

EMAST  
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# SPELEOGRAFFITI.



The Newsletter of the

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB.

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CREDITS

EDITOR : Peter Hart

COVER : John Briggs in a hole in the upstream end of Narrengullen cave.  
Entitled "Reliving a bad childhood experience with holes".  
Drawn from a slide by Peter Hart.

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### E D I T O R I A L

Firstly, let me apologise for the lateness of this issue of Speleo-G. Originally I was planning to get it out by May but slackness prevailed as you can see.

On a brighter note, I would like to say that I have enough material on hand for another 2 or 3 issues so that with some help I should be able to get them out. One of the reasons for the amount of material is the number of trips being run; almost every weekend we have been going somewhere. It would be good to see some of the new people who joined at the beginning of year on some of these trips, as well as the more experienced members.

As some of you may be aware, an application for a mining exploration licence was recently lodged for the Wyambene area. Adrian Davey prepared an excellent objection on behalf of ASF and the application will probably be rejected. I hope to publish this objection in the next issue of Speleo-G.

Also, I was glad to receive from Gordon a "letter to the Editor". Good work, let's have more of them.

Remember, if you want to contribute, just place the relevant material in the club's pigeon hole at the top of the stairs in the Sports Union squash court area.

Peter Hart  
EDITOR.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

In reference to your article on the Marble Arch trip contained in this edition, I feel I must rebuke considerable half truths and innuendos in this article concerning my driving ability. It should be pointed out that the said "Jag" has like all good sports cars, a low ground clearance. There is no doubt in my mind that this was the real reason for the superficial scratch occurring on my car. Any suggestion that it was a result of incompetent driving is to be categorically denied.

Whilst on the subject of driving, I feel mention should be made of one further incident on this trip. Whilst driving from Marble Arch, Mr. Hart went the wrong way and on his return to the correct track managed to become indisputably bogged. Surely this is incompetence at the highest order. He managed to do this in a mere puddle. As my car was ahead we had continued to Big Hole unaware of Mr. Hart's folly. After taking all the gear to the Hole, I became concerned at Mr. Hart's lateness and so walked down to the track only to meet John Briggs. This poor gentleman had been forced to walk from Marble Arch to Big Whcle to get us. One wonders why the man who caused this whale catastrophe did not walk back himself. The cynical amongst us saw it as a ploy to monopolize the female company on the trip. Could this be true, Mr. Hart?

I hope in future that more constraint is exercised in future in the publishing of such blatantly libellous material.

Yours sincerely,

(RALLY CHAMP G.T.)

to the uninitiated GORDON TAYLOR.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1977/78

Well, the 14th year of our club's existence has drawn to a close, and looking back a number of noteworthy events have occurred.

Certain projects have either been started or brought from a state of dormancy.

The survey of Y7, North Deep Creek cave at Marrangobilly, now in its 7th year, resurfaced as a club project early in 1977 and should be completed during the Easter trip this year.

In the latter part of 1977, survey of little known parts of Wyambene main cave commenced with the club's newly acquired survey gear, and this too should be completed during the May term break.

1977 also saw an assault trip on Wyambene main cave with a scaling pole, a somewhat masochistic task, which demonstrated that the club has a good number of keen members.

Interclub relations have been excellent during the past year due to a number of factors. Some NUCC members are also members of other A.S.F. groups and this has led to a number of joint club trips and close liaison.

In addition the 1977 Nullarbor expedition was attended by 3-4 NUCC members and this too has improved interclub contact, a practice to be actively encouraged.

Club activity has remained fairly constant throughout the year with an average of 1 trip every 2-3 weeks, a slight increase over the previous figure, and one which will hopefully be bettered in the next report.

Monthly meetings throughout 1977 were well attended and each had a guest speaker, a practice which was welcomed by members and which is to be continued.

On a concluding note, I wish to express my thanks to most of the committee for its assistance during the past year, and also the Sports Union, without which the club's life would be much more difficult indeed.

Also, a special thank you for John Furlonger for enabling us to use the Chemistry Lecture Building and its facilities for meetings throughout the year.

I wish the 1978/79 committee every success in the management of the club and I hereby indicate that I am willing to stand for the position of President again.

Thank you,

PETER HART

(NUCC PRESIDENT 1977/78)

### EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

This year has been a most successful year equipment wise. At last we have found a permanent place where the equipment can be spread out and properly stored (namely my basement). I feel this enabled easier access to the gear and consequently it was used more. In all it was borrowed 40 times.

During the year the number of serviceable lead-acids was gradually increased. Nevertheless many of the batteries will not hold a very large charge. Several new batteries would be a worthwhile investment for '78. The purchase of the new Suunto surveying instruments proved most useful and they have this far been used in several surveys. It should be noted though that the Suunto inclinometer, if immersed in water, becomes inoperable due to water behind the eyepiece.

During the year the inflatable boat suffered a puncture which has been fixed. The First Aid kits require a thorough examination and update, a task which needs to be attended to as a matter of urgency. One gripe I would like to mention is the condition gear is returned in. This year much of the gear was returned muddy, and with ropes uncoiled, while one particular incident in which several carbides were returned unemptied was not appreciated. All gear should be returned in the condition it is borrowed.

Gear lost this year included:

- 2 krabs
- 1 ladder trace.

Gear written off because of unsatisfactory condition includes:

- 1 tape measure
- 2 helmets.

Gear in need of repair includes:

- First Aid Kit
- Carbide lamps
- Several lead acids
- 2 ladders.

The attached list is a list of the gear currently held by the club.

8 30' ladders  
5 50' ladders  
600' Bluewater rope (3 lengths)  
6 # 4 Nylon ropes  
14 lead acids (several dead)  
2 chargers  
11 carbide lamps (8 complete)  
2 First Aid Kits  
23 Bash hats  
Karabiners  
4 pr. prussikers  
1 36' Scaling Pole  
1 Inflatable boat  
12 Belts  
1 Bag  
4 rappell racks  
4 Hofsprings  
3 pitons  
1 pr. Suunto compasses

Equipment Officer's Report (contd.)

+ copper nails, star drill, G pick, brace-n-bit, metal tape,  
fibreglass tape, compass and tripod, rowl bolts, 2 flags, 1 sign.

G. TAYLOR  
Equipment Officer 1977

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE PERIOD 28/2/1977 to 28/2/1978

Bank Balance at 28/2/77.....	\$85.92
Petty Cash at 28/2/77.....	23.35
	<hr/>
	\$109.27
	<hr/>

INCOME

29 full members fees @ 3.00	\$87.00
4 assoc. " " 1.00	4.00
Bank Interest	3.02
Map sales	7.50
Equipment Hire	7.00
Sports Union - fees grant	93.00
- Maintenance	1.80

EXPENDITURE

ASF Fees @ 3.00 member	\$87.00
Equipment purchases	23.75
Maintenance	1.80
Book purchases	24.70
"Speleograffiti"	17.50
Stationery, etc.	11.16
Supper supplies	7.15
Cheque Book Fee	1.25

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\$203.32

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\$174.31

(Total Income + balance at 28/2/77) - (Total expenditure)  
= (203.32 + 109.27) - (174.31) = 138.28

Bank balance at 28/2/78 .....	131.69
Petty Cash at 28/2/78 .....	6.59
	<hr/>

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\$138.28

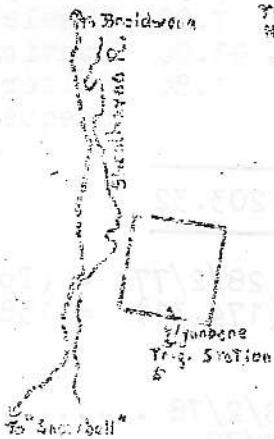
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

M. Webber  
(TREASURER)

# MINING ACT 1973

Notice is hereby given that an application for an Exploration Licence has been lodged with the Mining Registrar at Goulburn over the land described hereunder and enclosed by solid lines on the accompanying plan.

The area is about 16 square Kilometres. The north-west corner is situated at a distance of about 37 kilometres on a true bearing of 193 degrees from the Township of Braidwood and a distance of about 17.5 kilometres on a true bearing of 21.5 degrees from the Township of Adelong. The north-east corner may be more particularly described as being situated within the Parish of Wyambene, County of Damarra at a distance of 4.2 kilometres on a true bearing of 35 degrees from Wyambene Trigonometrical Station. From the north-east corner of the application area thence 4 kilometres on a true bearing of 280 degrees, thence 6 kilometres on a true bearing of 190 degrees, thence 4 kilometres on a true bearing of 100 degrees, thence 4 kilometres on a true bearing of 10 degrees to the point of commencement.



OCCIDENTAL MINERALS CORPORATION  
OF AUSTRALIA  
Suite 1402, Greater Pacific House  
55 Lavender Street  
Milsons Point, NSW 2051

**THEY'VE CLIMBED** the highest mountains, criss-crossed the poles, paddled the Amazon. Apart from star-trekking and intergalactic adventures, what are the great challenges that remain for explorers of the seventies? Answer: caves.

The search for the biggest hole in the world has switched from continent to continent. The deepest explored cave is still the Pierre St Martin, 1,33km deep in the Pyrenees. The Himalayas and the Andes have both proved disappointing.

In 1973, in a remote spot in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, hidden beneath a rain-forest and three days' walk from the nearest village, a caver travelling in a BF helicopter spotted a vast hole with a mighty river flowing into it. What he had sighted was the entrance to Ater Kanada, a river cave which may well kick Menz St Martin out of the record books.

If Atter Kanada proves up to the cavers' greatest expectations, it will be found to descend 1.5 km. over a length of about 9 km.

Next month, an expedition organised by Dr Julia James, of the University of Sydney, will set out to conquer the Atea. Two earlier expeditions to the area have failed to do so.

The two-month expedition has been two years in the planning; originally 90 people applied to join. Fifty-two will go. Most of them are Australians, but eight intrepid Spaniards will join the group, three very experienced Americans, four English, five New Zealanders and two Papua New Guineans.

They are a mixture of academics, students, engineers, teachers, computer programmers and full-time adventurers. There's also a doctor, a customs officer, an assistant station-master and an army lieutenant. All are experienced speleologists. The trip will cost each of the members close to \$1,000.

The expedition will have a scientific flavour, with some geology, biology, geomorphology, hydrology and geochemistry investigations along the way, not to mention a little speleogenesis (the development of caves).

Dr James, a lecturer in inorganic chemistry, is one of five women on the expedition. She is rosy-cheeked and sturdy built. In her jeans and green sweater she looks more like a student than a lecturer.

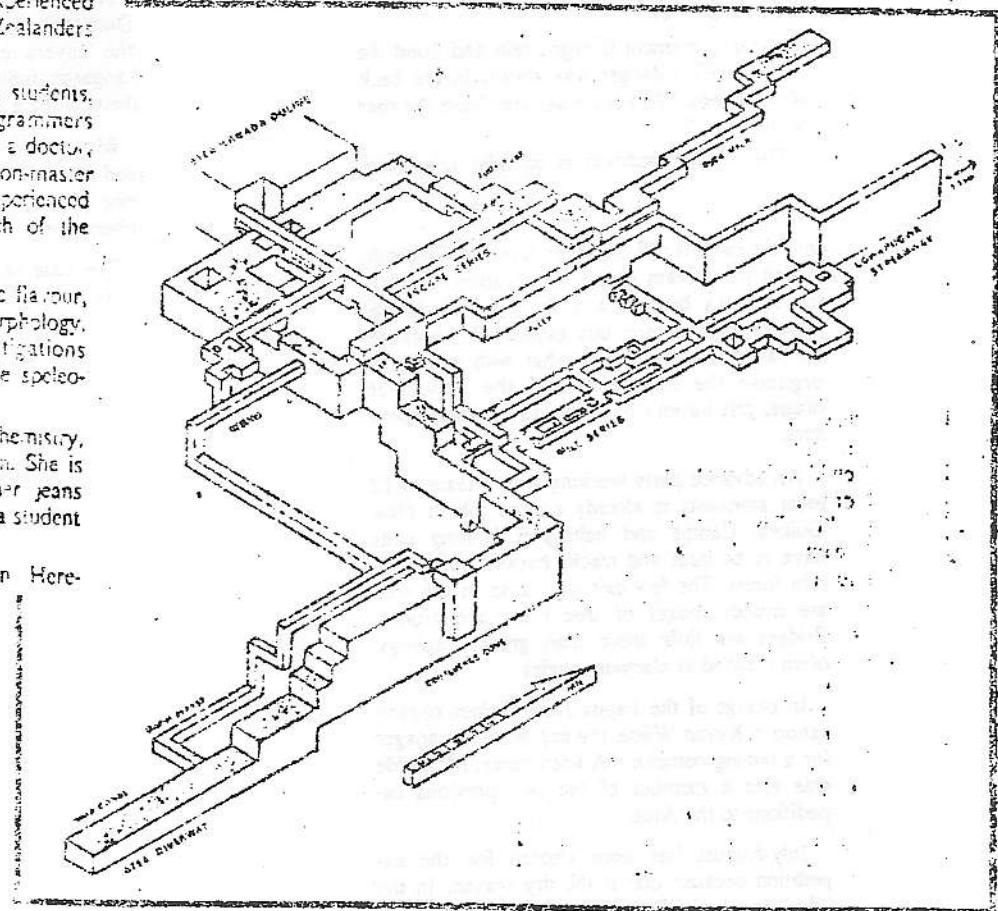
Dr James acquired her accent in Hove.

fordshire, her PhD in London and her speleological expertise in the caves of Wales, Jamaica, Yugoslavia, Italy and France. Last Christmas she spent four weeks caving in Mexico. She and her fellow-cavers had reached minus-778 metres when, alas, it was time to go home.

More recently she has been canyoning in the Elke Mountains. As part of their get-fit program, she and other members of the expedition have abseiled down Kaling Falls at Kanangra Walls, then prusied up the 600 metres of waterfall in the nearby Darnae Brook. They have gone rockclimbing and cross-country skiing, they have gone on endurance bush walks and caving mini-expeditions to New Zealand.

"Each of us has to be extremely physically fit," she said. "The Atea is probably one of the roughest caves in the world to explore. We are going to tackle it by going up it as well as down it."

Dr James has been twice before to the Atea - she was a member of both the 1973 and the 1976 expeditions. Eight of the nine members of



the 1976 expedition will be returning for next month's adventure.

The first expedition lacked the equipment and the experience to tackle the big cave. They explored the deep, narrow caves on top of the mountain. A few kilometres away they could hear the Atea River roaring into the ground.

"We were haunted by the dream of what sort of cave would be carved out by such a river," said Dr James. After three weeks of gruelling cave exploration in the rain forests, they finally cut a track to the hole.

The river surged over boulders into a cathedral-like cave. The waters roared and the sun created rainbows in the spray. It was an awe-inspiring sight. They could follow the cave for only 100 metres and they turned back, thinking it would probably never be possible to explore it further.

The 1976 expedition entered the cave by a high level entrance partially shrouded by the waterfalls.

"We followed this passage through a maze high above the riverway," said Dr James.

Standing on 'balconies' or looking out of the 'windows' we could hear and feel the Atea River roaring below. Finally, as we stood in the last window, there was a section of the underground river which flowed quietly through a subway.

To swim in this river looked possible, but dangerous. One intrepid caver swam to the end of his lifeline, but we could go no further in without more sophisticated equipment, especially telephones.

"At any moment it might rain and flood the riverway. This danger was always in the back of our minds. We were never free from the roar of the Atea."

The 1978 expedition is to take telephones

into the cave. It will, however, lack the Elizabeth Arden handcream (good for climbers' hands), the Arnott's biscuits and the Egg Marketing Board's eggs of previous expeditions, because Dr James and her team, what with having to organise the Spaniards and the helicopter drops, just haven't had time to organise sponsors.

An advance party working with a team of 12 local assistants is already on the job in New Guinea. Camps and helicopter landing pads have to be built and tracks hacked out of the rain forest. The few existing tracks in the area are muddy mazes of tree roots and trunks. Bridges are little more than greasy saplings, often inclined at alarming angles.

In charge of the Papua New Guinea organisation is Kevan Wilde, the exploration manager for a mining company. A keen caver, Mr Wilde was also a member of the two previous expeditions to the Atea.

July-August has been chosen for the expedition because that is the dry season. In the "dry" it rains only half the day, instead of all day.

Equipment that has left Sydney by boat will eventually arrive at the base camp at Lumbi by truck, tractor, plane, helicopter and back-pack. The main Sydney party will leave on July 7. It will assemble with the overseas contingent at Mt Hagen, fly by plane to Koroba, and then travel by tractor to the mission post of Kelabo.

Carrying their packs, nursing their blisters and adjusting as best they can to the thin air, the cavers then have to cross a 2,800 metre mountain ridge (higher than Kosciusko) to get to their base camp. This is looked upon as more bush-bashing than bush-walking.

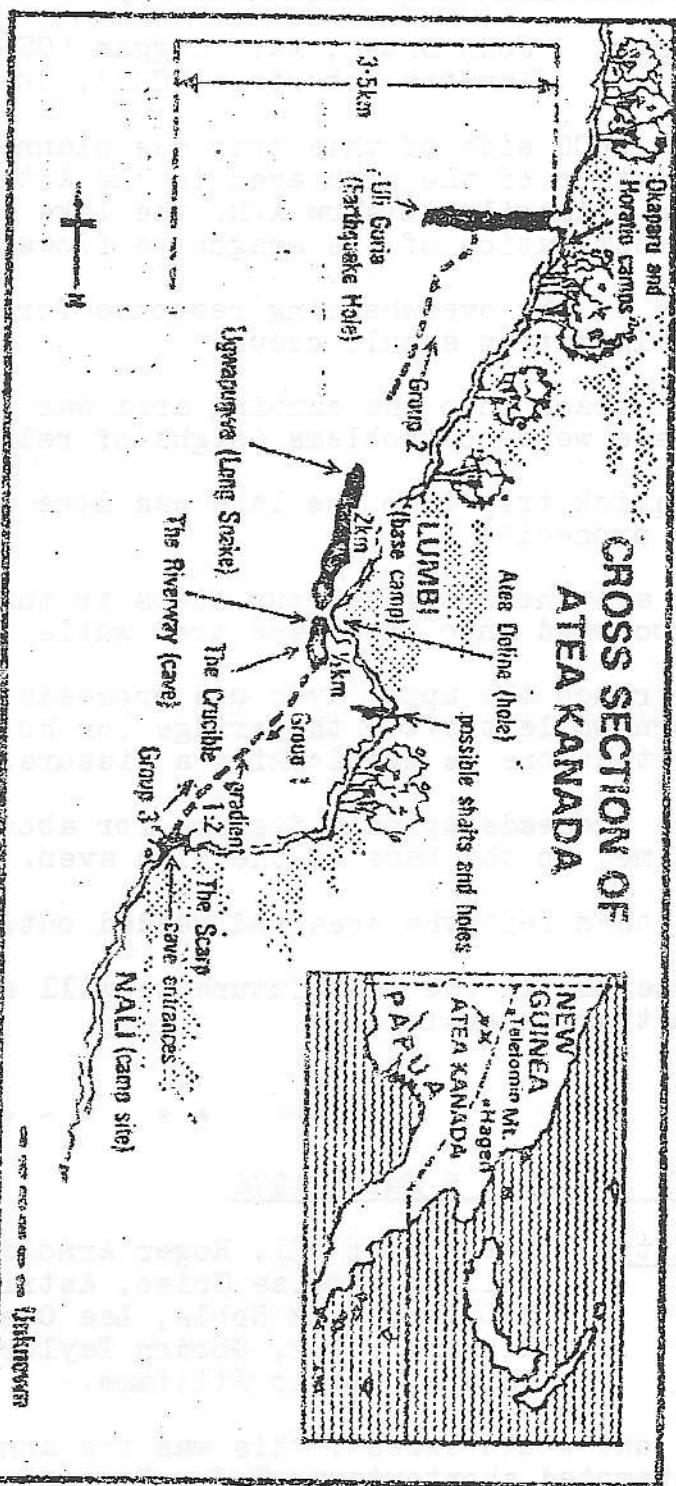
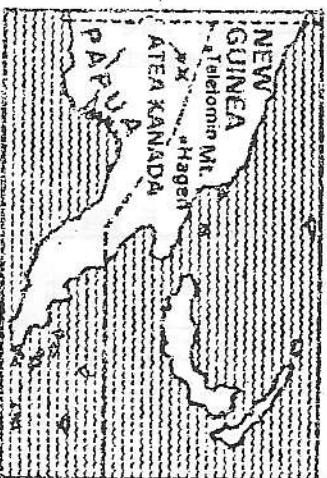
In the past the high altitude has caused problems for some of the cavers, and the local tribe, the Duna, has not been impressed with the white man's stamina. Dysentery and tropical ulcers are also a problem. Cuts and scratches fester quickly in the humidity.

No fresh food is available except when the Duna kill wild game. On earlier expeditions the cavers enthused over the roasted tree kangaroo and the possum-like cuscus but found the echidna a trifle fatty.

Most of the time the cavers will exist on tinned fish - the cheapest form of protein - and rice. There will be tinned meat, dried fruit and chocolate, for variety.

The base camp is on a ridge 2 km from the

## CROSS SECTION OF ATEA KANADA



cave. "The reason the camp is high up is because we need radio communication with the outside world and we need sunshine," said Dr James. "We need to dry out every so often."

Once assembled at the base camp, the expedition will send out three main parties. One will follow the river down the cave, another will follow the quieter passage upstream and the third will try and enter from below.

"An assault camp will be established inside

the cave entrance. Assault is the correct word. Exploration often begins at 3 a.m. and continues for 24 to 36 hours. A caving team usually comprises four or five people — if rock-climbing is involved and it's going very rough, only two.

Because of the size of the Atea, camps will probably have to be established underground.

"Any part of the cave can become blocked with water and you've got to be prepared to sit it out and wait for the water to subside," said Dr

James. She has had some experience in staying below. During the Mexico trip she spent five days underground and in Wales was a member of a group that established a then world record of 14 days underground.

The appeal of caving?

"It is really the appeal of exploration — of going somewhere where no one has been before," said Dr James, departing to take a class in analytical chemistry.

TRIP REPORTS SECTION

WYANBENE, 26th FEBRUARY 1978

Party: John Brush, Marj Coggan (CSS), John Furlonger, Peter Hart (L), Annette Robertson (CSS), Gordon Taylor.

The NUCC side of this trip was planned to allow J.F. to show us the location of the high aven in the Aitcheson's Avens area. The CSS trip was primarily to show A.R. the lake and also to undertake some investigation of the Aragonite flowers there.

Due to the overwhelming response for each trip, it was decided that an amalgamation should occur.

The track into the camping area was very dry (including the bog) and there were no problems (sighs of relief from my passengers).

A quick trip into the lake was done with a few rests along the way (shall we proceed?)

We all then retraced our steps to the bypass, where J.F. and myself proceeded into the Avens area while the others continued outwards.

To reach the upper aven one proceeds into the Avens area as usual, turning left after the bridge (or hole?) and doubling back on the left, so that one is overlooking a fissure.

One proceeds up this fissure for about 10-15 metres, whence entry is gained to the base of the high aven.

We then left the area and headed out.

Sometime in the near future we will survey this aven and look for further extensions.

PETER HART.

\* \* \* \* \*

WEE JASPER, 5 March 1978

Party: Peter Hart (L), Roger Arnold, Bruce Bruen, Ian Clyde, Neil Collins, Louise Crisp, Astrid Dure, Stephen Elliot, Helen McLagan, Mark Noble, Lee Ovens, Ian Proctor, Rhonda Richards, Richard Stark, Gordon Taylor, Mark Thomson, Ray Vran, Tanya Waters, Philip Williams.

As one would expect, this was the annual fresher trip to W.J. After some attempted shortcuts to W.J., I eventually reached W.J. about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour later than Gordon's mob.

I instructed those present on the technique for ladder climbing and each person practiced on a ladder we had rigged in a tree.

After this we went to Dip cave, Gordon's group going through the main parts of Dip, my group going through No. 4 extension of Dip (Gong cave). Upon returning to the surface we had lunch and then I led through Dip series 2 while Gordon's mob went through Gong.

After this we returned to Canberra, after a slack but enjoyable day.

PETER HART

Trip Reports (contd.)

MARBLE ARCH, 13 March 1978

Party: John Briggs, Stephen Elliot, Alan Floyd, Peter Hart (L), Gordon Taylor, Sandra Tiffin.

This trip was a freschers; the purpose being to do some light caving.

Two carloads of boids headed into the top of the spur, Gordon managing to put a great dent in his father's 'jag' (Who said I was bad?). From here we walked down to the main cave and spent an hour or so looking around.

Ful of enthusiasm, we headed down the gorge and looked at the efflux; hence to Moodong cave. Some of the party complained about crawling too much, but we headed on to the window.

From here J.B. and myself continued on to be attacked by bats in chambers further on. Upon our return we all headed out of the cave, and walked back to the cars. A quick lunch and then to Big Hole.

I managed to bog my vehicle on the way out, so J.B. kindly offered to walk ahead to the Big Hole turnoff (he said he was practicing for inward bound). Eventually he returned and with the help of the 'jag' my car was freed.

I wish to state that the bog episode was not pre-meditated and all vicious rumours concerning it should be disregarded. (If you must, check with Sandy).

By the time we reached Big Hole there was only time for Gordon to go down and up again as a storm was breaking. G.T. took about 30-40 minutes to SRT the pitch and upon his return we all headed back to Canberra.

PETER HART.

\* \* \* \* \*

YARRANGOBILLY 24-27 MARCH 1978

Party: Gordon Taylor, Steven Ralser, Peter Hart (L), Michael Horne, Peter Fish, John Briggs.

The purpose of this trip was to continue surveying in Y7 and to attempt to extend Y45. By mid-morning on Friday our group had gathered at the Eagles Nest camping area where a number of U.N.S.W.S.S. lads had also gathered.

We then proceeded to North Deep Creek Cave (Y7) with a case of near heat exhaustion occurring. I had trogged up with wet suit and Busy Bee before reaching the cave, and as the weather was fairly warm, I was dying to go through the duckunders by the time the entrance was reached.

From here the duckunders were rapidly reached and Gordon and myself commenced surveying; the rest of the party investigating the far chambers. The survey made slow progress owing to the small size of the survey party and the nature of the passage.

By the time the second duckunder had been passed the others returned, and as Gordon was feeling the cold, Michael offered to help survey. We managed to survey another 10 metres or so when Mike also complained of the cold. Hence it was decided to head for the surface and back to camp.

All that remains to be surveyed now is the canyon beyond the duckunders and the chambers above it. This part should be somewhat easier than the duckunders section and hopefully will be completed on the next Yag-y trip.

Yarrangobilly Trip (24-27 March) contd.

On Saturday, John, Mike and myself entered Y45, the rest joining UNSWSS in Y9. On the last trip to Yagby, I had found a tight squeeze which we wished to push. Upon reaching the canyon near the squeeze, we noticed another squeeze which when dug a bit we could fit through relatively easily. We were able to follow this for about 17 metres when another tight squeeze was encountered. I managed to get through with great difficulty only to find it didn't go. Hence it took about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour for me to get out of it and greet my freezing friends. We then returned to the surface leaving some unexplored passage for the next trip.

Sunday arrived and it was decided to look at the Eyrie (Y3) with UNSWSS. This we proceeded to do, having a look at Y1 and Y2 entrances on the way. Upon entering Y3 a number of photographs were taken and then we began searching for new passage. Bev (UNSWSS) noticed an upper level which should be investigated with a scaling pole. Peter Downes (UNSWSS) discovered a squeeze leading to a previously unknown series of small chambers. We explored these for about an hour, finding some rather unstable sections and some very promising digs.

We returned to Canberra on Monday after an enjoyable and worthwhile trip.

PETER HART.

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BUNGONIA, 2 APRIL 1978

Party: Gordon Taylor (L), John Briggs, Stephen Ralser. Peter Hart  
This trip was planned as a trip to SRT Big Hole. But due to bad weather which has been all too common lately, the ford across the Shoalhaven was flooded. This was ascertained by ringing Mr. Dempsey. Rather than waste a weekend it was decided to go to Bunyonia instead. There being only 4 of us left on the trip (the other had biked) we all went in Gordon's "Jag". On the way Peter had this strange desire to play with every knob in the car, the amateur psychiatrists among us putting it down to a bad childhood experience with knobs.

On arrival at Bunyonia, we were amazed at the changes that had occurred. Not having been there after the bushfire and the full time management of the area we were in for shock.

After driving around having a look at the changes that had occurred, we proceeded to the Drun Cave. This was descended by G. Taylor, P. Hart, S. Ralser abseiling and J. Briggs laddering. John B. had some fun on the ladder approximately 20' from the bottom because the belay rope was not long enough. On reaching the bottom we went on down the dave, to be very quickly stopped by bad air. We thus returned to the pitch, P. Hart, G. Taylor and S. Ralser prussiking out and J. Briggs laddering out. Due to the inclement weather, there was a considerable quantity of water coming down the pitch. This meant that while ascending one was showered with cold water. Not very comfortable. This being a slac day trip, on return to the surface, we de-trogged, ate and returned home to Canberra.

GORDON TAYLOR

\* \* \* \* \*

COOLEMAN PLAINS 8-9 APRIL 1978

Party: Peter (L), John Briggs, Julie Essenburg, Martin Essenburg.  
CSS - Carol Anderson, Neil Anderson, Tim Booth, John Brush, Marj Coggan, Roger Curtis, Bob Dunn, Tim Rudman, Josje Van der Vliet Geoff ?

"SPELEOGRAFFITI", VOL. 14 No. 2Cooleman Plains (5-9 April) contd.

John, Julie, Martin, Tim Rudman and myself headed from Canberra in Martin's Kombi around 6.30 a.m. and went via Brindabella to the Cooleman track turnoff on Long Plain. We were joined by the CSS people and we drove in as far as the top of the hill. At this point we walked, as rain was likely and we did not wish to become bogged somewhere on the plain.

Camp was set up at Harris Hut and shortly afterwards a group of us walked to Devil's Influx, the purpose being to survey the new section found on a CSS trip in January. The creek sinking in Devil's was flowing quite strongly and one got quite wet by the time the squeeze leading to the new section was reached.

I went through the squeeze first, which was quite interesting as I blocked it going through, allowing the water level to rise. Once through, I commenced surveying with Suunto compass and clinometer, but as luck would have it the clinometer fogged up completely making reading of its dial impossible. Hence the survey had to be abandoned and the remaining three of us headed out.

After returning to the hut and drying off John, Julie, Martin, Tim, Geoff and I decided to look around the limestone outcrops nearby for caves. We found a number of small holes which did not go very far, but further towards Cave Creek we found an efflux and a sizeable entrance with JP4 painted on. Subsequently this was found to be "Cliff Cave".

We then headed back to the hut where an interesting incident occurred. Carol and Marj pointed out to us an old metal cylinder some 12-14 inches in diameter, which they claimed Tim Booth had been through. Being my usual gullible self I immediately attempted to go through it, but it became too tight when my shoulders were reached. Martin then stamped the cylinder into an elliptical shape which was slightly wider and I then made it through. I thoroughly recommended this tube for squeeze practice, so Tim Rudman also went through. Alas, the others were all too broad.

That night, some shafts south of the Hut were investigated but were found to be rather small and grotty.

On Sunday a group of us went to River Cave, fully intending to negotiate the sump. However there had been a fair amount of rain on Saturday night and the sump was about 10 metres long.

Not being fish, we headed out and did Glop Pot, then headed back to the hut and out of the plain in rather wet weather.

PETER HART

\* \* \* \* \*

ANZAC DAY 25th APRIL 1978

This day was a great success which everybody present enjoyed greatly. The function was a barbecue held at the Cotter reserve for all three Canberra clubs (CSS, CTCG, NUCC). After lunch, a great deal of fun was had throwing frisbees all around the place for about an hour or so. When we had packed up John Briggs and I headed around to the main Cotter cave (FRL) to have a look at the extension at the back of the cave.

At the far end, one climbs up the wall on the right and into a hole there. The passage gets steadily smaller until one needs breath control to negotiate the final part. Out of the squeeze one quickly reaches a chamber about 6 metres long, 2-3 metres wide and 2 metres high. The

Anzac Day (contd.)

decoration here, though scanty, is much better than in the rest of the cave, no doubt due to its inaccessibility. On the way out we met Robert Douglas (CTCG) coming in and after some explanations and waiting we left the cave and headed back to Uni.

I'm sure that Canberra cavers would like to see this become a regular activity on Anzac Day and I hope that NUCC members will help support it.

PETER HART.

\* \* \* \* \*

WYANBENE, 6-7/5/1978

Party: Peter Hart (L), John Briggs, Matthew Webber.

The purpose of this trip was to visit as many of the smaller caves at Wyanbene as possible and also to keep a look out for new ones.

On the Saturday, we proceeded as usual to the ford, via a very changed road surface. The bitumen was washed out in several places from the "century flood" on the weekend 1-2 April. The ford itself had been recently graded, but the approach to it had become rather steep and rocky.

John, being his usual chivalrous self, offered to wade ahead and direct me along the safest route. All proceeded well until I was directed into a hole (JB claimed it was shallower there!). Now followed some scenes of pushing and panting in vain. Fortunately, a landrover was close at hand, and my vehicle was finally dragged free.

The road from here had all been recently graded, which meant that there were numerous boulders strewn about in some places; but the bogs were filled to some extent, making it easier to negotiate them.

Upon reaching the camping area, we set up our equipment and then proceeded to the top of the ridge. We visited Ridge mine pot (Wy3) and spent about 2 hours in it. Next we examined Bat cave, located Eastwards of Wy3 and about 2/3 of the way up the slope. It is quite an interesting cave; not very big, with, as the name would suggest, bats in it.

We then proceeded back on to the Northern face of the limestone and headed for Clark's or Bushranger's cave. While John and Matthew were looking at it, I detoured around a bit and found a tight fissure which appeared to be quite promising.

JB and MW joined me and we tested its depth by dropping some stones down it. They bounced down in such a manner as to indicate the existence of three ledges, the hole being about 20 m. deep. Unfortunately, the fissure was too tight to enter and it was decided to leave it for the next trip.

On Sunday, I showed JB and MW through the main cave, through to the lake in 1½ hours and back again, detouring into Gunbarrel along the way.

We then headed back to Canberra, with nothing of an exceptional nature occurring along the way.

PETER HART.

Compass  
for  
Wy3.11

Trips Reports (contd.)

AINSGLIE 14th May 1978

Party: John Briggs, Peter Hart, Dennis Nettle, Gordon Taylor.

This was a slack day visit to the Mt. Ainslie Quarry, the purpose being to practice abseiling and to teach JB and DN the art. This was duly done with a bit of prussiking tossed in later. The recent rain had made the lip of the quarry rather slippery and I was able to demonstrate how to slip while abseiling. Apart from this, nothing unusual occurred.

PETER HART.

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WEE JASPER, 21 MAY 1978

Party: Peter Hart (L), John Briggs, David Cullen, Helen McLagan, Dennis Nettle, Kim Sawyer, Gordon Taylor.

This trip was mainly of a tourist nature with a little abseiling practice tacked in. My group (PH, DC and HM) raced Kim's group (KS, JB and DN) to Wee Jasper; I took the Mountain Creek Road while KS took the bitumen route.

All the rain we have had recently has done wonders for Mountain Creek road, and we both arrived at the junction with the bitumen simultaneously.

Arriving at Wee Jasper, we parked near Dog Leg and proceeded up the hill to Punchbowl.

Gordon, John, Dennis and myself abseiled down the pitch, the others ladderling down. We proceeded through the snicket to the Ballroom, Far Chamber, Slippery Pips, Loxin chamber, Strawberry Shortcut and back to Pitch Chamber.

After heading out of Punchbowl, we had lunch and went to Dip Cave. Gordon, John and Dennis abseiled down the Daylight hole, while I led the others into Daylight Chamber, up to the Balcony and through to number 3 series. JB also accompanied us and he and I explored No. 3 extension of Dip.

Back to Daylight Chamber, watched a few more abseils and then headed out and back to Canberra.

PETER HART.

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WYANBENE, 27-28 MAY 1978

Party: Peter Hart (L), John Briggs, Steven Ralser, Gordon Taylor, Sandy Tiffen, Ron ? .

This was a follow up trip to that on 6-7 May 1978, our purpose being to explore the fissure found on that trip.

Upon reaching the ford we found that it had been completely washed out, so we walked into the camping area and set up. The limestone outcrop was then climbed until we reached the fissure. After about 1 hour of chiselling rock we finally were able to get through, with the help of some breath control. ST, JB, myself and Ron descended into the hole in that order. Steven also managed to get in after a bit more chiselling.

Wyanbene Trip (27-28 May 1978) contd.

After the entrance, the hole widened slightly and reached a ledge about 13 metres down. A tight, near vertical squeeze led from here down another 11 metres to a ledge with some decoration along the way. From here a short drop and squirm of 2 metres led to the final chamber; a mud floored chamber about 3 metres long, 1.5 metres wide and 1 metre height, with several frogs. Total depth was about 27 metres. Now came the interesting part, namely, getting out.

Gordon proceeded up the ladder first and made fine progress until the near vertical squeeze was reached, at which point much puffing, panting and swearing occurred. Finally, after helmet, belt and light were removed and with John pushing from below Mr. Taylor made it through.

Next, it was JB's turn; he was pulled through by SR after about 5 minutes of grovelling.

Then it was my turn, and with the skill that leaders are known for, I made it through with helmet and light on and without pushing or pulling from others.

Ron came next and likewise made it through.

On the Sunday, we headed into the main cave, ST, SR, Ron and I went to Caesar's to look at the stream passage and the excellent Aragonite flowers there.

Meanwhile, Gordon and John investigated a tributary stream near the Jailhouse. They climbed into an extensive rockpile and found a narrow fissure 3-4 metres high, which when climbed allowed further access into the rockpile. An interesting area which warrants additional exploration.

Gordon and John then headed out and were joined by my group about 1 hour later.

An uneventful walk out and trip back to Canberra then followed.

PETER HART.

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COMMITTEE FOR 1978

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CAMPBELL.

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\* \* \* \* \*

N.U.C.C. MEETINGS

N.B. \* \* \* Out meetings are now on Tuesday nights at 8 p.m., in the Sports Union Office (top of the stairs at the Squash Courts) on the following dates:

JULY	18
AUGUST	15
SEPTEMBER	12
OCTOBER	3
NOVEMBER	7

COMING TRIPS

- JULY 2 NARRENGULLEN, Contact PETER HART
- JULY 8 ROSEBROOK & KYBEAN, Contact PETER HART
- JULY 16 MICELAGO, Contact PETER HART.
- JULY 22/23 WYANBENE  
Tagging of caves, exploration of upper levels.  
Contact JOHN BRIGGS.
- AUGUST 6 JASPER, Contact PETER HART.
- AUGUST 12/13 YARRANGOBILLY  
Y7, Y45 & doline near Eagle's Nest.  
Contact PETER HART.
- AUGUST 20 BUNGONIA, Contact PETER HART.
- SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2  
BUCHAN - VICTORIA  
A really good place!  
Contact PETER HART.

