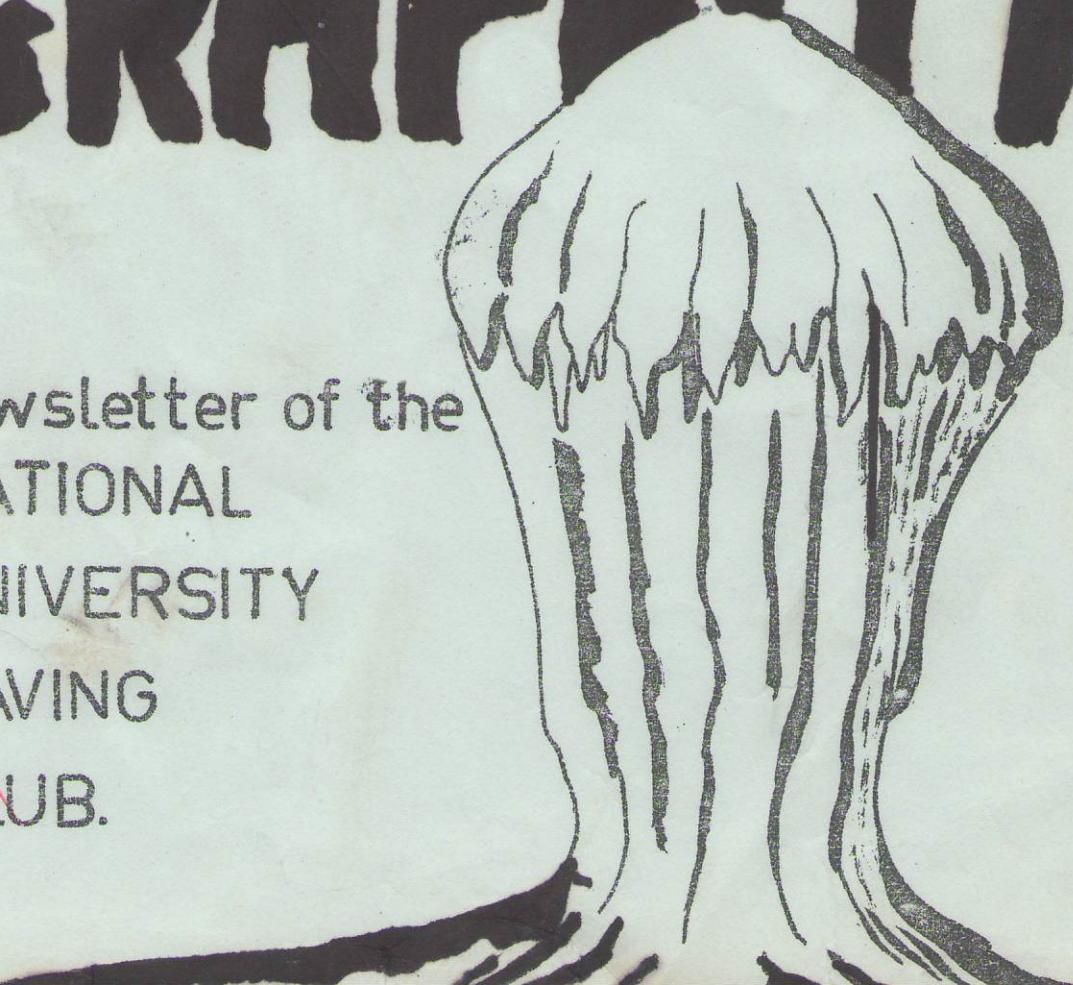


Vol.7 No.2  
April  
1970.

# SPELEO- GRAFFITI

newsletter of the  
NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY  
CAVING  
CLUB.



CAVE SAFETY.

Over the last few weeks safety in caves should have become very important to various members of the club, and to the club as a whole. There has been three accidents during the Easter trip and the Wyanbene trip on 12th April.

I shall outline these incidents for those who weren't there.

The first incident was in IAN'S HAT CAVE M-54 at Murrindal in the Buchan area. IAN'S HAT CAVE is a pot approximately 250 ft deep, involving a 30' and a 50' pitch to a large rock jammed in the fissure, then a 60' pitch to a ledge and a further 50' pitch. John Furlonger was on the ladder 30' below the ledge when a rock was dislodged about 90' above him. As he was being belayed we didn't lose him when the rock landed on his bash-hat. No-one seems to know how the rock was dislodged, but this incident does out the necessity of wearing a protective helmet, and making sure that it is in good condition and replacing it after heavy bashes.

The second incident over Easter had more of an effect on the whole party. It occurred in the ~~MABEL~~ CAVE BB-I at East Buchan. We had passed the first sump and were just coming back from the second sump. To reach the second sump an easy climb of no more than 10' is necessary. John Brush was attempting to climb to a large passage about 20' up the wall. About 15' in one of his handholds gave way. He fell and twisted his ankle. This was enough to stop him from doing any more caving over the weekend. Apart from the fact that he could not do any more caving, the results of the accident were not serious. If they had been, getting him out of the cave would have been very difficult and very painful, even though the cave is not a very difficult one.

Perhaps the worst incident was the one at Wyanbene. Andersons Wall used to be a chimney climb (about 30') with a small hole at the top. The hole was between the roof and a few rocks wedged in the fissure. Two of these rocks are now on the floor of the passage and we are very fortunate that Barry Thomas is not there too. Barry had just climbed the adder, without a belay, and was sitting on top of the pitch leaning against one of these rocks when it fell. Barry also fell but grabbed the ladder before he had gone 3'. Since then several of the older members of the club have commented that they thought that the rock wasn't too safe. Yet we (myself included) still used it as a handhold on the last lift over the ledge.

What can we do to improve our cave safety? Firstly, everyone must be aware, and not just after something has happened but all the time, of the danger element that is inherent in caving. If anyone does get hurt it's very difficult to get them out of the cave and then to medical care. So be aware that caving has its dangers. In any part of a cave, if you have any doubt about your ability to manage something, say so. And if you get stuck try to remain calm; this is very easy to say and not so easy to do. Symptoms of fear, particularly claustrophobia, are usually only evident in moments of stress. If you don't panic but think about your next move you will be able to get yourself out of any situation. It's up to the others in the party to stay calm and reassuring in these situations.

Perhaps the thoughts of the A.S.F Committee on cave safety would be valuable. This 'Code of Cave Safety' was drawn up at the Melbourne Committee meeting in 1968.

1. No one person to go caving alone.
2. Two totally independent forms of lighting to be carried by each person.
3. A suitable safety helmet to be worn underground.
4. Suitable clothing and footwear to be worn.  
(a one piece boilersuit is recommended)
5. Don't take underground anyone who's ability is effected by drugs or liquor.
6. Each caving trip to be under the control of a Tripleader  
Tripleaders to be chosen because of his/her ability, temperament and necessary sense of responsibility and discipline to ensure the safety of the party and the protection of the cavern.
7. Any person ascending or descending a pitch greater than 30' (thirty feet) by means of a cable ladder should be attached to a safety line controlled by a properly secured belay man. No more than one man to be ascending the pitch at any one time.
8. Suitable knots to be used to attach safety lines.  
(i.e. bowline, anchor) NOTE: Use at least one half hitch on tail rope of a bowline.
9. Use alternative means of communication on pitches where unaided voice contact is difficult.
10. Care to be taken with safety lines to avoid damage on sharp projections and certain types of nailed boots.

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- II. Do not use safety lines for abseiling.
- I2. Abseiling to be e imited as much as possible.
- I3. Safety lines, abseiling ropes, cable ladders and man winch ropes not to be used for other than the intended purpose.
- I4. Dry out and inspect for wear and damage all safety lines, abseiling ropes, cable adders and man winch ropes used on each trip. Store safety lines and abseiling ropes in a cool dry place out of direct sunlight.
- I5. Care to be taken with safety lines, abseiling ropes, cable ladders and man winch ropes to ensure that they do not suffer damage during transport from such things as chafing and contact with battery solutions.
- I6. Use only metal ropes on powered man winches.
- I7. Do not use a helmet mounted naked flame light while ascending or descending a pitch.
- I8. First aid kit to be taken on all trips and kept at camp.
- I9. In the event of all persons on a trip being underground leave some indication at camp as to intended programme and expected time of return.
- I10. Do not uncap carbide lamps in confines.
- I11. Avoid reserves supplies of carbide becoming damp.
- I12. Do not engage in horse play, rock throwing etc.
- I13. Do not attempt to force sumps alone or without proper breathing equipment.
- I14. A diving party to consist of at least five (5) members; lead diver, follow-up diver, emergency diver, telephonist, and runner.
- I15. Divers must be attached to a suitable guide-line in all siphons and near siphons.
- I16. Communications must be established through all siphons by the lead diver and maintained by an outside party where considered necessary by the trip leader.
- I17. In entering caves subject to flash flooding some means of effective communication with the surface should be made so that warning can be given to the underground party of a weather change likely to endanger them.

28. Internal combustion engines not to be used underground or on the surface where exhaust fumes are likely to enter the cave.

29. Persons using explosives underground should be experienced in the use of same.

30. Radio transmitting equipment should not be used while firing or preparing explosives for firing especially when electric detonators are to be used.

31. Do not use copper in modifying carbide lamps.

32. Do not construct cable ladders of materials likely to cause electrolysis (i.e. copper ferrules on steel cables)

33. Care to be taken to avoid becoming lost above ground when visiting remote cave areas ( i.e. Bendethera, Nullabor, Kimberley, Camooweal, Tasmania.)

The Editor

SAVE COLOGNE

Letter to the Editor.

Dear Sir,

With reference too the article "On attending the A.G.M.-1970" which appeared in the last issue of this newsletter, I wish to register my protest at theinsulting insinuations this article directed at one of our esteemed members.

I have always found the said gentleman to be extremely intelligent, handsome and in general to possess in abundance all those qualities that make a real man and not just a soapbox orator.

John Furlonger is a fink!

Signed ANONYMOUS.

Ed. There still seems to be some confusion as to who Nolette is, but it has been suggested that 'ANONYMOUS' can tell you this, and also who the Vice Secretary is.

THE GEOLOGY OF THE YARRANGOBILLY, CAVE CK., AND  
LOWER JOUNAMA CK. LIMESTONES.

The Yarrangobilly Lst., up to a mile wide, extends continuously from a little south of Caves House to north of Yarrangobilly village, a distance of about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Much of it forms a level plateau, but the Yarrangobilly River has cut a deep gorge along its western side. The limestone is highly cavernous and many streams draining to the Yarrangobilly River from the east disappear underground. The limestone is generally massive and recrystallised. In the vicinity of Yarrangobilly village the limestone is gently folded and about 1,500 ft thick, (recent mapping by students on the I970, BMR field camp). At the northern end the limestone degenerates into a series of mineralised calc-silicate metamorphic rocks. Metamorphism is due to the intrusion of the Bogong granite and a porphyry. There are several mine shafts in the general area. The limestone is covered in several places by Tertiary olivine basalt. One basalt flow was mapped on top of the limestone hill containing the main tourist caves, this basalt is at a much lower level than other basalts in the area and presumably resulted from the lava flowing into the tertiary valley of the Yarrangobilly River. It may prove of use in dating the formation of certain caves in the vicinity. The limestone is thought to continue at depth for several miles to the north of the village, evidence for this is that the calc-silicate skarn is continued, also at GR963896 there is a 20 ft diameter, 10 ft deep sinkhole. At Jounama Ponds, GR969881 many shallow sinkhole like depressions occur.

The Cave Ck. Lst. is probably a continuation of the Yarrangobilly limestone. The limestone is the remnant of a mass which was originally  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long before metamorphism. The actual limestone occurs at GR940913 and is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile wide. (For a description of this area see the trip report in Speleograffiti, vol.6 no.8.). A small amount of limestone occurs at GR936903 on the southern slopes of Black Perry Mt. The lower Jounama Ck. lst. outcrops on either side of Jounama Ck. Three deposits are known though others may exist. The outcrop at GR924904 is the larger, running roughly NS. and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long. The other limestones have been metamorphosed considerably. All the limestones are of Silurian age and are massive.

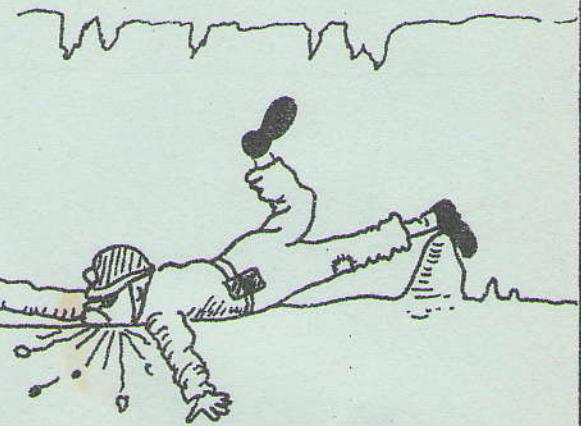
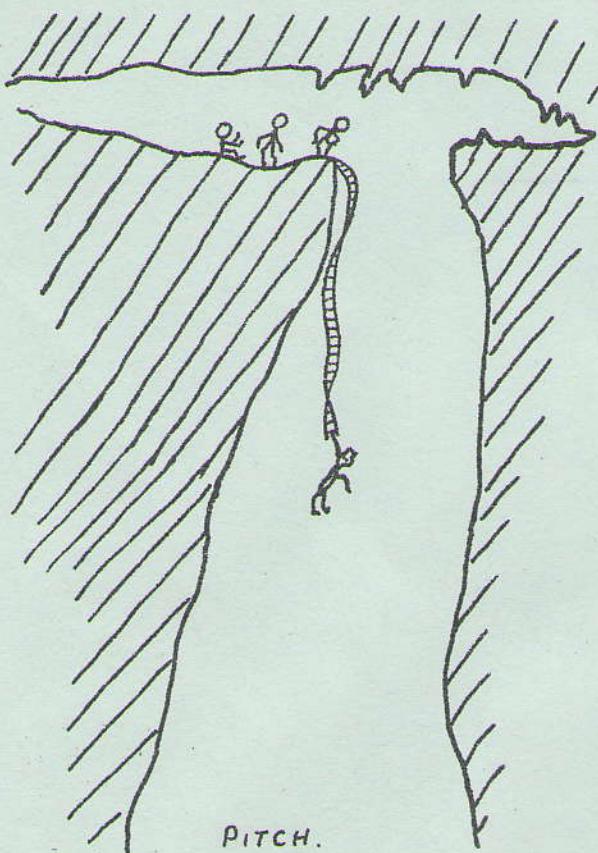
Grid References refer to the S.M.A. Cumberland sheet 1 mile series.

References; The Geology of New South Wales, J.G.S.A. I969.

Tech. Rpt. Dept. Mines NSW. Geology of the Yarrangobilly area. Adamson, I958.

Summary by Ken Palmer.

PITCH: A VERTICAL OR NEAR VERTICAL DESCENT OR ASCENT.



STALAGMITE: A FORM OF SECONDARY PRECIPITATION PROJECTING UP FROM A CAVE FLOOR.



STALACTITE: A FORM OF SECONDARY PRECIPITATION DEPOSITED FROM DRIPPING WATER, HANGING DOWN FROM THE ROOF.



DUCK-UNDER: A PLACE WHERE WATER REACHES THE ROOF FOR A SHORT DISTANCE BUT CAN BE PASSED BY QUICK SUBMERSION WITHOUT DIVING.

WYANBENE SAGA

Any resemblance to real people, living or dead, in the following account is purely coincidental.

I pity those who have never seen  
The glorious depths of Wyambene.  
These poor ones can never know

What it is that makes people go  
Again and again into the waters,  
As often as not to act as porters:

'Twas on April twelfth, a holy Sunday,  
That NUCC went there or so they say.  
They carried weird and wondrous things  
To investigate the underground springs,  
And chemicals and many a balloon,  
The roof of Gunbarrel with which to festoon.

They arrived to find a party of scouts  
Mapping carefully the ins and outs  
Of the first (the tourist) quarter  
Trying to keep out of the water.  
Through this mob waded the NUCC party,  
Somehow managing to keep hale and hearty.

Before this tale doth go much further,  
A description of the group is worth a  
Few lines so that you may realise  
The problems before them and surmise  
As to whether such an assemblage  
Any scientific work could stage.

Morris Whistle was the leader  
Looking around as he freed a  
Leg from an inquisitive stalagmite  
Wandered along with a pack on his right  
And one on his left shoulder - a length  
Indicating his leadership and strength.

No L. Summons was next in charge,  
Staggering not beneath a large  
Bundle containing bottles green and bold  
Which were labelled "Sparkling Rhinegold".  
Alas, no more, you alcohol venerated,  
For these were to be their hydrogen generators.

Next came Equo with his Qantas air bag,  
Still carrying its 'Destination Sydney' tag.  
Some would have it he was hairy;  
Others knew him only as merry.  
He was there with photographics  
To record for others their bawdy antics.

Grog Ansen was his right hand man,  
Resplendent in his all-white tan,  
Verses sung though only half,  
Were sure to raise from Grog a laugh.  
He was to use himself as rule,  
Later to compare with Kambah Pool.

Filly Goatherd was the main diver,  
He looked in need of a liquid reviver,  
Carting along the best wet suit,  
Cursing the water in his boot.  
He observed the cave with consternation,  
Muttering: "Whatever happened to conservation?"

Along the line to Thomas Barry,  
When behind he would not tarry,  
Lest in the dark he be left alone,  
Knowing not which way was home.  
He was headed for Anderson's wall,  
There to induce a rock to fall.

Jon Undergrowth was also there,  
With his tremendous mane of hair.  
His orange trog suit was full of holes  
And for what was he carrying those funny poles?  
He was headed for the famous Gunbarrel,  
There some yards of cotton to unravel.

James Curtsy was last but not least,  
He was carrying a tasty feast,  
For though he was last of the group,  
He had in his bag the unmade soup.  
He was headed for Frustration Lake  
Use of his expensive gear there to make.

Following along a much-travelled path,  
These eight romped on past Cleopatra's bath,  
Thence past the chamber known as Helictite  
Where one member paused to fix his light;  
Until at last they came to that well-known place  
Where each must crawl upon his face.

Along the dank and humid course  
They crept, driven by an unknown force  
To rend their clothes and bruise their knees  
As they did in Aitcheson's Squeeze,  
Swearing and cursing at those clumsy soft packs  
Which some forgot to remove from their backs.

Then 'tis said the group did split  
Into two groups, each to do their bit:  
One to bathe in Frustration Lake  
And the other with balloons to take

To Gunbarrel, there to shed some light  
On the question of that aven's height.

To Gunbarrel went the following four:  
No L., Equo, Grog and Jon -no more.  
They played with balloons and bits of string  
But found out not a single thing  
Except that it is two hundred feet high  
At least-all that two balloons would sky.

Although they did not accomplish much,  
The problem fascinated them such  
That all there vowed to return again  
With a modified source of hydrogen.  
Four hours spent in that foggy chamber,  
They headed for the lake as one member.

Back at the lake in betweentime  
The diving and mapping in the meantime  
Had begun-Morris and Filly were taking their dip  
-Very keen they needed no whip.  
Rolling off the airbeds into the murk,  
The cold themselves up did perk.

They were followed in by Tom and Curtsy  
Who was heard to say:"This water hurtsee  
Head -but that is enough,  
I can take it, I am tough".  
Morris changed out of his wet suit  
To greet the others in muddy trog suit.

They arrived to hear the fearsome story  
Of how Thomas Barry nearly came to gory  
End while climbing up Anderson's Wall  
Where an x ton rock decided to fall.  
After an incident as this was (Hairy)  
All there pledged to be more wary.

'Twas decided then it must be lunch-time  
Not having eaten since seven o'clock munch-time.  
Tom then managed to fool a  
Cold Morris into lending his ruler  
To be placed into the murky gloop;  
Which hopeful stirring might turn into soup.

Sadly, though, the ruler was plastic  
And although these things are quite elastic,  
When placed in hot water tend  
Around and up themselves to bend.  
When Morris got the poor thing back  
Straightness was its only lack.

No L. then espied the water  
And, thinking twice of wife and daughter,

Seized a lilo in his hand  
Blew thereon until expand  
It would no more. Quoth he: "Now the fun,  
I will show how diving's done".

He carefully lined the lilo up  
And putting down his soupy cup,  
He lept and landed in the water,  
Just where that fat old lilo oughter  
Have been.  
But 'twas nowhere to be seen.

As he came up to the surface,  
The others rolled around with mirth as  
His voice with chagrin was loaded:  
"The \_\_\_\_\_ thing has exploded".  
The old lilo had split its sides  
And lost most of its guts besides.

Then 'twas time to head for home,  
But going out some did roam  
Around the bottom of Rockfall Chamber  
Looking for a sand-bottomed chamber.  
By searching carefully around and around  
The entrance thereto was found.

There followed a quick exploration  
With all there going in anticipation  
Of new and wondrous treats  
Following up their earlier feats.  
The chamber though was not very large,  
Being not much larger than a double garage.

They headed then for the entrance light  
But when they got there 'twas already night.  
Having thus spent their day in fun,  
All said: "I'll be back" as one  
- "We will be back now we have seen  
The glorious depths of Wyambene.

Some poor people can never know  
What it is that makes some go  
Again and again into the waters  
Leaving their warm and dry home quarters.  
I pity those who have never seen  
The glorious depths of Wyambene.

JOHN FURLONGER.

Speleomonk entering Wyambene: "Is this just the begining of another  
dirty habit?"

### WYANBENE CAVE.

MAURICE W. BELL. - N.U.C.C.

N.U.C.C. has always seemed to head for this, today very popular ,cave for enjoyment to fullest, because through its length there must be more challenges and more rewards than are found in 90% of the other caves frequented by "spelios".

Wyanbene was the first cave to which I was taken when I first joined the Club and it is perhaps for this reason that I have taken a great interest in it, together with the ingrown idea that N.U.C.C. played a major part in uncovering its secrets.

The first reference to which I make mention is a report entered by O. Trickett on the 31st July, 1899 to the Department of Mines N.S.W. in which he says-

"Sir, I have the honor to furnish the following report on the Wyanbene Cave.

It is reached by travelling over the main road from Major's Creek to Snowball, southerly, for a little over 17 miles. A somewhat indifferent buggy track then leads easterly across the Shoalhaven River and the Wyanbene Creek and follows the southern bank of that creek to the selections of Mr. J. Wyatt. From thence the track runs southerly up a tributary of the Wyanbene Creek to the foot of the range in which the cave is situated,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the main road and 22 miles from Majors Creek.

The entrance to the cave is about 50 feet up the northern slope of the range, about 2,600feet above sea level and 800feet below the top of the range, which is marked by the Trigonometrical Station.

From the entrance a short iron ladder leads down to the subterranean waterway.

This waterway forms the floor of the cave for some 300 feet in a south-south-easterly direction. The total length of the cave as far as explored is, approximately, 400 feet.

Although near the entrance the passage is very low, the cave is generally neasy to travel through.

Chambers occur at intervals which contain dripstone growth in the form of draperies, cascades and canopies, which are somewhat attractive. These formations are mostly of a dark brown colour, but are here and there of lighter tint, and occasionally sparkle with calcite crystals.

The terminal chambers are beautiful, and rise to a height of between 30 and 40 feet. They contain several "shawls", one of which is about 20 feet long and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep. Two columns occur among a series of amber-tinted "draperies". One alcove is marked by a beautiful white crystalline "waterfall", terraced at its upper end and surmounted by "shawl" and other formations. Midway in the cave, in an upper chamber, air occasionally rushes with great force through a small opening, making a noise that can be heard for a long distance away. This may indicate the existence of chambers not yet explored.

The cave at one time contained some semi-transparent white formations. These have all been broken off. The beautiful "shawls", which are unusually long are almost all mutilated, and I suppose the only thing that has saved the cave from entire destruction is the dark tint of most of the formations.

Notwithstanding the mutilation which has taken place, the cave contains sufficient beauty to render it a source of pleasure to local residents, although it may not be sufficiently attractive to repay visitors from a distance for the trouble of travelling to it .

For the protection of the cave an iron gate has been placed at the entrance, and for the convenience of visitors three iron ladders have been erected in suitable positions, and a little excavation has been made in the narrow passage near the entrance. These improvements were completed on the 11th July, 1899, at a cost of £27.12.7 for labour and materials.

I enclose a sketch showing the position of the Wyanbene Cave and of other caves in the vicinity, namely: -- The Cheitmore Caves, the Bendithera Caves, and the Big Hole. The last named is a striking feature. It is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  chains long, 2 chains wide, and 280 feet deep. It occurs in horizontally-bedded sandstone. The sides of the hole are perpendicular, and it is difficult to realise what has become of the material which once filled it.

I have, &c.,  
O. TRICKETT."

Even then in 1899 vandals had been at work removing formation and destroying what must have been once very pretty. It's interesting to note that Trickett makes mention of a hole through which air occasionally rushes which may indicate the existence of chambers not yet explored; what a feeling, standing at that time only 400' from the entrance in a cave later to be extended to almost 3000' and including possibly the highest avon in Australia.

Over the last few months we have made many trips to Wyanbeen, observing, exploring and becoming as familiar as possible with this unusual cave. The last trip being on the 12th of April when Phil Shepherd, John Brush, Noel Call, John Furlonger, Barry Thomas, Greg Anderson, Jim Curtis and myself set out. We arrived and were surprised to find the Illawarra Speleos there with their usual arrangement of 7 landrovers and 7 members together with a contingent of Boy Scouts which would have made Baden Powell jump to attention. The Illawarra group were doing a good job in breaking in these Scouts to caving in the right way and in fact the only way, namely first and foremost Speleology.

Our plan for the day being to try and measure Gun Barrel's height, and to attempt a superficial dive of the Lake to sum up its potential, we divided into two groups, Noel taking one through the Gun Barrel and myself the other, to the Lake.

Wyanbene is formed in a relatively small pocket of Limestone, upper Silurian in age and as is noted greatly in the stream passage, relatively highly fossiliferous, and as is the case with limestones of this type, it is extremely well jointed at rightangles with the most prominent joints running N-S. In several places throughout the cave large joints running parallel to each other or sloping in towards the top have caused huge rocks to have collapsed in, leaving large chambers such as that comprising Caesars and Rock Fall. In fact in almost every part of the cave one is reminded of the fissure nature of this cave.

Entering the normal way by means of a passage now literally an obstacle course with Scouts, pieces of string, precarious candles, and cheery faces, we reached Blowhole through which a strong out-flowing breeze was blowing, we all passed quickly through and once down the other side, moved on along the stream passage. The creek seemed to be once again at the same level as it has been

To the stream passage once again, until you reach Aitchesons by-pass, a small solution hole passing from the stream up and into the fissure, the walls of the fissure are now covered and in fact this is so for the rest of the way to Caesars, with dog tooth crystals of calcite, extremely beautiful in their minute accurateness for detail and purity.

To the right at this point lies the aven area; an area consisting of vertical fissures crossing and cutting each other into halves etc. These original fissure cracks, phreatic in nature were then dissolved wider until once again fluvial processes could act, scouring and scolloping the walls and showing areas of box work, aragonite fracturing precipitation, the crystal growth of which is indicative of a phreatic origin. Large blocks of this crystallised fracture plane aragonite was observed. The sides of many of these avens were coated with mud and clay, extremely fine grained in nature and of a consistency not welcomed to the prostrate position one must assume for movement in these areas.

Many of the avens are well over 200' high, however, no accurate measurements have been carried out in this region. Coral formation is common of the wall formation also indicating a phreatic past.

Leaving the avens and passing quickly on through a definite stream passage of dimensions considerably longer than todays present stream, you come to Aitchesons squeeze which being only 9" high, often causes sighing etc. from un-christened cavers but once through here the fossil stream passage is again resumed until after passing through a further small right passage, one emerges in a tunnel which connects with Rockfall first discovered by Geof Marchant and Nevill King (both of N.U.C.C.) in March, 1965.

To the right from this position one can enter Gun Barrel, an aven of immense proportions and a report by Noel Call will be included at a later date, needless to say however, this aven is a highly spectacular feature of Wyambene.

A direct fissure link is available to Rockfall from Gun Barrel and from Rockfall to Caesars is only a short squeeze and passage, a route found in March 1967 by David Nicholls and which makes the precarious climb over the roof not necessary. Caesars Hall is an enormous cavern over 350' high and 300' in length with the tremendous amounts of rubble on its floor, large blocks presumably, as already stated, having fallen in leaving the chamber as such and dividing it from Rockfall.

Meanwhile beneath this massive debris pile the small stream passage winds until at the very base of Rockfall chamber, a series of flowstone pools are formed, the first since entering the cave more than 1700' of passage.

At the base of Caesars Cavern the stream passage is a walkable height passage however its base is several feet beneath the stream flow and beneath the stream flow 2-3 feet of thick finely sorted mud with which one becomes so familiar between now and the end of the cave.

Calcite and aragonite crystals clutter the roof in a distant display which if close examination were possible, would prove a delight to Speleo and mineralogist alike. However it is probably because of their inaccessibility that they remain in their present condition.

since I can remember; it does remain, I believe, at a fairly constant level, and what fluctuations do occur, I believe to be due more to the water from the avon's area rather than from the Lake, as the Lake has always been at the same level whenever we have observed it (under a variety of conditions, namely after rainy periods etc.). The stream seems to stay at a fairly constant 43-47 F degrees and the temperature of the cave itself between 53-57 F degrees and always a high humidity of about 98%. Passing along this watercourse, it is a good chance to observe the gravels in the bed which are very well rounded and truly the whole section here is under fluvial attack, an assumption obvious with the scolloped walls and pit marks and the well rounded rocks which although largely limestone, there are many composed of sandstone, a layer of which exists overlying the limestone many hundreds of feet above, in many cases.

The stream is showing a characteristic meandering pattern whereby it is undercutting many of the walls; also to be noted is the velocity with which it is flowing, subsequently no precipitation and therefore formation of rimstone pools occurs for much of its course; after Caesar's in fact, the point where the stream from Gun Barrel joins it, another factor to influence my earlier statement.

One soon reaches Cleopatra's Bath, being a beautiful group of rimstone pools about 40' above the stream level, filled to about 2' in depth with crystal clear water and ringed by shawls displaying a myriad of as yet disfigured colours, mainly whites and crystallizing yellows and browns.

Behind Cleopatra's Bath is a small Grotto bearing once again some magnificent helictites some up to 5" or 6" in length and contorted in all manners of transparent figurines.

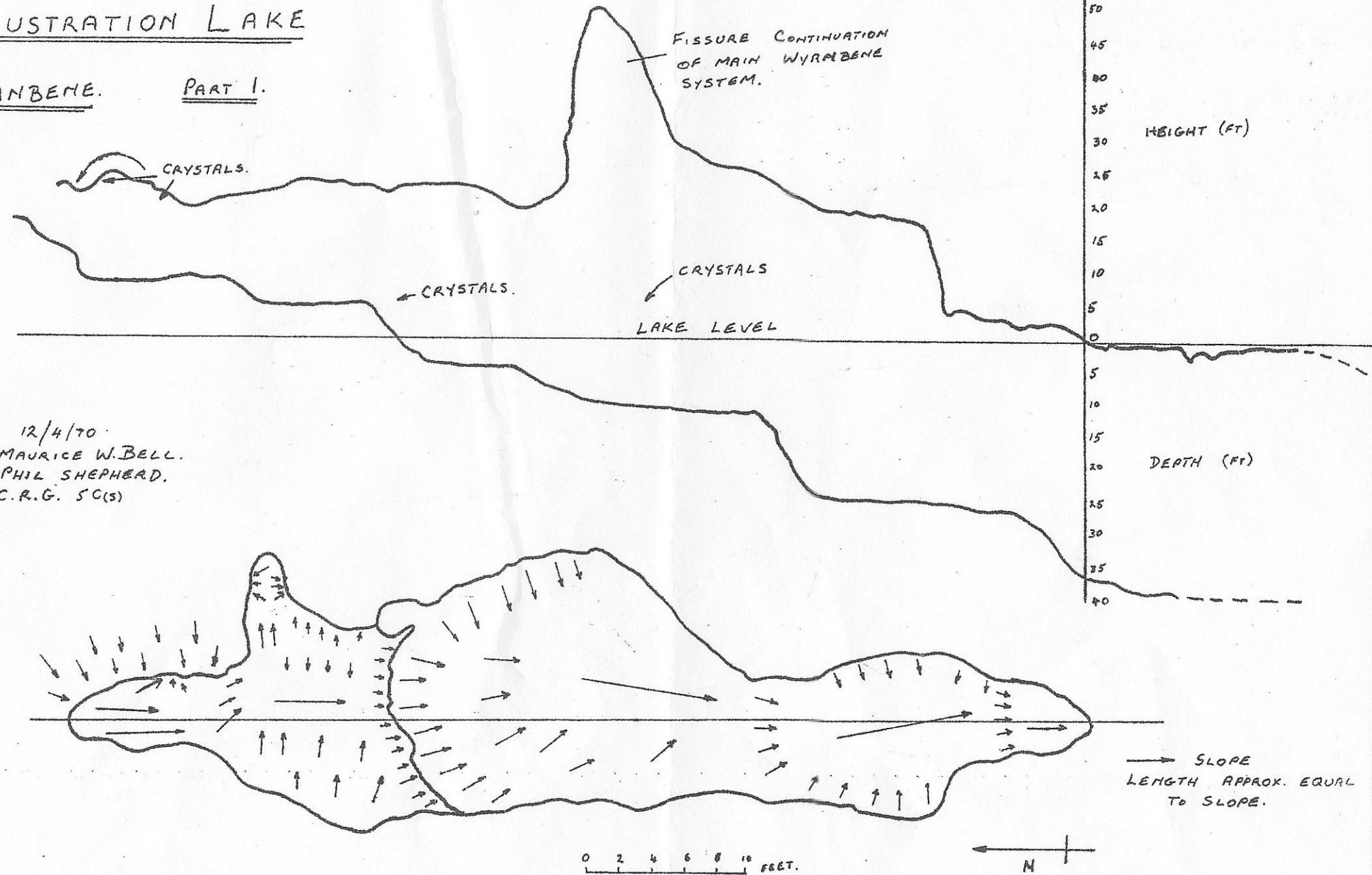
On past Cleopatra's Bath you pass through a series of openings beneath canopies of flowstone, glittering and sparkling, forming structures amazing to any true speleo and being marred only the remainder of a thoughtless individual, a solitary footprint or handprint. The stream continually runs in the lower corner of a large fissure along which you may walk on the debris fallen from the shatters already mentioned, which caused their formation. Until finally, you have to face the inevitable -- the wet stretch, approx. 200' of crawling in the 43° F water. However, much interest lies also in this passage. Once again the stream floor is scolloped and in places polished smooth, to reveal the wonderful array of fossil shells, molluscs, also crinoid stems of sizes well worth observing. The stream had itself shown several different past levels, 3 fossil levels are evident and it was suggested that these may coincide with different levels in Frustration Lake, more correlation and measurements are however needed.

Part way along this crawlway, a cavern or once again the fissure, may be entered on the right-hand side. This chamber, called Helictite, was so named for its magnificent show of what must be over a thousand square feet of helictites jutting out from the wall, even a complete MOBIUS strip existed 9-10" in diameter and possibly 2" high; so breath-taking are these helictites that many people wanting to keep this fond memory broke off a specimen so they may always have a momento of finding a truly beautiful and unique formation. This chamber is now just another chamber with helictites. The cause for the phenomenal growth of helictites in Wyanbeen must be the extremely high humidity factor and constant 53 - 57° F temp.

# FRUSTRATION LAKE

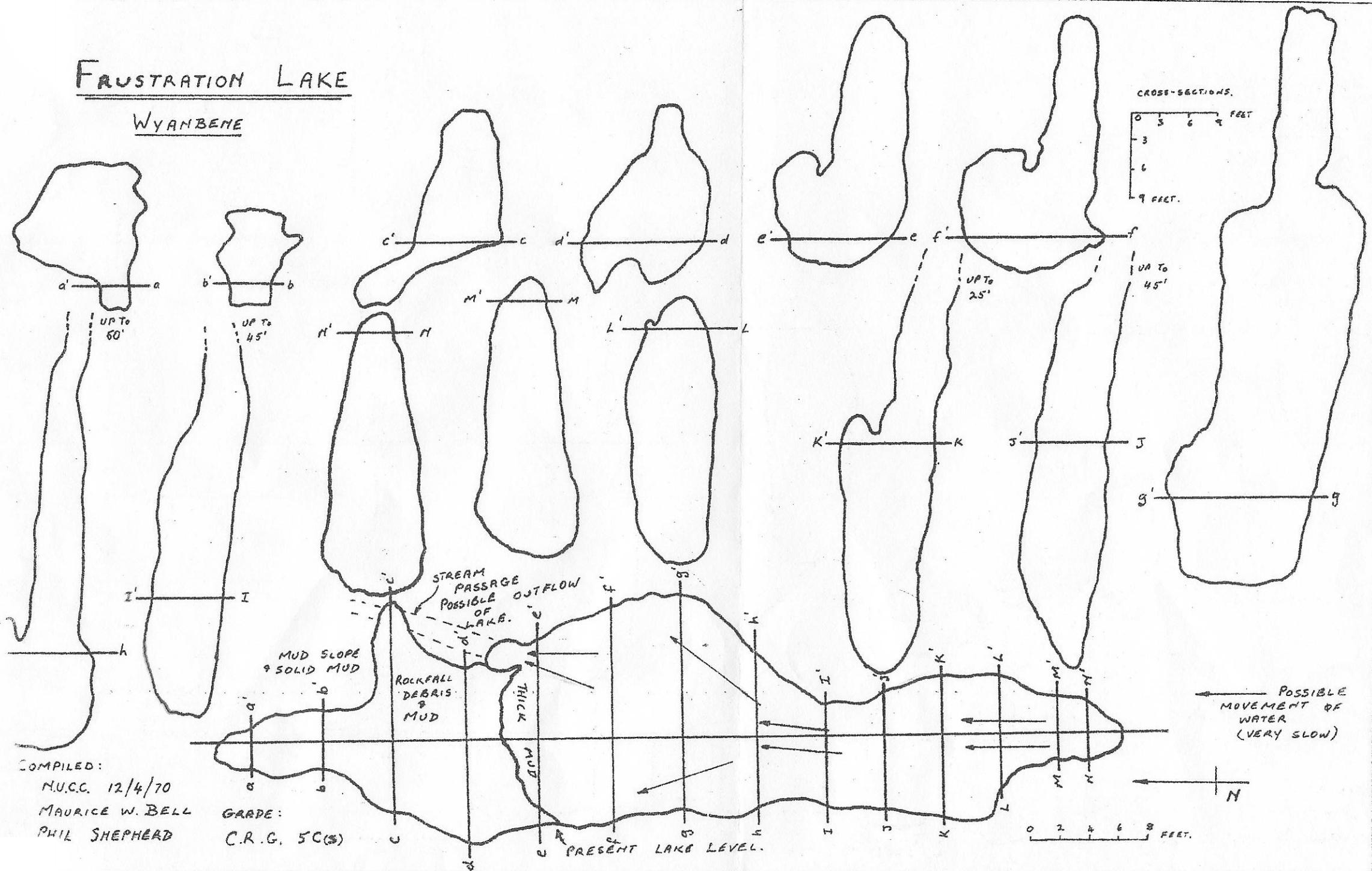
WYANBENE.

PART 1.

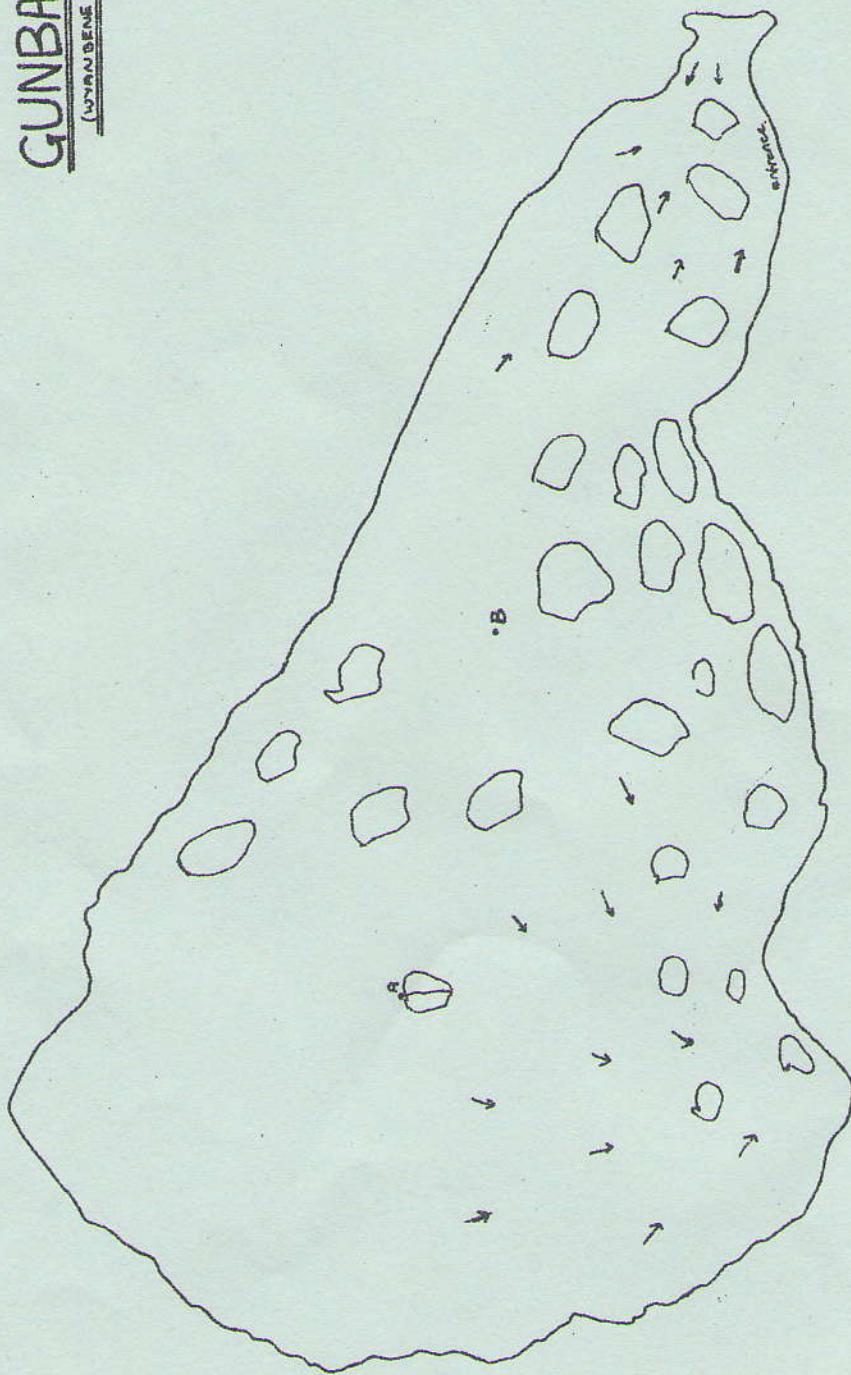


# Frustration Lake

WYANBENE



GUNBARREL  
(WYOMING Caves.)



Station A - Point of release  
of Helium Balloon.  
Height reached ~350ft.

Chamber mapped by  
J. Brush, J. Furlogue,  
G. Anderson & N. Call  
Using Prismatic compass  
and marked  
String.

$$1'' = 10 \text{ ft.}$$



Leaving Caesars to its majestic silence, exit is made via a small chute way down into Diarrhoea Pot, another of these 25-30' wades in thigh deep, fine mud. From this point to the Lake progress is relatively tiring, consisting of a series of climbs up and down 20' - 40' pitches. These small climbs etc. are a result of rockfall build up within the fissure. The stream flows at the base of this beneath the rubble. The first two climbs and drops are quickly negotiated with a little experienced skill, particularly Chamber Pot which is situated such that an error or flaw in your abseiling and I use the term loosely, technique and you find yourself up to your chest in water and up to your? your? your? bina with mud and extraction is difficult and usually embarrassing for the leader.

The first two climbs being behind, you now reach Andersons Wall, a large area of rubble and rock, in the fissure to a height of 25-30', the fissure at this place being 4-5' wide. The chimney was easy and prior to the last trip the only difficulty was in negotiating the small hole, well known to those who have done so; all ye who have, probably took a good firm hand hold on the large rock wedged in the hole, 6' long and about 3' in diameter and boosted yourself through the hole; well, now the rock may be used to stand on and look up at where it was, and if careful examination of the rock is made one might find the finger-prints of the last person to use this rock as a handhold. This can't help but drive home the point about cave safety, here a rock many have used, I know I have, as a support, and we almost became too sure! Luckily and I mean luckily, no-one was injured. Remember! Ever alert, never certain about anything!

Descending the opposite end of Anderson's Wall to the creek once again, one notices immediately the thick coating of mud on the walls and also that the fissure is very narrow, 10-12 feet with the stream flowing along its path only two feet wide and likewise height, it would not take much to block it up. I will refer to this point later.

From this position on, the fissure debris is negotiated over a series of blocks etc. constantly dropping to stream level. Then finally through a hole in the debris which completely closes the top half of the fissure with tightly packed rock and rubble leaving only this small 4x4 foot hole at its base as well as the small 2x2 foot or 3x2 foot stream passage close at hand, again easily dammed.

After this a small climb up a solid rock bank, covered in mud and about 10 feet high, and you're at Frustration Lake, 800 feet beneath the hill and the deep tranquil waters showing no movement or evidence thereof.

Two striking features are noticed at this point on the ceiling or close to it on the wall, are an amazing growth of crystals, these being situated 25' above the present level of the Lake. The crystals are quite old and growth is not active; in fact most appear to be decomposing slightly and on doing so they fall off.

There are 4 major clusters of crystals, two at a high roof level and two plus many minor ones, about 2' below this level. The major clusters comprise large numbers of long, branching, straight pointing, antler fashion crystals, being snow white in appearance and glistening when light shines on them, the longest are up to 9" in length.

On closer examination of pieces fallen off, Dr. Eggleton of the Geology Dept. A.N.U. and myself verified that there were aragonite, that is  $\text{CaCO}_3$ , and forming in the typical orthorhombic system as groups of acicular, radiating columnar crystals. These crystal clusters it was estimated would take up to roughly 30 - 50 years to grow in water solution. Now, since it is unlikely that these formed by any means other than in the lake filled 25 feet above its present level, I assume that the Lake once completely filled this area and to do so it must have been blocked at either of the two places I mentioned earlier and remained static at that level for some time, sufficient to enable these crystals to grow. Another series of crystals is seen 5' above the present water level and 2' above it. The 5' and 2' coinciding with two mud terraces built up as platforms at this end (north) of the Lake. A consecutive arrangement of step-like terraces also exists beneath the Lake (see Map P.1) showing in all 6 different terrace levels of the Lake which meant that at one time in the past the Lake was much lower than it is now and that it has also been much higher than it is now.

A possible sequence to its history is as follows -- the Lake chamber extended possibly as a stream flowing in the base of the fissure right to Anderson's Wall, next a collapse of material occurred here or closer at the 2nd position suggested, blocking the whole stream and filling the fissure. The stream continues to flow past Caesars as Gun Barrel and the avens continue to supply the stream there. However, next the water builds up until it forms the level at which the highest crystals grow, it stays at this level perhaps 30-50 years finding its way through the rubble until suddenly it completes a route through at which time the lake drops to the level 10' above present; here it remained again allowing a 2nd lot of crystals to grow; these are smaller in size, perhaps only 15 - 20 years until once again it finds its way free through the stream passage used to-day, when it drops to the level 3' above present and the 3rd lot of crystals, small now and only 10-15 years, when it dropped to the level below now. The final three terraces are less easy to explain on evidence found so far, however, perhaps the levels dropped due to another outlet, then this outlet was filled so that the Lake again rose to its outlet seen today at which it has been static for some time and doesn't appear to vary with rainfall.

Phil and I changed into wetsuits and together with flippers and goggles and lilo's for support, went to the Lake's end -- we belayed each other which enabled us both to get an idea of the Lake past this point.

Since our lights penetrated approx. 30' - 40' we cannot say much more than the Lake chamber passes into another chamber which we have called April chamber, the roof of which shows some massive formation and is situated only approx. 4" beneath water level. The Lake itself goes down and outwards (see Map 2) and there is a good probability that this chamber goes; however, it is clear that full scuba gear is needed.

Following this freezing, brass monkey stunt, measurements for the map were taken and it was noted that the water made dirty by stirring the mud, cleared quickly at the far end, indicating a flow of fresh water from some source.

About this time the other party arrived and whilst soup was being prepared, Sir Noel decided to grace us with a demonstration on cave diving having read a recent article? Meticulously he placed a lilo on the Lake, stood, fully clothed, on the mud shore, then gracefully launched himself into the air; all seemed to be going well until he hit the lilo. Having just dived through he surfaced with a somewhat deflated ego, not to mention the lilo and proceeded to freeze; about this time it was decided that we should leave for the surface, on the way out looking for a chamber mentioned in the past history of the club which proved to be nothing new and we emerged about 9.45 having spent 10<sup>3</sup><sub>4</sub> hours underground.

Wyanbene is certainly a fascinating cave and as yet no good survey has been undertaken until now and N.U.C.C. is continuing C.S.S. work to survey it thoroughly.

It is wise to remember when visiting this cave not to underestimate its capabilities because extended periods of time in 57° F temps. soaked to the skin by 43° F water and constantly burning energy is no mean trick. Beware of this and much interest and enjoyment can be gained from this cave.

If anyone will try to look after this cave along with all others it will be just as exciting for future club members already carbide has been emptied in various places, and batteries and bulbs are thrown on the floor. The damage is not great, yet, in many parts, but it is very disappointing and depressing to visit Helictite these days so be wise, take pride in knowing that people will come after you and enjoy the sights you see, as much as you did.

MAURICE W. BELL

TRIP LEADER.

Present: Maurice Bell, Phil Shepherd, John Brush, John Furlonger, Noel Call, Barry Thomas, Jim Curtis, Greg Anderson.

Left Canberra around 9.00a.m.; 5 in Noel's FC and 3 in Phil's ute. Arrived at Wyambene somewhere before 11.00 to discover a great mass of tents (16 in all) pitched on the flat near the river. On reaching the cave, we discovered they belonged to Illawara Speleological Society and associated party of x thousand scouts (of both sizes and all sexes).

Entered cave about 11.30 to find more scouts trying to map the section before Blowhole (there was no competition further in). Maurice, Phil, Jim and Barry proceeded straight to Lake Chamber taking wet suits and a minimum of climbing equipment. Noel, John<sup>2</sup> and Greg went first to Gunbarrel which we mapped, then attempted to measure its height with hydrogen balloons. Two balloons were tied together and reached 195 feet but were not big enough to support the cotton above this height. Balloons rose above this height and disappeared out of sight when they were released without the cotton. They're still up there somewhere. (Anybody on future trips keep an eye out for them.—Ed.) So Gunbarrel is higher than 200 feet.<sup>x</sup> The success obtained was due to Noel's efficiency and good planning. John F. got some good photos (we hope).

All this took about 4 hours and it was about 3.30 before we left Gunbarrel to join the others in Lake Chamber. They had explored and mapped the lake by diving from lilos. By the time we arrived they were convinced that the cave continued on the other side of the lake, the lake itself being a deep (and long) sump.

After our arrival, Phil and Maurice completed their survey by taking depth readings using JB's plumb-bob. Noel made soup which was drunk out of soup packets (there being only one cup between 8 blokes). Noel insisted on exploring the lake for himself and managed to burst one lilo by diving on it from the bank in order to keep as dry as possible— it all looked mighty funny. (JB didn't think so, as it was his lilo.)

We left Lake Chamber around 6.30p.m. and did some exploration in Rockfall on the way back. The "large chamber with a sandy bottom" described in earlier reports was rediscovered. This chamber appears not to have been entered for a number of years. It has a small stream passage leading off

from it and this could warrant further exploration.

We finally emerged around 10.00p.m. A rather long but enjoyable day and a significant trip in the history of the club.

GREG ANDERSON.

~~x~~ An attempt using helium balloons was made on 2nd. May and found that Gunbarrel is about 350ft. high. Wait for the full report in the next issue of SpeleoG. -Ed.

SPRING CREEK

15/4/70

Present: Dave(Four and twenty...) Gibson and I.

Transport: Four wheeled Wobbly and auxiliary feet.

Aim: To investigate reports of caves on Spring Creek, made by an English research student in the Geology Department.

Results: One "cave", 10 feet long, 42mls. of sweat and the knowledge that the Mt. Creek hillclimb has been sealed -to the anguish of the rally drivers in the club.

Conclusions: "All pommies are @%&\*".

KENNY (POO) PALMER.

Guess who is trying for the 1970 Golden Quill award? -Ed.

"Forty-three beaners in every cup"-M.W.B.

Mt. COREE / COTTER (Paddy's River to some)

21/3/70

Present: John Brush, David Shaw, Barry Thomas, John Furlonger, M.G.W.  
& one (sort of).

Left Canberra about 9.00a.m. after a drastic (20%) cut in the size of the party that morning, and after dodging graders and gravel trucks, which were doing their best to destroy the road, we arrived at Mt. Coree about 10.30a.m. A.N.U.M.C. was also there, so the cliffs were veritably crawling with people for most of the day (at least until the rain started).

We showed Dave and Barry a few things (e.g. bowline and double fishermans knots) and then taught them the basic techniques involved in abseiling on a fairly short (40') pitch. After they had developed sufficient confidence in their new-found ability, we stopped for lunch and then moved up onto Windy Buttress, where the long rope was set up for a much longer abseil (c.120'). M.G.W. arrived at about this stage and stayed around for sufficient time to go down once. It was raining intermittently by then - showers could be seen as they approached right across the ranges - so we decided to pack up and go home.

A short visit was paid to Cotter Cave (sic) on the way home and we spent an absorbing few minutes wandering around in the forest behind the cave trying to find a track out because nobody had thought to bring a compass or something. It was getting fairly late by then so we called it a (wet among other things) day and headed back for Canberra.

I find it disappointing that so few of the new members of the club saw fit to come along on a field day trip such as this, as these trips are, after all, organised largely to teach others techniques which will be of considerable benefit to them should they continue to go on club trips. Discussion with the more experienced members of the club indicates that I am not alone in this opinion. I hope the next field day will have a somewhat larger attendance than this one did.

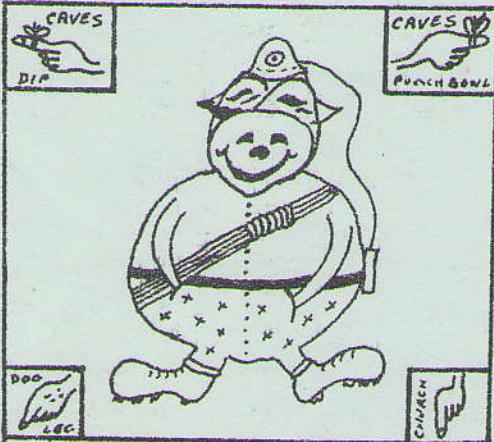
JOHN FURLONGER.

NUCC fresher out of Wyambene: "I have never come across such filth in all my life".

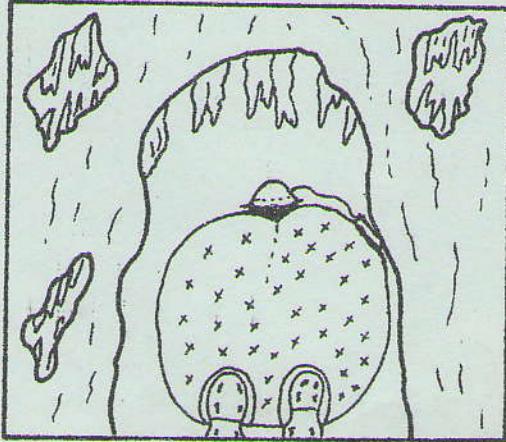
My apologies to N.C., I have just discovered that I spelt 'across' incorrectly in the above trip report. JRF.

# LET'S GO CAVING WITH DICK FURRY!

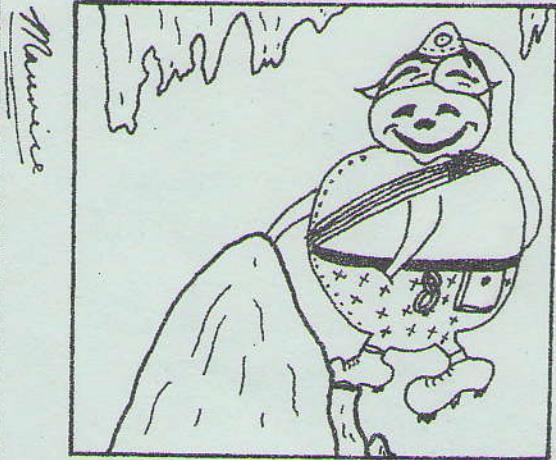
(A TRUE'S TORY FROM THE FILES OF N.U.C.C.I.)



FURRY WAS A HAPPY CHAP, A PERSON WHO EVERYONE TURNED TO LOOK AT WHEN HE PASSED.



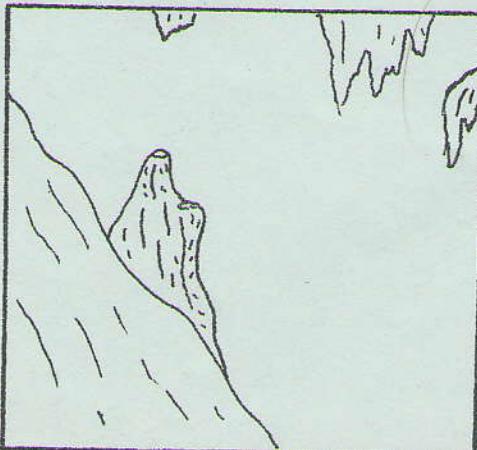
YOU SOMEHOW KNEW WHEN FURRY WAS LEADING. IF HE GOT THROUGH SO COULD YOU.



HIS POISE & APPLUMB WERE 2ND TO NONE, AS WAS HIS PHYSIQUE.



HIS DEEP BARITONE VOICE COULD BE HEARD RINGING THROUGH THE CAVES



BUT ONE DAY.....



AND NOW HE SINGS SOPRANO. BUT PEOPLE STILL TURN & LOOK AT HIM.

MB.