber about 100' in. More passage may be revealed as the water table drops. Only cave in the area showing much evidence of having been entered recently.

AREA C.

Across the lake from Goodhope.

- C1. Small entrance in lower Eastern corner of a cliff, which is high on a hill slightly to the west of a prominent dry valley.
- C2. At head of a dry valley on W. side of the long peninsula which extends up from the south. The valley is the 3rd. along from its northern tip. Shaft 6x10' ? (failing memory), drops 10-15' then continues down a fissure(in direction of the valley) to a small silted chamber. Entrance contains much discarded fencing wire which could easily conceal other holes.

AREA D.

On the Northern shores of the dam. In a dry valley to south of a ridge between a house and a shearing shed.

- D1. Two small holes on western side of a very tight syncline, the centre of which is a recessive unit. Narrow slits, approx. parallel to bedding, which have a drop of 2-4' to a silt floor, contain some rubbish, entrances wired.
- D2. Few hundred feet to WSW of holes D1. Large entrance under a Currajong trip. In use as a rubbish dump, entrance partly blocked, but is still approx 8x10'.

Area D cont.

D1 cont. From the entrance there is a drop of about 15' to the top of a large rubbish pile, which includes some very dead sheep, in a roughly circular chamber, which has what appears to be passages leading off. Due to rubbish only the very tops of these chambers can be seen. Digging may be unpleasant, but may be rather interesting. Other small holes are to be found in the area but most are very small.

AREA E.

On the Eastern side of the dam, in thick mainly massive limestones. Area locally known as Warroo. This area was not visited, but for the sake of completeness, has been included. The information was obtained from Ken Palmer.

E1. Hole known to us as the Cathole; fissure approx. 70' deep.

E2. Sink, often filled with water after rain

Approx. 50' long, 20' wide.

E3. Collapse structure, no other information available.

E4. Known as Bloomfield Pot. Small hole a few feet across, which drops 10-15', then through a rockfall to fissure-like extensions. The hole is very difficult to find as there is no associated depression in the ground.

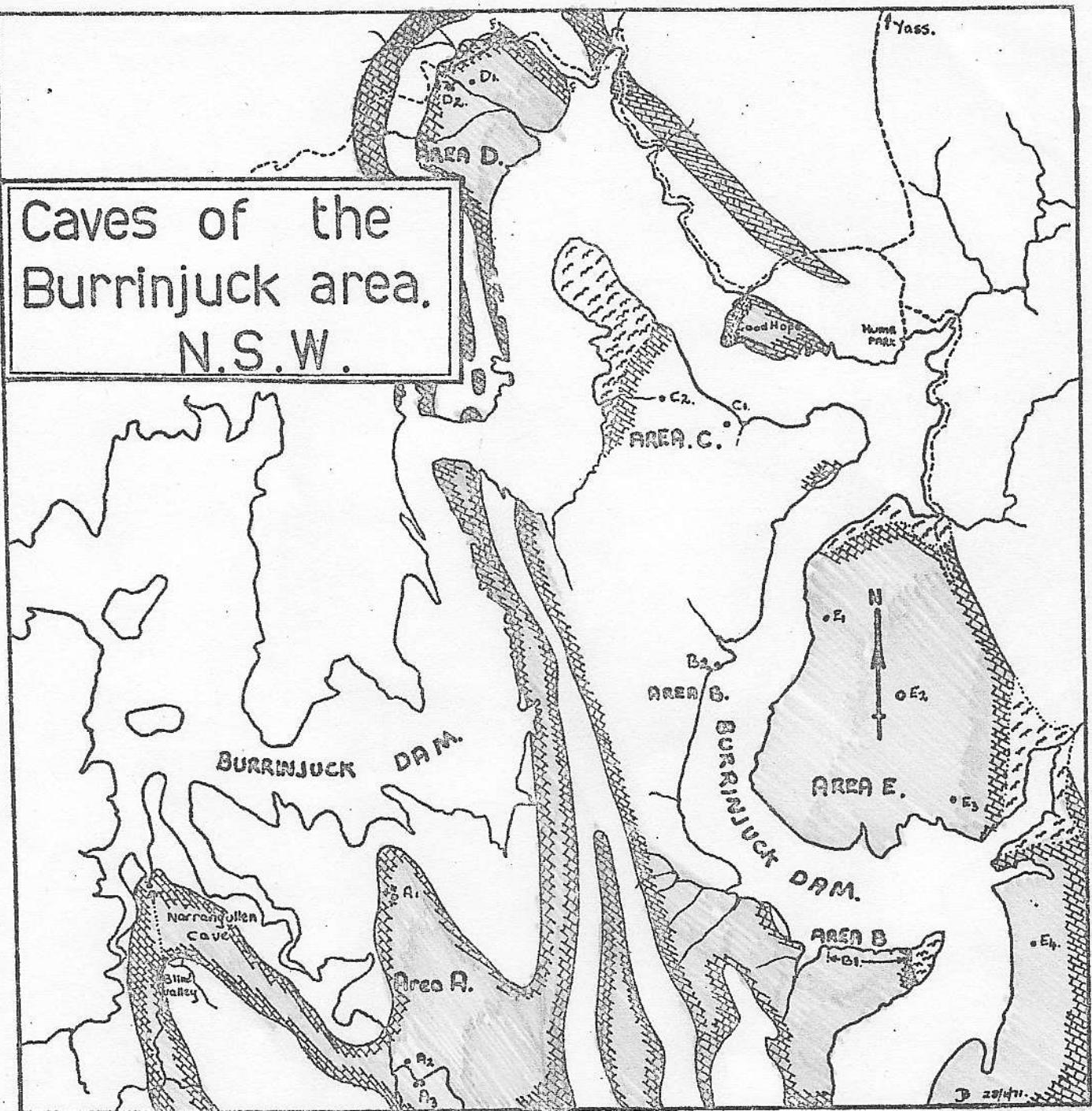
Access is gained through Bloomfield station.

CONCLUSIONS.

1. It is apparent that there are holes to be found - all one needs to do is look; only a small part of the limestone was looked at, and in every area observed we found holes.
2. The landowners seem to have blocked most of the entrances one way or another, and some have been used as rubbish tips.
3. All of the caves have been silted up to varying degrees, possibly due to the relatively thin vegetative cover.
4. There are many prospects for digs.
5. Access to areas A, B and C is easiest by water; boats can be hired from Goodhope.
6. Remember that relatively large caves do occur in this area, Narrangullen is approx 1 mile to west of area A.
7. Warroo cave, reported by Shearsby was not found!

JOHN BRUSH.

Caves of the  
Burrinjuck area.  
N.S.W.



LEGEND.

0       $\frac{1}{2}$       1  
Approx. Scale of Miles.

— Roads.

— Creeks

● CAVE ENTRANCES

+ SIGNIFICANT TREES.  
(helpful in finding entrances).

Approx. extent of Limestone.

~~~ Alluvium.

Map produced from Lands Dept. Photos. (1962)

YASS RUN 9. 5011, 5012.

RUN 10. 5013, 5014, 5015, 5016.

BITS AND PIECES

The award for the most original newspaper headline for this month must go to the "Canberra Times" for the headline at the top of an article about the A.P.C.M. annual meeting. - "Meeting of Company Caves in".

....oooOooo....

We regret that we are still unable to bring you avid readers the solution to the "Mystery of Easter Island" which we posed last year, but unfortunately the little man who was bringing us the coded answer must have got waylaid somewhere along the line. We are sending a replacement courier and hope to have some sort of an answer by the next issue. (Maybe we should print the problem again as well?)

....aaa'aaa....

Following the accident at Wyambene in which Michelle Chamberlin fractured her ankle, we would like to bring to the attention of club members the fact that you are covered to the extent of \$200 by the Sports Union's insurance scheme while participating in club trips. If you do have an accident, the Sports Union should be informed within 24 hours of it happening if at all possible.

....iiiiiiii....

We noticed on a recent trip to Buchan, via the Bonang Highway and then through Tubbut, that all signs referring to the township of Dederick and to the Dederick River have been removed by some enterprising (moralistic) individual. Victorian censors at work again perhaps?

....eeeEeee....

Would people who intend coming on trips in future and who can bring cars along please try to inform the trip leader fairly early in the piece. We have had trouble on some trips through having more people who wish to come than we had places in cars, this, understandably, causes some confusion for the poor trip leaders.

....uuuuuuuu....

While perusing some old files of a former president, we came across the world-shattering information that John Furlonger (the present treasurer) knew about the following things:

- How to care for formation.

- Cleanliness in caves.
- How to adjust his helmet.

d) How to dismantle and reassemble his helmet.

Keep it up John, maybe next week he will show you how to do up your  
shoelaces!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX!

Stalagmite: Small, German prisoner-of-war camp guard.

Stalactite: Stalagmite on 1st. January.

Straw stalactite: Scarecrow in the guard tower on Jan. 1st.

Claustrophobia: Morbid fear of St. Nick.

Dripstone: J.Curtis' singing. See also 'drip -stined'.

Flattener: Steamroller.

Duck-under: Slow moving duck.

X?

The above space is a protest against the stupid space filling lines  
at the top of this page!

BLAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!

LOST: One pair of blue jeans, property of Ken Palmer. Last seen being worn  
by our president on two recent trips.

One U.S. army belt, used for holding up the above jeans.

One pair of underpants, stained brown by Wyanbene mud.

One pair of green swimming trunks, thought to be somewhere on the  
North coast.

Would the finder of any of the above articles please return them to Ken.

He can be easily recognised as the bloke who keeps wandering around the  
Union half-naked.

If you don't like any of the above, then write something yourself.

TRIP REPORTSWEE JASPER (Fresher trip)

27/2/71

The mob: M.Altинг, G. Anderson, C.Beabout, S.Beams, I.Bigg, J.Butler, A.Call, N.Call(L), P.Call, G.Campbell, S.Campbell, J.Carmody, P.Chadwick, M.Chamberlin, J.Clarke, E.Collins, J.Curtis, R.Dalton, G.Davies, J.Davy, G.Dukes, R.Dyer, J.Eccles, L.Ford, D.Fortowski, J.Fulton, J.Furlonger, D.Gibson, T.Glanville, D.Goonan, M.Gordon, B.Graetz, M.Harris, D.Hawke, K.Hogarth, D.Hughes, L.Kennedy, D.King, C.Lock, C.Luke, N.McAllister, Zandra MacKenzie, K.MacNamara, P.Montgomery, G.Murphy, R.Nazer, L.Needham, P.Nicholson, B.Packhard, R.Padovan, K.Palmer, I.Penhall, H.Pringle, D.Shaw, P.Shepherd, J.Simpson, R.Spencer, K.Vear, M.Webb.

In response to a vigorous advertising campaign, 46 "freshers" (guided by 14 of the more experienced club members) congregated at Wee Jasper to acquaint themselves with caving and each other.

Prior to going underground, the mob was divided into five groups for instruction in ladder climbing techniques etc. Groups then went to Punchbowl, Signature and Dip caves.

Despite all attempts to circumvent the occurrence, a traffic jam of unprecedented proportions developed at the Punchbowl entrance pitch (going both in and out) and the last group did not surface until 9.00 p.m., by which time the bar-b-que was in full swing. All ate heartily on steak etc. cooked by Paulette Call, and listened to entertaining (i.e. dirty) ditties sung by Dave Gibson and others.

Noel Call.

WYANBENE (Fresher trip)

7/3/71

Present: M.Webb (L), C.Beabout, G.Dukes, I.Bigg, J.Carmody, I.Penhall, D.Hawke, G.Keppie, Sally ?, Joan ?, R.Bishop, M.Chamberlin, P.Shepherd, N.McAllister, J.Simpson, D.Fortowski, A.Thamo, J.Furlonger, A.Campbell, L.Alexander, R.Sleeman, J.Brush, M.Coggan, K.Palmer, L.Needham, J.Foden, D.Shaw, D.Evans, M.Mobs, J.Clarke, D.Hughes, N.Call, E.Collins, G.Murphy, P.Nicholson, G.Anderson, D.Anderson, G.O'Hare, A.Nother.

We gathered at the Zoology-Botany car park and left for Wyambene at about 9.00a.m. The convoy arrived at the Shoalhaven at about 10.30a.m. to find that it was up quite a long way. After a couple of abortive attempts to get cars across, we gave up and decided to walk in.

We arrived at the entrance by about midday and divided into four parties to be led by MGW, JB, JF and NC. (Ken Palmer, Lyn Needham, Phil Shepherd and

Michelle Chamberlin did not go underground.) Since it was Sunday, we had to limit the time that we could spend underground, with the result that no group was able to get very far into the cave. All groups bar one, however, managed to get as far as the wet stretch (the inner end—some sadistic leaders are reputed to have turned around at this point without the knowledge of most of their group so that the poor people got no reward for their soaking). JF managed to get some of his group as far as Gunbarrel after sending the rest back out under the guidance of Greg Anderson and Dave Hughes.

It was very nearly dark by the time the last group reached the surface, with the prospect of the long, muddy walk (run?) back to the cars in front of them. The river had risen even further, but nobody got more than a mild soaking while recrossing it.

The trip leader departed before the last of the people had arrived back at the cars, taking the list of people on the trip with him. A count of heads was taken as the cars left, which when compared later with the number who went out showed a discrepancy of one. This was a cause of great concern because, although we were certain that everybody had reached the surface again safely, it did seem possible that someone might have become lost during the walk out in the dark.

Some hours of intensive investigation finally sorted out that what had happened was as follows: The whole party, except for one car (Neil McAllister's) and five people, had left for Wyambene when a further person arrived. This made it necessary to bring a further car. Mike Webb then took the newcomer and one of the people from Neil's car in his own car. However, he failed to mark off the lower number in Neil's car which resulted in our having one more person on paper than had actually gone on the trip.

Having alerted a number of people for a possible call out, we were thankful that this was not necessary. Thanks are due to all those who assisted in sorting out this mess and especially to Mr. W. Bell who allowed us to use his home and telephone very freely while it was all being sorted out.

John Furlonger.

**Editor's note:** Due to difficulties such as that experienced above, a recent meeting of the club committee has decided that for future trips the number of people who go on them will have to be limited in some way. While the number of people per trip will be thus kept down, it is hoped that we may be able to hold more than one trip on many weekends if the demand is strong enough.

18/4/71

MT. CORREE

Present: D.Evans, L.Needham, D.Hughes, J.Clarke, G.Murphy, L.Irving, D.Horner, M.Coggan, J.Brush, J.Fulton, D.Wood, G.Keppie, M.Chamberlin, A.Thamo, P.Nicholson, E.Collins, F.Bergersen, G.Anderson, K.Palmer, N.McAllister, J.Furlonger, L.Alexander, R.Padovin, R.Sleeman, P.Shepherd, N.Pittar, R.Spencer, P.Down, J.White, G.Dukes, J.Miles, D.Goonan, M.Smythe, D.Fortowski, M.Bell, D.Gibson, J.Curtis, N.P.&A.Call, J.&T.Taylor, B.,M.&C. Bell, A.Browning, C.Beabout.

At 9.14a.m. precisely, umpteen cars, containing 47 people who had been counted, threatened, photographed, listed, recounted and fingerprinted left for Mt. Corree.

We arrived at the summit, intact if somewhat behind schedule, having experienced on the journey a flat tyre (D.Fortowski), one battered Morris-Cooper muffler (J.Curtis) and another unfortunate vehicle going in the opposite direction on the single lane track.

A lunch break was taken and then the party divided into two groups for instruction in ladder climbing, abseiling, knots etc. The instruction was not as detailed as I had intended due to the inability of the terrain to accomodate a sufficient number of small independent groups as I had initially planned.

The party left at dusk and proceeded back to Cotter for a rather sedate bar-b-que. Despite what I consider to have been efficient organisation, an incident occurred at the end of the trip which emphasised that even on above ground activities, a large party can not be suitably handled by a trip leader without imposing intolerable restrictions on the individuals. The history of the incident is as follows: 9.00a.m. As the party left the Burton Hall car park, the trip leader obtained the following info. a) No. of persons on trip. b) Names and addresses of all individuals, and c) Names of persons in each car.

6.00p.m. As the party left Mt. Corree, each individual was checked off the original list. It had been decided earlier as unnecessary and impractical to check people out from the bar-b-que. 10.00p.m. The driver of the 2nd. last car to leave Corree reported a passenger missing. A quick check confirmed that he had left Corree and determined his name and address. It was later established that he had transferred to an earlier departing vehicle.

Although the person was not technically at fault since he had already been checked off, it would have saved us a few anxious moments if he had informed the original driver of his new travelling arrangements.

Noel Call,

9/4/71-12/4/71

LIMESTONE CREEK

Present: Maurice Bell (L), Noel Call, Paulette Call, Phil Shepherd (M),  
 Mr. and Mrs. W. Bell, Cheryl Lee Bell, Amanda Call (V).

The group left Canberra at 6.30a.m. on Friday and drove through Cooma, Kiandra, Cabramurra and Corryong to Benambra in N.E. Victoria, 14 miles from Omeo. From there, Maurice directed us to Limestone Creek, one of the head-waters of the Murray River. We started to set up camp at 5.00p.m., in the old stock yard of the Limestone Creek station.

Saturday morning everyone was raring to go, so we took off down the creek looking for limestone. The several reports that we had, both from 'Speleohandbook' and from 'Some Limestone and Marble Deposits in North-East Gippsland', gave some approximate ideas of where we might expect to find the limestone.

The first outcrop that we found was about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from our camp, on the eastern side of the creek, and it contained several holes. Noel entered the first of these (a hole about 24" x 30" about 5' above stream level) and left his waist-loop outside as a marker. Maurice and I had also entered holes but we were both out again well before Noel reappeared.

We found another hole (LC4), approximately 40' above stream level and 4' x 2' high, and we entered it. Noel joined us later and the three of us spent the next two hours in this three-levelled, meandering stream passage and phreatic cave. The stream itself must be involved in quite intricate meanders since, at one stage, Noel and I were about thirty feet apart (through rockfalls) with the stream flowing in opposite directions.

There are five effluxes within about two hundred yards of each other below this cave and it was impossible to determine which of these was the efflux for this cave. Some dye would have been useful here but we did not have any with us.

Mr. Bell had spent the morning also looking for holes and had found quite a few. After lunch, Maurice and I went into another hole that Maurice had found (LC14?). This required a 30' ladder for the entrance before fissuring right and left. The left hand side went down to a stream passage and continued along a fissure containing the stream. I went through a squeeze at the end of this -splash- and Maurice followed after it had been determined that there was a way out of this small tunnel.

The way out was a squeeze on a slope of about twenty degrees which was

fairly tight. I kept getting stuck but managed to dig my way through, while Maurice stood in the water, slowly sinking to waist depth. We then followed the draught along and up about 50' until we came to a small chamber 4'(high) x10'x8' with a sloping floor and three entrances. The breeze was strongest down a flat tube with many straws in it but we now had to get through flat on our backs without destroying any of these straws. The tube ended in a very nicely decorated grotto. The breeze was coming from a three inch gap under the formation. Back we came, carefully and slowly, and then up to the other exit. Here we climbed 8' into a series of well decorated, small chambers. These ended after we had gone about 50' in a direction parallel to the stream passage but some 30' higher.

Back through the squeeze, into the water and out again. From the stream passage we squeezed through a crack into a former stream passage about 4' above the present stream level running parallel and about 15' to the north of it. This too ended after we had traversed some 60' of passage.

Throughout this cave, which would be no more than 60' deep at any point, there are a lot of roots hanging down into the passage. We did not see any roots which were growing vigorously, but apparently at some stage they had been as we found a major root of 3" diameter and about 40' long, hanging down a small aven. There are two possible explanations as to why the root and aven are associated. The first is that the root grew in the aven as it was easy to grow in.

The second possible explanation is that the root exploited a weakness in the rock and grew down this. The humic acids exuded by the root increased the rate at which the limestone was weathered and the aven formed around the root. Surface water would probably tend to flow down the root, as the soil around the root would be disturbed by root growth and movement. When we inspected the root it was apparently dead, as the woody material was rather dry. The drying of the root may have been caused by the air movements in the cave when it opened up. Other smaller roots present were also dead or in fairly unhealthy condition, and we saw one which had a partially calcified skin on it.

That night we had fresh trout, caught by Maurice, for supper.

About 10.30 next morning (Sunday) Noel, Maurice, Mr. Bell and I went down to the Stony Creek outcrop. Mr. Bell looked for holes while the rest of us entered LC1 -described as a 30' passage. At the end of the 30', we found a squeeze into a small chamber 18" high and about 8' in diameter.

From there, there is a very narrow, tight squeeze that Maurice was too big to fit down. Noel went through easily, but I only just managed to force my way through. We continued to explore about 50' more passage, average height 3-4', after which it ended in a very unstable rockfall. There were many rats or animals that size and shape in the cave and large quantities of fresh manure.<sup>(@)</sup>

After LCI, we went into LC5, the influx. This is a typical stream passage cave. Near the end, there were three distinct passages and we each took one. (We hope they were all replaced before leaving--Ed.)

The left hand passage was highest and easiest and struck the sump about 30' further in than the other two passages. Maurice took the centre one and proved that the sump was damn cold and more than six feet deep. He reached me in a semi-frozen, wet state. Noel joined us after we had looked at the sump in another section of passage (not only looked at -we both took dips).

The next cave that we looked at was in a pile of fallen rocks and had about 40' of passage.

After lunch, and "a game of skill", we walked up the left hand side of the creek on the ridge (sic), looking at the full length of the limestone and investigating all holes that we found. A total of about twelve holes were investigated in the afternoon, but only three of them showed any real promise. These were fissure caves that led down to stream passages before either sumping or ending in rockpiles.

On Monday we left on the long drive home.

It seems that the very long drive involved in getting to Limestone Creek will be considerably shortened by going to Jindabyne, along Barry Way to Suggan Buggan and thence to Benambra. This would virtually halve the length of the trip. Unfortunately, Barry Way is closed indefinitely due to the recent floods, and the road to Benambra was also badly damaged and is presently passable in dry weather only.

Limestone Creek is a very beautiful area with a fair number of small caves that offer a wide challenge to one's caving skill. In addition to caving, there is trout fishing and a whole area in which everything can be done (sic). It is a good place to teach people some of the skills of caving.

Phil Shepherd.

<sup>(@)</sup>(rat or other animal that shape and size)sh.

9/4/71-12/4/71

BUCHAN

Present: John Brush, Frank Bergersen, (An)Gus Campbell,  
John Furlonger, Neil McAllister, Ken Palmer (L).

FRIDAY 9/4/71 :- Uneventful trip to Buchan via Cooma, Bombala, Delegate, Tubbut and Diddick. We arrived about midday at Buchan Bakery where we consumed about forty hot-cross buns (sic) before setting up camp near Murrindal. Being very keen, we decided to look over the pot-hole area, west of the road between Murrindal and Buchan, that afternoon. Gus hid in the boot of the car, since there was no room inside, and frightened hell out of the fruit-fly inspector when we were stopped.

A few holes were entered that afternoon, including M103. JB, JF, FB and NM entered this cave and penetrated it to a depth of about 25 feet, at which depth they were stopped at the top of a pitch of unknown depth. They decided to return later with the necessary gear.

Dickson's Cave (M30 (a)) was explored on the way back to camp. Nothing of great interest there other than JB stuck in a muddy squeeze and our only sight of our tremendous trip-leader actually in a cave that weekend!

We returned to camp using the four-in-the-boot method. The trip leader embarrassed the clean-cut members of the group by his bawdy antics and his indulgence in alcohol that night.

SATURDAY 10/4/71 :- We decided that morning to try a dig in a sink which, according to Gus, looked promising.

Gus, JB and JF began the dig while the rest of us went into town for some necessary provisions. When we arrived back, we soon found ourselves hauling out large rocks, including a 'monster' which weighed over 400lb. and caused an explosion of foul language and near hernias all round. JB built up an impressive-looking entrance using excavated rocks while Gus did his mechanical mole trick and took on the brunt of the digging.

We stopped digging about five and, after tea, headed into Buchan for a much-needed wash and a visit to the local. Gus, JB and KP plunged into the pool (shiver) while the couth members (NM, FB and JF) took cold showers in the changing rooms (also shiver). Then we payed a visit to the pub for a few beers and to see the cowboys who had gathered for the rodeo on Sunday.

Gus and JF returned to camp while the rest of us went up to one of the VSA huts (invited of course). While talking with some of the VSA group,

we were surprised to learn that they had not yet fully explored many of the caves which they themselves had numbered. When questioned about M103, they told us that they had not, in fact, descended the pitch which had stopped us the day before. After this, we returned to camp where Frank caused a disturbance after an alleged spider lunged at him.

SUNDAY 11/4/71 : - We agreed to continue the dig for as long as possible, so off we went again to the sink area. We had no fruit for the man at the fruit-fly check, so JB very kindly left his breakfast there instead (sic).

We kept digging until about lunchtime when we broke into a small chamber of water-worn limestone with a damp clay floor. It was possible to continue digging , but as time and energy were running out, we agreed to leave it for then and to continue the dig on the next trip.

JF, Gus, FB and myself then headed for M103, determined to explore beyond the pitch. So with a 120 foot rope and 170 feet of ladder we headed hopefully in.

After the ladder and belay were set up, we volunteered Gus to make the first descent and he soon disappeared down the tight entrance to the pitch, followed by myself, FB and JF(using a prussick knot as a self-belay). The pitch was found to be about 50 feet with the last 20 feet or so a free climb. At the bottom of the pitch was a stream passage which apparently fills to an appreciable depth when running. The floor and quite a way up the walls was covered with a layer of thick , wet and sticky mud. The passage was followed for about 40 feet before it was choked off with mud. It would appear that we were the first people to enter the stream passage at this point although this is not certain due to the water-washed nature of the passage and the thick mud floor.

KP in the meantime had discovered an apparently unnumbered hole about 300 yards from M103. (No.8 on map.) Gus, FB and JF entered via a 30 foot pitch. They proceeded down through a tight fissure into a small chamber. From here, Gus slid through a very tight (soprano type) squeeze, but quickly retreated when his feet failed to find terra firma. The squeeze was very tight and apparently disappeared over a short drop. Entry to and from this drop would be quite difficult and it was thought that they could perhaps return on another occasion, when they had not been tired previously by digging and investigations into other caves. Thinking that it was a bit

hairy for the moment, they decided to go no further on this occasion. FB then jammed himself while investigating a near vertical squeeze. JF came to the rescue and removed some items from Frank's pockets which enabled him to free himself at the expense of a large piece of trog-suit. Frank later confessed that he had been slightly worried. They returned to the surface swearing and cursing-not a fresher type cave I am assured by Frank.

We returned to camp with intentions of further caving after tea, but managed to talk ourselves out of it. (Ken's influence? -Ed.) A notable event took place after tea; a bean-a-tron was demonstrated. Baked beans showered the camp and provided a little excitement. We are still finding traces of beans in the most unlikely places!

MONDAY 12/4/71 :- Decided to give caving a miss and left for Canberra at 10.45 a.m. Arrived home at about 6.00 p.m.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS:

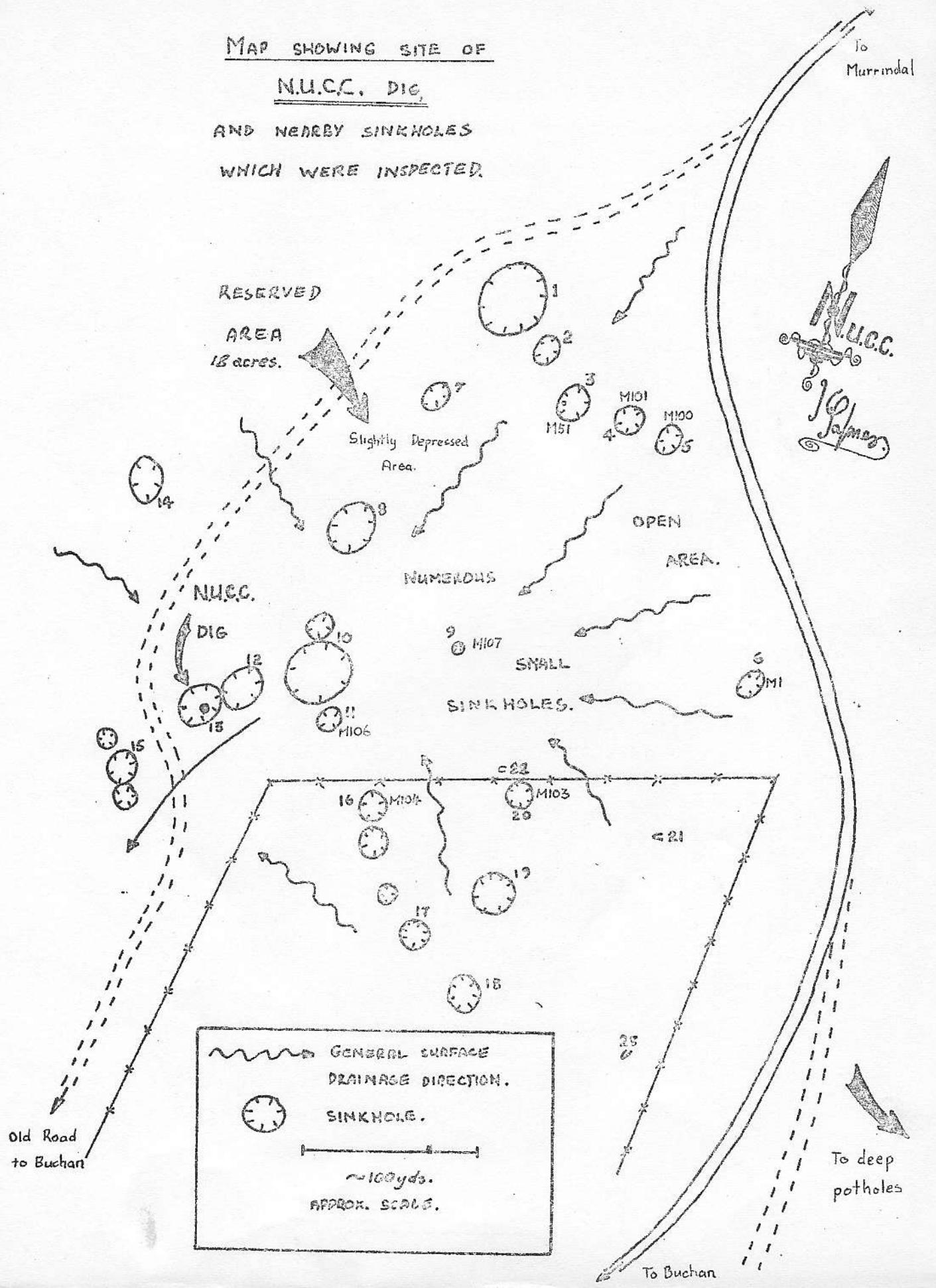
1. A good trip with a fair amount of useful work done.
2. One noticeable feature of the Buchan area was the Buchan blowflies which followed us to the inner-most depths of every cave.
3. The Buchan area has great potential, both for further exploration in known caves and in the opportunities for digs provided by the numerous sinks in the area.
4. Contrary to popular belief, KP did enter a cave. (One only.)
5. See KP's sketch map of sink-hole area for location of dig etc.
6. A pity it is not a bit nearer.

Neil McAllister.

A List of sinkholes and shafts examined by NUCC in the  
18 acre reserve, near Murrindal, Victoria.

- 1) 30' - 40' deep sink, blocked with silt, logs and weeds.
- 2) 10' deep sink, rocks, but no entrances visible.
- 3) 15' deep sink, small entrance drops off at 45°,  
slight draught, - M51.
- 4) Small sink, 10' foot drop to passage, - M101.
- 5) Small sink, 25' drop to passage, - M100.
- 6) Small sink, M1.
- 7) Very small sink, with wire netting covering a hole.
- 8) 20' deep sink, with 35 - 45' shaft, draughts and ex-  
tensions, no number visible, but is probably M53 - M6.
- 9) 20' deep shaft, - M107.
- 10) Large multiple sink, with several possible entrances.
- 11) Wide shaft, about 30 - 40' deep, - M106.
- 12) 25' deep sink, silted up.
- 13) 25' deep sink, shaft dug to 35' by NUCC - 1971, to  
waterworn limestone. Suggested name Ninepenny Pot,  
because of a threepence and sixpence found a few feet  
down.
- 14) 25' deep sink, choked with weeds.
- 15) 25' deep multiple sink, silted up.
- 16) 10' deep sink, - M104 on one side.
- 17) Shallow sink, loose rocks.
- 18) Shallow sink, loose rocks.
- 19) 15' deep sink, loose rocks.
- 20) Shallow sink, 10' drop to passage with 50' pitch to  
silted up stream passage, 20 - 30' long.
- 21) Fissure in limestone outcrop, with rubbish leads to 70'  
of stream passage, choked with flowstone, slight draught.
- 22) Impenetrable hole, drops about 10'.
- 23) 30' deep fissure, M92 or M98.

MAP SHOWING SITE OF  
N.U.C.C. DIG.  
AND NEARBY SINKHOLES  
WHICH WERE INSPECTED.



WYANBENE

20/3/71

Present: Phil Shepherd, Gus Campbell, John Furlonger, Michelle Chamberlin, Dave Gibson, Garth Keppie, Gary Dukes, Dave Hughes, Peter Nicholson, Andrew "Gloria" Thamo, John Fulton, Robert Spencer, Glen Murphy.

After an 8.30 a.m. start at the Botany-Zoology carpark and a good run out to the Shoalhaven, our day's fun and games started. The river was high but we could drive across -just. The Hughes' Morris decided at this point to stop for the first time. From there on it was a case of Dave Hughes stopping and Bob Spencer getting bogged. DH's problem was traced down to a cracked No.1 spark plug, shorting through the distributor cap and assorted other faults. Dave Gibson and John Furlonger managed to get through the mud without suffering any of the varied fates which become possible in those conditions.

A fed (feed? -surely there were no police around...Ed.) outside the cave (collecting entrance fees perhaps? -Ed.) and then everyone trodged up. We divided into two groups, one party led by JF to conduct a familiarisation trip for a number of the freshers who had not seen much on the previous trip, and a survey party of six led by PS.

We were underground while it was still morning for a change. There was a holdup at the Blowhole<sup>@</sup> because the ladder was too short- a 12' trace is needed if the 17' ladder is to be used there. On through the stream passage and thence into Rockfall and Caesar's Hall to the strains of "We're all gonna die".(Very strained.) Song courtesy of Gloria-NUCC's own Tiny Timothy. Four of the people in the survey party had to be introduced to the miner's (which ones?-Ed.) (OOPS-Ed.) dial and to the method of surveying, so we were a while getting started. They quickly caught on and away we went.

We had just started on the survey proper when JF's group arrived by way of Gunbarrel, Barking Dog Chamber and Rockfall Chamber. The cook had not yet got any soup ready so they continued on their way to Diarrhoea Pit (Instead?-Ed.) When they returned, we had obtained readings up to our usual entrance (i.e. Nicholl's Squeeze). From this point up, the chamber roof increases vertical height 30-50' and continues to increase rapidly from this point up the slope. The tremendous volume of rock that has fallen from the roof has accumulated down the entrance side of Caesar's Hall where it has not consolidated particularly. The rockfall is covered with small shale fragments in this top

<sup>@</sup>(where was the fed at this stage? -Ed.)

area, suggesting that the roof of the cavern has reached a shale/limestone interface somewhere above that point. This top section of the cavern is riddled with large holes in the rockpile and would warrant at least a day's exploration. Gus found one passage through to a position very high up in Rockfall Chamber. Some of the holes are quite deep so I suggest that the effort involved in getting ladders in that far might be well worth it.

About this stage, some of the party were begining to tire somewhat, so we packed up and started to move out. JF's group had left about half an hour before us and we caught up with them at the ladder pitch.

We were all up the ladder fairly quickly and JF's group went straight out as soon as they were all there. When we got to the top of the ladder, I kept Gus and Michelle with me to help roll up the gear and sent the rest of my group out. After having collected all the gear, we headed out.

Michelle was the first through the Blowhole and slid down the slope. Unfortunately, she landed awkwardly on her ankle and twisted it badly. Gus went on out to get the first aid kit and came back with Gloria<sup>@</sup>, while I stayed with Michelle and did what I could to make her more comfortable.

When Gus arrived back, an air splint was applied -unfortunately it had a slow leak and was only effective to a limited extent. Pain killing tablets were given and then Michelle was carried/dragged out of the cave.

Outside, Garth had prepared some tea and kept up hot drinks to the patient while everyone else got changed quickly. We managed to cut Michelle out of her trog suit and get her into some dry clothes. Then we had a fun time getting back out again through the mud. DH's machine stopped quite regularly and all were lucky not to become bogged on a number of occasions.

When we arrived back at the river, we found that it had risen a couple of inches during the day. JF, with the patient, had gone ahead and found that he had to cross the river with a couple of people pushing to help the starter motor. When the rest of the group arrived, they too had to be pushed across. 11 people generate a fair bit of motive power! Dave Gibson was the only one who managed to drive across, in his mighty Vee Dub-dub-dub-dub, almost managing to wash his windscreen with the bow wave.

After the crossing DH's Morris died fairly permanently and had to be left out there overnight, but everyone got back to Canberra by 4.00a.m. Sister Sorby was disturbed at 1.30a.m. to look at Michelle's ankle and we offer her our thanks for this service. (<sup>@</sup>Funny-looking FAK Ed.)

When Michelle's ankle was X-rayed the next day at the Hospital, it was

found that she had a hair-line fracture in one of the bones.

DH's car started first try when he went back to get it the next day and replaced the faulty spark plug, and he came back at 50 mph plus. (Wow! -Ed.) Maybe we all should carry spare spark plugs in future.

Phil Shepherd

Wee Jasper; 10/4/71

Present; D.Hughes, D.Shaw, J.Clark, " D.Evans. Leaving Canberra at 8 o'clock we arrived at Wee Jasper at 9.30 am (sic) where we met the Andersons & Co. After procuring a ladder from them we proceeded to Punchbowl where we found there was over an hours wait to begin (sic). Moving on to the Dip we spent about 3½ hours underground. It took Darilyn Evans to find the way into the third extension after the searches of MSSRS. Hughes and Shaw had proved fruitless. On our way out we did our best to avoid a mudfight amongst members of about four other caving groups. We had lunch at 3pm and spent the rest of the afternoon waiting for the Bar-B-Q at 7pm because two of our number showed no inclination to do any more caving. I am literally forced to add that David Shaw demonstrated extraordinary caving ability. (He managed to find the way out -Ed)

Little Miss Darilyn Evans...

Wee Jasper; 10/4/71

Present; M.Brady, H.Brady, D.Anderson, S.Bryant, J.Weddell, R.Sleeman, G.Anderson.

Left Canberra at 8 o'clock instead of 6 o'clock as planned because some among us couldn't whip their young and beautiful bodies out of bed early enough.

Arrived out there at about 10.30 - intended to do Punchbowl so drove straight up there. Found lots of other groups there (including NUSS and Macquarie Univ.) and there were two ladders

on the pitch, so had to wait for turn. Finally got down and spent about 4 hours going through Punchbowl. Followed this up with barbecue and a few tubes down by the creek with Dave Shaws mob who had been doing the Dip. Left for Canberra about 9 o'clock.

Grog Anderson....

(Suggest you take a course in the use of pronouns. -Ed.)

OOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOH.... AAAH!

#### LIMESTONE MINING NEAR WEE JASPER.

Our astute president informs us that he heard on the news a certain report concerning the above mentioned. Nothing further has come to light since the proliferation of this sparkling revelation, also little is known about it. It is presumed, that is thought, by certain persons who shall remain anonymous, that the area referred to above is probably not actually Wee Jasper itself, but rather somewhere akin to the Taemas Black Marble quarry which was closed many a good year ago now. Possibly the quarry is to be reopened, though one might think, and with sound reason too, that transport costs would be somewhat prohibitive, notwithstanding that the transportation of limestone from Cavan Station to where ever is economically viable. If such is or is not the case the question of damage to caves inevitably arises. No caves of any dimensions are known to exist in the area..... Thus obviously there is nothing to concern ourselves about.

Translated from English into flowery trip report language by THE EDITORS....

Seriously though folks, and not joking the report about mining of limestone or marble is true and needs looking into.

COMING EVENTS.

WYANBENE

Thursday 13th. May

Exploration trip. Number limited to six (6).

Contact John Furlonger. (813656).

YARRANGOBILLY

Last week of the holidays. (Permit is for 24-30 May).

We may go for only part of this time.

Exploration, numbering, mapping etc.

Number limited to twelve (12).

Contact Maurice Bell (812637).

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 3rd. June

Physics building.

Attractions: Slides

Supper (for 20¢). Bring a mugg.

Your editors if you really want to see them.

As well as all the usual garbage.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 1st. June.

Meetings Room in the Union.

All members welcome.

etcetcetcetcetcetcetcetcetcetcetcetcetcetcetcetcetcetc.....