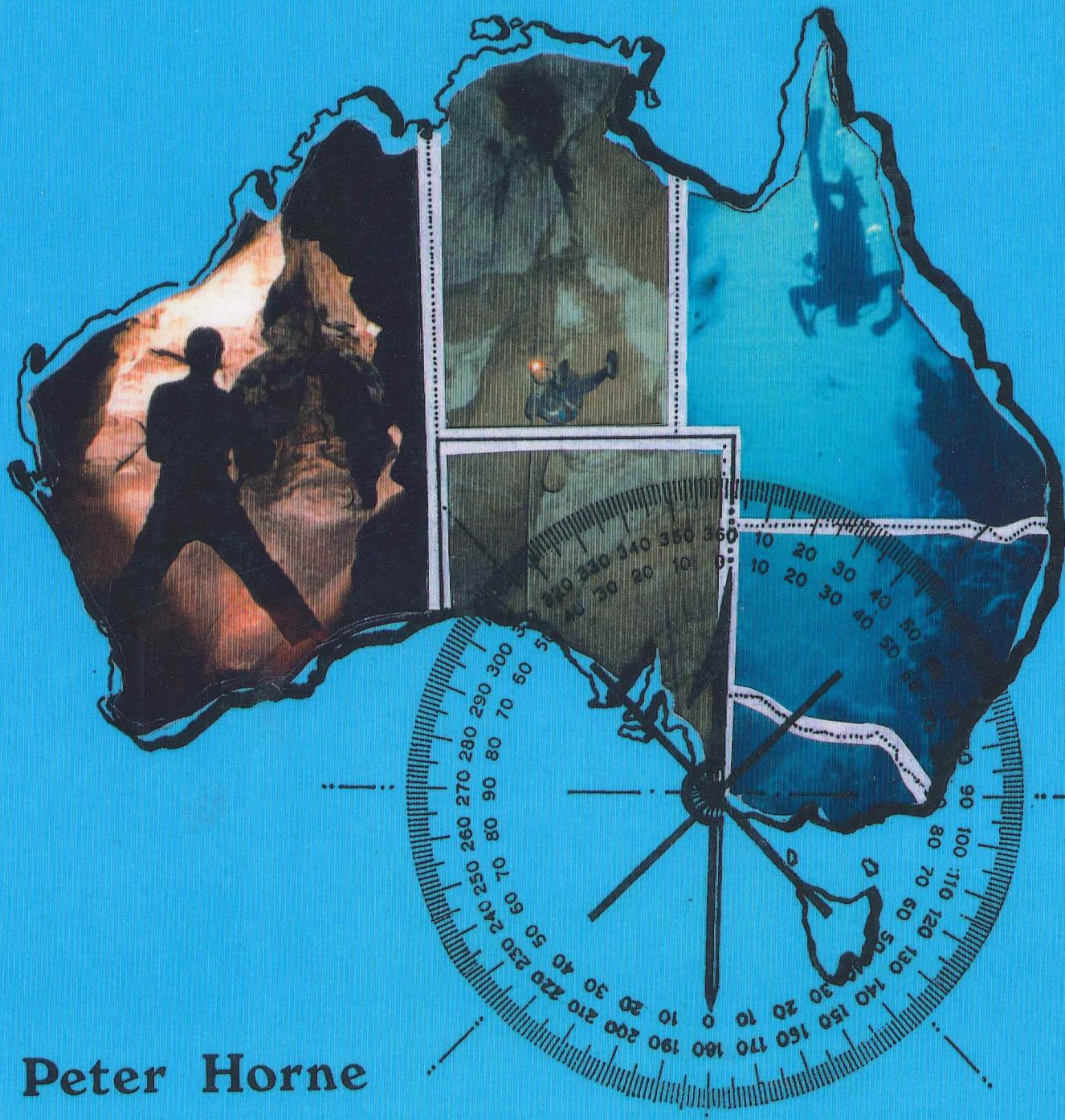


*Lower South East*

# **CAVE REFERENCE BOOK**



**Peter Horne**



# **LOWER SOUTH EAST**

## **CAVE REFERENCE BOOK**

**An Illustrated Catalogue of the Registered Caves, Sinkholes and  
associated Karst Features of the Lower South East Region  
of South Australia**

**Compiled and Published by Peter Horne in Adelaide,  
South Australia, with the support of the  
*Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (Inc.)*,  
August, 1993.**



This book is dedicated to the landowners and property managers of the Lower South East with whom the author has enjoyed many years of friendship and happiness while he has searched for those mysterious places which lie hidden beneath our feet!

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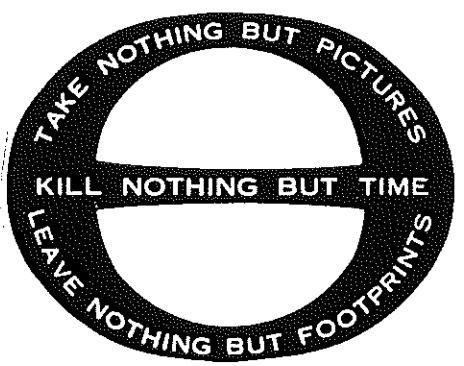
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*Courtesy National Speleological Society (U.S.A)*

## FOREWORD

Welcome to the first edition of the **Lower South East Cave Reference Book** - an atlas-like compendium of general information, illustrative maps and representative photographs of the first 300 cave and "karst" features to have been recorded in the "Green Triangle", near Mount Gambier, South Australia.

Such reference lists have been produced before - recent examples include the very detailed "**South Australian Cave Reference Book, 1975**" by noted cave diver and author, Ian Lewis, for the *Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA) Inc.*, and the "**Australian Karst Index**", an enormous volume outlining, in database form, the key aspects of all known Australian caves and numbered karst features by Peter Matthews for the *Australian Speleological Federation (ASF)* in 1985 - but this is the first time that such a listing has included representative photographs and sketch maps (where they existed or were readily accessible).

This Lower South East Cave Reference Book has been several years in the making, due mainly to the numerous re-writes and hundreds of hours of development which occurred from 1991's initial idea to produce an up-to-date reference listing in summary form to its much more comprehensive final format. Each of the nearly 300 maps, for example, went through a number of major re-draws and scaling modifications before the final format was chosen (some were also drawn up completely from scratch for the first time), and it was necessary to laboriously search through CEGSA's historical records to obtain information of possible interest to readers and researchers.

My original idea was to produce a simplified cave diving reference document which would list the major known scientific aspects of which I was aware involving the 25 or so popular diving sites around Mount Gambier (e.g., biology, palaeontology and unusual environmental phenomena, etc.), but a string of changes to the classification system of the *Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAA)* and the fact that many caves and 'sinkholes' had a number of different names meant that an easily-indexed system was not available. In late 1991, CEGSA granted permission for me to utilize their long-established and widely-respected cave numbering and Records system to simplify the referencing of the caves in this book ... however, with members of the cave diving fraternity now becoming curious about what the OTHER 270-odd cave features were which had been recorded over the years, I decided that it was time to expand the scope of this otherwise-restrictive document so that an entire update of CEGSA's Lower South East records could be presented in an interesting way (while still ensuring that locational information was not provided for most sites ... standard caving conservation practice). This meant that for the first time, members of the public would have a comprehensive summary of our caving knowledge at their fingertips, and long-heard myths about many cave features would finally be exposed ... bit of a pity, really!

Since taking up cave diving in the late 1970s, my cave diving companions and I have come across many dozens of undocumented cave features in the region - some which were already known and numbered, and about 50 which were not. In many instances, circumstances dictated that the locations of some features could not be safely divulged to the wider community - hence why there are no locational maps or descriptions for the lesser-known features in this book - and I developed a personal habit of drawing rough sketches of the key aspects I observed in my wanderings. As I became more interested in formally mapping and documenting these fascinating underground worlds in the early 1980s, I also accidentally found that I had collected a lot of relatively modern data about many features which had often not been visited by cavers for 20 years or more.

It was in fact as I was rummaging through the comprehensive but hard-to-dig-through CEGSA Records system to update MY information and collect interesting historical tid-bits, that I realized the huge number of differences (and in many cases, simple errors) which existed when I compared my own information with what had previously been registered. So, the idea to utilize this opportunity to completely revamp and update CEGSA's Records in the form of a new (regional) Cave Reference Book finally gelled.

This book is the first version of what I hope will be a better-illustrated and more classy-looking Cave Reference Book in the future. Lack of funds has been a major problem throughout the book's evolution; for instance, access to high-quality word-processing and quality printing facilities was extremely restricted, hence why the maps are hand-drawn and lettered, and why the printing and binding is less than professional. In view of the extremely high printing costs and the relatively small number of expected sales for such a specialised publication, no major profit as such is expected through sales (although I would like to mention that any real profit, if realized, will be shared proportionally with CEGSA and the photographers whose efforts are displayed herein), and I finally decided to put it out in this "first draft" format at the end of 1993 because I found myself constantly trying to improve the maps every time I saw them lying on my cluttered kitchen table ... which meant that it would probably have taken a few MORE years (if ever) before I was satisfied enough to publish it!

Because divulging information to the general public about the location of unprotected caves is one of the most destructive and irresponsible things a person can do in speleological circles, I would once again like to emphasize that readers will find very little locality data in this publication. My desire to protect caves from vandals is not the only reason for keeping locational information out of general circulation; often, it is purely a matter of respecting the wishes of a landowner who does not want to be constantly disturbed by curious visitors (some common reasons including fear of litigation in the event of an accident and general inconvenience), and whether cavers and divers like it or not, they must accept such views and concerns. Experience has shown that, apart from a very small number of particularly obnoxious, cantankerous and/or generally anti-social people, the vast majority of landowners and property managers in the Lower South East are very receptive to responsible approaches for access to their caves for exploratory or research purposes, and readers who believe that they may have a legitimate reason for gaining access to such sensitive sites are always welcome to discuss the matter with CEGSA representatives.

It is my hope that this book will be able to serve both as an entertaining general-interest publication about the many wonderful cave features around Mount Gambier and as a useful basic "source" reference document from which other, more specialized publications regarding the caves and karst features of the Lower South East may be produced. CEGSA is always keen to collect accurate up to date and interesting historical information about our unique cave features, and readers who may know of such aspects or who identify errors in either the maps or text of this publication are invited to contact myself or CEGSA if they would like to see such errors amended.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many people I would like to thank for their help and general support in caving matters over the years, but there are a few who deserve special mention here because without their assistance and patience, much of the information contained herein would not have been obtained.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the four people who, more than anyone else, helped to launch me on the road to cave diving and caving activities.

These great folks were Bob Cunningham, a skydiving mate and early-days explorer of Mount Gambier's water-filled caves and sinkholes who first 'wowed' me with stories about his explorations in the early 1960's; Rupert Faderl, a fellow Telecom Australia worker and keen diver who first introduced me to the wonders of Ewens Ponds during a visit to the region to observe a spectacular total solar eclipse in 1976; Mark Nielsen, my (then) regular ocean-diving companion who had already obtained CDA certification years before and was interested in renewing so that we could head back to Mount Gambier together; and Terry ("Batman") Reardon, who shared the rigours of undertaking (and the jubilation of passing) the CDA's Category 1 and 2 test in Adelaide's horrible West Lakes one night in late 1979 as my dive buddy, shortly thereafter serving as my main contact into the 'dry' caving community via CEGSA ... an organisation with which I am now proudly a Life Member.

Little did I know, when I bumped into these people in the mid-1970s, that their knowledge and interests would lead me to dedicate the next 15 years or so of my life to the exploration and documentation of the dark and poorly-understood world which exists **BENEATH** Mount Gambier's extensive pine forests, dairy farms and sheep paddocks!

In later years, I have especially enjoyed the company of, and appreciated the help and support provided by, main-stream CEGSA speleologists and cave surveyors Kevin Mott, Graham Pilkington, Stan Flavel, Grant Gartrell, Gordon "Nimble" Ninnis, Malcolm "Mac" Macdonald, Athol Jackson and the many other 'regulars' in CEGSA as well as cave diving companions Andrew "Grovel" Cox (who was the second half of the infamous "Puddles and Grovel" team, as Andrew and I were known to many landowners!), Tony Hambling and numerous members of the Cave Divers Association of Australia who assisted with my cave diving research work (especially Peter Stace and Ian Lewis, who were my first direct contacts with the CDA). And of course, I am very grateful to the organisations and individuals who allowed me to pinch copies of their cave photos, where I didn't have anything better myself, to make the information pages more interesting ... as a result of their support, I have now been able to illustrate just under **two-thirds of the 300 features** presented herein so that we now have at least **SOME** kind of representative photo to support the descriptions and maps (the photographers or sources are individually acknowledged beside the photos).

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my great appreciation to a very special friend, Lee Dixon (now Nielsen), who provided 13-odd years of patience, support and very enjoyable company as we shared our lives during the 1970s and '80s; almost every happy memory from those times included this quiet but caring lady ... and in more recent times, I have enjoyed the company of another good and kind-hearted friend, Vien Bach, as we explored the karst features around the Lower South East.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the ASF for supporting the publication of this book, to the many others who provided maps, photographs and other useful input, and especially to my friends Raleigh Hoberg, Ge Shi, Li Shi, Colin Chan, Lee Ching Lim, Pei Ching Lim and Mark Wasley, for providing ideas, support and help in a number of important ways to make the publishing of this book possible.

My very sincere thanks to you all!

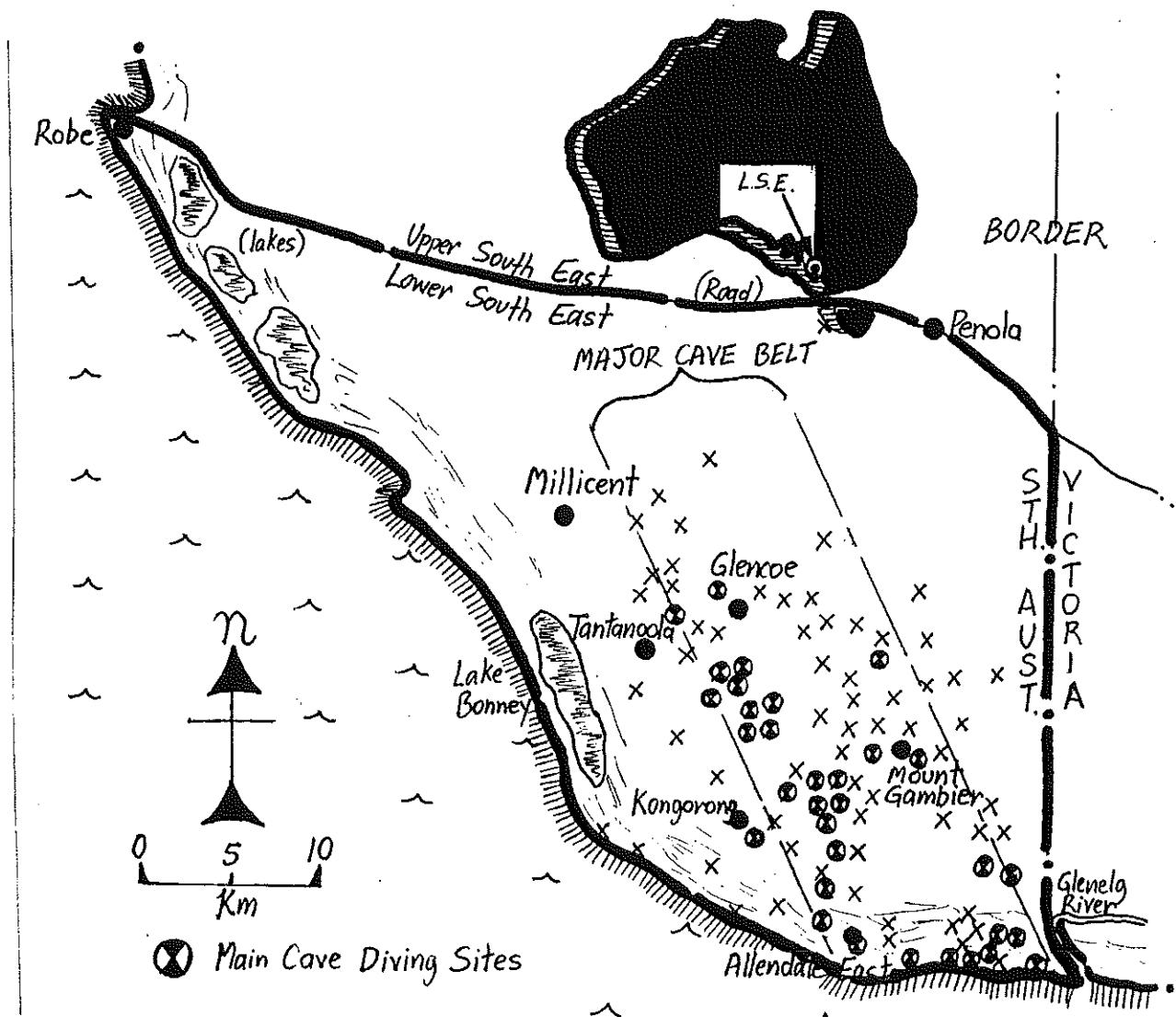
Peter Horne  
Adelaide, South Australia  
August, 1993



## INTRODUCTION

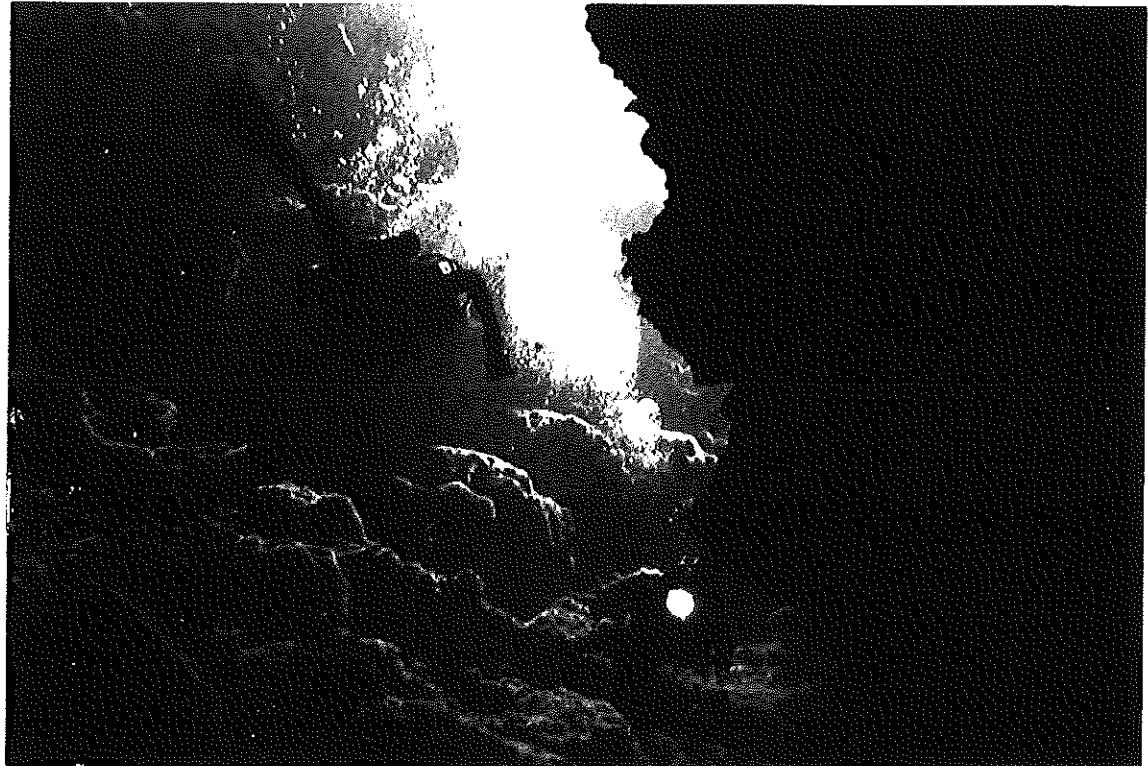
The Lower South East region of South Australia is one of the most beautiful and commercially-important areas of the State. It is an area shaped something like a triangle, bounded roughly by the main bitumen road from the coastal town of Robe in an easterly direction, through Penola to the South Australian/Victorian border via the Casterton/Lake Mundi road, due south down the border to the coast, and finally, up along the coast in a north-westerly direction back to Robe. Today, much of this "karst" country appears as bare grazing paddocks and massive pine forests, often hiding many features of speleological interest.

This cave-rich limestone region is believed to have formed as a consequence of the final separation of Australia and Antarctica from the ancient super-continent known as **Gondwana**, an event which occurred about 50 million years ago. As the new continents moved apart, a shallow sea (now the Southern Ocean) formed in the basin between them, and the remains of uncountable numbers of primitive sea creatures ultimately led to the creation of the coralline limestone which covers the region today. This process is thought to have ceased about 20 million years ago, and since that time, a combination of tectonic uplift and the raising and lowering of sea levels by intermittent ice ages has resulted in the formation of vast numbers of cave-like features in the Mount Gambier area.



THE LOWER SOUTH EAST, showing the general distribution of the major cave features identified in this book

The main commercial centre in this region today is the city of Mount Gambier, and, nestled on the flanks of a dormant volcano which was last active just a few thousand years ago, its tourist facilities (including the famous and mysterious "Blue Lake") and overall clean and well-kept appearance has earned it the coveted "Tidy Town" award many times. Apart from having many fascinating tourist attractions, the Lower South East is also one of the few remaining areas in our well-explored country where virgin cave passages can still be fairly regularly discovered by speleologists and cave divers. In fact, CEGSA has formally numbered more than 300 caves and related "karst" features within roughly 40 kilometres of Mount Gambier since the Group's formation on 19th April 1955.



**THE FAMOUS PICCANINNIE PONDS** cave system, now flooded  
as a result of the rise in global sea levels during the past few  
thousand years, is renowned for its dramatic views and clear  
water (Photo by Peter Horne).

Because karst depressions and cave entrances are very common in this region, they are often treated with contempt by farmers and locals who mainly view them as being mere nuisances. It should therefore come as no surprise to learn that many of the numbered caves no longer exist (having been completely filled or quarried away) or are now inaccessible or lost (e.g., covered with concrete slabs and rubbish). It is a never-ending quest for cavers to explain the virtues of such unique features when they (caves, that is!) are so quick to "eat" stock and valuable farming land, and it is hoped that this book will provide a useful overview of the caves of the Lower South East so that everyone can appreciate them for the wonders that they are.

## SECTION ONE - A GENERAL GUIDE TO THE BOOK

Australian caves are allotted a three-part identification number which denotes the **STATE** (code 5 for South Australia), the **REGION** (L for Lower South East) and finally the individual **CAVE NUMBER**. Just prior to the publication in 1975 of the *South Australian Cave Reference Book* (CEGSA's Occasional Paper no. 5), the caves in the South East were all allotted with earlier "S" numbers (for "South East"), but with the redefining of the area into the current Upper south east and Lower south east (due to the huge number of caves being discovered), the features were all completely re-numbered with the relevant "U" or "L" number prefix. However, a couple of caves are still also known by their "S" numbers even today ... "S102", for example, is the proper name of a cave in the Upper South East, and "SOS", meaning "Son of S102", is the proper name of another nearby feature!

The features in this book are listed in simple numeric order, from **SL1** to **SL300**, and all known cave names, including any "Proper", "Preferred" and "Other" names, are listed in alphabetical form in **SECTION 2**, to serve as a useful cross-reference index for simplifying the task of finding individual features. At the time of publication, the number of known caves for the Lower South East had in fact reached **320**; however, information about most of the new features was sparse, and very brief summaries of their general forms are attached as Appendix A.

In some instances, the numbering system is also a bit confusing, because different people used different criteria for numbering what they believed were the important aspects. In its most simple form, a **cave number** (or "*karst feature*" number, in the case of a simple doline or collapse "sinkhole") is allotted to the **entrance** to a cave system rather than the **cave itself**. In those cases where the feature has more than one entrance, the most accessible, largest or most impressive entrance is usually given the number, and other entrances are simply referred to as "Entrance 2" etc. if necessary.

Adjacent features which have no known physical access to each other are usually allotted separate numbers (which may or may not be immediately sequential, depending on when the decision is made to give the features their numbers), and numbers are sometimes allocated to individual features in a complex system if they appear to be significant enough or have separate names - for instance, the flooded dolines which make up the three ponds at **Ewens Ponds** - although surprisingly, the same rule did not apply for **Piccaninnie Ponds**, which has only one number despite its individually-named ponds.

Unfortunately, the numbering system contains many contradictory examples which highlight the confusion surrounding the numbering criteria (which, the author freely admits, confounds him as well at times!). Hence, some of the caves appearing in this book possess multiple-numbers while adjacent features may bear no number at all ... and to add to the confusion, there are instances where seemingly-separate caves lying close to each other were later joined together with a little bit of underground "gardening" and determination - examples of these being the **Gran Gran/Quarry** caves (SL60 and SL15 respectively) and **Monbulla/Wrecked Car** caves (SL5 and SL21).

There are also several cases where numbers were perhaps inappropriately allocated to features - e.g., the doline area of **Alleyns Cave** (SL84/85/96), the blind doline in the **Hereford/Stream Cave** system (SL71/169) and similarly, a large entrance in the **Rendelsham Cave** complex (SL38/260). To save unnecessary duplication, some of these maps have been combined so that people who know the sites will be able to identify the respective features.

A lot of effort has been put into ensuring that the maps presented here are as informative, accurate and simple to understand as possible, and many are tracings from extremely detailed microfilmed CEGSA, CDAA and other surveys. Since cave maps range in quality from very poor memory sketches to extremely detailed mega-surveys, it was necessary for the author to draw virtually every map in a simpler, uniform format. These conglomerations were made up from the most recent and/or accurate available maps and supportive documents (e.g., trip reports where possible), and readers are requested to study each map's GRADE before they run off and debunk the accuracy of a map!

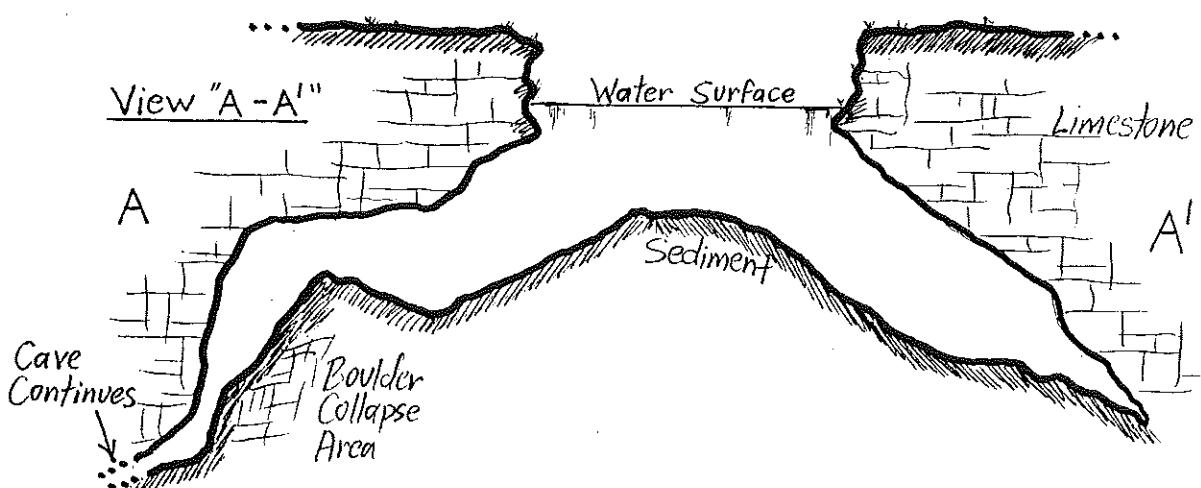
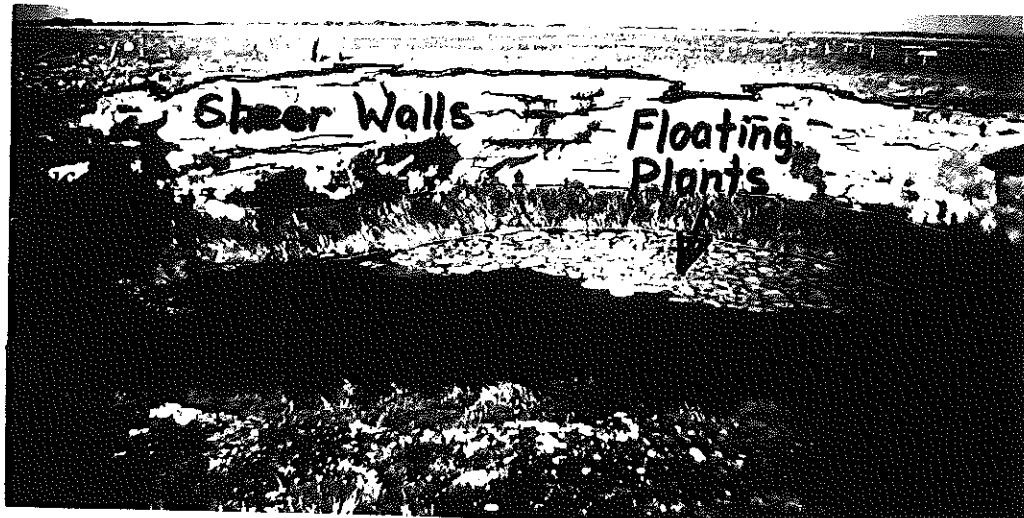
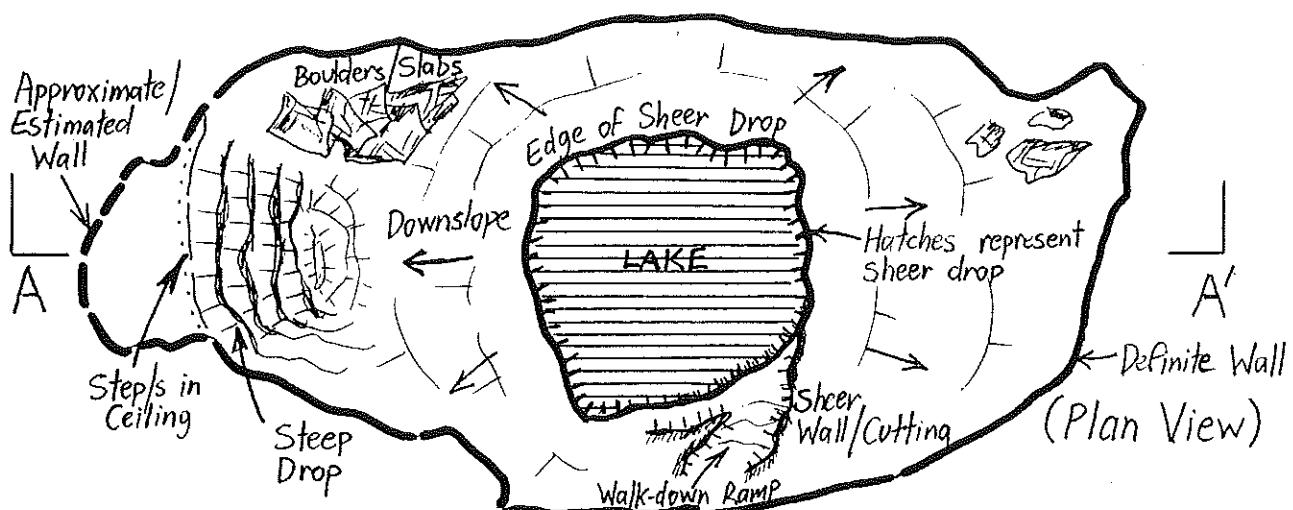
As an important point of interest here, and contrary to popular belief, very few cave features have actually been properly surveyed. Most maps are little more than representative sketches, and such drawings are really just basic renditions of the types of features being described. This is indeed the case with the many waterfilled caves and sinkholes around the Lower South East; only a handful have been properly surveyed to any useful degree (to date only by members of the CDAA's *Mapping & Research Group* and the *South Australian Underwater Speleological Society - SAUSS*), although rough sketches of others have been drawn up by divers who have bothered to take a few measurements using depth gauges and knotted guidelines during the past 15 years or so. Many of the simpler maps are drawings of caves which have only been visited once and which have no other details available at present, or which are small and relatively featureless.

In his efforts to standardize the presentation of the maps which appear in this book, the author decided to develop his own map-drawing style which he hoped would provide both cavers and non-cavers with a better idea of what each feature was really like and how they could be negotiated safely. The idea of having an A4-sized display of cave maps was based on his own personal research folders which contained the latest or most accurate maps in simple L-number order. Caves naturally vary enormously in size and complexity, and because of this and their sheer number it was necessary to choose a common style which was simple to understand AND still of sufficient detail to be useful (the idea of having fold-out pages was toyed with but it was felt that this would make the book more bulky and awkward to handle than it already is!). Therefore, every map had to be redrawn from various slides, microfilms and sketches until it fitted the desired format.

To make the drawings easier on the eye, the author chose to represent all of the numbered features in this book in a very simple way, rather than by using standard symbols and map keys which are recommended in such drafting work. He was also forced to modify other map details to highlight the more significant features while avoiding undue "clutter", and, to minimize production costs, many of the peripheral or "pretty" effects such as trees and grass were drawn freehand (because the professional rub-on stuff was exorbitantly expensive, and a computerized desk-top publishing facility which could perform such nifty tricks was not readily available). Likewise, cross-sectional views showing "limestone" markings are for cosmetic reasons only ... readers should NOT interpret them to imply that the limestone is necessarily horizontally bedded or whatever.

The known maximum extent of each feature, obtained accurately via detailed surveying measurements (and occasionally, simple eye-balling estimation in the cases where the walls were extremely close to a known survey reference line or object) is shown by a thick solid line, while areas which were not physically accessible to, or measured by, the cave surveyors (or which could not be clearly seen) are represented by dashed lines to indicate approximate boundaries. Of course, these lines might also actually be correct limiting lines in some cases ... it's really just a standard method of showing that a potential passage may exist in an area which was not thoroughly checked out. In addition, other details such as entrance tubes or cliffs have been specially drawn in a non-standard manner to highlight these otherwise hard-to-represent features.

The following representational map of one of the Lower South East's larger typical sinkholes (or "cenotes"), 'Ten Eighty' (5L42), will hopefully help to explain what the various Map Key symbols mean with respect to the sketch maps in this book; the photograph should also help to assist with the interpretation of the near-surface features.



When one considers that detailed maps of the larger caves can easily cover a kitchen table, it needs to be appreciated that a book of this size cannot hope to present such complex data unless each page is a microfilmed version (a nice idea but impractical at this time). Therefore, readers wishing to study individual maps in more detail will still need to refer back to the originals which are retained in CEGSA's Records.

## Some Comments About Map "Grades"

The accuracy of a cave map depends on a variety of factors including the skill of the surveyors, the type of survey and the equipment used. Cave maps are subsequently given *Australian Speleological Federation* (ASF) "Grades" to indicate the approximate accuracy of the SURVEY (the first number) and the amount of DETAIL in the survey (the second number). A lot of the time, only a single number - representing the accuracy of the survey/traverse only, and providing almost no information about other details - has been used in the case of the caves in the Lower South East, but where more thorough surveys have been carried out, other qualifying suffices (letters A {for "closed and Adjusted"}, C {for Checked and Corrected magnetic bearings to identify possible anomalies} and E {indicating checking by Electromagnetic methods}) have been added to provide at a glance some idea of the type of map involved. Therefore, a cave Map of **ASF Grade 64AC** would mean that its **Survey Grade** was 6 (using calibrated, tripod-mounted instruments and calibrated tape, or equivalent underwater modifications), its **Detail Grade** was 4 (features drawn in the cave, using confirmed reference points from the Survey) and it was **Adjusted** as well as **Checked and Corrected** for magnetic anomalies (see discussion below).

The survey and map detail grades mentioned in this book are fairly similar to the ASF's recommended grades, but of course, due to the nature of the large number of waterfilled features involved in this area (more so than any other major cave area in the State), some modifications have been necessary. It is really a lot of wasted time and effort, for example, to try to use 'clinometers' underwater when they can't be read easily and when divers can simply "glide" from ceiling point to ceiling point to take measurements or read pressure-sensitive diving depth-gauges ... unlike the case in dry caverns!

The following is a guide to the meaning of the Grades referred to in this book:-

### 1. SURVEY Grades

**Grade 0** - **Unknown.** Might be very high or extremely low-grade map - no information available, so no way to know!

**Grade 1** - **Very rough memory sketch only**, not drawn on-site or to scale. May be very low in accuracy or very high, depending on the size and type of feature and the memory, estimating ability and artistic skill of the visitor!

**Grade 2** - **Basic map based on some on-site notes** regarding major aspects - distances and rough bearings/positions etc., **estimated** distances and positions only. No instruments used or available.

**Grade 3** - **On-site sketch with some key bearings measured to about 5°** by compass, and fairly accurate distances (fibreglass tape, knotted line, belt or careful packing etc) to key features - expected accuracy to about 10%.

**Grade 4 (+)** **Much more accurate representations** ... carefully checked compass bearings (within +/- 2°) and a complete traverse using compasses and tapes. Higher-grade measurements using miners' dial/forestry compass on tripod, stadia, theodolite, steel tape and RDF etc. equipment) can range up right through to Grade 9 (accurate to within 1", or 1/25000th, utilising a precise control traverse and/or triangulation and/or trilateration and a "one-second" theodolite etc.

## 2. DETAIL Grades

The basic outline for Map Detail Grades is as follows:-

- Grade 1 - Sketch from memory, not to scale.**
- Grade 2 - Map compiled from rough notes, sketches and estimates *in situ*, no major measurements.**
- Grade 3 - Maps compiled from measurements and drawings in the cave, based on approximate measurements of significant details. Additional sketching of secondary features.**
- Grade 4 - Details of features based on measured points from Survey, involving all features of major speleological interest, and**
- Grade 5 - As for Grade 4, with the addition of significant geomorphological features (e.g., types and dip angle of rock and bedding planes etc) and details of deposits.**

### North-Point Orientation of the Maps

With the exception of three or four features, the caves, dolines and other karst phenomena illustrated in this book have been oriented so that **MAGNETIC NORTH** (as it was measured at the time of the surveys) is approximately at the top of the page, where in fact a north-point was known. The other caves were most inconsiderately created as awkwardly-shaped, broad expanses which were best represented on their side for the purposes of being accommodated on an A4 page. In these cases, the North point is facing towards the LEFT of the page, as indicated on the maps.

Magnetic north was chosen over True north for a couple of reasons, including the fact that the variation is only in the order of around 12 degrees in the Lower South East, the maps as presented here are very simplistic and already contain gross generalisations and (sometimes deliberate) minor errors, and many of the original maps were only plotted with Magnetic north being shown anyway. The author wasn't about to spend another few years calculating each map's magnetic deviation factor!

### Reduction Scales

Lastly, the scales shown on the maps, while reasonably accurate, are approximate only; the majority are probably accurate to within a few percent, but because of the problems inherent in scale enlargement/reductions using photocopiers and slide projectors, a few will probably have a larger error which would become significant if additions to the current survey were attempted. Therefore, it is important for speleologists wishing to undertake additional work involving the features shown in this book to obtain accurate copies of the detailed original maps if they want to maintain the high level of accuracy required in such surveys.

## SECTION TWO - CAVE NAMES/NUMBERS CROSS-REFERENCE LIST

While many of the less-interesting features in the Lower South East, as elsewhere, have never been formally named, most of the larger and more popular ones are known by something other than just their official numbers.

It seems to be an unwritten expectation of neophyte speleonauts by the wider community that they possess certain attitudes which are in many ways quite alien to your average beer-swillin' couch-potatoes or upper-class Yuppies. Because of the nature of our chosen activity, a lot of cavers and cave divers tend to be relatively individualistic and aggressively protective of their beloved cave environments, and through unpleasant dealings with pro-development organisations or two-faced political types, many are quite proudly anti-authoritarian in many respects. Some speleological-types might even be called *eccentric!*

Thus it should be easy to understand why cave names frequently do not simply slip into the dry, boring technical style demanded by government nomenclature boards and the like; after all, who could ever imagine some desk-bound bureaucrats approving such endearing names as "**Creepy-Crawly Cave**", "**Haemorrhage Hole**", "**Piglet Help! Help! Cave**", "**Tom-The-Cheap Cave**", "**Well It Wasn't There Last Year Cave**", "**Wowee! Cave**" or "**The Cave With The Thing That Went Thump Cave**"? (These are REAL cave names allotted by a number of people throughout Australia ... they were NOT invented by the author, despite the similarity in warped humour!)

At the other end of the spectrum, some people insist on **never** giving names to features, referring to them only by their "official" numbers. This is fine - indeed, essential - when anything is published regarding numbered cave features in scientific circles, but it is the author's view that such a dry and humourless perception is more prone to error ... try discussing which ten caves you visited last weekend by their reference numbers only! Also, newer features which have not yet been numbered can become "lost" while they are awaiting processing (this is one reason why the author utilizes his own "**LSE-series Temporary Numbering System**" prior to passing on new features to CEGSA), and names frequently reflect something important about a feature's discovery, history or incidents worthy of enjoyable chat in the future (cases in point including "**Drew's Drop**", "**Kerry's Folly**", "**Snake Hill Cave**" and "**Bugga-Bush Pond**").

However, one area of convention which the author **has** chosen to respect in this book is the dropping of apostrophes on the maps ... but in all honesty, this really had something to do with the fact that he was trying to save having to put in many additional time-consuming key-strokes, rather than bending to the wishes of the straight-collar set!

It is also worth briefly mentioning the fact that the majority of named features are known by several names - original names, local names, preferred (or descriptive) names and the like - and where these are known (and decent enough to print!) they have been included in the individual summaries. While many of the original names for long-known "dry" features have been left as the "preferred" names, most of the sites of interest to the cave-diving community have different preferred names these days, and such names are used as titles for the relevant caves (just try writing "**Wurwurkooloo**" instead of "**One Tree**" in your diving log-book a few dozen times). There are still MANY unnamed features ... maybe these can provide opportunities for inventive souls to try to come up with names which are even more preposterous than those mentioned above!

The following list of names will enable readers to identify the features in this book by their correct cave reference numbers, so that they can then quickly flick through to the text and maps which follow in **SECTION 3**. The author is confident that the vast majority of known names have been listed here, but readers who know features by other (suitable) names may wish to advise him or CEGSA of these for possible future updates of this book and associated publications.

(**NOTE - BOLD** characters indicates the **PREFERRED** (not necessarily **ORIGINAL**) name of the feature, based on such factors as its suitability, popular usage of the name or the name which first appeared in CEGSA's Records, etc ... **NORMAL** characters indicate **OTHER** names (including the **ORIGINAL** name where it is not used as the **PREFERRED** name) where they are known.

FEATURE NAME/S	"L"-NUMBER/S
<b>ALLENDALE SINKHOLE</b>	<b>011</b>
<b>ALLEYNS CAVE</b>	<b>084/085</b>
AUNTY'S CAVE	064
BABY BLUE LAKE	009
<b>BALDS CAVE</b>	<b>092/093</b>
BANKSIA CAVE	064
<b>BATTLE-AXE CAVE</b>	<b>254</b>
<b>BEEHIVE CAVE</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>BENARA SINKHOLE</b>	<b>032/033</b>
BIG HOLE (THE)	047
<b>BLACKFELLOWS (SEA) CAVE</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>BLACK HOLE (THE)</b>	<b>047</b>
BONES PONDS	265
<b>BOOTLACE CAVE</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>BOTTLEBRUSH SINKHOLE</b>	<b>064</b>
<b>BREATHING TUBE CAVE</b>	<b>300</b>
BUGGA-BUSH POND	268
<b>BULLOCK HOLE (THE)</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>BULLOCKS HEAD CAVE</b>	<b>219</b>
BULLOCKS HEAD (THE)	219
<b>BUNGALOW BAY CAVE</b>	<b>078</b>
CAROLINE SINKHOLE	010
CAVE GARDENS	004
<b>CAVETON PARK CAVE</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>CENTENARY TOWER LAVA CAVE</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>CIRCUIT SINKHOLE</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>COLLINS CAVE</b>	<b>031</b>
<b>CONSIDINES CAVE</b>	<b>086</b>
<b>CORPSE CAVE</b>	<b>080</b>
<b>CRESCENT POND</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>CREVICE CAVE</b>	<b>079</b>
<b>CUT FOOT CAVE</b>	<b>052</b>
<b>DAVES CAVE</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>DEAD FOX CAVE</b>	<b>277</b>
DEATH CAVE	084/085
<b>DEVILS PUNCHBOWL (THE)</b>	<b>047</b>
DINGO CAVE	190
DOUBLE WELL	043/044

**FEATURE NAME/S****"L"-NUMBER/S**

DREWS DROP	226
DROP DROP CAVE	029
EARLS CAVE	101
ECHO CAVE	089
EEL POT POND	269
ELA ELAP	013
ELAINES CAVE	097
ENGELBRECHTS CAVE	019/020
EWENS PONDS	159/160/161
FIFTY FOUR FOOT POND	217
FIRE-ESCAPE CAVE	286
FIVE CORNERS CAVE	026/027
FOSSIL CAVE	081
FOWLYARD CAVE	153
FOX HOLE	086
FURNESS CAVE	146
GEARBOX CAVE	299
GEORGE VARCOE CAVE	209
GLENDEENE PARK CAVE	238
GLENCOE EAST CAVE	108
GLENCOE WEST CAVE	077
GLENHUNTLY CAVE	135
GLYNN CAVE	138
GOULDENS HOLE	008
GRAN GRAN CAVE	060
GRAVEYARD CAVE	035/036/037
GREEN LAKE	013
GREEN WATERHOLE CAVE (THE)	081
GREENWATER HOLE (THE)	081
GUMS ROAD CAVE	063
HAMMERHEAD (THE)	247
HAMMERHEAD POND	247
HANCOCKS CAVE	066
HAND CAVE	003
HANGING ROCK CAVE	272
HAYDNS CAVE	263
HELLS HOLE	040
HEREFORD-STREAM CAVE	071
HOLE IN THE ROAD	008,011
HORSE & CART SINKHOLE	129
HUNTERS CAVE	220
IDDLEBIDDY CAVE	250
INITIATION POT	183
KARAKE CAVE	240
KARLIE-NGOINPOOL CAVE	087
KERRYS FOLLY	214
KILSBYS HOLE	046
KILSBY SINKHOLE	046
KITTY TEMPLES CAVE	134
KONGOROO CAVE	134

FEATURE NAME/S	"L"-NUMBER/S
KONGORONG SINKHOLE	139
KOONGINE CAVE	152
<b>KOOR-AMA CAVE</b>	<b>258</b>
KOORINE CAVE	150
LITTLE BLUE LAKE	009
LIVE SHEEP CAVE	155
LIVINGSTONS CAVE	032/033
<b>LOFTYS CAVE</b>	<b>262</b>
MALANGINE CAVE	151
<b>MARMINE CAVE</b>	<b>255</b>
MAXS HOLE	100
<b>MCKAYS SHAFT</b>	<b>125</b>
MINIATURE BLUE LAKE	047
MITCHELLS CAVE	004
MITCHELLS CROSSING CAVE	031
MITCHELLS EAST CAVE	223
MITCHELLS WEST CAVE	222
MONBULLA CAVE	005
MOORAA CAVE	067
MORGANS CAVE	034
<b>MOUNT BURR CAVE</b>	<b>069/070</b>
<b>MOUNT BURR ROCKSHELTER</b>	<b>190</b>
Mount Ruskin Trig Cave	194
MUD HOLE	097
MUDGY CAVE	017
MURNA CAVE	201
MUSHROOM CAVE	132
MYORA SINKHOLE	113
NASH CAVE	038
NASTY NICHE	229
NEECHY CAVE	150
NETTLE CAVE	186
NETTLE-BED CAVE	290
NO-GO CAVE	225
NOONANS EAST CAVE	151
NOONANS WEST CAVE	152
NORMANS CAVE	156
NORTH CAVE	016
NORTH TERRACE CAVE	019/020
NUNG-KOL CAVE	246
OLD WOMBAT HOLE	236
O'LEARY ROAD CAVE	182
ONE TREE SINKHOLE	007
PAROONG CAVE	135
PARSONS CAVE	147/148
PAWN FLAT SINKHOLE	010
<b>PETROGLYPH CAVE</b>	<b>109</b>
PICCANINNIE BLUE LAKE	072
<b>PICCANINNIE CAVE</b>	<b>261</b>
PICCANINNIE PONDS	072

<b>FEATURE NAME/S</b>	<b>"L"-NUMBER/S</b>
PICKS CAVE	073
PINETREE CAVE	292
PITTS CAVE	073
PINES (THE)	061
POUND FLAT SINKHOLE	010
PRETTY POND	266
PRUNG-KART CAVE	224
QUARRY CAVE	015
RABBIT HOLE (THE)	086
RENDELSHAM CAVE	038
ROCK-TOP CAVE	280
RUBBISH CAVE	045
SCRUB HOLE	064
SHAFT (THE)	158
SHavers REVENGE	274
SHEATHERS CAVE	144
SHOWGROUND SINKHOLE	028
SIMPSONS HOLE	042
SISTERS (THE)	043/044
SLEEPING CAVE	002
SLIT CAVE	058/059
SLOTH HOLE	064 & 097
SLUG HOLE	121
SNAKE HILL CAVE	119
SNAKE PIT	234
SNOWFLAKE CAVE	001
SPENCERS POND	216
SPRINGS CAVE	061
SPRINGVALE SPRING	282
STAFFORD ROAD CAVE	174
STINGING NETTLE CAVE	186
STRATMANS POND	162
STONECAP CAVE	131
SWAMPHOLE CAVE	154
SWIM-THROUGH CAVE	167/168
TADPOLE POND	248
TANK CAVE	230
TANKSTAND CAVE	065
TANTANOOLA LAKE CAVE	016
TANTANOOLA SINKHOLE	039
TANTANOOLA TOURIST CAVE	012
TEA-TREE SINKHOLE	128
TEN-EIGHTY SINKHOLE	042
THREE SISTERS (THE)	013
TINDALES CAVE "E"	018
TOWN HALL CAVE	004
UNNAMED CAVE CAVE (THE)	037
UMPHERSTON CAVE	006
VINES FISSURE	122
WANDO CAVE	264

<b>FEATURE NAME/S</b>	<b>"L"-NUMBER/S</b>
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<b>WELL CAVE</b>	<b>030</b>
<b>WINDMILL PIPE CAVE</b>	<b>062</b>
<b>WRECKED CAR CAVE</b>	<b>021</b>
<b>VANSITTART CAVE</b>	<b>019/020</b>
<b>WALNUT CAVE</b>	<b>053</b>
<b>WALSGOTTS SINKHOLE</b>	<b>221</b>
<b>WILKIES CAVE</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>WITCHES CAVE</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>WOOLWASH CAVE</b>	<b>048</b>
<b>WURWURKOOLOO</b>	<b>007</b>
<b>WURWURLOOLOO</b>	<b>007</b>
<b>WYE CAVES</b>	<b>071</b>
<b>YOUNGS CAVE</b>	<b>066</b>

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**SECTION THREE - Individual summaries, maps  
and representative photos (where available)  
of Cave/Karst Features No. 5L1 to 5L300  
- immediately follows.**

Also, please refer to APPENDIX "A" for summary preliminary listing  
of caves 5L301 - 5L320.

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L1

### SNOWFLAKE CAVE (White Moss Cave).

The first feature numbered under the "L" system, Snowflake Cave is entered via a 3-metre diameter roof window which opens over a collapse dome and drops steeply to the north-west for 20 metres into a 30 metre long solution passage.

The main entrance passage has a sandy floor, and a few metres in, a steep drop is found on the left side of some boulders which run along the wall. This smaller side-tunnel appears to drop for several metres more into a series of small passages which shrink to an inaccessible size – and one, on the south-eastern end, apparently has a noticeable breeze on occasion.

Back in the main sloping passage again, the floor turns from sand more towards being a form of soil, and the passage narrows at a boulder collapse area before dropping several metres into a narrow fissure-like passage which has several "levels" and restrictive areas (possibly indicating phreatic-solution origins?). The cave has no crystalline decoration to speak of, but it is well-endowed with moonmilk – hence its imaginative name. It also reportedly contained some "musical rocks" at the end of the main passage.

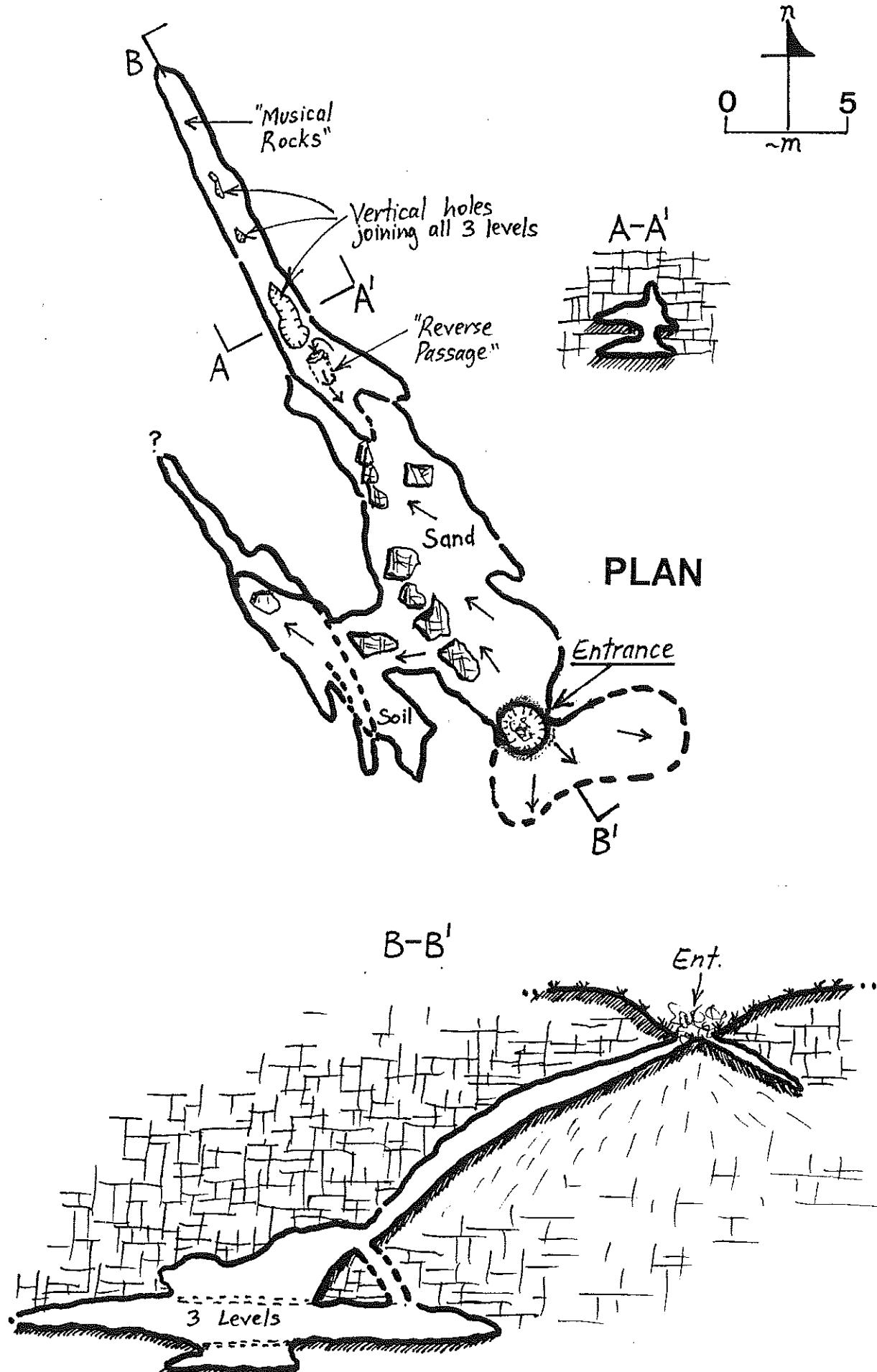
CEGSA's Records contained very little information about the feature, but members of the Victorian Speleological Association (VSA) recently provided a fairly detailed map from a June 1972 trip by Peter Robertson and Miles Pierce (and redrawn to scale by Peter Ackroyd), and this was used as a basis for the above report.

Snowflake Cave was first recorded for CEGSA by R.T. (Bob) Sexton in March 1956.



# SNOWFLAKE CAVE

5L1



[Drawing based on ASF Grade 6 map by Hill, Marlow, Sexton, Smith, Taylor & Wrights, CEGSA, 1956, and Robertson & Pierce, 1972]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L2

### SLEEPING CAVE.

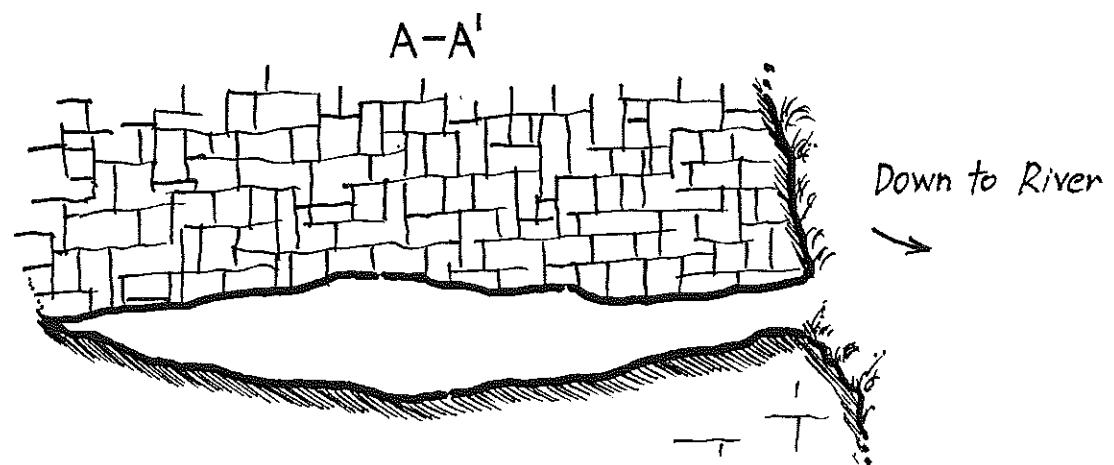
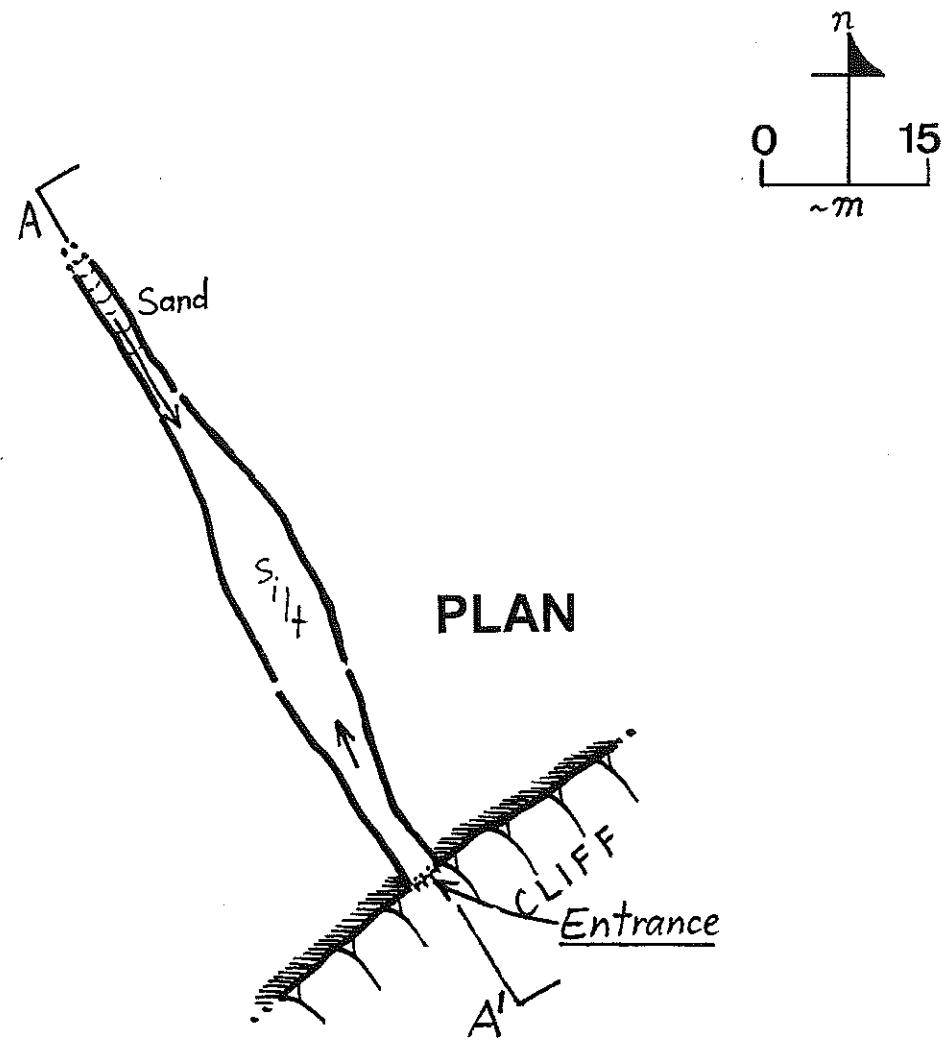
Sleeping Cave is a simple, horizontally-developed joint passage which lies some 6 metres above river level, and it takes the form of a single fissure-like cavity which heads into a cliff at a bearing of around 305 degrees (i.e. north-west) for perhaps 60 metres. The passage has a maximum width of about 3 metres (averaging around 2m), and is thought to be up to 20 metres high in places. The cave ends in a sandy slope which flows from a roof tube, and this fill lies beneath a 2 metre deep, 9 metre diameter shallow surface depression which has no visible connecting holes.

Many fine hair-like tree roots were seen when the cave was first reported by Mr. J. David Taylor in December 1954, and a comment was made that bats could also be found here at times. A better Grade 1 sketch (used as the basis for the map in this book) was recently provided by CEGSA member Kevin Mott.

The origin of the cave's name is not known at this time, and very little additional information is currently available.

# SLEEPING CAVE

5L2



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L3

### HAND CAVE.

The entrance to Hand Cave is a one metre diameter hole near the top of a cliff face, dropping to the north-west into a 12 metre long crawl which leads to a small hole on the left about 6 metres in. This hole drops into a chamber which is about 12 metres long, 4 metres wide and 1-2 metres high on average.

A small joint passage leads off at the south-eastern end of the chamber for about 3 metres before becoming too small for exploration, and the end of this passage is only about 3 metres from the cliff face.

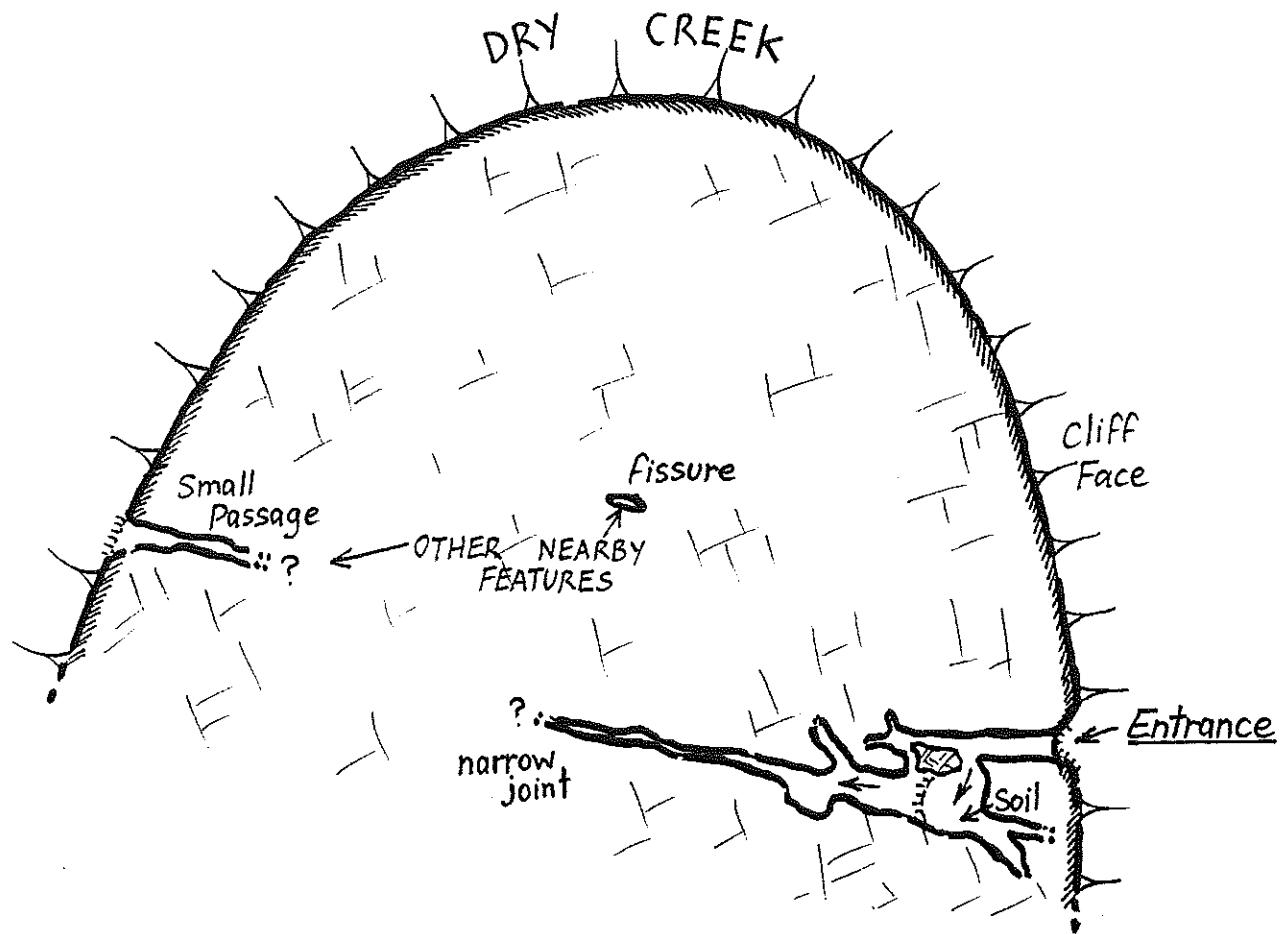
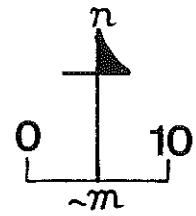
North-west of the main chamber is a 3 x 2 x 2.5 metre high chamber, where a narrow 2 metre high joint continues for about 15 metres. The cave appears to be two parallel interconnecting joints.



Some bones were found when the cave was first reported by Bob Sexton in March 1956. It was noted that a possum skull was discovered during a subsequent visit by Norman Hocknell and Helen Slater in September 1967.

# HAND CAVE

5L3



PLAN

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L4

### CAVE GARDENS (Town Hall Cave; Mitchells Cave).

Cave Gardens is a large, deep collapse entrance in a 20 x 25 metre wide depression which lies in the heart of the City of Mount Gambier, on Bay Road near the Post Office. It is one of the city's popular tourist cave sites and is surrounded by beautifully-maintained gardens and walkways. However, the cave itself is not accessible to tourists as it is a sheer drop into the entrance collapse area and contains a lot of mud and foul air.

The cave drops about 10 metres from the end of the lowest pathway and bells out underneath to the north-west for a distance of 30 metres, where it ends in a putrid pile of washed-in debris and a very dirty pool some 25 metres below the surface.

Originally known as Mitchell's Cave, Cave Gardens was used as Mount Gambier's first water supply in 1862 because it had a pool of clear water and some reported micro-organisms; as the Reverend Julian Edmund Woods explained in his "Geological Observations in South Australia" (1862), "...this cave is remarkable as having been one of the sole reservoirs of water for the early

settlers before any wells were sunk; now, however, it is little used for this purpose ... it has a pool of water ... which is so deep as to give it, clear as it is, a deep sea-blue tint ... the water is full of a cypris and cyclops, the shells of which seem to strew the bottom ... there is also much conferva, a shrimp-like brachiopod, and a minute paludina, which seems to blacken the water, and they cover a piece of wood very soon after its immersion".

Things changed dramatically with the growth of the city, however; according to an article in the 13 May 1963 edition of the "Border Watch" newspaper, drainage from Commercial Street commenced around the year 1863, thereby destroying this interesting ecological system.

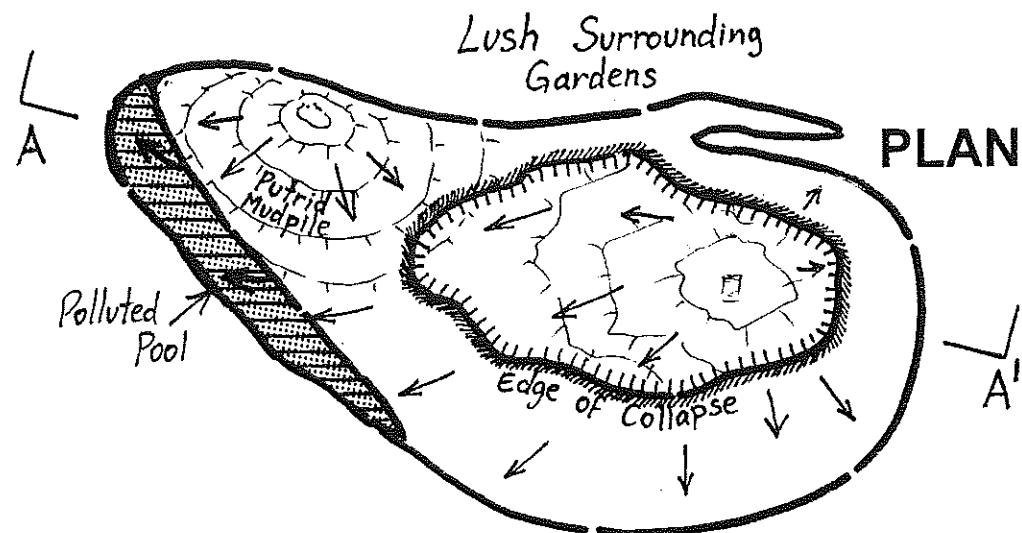
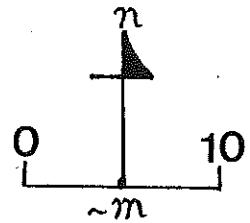
A December 1954 CEGSA Trip Report by Elery Hamilton-Smith reported that the pool was dirty and odorous, and that efforts to find access to an inner chamber were unsuccessful. Conditions were identical when the author (in the company of Lee Dixon and Mark Nielsen) attempted to assess the water-table pool for extensions in 1981.



P. Horne

# CAVE GARDENS

5L4



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L5

## MONBULLA CAVE.

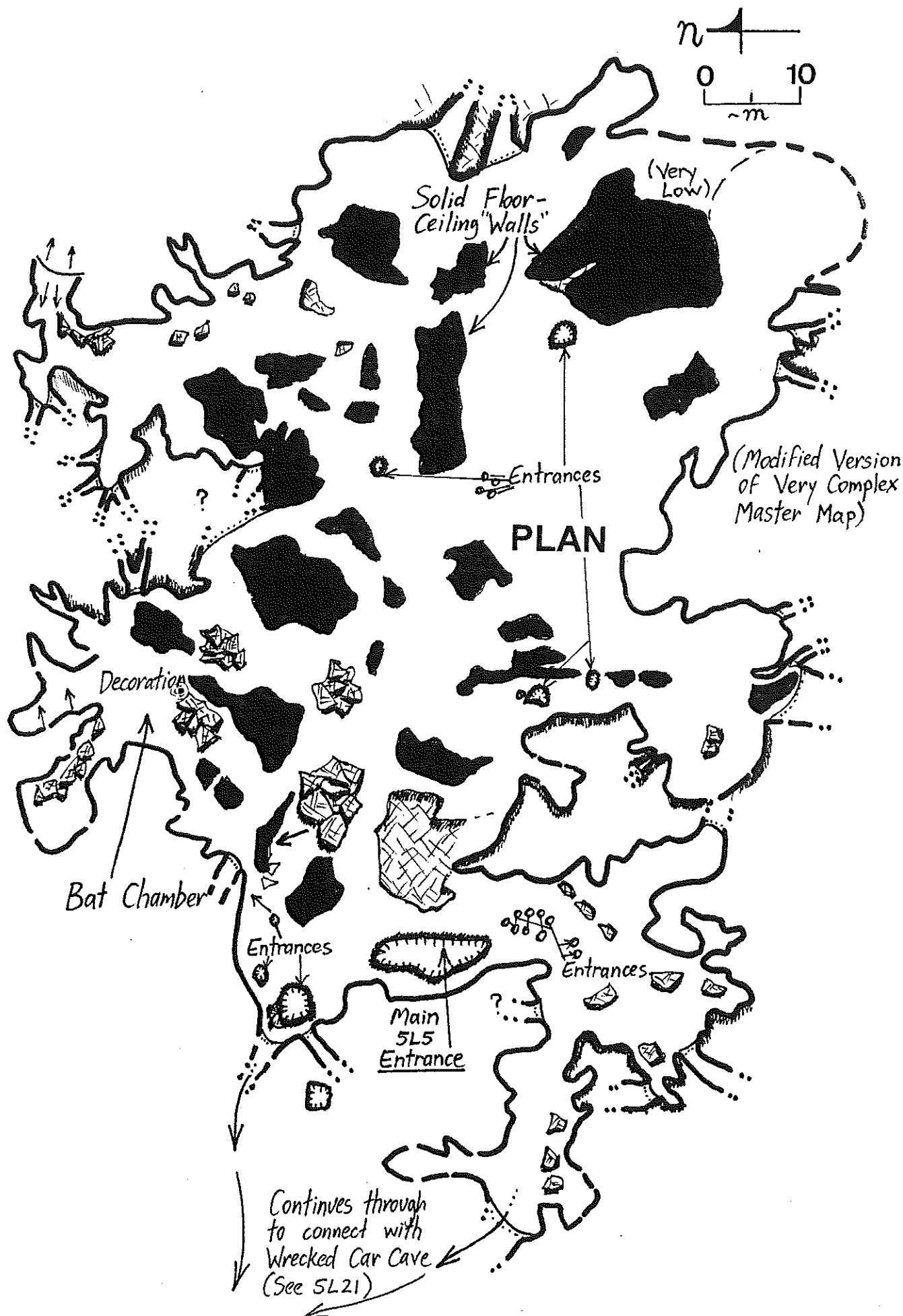
This complex cave has at least 30 entrances including collapse windows and solution pipes which all lead to a wide, flat cave which covers an area of some 110 x 90 metres. The feature occasionally floods from a nearby drainage channel and has a dark silt floor.

Some pockets of excellent decoration can be found in this feature, especially in the adjacent "Wrecked Car Cave" section, which was initially thought to be a separate cave (refer to 5L21).



# MONBULLA CAVE

5L5



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L6

### UMPHERSTONS CAVE.

Named after Mr. James Umpherston, a former politician who purchased the land in 1886 and subsequently beautified what was a barely-accessible eye-sore, this feature is a very large open sinkhole about 50 x 55 metres across and 20 metres deep. It is undercut all the way around, and it has been extensively modified to provide easy access for the public.

The water-table is reached at the east-south-eastern end in a shallow crescent-shaped lake which has a deeper section, where a recently installed pump supplies water for a nearby artificial waterfall. In the earlier years of the 20th Century, almost all of the sinkhole's floor was covered by a lake which tourists could explore in a rowboat, but the lowering of the regional water-table over the decades has now left it basically dry.

A CEGSA Trip Report by Bob Sexton in April 1963 mentioned that the property on which the sinkhole is situated was formerly known as "Umpherston's Cave Station", as well as the fact that a well hole had been put down on the south-eastern side, although it no longer reached the water. Other sources also referred to the property as "Beswicks Farm", and James Umpherston employed a gardener around 1870 to keep the cave and the surrounding area in a very tidy condition. James' efforts paid off as the recreational value of the site became evident; for example, it was reported that over a 10 day period in early April 1889, more than 1,000 people visited the feature, and the property became known as "The Caves Farm".

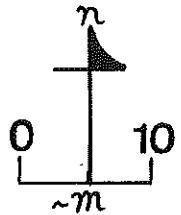


Almost 100 years later, in November 1982, the author undertook a brief scuba-dive in the small pocket of relatively deep water which remains in the sinkhole today, in the south-eastern area directly below the waterfall. This dive revealed that the minor extension was little more than a very narrow vertical fissure-like area generally less than half a metre wide which ran around between the wall and the rubble floor for a few metres, and it had a maximum depth of only about 5 metres.

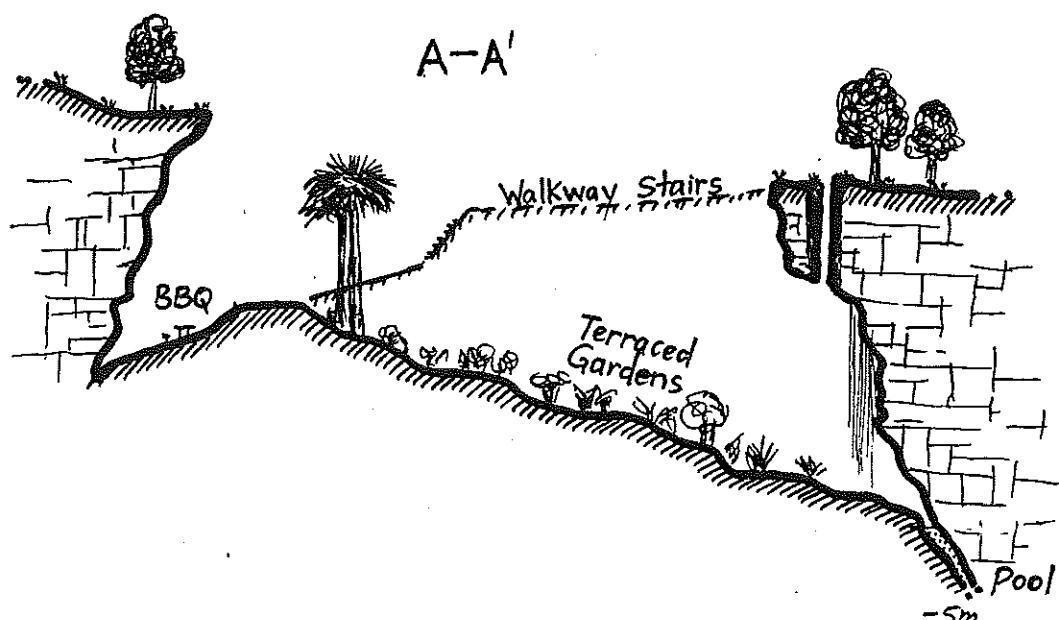
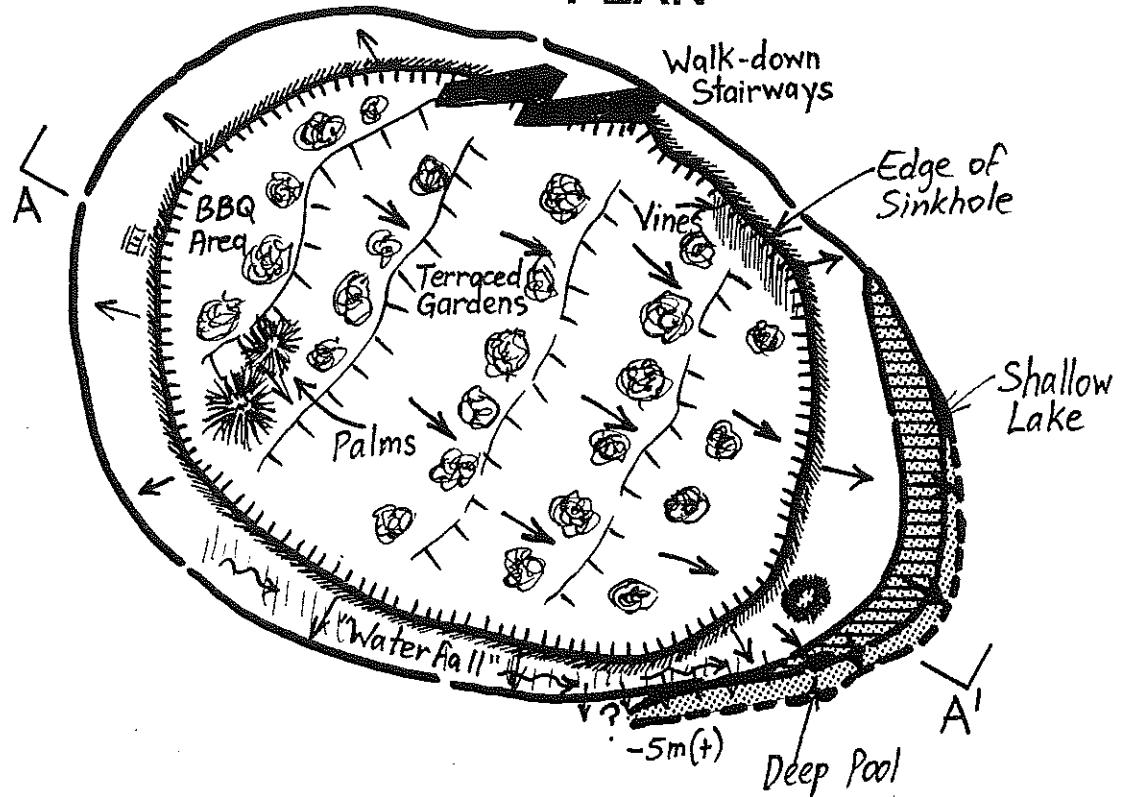
Umpherstons Cave is a fabulous example of what other waterfilled sinkholes such as the huge Little Blue Lake really look like beneath the surface, and is well worth a visit ... you may even see a possum or two!

# UMPHERSTONS CAVE

5L6



## PLAN



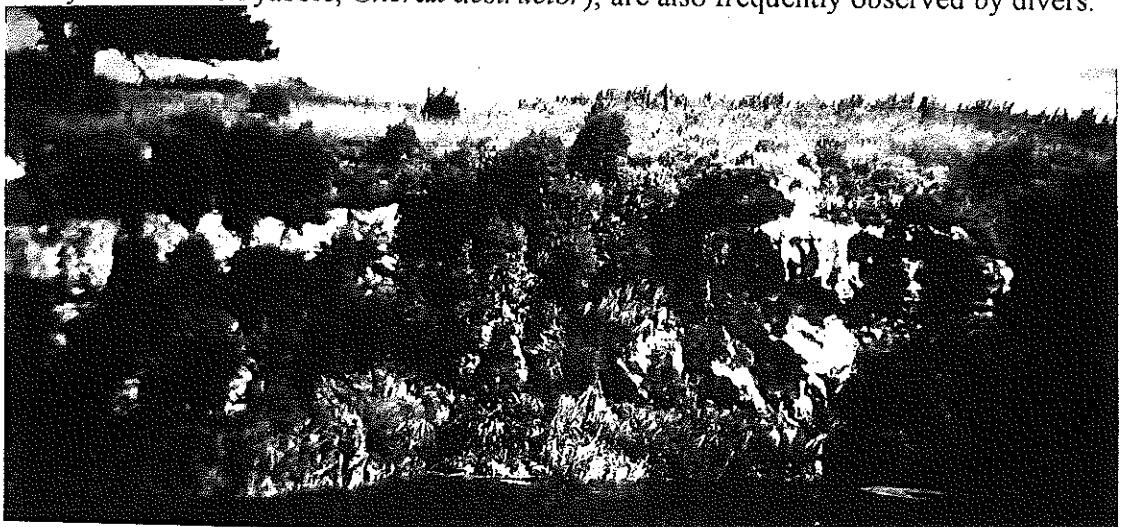
[Map ASF Grade 3, R.Sexton  
(CEGSA) 1962, plus ASF Grade  
1 details by P.Horne, 1982]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L7

## ONE TREE SINKHOLE (Wurwurkooloo, Wurwurlooloo).

Popularly known as "One Tree" after a lone pine tree which stands near the northern edge of the feature in an otherwise bare paddock, this large open "cenote"-style waterfilled sinkhole is about 36 metres in diameter with 8m high sheer walls all around, except on the southern side where a rough cutting makes access to the present-day water level relatively easy. The walls slope in towards the centre of the sinkhole for a few metres underwater and then gradually bell out, creating a flooded cavern which has a much larger diameter than the entrance lake.

The top of the silt-covered collapse mound is reached at a depth of around 32 metres, where some old farming machinery (including two harrowers which are commonly called "The Harvesters") can be found. The bottom then drops away under the walls to a flatter floor, where many large boulders and an almost-buried, upside-down car are the only items to break the otherwise featureless view. There are also some "swimthroughs" between the boulders, and some graffiti can be found on the walls near the deepest area on the northern and north-western sides. Native trout (*Galaxias maculatus*) and introduced redfin perch, along with various crustaceans (especially the common yabbie, *Cherax destructor*), are also frequently observed by divers.

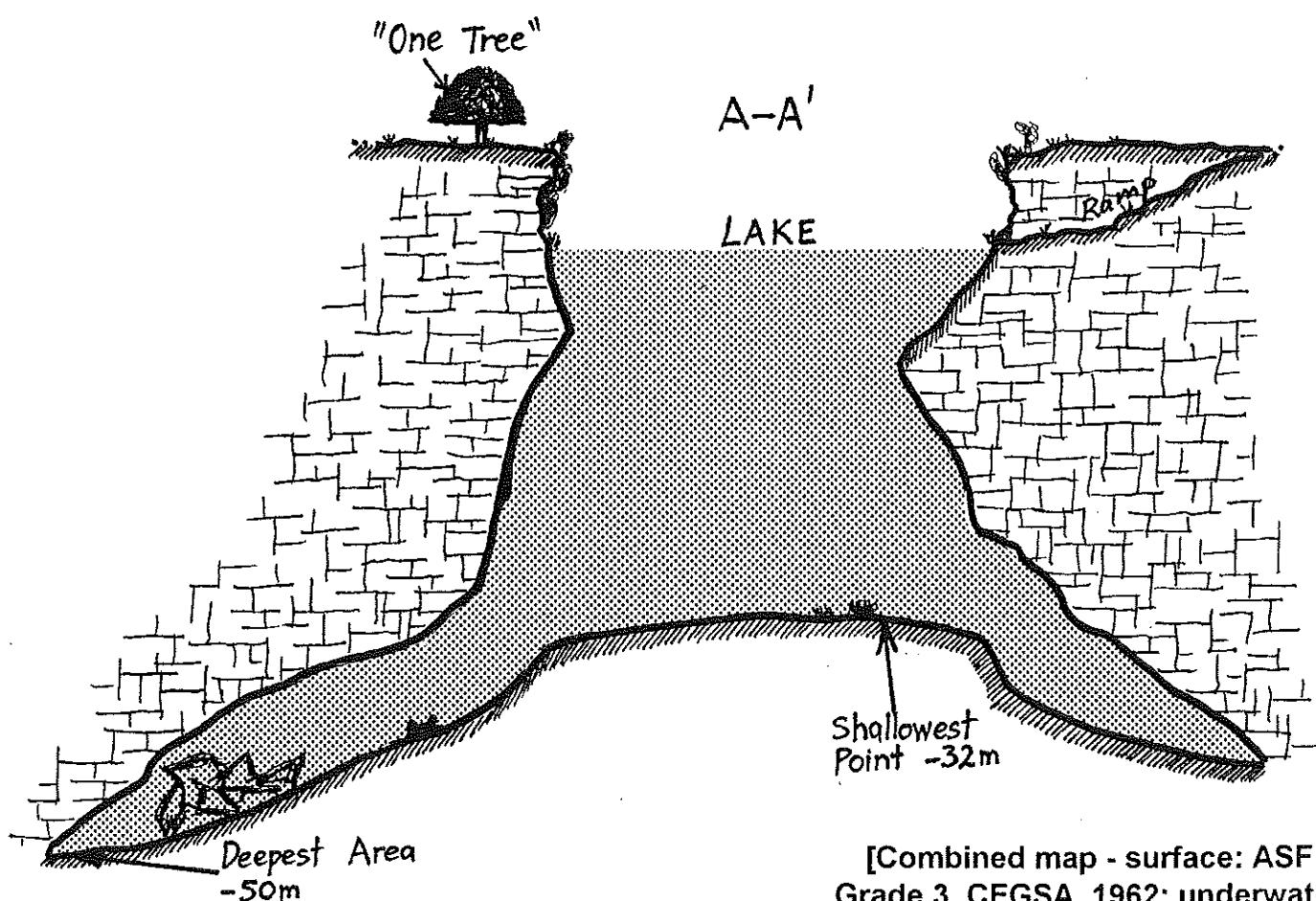
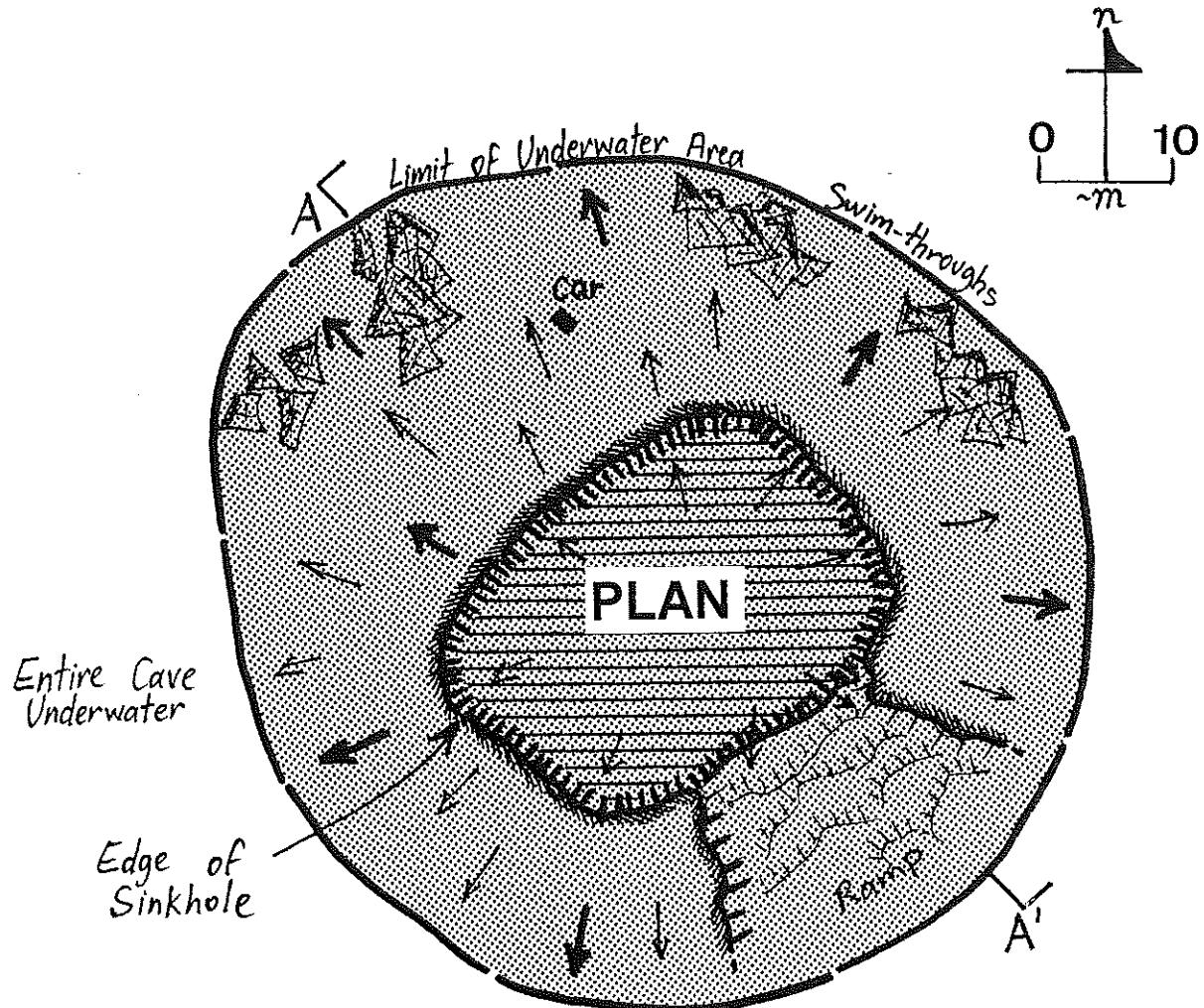


The first reference to this sinkhole in CEGSA's Records was made by Elery Hamilton-Smith in December 1954, when he reported it as a "very deep lake, of bright blue colour". Bob Sexton reported in April 1962 that the name 'Wurwurlooloo' was shown on older Lands Department maps and, according to Norman B. Tindale, this means "Teatree Swamp or Place". Even older Lands Department maps referring to the cave as "Wurwurkooloo" have been found recently, and because it is widely known by cave divers (its main users) as "One Tree", this name is nowadays preferred.

The first known logged scuba dives in this sinkhole occurred in November 1962, when local divers Philip ("Mick") Potter and Jock Huxtable descended to about 45 metres, and in the early 1980s, some preliminary environmental studies and mapping attempts by the author and others provided a lot of useful information about this mysterious place. Nitrate contamination was also low (around 13 mg/l) when samples were analysed by Mount Gambier's Engineering and Water Supply Department around that period.

# ONE TREE SINKHOLE

5L7



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 3, CEGSA, 1962; underwater area: ASF Grade 2, I.Lewis & P.Stace, 1980 & P.Horne, 1981]

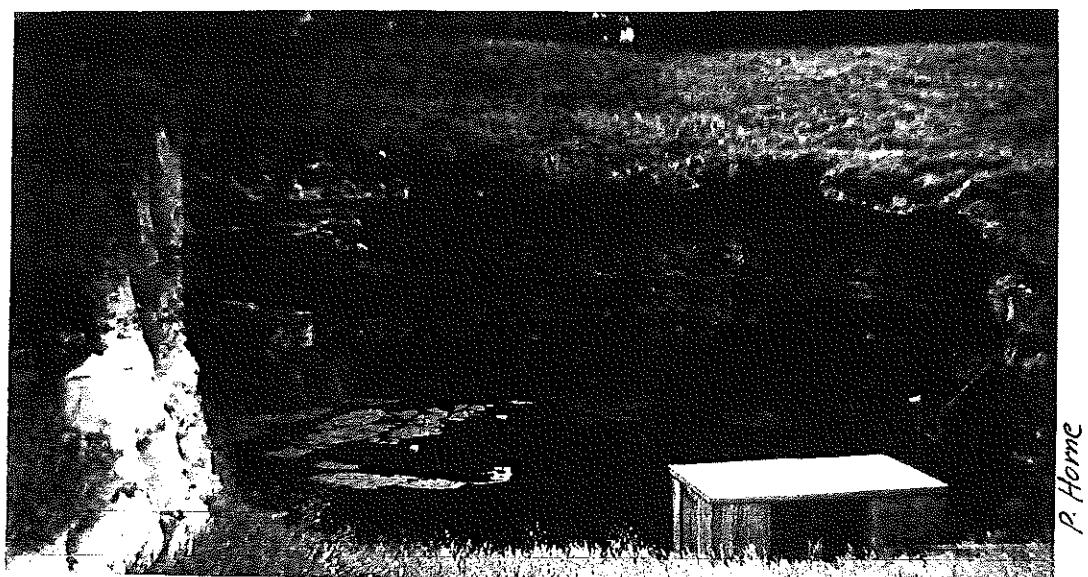
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L8

### GOULDENS HOLE (Goulden Waterhole, "Goolders").

Previously known simply as the "sinkhole in the middle of the road", Gouldens Hole was named after an adjacent landowner, Mr. Reginald H. Goulden, who purchased the property immediately to the east of the sinkhole in 1949 (through the Soldier Settlement Scheme) and leased it from the Lands Department for irrigation pumping purposes. The property was sold to Mr. Eric Childs in the early 1970s, and about a year later it changed hands to Mr. Trevor Telford and his family.

Gouldens Hole is an open "cenote"-style waterfilled sinkhole about 30 metres in diameter, and it drops 9 metres to the water all around except on the south-eastern side, where a very large cut ramp leads down to the water. A small horizontal dry passage about 30 metres long also lies a few metres to the east of a small pumping shed about 7 metres above the bottom of the ramp.

The shallowest area of the sinkhole is 3 metres, directly beneath the pipe leading to the shed and on the top of a sloping rockpile which begins from this point, and the deepest region – in the north-western area known as "The Alcove" – is around 26 metres. There is also a very unstable and restrictive area directly behind the huge mound of debris from the ramp, but this should not be entered by cave divers as it is extremely loose and silty and doesn't lead to any other extensions.

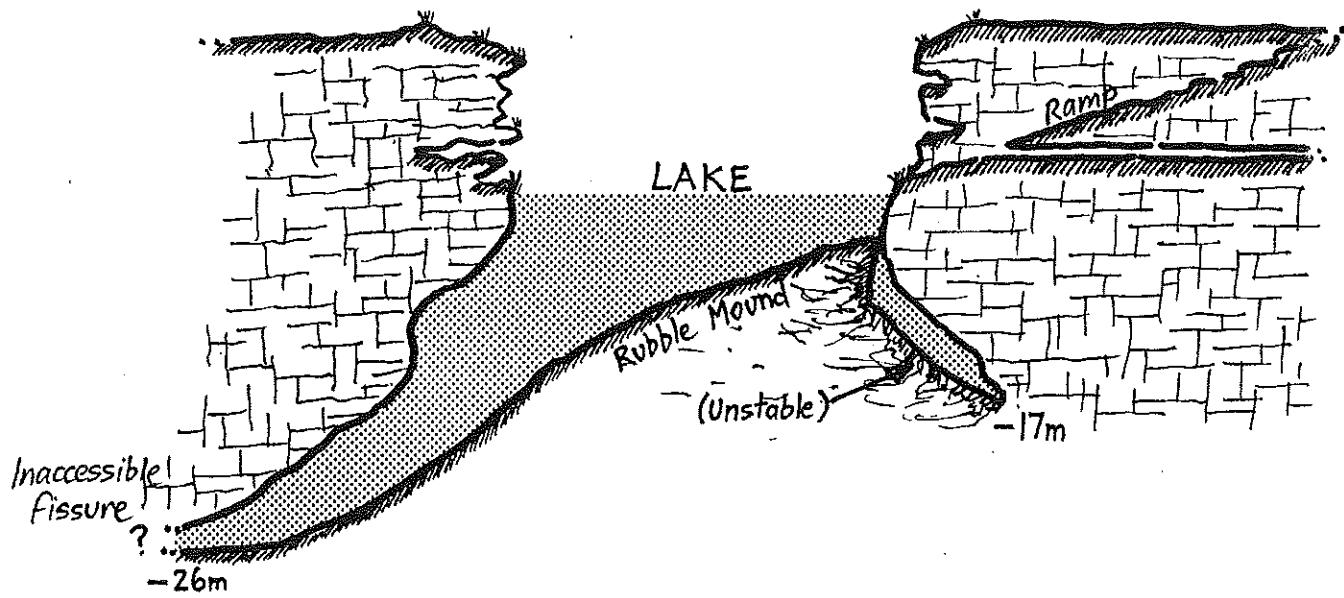
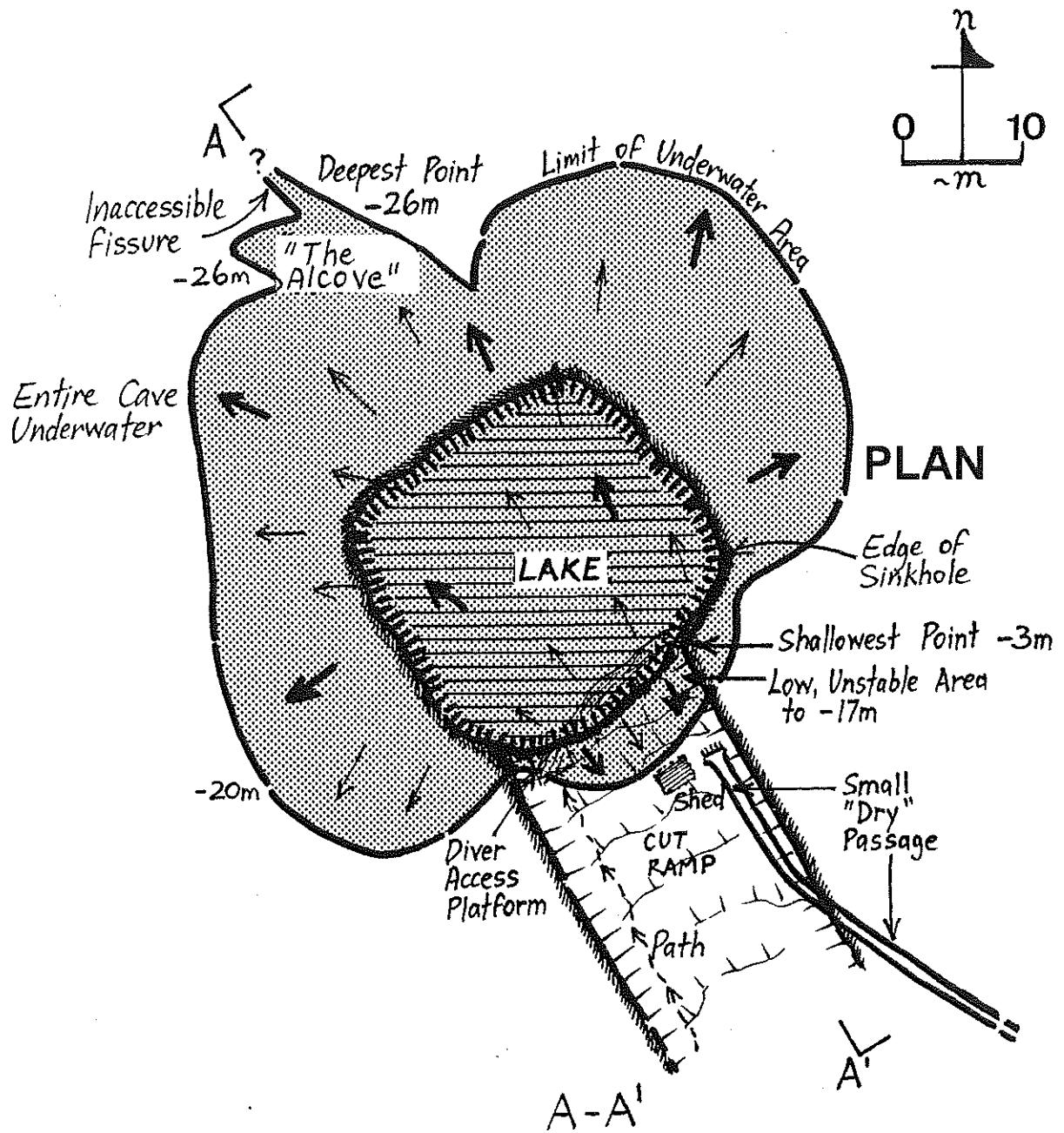


Reference to this sinkhole first appeared in CEGSA's Records in a brief note by Elery Hamilton-Smith dated December 1954, when the origin of the name was still unknown. More information appeared in June 1961, when Bob Sexton described its location and gave a brief above-water description. On April 1st, 1962, the first known scuba exploration of the site took place when S.A.S.S.V. cave divers R. Addison, E. Street and L. Newman performed a 17 minute dive and reported finding a maximum depth of 75 feet (which ties in well with today's 26 metres). Mr. Goulden also mentioned around this time that the water level had dropped about 3m during the previous 13 years.

This sinkhole was better understood during the late 1980s, when preliminary underwater environmental studies involving the recording of life-forms (such as aquatic plants and animals, and previously-unidentified stromatolitic structures), as well as detailed underwater surveys, were carried out by cave diving researchers.

# GOULDENS HOLE

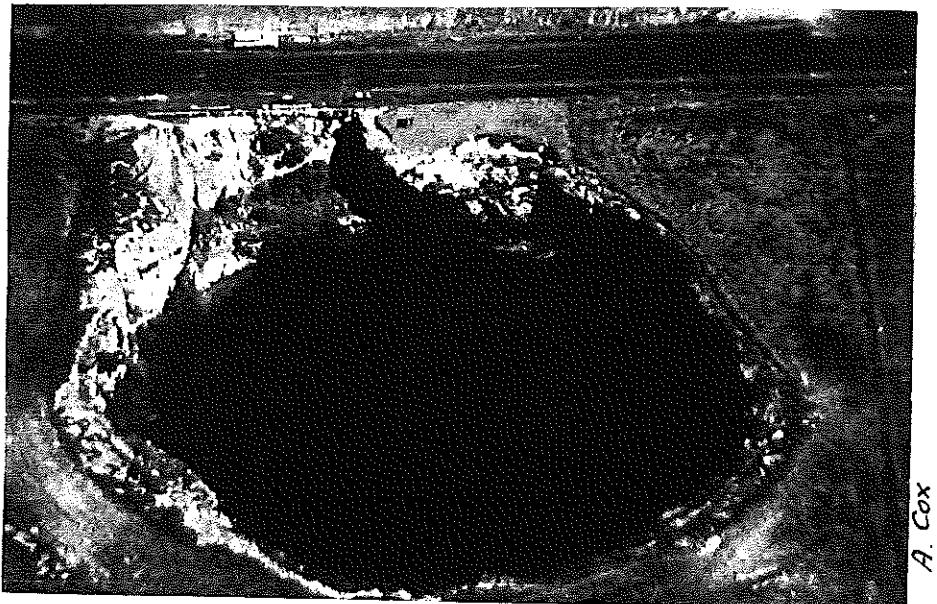
5L8



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L9

### LITTLE BLUE LAKE (Baby Blue).

The Little Blue Lake is a large "cenote"-style waterfilled sinkhole with a diameter of around 45 metres, and it has an 8 metre drop to the water-table. Apart from a large artificially-cut stock-access ramp on the feature's southern side (right beside the bitumized Mount Schank-Kongorong road), the walls are sheer and/or undercut all the way around. The sinkhole is popular with divers and local swimmers, and while it can occasionally contain very clear water, it is more often murky and less than 12 degrees C at depths in excess of 10 metres. The shallowest point is directly under the cut ramp, on the top of a steep rubble-pile of debris which is first reached at a depth of around 25m; from here, the deep and flat muddy floor levels off at about 36 metres. Slightly deeper areas are finally encountered at the floor/wall interface, and apart from a rusting turquoise-coloured Morris 1100 with a crushed roof and an old petrol bowser and other pieces of junk, the feature contains little of interest to cave divers.

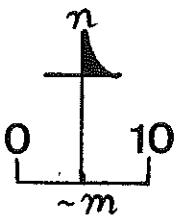


The Little Blue Lake was possibly one of several sinkholes which were discovered by Governor George Grey's party in 1844; in fact, it might be his original "Devils Punchbowl", although another large sinkhole nearby – "The Black Hole" (5L47) – might in fact be the feature referred to. The first mention of this sinkhole in CEGSA Records was by Bob Sexton in June 1961, when he reported that "water is pumped out, reputedly for the Kongorong town water supply". Although it is likely that the feature was first visited by scuba divers in the very late 1950s, the first formally-recorded dives known to the author were carried out by S.A.S.S.V. members between the 10th and 12th of June, 1961. In December 1961, local diver Philip "Mick" Potter dived with Adelaide diving identity David Burchell to a depth of 30 metres. Also in that month, Messrs. W.J. Kunert and E. (or A?) Eldred collected sponges and mud samples, and in February 1962, Mick reported finding very clear water below a depth of 15 metres.

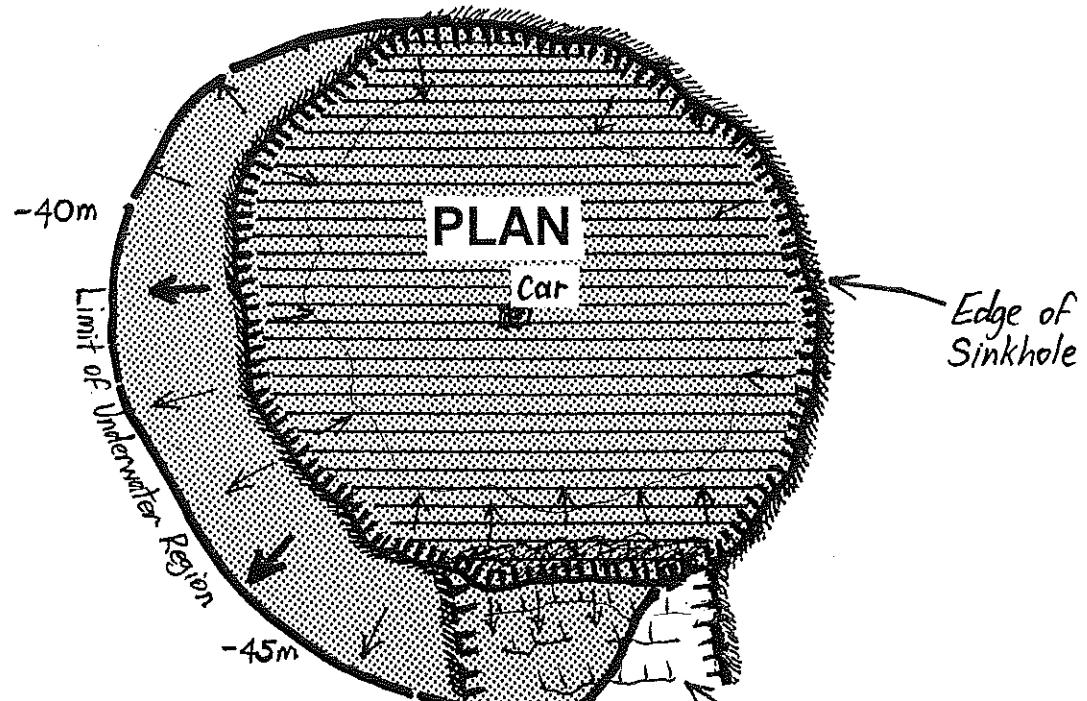
This sinkhole has recently been mapped in more detail by members of the CDAA's Research Group, and a considerable amount of new information has now been collected. Water samples collected by the author in 1989 also revealed surprisingly-low levels of nitrate contamination – 2.5 mg/l – and almost no other detectable pollution.

# LITTLE BLUE LAKE

5L9



A'



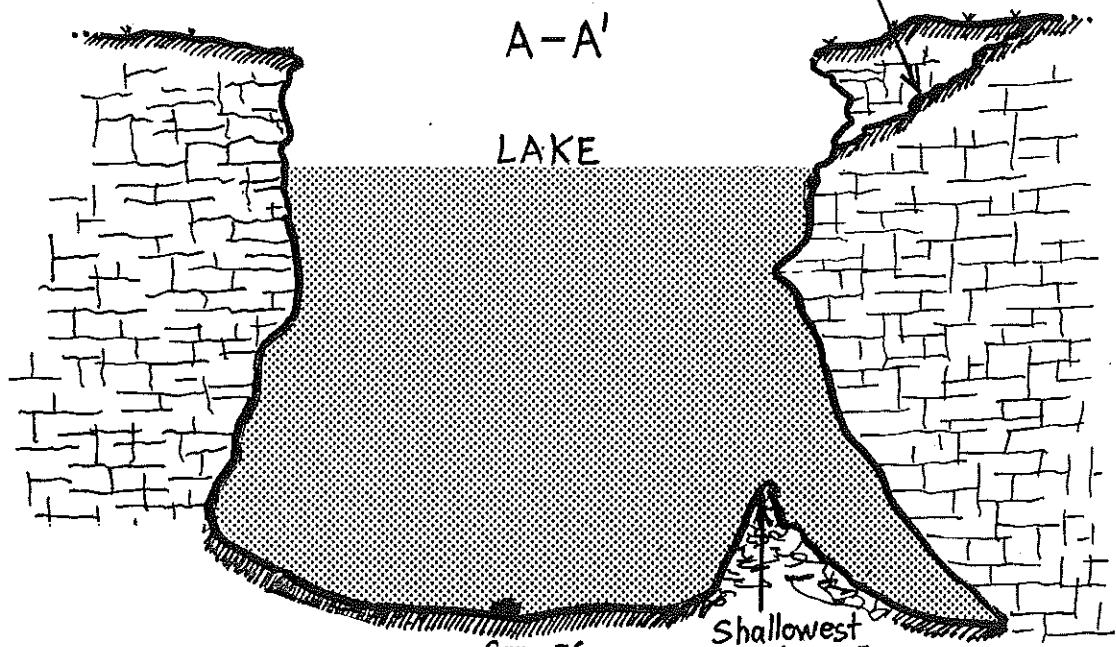
A''L

A-A'

LAKE

Car -36m

Shallowest Point -25m



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 1, L.Grant (CEGSA), 1962; underwater area: ASF Grade 5, K. Smith & CDAA Res. Grp, 1993]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L10

### CAROLINE SINKHOLE (Pond Flat Sinkhole; Pawn Flat Sinkhole; Corn Flat Cave; Lily Pond).

Caroline Sinkhole is a very large, open feature similar to the "cenote"-style waterfilled sinkholes which are common to this region, but it only has a relatively small body of water around its southern aspect. It is in the order of 60 metres in diameter and some 20 metres deep to the water table, with a steep but easily-accessible walk-down slope on its northern side. The bottom is muddy and marshy with dense cutting grasses (and aggressive tiger snakes!), so access to the water (which is still very murky) is not easy with heavy diving gear. No underwater extensions have been reported, but in view of its poor visibility and reasonable underwater (plumbed) depth of at least 2 metres around the walls, further exploration attempts may be worthwhile.

This sinkhole is an important archaeological site (as exhibited by very old campfires in a nearby rock-shelter), but it has also been used as a dumping ground for stolen and unwanted motor vehicles. Fortunately, the bulk of the rubbish has now been removed by conservation-minded people.

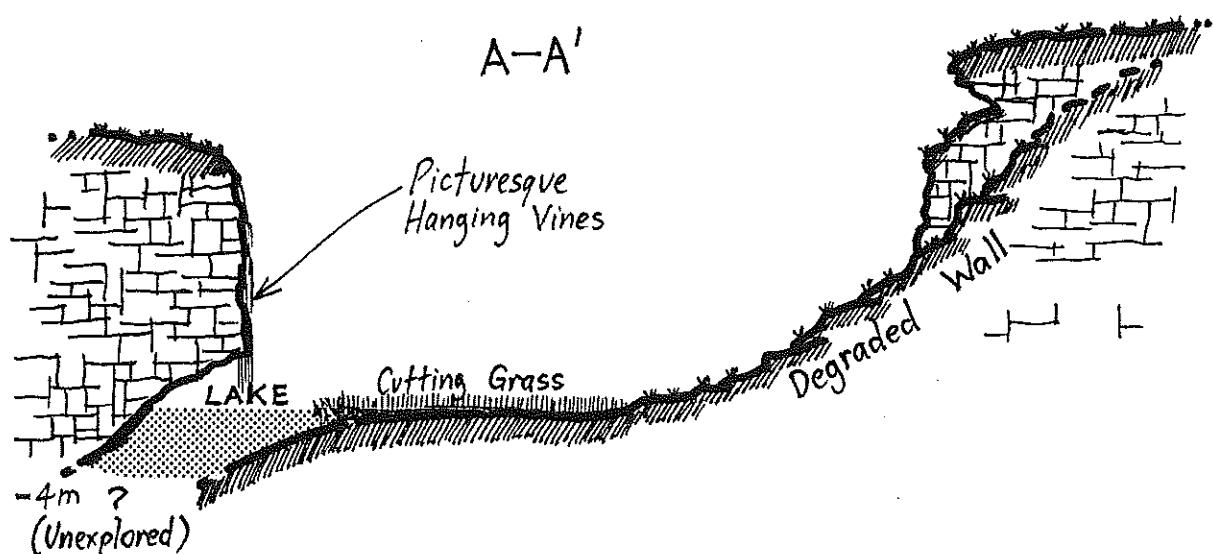
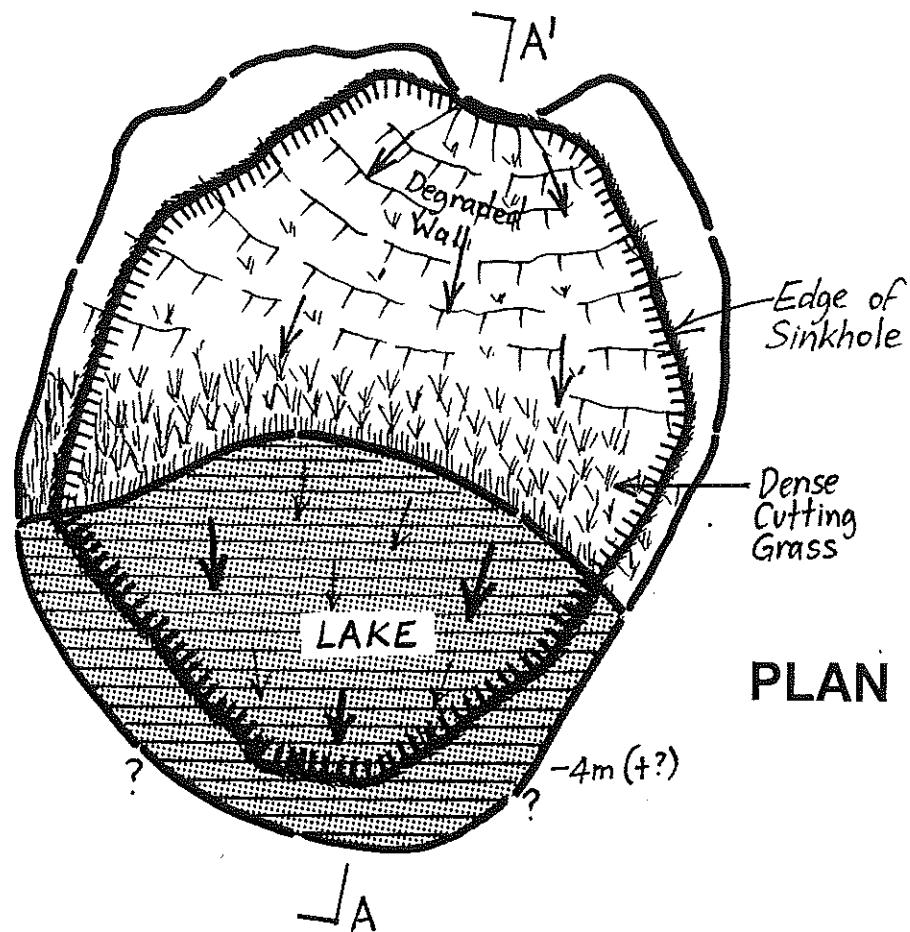
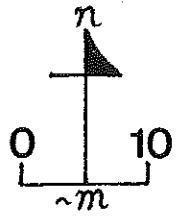
An interesting hydrological experiment was carried out here some years ago, when approximately 20 tonnes of salt was dissolved into the water to enable electrical conductivity tests to be carried out by the South Australian Department of Mines and Energy (pers. comm. Graham Pilkington, 1993). The heavier salty water caused the freshwater in the sinkhole to drop about one metre in the space of a few hours, enabling the researchers to discover a small spring-like "dome" of upwelling water on the floor near the western side. This unexpected discovery indicated that refilling of the sinkhole did not occur simply by sideways movement through the walls, as many believed. The saline water slowly moved westward before plunging deeper into the earth.



An old pump foundation was found on the eastern side of the sinkhole in June 1961, when Bob Sexton also reported that some very old names (including D. Mawson) were numerous on the walls of this feature. Today, a picturesque curtain of long creepers hangs from the walls directly above the lake, providing an aesthetically-pleasing aspect to this otherwise-abused sinkhole.

# CAROLINE SINKHOLE

5L10



[Map ASF Grade 5, R.Sexton  
(CEGSA), 1961; ASF Grade 2,  
P.Horne, 1981]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L11

### ALLENDALE SINKHOLE (Allendale East; Hole-In-The-Road).

The sinkhole at Allendale East is a unique feature in the sense that the main Mount Gambier-Port MacDonnell "Bay Road" diverts around its eastern and western sides in the heart of this small township. After years of ongoing subsidences, the sinkhole seems to have stabilized since the 1980s, appearing as a 10 metre diameter collapse with a steep climb-down section on its southern side, leading to a crescent-shaped pool of crystal-clear water some 6 metres below ground level.

The underwater region of interest to recreational cave divers basically consists of a single passage some 35 metres in length, dropping to a maximum depth of around 28 metres to the north-west of the entrance lake (probably under the road in that area). There is also a small dry crawl-down passage under the north-eastern wall. Divers should keep well away from the nasty, unstable areas in the shallower areas which follow the eastern wall of the main passage.

Although the water is very clear, it is quite dark because it is shaded from direct sunlight, and very little aquatic life is to be found ... in fact, the only life-forms recorded to date are some syncarids and yabbies (including at least one pure white one). Water samples collected by the author in 1981 indicated that the level of nitrates (as NO<sub>3</sub>) was around a moderate 17.1mg/l, which is quite good for this area, and the cave was the subject of a detailed mapping project by Stan Bugg and Brian Cornell of SAUSS (Inc) at the time of this writing.

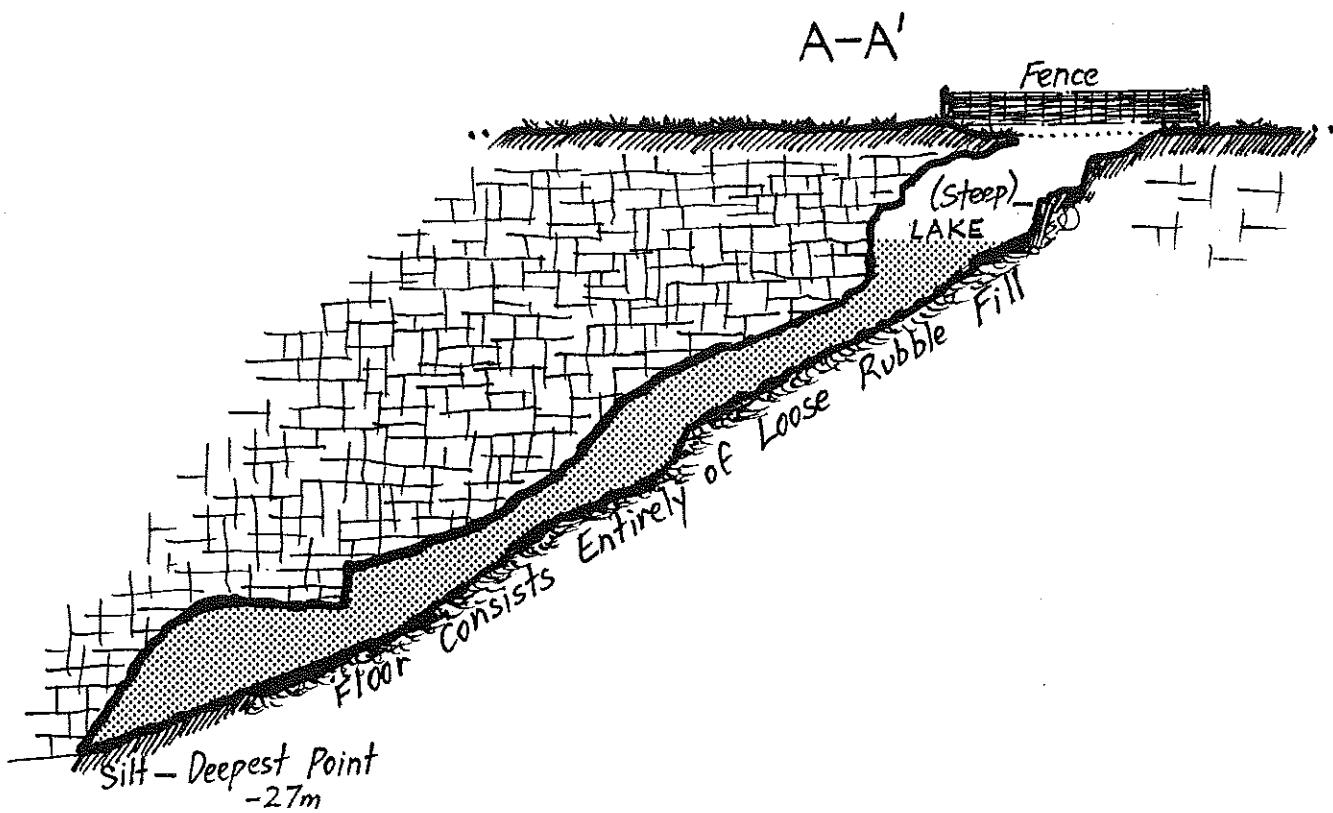
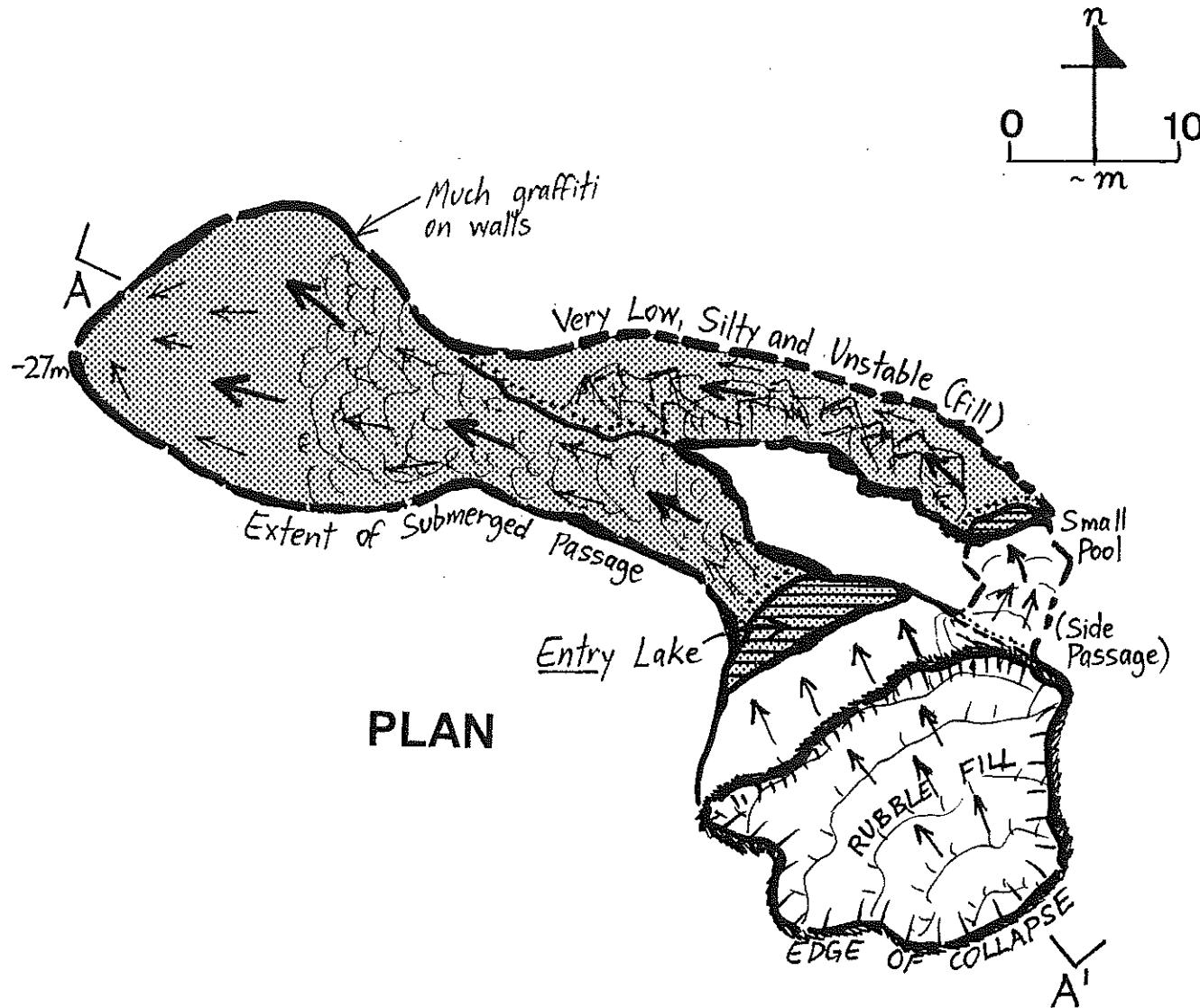
Allendale Sinkhole has been known since before the beginning of the 20th Century, when it was apparently used as a major watering hole for bullock waggons. The 3 August 1971 edition of the "Border Watch" newspaper reported that the cave "... was supposed to have appeared one night after a bullock waggon left one of the hotels in Allendale on its way to Port MacDonnell. The waggon, with its team and teamster, disappeared as the hole appeared, but the whole outfit was supposed to have "surfaced" again at Eight Mile Creek". Mention of the bullock team and dray was also made in Father Julian Tenison-Woods' "Biological Observations" of 1862.

An interesting early description was provided by the late Mr. W.A. Habner, of Port MacDonnell District Council, who reported that he had seen a basic map of the inside of the cave ... (it was like) "the cavity of a double tooth, with the main hole and two cavities", with one extending back towards the Allendale Hall (presumably today's popular diving passage) and the other heading in a south-easterly direction. He also said that the filling attempts first involved some 550 cubic yards of the biggest basalt rocks the Highways Department could handle, before many truckloads of loose paddock-stones followed. They only admitted defeat when the cave opened up again after NINE THOUSAND CUBIC YARDS of rock had been dumped into its entrance!

Unfortunately, no records of any pre-fill scuba dives have been located to date, and it seems unlikely that anyone dived it when one considers that the first recorded dives in the other bigger sinkholes of the region took place during the very early 1960s.

# ALLENDALE SINKHOLE

5L11

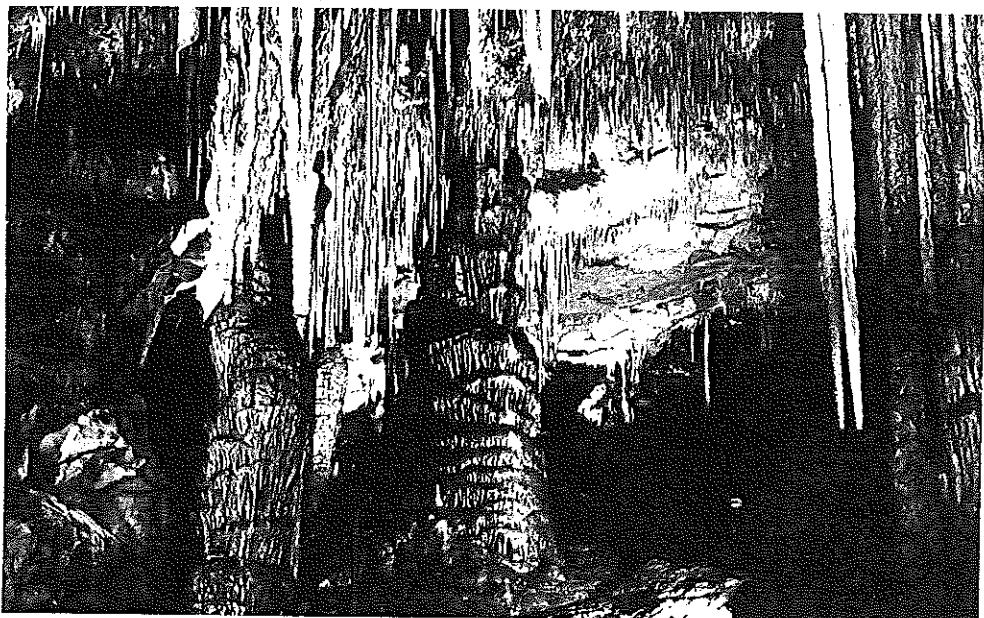


## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L12

### TANTANOOOLA TOURIST CAVE (Tantanoola Caves).

Located right beside Australia's National Highway Number One near the town of Tantanoola, this well-decorated tourist cave is believed to have formed initially as an inland cave which was broken into by the sea when it washed against the adjacent "Up and Down Rocks" in the distant past.

The cave is accessed via a locked door after entering a short tunnel, and consists of basically a single chamber about 30 metres across. It has been excavated through dolomite and older sea caves and is choked with indurated fill, and is acclaimed for its accessibility for the handicapped.



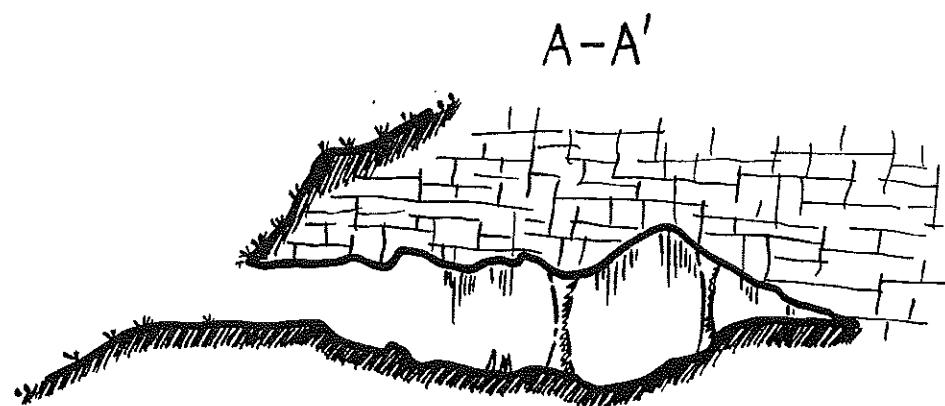
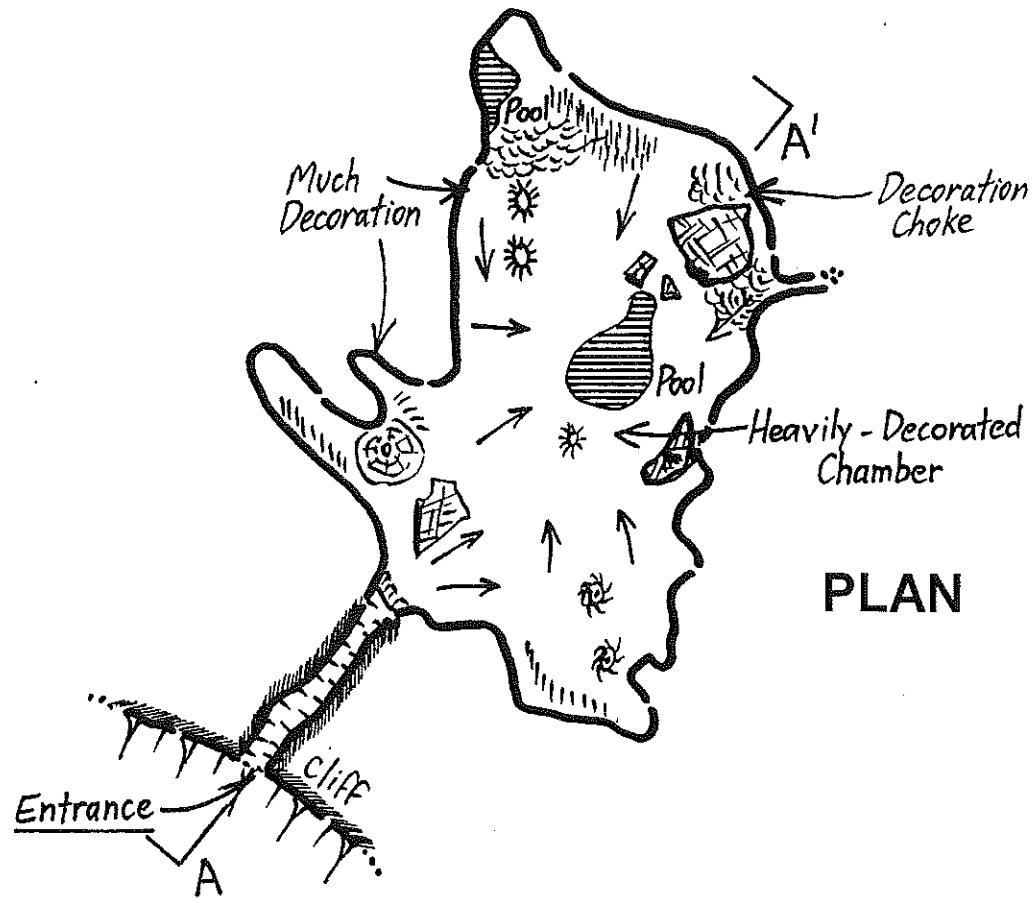
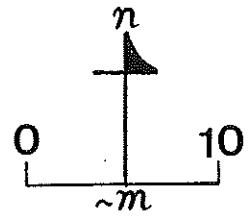
Tantanoola N.P.W.S./J. Tambyn

CEGSA has had extensive dealings with the landowner (currently South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service) over the years and has mapped the feature, stopping exploration where the presence of some very delicate decoration prevented further digging progress. The survey was of the old CRG Grade 6, and was completed on 19 July 1958.

The Tantanoola Tourist Cave was discovered on 28th March 1930 by the late Mr. Boyce Lane, who was searching for a lost ferret which forced rabbits out of their burrows (source: "The South Eastern Times", June 6th, 1977, pg. 3). Just over a year later, in May 1931, pioneering south-east cave researcher Norman B. Tindale (B.Sc.), in the company of the Director of the South Australian Museum (Mr. H.M. Hale) and a Museum Cadet (Mr. H. Condon) collected and studied various sediments and fossils which were discovered in the feature, concluding that (among other things) the presence of seal teeth indicated that at least part of the cave had been opened to the sea. Tindale named this cave "A", with "B", "C" and "D" being other small features in the same cliff line, and "E" – nowadays known as Tindales Cave E (5L18) – was allocated to a cave a couple of kilometres to the north. The first mention of the cave in CEGSA's Records took the form of a brief trip report by Noel Mollet dated 4-5 May 1957.

# TANTANOOOLA TOURIST CAVE

5L12



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L13

## THE THREE SISTERS.

The present-day entrance to The Three Sisters cave is a small, gated roof-window lying inconspicuously beside the sealed Glencoe Mile Hill Road near Tantanoola, a little more than half a kilometre from Highway One. Access to the cavern below is not a simple matter of dropping through the one metre-diameter entrance hole; there is an awkward section which needs to be negotiated for about 2 metres before cavers can commence the free drop of around 17 metres or so to the top of a steep dirt-pile.

Large masses of fine tree roots hang down like curtains in various areas around the walls of the main 30 metre diameter chamber, and the floor drops away steeply all around, terminating in two patches of water; a small, nasty-looking pool and a much larger crescent-shaped lake around the western side.

The Three Sisters has been known by its present name for many decades. The earliest reference found by the author – a copy of a paper by Norman B. Tindale in CEGSA's Records – was dated September 1933, and it seems to have been known to pre-CEGSA personnel since at least December 1954, when Elery Hamilton-Smith reported that the "... entrance of this cave consists of 3 small holes near the roadside, each approx. 1-2 feet in diameter. From the larger of them, there is a vertical drop of 52 feet to the talus below". He also noted that "Stalactites (are) plentiful on walls". June Marlow later noted (in May 1958) that a party had entered the cave to survey it – the first time since it had been closed by the district council on an earlier recommendation by CEGSA (reportedly because the hole was used as a dumping ground for carcasses and domestic rubbish and was deemed to be a health hazard). Although they realized that diving could very likely extend the length of the cave under the wall, it was not recommended because the water was murky and contained offal.

The diving potential of The Three Sisters was first recognised in the late 1960s or thereabouts when cave divers re-explored the feature, and in the late 1970s-early '80s they discovered the large underwater chamber via a very nasty restriction. It was only after a couple of years had passed that the general cave diving community became aware of the feature's existence.

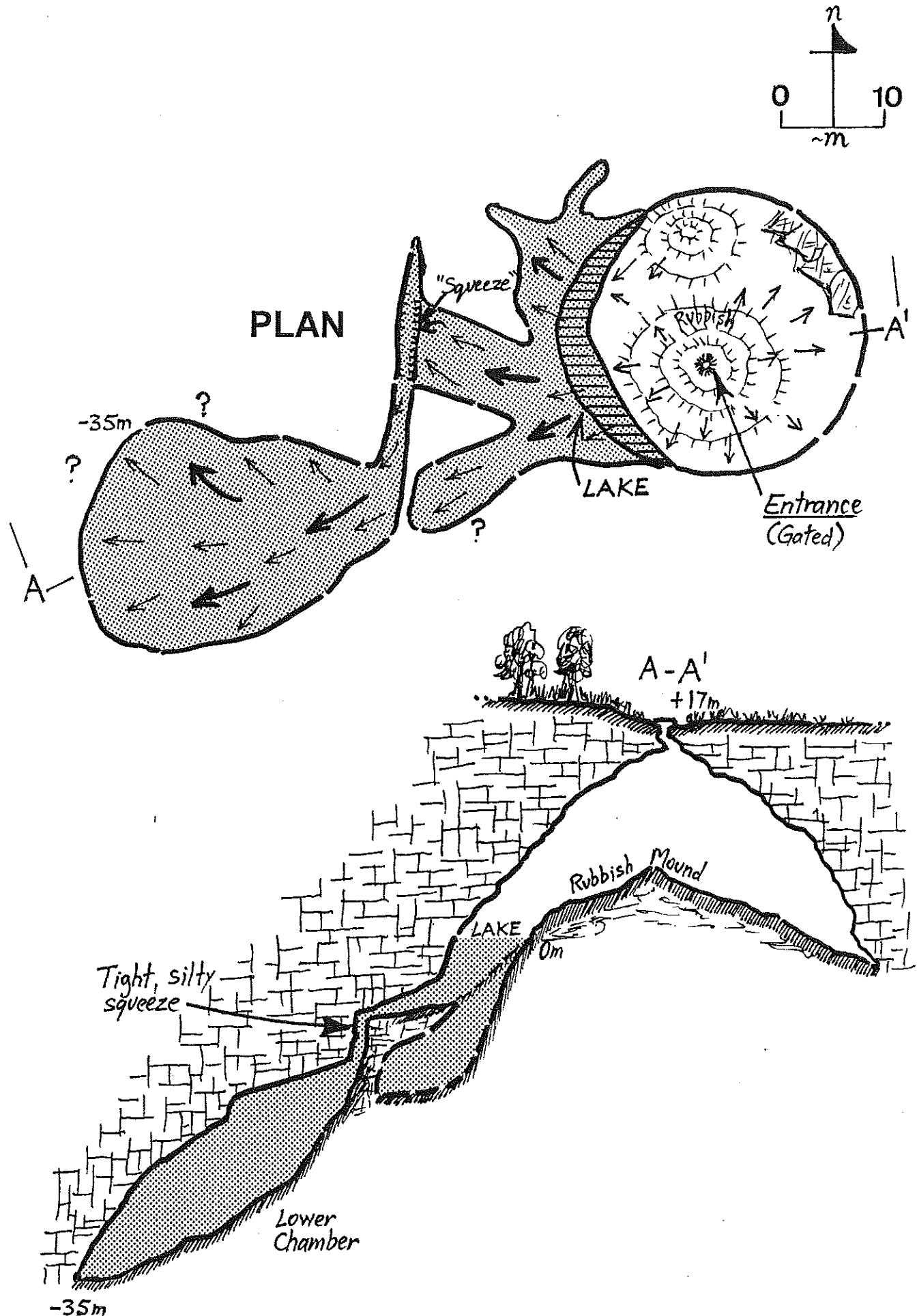
Just beneath the surface of the main lake, the wall cuts back into a flooded alcove, and the ceiling quickly drops to close to the floor and then down a near-vertical drop for a few metres, creating a very narrow (0.5m or so) major restriction which silts out immediately. This hazard can only be negotiated by (thin!) cave divers who are specially trained and equipped to tackle such difficult conditions (e.g., using properly set-up side-mounts).

Following the floor of this fissure, divers enter the top of a large and much more impressive room. This chamber is quite broad and has numerous silty drop-downs behind the boulders, and it reaches a maximum depth of around 35 metres. Despite careful searches by the author and others, however, no significant extensions have been found to date, although other divers have reported finding a smaller chamber reaching a depth of around 10-15 metres in one area.

Since the cave has not yet been properly mapped, it isn't possible to accurately plot all of its features at this time.

# THE THREE SISTERS

5L13



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 6, R.Sexton (CEGSA), 1958; underwater area: ASF Grade 1 (memory sketch), P.Horne & M.Nielsen, 1983]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L14

## ELA ELAP (Green Lake; "Eloch Elap").

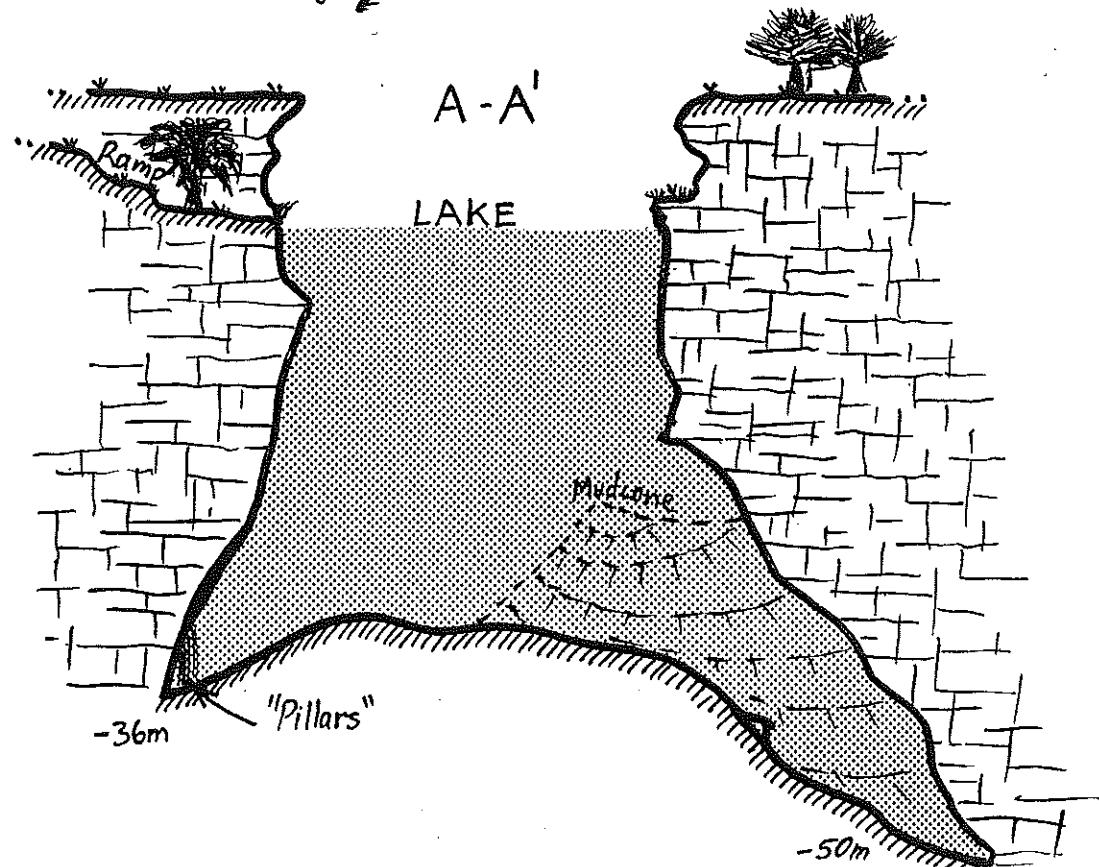
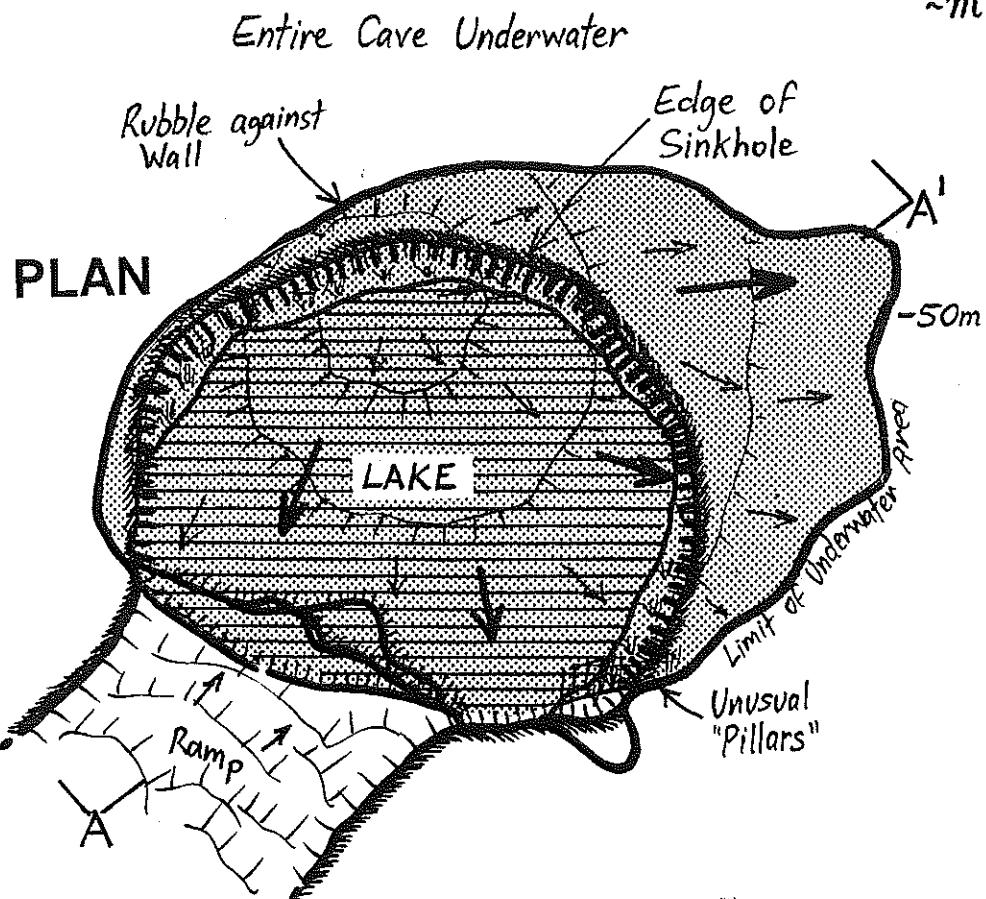
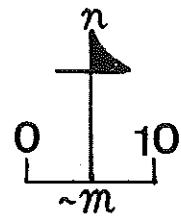
Ela Elap is a large "cenote"-style waterfilled sinkhole about 35 metres in diameter with 8 metre-high walls which drop to the lake (which is often a grey-green colour – hence its other popular name). The walls are vertical or undercut all the way around except on the south-western side, where a large sloping ramp has been cut (originally to provide stock access to the water, and to act as a modern-day base for a pump shed).

The shallowest point in this sinkhole lies on its northern side, almost directly under the overhang where the top of a rockpile (with some wire and rubbish) is reached at a depth of around 28 metres. From here, the pile drops all around to a soft silt floor on which several very large trees are to be found. The deepest point is at a depth of 50 metres, roughly on the north-eastern side. There are also some interesting vertical limestone structures several metres high on the walls just to the east of the entry zone, at a depth of 36 metres, and these "pillars" (perhaps stromatolites?) are thought to be the source of long-heard rumours of "giant stalactites" in the feature.



Although there are various ideas about the origin of the sinkhole's name, the most likely would appear to be the version which mentioned that the feature was named from the phonetics of the local aboriginal words "lap lap" for 'small fish'. (Many divers think that it is simply a reversed anagram for "Pale Ale", or "Pale Hole" for those who incorrectly call it "ELOH ELAP", but the "lap lap" theory seems to "hold water" the best!) It was reportedly described by Burr in 1845, and was first mentioned in CEGSA's Records by S.R. Shanks and Bob Sexton in April 1962.

The first dive in this sinkhole known to the author took place in November 1962, when local divers Philip "Mick" Potter and Jock Huxtable explored it to a depth of about 47 metres. The cold and often murky water in Ela Elap is almost legendary among today's cave divers, and this point was even noted by the earlier explorers! Preliminary research by the author in 1981 proved that Ela Elap was indeed colder than all other waterfilled sinkholes studied to date (around 11.0 degrees C, compared with the others' 13 to 15.5 degrees at depth), but why this is so has not yet been determined.



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 6,  
CEGSA, 1962; underwater area: ASF  
Grade 2, I.Lewis, P.Stace & P.Horne, 1980-81]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L15

## QUARRY CAVE.

Quarry Cave is entered via a low, rocky horizontal hole at the base of a 6 metre high quarry face next to a sealed highway near Gran Gran Corner, and it leads into a mud-floored chamber terminated by a large rockfall. The height to the ceiling is in the order of 3-4 metres, with a 2 metre high section in the centre of the chamber.

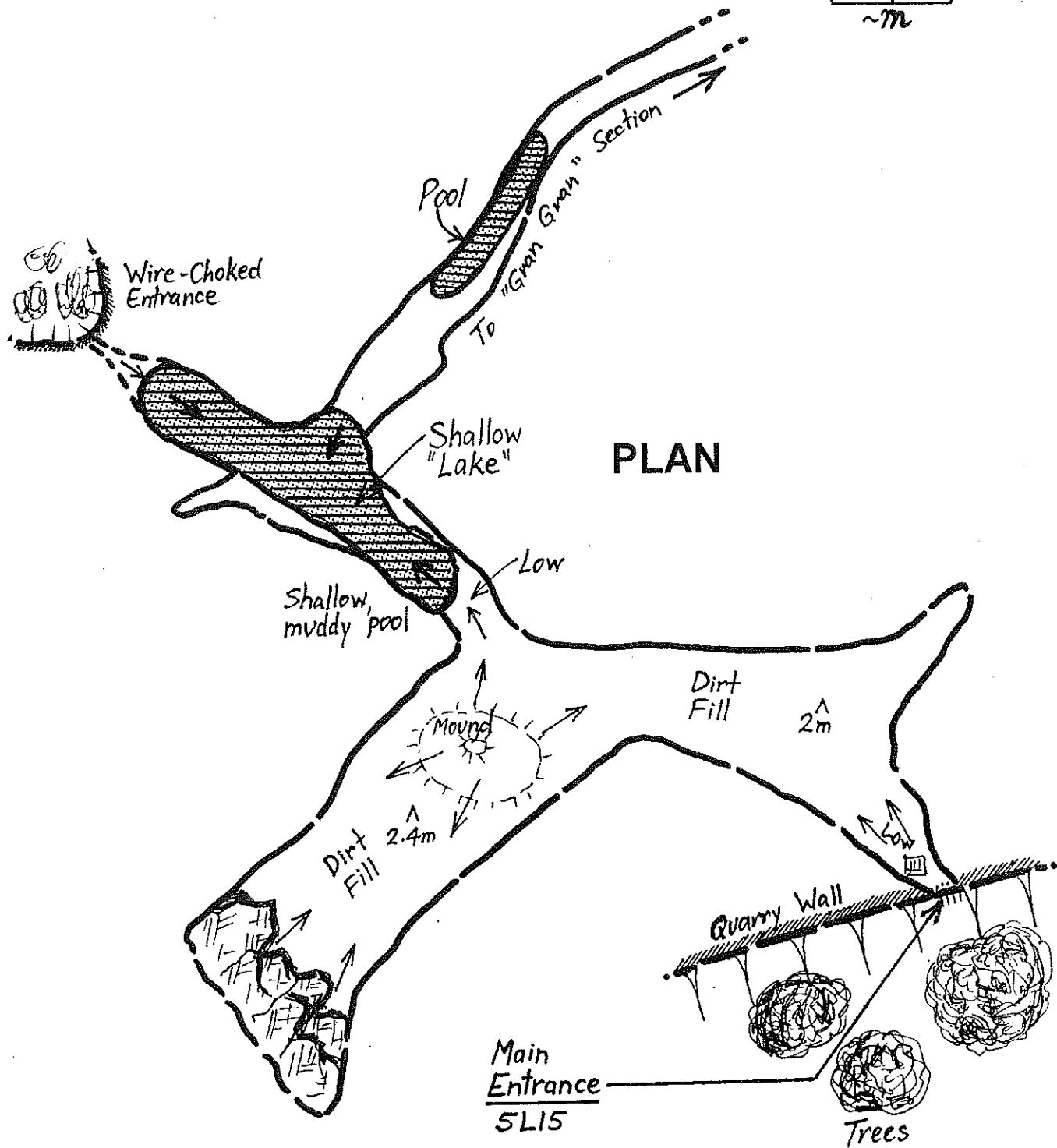
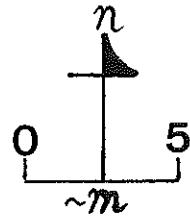
A low passage on the chamber's northern side leads to standing water and connects through to nearby Gran Gran Cave (5L60).

Wetas have been observed here, and the presence of bats was also mentioned in a brief January 1964 CEGSA report by Bob Sexton, although none were observed by the author during a visit in the early 1980s.



# QUARRY CAVE

5L15



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L16

## TANTANOOLA LAKE CAVE (North Cave; Lake Cave).

Tantanoola Lake Cave is a classic example of the contrasts of nature; having one of the smallest and most awkward wombat-hole-sized cave entrances in the Lower South East, it contains a truly spectacular lake chamber which is extensively decorated with "majestic draperies to the water's edge, which are unequalled anywhere in this state" (as was most aptly described by CEGSA's President in 1962, Noel Mollet).

The gated entrance crawlway is less than a metre across, and entry is best made feet-first where cavers can comfortably slide down the dirt slope until it is easier to sit up and climb down the boulders leaning against the wall. This leads to the top of a high rockfall chamber with many unstable boulders and considerable amounts of active decoration, and a low crawlway passage (with some very narrow and awkward vertical bits) leads off from the south-eastern side for around 60 metres to a dramatic balcony which overlooks the main lake chamber from nearly 20 metres above water level.

The lake is about 30 metres below ground level, and it reaches a maximum depth of about 10 metres between many large slabs of rock. No aquatic life-forms were observed during an exploratory research dive by the author in November 1982, although an (unexplored) underwater extension was seen to head off almost directly under the main access passage for at least 10

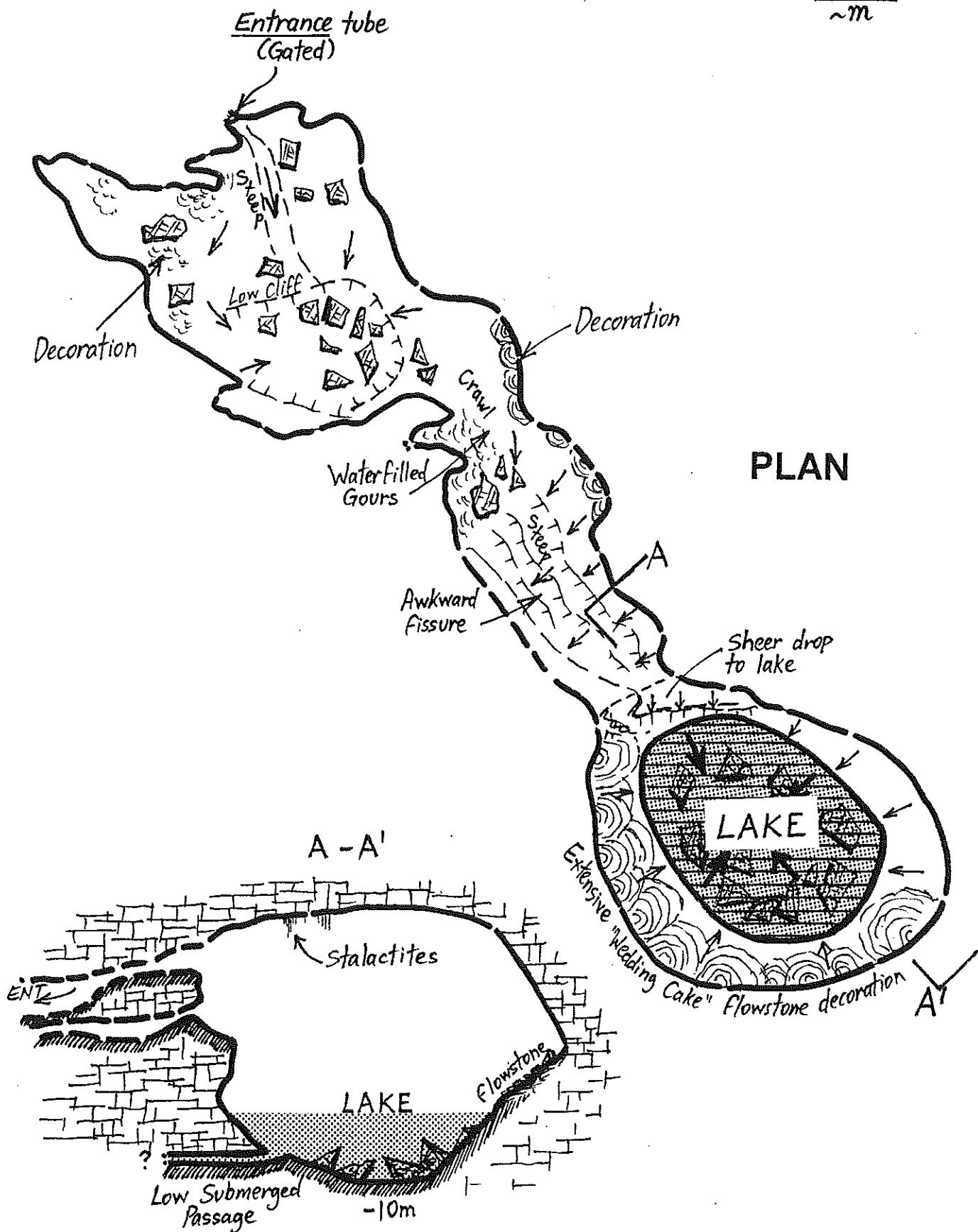
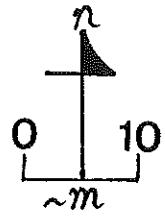
metres in the form of a silty flattener about one metre high and several metres across.

The first part of the cave was probably discovered a short time prior to May 1931, because it is mentioned in a research report by Norman B. Tindale in a paper referring to that time. It was apparently only when CEGSA first explored the feature in early 1957 that the "Crawl Way" and Lake Chamber were discovered.



# TANTANOOOLA LAKE CAVE

5L16



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L17**

### **MUDY CAVE.**

Not a lot was known about this feature at the time that this book was being prepared.

Noel Mollet reported in CEGSA's Records in May 1959 that the cave "... was penetrated to a distance of 60 feet (18 metres) and time did not permit further work..." and "... skull specimens were collected". Recent discussions with Noel by the author (late 1993) prompted him to recall that the cave was quite unremarkable, being basically a low, crouchy passage several metres wide with a wet mud floor. There was no decoration and it was similar in appearance to a horizontal mine passage.

No map is known to exist at this time.

MUDY CAVE

5L17

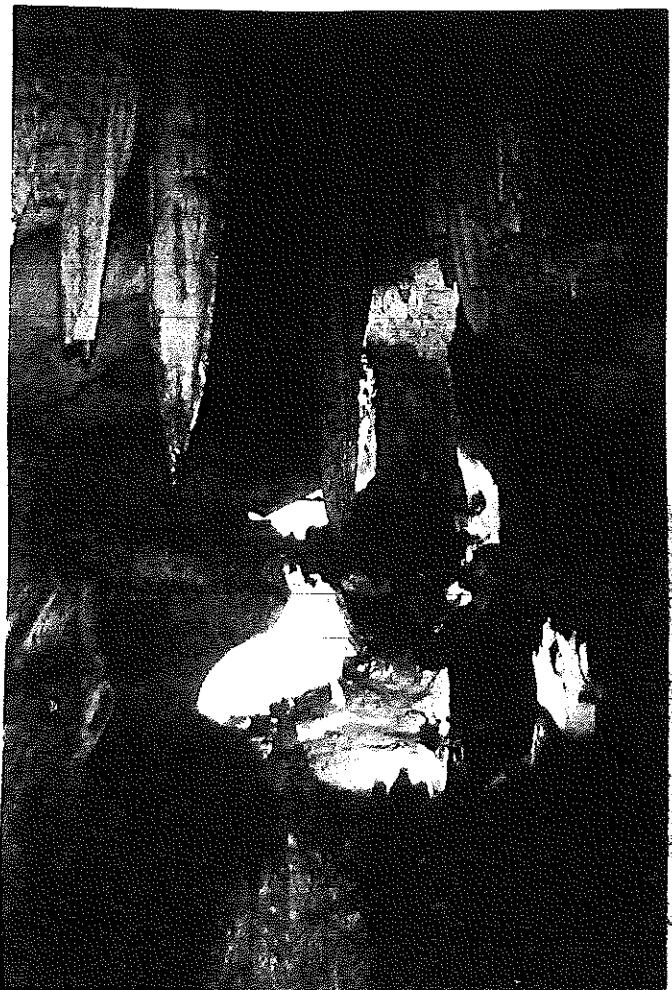
**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L18

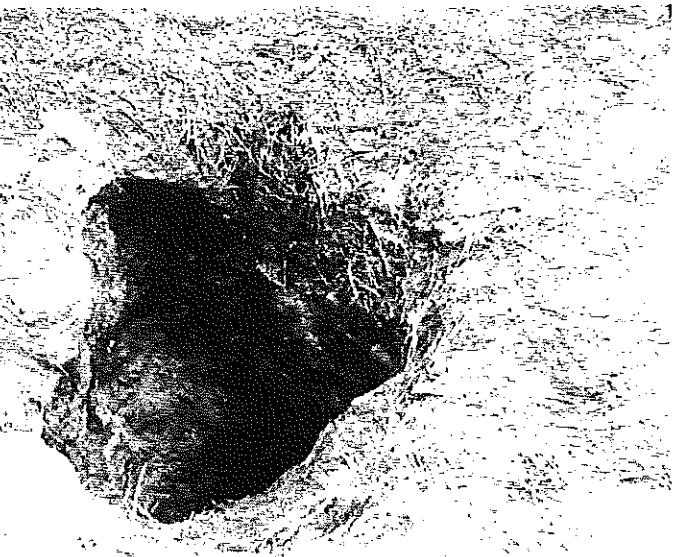
## TINDALES CAVE "E".

The entrance to this large (200 metre long?) horizontal cave system is a gated 8 metre deep chimney-like hole about 0.75 metres across near the surface, and the main passage heads off both to the north-west and south-east from the base of this tube (which is considerably narrower). The cave reaches a maximum depth of 13 metres below ground level and is generally around 3 metres high, with a lot of decoration. There is also a lot of old graffiti and considerable damage to many features.

This cave was the fifth in a series of five features which Norman B. Tindale (B.Sc.) named "A" through to "E" for identification purposes in May 1931, during a research visit to the Tantanoola Caves system at the nearby "Up and Down Rocks" (where he named the other four features, with "A" naturally being allotted to the main tourist cave). Tindales Cave "E" was found to contain a considerable amount of old (and recent) bone material, and it was apparently "lost" from about 1938 until sometime around the early 1960s, when CEGSA was provided with information from Messrs. Peter Gower and George Brown of Tantanoola via Mr. Fred W. Aslin in July 1965.



M. Nielsen

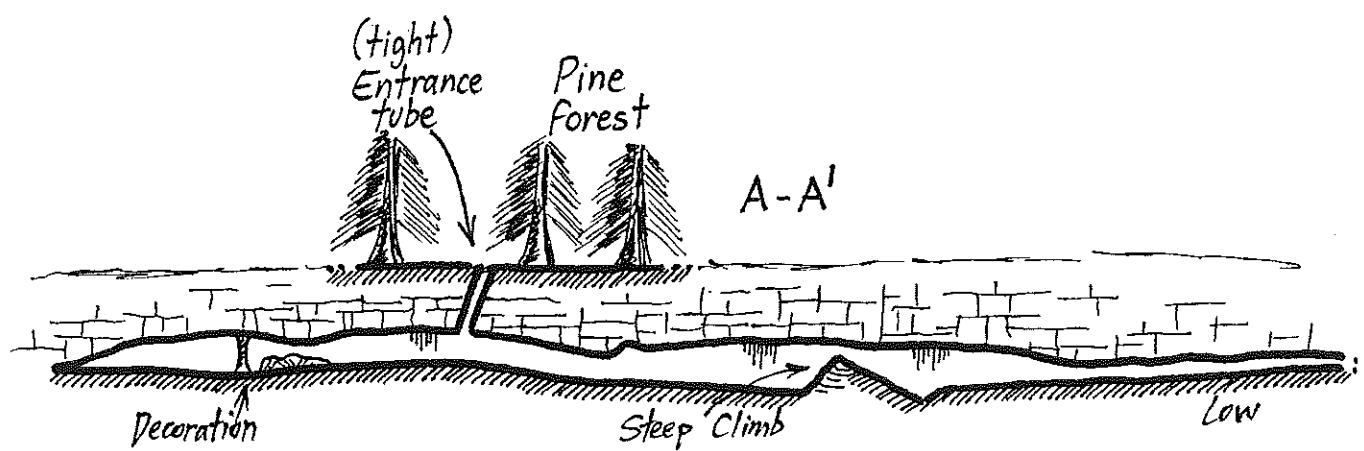
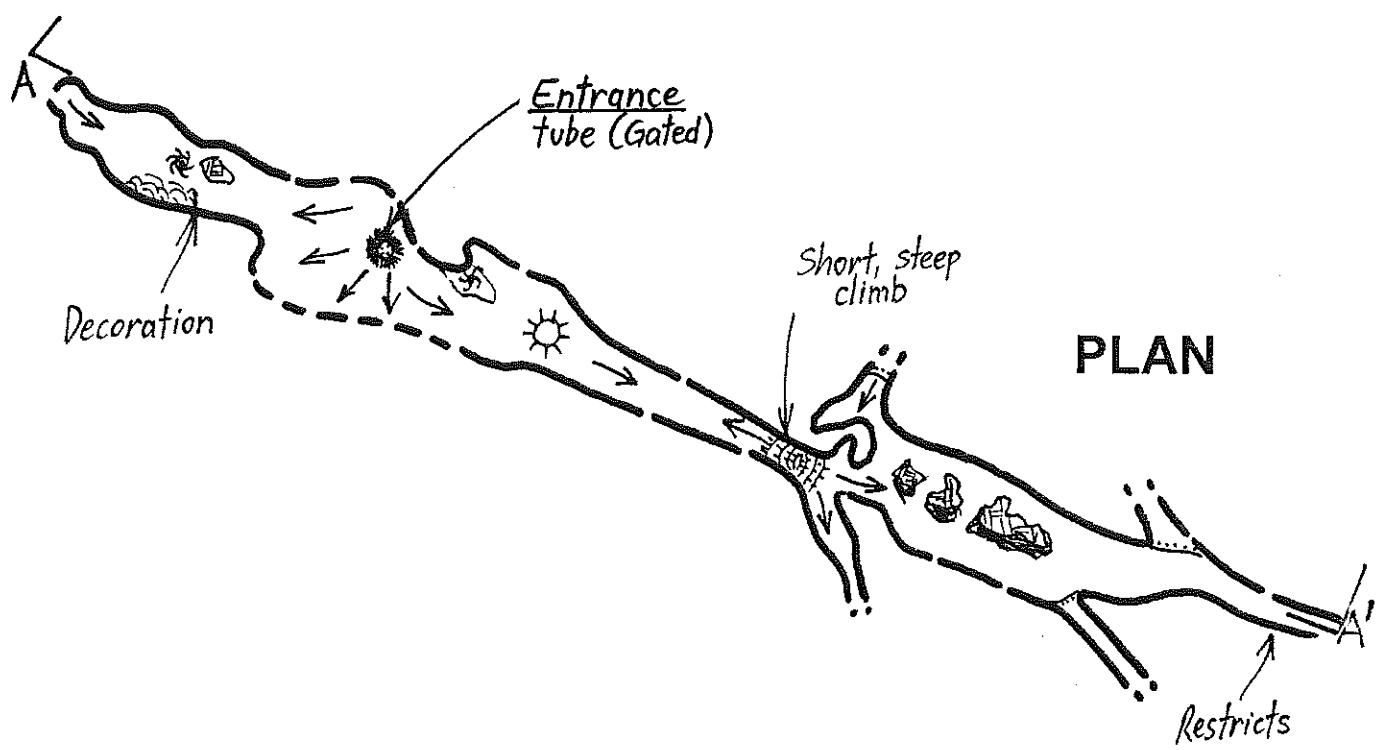
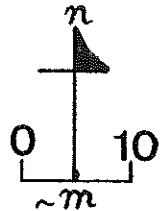


(Original Ent. Tube)

CEGSA

# TINDALES CAVE "E"

5L18



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L19/20

### ENGELBRECHTS CAVE (North Terrace Cave; Vansittarts Cave).

Engelbrechts Cave is one of Mount Gambier's most significant cave features, thanks to the recent discoveries by members of the cave diving community and the spirit of local community groups. It is today a prime tourist attraction, having beautiful gardens and a tourist information building at the site (which is readily visible from the main highway) and permanent stairs make access relatively easy.

The entrance is a single irregularly-shaped collapsed sinkhole about 15 metres across by 10 metres deep sloping down to both the north-west and south-east, where the passages are entered through gates.

The south-trending passage ("Eastern Side – 5L19") leads down via some very well-lit stairs to a large lake (approx. 20 metres long) from which divers descend under the southern wall and negotiate their ways via low, silty passages and flatteners to an 80 metre long air chamber. This is the less extensive of the two main areas in the cave.

The north-trending passage ("Western Side – 5L20") immediately leads to a large, steep-floored chamber at the bottom of which is a restriction and a small crescent of water which is often heavily polluted by a nearby drain. This pool leads (via another restrictive area underwater) to a 90-metre long flooded passage around 10 metres wide by 3 metres high (depth at the ceiling around 10 metres) to a huge air chamber. This is roughly 40 metres in diameter and up to 13 or so metres high, and divers can feel the vibrations of traffic from the nearby highway in this chamber! Several other flooded passages run off to the north and south-west from this inner chamber, making up roughly another 200 metres of passage in total, and the main north-western one ends in a small air chamber some 340 metres laterally from the entrance.

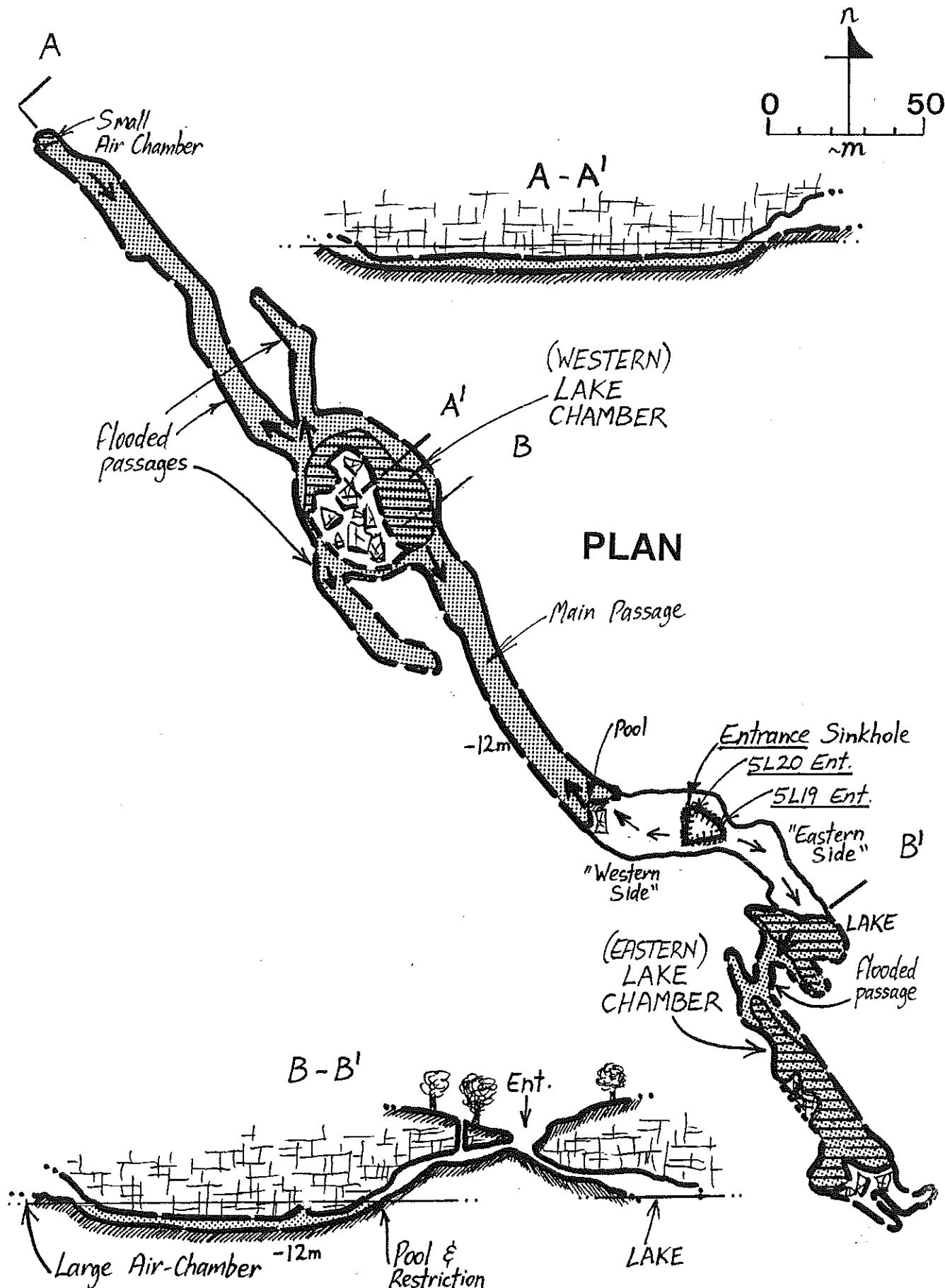
Engelbrechts Cave was described by Julian E. Tenison-Woods in 1862, and it was named after Mr. Carl Engelbrecht, who operated a whisky distillery in Mount Gambier between 1885 and 1902 and reportedly used it as a rubbish dump. The feature was first explored by CEGSA members in December 1954, and the first known scuba dive in this cave took place on 4th April 1964, when pioneering divers David Burchell, Philip ("Mick") Potter, John Lees and Ross Curnow explored the Eastern Side passage past a T-junction before turning back (with a total dive time of 16 minutes). By all accounts, they would have found the large Eastern Side air chamber if they had only manoeuvred up through the rockpile.

Some fifteen years later, in February 1979, Adelaide cave divers Phil Prust, Peter Stace and Ron Allum re-explored the system and discovered the air chamber, and in May of that year Ron Allum was the first to break through the (then) very difficult Western Side restriction to report that the cave apparently continued, although he couldn't see a thing due to severe silting of the water. Phil Prust and Peter Stace then explored the main Western passage, and later again, Ian Lewis and Terry Reardon found the other large air-chamber and associated passages.

The entire cave was thoroughly explored and mapped by members of the CDAA's Research Group between 1986 and 1990, and the possibility of further major extensions being discovered seems unlikely at this time.

# ENGELBRECHTS CAVE

5L19/20



[Map ASF Grade 33?, CDAARG, 1986+;  
ASF Grades 2-3 additions by P.Horne,  
P.Stace and I.Lewis, 1980-83]

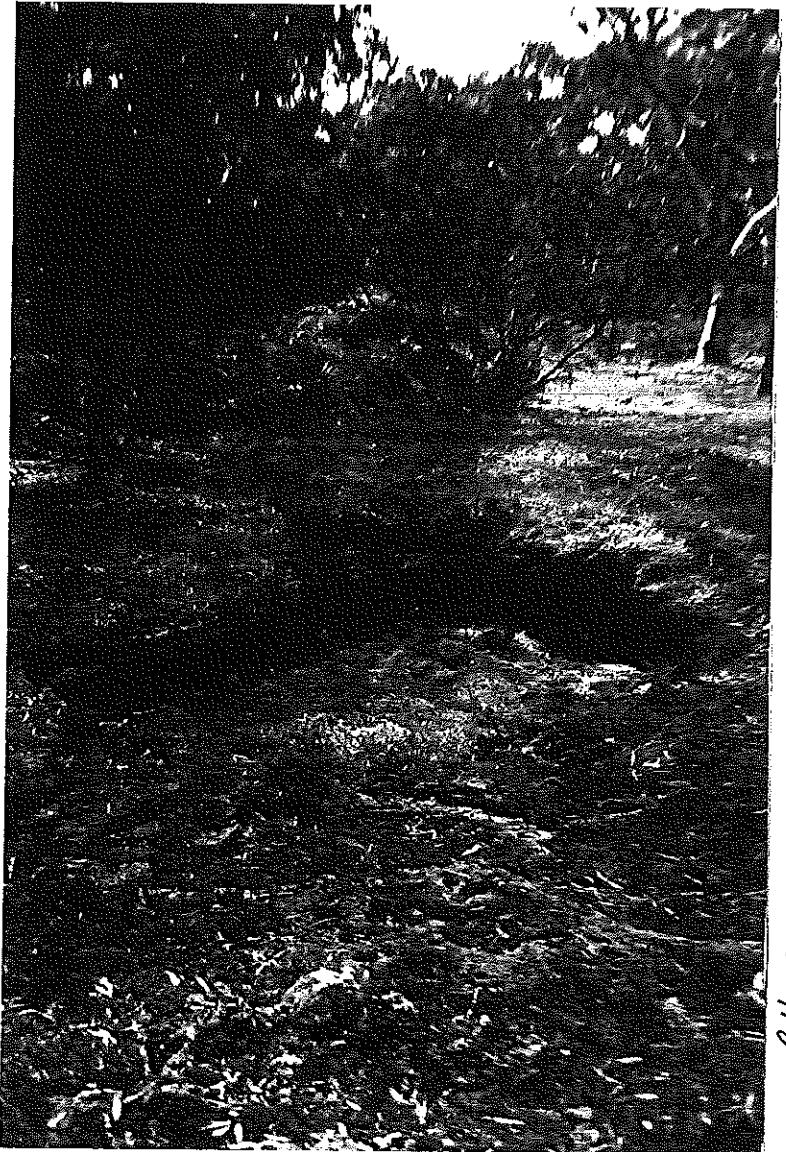
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L21

### WRECKED CAR CAVE.

Wrecked Car Cave is located very close to Monbulla Cave (5L5), and in fact it has recently been formally linked to that system underground.

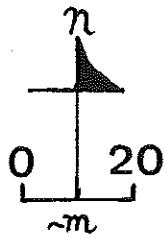
The main entrance is a 3 metre diameter collapse in a small depression which leads to more than 100 metres of passage with 4-5m high chambers and much dirt-covered decoration, some of which is particularly picturesque.

Please also refer to the map of 5L5.



# WRECKED CAR CAVE

5L21



WRECKED CAR  
(5L21)  
Entrance

PLAN

Appr. Wall Extent Survey  
(Survey Baselines)

(This section of  
cave still being surveyed)

MONBULLA CAVE  
(5L5)  
Entrance  
(See 5L5 map)

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L22**

**(Unnamed Feature).**

This feature is a simple 6 metre long solution passage in a depression. It has now reportedly been covered with sand.

No map is known to exist at this time.

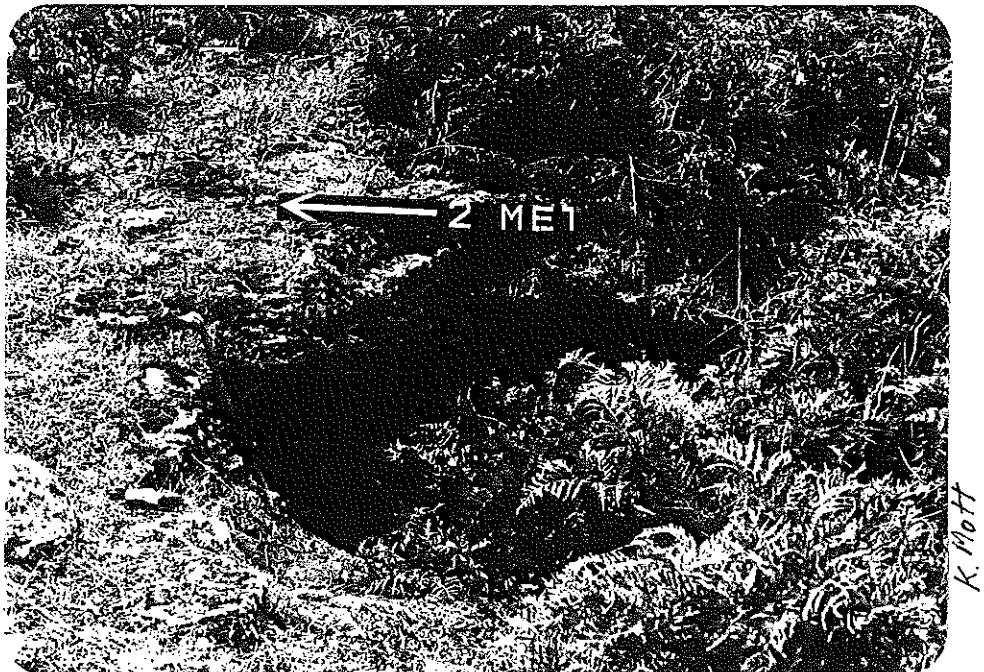
5L22

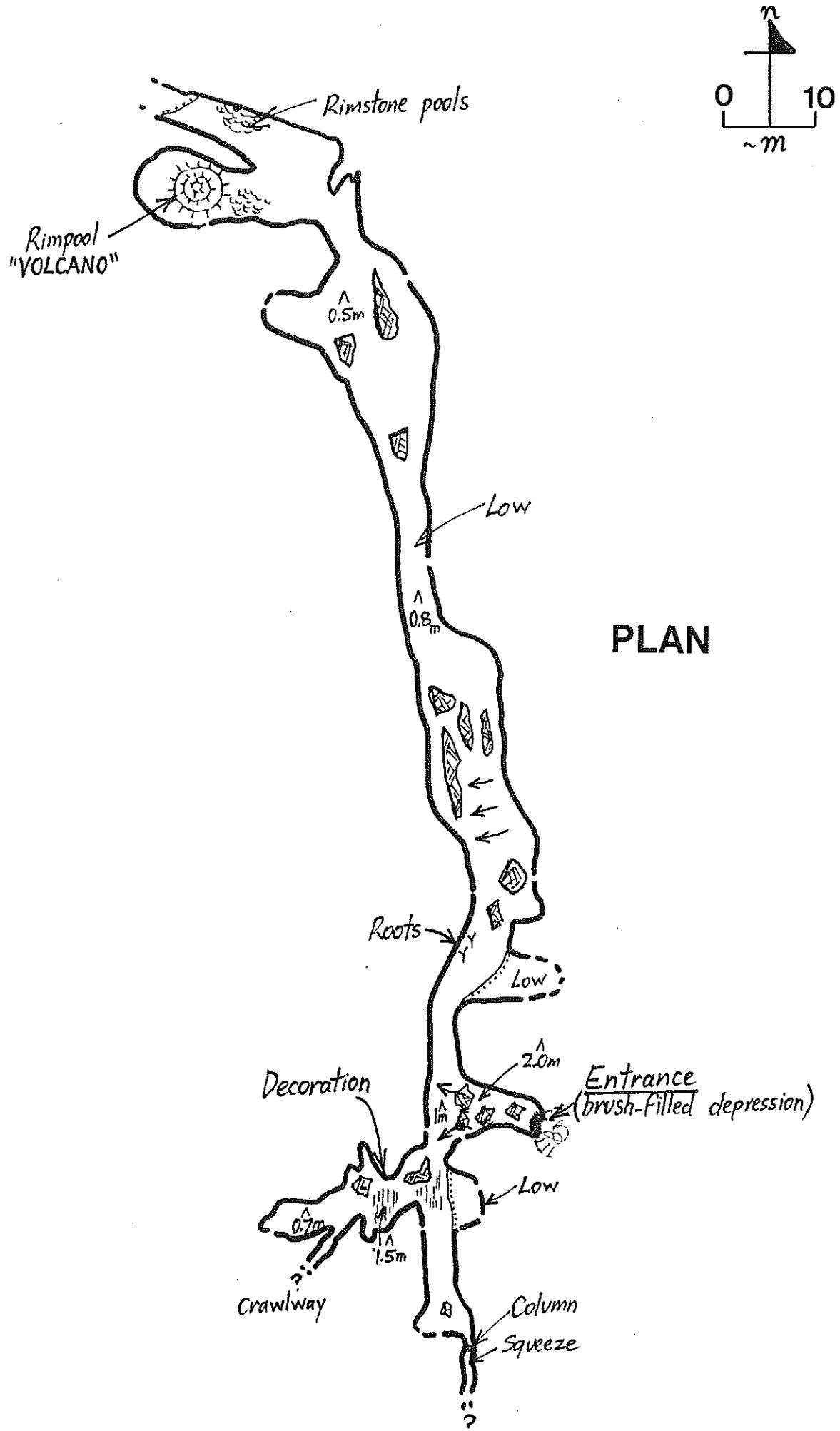
**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L23

## (Unnamed Feature).

This cave contains about 100 metres of passage, and has a small walk-in entrance in a collapse doline. The passage leads in for 7 metres to a T-junction; the left (southern) passage is around one metre high and leads to another low passage with some decoration while the right (northern) passage extends for around 70 metres to a wide standing-height chamber. A stream passage was reported to exist in the lower sections by one party.



**PLAN**

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L24

(Unnamed Feature).

This doline reportedly had a small cave entrance with a silt bottom, but it has now been completely filled.

No map is known to exist at this time.

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L25

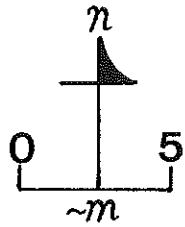
(Unnamed Feature).

The entrance to this cave is about one by 0.5 metres in size and leads in a westerly direction to a silt-floored cave about 30 metres long.

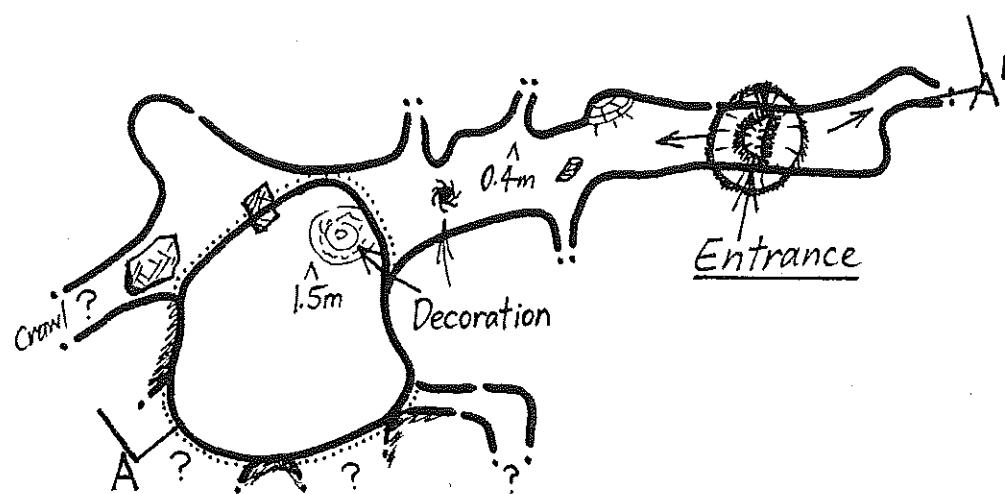
There are a few low crawlways still awaiting exploration, and the cave contains some decoration.



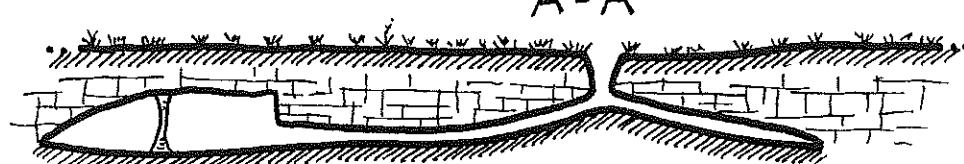
K. Grimes



## PLAN



A-A'



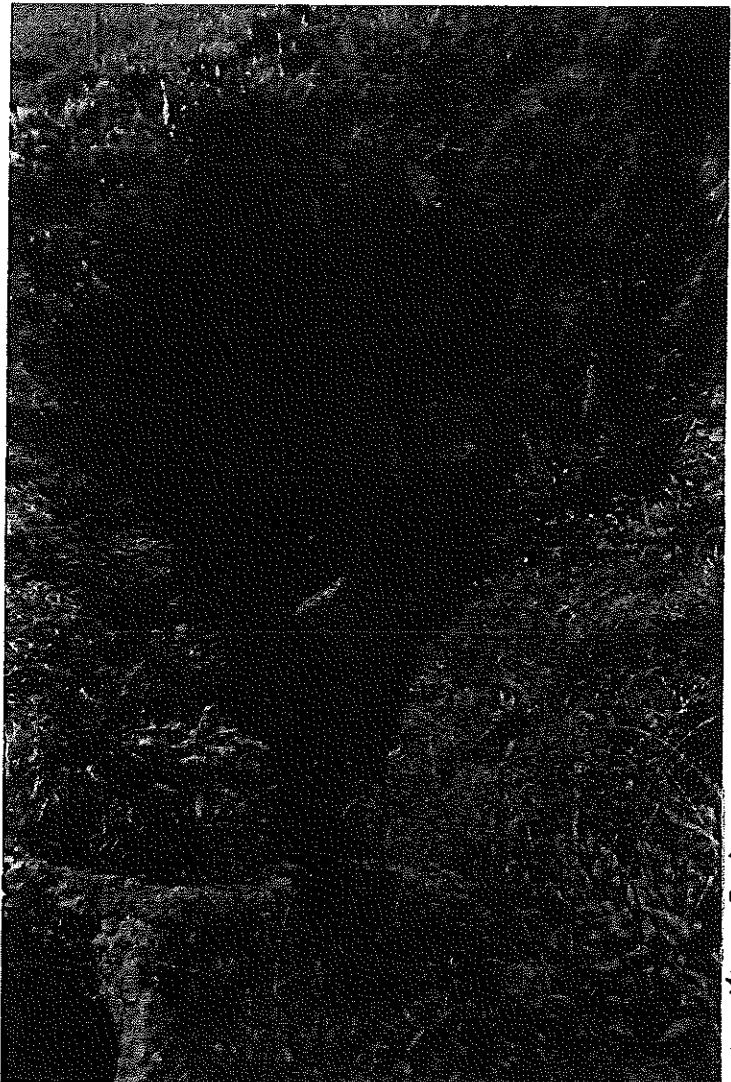
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L26/27

### FIVE CORNERS CAVE (Boaz Cave; Boars Cave; Sassanoskys Cave).

This cave has two entrances; a roof window and an artificial shaft (for guano mining purposes). It is one of the most extensive caves in the Mount Gambier region, being reportedly 6000 metres in length and reaching the water table at a depth of 25 metres below ground level in at least one shallow pool.

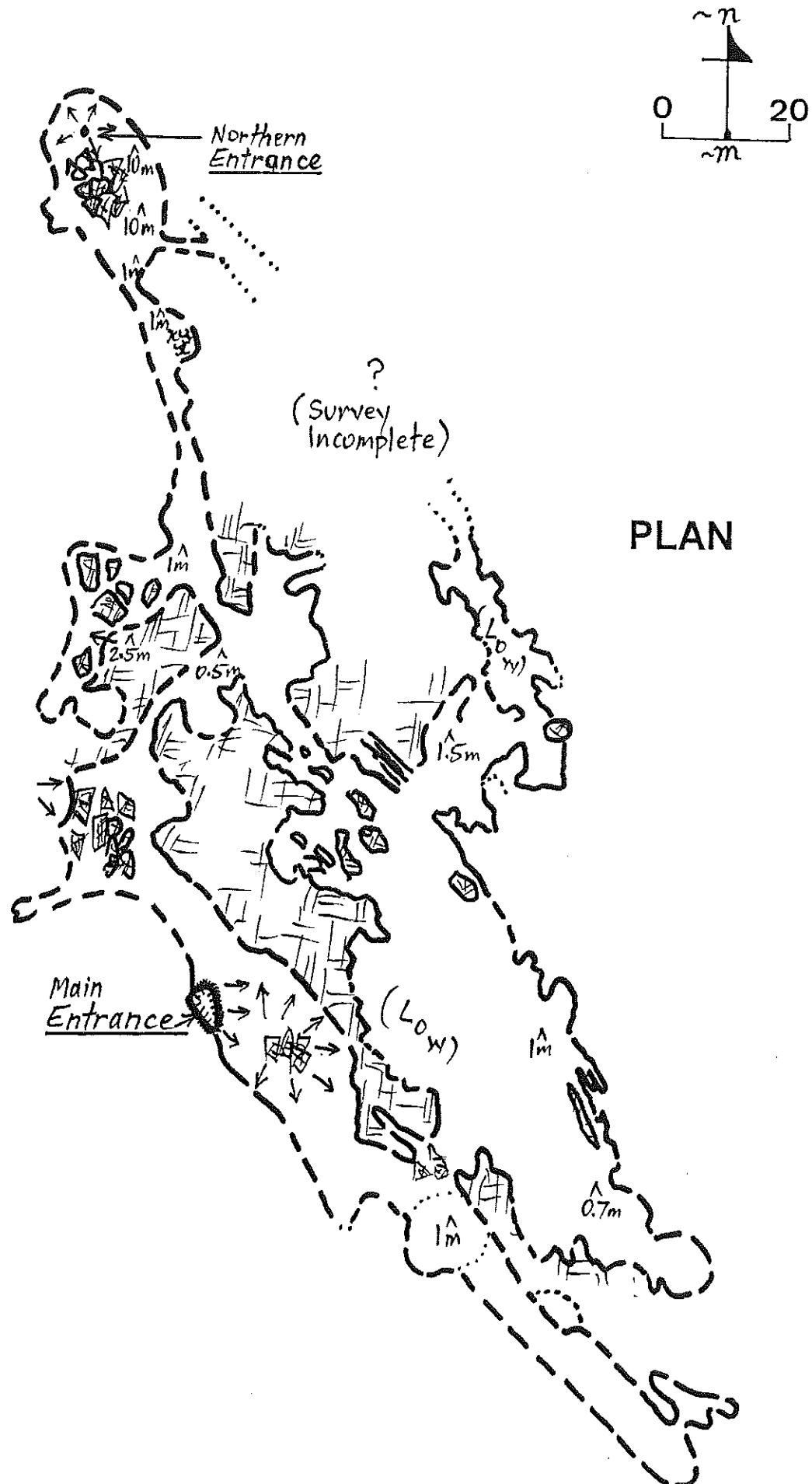
The cave is a major bat roosting site, but it has reportedly been heavily polluted with dairy drainage over the years.

Preliminary surveying revealed some 970 metres of confirmed passage up to 1976.



# FIVE CORNERS CAVE

5L26/27



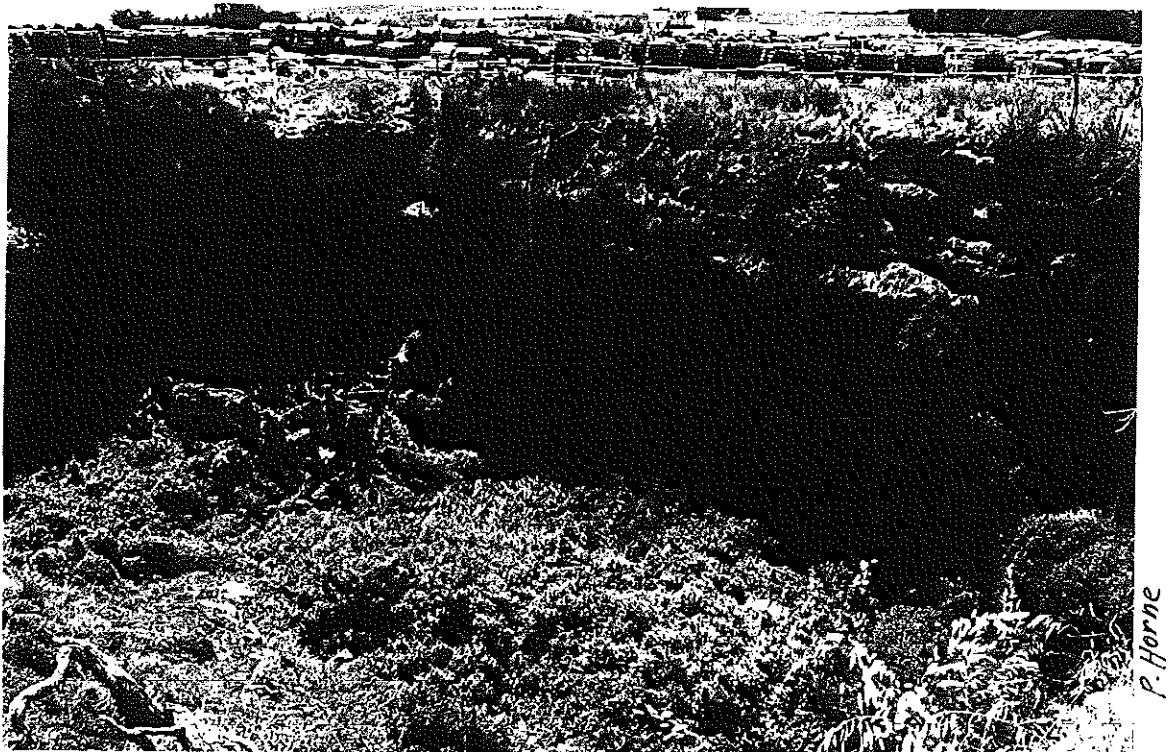
PLAN

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L28

### SHOWGROUND SINKHOLE (Lockies Cave).

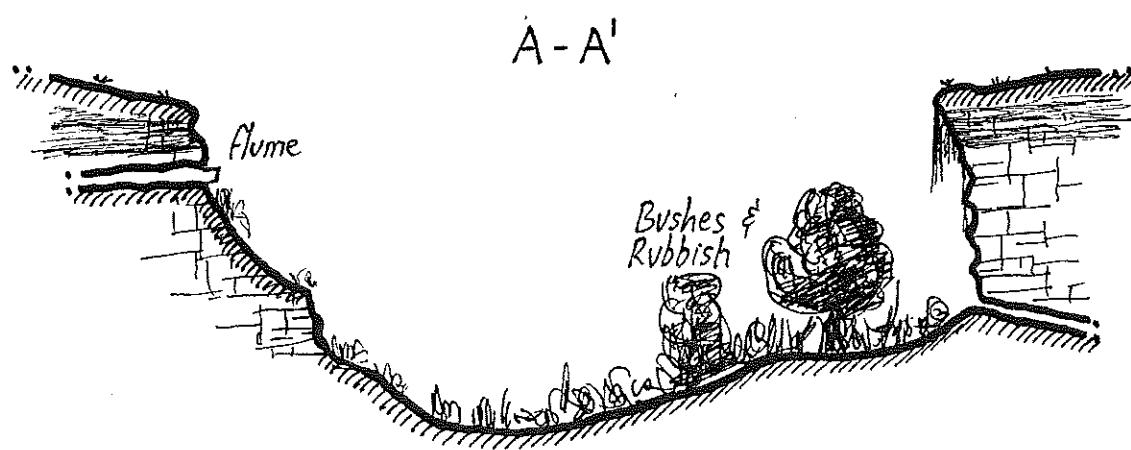
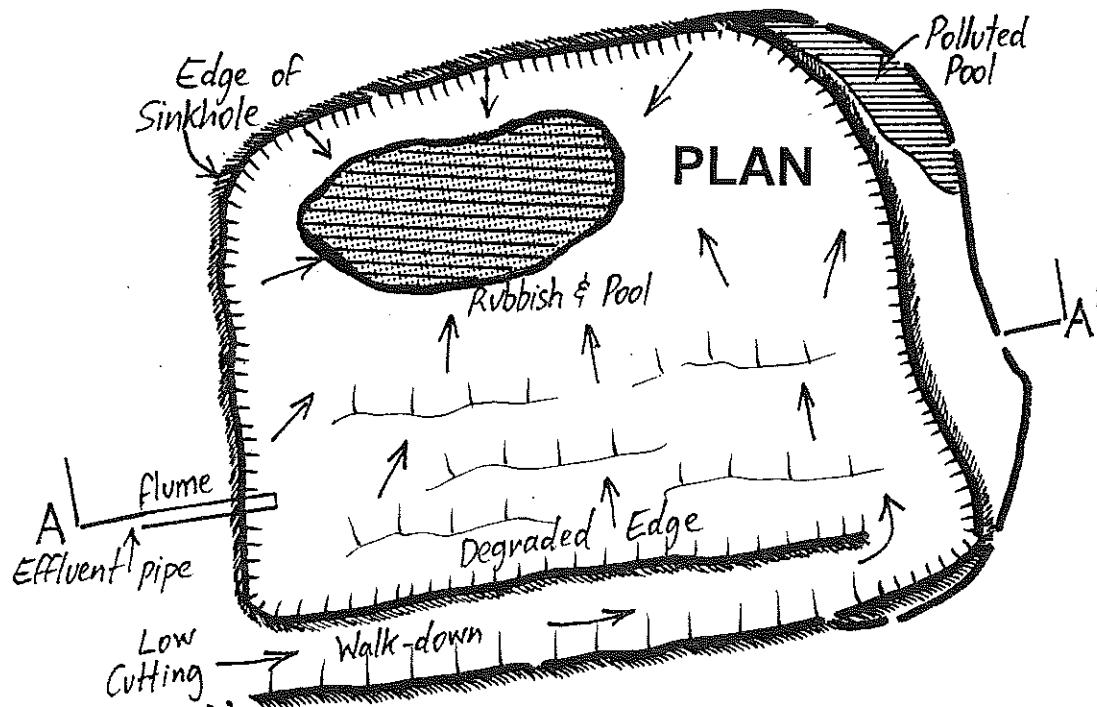
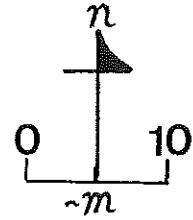
This large open (basically dry) sinkhole is of a similar type to the nearby Umpherstons Cave (5L6). It is roughly square shaped and about 50 x 60 metres across with 30 metre high vertical walls all around except for on its southern wall, where a small track makes walking down possible. A large-diameter effluent pipe and flume empties forestry waste into the feature from its south-western side, and a small pool of whitish polluted water can be found around the northern to north-eastern side, underneath the overhanging walls. There is also a lot of rubbish and undergrowth in the bottom of the sinkhole.

The exact origin of the name "Showground Sinkhole" is uncertain, but it was evidently first described by Julian Tenison-Woods in 1862 and almost 100 years later, in 1963, Bob Sexton provided a brief description to CEGSA in which he included some interesting geological data.



# SHOWGROUND SINKHOLE

5L28



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L29

### DROP DROP CAVE (The Drop-Drop).

This well-known cave basically consists of a single south-easterly passage which runs for about 30 metres from the base of a steep 15-metre diameter depression. It contains a small amount of decoration (including a "wedding cake") and bats are occasionally reported here.

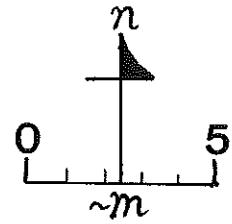
As the Rev. Julian Edmund Woods stated in his "Geological Observations in South Australia" of 1862, "...At about four miles from (Cave Gardens) there is another remarkable cavern, called the Drop-Drop, from the circumstance of water dripping from above into it. It thus formed, at one time, a constant supply of water to those who lived in its vicinity. The place is not remarkable, except for being long and narrow, and going a very great depth underground."

As it is located directly behind the targets of the local shooting club, access is necessarily rather restricted these days!



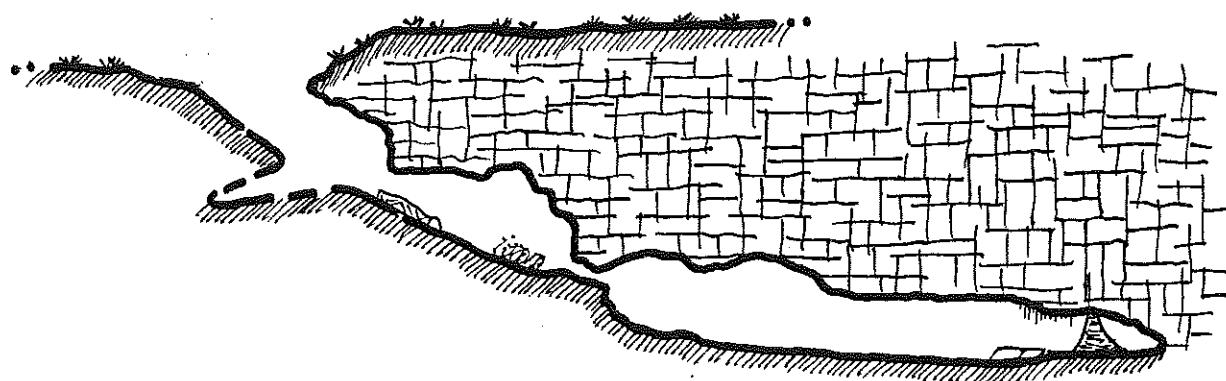
# DROP DROP CAVE

5L29



PLAN

A - A'



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L30

## WELL CAVE.

Well Cave was reportedly a single collapse dome broken into sometime around 1957 by the landowner's well-sinking operations, although a much older entrance was evident. According to Bob Sexton in his trip report dated March 1957, "there is considerable small interesting formation in the cave, although much of it and the roof have evidently been damaged by blasting".

The cave is now apparently inaccessible, having been covered (or filled) with rubbish.



WELL CAVE

5L30

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L31

### **COLLINS CAVE** (Mitchells Crossing Cave, Mitchells Siding Cave).

Collins Cave is an impressive feature, having some of the largest and widest passages of all of the Lower South Eastern caves. The entrance is a low hole in the base of a large degraded (and rubbish-filled) doline, which leads to a steep slope from the bottom of which the cave continues in several directions.

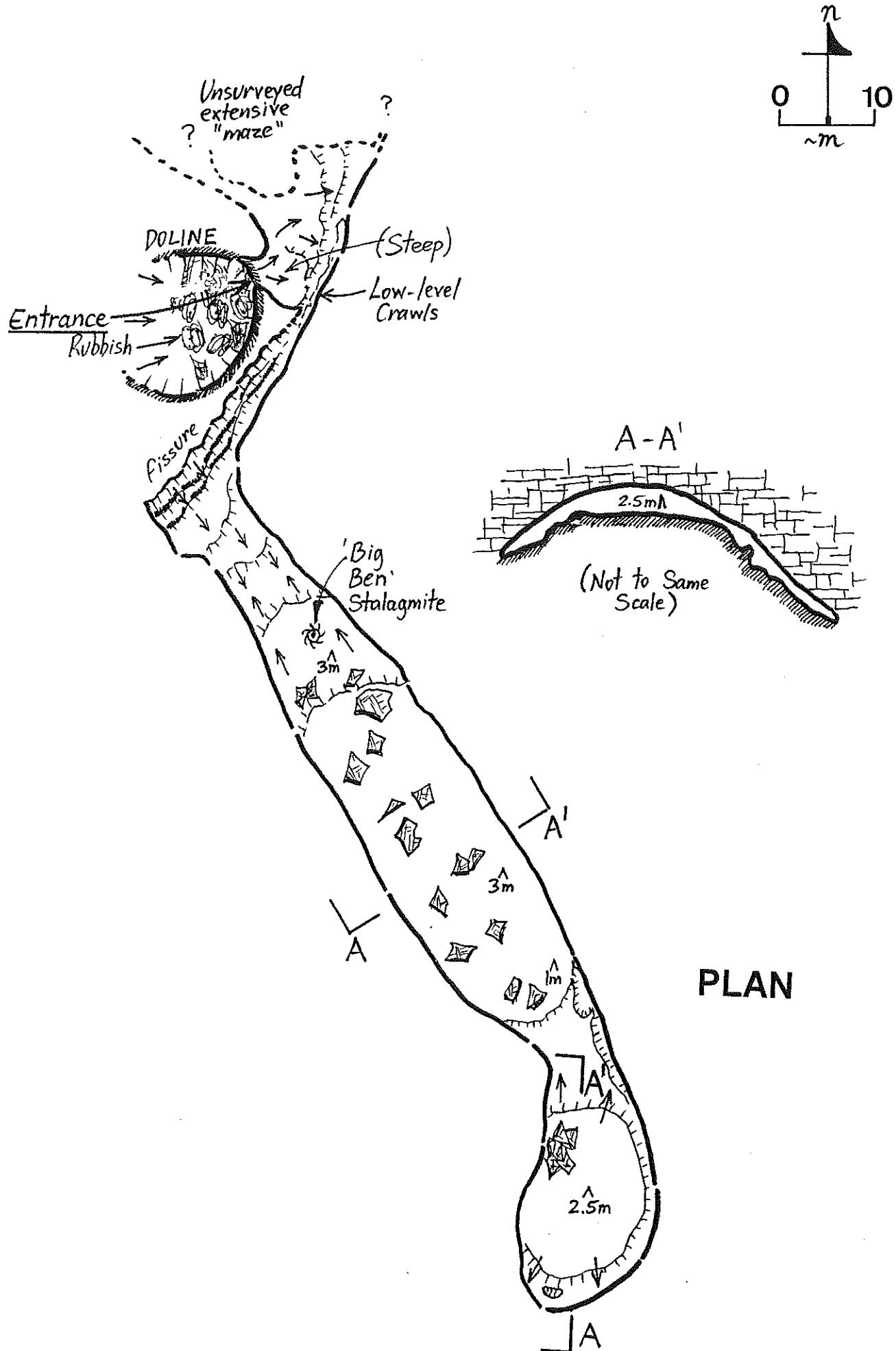
By turning left, one can enter a very extensive "maze" in which more than one keen explorer has become confused; numerous skin-tearing crawlways exist under and between the main floor boulders, and to the right, through an obviously heavily-trogged narrow section, cavers can enter the northern end of the main passage (which is about 90 metres long, quite wide and several metres high in most places). There is one particularly prominent stalagmite near the centre of the main passage in this second chamber, and this is known as "Big Ben".

The first CEGSA Record of this feature was dated March 1957 by Bob Sexton, who apparently did not explore it fully. Five years later, in December 1962, Phil Connard provided a more detailed trip report which identified the main features and mentioned the problems of graffiti and damaged cave decoration (including 1 cm-long straws, stalagmites and flowstone). He equated this cave to "the medium-sized Naracoorte caves" in type.

CEGSA arranged to have the feature gated in the late 1980s, thereby deterring unwanted cave vandals from damaging it further.

# COLLINS CAVE

5L31



**PLAN**

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L32/33

### BENARA SINKHOLE (Livingstons Cave and {probably} Ellis Homestead Cave).

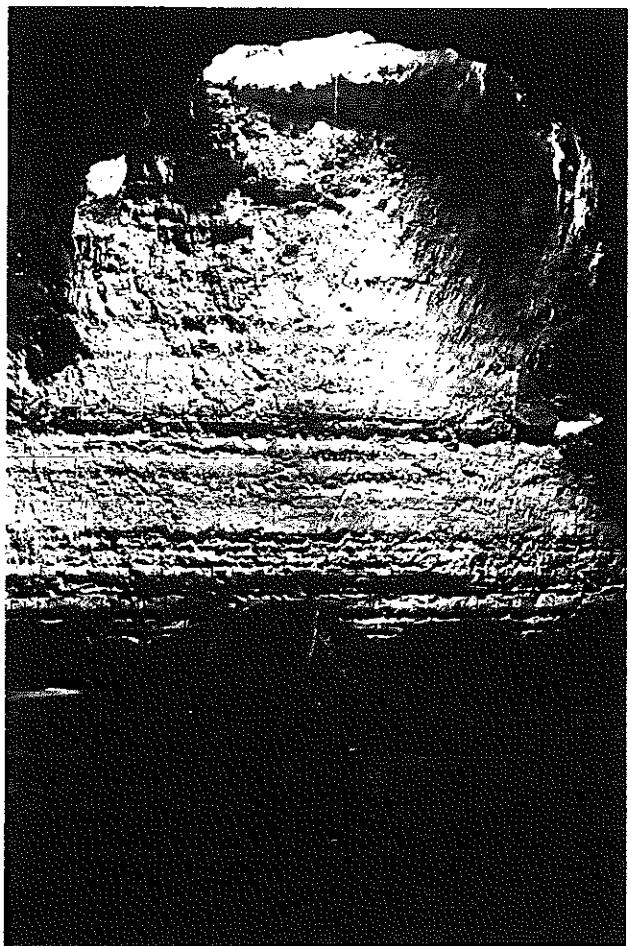
Benara Sinkhole is a single collapse chamber approximately 40 metres in diameter and 25 metres high, with several natural entrances in the ceiling as well as an artificially-dug vertical shaft which contains a series of ladders and landings and a powerful pump. This shaft was dug by two brothers around 1947/48 and connects to a low, narrow horizontal passage which slopes down to where it has broken into the main chamber. At this point, a short metal jetty juts out into the cavern, secured about 3 metres above the water by a wall-mounted suspension system.

From this landing, visitors gaze across the surface of a beautiful calcite-covered lake (which is about 7 metres deep in this area), its featureless surface broken only by a 5 metre high dirt cone which lies beneath the natural entrances (and a smaller well-hole) on the far side. The chamber is circular apart from its far (western) wall, which is unusually straight and vertical for a good length of its distance and trending in a north-west to south-east direction, giving the feature a "Capital D" shape as seen in plan view.

When left undisturbed for awhile, the still waters form large sheets of calcite which break up and glide to the bottom at the slightest ripple, covering the otherwise dark and easily-disturbed silt floor with sparkling pieces of clear crystal. A small wooden rowboat which was once used by

distinguished visitors and friends of the original family now lies waterlogged and barely floating underneath the landing, and 100-year old rubbish lies strewn about. Three horizontal fissures head off under the wall at the most north-western end of the cavern, but these are silty and inaccessible narrow and quickly choke off. Large blocks of tessellated clay are also found here and there, restricting exploration if divers do not want to disturb them, and the deepest area in the cavern, at around 18 metres, is found on the south-eastern side.

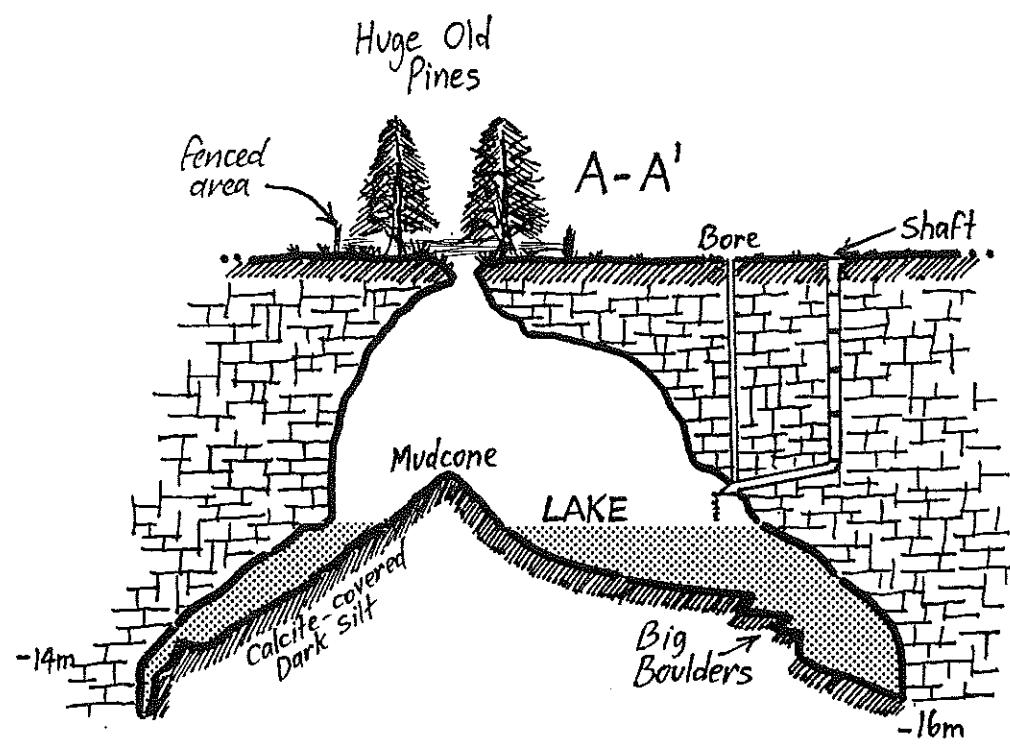
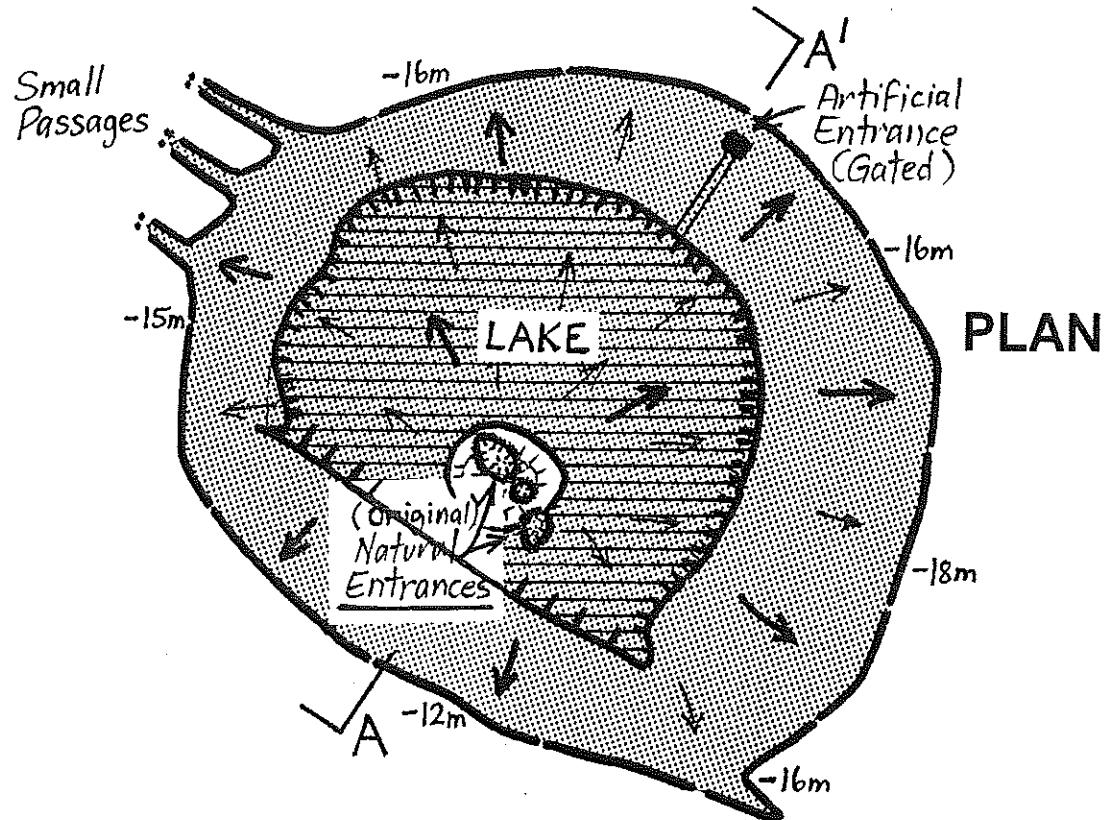
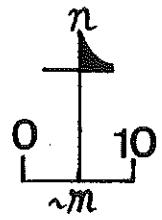
Benara Sinkhole has been known since the 1800s. It gained considerable publicity in November 1973, when the Duke of Edinburgh ventured down the ladders to view the cave one night ... much to the horror of his security staff!



Leonic Dixon

# BENARA SINKHOLE

5L32/33



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L34

## MORGANS CAVE.

Morgans Cave is a horizontally-developed feature containing more than 200 metres of passage and several very interesting features. Its entrance is a one metre diameter, nearly perfectly circular (and almost certainly artificially-enlarged) "chimney" tube in a small doline, which drops vertically for about 6 metres to the top of a cone of dirt and domestic rubbish.

The main (popular) route is via a low duck-under to the north-west, towards an adjacent forest track, where the passage slopes down a little and immediately opens up into a wide, high gallery which is unfortunately badly marked with graffiti of all types (including red spray-paint). Further along this section, one encounters some water-table pools and stepping stones, and evidence of phreatic solution becomes apparent in the beautifully sculptured shapes and tube-like passages which are to be found in many areas. Some old decoration remains, but most has been damaged, removed or destroyed over the years.

Due to the presence of masses of ugly tree roots, the south-eastern side is not so popular, but if cavers can put up with the effort of battling through the heftier ones (climbing a few small boulders and watching out for snakes in the rubbish near the entrance!), a final crawl along a narrow section at the apparent 'end' leads to a unique, 5 metre deep hidden lake which is viewed

from a picturesque wall window (sometimes called "The Portal"). This lake was dived by the author in April 1983, but it is quite narrow and silty and does not lead to any extensions, rising to the surface again as seen by dry cavers.

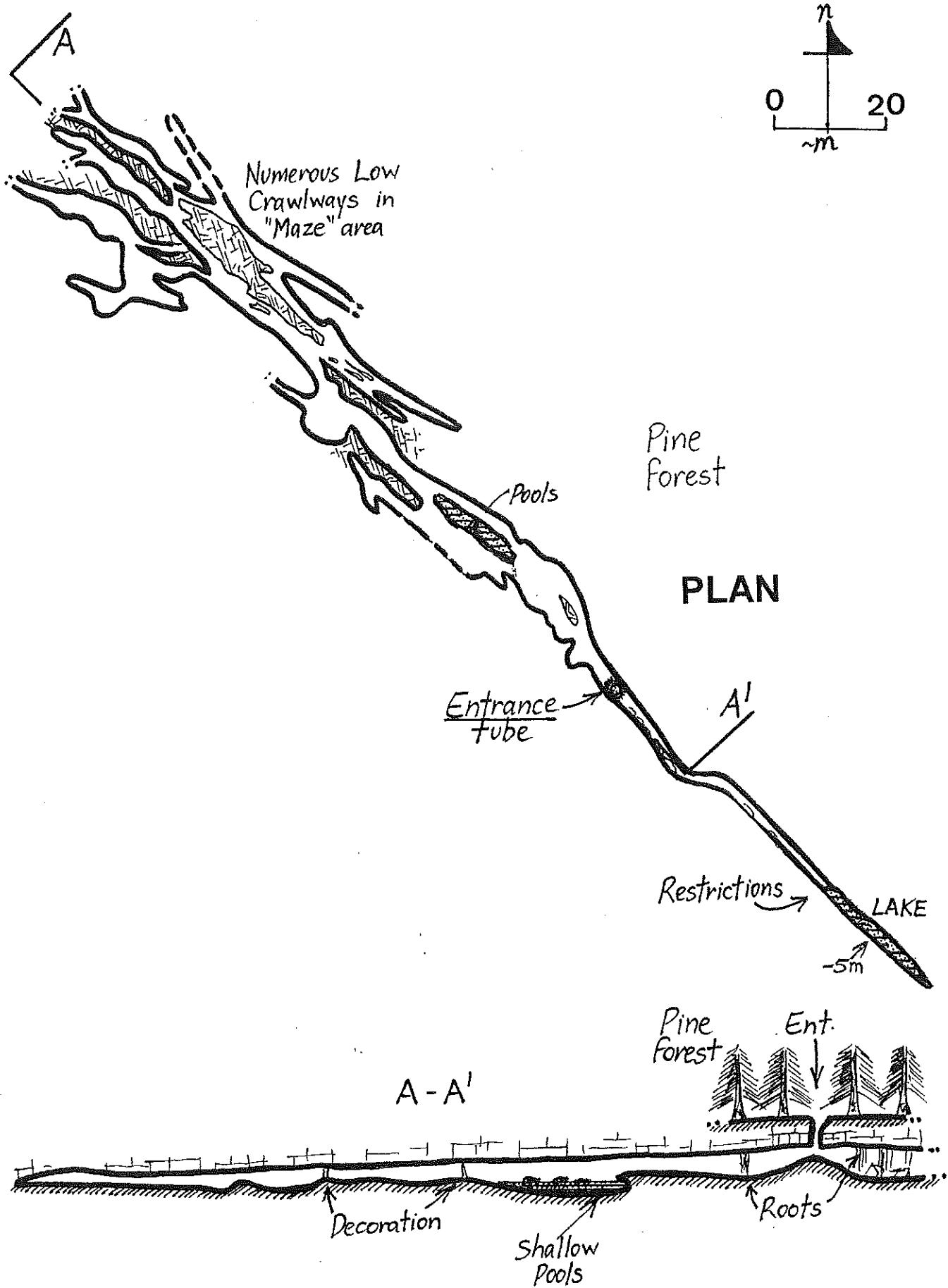
The cave is rated as being suitable for use as an "adventure" cave by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, whose Tantanoola Caves staff often use to encourage responsible public education about such features.



P. Horne

# MORGANS CAVE

5L34



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L35/36/37

## GRAVEYARD CAVE.

Graveyard Cave is an interesting system located near two old graves on the opposite side of the highway near which Gran Gran Cave and Quarry Cave are found. There are three entrance tubes, with two (5L35 and 5L36) close together and the third (5L37) about 30 metres to the north-east, and they have long been known in the area.

The main cave was originally accessed via the two nearby holes, while the other feature was often jokingly called simply "The Unnamed Cave Cave". However, on Easter Saturday in 1976, 5L37 formally became part of the same system when noted speleologist Kevin Mott succeeded in digging a low crawlway connection between the two caves. Kevin's humorous Trip Report mentioned that the effort involved "self sacrificing, tortuous, painstaking digging with a jemmy bar...", indicating that it was far from a simple walk-through job!

The cave is developed off to the north-west area of the main chamber in a series of small horizontal joint-controlled passages which are usually somewhat submerged. This water has made mapping rather difficult, so it is entirely possible that undiscovered extensions lie in wait for those who enjoy rummaging around in freezing, muddy water!

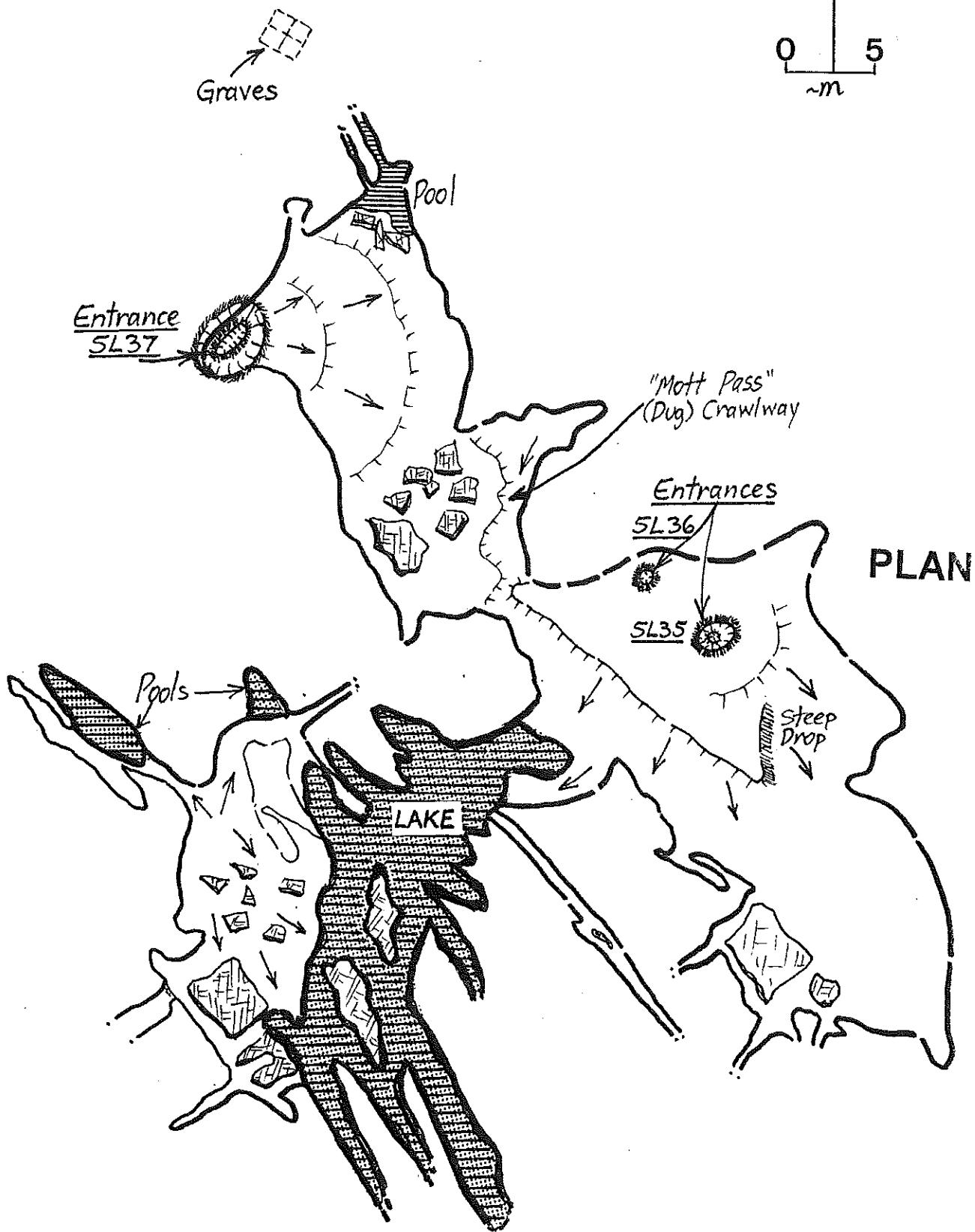


# GRAVEYARD CAVE

5L35/36 &

n  
5L37

0 ~m 5



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L38

## RENDELSHAM CAVE (Nash Cave).

(Refer also to 5L259 and 5L260).

There are some six pipe entrances and several other holes which drop about 5 metres into the low, wide collapse chamber and low flatteners which make up Rendelsham Cave, which was named after a nearby town. The main entrance is roughly in the centre of a 10 metre wide chamber, but this is only about 1.6 metres high; other entrances are now filled with rubbish. The main portion of the cave has around 100 metres of passage, and is adjacent to 5L260 (an unnamed L-shaped collapse entrance) and 5L259 ("Temporary Cave", which was further around in the north face of the quarry).

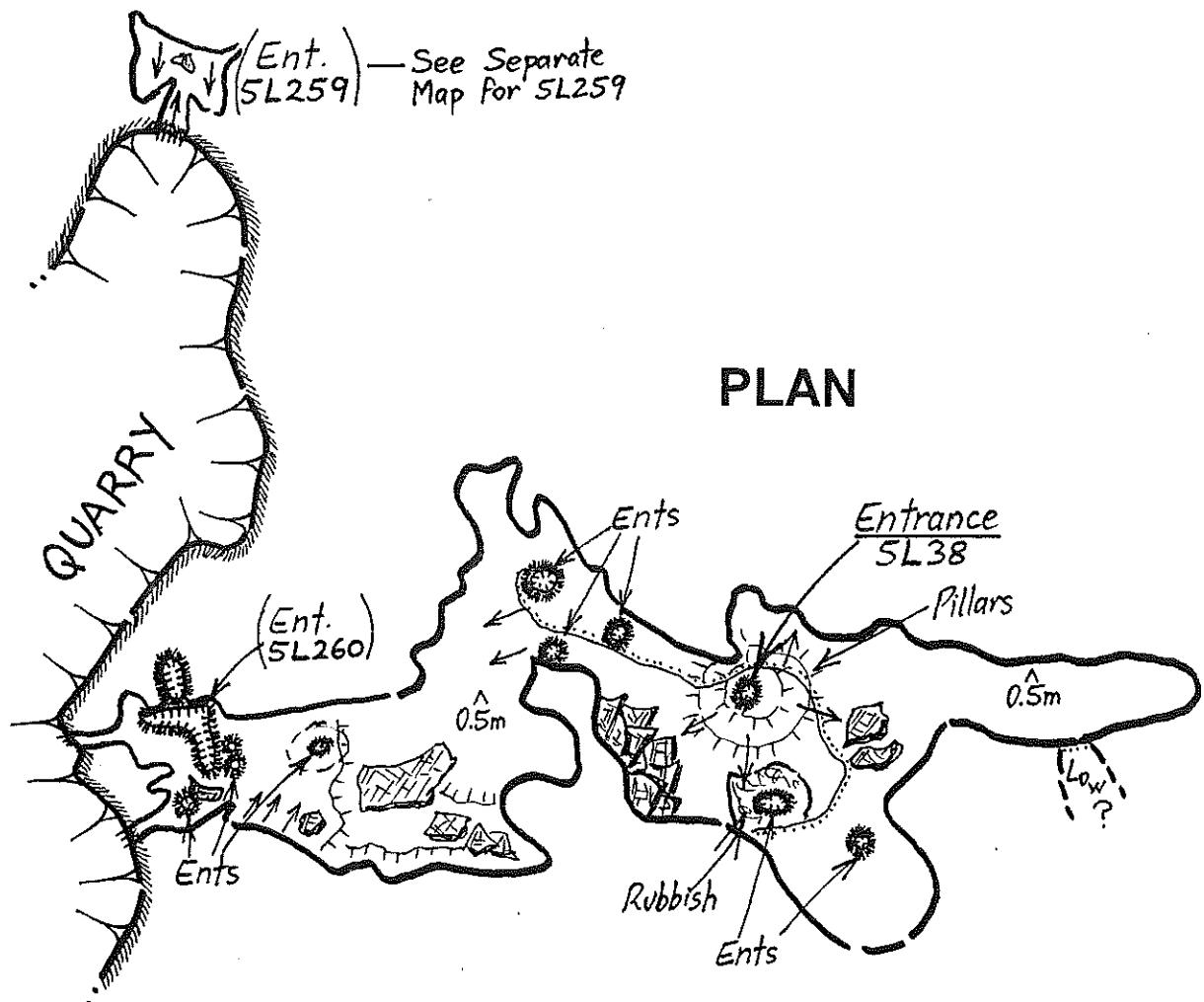
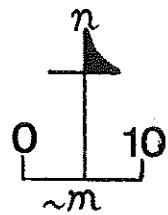
June Marlow referred to an early map by Alan Hill in a July 1958 CEGSA Trip Report, and in April 1963, Bob Sexton described the cave's location as being "on top of an outlier of the Woakwine Dune backing onto the swamp flats several miles east of Rendelsham" and added that "...there seems to be no evidence to suppose it to be a sea cave as previously stated, particularly as it would have been on the protected side of the dune if the limestone area had been flooded".



CEGSA

# RENDELSHAM CAVE

5L38



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L39

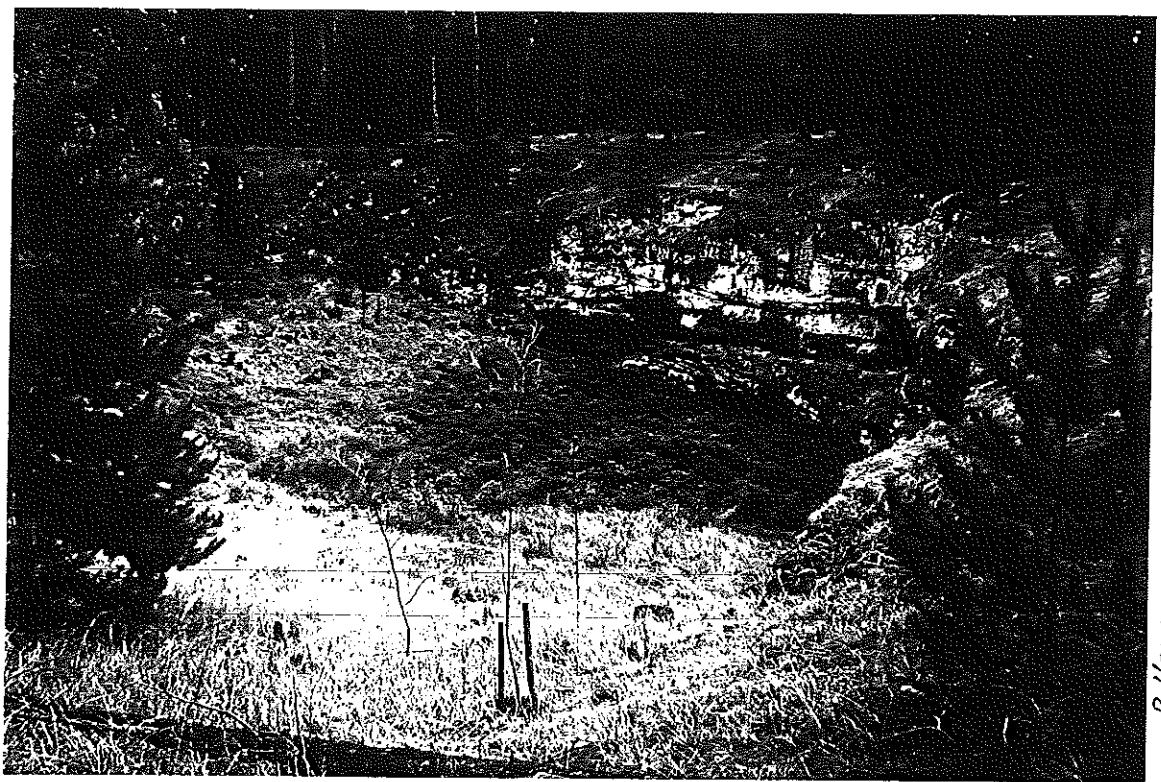
## TANTANOOOLA SINKHOLE.

This sinkhole is a large oval-shaped collapse about 75 metres north-west to south-east and 55 metres wide, with a continuous broken cliff face of some 15-20 metres on its eastern side and a gentle degraded slope on the western side.

It does not reach the water-table or have any obvious major extensions, although some deep cavities (reportedly more than 5 metres long) are visible around the north-eastern walls.

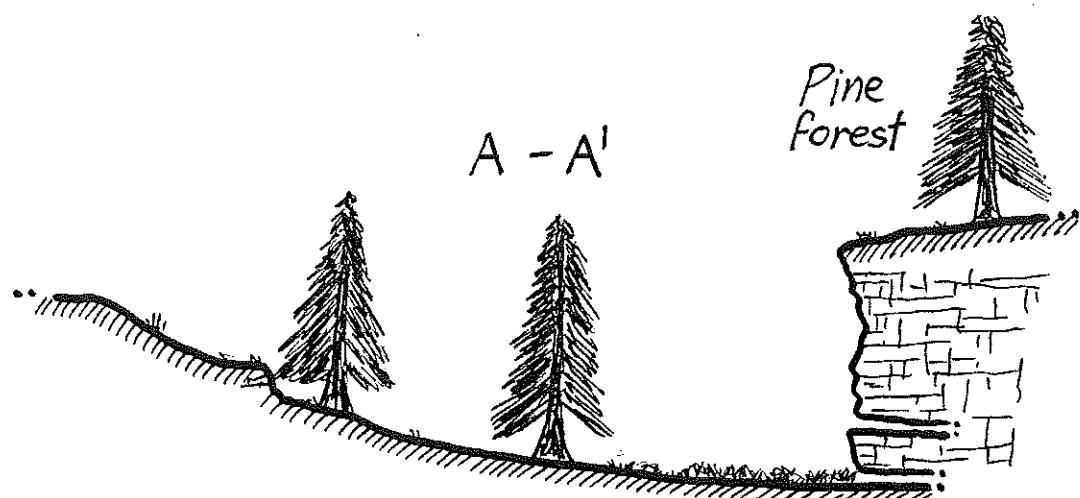
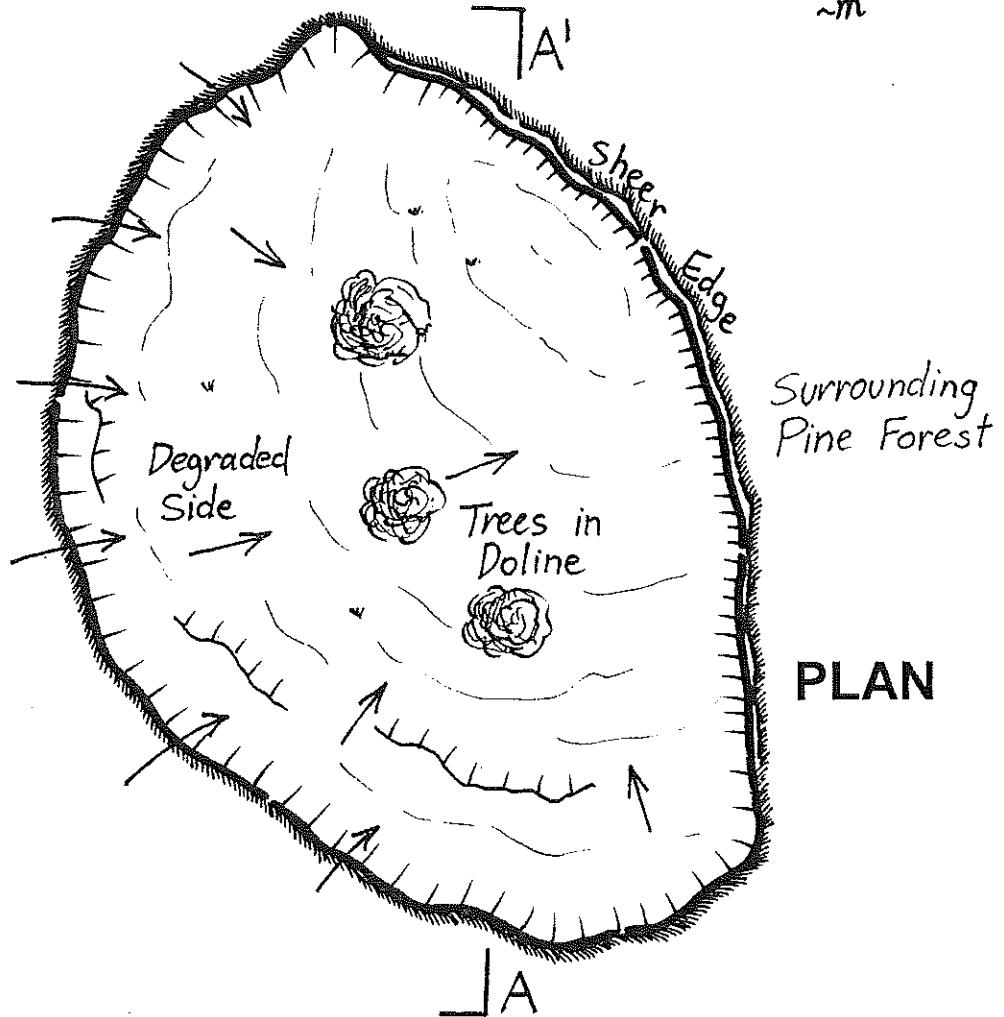
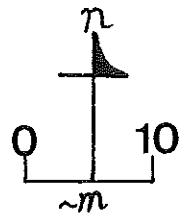
Typical damp-environment life-forms including slugs, moss and snails have been recorded at this site, and pine trees were originally planted straight through the hole, in rows, as though it wasn't even there!

This sinkhole seems to fit the general and locational description of a "large circular pit" about 100 metres west of The Three Sisters cave provided by Norman B Tindale (B. Sc.) in his paper regarding his May 1931 research trip to the area, indicating that it has been known for at least 60 years locally.



# TANTANOOLA SINKHOLE

5L39



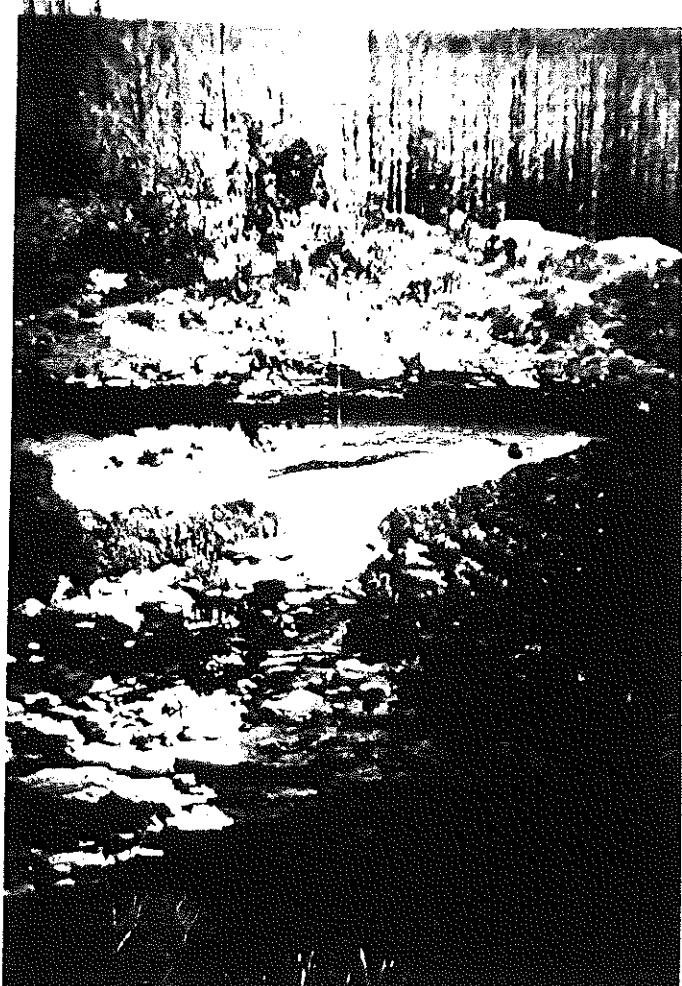
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L40

## HELLS HOLE ("Hell Hole").

Hells Hole is one of the most aptly-named, visually-impressive karst features in the entire South East. Hidden in a small patch of protected native scrub in a recently-replanted pine forest in hilly dune limestone country, this spectacular "cenote"-style sinkhole is 45 metres or so in diameter, and its 30-metre drop to the water often causes unsuspecting visitors to gasp in surprise when they approach its sheer edge!

The top portion of the rim is undercut and very sandy, and it overlies much harder, whiter limestone in which numerous small scallop-like erosion cavities have formed. One area is particularly useful for divers requiring access, as they can walk down to a sheltered alcove and step onto a ladder belayed from above if such is desired. Although it is not too apparent from the top of the feature, the walls gradually "bell out", continuing to do so more obviously once the water has been reached.

The talus mound lies at a depth of just 5 metres immediately below the entrance area, where numerous trees and branches lie tangled together (often under thick masses of duckweed which can cover the lake). There was also a dumped 1963 EJ Holden in this area until around early 1983, when five members of the South East Scuba Divers club arranged for its removal ("The Border Watch", 17 Feb 1983). The feature deepens both to the north and south to a maximum depth of around 26 metres, but no significant passages have been reported in recent years.



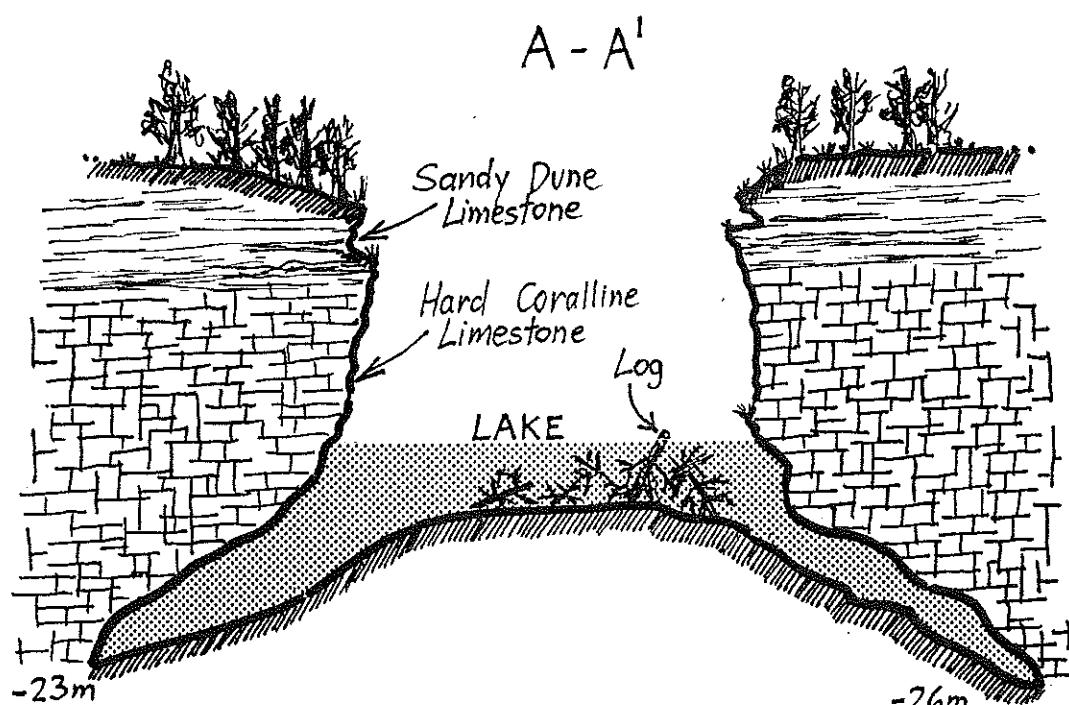
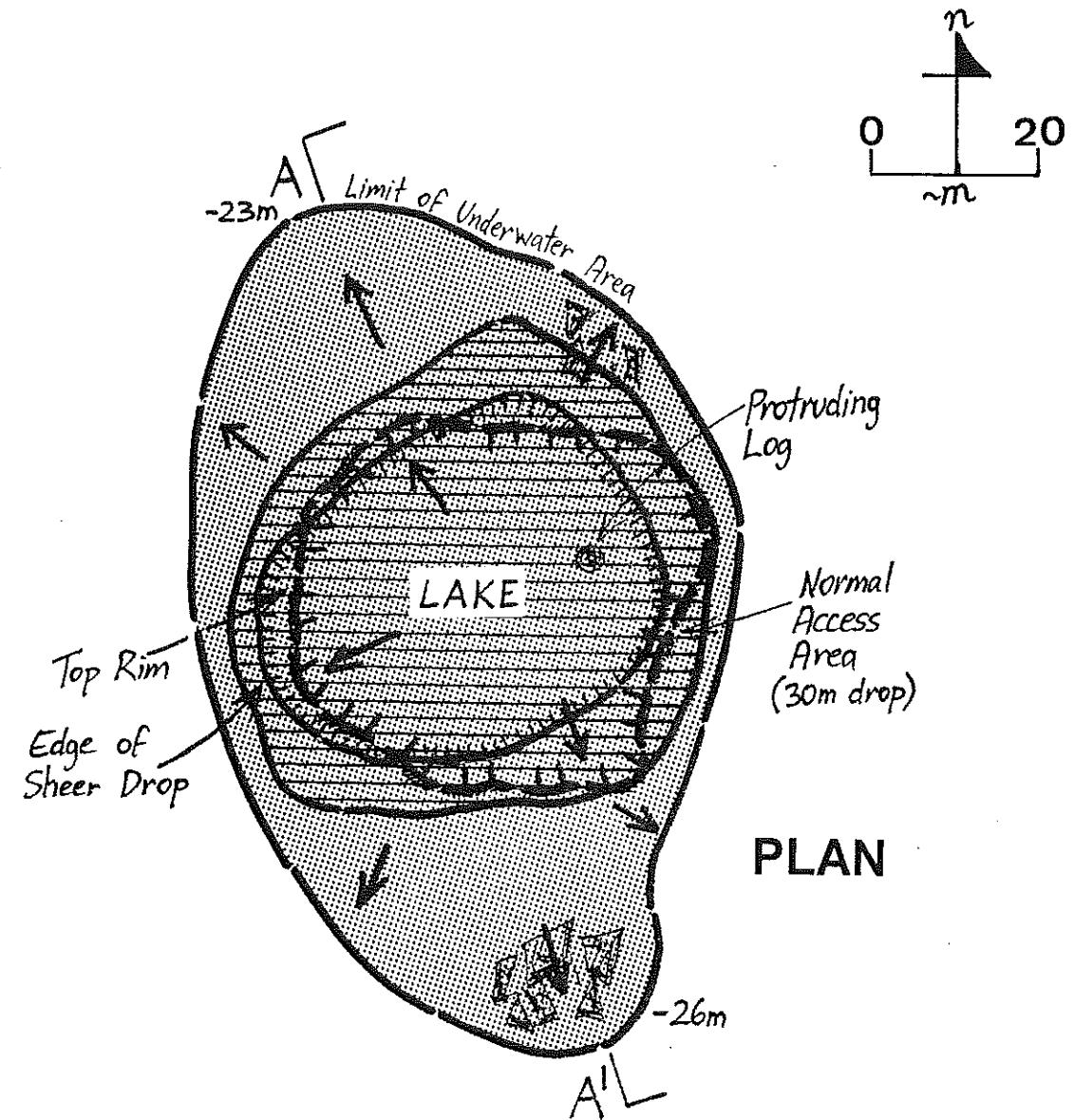
P. Horne

The sinkhole has long been known in the area, and local legend has it that it was discovered by two people who chanced upon it in the dark with a horse and trap. Bob Sexton placed it in CEGSA's Records in June 1961, when the "discovery" story was mentioned as well as the fact that Hells Hole had incorrectly been called Caroline Sinkhole (and vice versa).

Although no fish or other large forms of life were observed by the author in 1980, a single specimen of the crustaceans which were to be later identified as rare syn-carids (*Koomunga crenarum*) was sighted near the entrance.

# HELLS HOLE

5L40



[Combined Map - surface: ASF Grade 2,  
CEGSA, 1962; underwater area: ASF Grade  
2, P.Horne, P.Stace and I.Lewis, 1980-82]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L41

### (Unnamed Feature).

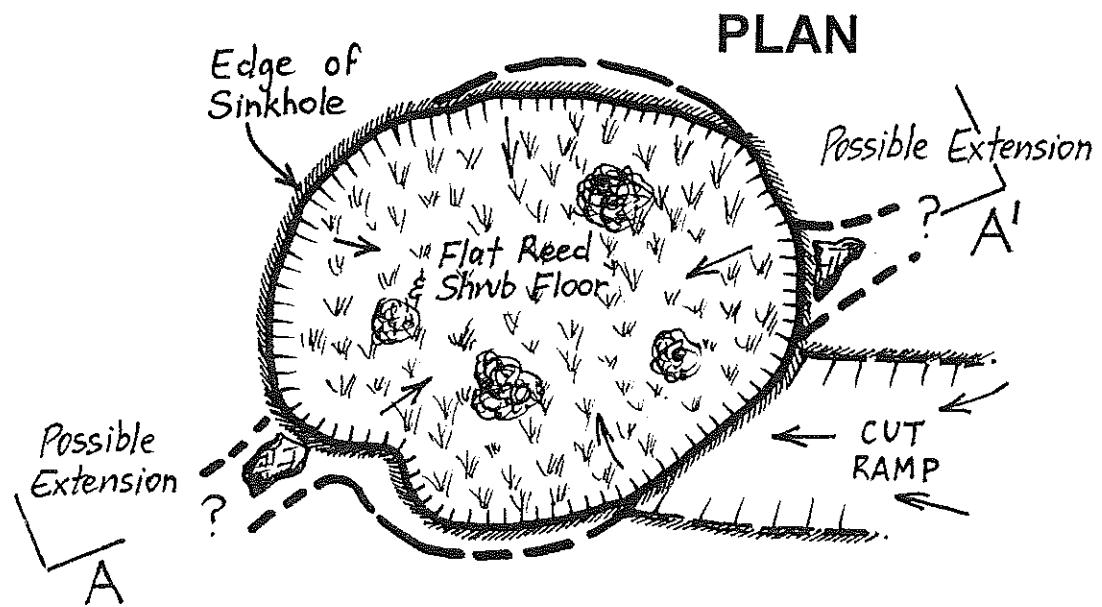
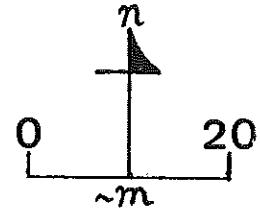
This dry sinkhole is roughly circular with dimensions of around 40 x 45 metres, with a flat reedy floor some 8 metres below the level of the surrounding plain. It has a rough ramp and steps cut in the south-eastern corner, and most of the feature has sheer or overhanging walls with one section cutting back for about 6 metres or so.

Bob Sexton provided quite a lot of interesting geological data about this feature in his CEGSA trip report dated April 1963 ... "the ramp on the south-east side has taken advantage of a 5 degree dip in the bedding to the east and has been dug for the last 10 feet or so only. A large block has fallen away in the south-west corner under an overhang. The top of it appears to have been separated by solution and a cave appears to extend behind it. A bypass solution tube above and to the left also appears to connect with this cavity. The hole, which is 20-25 feet deep with a rim flush with the plain has massive rock for the top 15 feet."

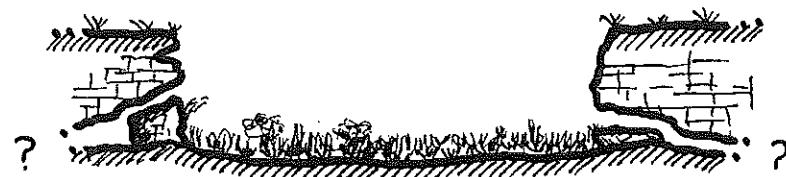
"In the lower 5 feet, the sink is undercut, apparently by water action and appears more perforated than the upper section that has only occasional solution holes, these going up to 12 inches in diameter. These have a slight preference for orientation in the 3 foot spaced bedding planes, and sometimes separated by 3-6 inches of rock horizontally."



This sinkhole is one of many such features which are to be found to the south-west of Mount Gambier, and is readily observed from Sisters Road, near Barnoolut Estate's Ten-Eighty Sinkhole (see 5L42).



A - A'



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L42

### TEN-EIGHTY SINKHOLE (Simpsons Hole, 1080).

Originally known to members of the cave diving fraternity via the early-days Underwater Research Group of South Australia as "Simpson's Hole" in the early 1960s (after the manager of the property at that time, Mr. Jim M. Simpson), Ten-Eighty Sinkhole inherited its popular modern name from a sign which divers apparently observed near the sinkhole, warning visitors that the highly toxic vertebrate poison, "1080" or "10-80", had been laid in the area.

Ten-Eighty is a classic circular "cenote"-style waterfilled sinkhole. It consists of a 40 metre diameter lake some 9 metres below the level of the plain, and apart from a large artificial cut ramp area on its eastern side, it has vertical or overhanging walls all the way around. The walls are deeply honeycombed with horizontal solution features and "bulbous" wall growths just above water level. (These objects are most likely stromatolitic forms akin to those found in 5L8 and several similar sites.)

The shallowest area in the sinkhole is located on the western quadrant of the lake's centre-point, where the water is about 12 metres deep. The silty floor then drops steeply all around the edge of the main lake into the undercut regions, and it soon reaches the walls on the eastern and western sides at a depth of around 23 metres (only some 15 metres horizontally from the surface), while continuing to both the north and south.

The northern cavern area extends for around 40 metres from the edge of the lake and reaches a maximum depth of 40 metres behind some large limestone slabs, but there is relatively little to see there. However, the southern end of the sinkhole drops steeply behind a huge rockpile which looks spectacular when the water is crystal clear (as is often the case), along a 15 metre high underwater cliff into a series of smaller false chambers which have been formed by large boulder chockstones jamming between the walls and the floor in many places. (Divers need to take extra care in this area because it is much deeper than the northern side.)

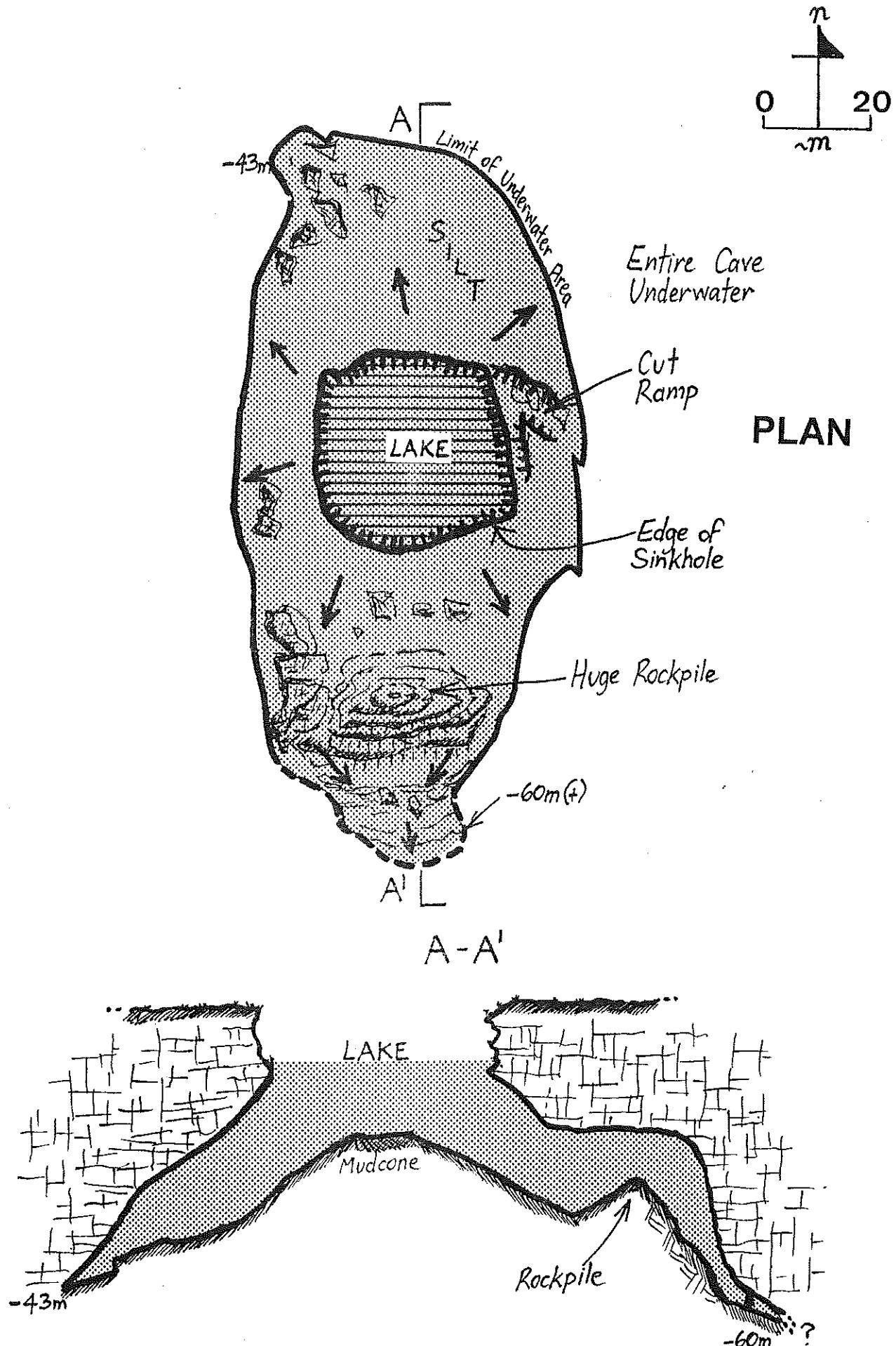
While divers have reportedly explored Ten-Eighty Sinkhole since around 1958-61, the earliest confirmed dives known to the author took place in April 1962, when diving was mentioned by Bob Sexton in a CEGSA trip report. Local pioneering divers Philip "Mick" Potter and Laurie "Snow" Raggatt did their first dive here with a friend in November 1962, and they explored the region to the east, near the rockpile.

During the 1970s and '80s, Ten-Eighty became one of the most popular sinkholes in the lower South East, and a few preliminary research projects involving such aspects as underwater visibility, turbidity, chemistry and general biology were initiated by the author and his companions. Unusual and relatively rare life-forms such as sponges, syncarids and insect larvae have been recorded since the early 1980s, and aspects of considerable value to palaeontologists have also come to light in more recent years.

A detailed map of this sinkhole has recently been completed by the South Australian Underwater Speleological Society (using radial surveying techniques in 3-metre increments with triangulation checks and loop closures), making it one of the first large waterfilled sinkholes to be plotted up in accurate perspective to date. The feature was first placed in CEGSA's Records by speleologist Grant Gartrell in December 1964.

# TEN-EIGHTY SINKHOLE

5L42



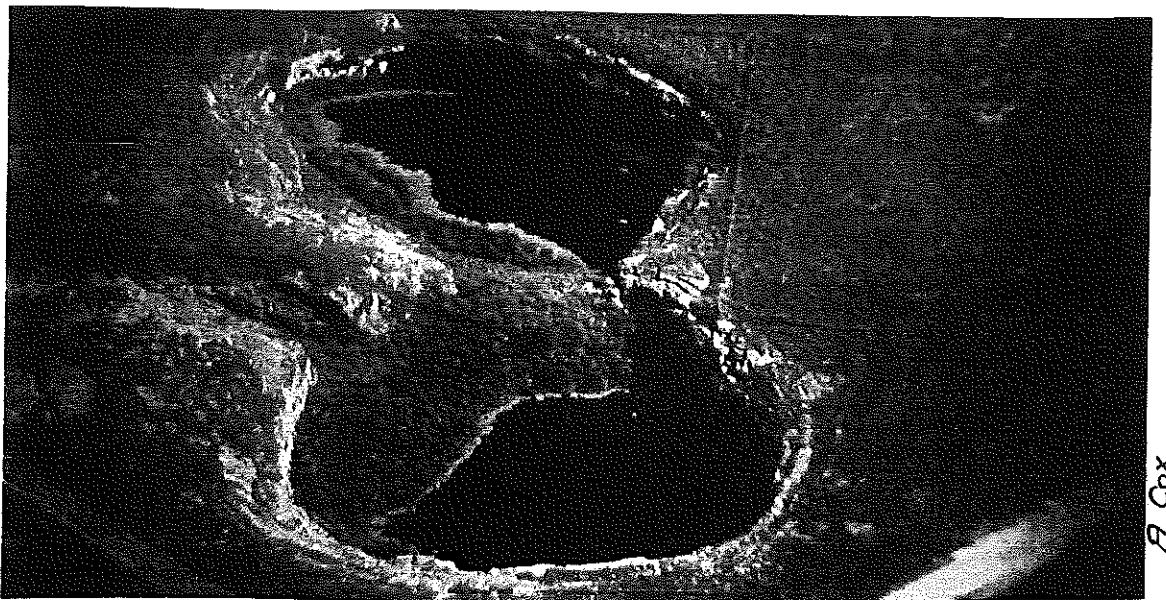
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L43/44

### THE SISTERS (Double Well; "The Two Sisters"; Sisters North & Sisters South).

The Sisters are a geological rarity, even in such prominent cave-country as the Lower South East of South Australia. They appear as two intersecting, oblong-shaped "cenote"-style waterfilled sinkholes, but they were most likely formed from two "end collapses" of a single large cavern.

Each lake is about 40 metres across, and from the air the holes appear to be almost mirror-images of each other, being separated by a dry strip or saddle of limestone about 15 metres wide and 3 metres high. The walls of both lakes are almost vertical faces which drop about 9 metres to the water, and they are "decorated" with many unusual keyhole-shaped solution holes and bulbous 'stromatolitic' growths (refer to 5L8). Access to the saddle is awkward – but at least, possible – for heavily-equipped cave divers, thanks to a primitive ramp-like cutting which was made sometime around the beginning of the 20th Century, but divers then need to tackle the dense cutting grasses and stinging nettles (as well as occasional bees and snakes) which surround the water before they can "get wet"!

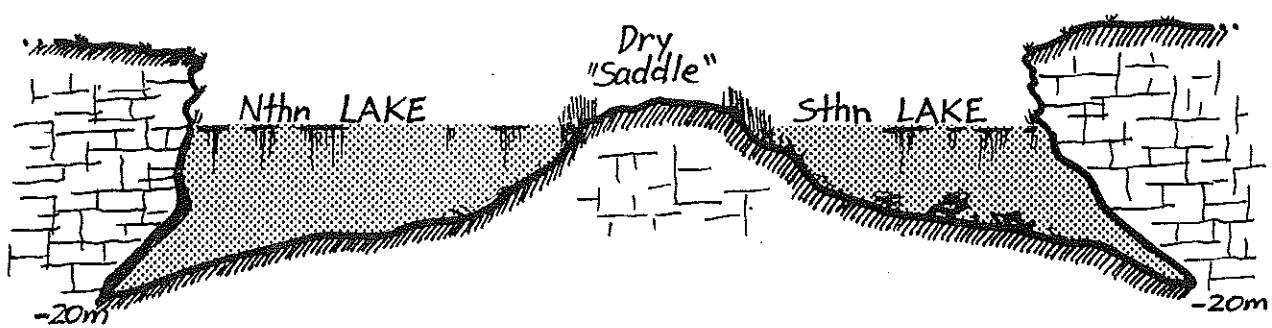
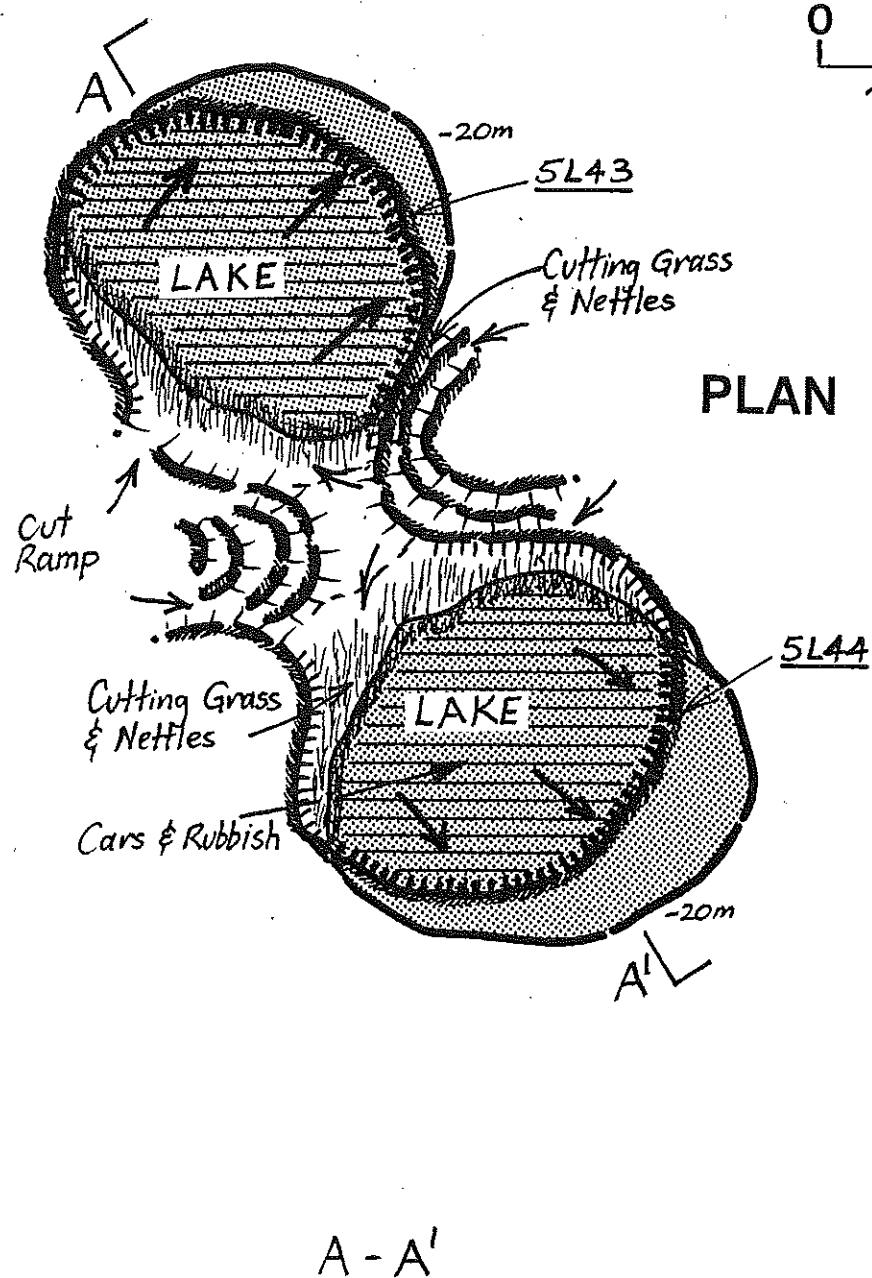
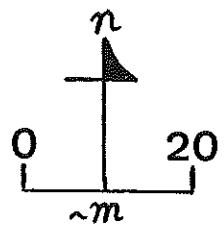
Underwater, the features prove to be fairly simple mud-floored pools with small overhangs and maximum depths of about 20 metres or so, but the visibility in both holes is usually extremely poor during most of the year. There is also a lot of rubbish in the form of car bodies, rolls of wire and other such items on the bottom, and the southern hole in particular has been heavily abused in this way over the years.



These sinkholes were reportedly discovered on May 5th, 1844 by Governor George Grey, who named them "Double Well". The first known logged dives here occurred in November 1962 and January 1963, when local diver Philip "Mick" Potter found poor conditions similar to those so often encountered today. However, his dive in the southern hole was interesting because he located a stolen Chevrolet, from which he retrieved its registration disk. It is also rumoured that someone once found some sticks of gelignite wrapped in barbed wire in this feature, so divers should not play with anything they cannot identify ... just to be on the safe side!

# THE SISTERS

5L43/44



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 6, CEGSA, 1962; underwater area: ASF Grade 2, P.Horne, P.Stace & I.Lewis, 1980-81]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L45

### RUBBISH CAVE.

The descriptive name for this sinkhole-like cave entrance was evidently allocated by Bob Sexton during his April 1962 CEGSA trip to the lower South East, when it contained a vast amount of foul rubbish. The large amount of hard rubbish has only deteriorated a little during the past 25 years or so, and even today it is more of a rubbish tip than an interesting karst feature!

It is basically a single large collapse chamber with a roof window about 20 metres in diameter and with overhanging walls all the way around. By dropping a 6 metre long ladder along the wall on the south-western side to the top of the rubbish-pile, access to the 25 metre wide area in the lower reaches of Rubbish Cave can be made with care, but it is not possible to safely walk right around the bottom of the feature these days.

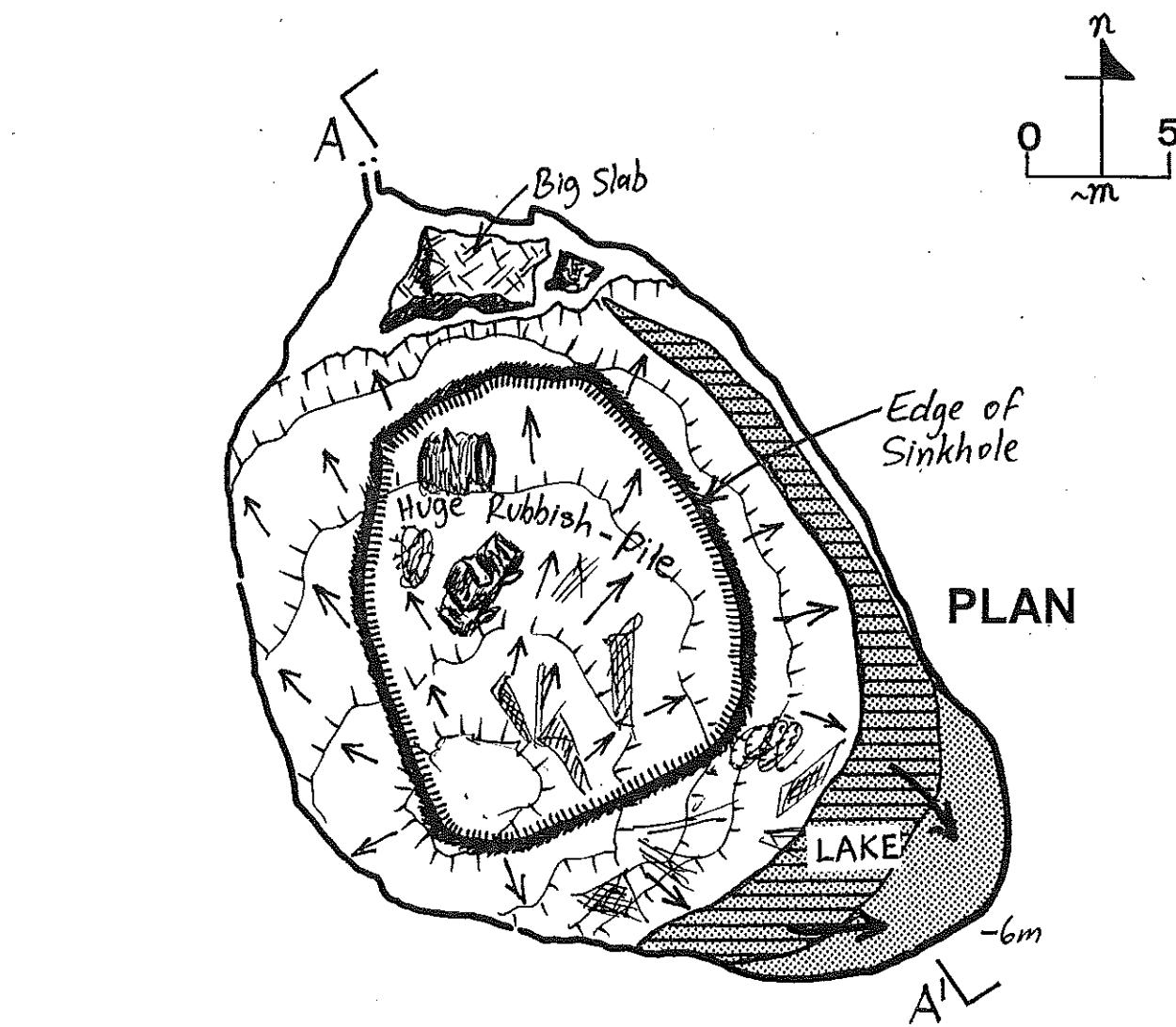
Although the April 1962 trip report stated that "on the south-eastern and eastern sides ... there is an extremely foul pool of grey water", preliminary dives by the author and Andrew Cox in May 1990 revealed much clearer conditions and a maximum underwater depth of just 6 metres with no apparent extensions at the south-eastern end.

Rubbish Cave has very little to attract cave explorers or divers!

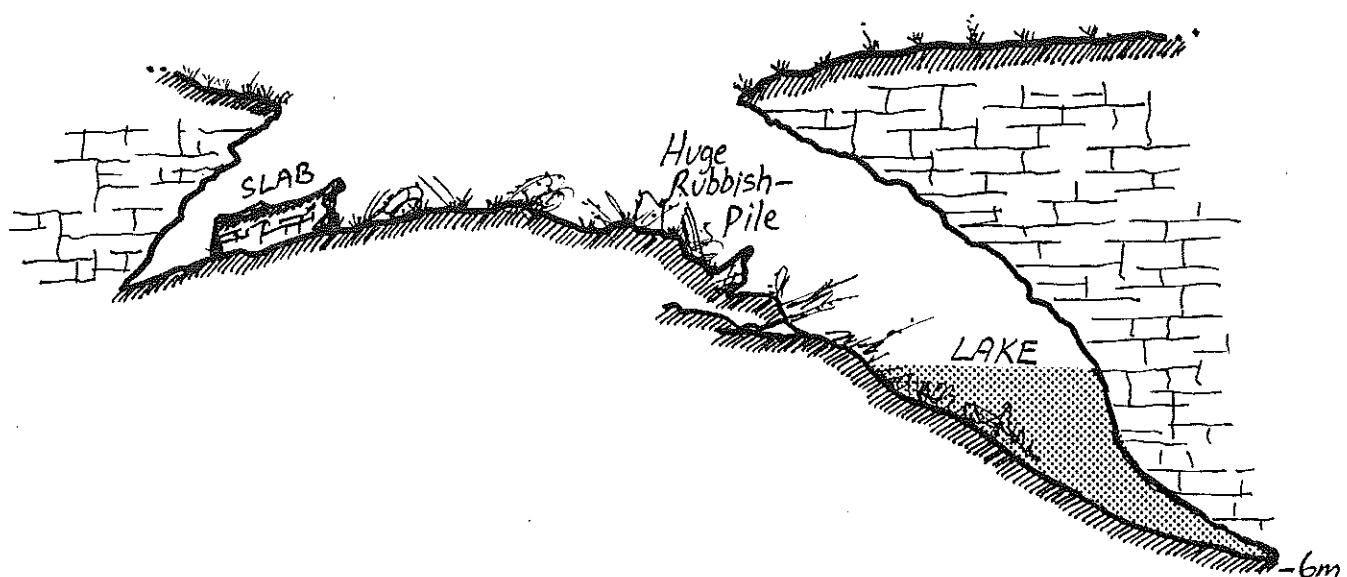


# RUBBISH CAVE

5L45



A - A'



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L46

### KILSBYS HOLE (Kilsby Sinkhole, Kilsby Cave).

This spectacular waterfilled "cenote"-style sinkhole was a very popular cave diving site in the early 1960s. It was reportedly named after the property owner, Mr. Dene F.A. Kilsby, by members of the Underwater Research Group of South Australia (including Peter Girdler, a prominent present-day cave diver and his regular diving companion, Barry Fowler) sometime prior to April 1962, when Bob Sexton first mentioned the feature in a CEGSA trip report.

Prior to 1990, when a small sloping ramp was cut down to the lake by Mr. Ross Kilsby from the north-western side of the sinkhole under a smaller roof window, it had 10 metre high overhanging walls all around, making access difficult. The entrance is a triangular-shaped hole about 16 metres along each side, and it cuts right back under on the north-eastern side in a sheltered section of lake some 20 metres further out of daylight.

The underwater aspects of the cave trend in a north-east to south-west direction (which is about 90 degrees out from most of the other known cave features in this area), and the boulder-strewn floor - which is at a depth of 27 metres directly beneath the main collapse on the south-western side - drops away deeper in the dark zone.

The sinkhole is basically a single huge cavern approximately 50 metres long by 20 metres high in most areas, and despite numerous tales and rumours of awesome depths far in excess of 100 metres, several very reliable sources have reported that the deepest known area in the sinkhole is in fact about 63 metres, in a silty and restrictive cavity behind a large boulder collapse-mound (this is still very deep and more than 20 metres beyond the recommended maximum sport-diving depth of 40 metres, but it is hardly "awesome" by modern cave diving standards).

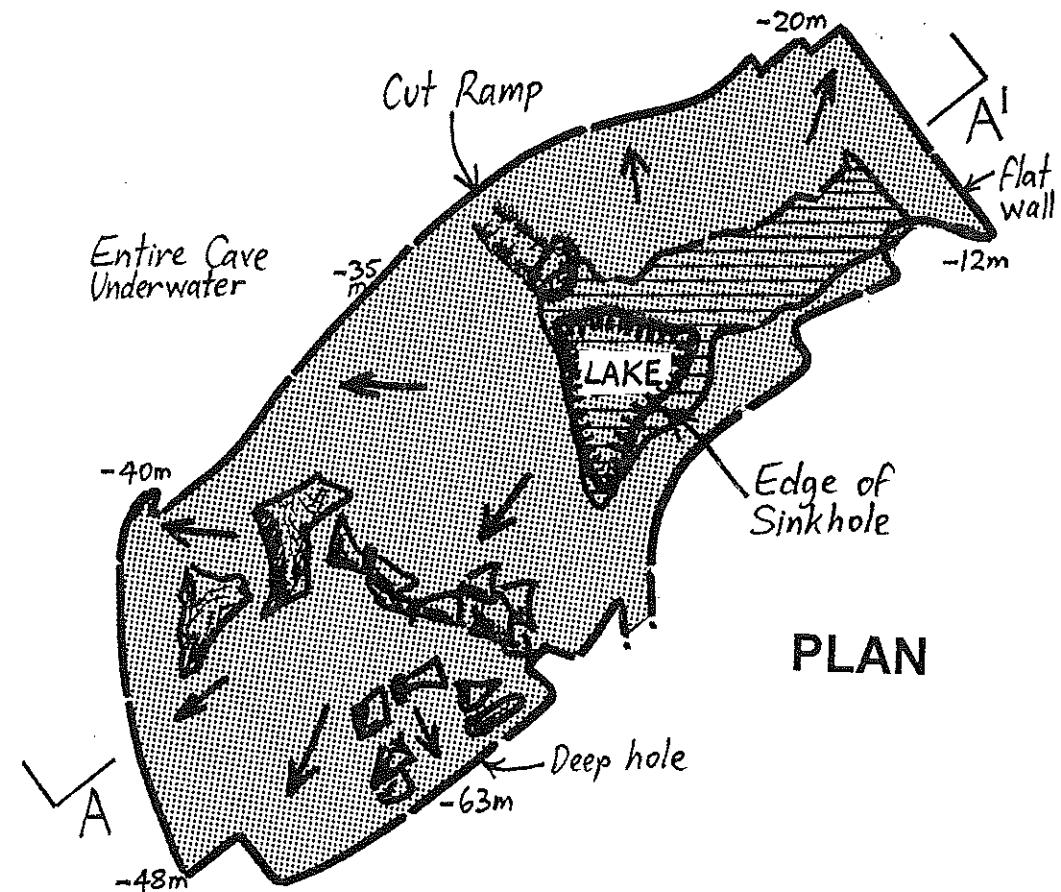
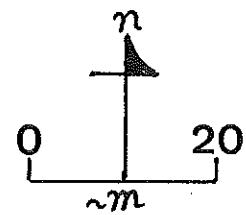
Kilsbys Hole was the first large waterfilled sinkhole to be thoroughly mapped in this country, and members of the newly-formed Research Group of the Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAARG) felt that the cave's strange 90-degree corners and clean angular boulders indicated that it appeared to be a relatively recent collapse. It was certainly very different from the more rounded, "dirtier"-looking features which were common to most other sinkholes in the area, and since it had been closed to the public since 1969 (when the Weapons Research Establishment took out a lease for testing purposes), only a handful of divers had disturbed the environment in any way.

Some important palaeontological material (including *Thylacoleo sp.*) was also recovered from an underwater ledge in one area during the mapping study in 1983.

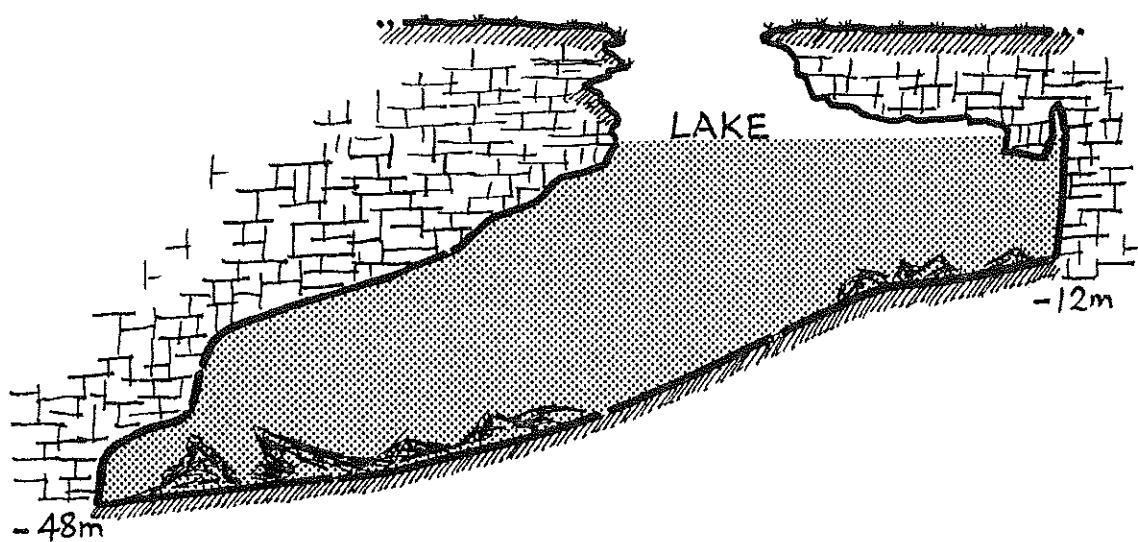
At the time of this writing, the lease had just moved across to the South Australian Police Department, and with the support of the Department and the landowner, the CDAA was finalizing negotiations to allow qualified sinkhole divers to visit the feature on a more regular basis.

# KILSBYS HOLE

5L46



A-A'



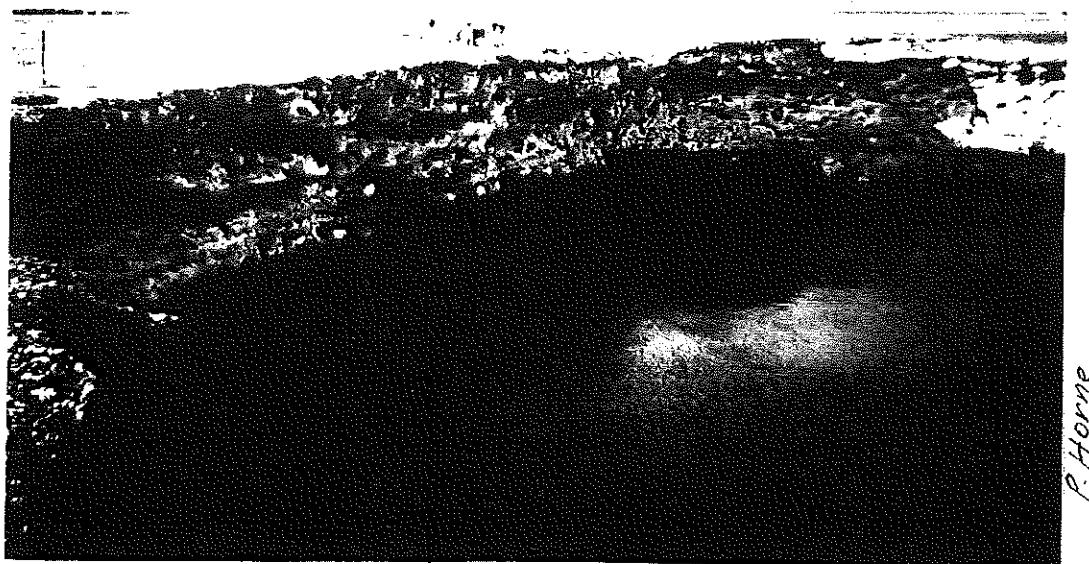
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L47

### THE BLACK HOLE (Devils Punchbowl, Miniature Blue Lake, The Big Hole, "Blacks").

The awesome-looking Black Hole is the largest waterfilled "cenote"-style sinkhole in the Lower South East. Discovered in 1844 by Governor George Grey, it is also one of the deepest, and it can provide cave divers with both spectacularly clear views or murky "ghost-train" dives! It is shaped something like a partially-squashed rectangle, being about 65 metres long by 45m wide, with overhanging sides all the way around.

Access is best made via a 12 metre long rope (or solid) ladder placed on the eastern side, where a large, dry ledge can easily accommodate a horde of eager cave divers and their gear.

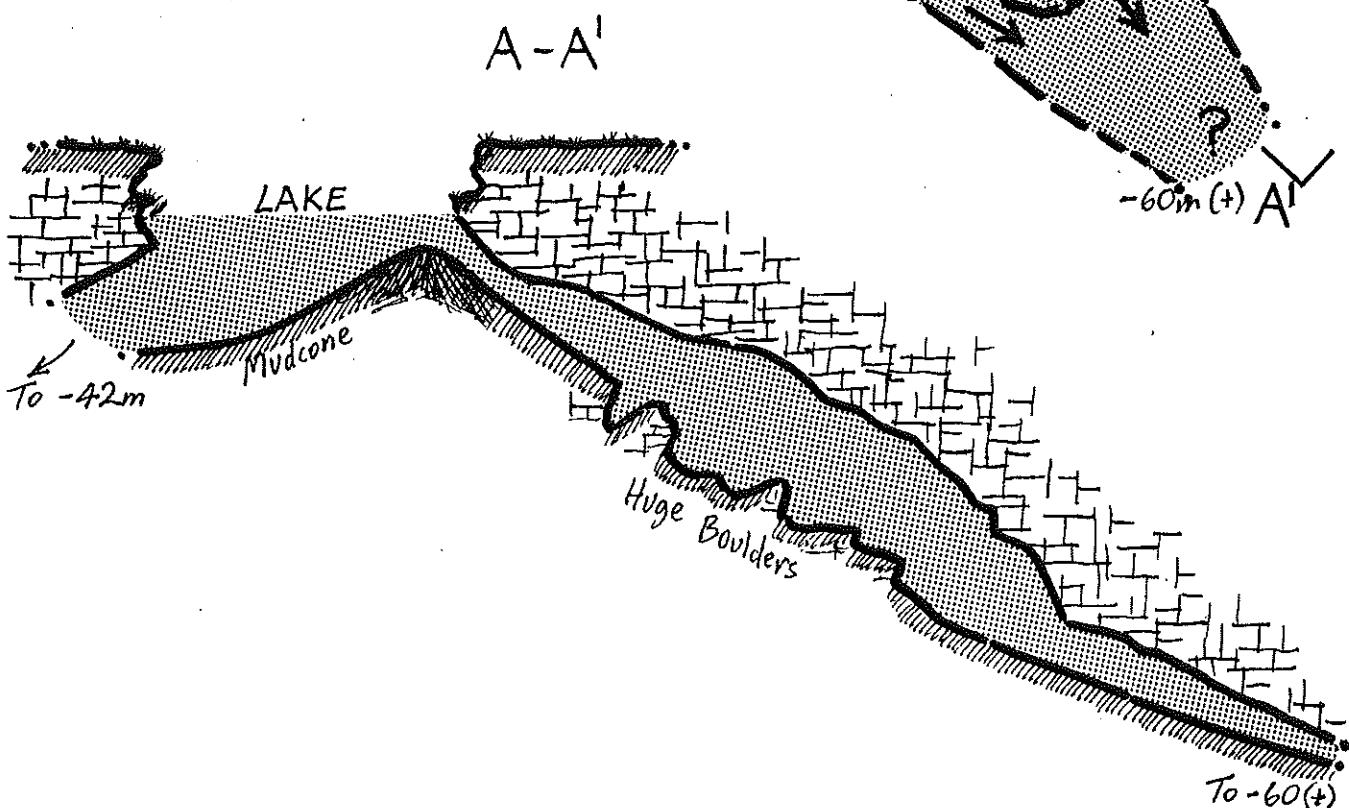
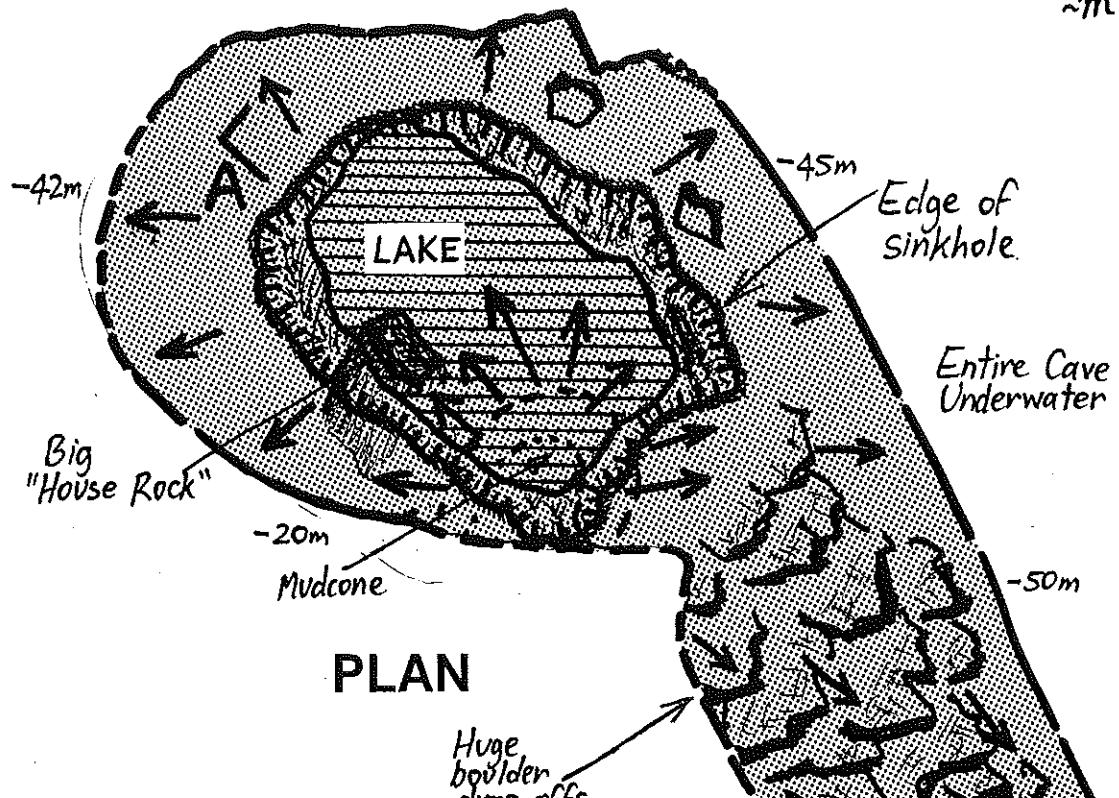
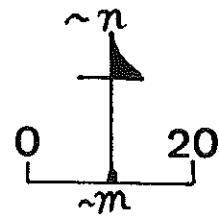
The shallowest point in the sinkhole lies at the south-eastern end of the lake, where the top of a sandy talus mound (often adorned with *Chara* algaes) is reached about 6 metres below the surface. The bottom slopes off steeply all around from this point, but the main trend of the cave lies further to the east of this, through an opening just a few metres high near the sand cone. This leads into a huge cavern area which has the appearance of being a "tunnel", where it is up to 20 metres high and more than 60 metres wide! This "Big Tunnel" drops beyond the reach of the most powerful torches, and following the massive boulder drop-offs into the darkness, divers quickly reach a depth of 40 metres on the ceiling (which is currently the recommended maximum depth for safe recreational cave diving using standard equipment).



The Black Hole has only been cursorily observed scientifically, but some interesting things have already been found ... for instance, it contains some rare and very delicate freshwater sponges and crustaceans such as syncarids (*Koomunga crenarum*), and in the warmer months the shallow levels are reduced to a very low visibility due to the presence of zillions of planktonic life-forms. The sinkhole is also an important site for some unusual and very large "stromatolitic" forms which are found on the submerged walls. The lower levels maintain a fairly constant temperature of around 15.4 degrees C. throughout the year, but the shallow-water temperature fluctuates considerably (especially in the summer, when thermoclines form).

# THE BLACK HOLE

5L47



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L48

### WOOLWASH CAVE (Sheep Dip; Oil Well).

This feature is not exactly the classic "cenote"-style waterfilled sinkhole, but it would fit the term "sinkhole" more accurately than anything else currently in popular caving nomenclature and is somewhat similar to The Sisters (5L43/44) in general form and depth. It is a 45 metre by 25 metre collapse with a degraded area and a shallow depression on its south-western side. The floor slopes to the north-east, where it drops down into a flat, reedy-floored area before reaching the lake which has overhanging walls. The cutting plants are thick and more than 2 metres high, and many stinging nettles lurk in wait for careless divers' fingers!

A preliminary research/assessment dive by the author and CDAA Research Group Co-Ordinator, Andrew Cox in May 1990 revealed that the underwater extent of the sinkhole was minor; it is only 20 metres deep under the north-eastern wall and has almost no "potential" (except perhaps via some very nasty-looking squeezes between the walls and boulders). The water was not very clear, being a dark greenish-yellow in colour and unable to provide useful light beyond about 10 metres or so. A large rusting bore-pipe – apparently a test-bore by the "Alliance Oil" company – was also found down the wall and into the floor in the deepest area.

Woolwash Cave is rumoured to have been used as a natural "sheep dip" many years ago, when sheep were apparently driven down the ramp into the water after a large amount of arsenic had been added to it – hence its name. However, recent chemical tests have shown that there is no sign of such gross contamination today, fortunately.

Underwater flora and micro-fauna are prolific around the edges of the lake, and recent studies by Mia Thurgate (Monash University, Victoria) have identified Woolwash Cave as containing an extremely important and rare (if not unique) ecological system ... "Woolwash differs biologically from most other cenotes of the area (including Gouldens and Blacks) in that it contains a prolific angiosperm community and is virtually free of macro algae. The angiosperm community is dominated by a thick bed of *Crassula helmsii* to a depth of approximately 3 to 4m. Associated with this community are small pockets of *Nasturtium officinale*, *Hydrocotyle verticillata* and *Lemna minor*".

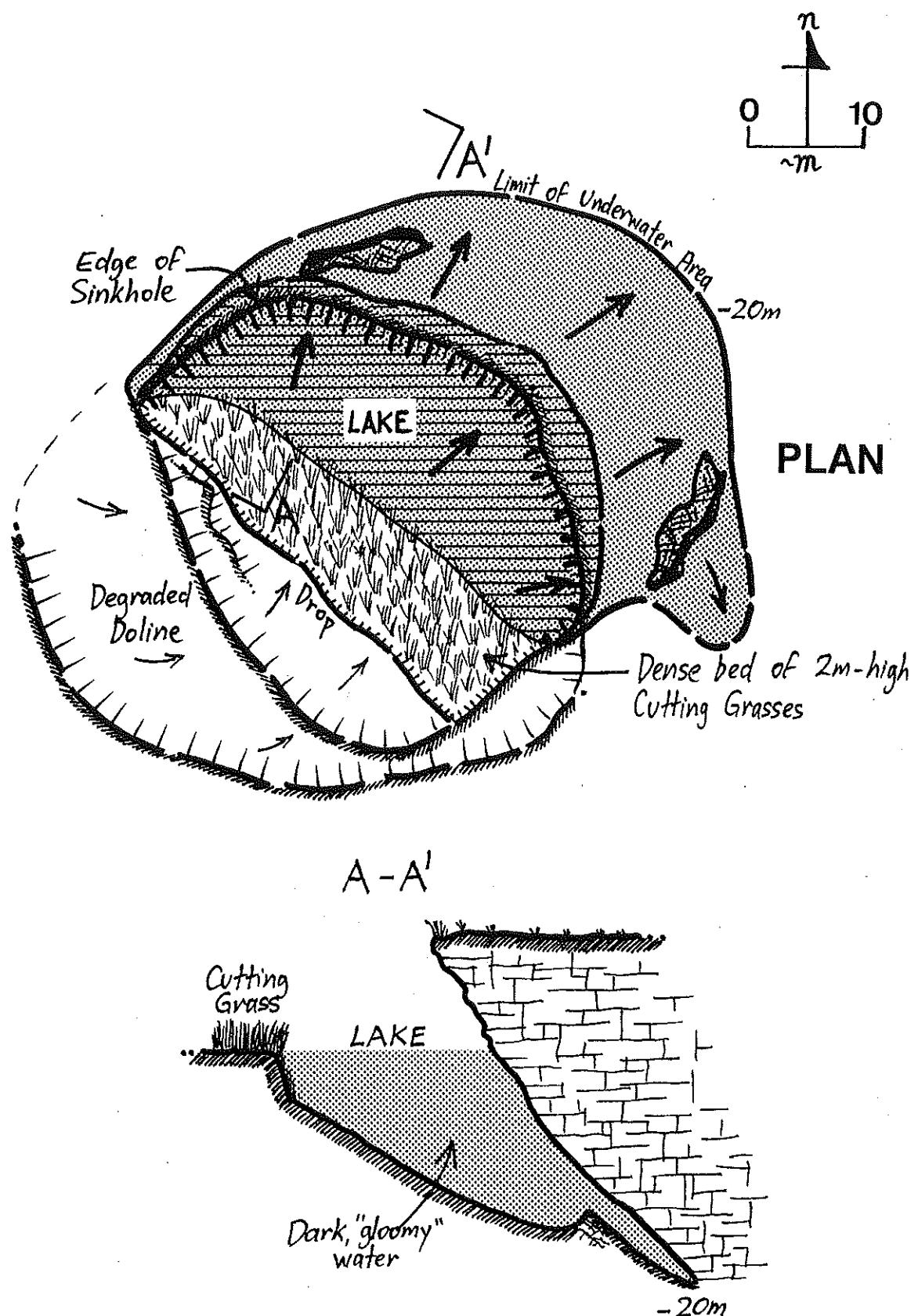
"Between 3 and 7m the degraded slope is covered by an aquatic bryophyte community of *Cratoneuropsis relaxa*, which also covers ledges on the vertical walls opposite. The bryophyte community is covered with small orb-shaped sponges and hosts a large community of juvenile insect forms and tadpoles of the frog *Litoria ewingi*".

Mia also stated that "...stromatolites are found on the north-east wall" and that "the fauna of this site are incredibly diverse and include many species not collected elsewhere" (World Wildlife Fund Project 104 unpub. report by M. Thurgate and Assoc. Prof. Neil Hallam, 1992).

This sinkhole is therefore obviously not ideally suited to cater for hordes of budding cave divers!

# WOOLWASH CAVE

5L48



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L49

### (Unnamed Feature).

This sinkhole is almost circular and approximately 40 metres in diameter. It has 10 metre high vertical walls all around except on its eastern side, where a 12 metre wide ramp has been cut down to meet a flat sedge and reed-covered floor. These plants are some 2 metres high and access is therefore quite difficult.

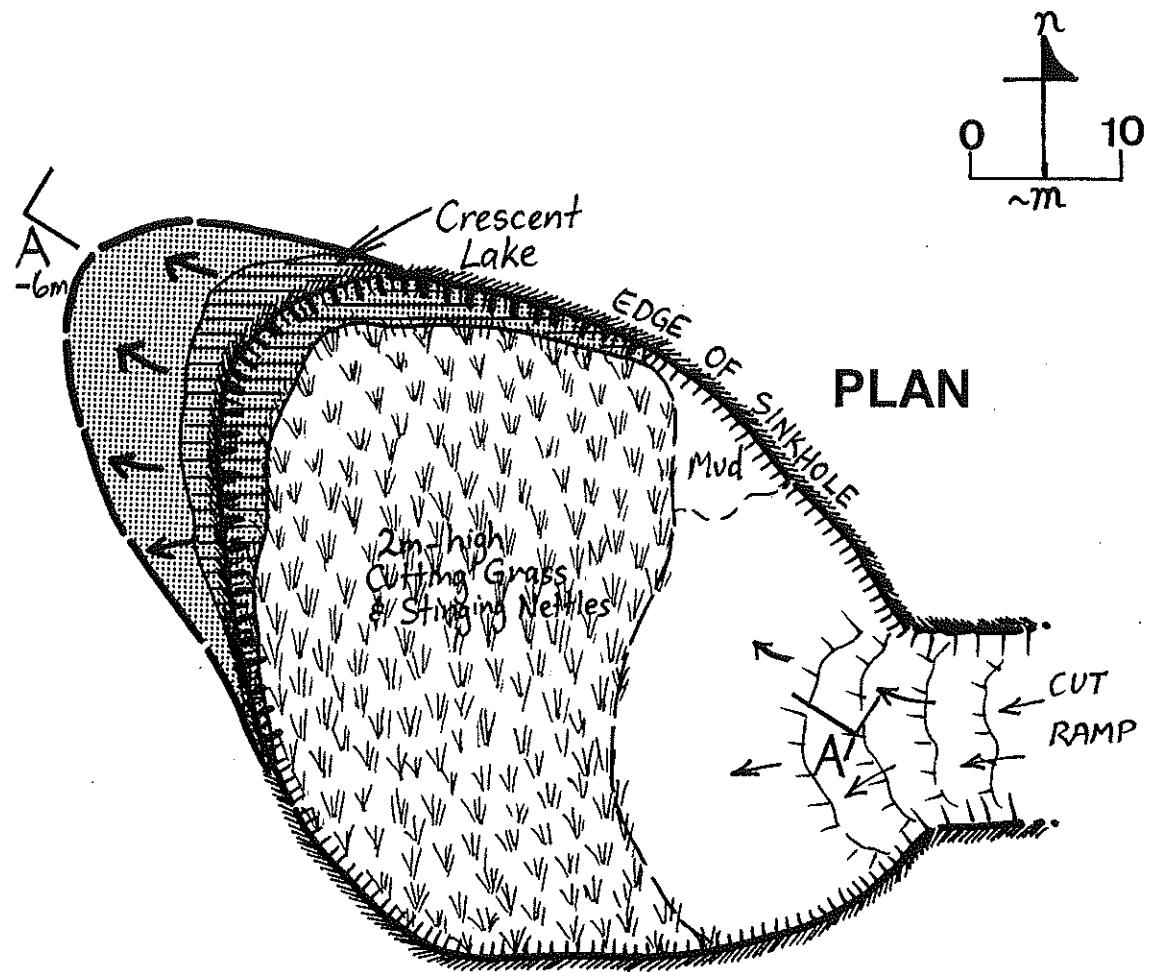
A small and very shallow water-table pool runs around the edge of the feature from roughly the northern side across the west to the south-western side. The underwater extent of this lake consists of a sloping silt floor which follows the walls/ceiling, in a half-metre wide gap to a maximum depth of 6 metres.

Daylight is visible throughout the sinkhole unless the silt is disturbed! Some old, very small decoration was found close to the floor in one section of the sinkhole at 6 metres depth, providing evidence that the water table has fluctuated at least this much relatively recently.

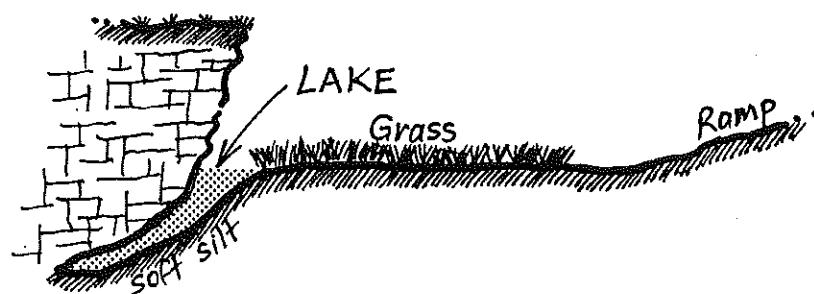
It has very little to offer from a recreational viewpoint, but it is a potentially important scientific site and should not be unduly disturbed.



5L49



A-A'



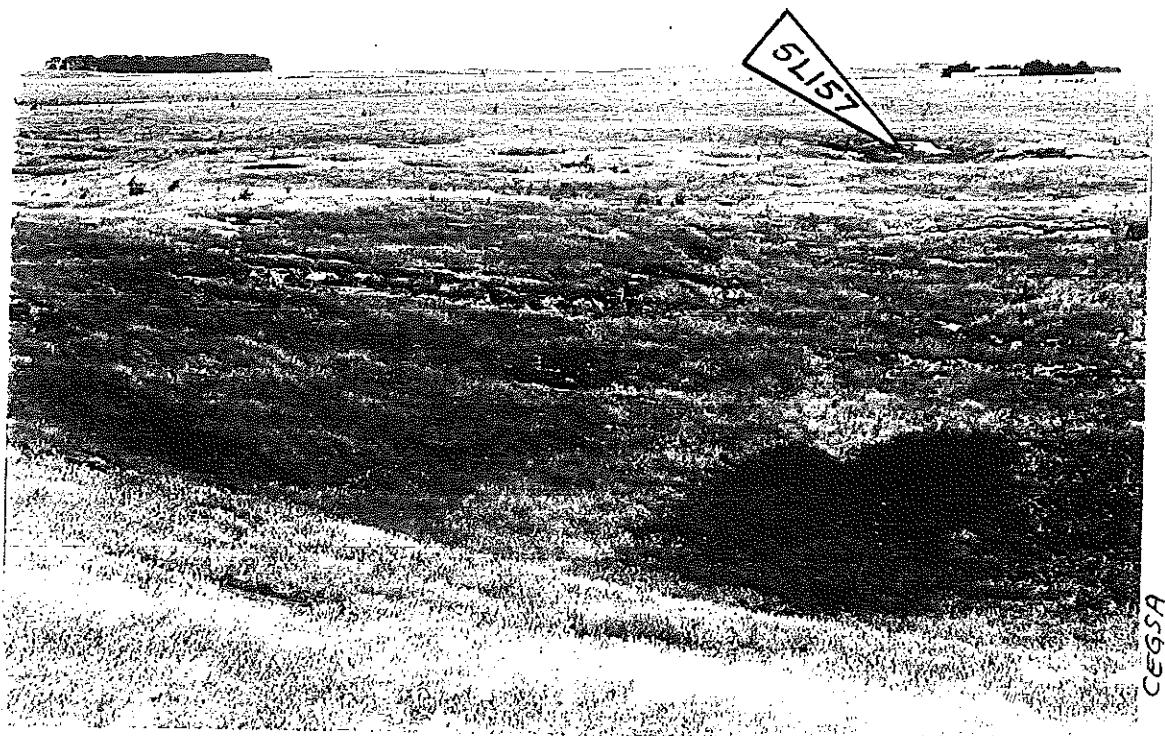
[Map ASF Grade 2, P.Horn  
& A.Cox, CDAA, 1990]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L50

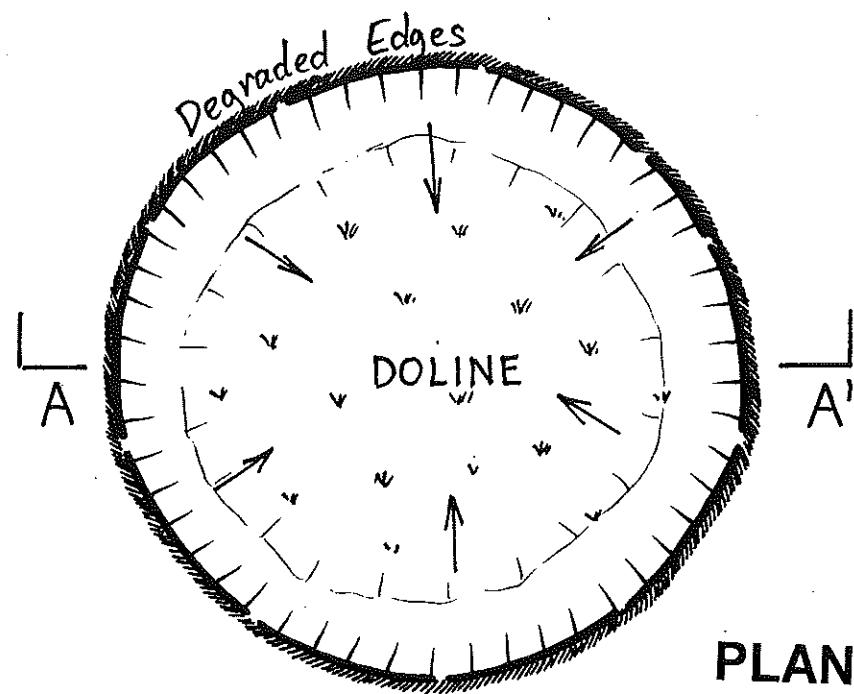
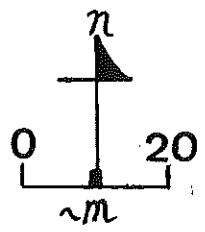
## (Unnamed Feature).

This karst feature is a fairly bland sort of thing; really nothing more than an almost-circular and degraded collapse doline with no known caves leading off.

It is around 90 metres in approximate diameter and some 7-8 metres deep in the centre, but it doesn't quite reach the water table and there is only slight rock exposure in the soil-covered slopes. It is adjacent to 5L157.



5L50



A - A'



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, P.Horne, 1984]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L51

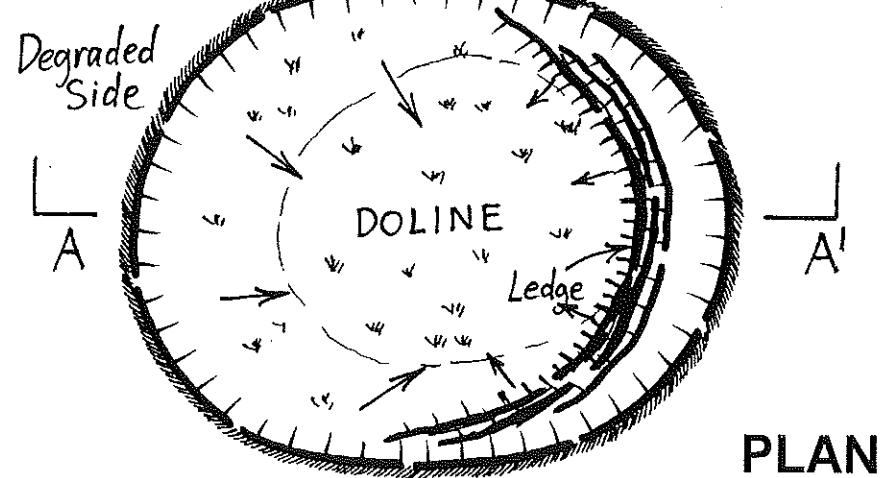
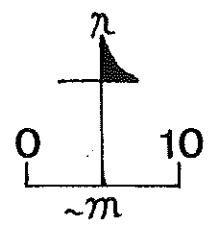
(Unnamed Feature).

This collapse feature is a simple near-circular doline about 35 metres across and some 4 metres deep. It has degraded dirt sides all around except on its south-eastern end, where a steeper rocky ledge can be seen.

It presently has no known accessible connections to underground cavities.

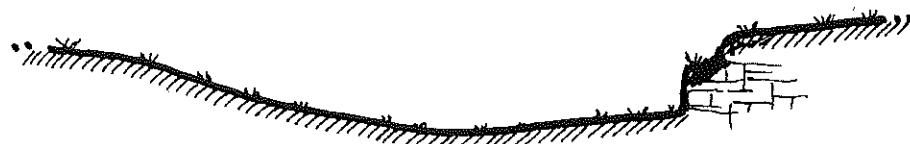


5L51



PLAN

A-A'



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L52

## CUT FOOT CAVE.

Cut Foot Cave is a significant joint-controlled fissure-type cave which reaches the water-table in several places.

Access is gained via a one by two-metre roof window, where care must be taken to avoid being snagged in wire and other old rubbish. After a 2.5 metre drop, one can see that the cave heads off both to the north-west and south-east.

The north-western passage drops almost immediately to quite deep water (perhaps more than 15m deep) in a smooth-walled, vertical fissure which has a couple of prominent chert bands, and this gradually constricts to less than 0.3m wide some 20 metres in. The fissure continues to narrow but is seen to continue for at least another 15 metres or more, out of sight (and only possibly accessible to persons who are considerably thinner than the author in his wetsuit!) However, the south-eastern passage is quite different in form and is easily negotiable ... visitors step down onto the top of some large upright slabs which sit in a couple of significant water-table pools, and the passage finally terminates in a small crawlway about 40 metres from the entrance.

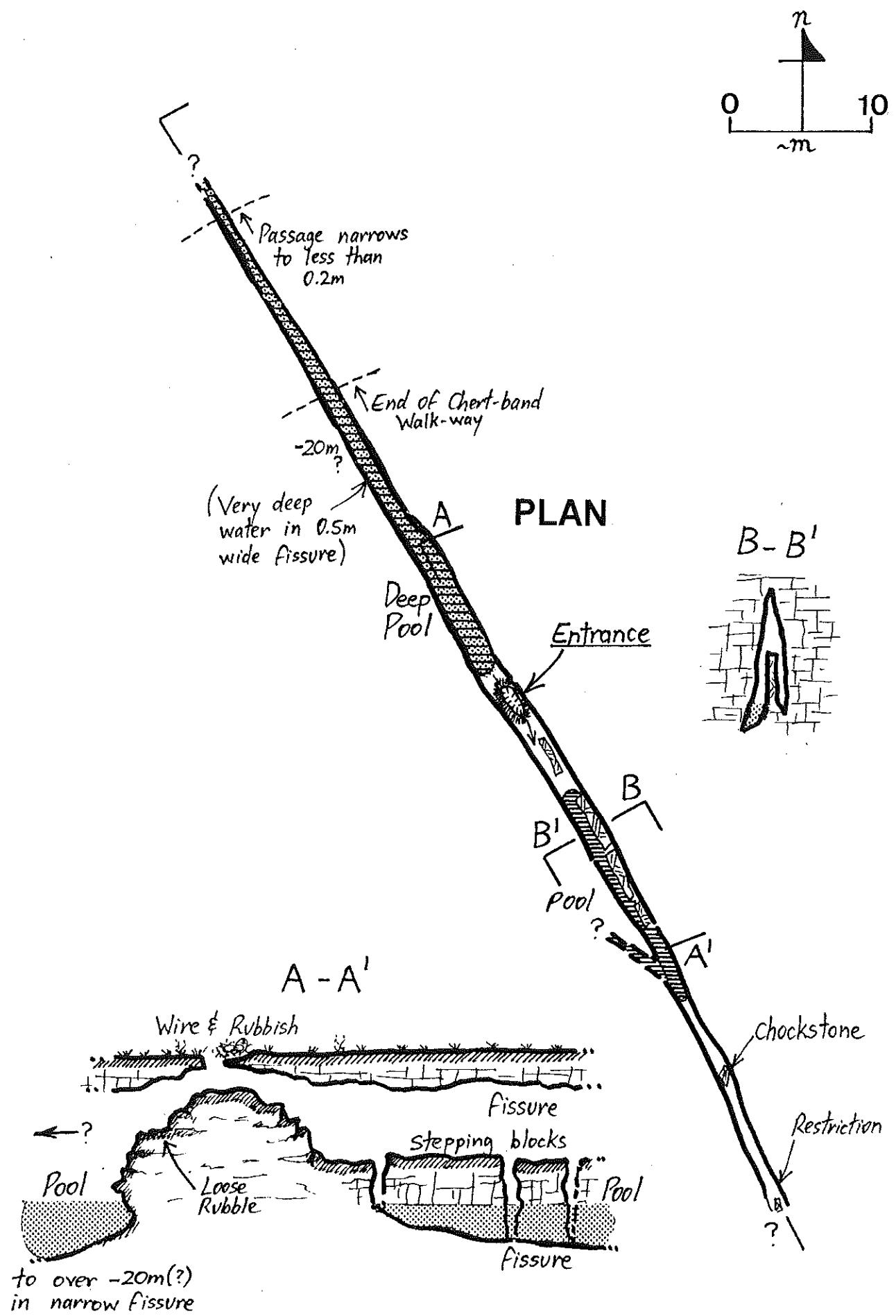


There are several potential underwater leads, but they would require extremely careful dive planning and specialized equipment to be explored safely.

The first CEGSA reports of the cave in April and December 1962 did not include underground descriptions because the presence of some unpleasant dead sheep in the entrance reportedly prevented access (what a lame excuse!). The feature was given its present name by the author after a fellow cave diver, Neil Vincent, cut his (right?) foot on some rubbish while exploring it around May 1990.

# CUT FOOT CAVE

5L52



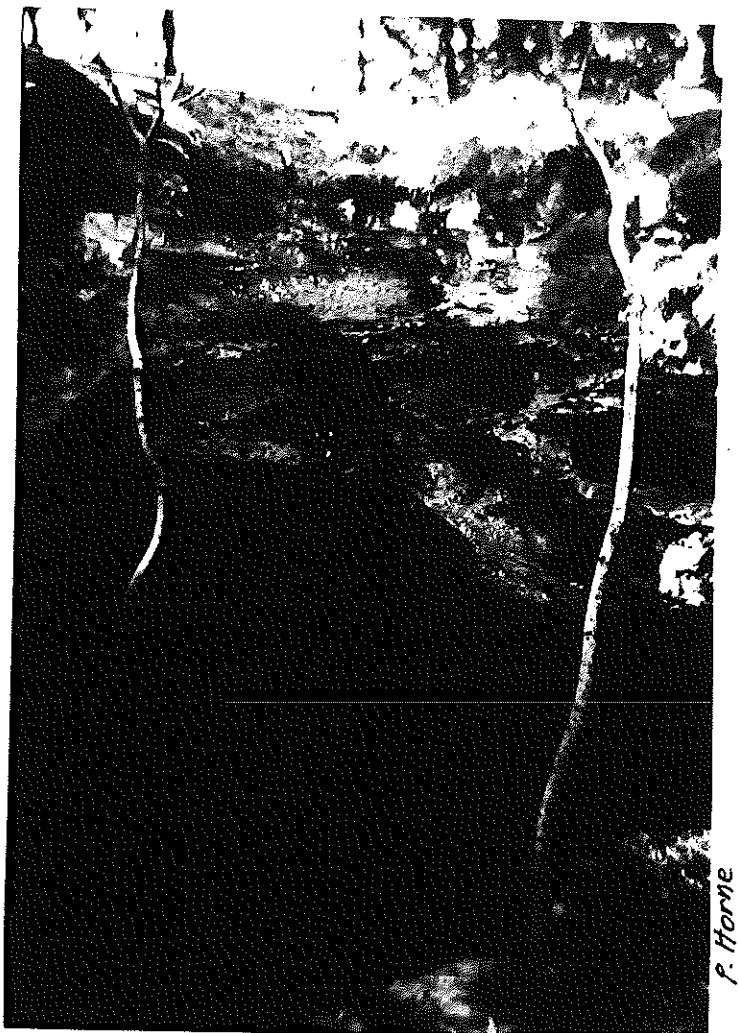
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L53

### WALNUT CAVE.

Walnut Cave is a picturesque feature hidden in a block of pine trees in an open field. Its name is derived from the presence of an enormous walnut tree which grows from near the bottom of the degraded sloping floor of the oval-shaped sinkhole.

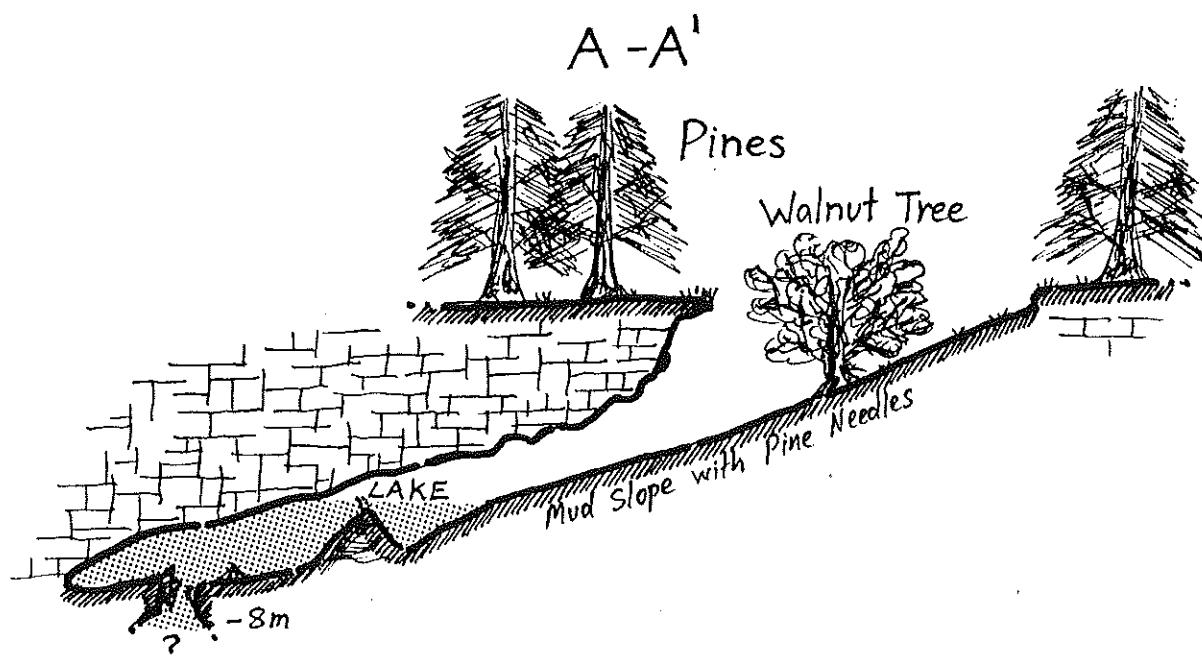
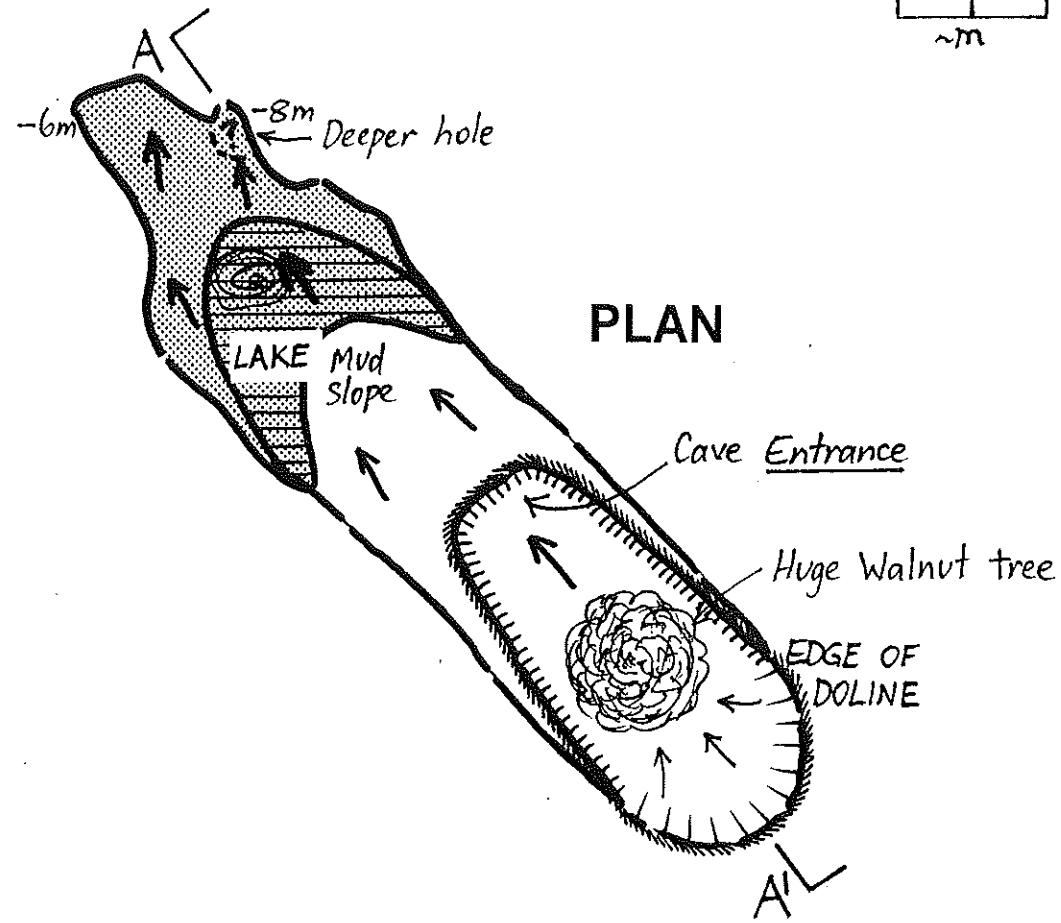
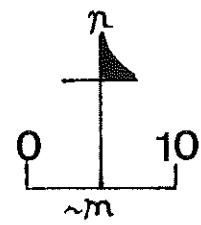
The entrance doline is about 30 metres long by 10 metres wide, sloping from ground level at the south-eastern end to about 6 metres deep on the north-western end. The cave continues here for about 15 metres to a dimly lit lake with crystal clear, calm water, and a dive by the author and John Hanson in September 1981 revealed that the submerged section only reaches an accessible depth of about 8 metres, in a restriction some 12 metres penetration distance from the lake.

This cave was first brought to CEGSA's attention around April 1962, when the landowner reported that the water level had dropped about 1 foot (0.3 metres) per year for the previous 13 years in this cave. It is known to contain syncarids (*Koomunga crenarum*) but it has very little to offer recreational visitors.



# WALNUT CAVE

5L53



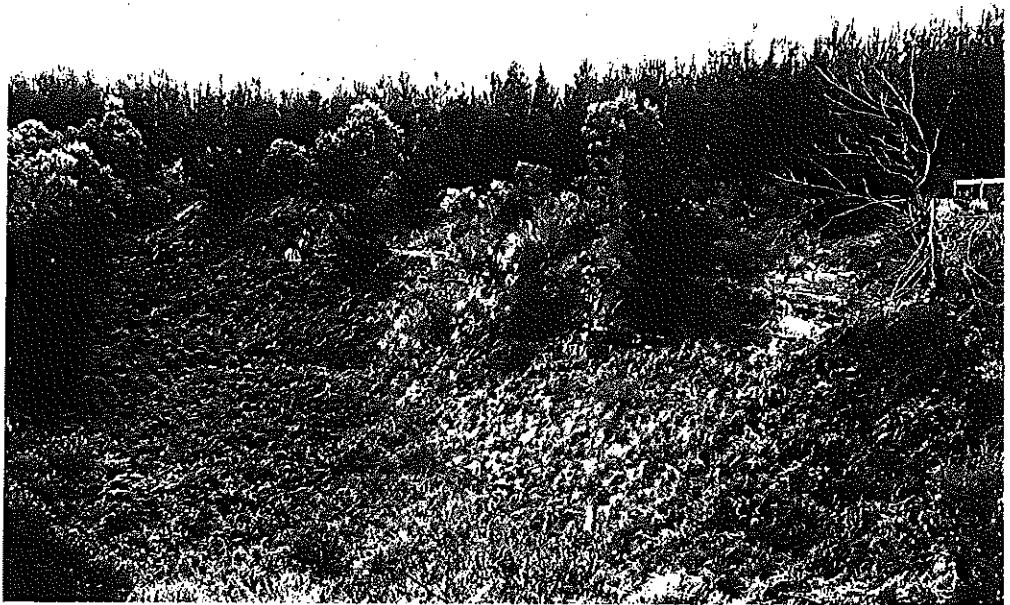
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L54

### (Unnamed Feature).

This karst feature is reportedly a simple oval-shaped doline about 90 metres long, 40 metres wide and 12 metres deep in the centre.

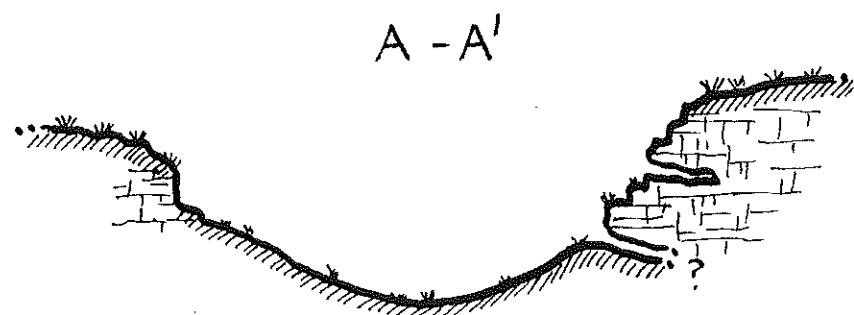
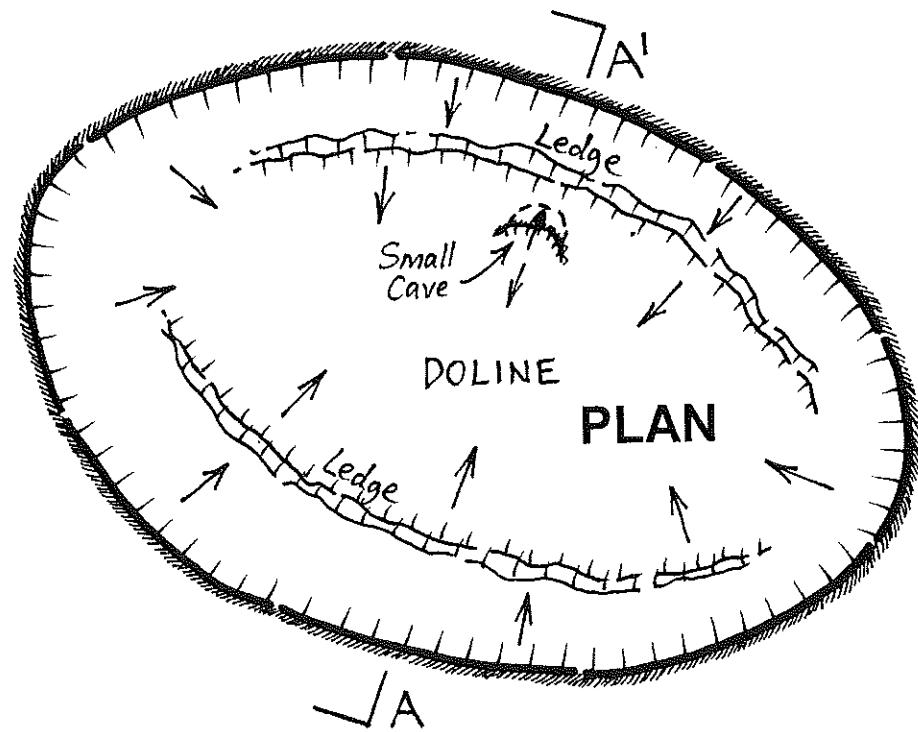
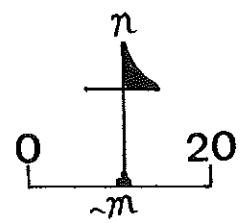
Reference was made by Bob Sexton in an April 1962 CEGSA trip report of a "very prominent rock exposure 6 feet high, 15 feet below the lip of the depression extending along each long side of the sink but obscured by soil and rubble slopes at each end".

There was also a small rock-face with a collapse floor and crevices in one wall.



*K. Grimes*

5L54



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L55/56/57

## (Unnamed Feature).

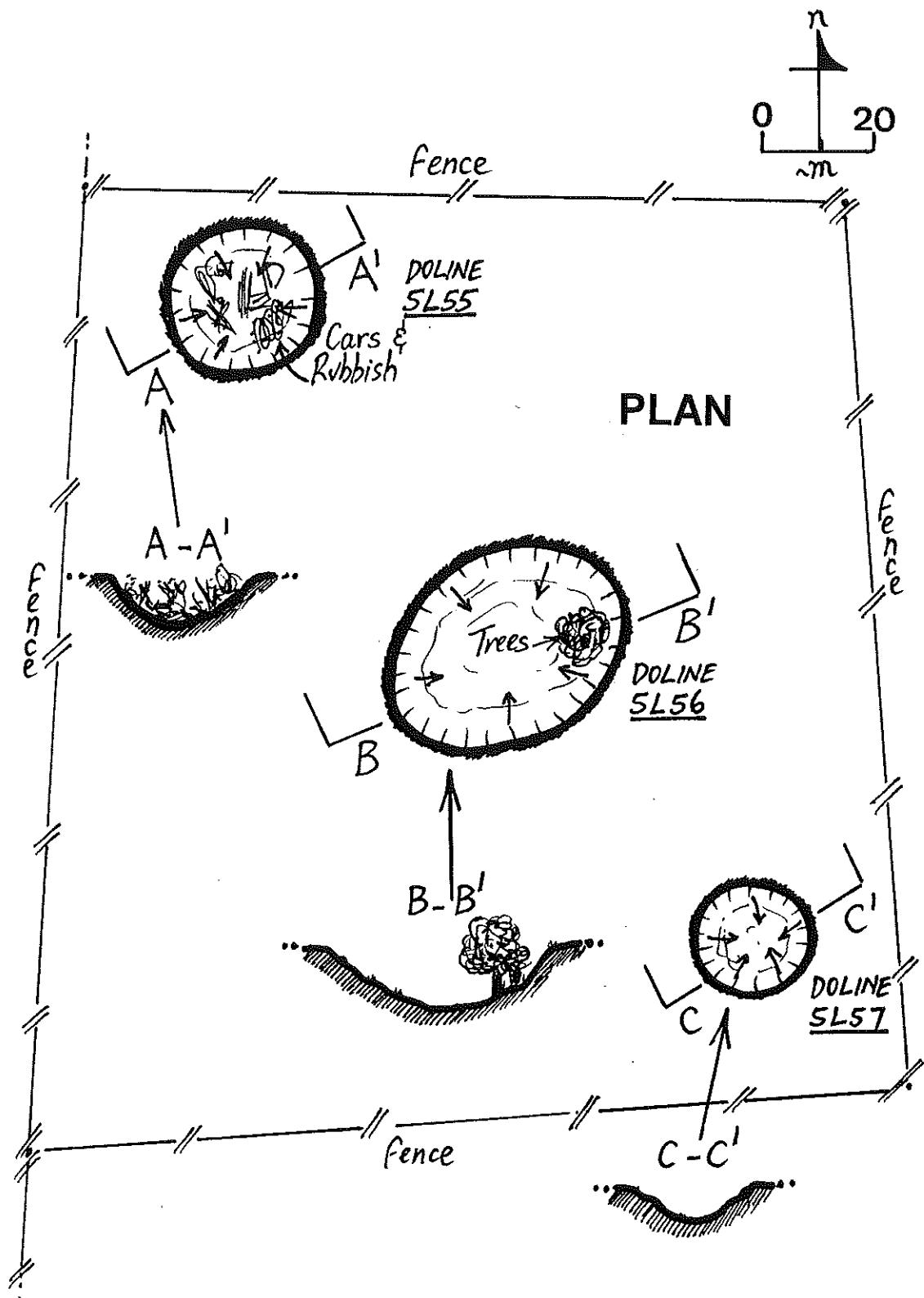
These three associated and relatively shallow, dry features are collapses which lie in a line close together, and they were numbered from the northern hole to the south, although they were apparently not checked out in detail when they were described by Jim G. Cundy in a CEGSA Trip Report dated December 1973.

**5L55** was described as being about 25 x 30 metres across and some 12 metres deep, and it contained a lot of metallic rubbish including some car bodies.; **5L56** was located about 72 metres south-east of 5L55 and was much larger, roughly 60 x 45 metres across and perhaps 15 metres deep, and it contained some very large trees (and reportedly once reached the water-table, although it was dry when visited recently); and **5L57** was the smallest feature in the system, lying about 60 metres south-east of 5L56 and being about 23 metres in diameter and some 5 metres deep.

Although these three features are obviously part of a single system, access to any related underground passages has not yet been accomplished.



5L55/56/57



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L58/59

## SLIT CAVE.

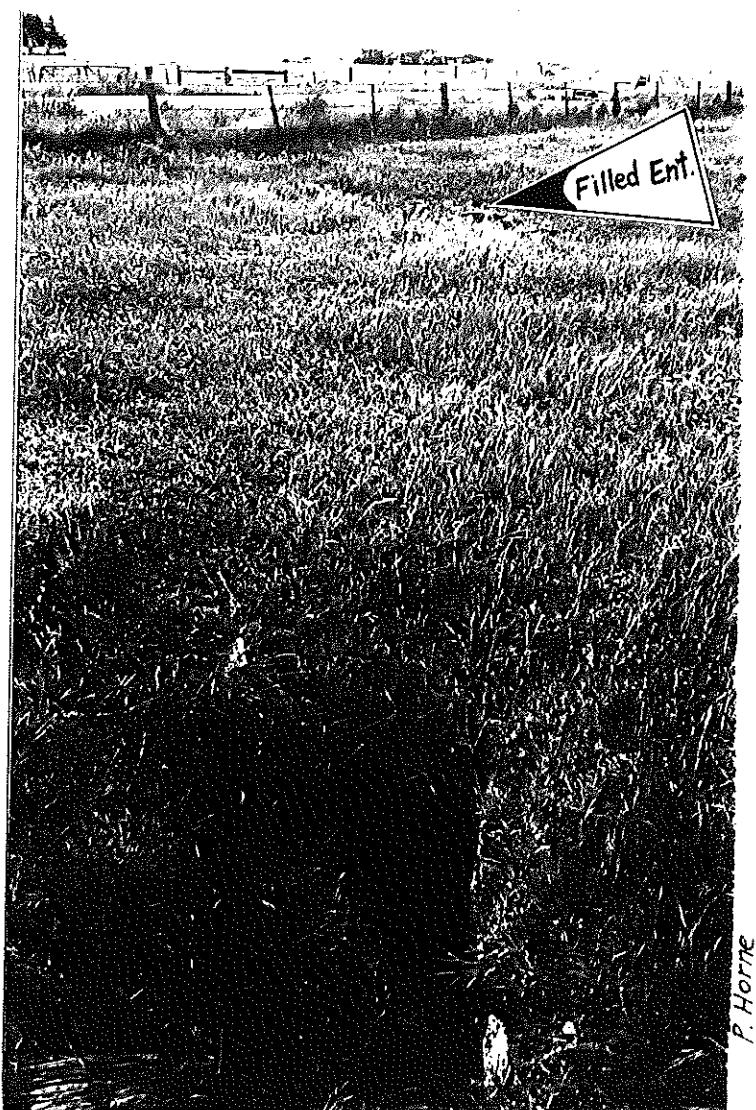
This joint-controlled fissure-like cave is reportedly about 80 metres long, reaching the water-table in several areas.

A December 1962 CEGSA Trip Report by Phil Connard provided the following description:-

"The cave occurs in a region where limestone outcrops frequently, and shows pronounced unidirectional jointing. The entrances, which are boarded up, are in two very small shallow dolines 3 feet deep, of 10 feet diameter and 33 feet apart.

"25 feet of ladder is required plus a long sling to belay the ladder to the fence. The cave is in the form of a long, narrow, vertical crack, 2-3 feet wide. Clear water of unknown depth occurs at -23 feet.

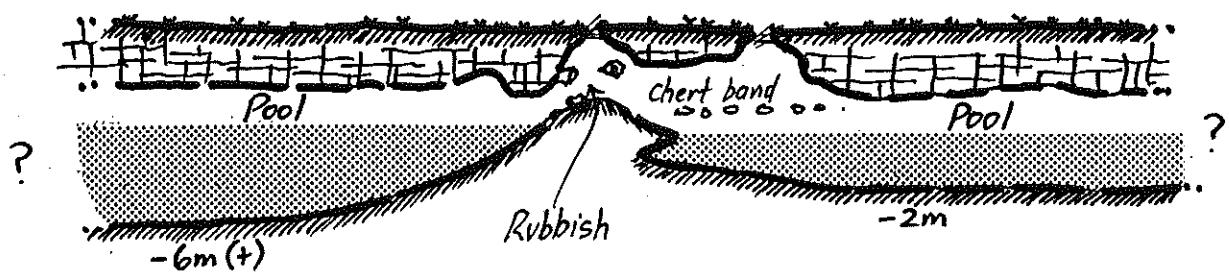
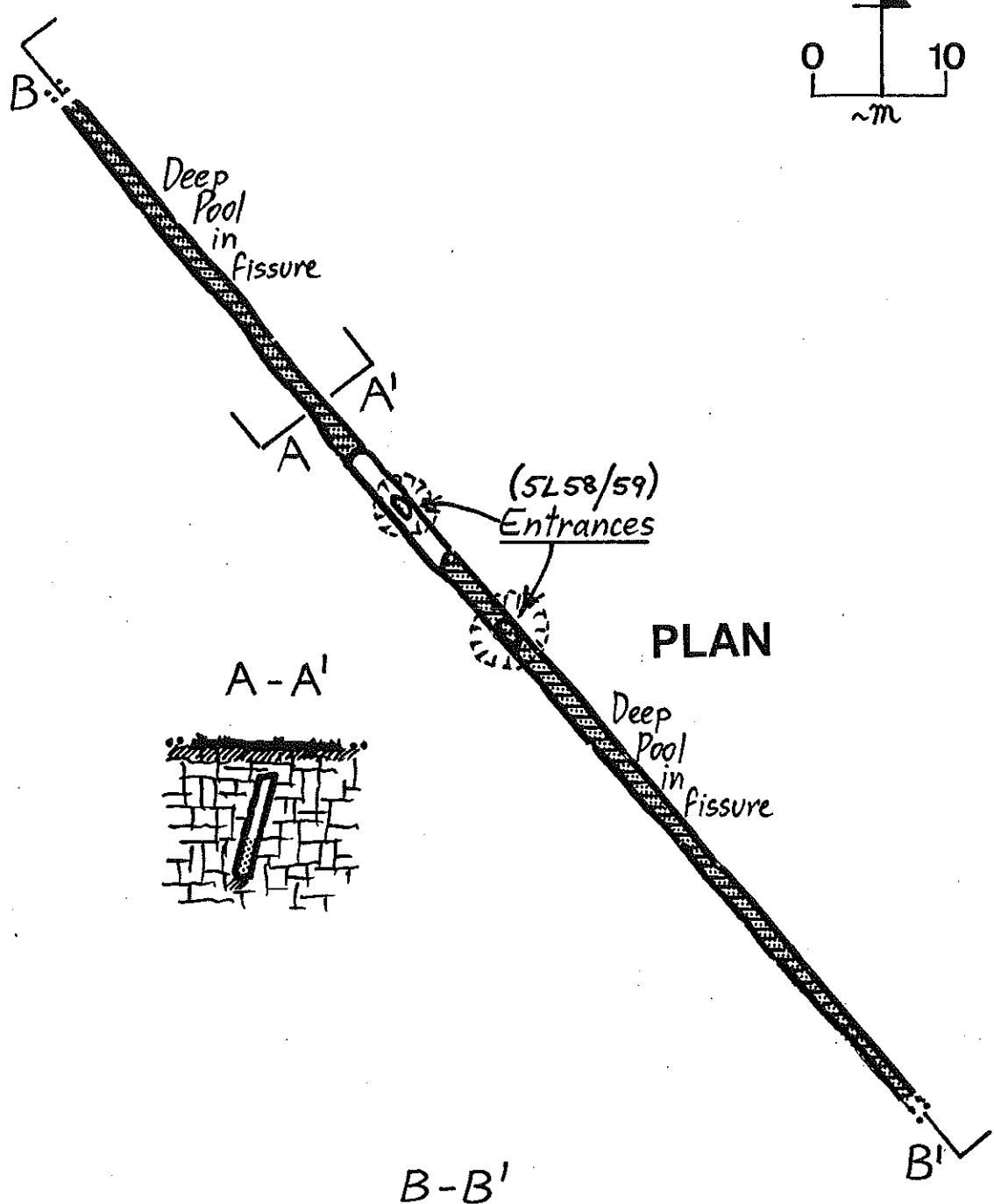
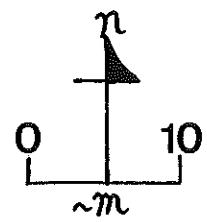
"The walls are partly covered with dry encrustations, and near the surface with slippery lichen. Several large rocks are wedged 6 feet above the water below the entrance, forming platforms. The cave extends in either direction for some distance before narrowing impassably, the total length being some 250 feet. Chimney-style progress above the water is difficult, and the encrustations provide only treacherous handholds".



The two entrances were almost completely filled with rubble when the author visited the site in 1981, but the south-eastern entrance had opened completely when the cave was re-visited in late 1992.

# SLIT CAVE

5L58/59



[Map ASF Grade 2, R.Davies,  
CEGSA, 1962; ASF Grade 2,  
P.Horne & M.Nielsen, 1982]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L60

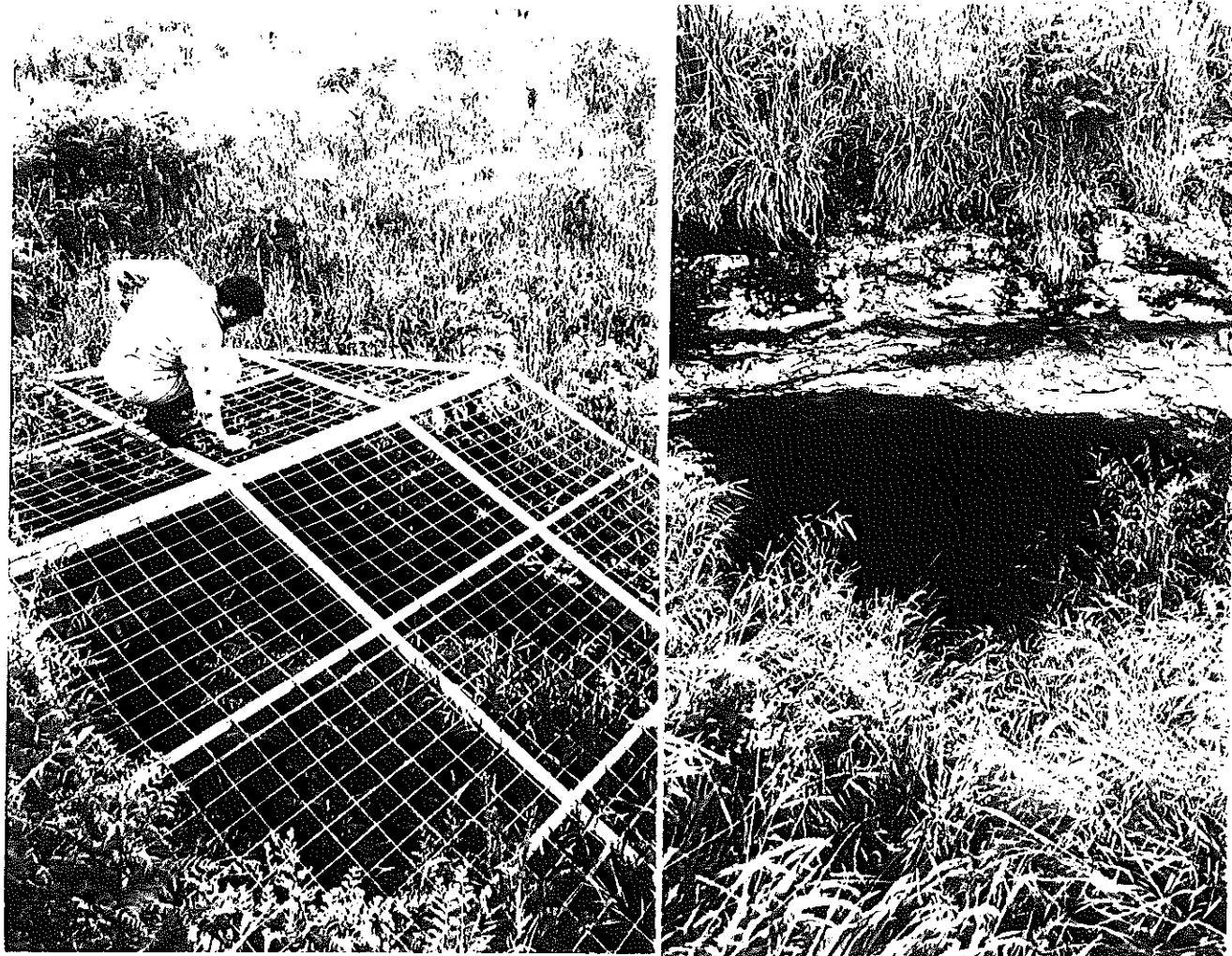
## GRAN GRAN CAVE.

Gran Gran Cave is a fairly complex, horizontally-developed system with 6 collapse window and shaft entrances which lead to numerous intersecting passages which are often partially or fully submerged.

Three parallel side passages continue up to 50 metres north-east along joints, and one passage is actually the connection to 5L15 (Quarry Cave).

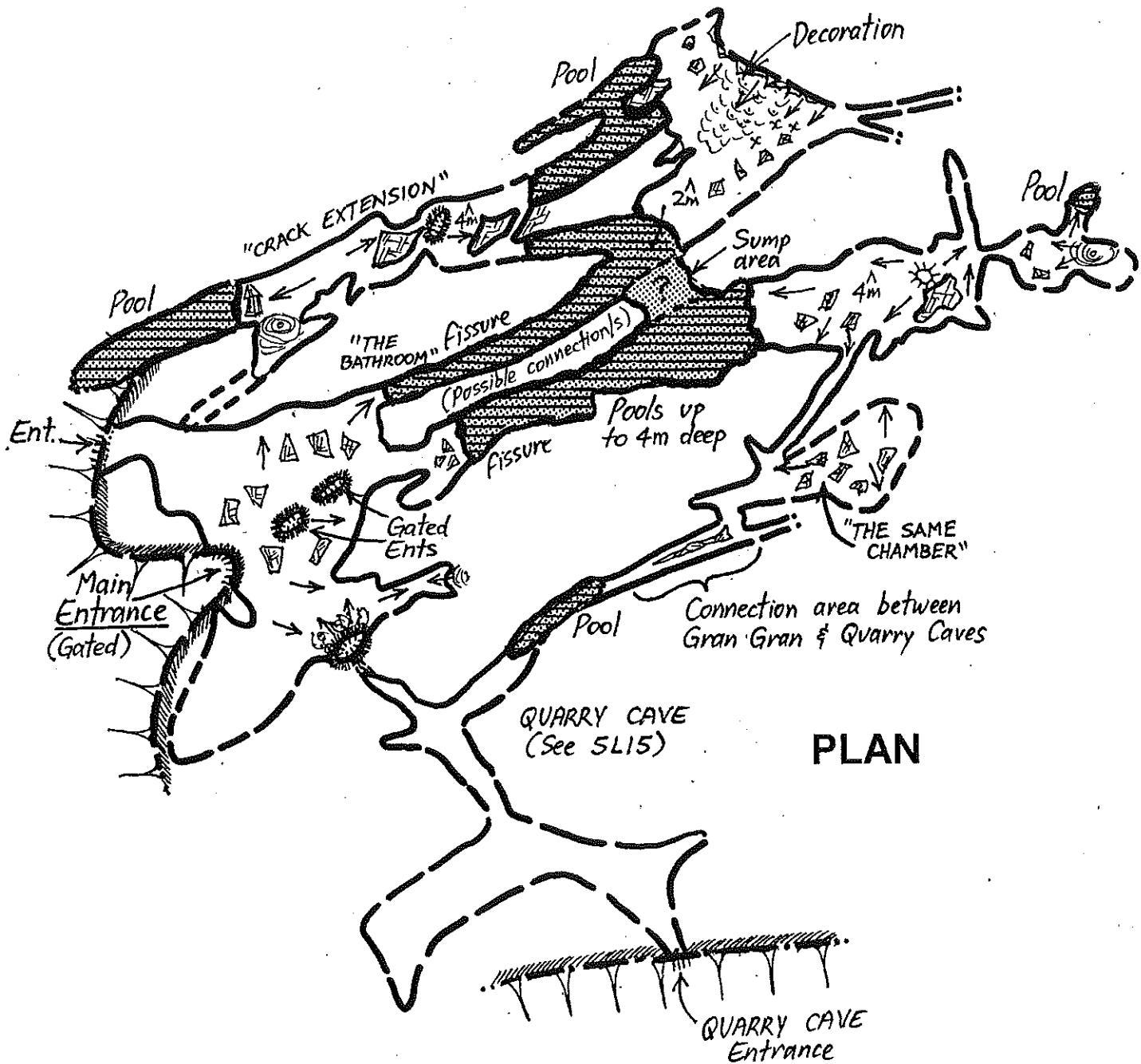
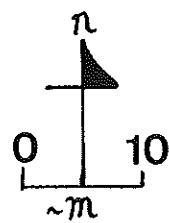
In a January 1964 CEGSA Trip Report, Bob Sexton stated that: "the cave has a main entrance chamber. This is generally floored with large rockfall material and talus, but has sawdust and several soil spills superimposed on it. There are three major joint-controlled passages trending at 60 degrees of this chamber; 2 contain pools of water. The lower 5 feet or so of these passages are perforated with small holes and seem to be the result of watertable solution, the watertable having dropped this amount in the comparatively recent past ..." and "... there is no flowstone, but the roof and walls of the longest passage carry heavy sheets of decoration, including a thick stalactite".

The intersection of several highways nearby – one of which was diverted by the Highways Department at CEGSA's request to avoid damaging the cave – is known as Gran Gran Corner, and Bob Sexton mentioned that the house opposite the cave bore the name "Gran Gran" as well.



# GRAN GRAN CAVE

5L60



[Map ASF Grades 3C-5C, K.Mott  
& J.Cundy (CEGSA), 1973-75]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L61

### THE PINES (Springs Cave).

The Pines is one of the most popular cave diving sites in the Lower South East as it is picturesque and readily accessible via a small artificially-cut ramp. Lying serenely in a forest of Californian pines (*Pinus radiata*) which were planted in 1953 (and which are overdue for felling at this writing!), the small "cenote"-style sinkhole entrance is a portal to a large boulder-strewn cavern which is filled with "air-clear" water.

The talus mound slopes away quickly to the south, dropping to a readily-attained depth of around 27 metres some 40 metres penetration distance from the entrance lake, and to more than 30m in a small, very silty alcove behind some of the huge boulders which lie against the wall. Daylight – and most of the lake surface – can easily be seen from most areas in the main chamber, and in ideal conditions divers can clearly see their companions on the far side of the chamber without the aid of artificial lighting. However, there are several more technically-demanding areas where no natural light ever penetrates, and some of these can only be safely reached by divers who are trained and experienced in the skills and techniques needed to negotiate underwater restrictions in zero-visibility conditions.

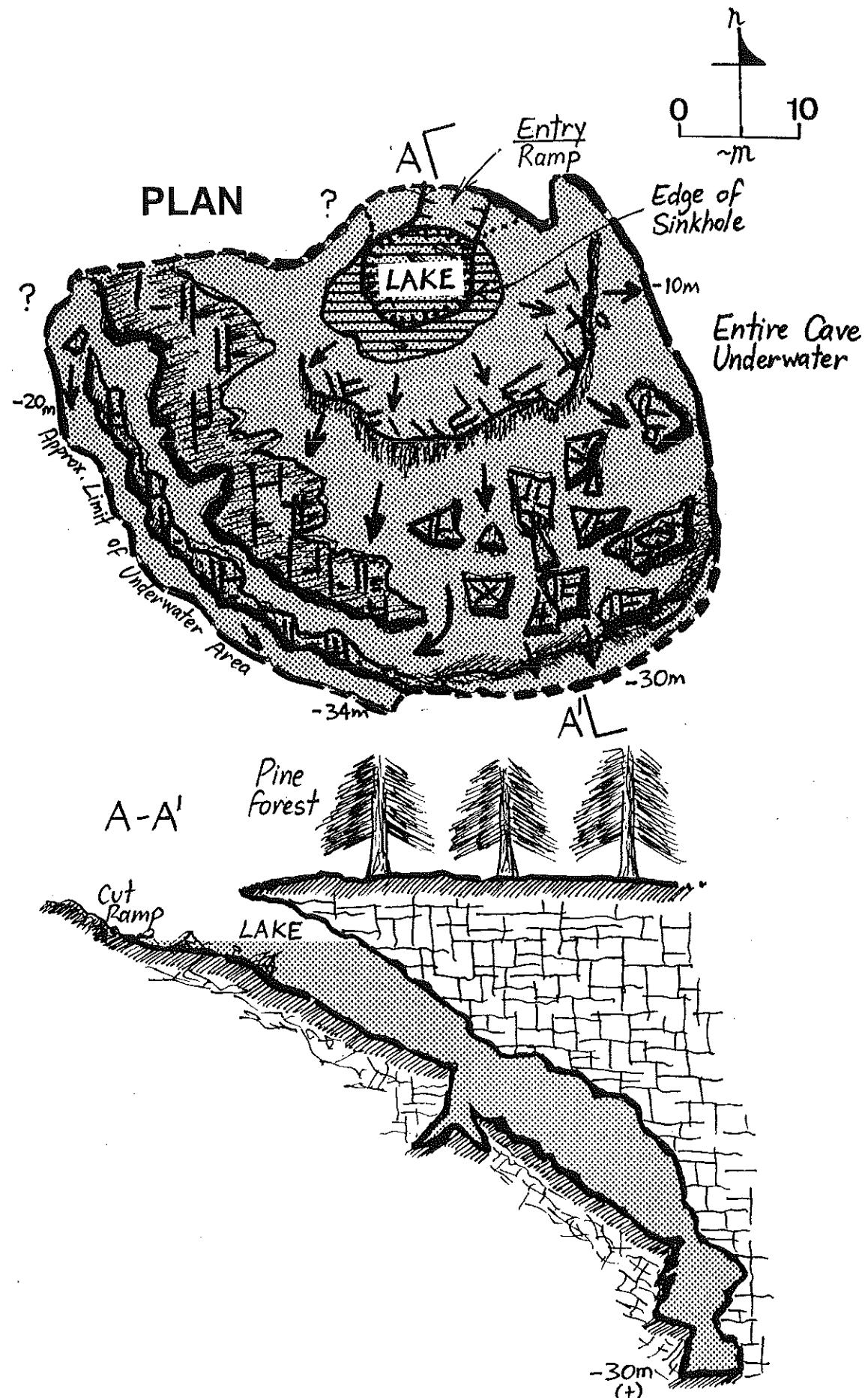


There is strong evidence to support rumours of a major ceiling collapse occurring in the mid-1970s at around the 25-metre level; a prominently-vandalized wall apparently broke away and fell, cutting off all access to a much deeper lower chamber (perhaps in the order of 45 metres depth or more) from which fossil bones were previously collected.

The water-surface of the cave is almost always completely covered by dense duckweed, and rare cave crustacea (including syncarids - *Koomunga crenatum*) have also been collected from this site.

# THE PINES

5L61



[Map ASF Grades 22-54,  
P.Horne, 1981 & SAUSS, 1992+]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L62

### WINDMILL PIPE CAVE.

Windmill Pipe Cave is a perfect example of a classic joint-controlled fissure cave in this region. It is basically a single, largely uniform passage running in a north-west to south-east direction with a length of more than 250 metres, and it has several minor cross-joints and "roof windows" (as well as some interesting phreatic-like development and water-table pools up to 2 metres deep) in places.

Phil Connard reported in a December 1962 CEGSA Trip Report that "...the cave is a narrow crack 18 inches to 3 feet wide and 670 feet long. A succession of entrances appear along a pronounced joint line in outcropping limestone. An old windmill pipe protrudes about 6 feet from one of the southern entrances, and the northern-most entrance is walk-in.

"The outcropping limestone is weathered and grey, but underground is the well-known buff-coloured, soft, sandy limestone. The cave widens out at the south end to 8 feet wide in places, and at the extreme end progress is made by straddling the crevice over water for some feet. The water there is at most 10 feet deep.

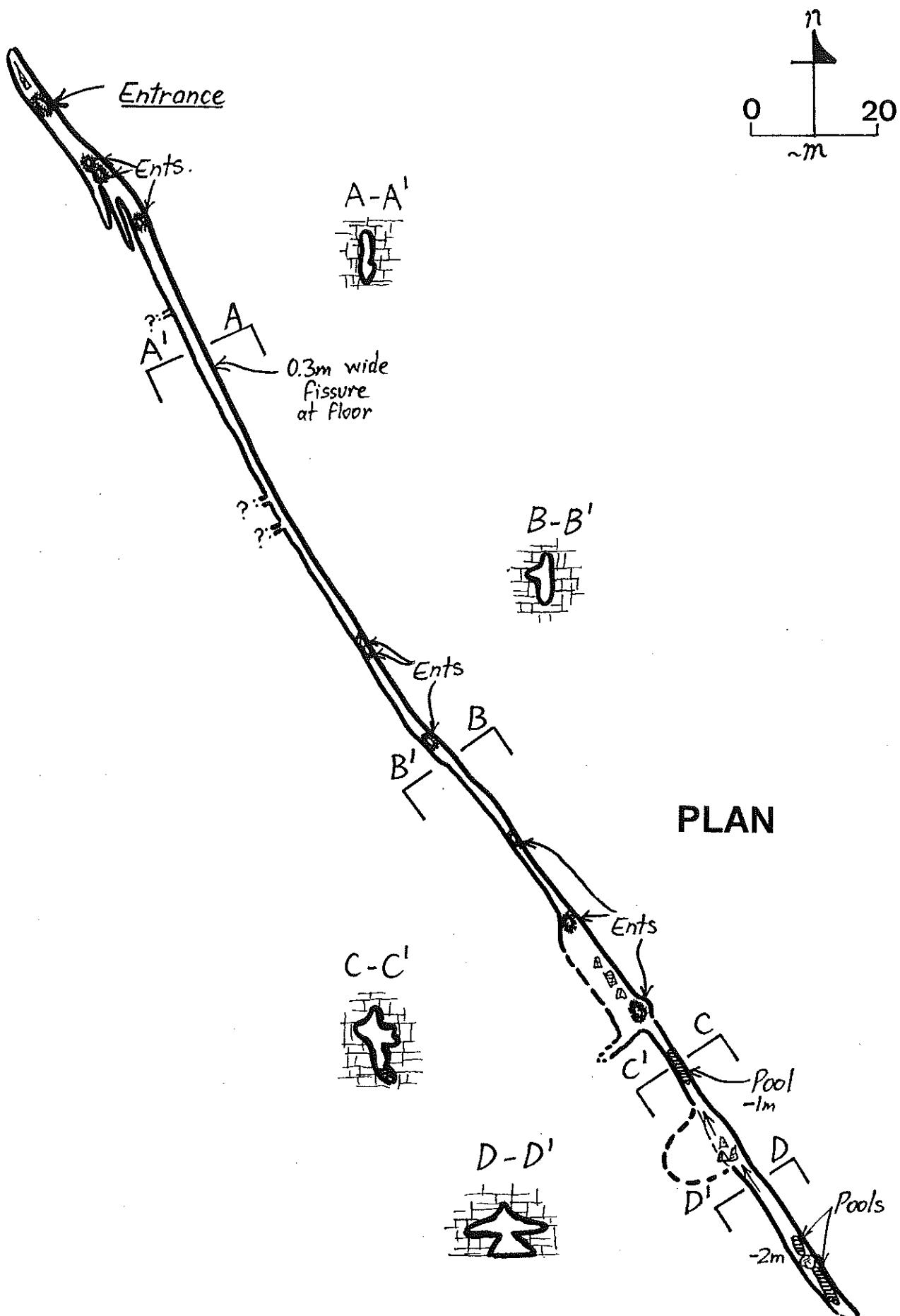
"At this end of the cave, extensive solution flatteners lead off the western side. Poor lublinite encrustations occur in places; the north end narrows down impassably."

Fred W. Aslin further reported in July 1971 that "...the floor is relatively flat and in most places covered by dirt. Wire has been dropped into several entrances. The windmill pipe which gives the cave its name is a good surface location landmark and is still in place disappearing through the floor of the cave".

Although there are many roof windows all along this system, access is generally not easy through most of them, and several cave crickets were observed in the southern end of the cave during the author's brief visit in September 1982.

# WINDMILL-PIPE CAVE

5L62



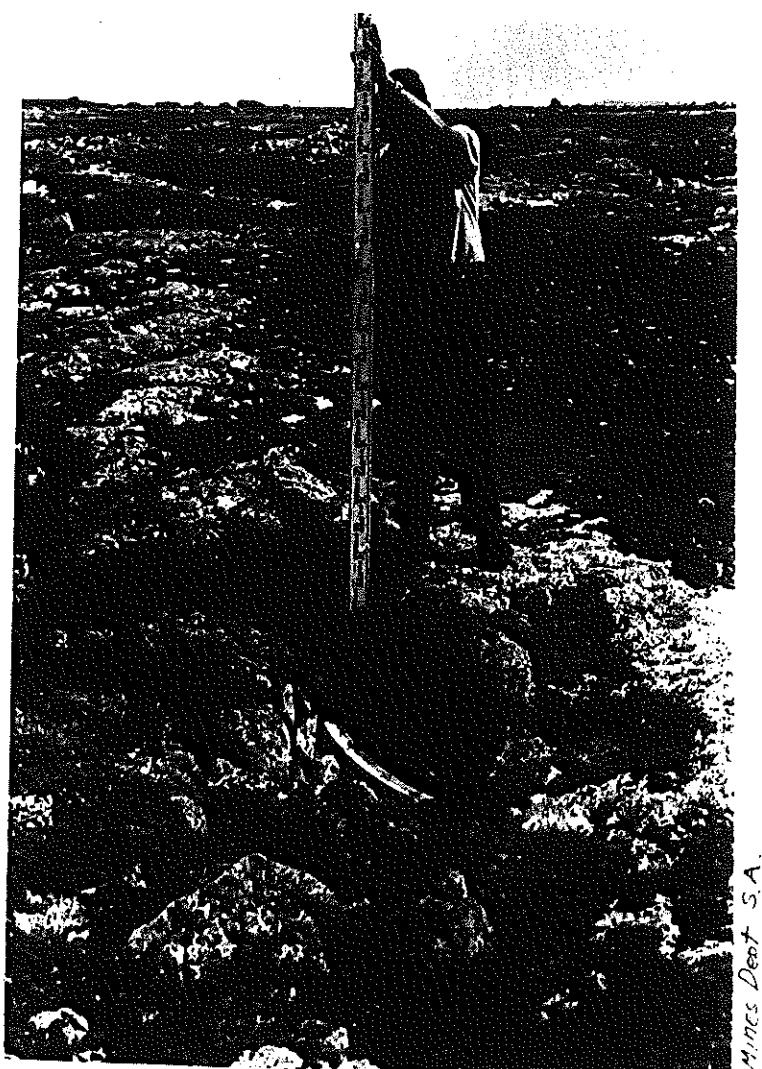
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L63

## GUMS ROAD CAVE.

One of several cave features which lie close to "Gums Road" (a minor dirt road to the south-west of Mount Gambier), this cave has an approximate total passage length of some 170 metres and is interesting in that it basically consists of two near-parallel joint passages which have intersected in one area.

There are about 5 accessible roof windows, but the largest entrance is about 1 x 2 metres in size, dropping 4.8 metres to the top of a small talus-choked chamber from which two largish passages can be seen to head off to the north-west and south-east. The walls and boulders near the entrance are quite thickly covered with small ferns and masses of bright green moss, so visitors need to be careful not to slip as they negotiate this area of the cave.

The north-western passage is about 2 metres wide and up to 4 metres high in places, and it immediately reaches the water-table and continues for some 15 metres before terminating underneath a small rubbish-choked doline. The south-eastern passage is seen to continue beyond a 6 x 4m wide lake which begins almost directly under the entrance hole, and another northerly-trending passage begins on the eastern wall at this point near the lake.



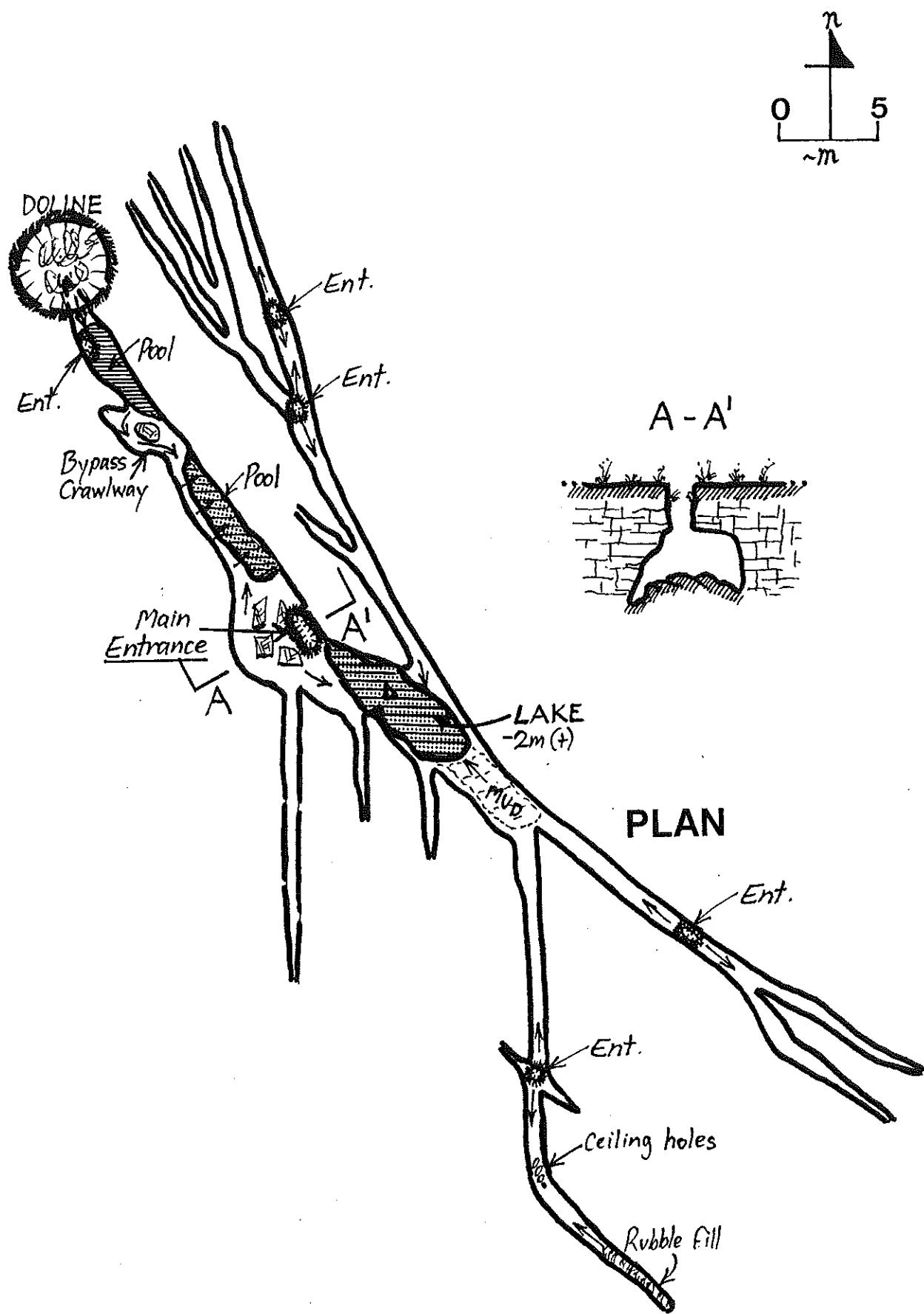
The south-eastern passage reaches a 5m long patch of very tacky mud just beyond the edge of the lake before it breaks into two passages; the eastern-most one goes in for about 15m before splitting again into two short passages, and the other one passes another smaller roof window before turning to the left and finally ending in a rubble fill.

The water is around 4-5m deep in some of the pools, and some syn-carids (*Koomunga crenarium*) were noted by the author during a 40-minute visit in September 1982.

Gums Road Cave was first placed into CEGSA's Records in December 1962 by Phil Connard.

# GUMS ROAD CAVE

5L63



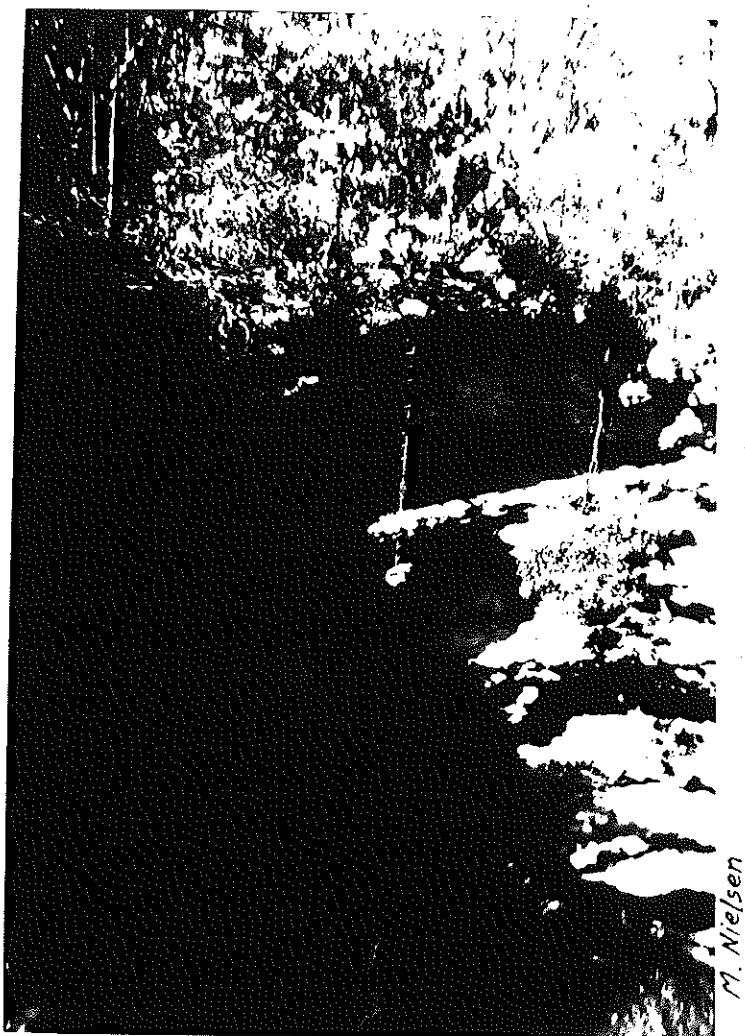
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L64

### BOTTLEBRUSH SINKHOLE (Banksia Cave; Aunty's Cave; Sloth Cave).

This beautiful and relatively unpolluted sinkhole is a large open collapse somewhat akin to 5L40 (Hells Hole) and 5L10 (Caroline Sinkhole) in appearance, although considerably smaller. It is about 30 x 25 metres in diameter and drops some 23 metres to water level, and it has sheer, rugged sides and large shelves of soft, sandy dune limestone which break away extremely easily.

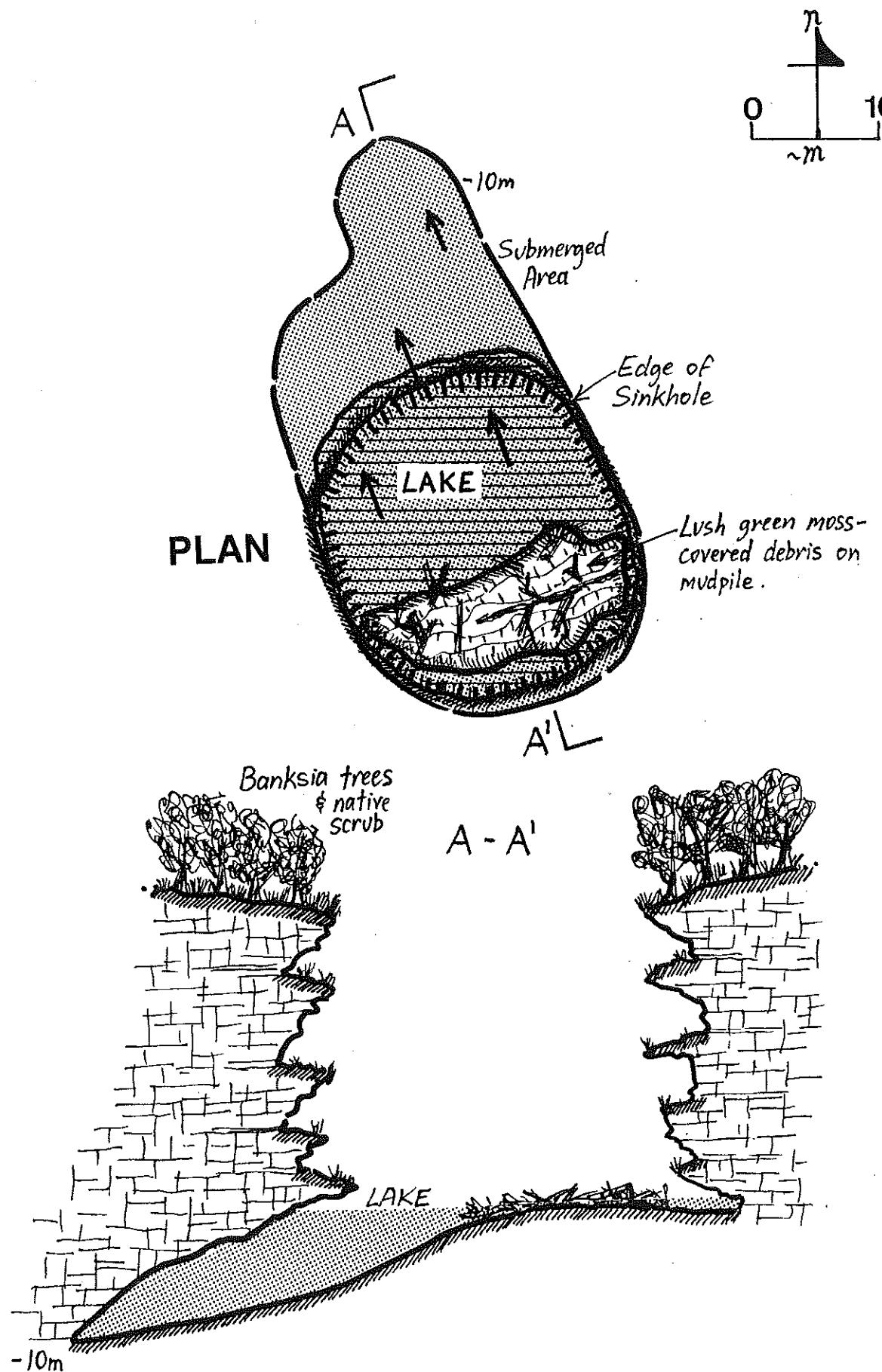
The cave was first recorded in CEGSA's Records in December 1962 by Phil Connard, and subsequent visits by this writer and his companions during the early 1980s revealed that its underwater extent is very minor (almost no penetration under the ceiling and just 10 metres deep). However, it is very interesting from an ecological viewpoint as it contains fragile and rare sponges and aquatic (and terrestrial) plants, and undoubtedly harbours cave crustacea as well, so it needs to be protected as much as possible.

Bottlebrush Sinkhole was originally named after the numerous native Banksia trees which were found around the sinkhole, when they were erroneously identified as being Bottlebrushes.



# BOTTLEBRUSH SINKHOLE

5L64



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 2, CEGSA, 1962; underwater area: ASF Grade 22, P.Horne & M.Nielsen, 1982]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L65

### TANKSTAND CAVE.

At the time of Tankstand Cave's appearance in CEGSA's Records (John Bishop March 1963, and subsequently two Trip Reports by Fred W. Aslin and Norman Hocknell dated 13 May 1967 and 10 June 1967), it was entered via an artificially-enlarged hole on the floor of a small Gambier Stone shed which was located under a windmill. This shed covered a flight of 9 steps which had been cut down into the cave.

After descending the stairway, visitors found themselves standing on a mound approximately 2 metres above the water table and on the centreline of the cave. Water was about 4.5 metres below the surface, and the joint varied in width between 0.45 to 1.2 metres at the northern end and 0.76 to 2.42 metres at the southern end.

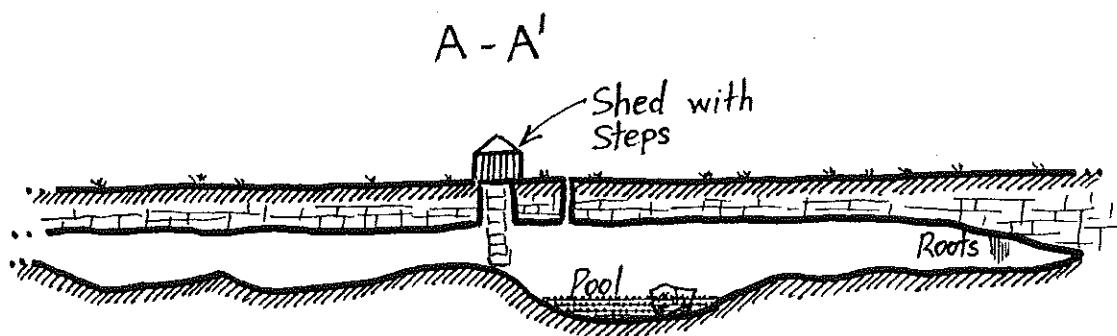
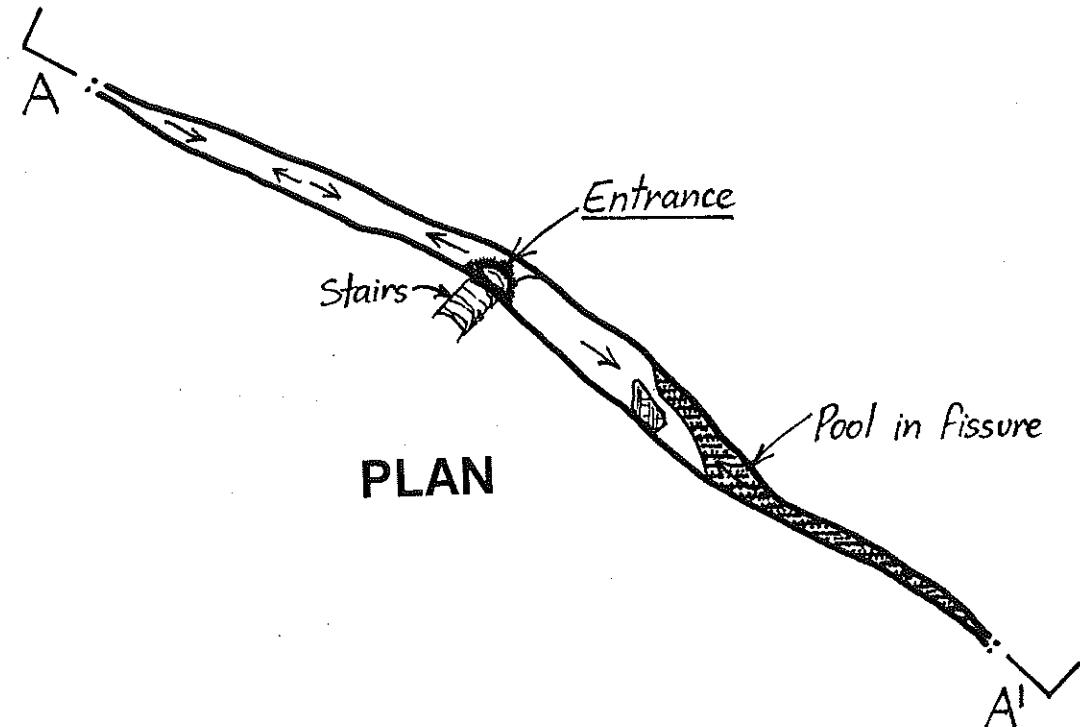
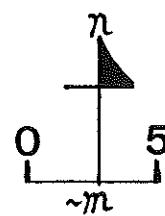
The northern end of the cave was about 17 metres from the stairway and ended in an impassable crack, while the southern end was found to terminate in a mud and boulder choke some 23 metres from the shed, on the other side of a shallow pool through which the explorers waded.

CEGSA first learnt of the cave via a neighbour of the landowner. The steps were cut on January 1st 1934 by Mr. H.A. Wright, around the time of the installation of a 4-inch bore which was used for domestic purposes (and removed about 1960 when the water-table dropped too much).

A later visit by the author in the early 1980s failed to locate the shed, although a suspicious-looking well-hole filled with wire, sheep carcasses and housing materials seemed to imply its likely fate!...

# TANKSTAND CAVE

5L65



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L66

## HANCOCKS CAVE.

This cave is basically a simple, enclosed waterfilled chamber accessed via a 0.75-metre diameter windmill shaft which drops some 11 metres to the water, which is about 13 metres deep at that point.

The cavern is oblong with a north-west to south-east orientation, being in the order of some 30 metres long by 15 metres wide at water-level and only widening slightly around the walls underwater (except for areas to the south-west and south-east). There is a huge mound of burnt rubbish near the centre, and the general bottom depth of the feature would be something around 15 metres or thereabouts.

The deepest area is between some boulders at the extreme south-south-eastern end, where the depth is about 35 metres and perhaps greater in the much more restrictive regions.

Hancocks Cave was named after an earlier landowner, and it was first recorded by John Bishop in a CEGSA Trip Report dated 19 April 1965. A later trip in 1967 by Norman Hocknell and other cavers provided more accurate survey information.

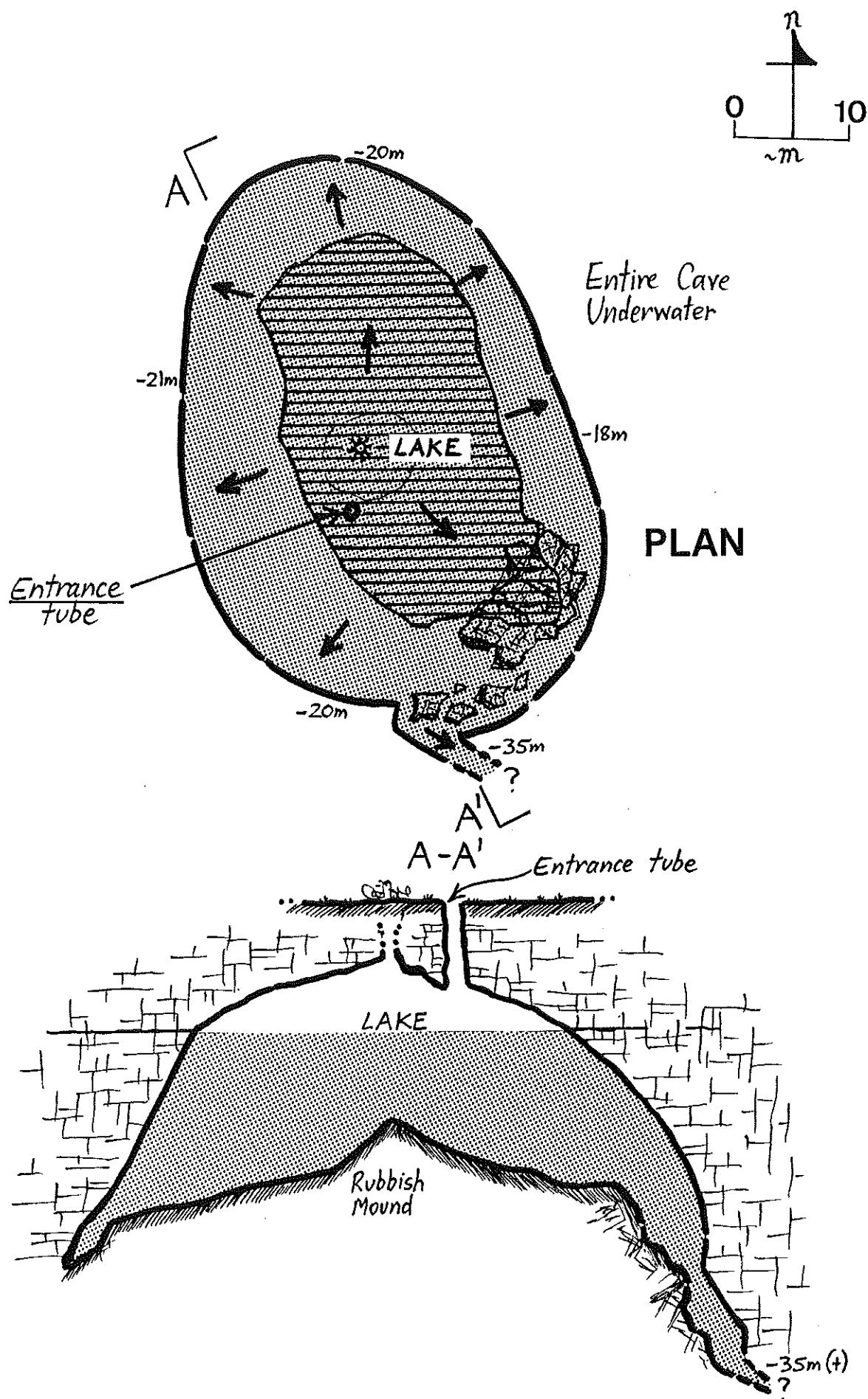
The detailed sketch reproduced in this book was made by the author (assisted by Ian Lewis and Maurice Parry) after a single brief visit in the late 1980s.



(Updated Photo, 1993)

# HANCOCKS CAVE

5L66



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L67

### MOORAA CAVE.

First mentioned in a December 1962 CEGSA Trip Report by Phil Connard (when he described the entrance only), 5L67 was first explored in detail by the author in the early 1980s, when more than 50 metres of passage was discovered and mapped. The cave is a single joint-controlled passage running north-west to south-east, with a rubbish-choked collapse about halfway along and an easy walk-in entrance (from a small degraded collapse doline) at its south-eastern end.

The first main section of passage is about 8 metres long by 3 metres wide with a flat 2 metre high ceiling, and it constricts to a low crawlway-fissure on its right hand end where it leads on for another 4 metres or so into a stand-up section just before the central rubbish-pile.

Access to the section of cave to the north-west of the rubbish pile is safely possible only from the central entrance – the mound is too nasty and unstable to negotiate from within the south-eastern end of the cave – and this leads to an interesting 25 metre-long section of passage which contains some huge rectangular boulders stacked on each other, up to about 10 metres high.

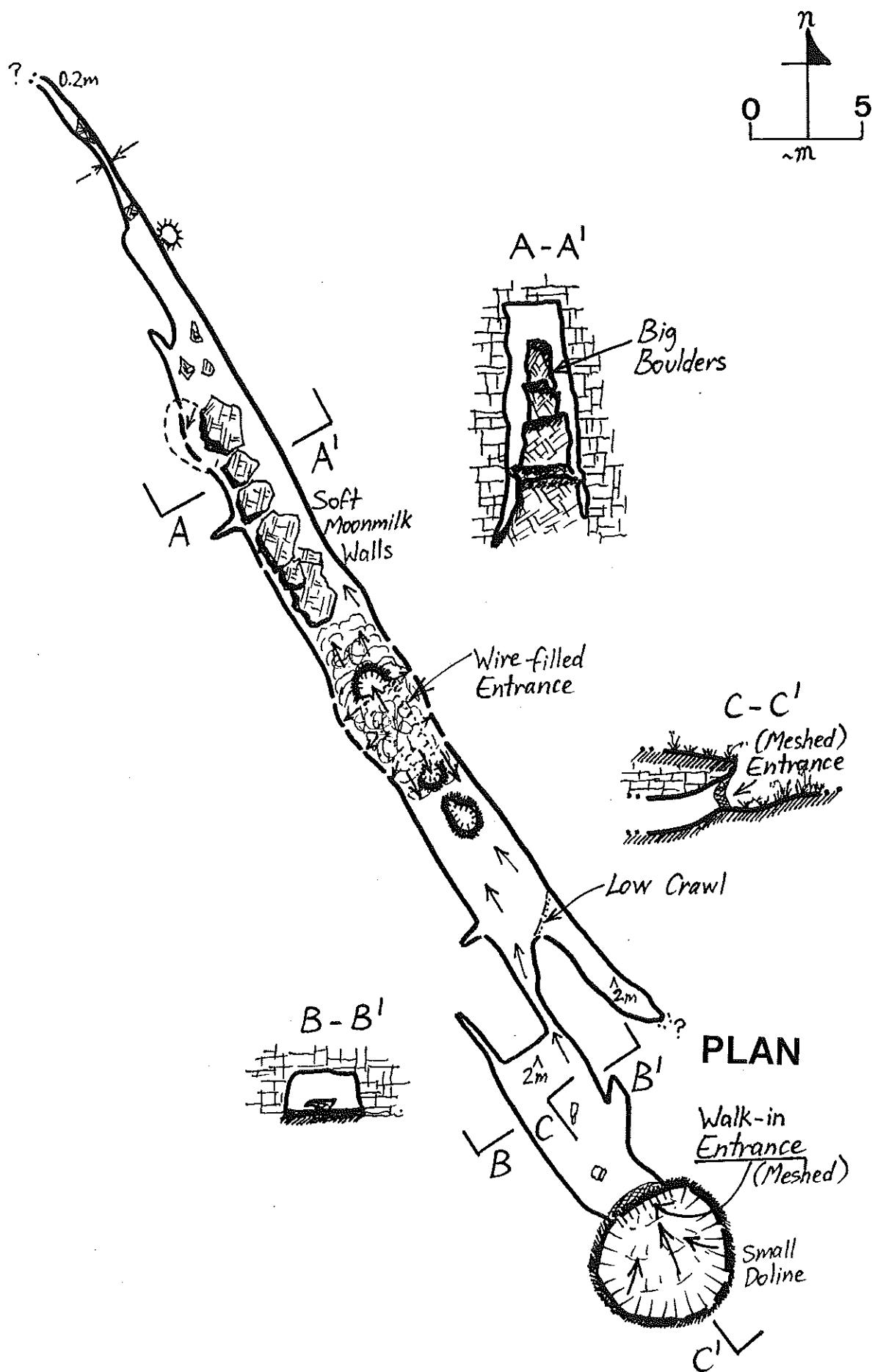


The north-western end of the cave restricts to an inaccessible vertical fissure, which appears to turn to the left (west) a little several metres further on. No breezes were noted at this point, so it would appear unlikely that the cave continues into anything substantial.

In recent years, the cave was named Mooraa Cave by the Australian Rock Art Research Association (AURA) after the local Buandik Aboriginal words for "wombat".

# MOORAA CAVE

5L67



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L68

### YOUNG'S CAVE.

Information about this cave is sketchy at best, due to the fact that it was sealed with a thick layer of concrete and covered with rubbish sometime around the 1970s, because it was badly polluted.

The first mention of the cave in CEGSA's records took the form of a small note (April 1965) by John Bishop, which stated that the feature was marked on geological and Lands Department maps as "Caves", and that it was a "rounded-edged doline entrance descending into a waterfilled chamber". It was located close to a track known as Youngs Road, which might also have referred to a nearby landowner of bygone years – hence its name.

Norman Hocknell described the feature in greater detail in his CEGSA Trip Report dated June 1967, when he said that the entrance was an 8.4 x 6 x 1.8-metre deep sinkhole leading to a 1.2m diameter, 4.2m deep shaft opening out into a waterfilled chamber. The cave itself was 19 metres long (NW - SE) and 7.8m wide at the water surface. The height of the cave at the bottom of the shaft was 3.6m, but the roof height rose another 1.2 metres about 5m south-east of the entrance.

Norman also mentioned the presence of a joint crack leading off from the north-western end about 1.3m above the water, and stated that there was a "great mound of rubbish protruding out of the water".

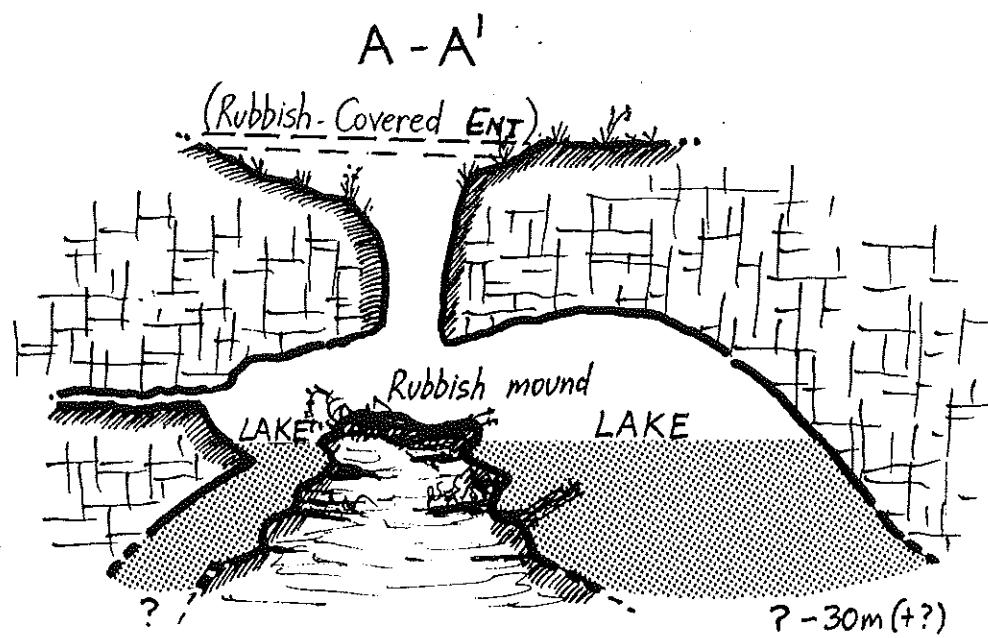
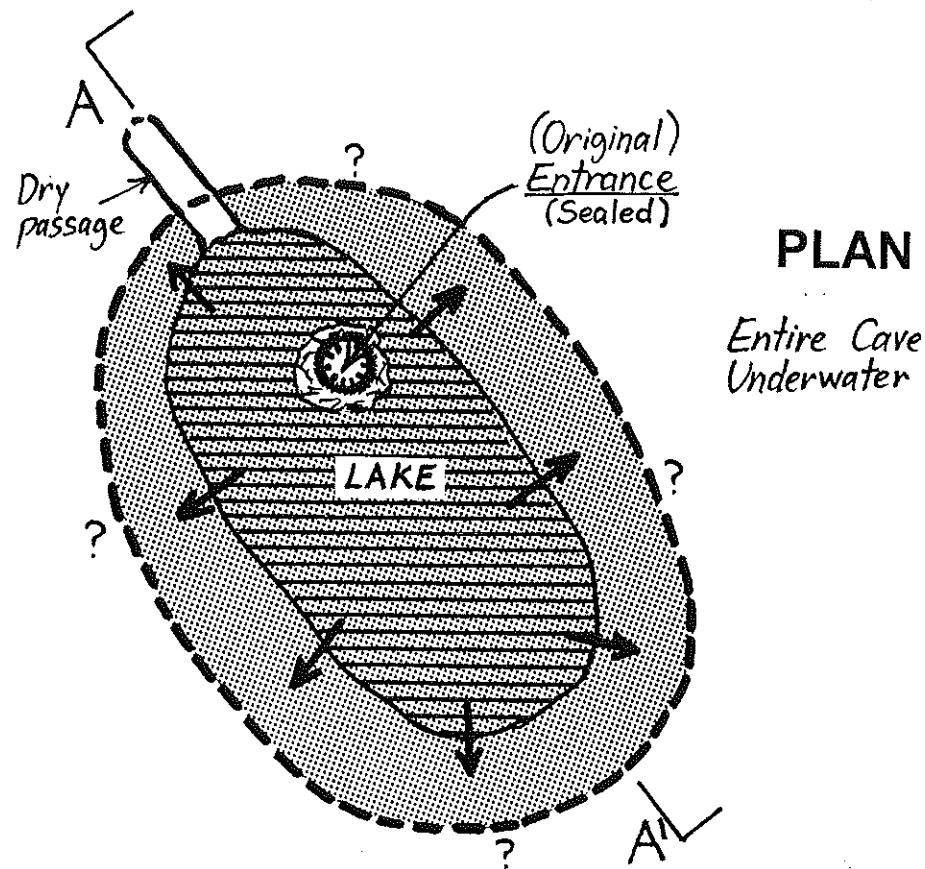
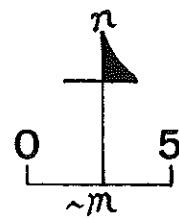


Although there were no written records of any dives taking place, veteran cave diver Phil Prust reported that he had visited the cave sometime around the late 1960s, and while his memories had now become fairly dim about what he had discovered, he remembered that it opened up underwater – perhaps reaching a depth of 20-30 metres or thereabouts – as it headed more or less in a south-easterly direction. He also found what appeared to be darkish stalactites at considerable depth in this cave (pers. comm. Phil Prust, 1992).

It is hoped that renewed access to Youngs Cave will be possible again in the future.

# YOUNGS CAVE

5L68



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L69/70

### MOUNT BURR CAVE (Pub Paddock Cave; Mt. Burr Bat Cave).

This extensively-developed cave system has long been known, although its relatively isolated location in a swampy area of forest many kilometres from the nearest town has protected it from excessive visitation. Access is best made via 5L69, which is a group of low openings at the base of a rockface around the perimeter of a swamp basin; 5L70 is more difficult, being some 50 metres up a nearby rise and consisting of a 2m diameter chimney-type tube or shaft about 4 metres deep. It basically consists of some 300 metres of irregular passage about 50m wide and between 1.5 and 4.5m high, containing quite a lot of decoration, a few weird "sculpted" shapes and some guano (i.e., bat poo!).

The feature was mentioned by the Reverend Julian Edmund Woods in his "Geological Observations in South Australia" (1862), where he described it as being accessible only via a "...very small aperture, through which a man can barely creep". Father Woods went on to say that after moving through the orifice, "...a very large chamber is discovered, with the roof not more than sixteen, or, in places, at most twenty, feet from the ground, but very irregular. There are few or no stalactites, but the water drops through in quantities quite large enough to make them in a very short time, and, therefore, we may conclude that the caves have not been very long in existence.

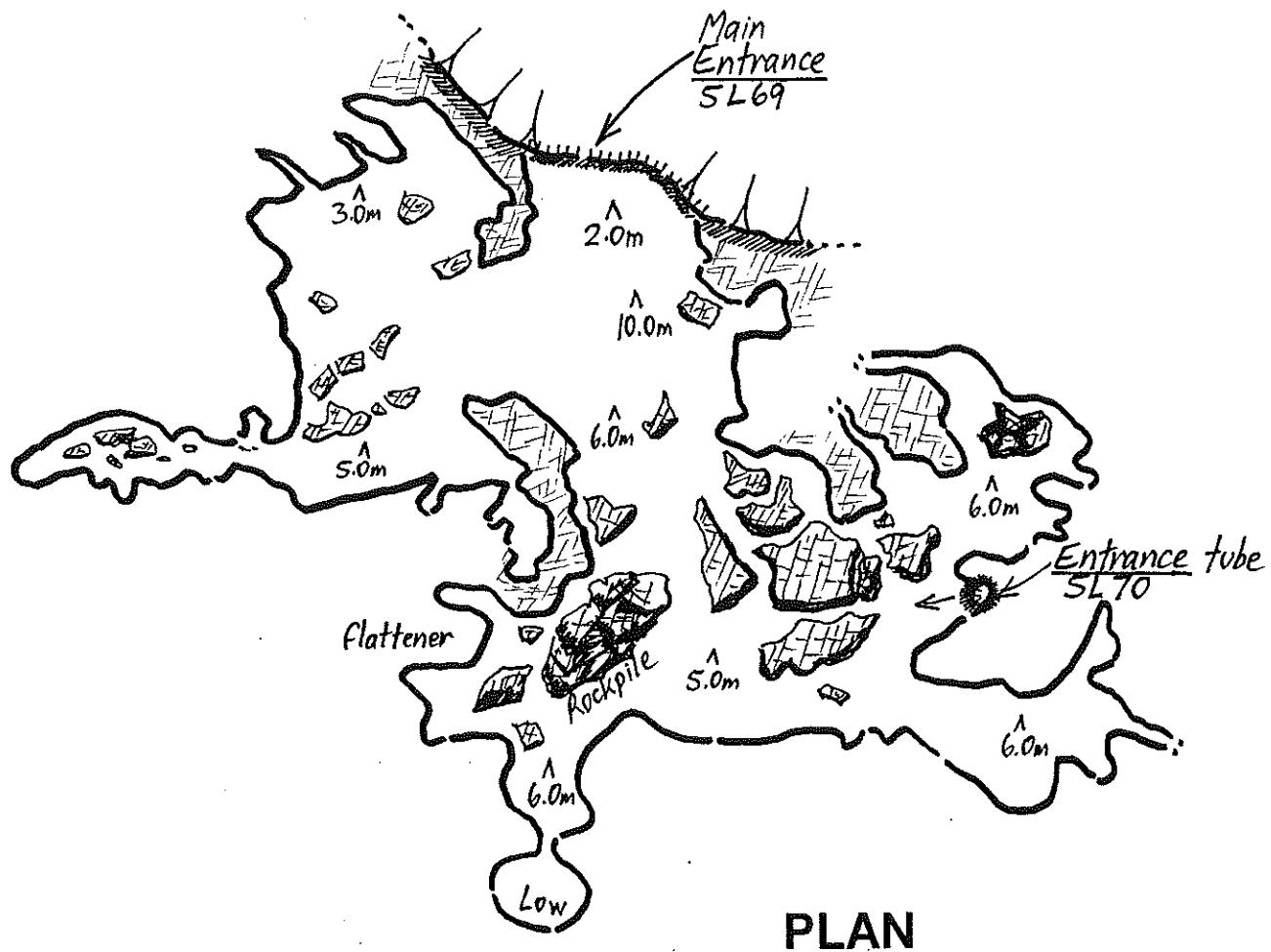
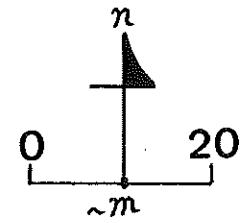
"...the whole extent of the caves has not been ascertained, but they have been followed for an immense distance, without diminishing in width or in height". Father Woods also went on to discuss the fine tree roots, thick mud deposits and fossil bones which he observed.

CEGSA first became aware of the feature through the overseer of the District Council of Beachport, Mr. Bob Somerville, sometime prior to January 1964 – the date of the Trip Report by Bob Sexton. In October 1964, Elery Hamilton-Smith reported that the cave had a good population of bats, and that "this cave has yielded a large number of recoveries of Naracoorte bats including some of the first ones banded". The feature really doesn't appear to extend for what even local cavers would call an "immense distance"!



# MOUNT BURR CAVE

5L69/70



[Map ASF Grade 5,  
F.Aslin (CEGSA), 1971]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L71

## HEREFORD-STREAM CAVE (Wye Caves, formerly "S104" & "S103" respectively).

This cave system was once considered to be two separate caves, with Stream Cave having the old official number "S103" and Hereford Cave being "S104". However, due to the efforts of dedicated cavers who managed to join the caves together, the whole system inherited a single number in the new "L-number" series. The system originally had 8 solution-tube and roof-window entrances which led to wide chambers and passages containing a flowing stream (which was up to a metre deep).

In a CEGSA Trip Report by John Bishop dated 25th April 1964, S103 - Stream Cave - was described as being a relatively small, 45 metre long chamber without apparent extensions; however, it was mentioned at that time that the cave could possibly connect with S104 (underwater, via the stream passage). In another Trip Report by Judy McLean-Smith, Stream Cave was described as having 5 tube entrances, 2 of which were relatively easy to use for access. The presence of a flowing stream up to 1.2m deep and bones was noted.

The other component of the system, Hereford Cave, was described by Judy McLean-Smith as having 3 solution-tube entrances, two of which were completely blocked with rubbish (including an odorous Hereford Cow at the time of the visit!).



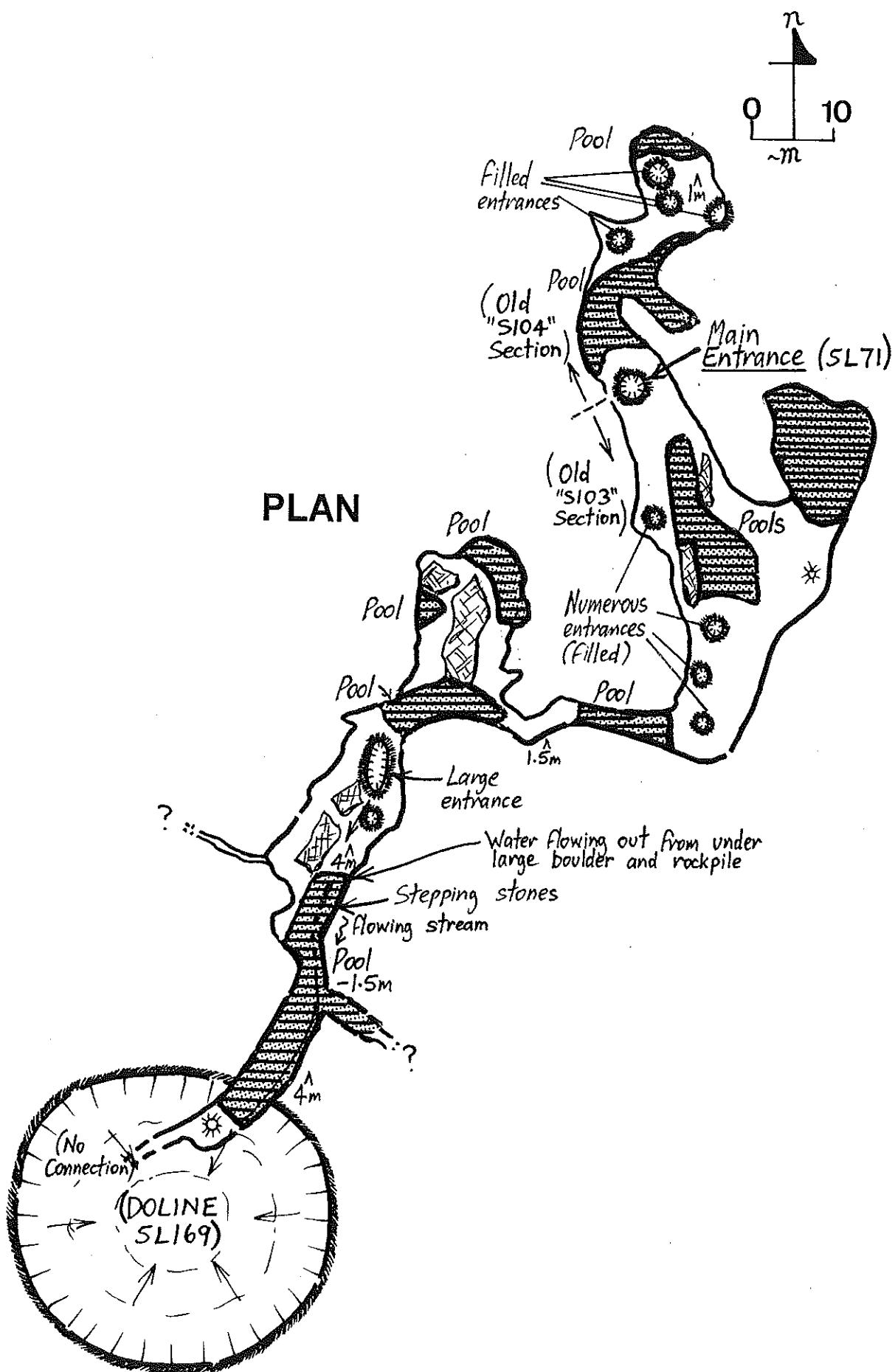
During a brief visit in September 1982, the author found that what little remained of the cave system contained some rare cave-adapted syncarids (*Koomunga crenarum*). The entrance to the cave once harboured some interesting terrestrial plants, but as Ian Lewis explained in his 'South Australian Cave Reference Book' of 1976, "... access to the Hereford-Stream Cave system was made less attractive in 1970 by the complete filling of the largest entrance, 5m in diameter and 15m deep, with rubbish and rocks, destroying a small colony of unidentified ferns which were the subject of study."

Even today, it seems that some people never learn!...

P.Horne

# HEREFORD-STREAM CAVE

5L71



[Map ASF Grade 5, Aslin, Hocknell & others (CEGSA), 1967 & 1971]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L72

### PICCANINNIE PONDS (Piccaninnie Blue Lake; "Pics").

Piccaninnie Ponds is a complex freshwater spring-system which contains several significant karst features of great beauty and interest, and it is one of Australia's premier cave diving sites.

There are three main components of the feature which, as a whole, is known as Piccaninnie Ponds (5L72); "The First Pond", "The Chasm" and "The Cathedral". Each of these has its own subsidiary features of interest, and the water often has a distinctive flavour due to the fact that it contains more salt than the other popular cave-diving sites in this region.

"The First Pond" is a 10 metre deep, silt-floored depression about 40 x 30 metres across (north-west to south-east), containing much aquatic life in the form of picturesque hanging plants and algaees, and animals such as fish and eels. It has a small ledge near its southern end, but there are no true cave entrances apparent. (This feature is also sometimes called "Turtle Pond", but this name is nowadays used for a low, silty cave feature which lies to the south of the main Chasm).

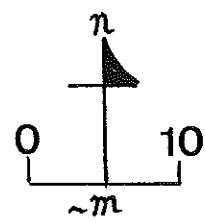
"The Chasm" (or 'slot') lies beyond a thin "reed curtain" on the western side of The First Pond, on the opposite side as seen from the visitors' floating viewing platform. Divers passing over this dividing strip suddenly find themselves staring down more than 20 metres into a seemingly-bottomless blue void, along a 5m-wide, 30 metre long chasm which is liberally decorated with beautiful hanging growths as far as the eye can see. Some strange limestone "teeth" project out of the left (southern) wall some 15m below, and divers descending beyond these find that the left wall gradually slopes across to the right, narrowing near the right-hand wall at a depth of about 40 metres. At this point, the fissure takes on the form of a large "squashed" vertical tube, where it "dog-legs" back under the main fissure (at the Dog Leg, strangely enough!) and drops to depths far in excess of 40 metres (which is the recommended maximum depth for safe recreational diving).

The final section – "The Cathedral" – is an enclosed area which is entered via one of several areas at the far end of The Chasm. It is quite different from the open Chasm, having much more beautifully-sculpted, smooth, light-coloured walls and hanging projections (such as "The Prong") and better overall phreatic development. It drops in the form of a single upright 'cylinder' to a depth of around 35 metres, to a hole known as the "Bathtub", from which further openings can be seen through the rubble below. Divers have reportedly explored far beyond this point as well, but the small size and extremely silty nature of these deeper levels prohibits safe exploration.

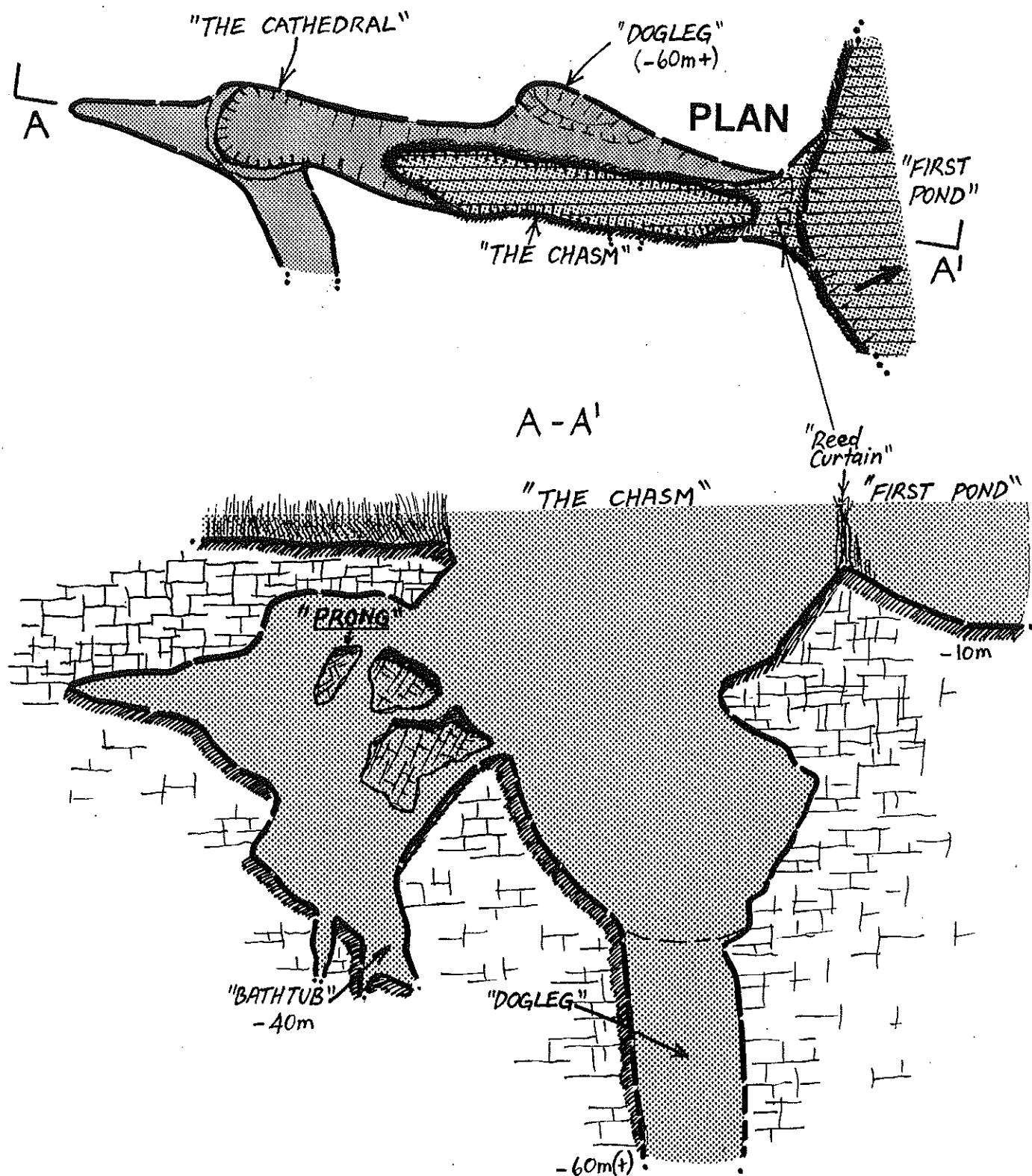
Since around late 1985, a series of mysterious "die-back" events have occurred periodically in Pics and the surrounding swamps, resulting in catastrophic aquatic plant lift-off and destabilisation of the soft sediments on the sides and the floor of the feature. Despite extensive scientific tests, no definite cause has been identified to date, so divers should try their best to be extremely careful when they are visiting this system. Hopefully, we will again see Piccaninnie Ponds as it was "back in the old days"!

# PICCANINNIE PONDS

5L72



Entire Cave Underwater



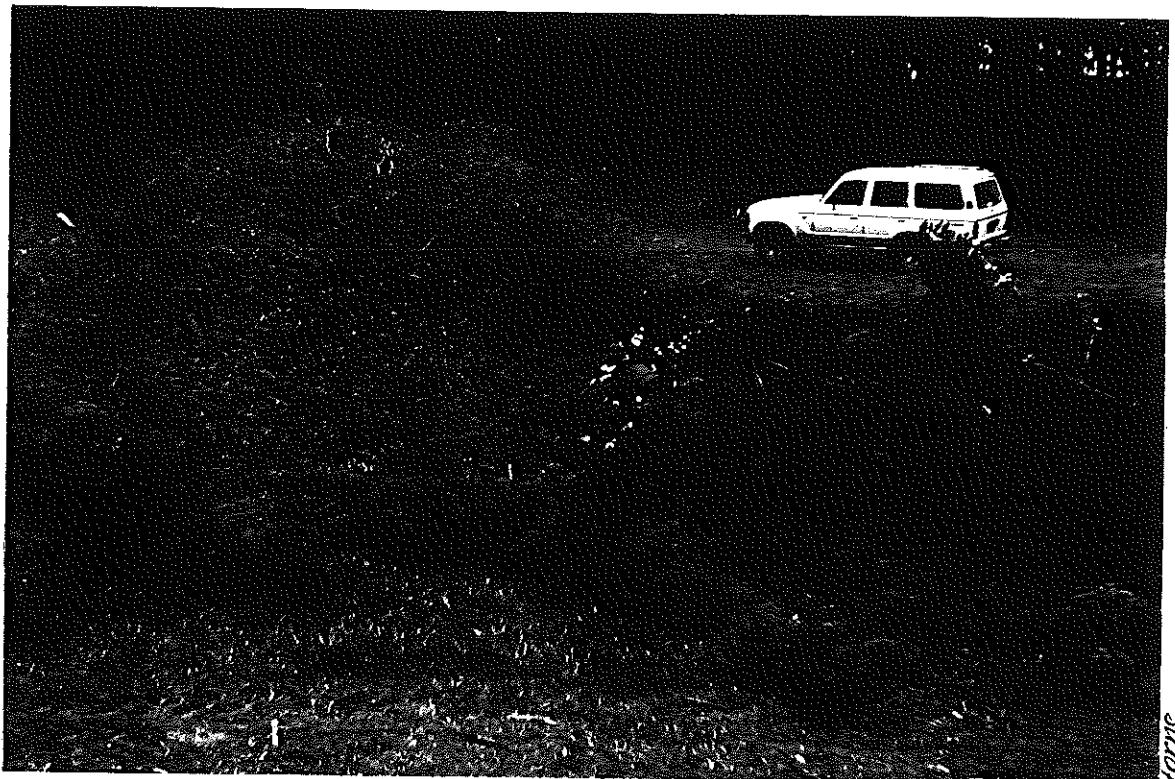
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L73

(Unnamed Feature).

This rubbish-filled doline is approximately 20 metres in diameter with a 30 metre long, 5-10m high passage running off from its southern end. It lies hidden in a pine forest near several other dry sinkholes, and a forestry track diverts a little around its northern perimeter.

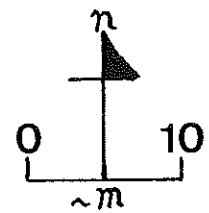
Access is "tricky", requiring cavers (hopefully up to date with their Tetanus shots!) to carefully climb down an old rusting car and a general pile of rubbish. The cave is interesting as it has a high ceiling and numerous "roof tubes" which frequently act as sheltering or roosting cavities for hundreds of bats (probably Little Bent-Wings). There is also a small amount of 'old' decoration in the form of columns and stalactites.

The cave has been known to CEGSA since late 1964.

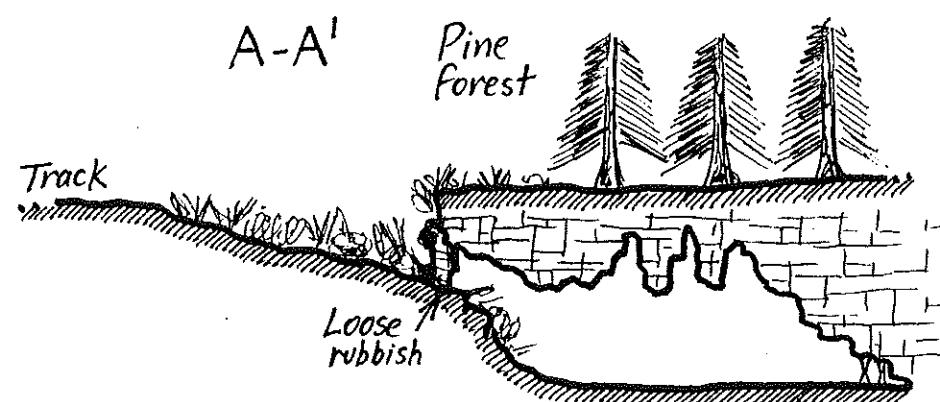


P.Horne





**PLAN**



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L74

### (Unnamed Feature).

This cave is a very interesting feature, and one of the few which can be visited without special gear. Its entrance is a 4 x 8 metre diameter depression with a degraded southern side and a cave passage leading under the northern wall, and this drops via a brief boulder climb-down restriction to a depth of about 17 metres, where a large passage runs roughly north-west for another 50 metres or so (and recent digging in 1992 indicates that it may continue even further). The feature appears to have formed just below the interface of local Dune and Gambier limestones.

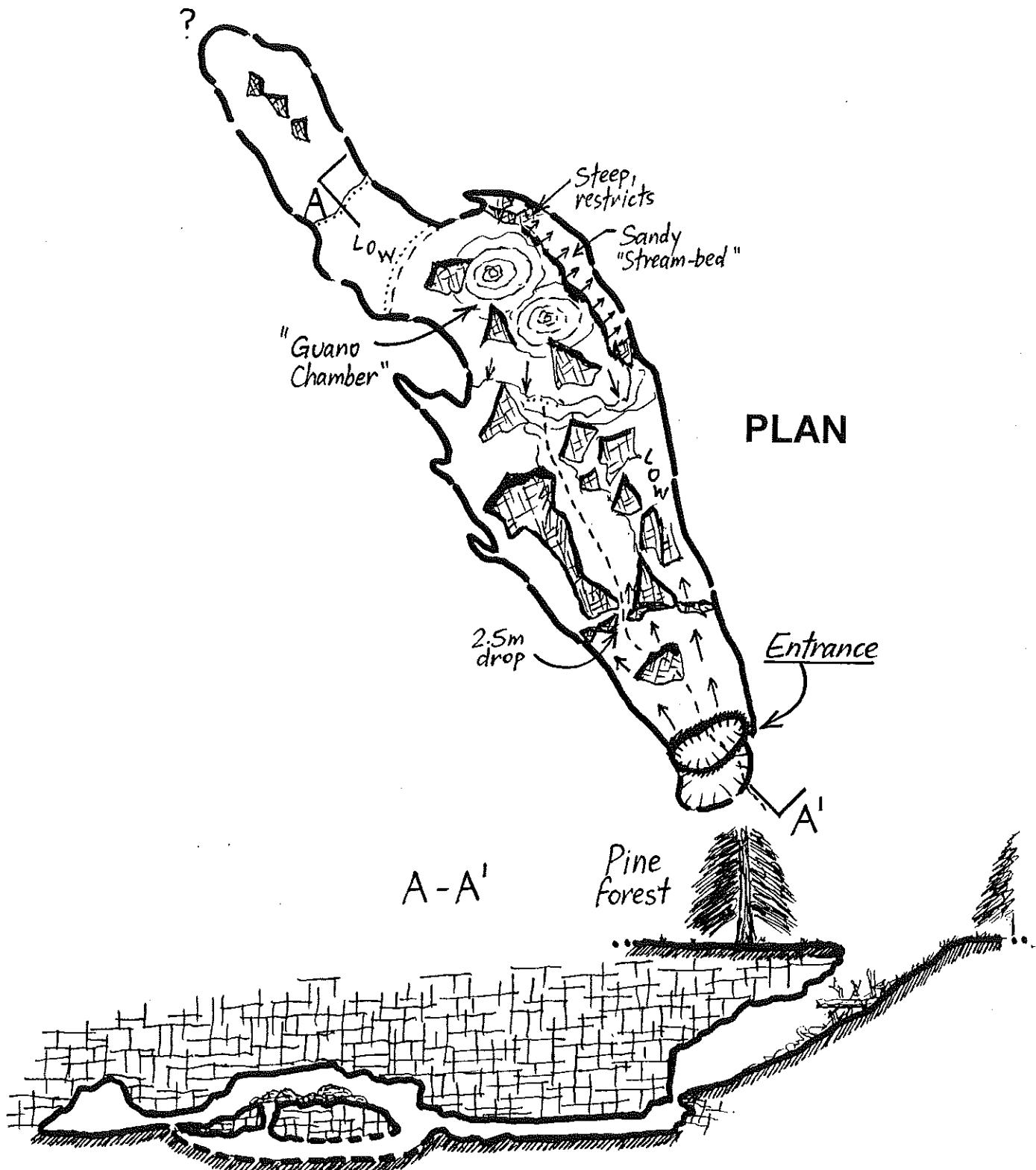
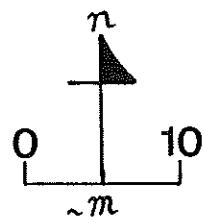
Because of the frequent presence of bats in the final larger chamber, there is a considerable amount of guano on the floor and visitors need to take care not to disturb this unduly – for their own sakes as well as to protect the cave's environment. There are several extensions (including a possible "dig" at the end of the main passage), and one of the more interesting ones consists of a small cavity which lies beneath the floor/wall interface on the far right-hand side of the bat chamber. This is entered via a steep climb down between the wall and boulders, and the presence of sandy material indicates that it was once a watercourse.



The cave contains many interesting fossils, and some geological notes in CEGSA Trip Report by Grant Ellis dated January 1972 provided an insight into the feature: "... vertical section taken in the entrance doline – distance from surface: 0 to 6 feet – Dune limestone. This consists of angular grains of calcium carbonate which are fairly well sorted (range of grain size 0.1 to 0.5mm) and loosely held together with calcite cement. 6 to 10.3 feet – Gambier limestone. Fine bryozoal matrix with sparse echinoids (including spines), gastropods and bivalves; 17.8 to 22.4 feet – the bryozoal matrix dominates however, some sparsely distributed bivalves and echinoid spines are present."

This feature is located close to 5L73, and it first appeared in CEGSA's Records in December 1964.

5L74



[Map ASF Grade 5  
CEGSA, 1972]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L75

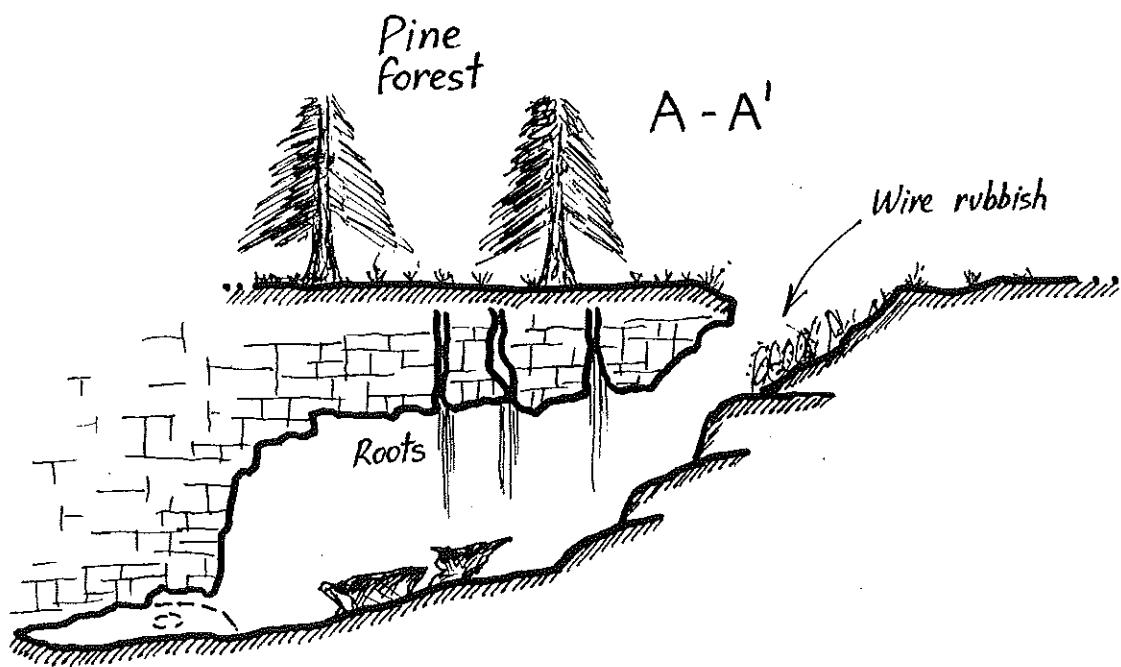
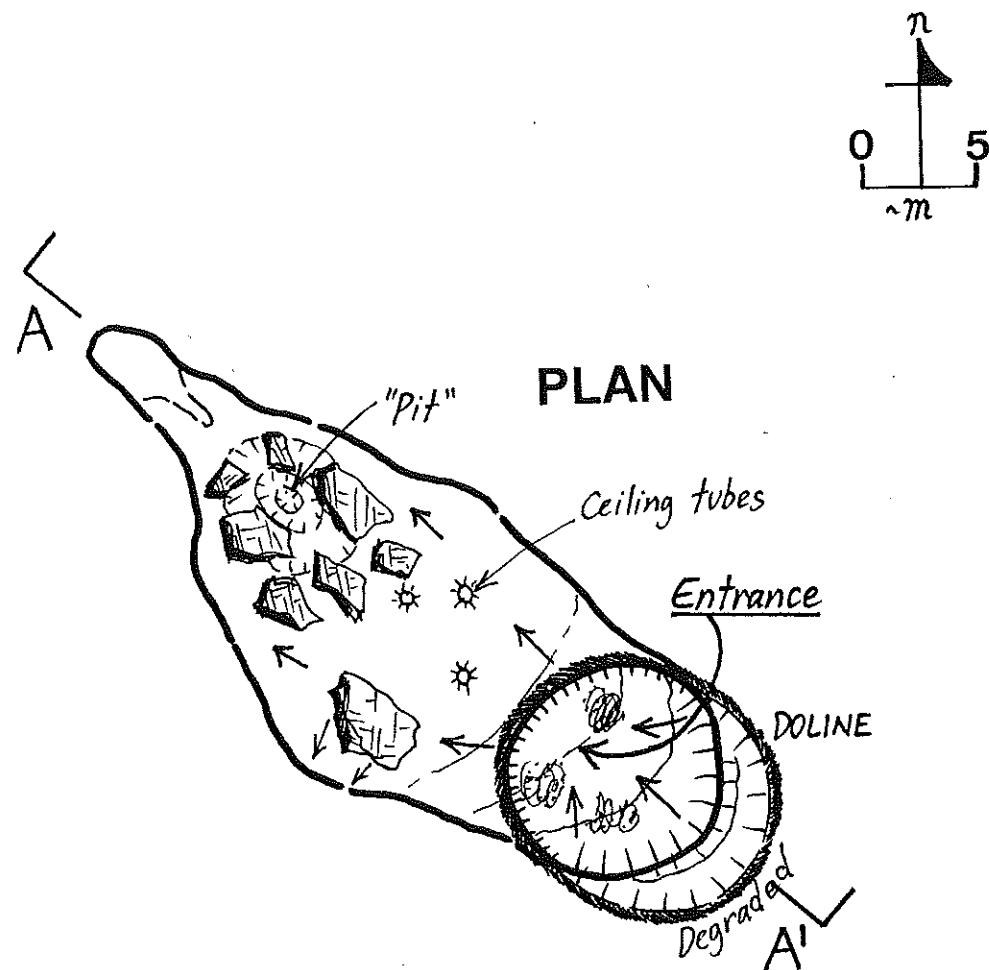
(Unnamed Feature).

This feature is located close to 5L73 and 5L74, among the pines. The entrance takes the form of a smallish (roughly 6 metres in diameter) degraded collapse with the cave passage extending off around the northern side, and it consists of a single cavity about 8 metres wide, up to 5 metres high and 20 metres long.

There is no decoration in the cave (unless some picturesque tree roots hanging from the ceiling could be considered as being "decorative"), and like 5L73, it has some high ceiling tubes. There is also a "pit" in the floor between some large boulders.

This cave was first recorded by CEGSA in December 1964.





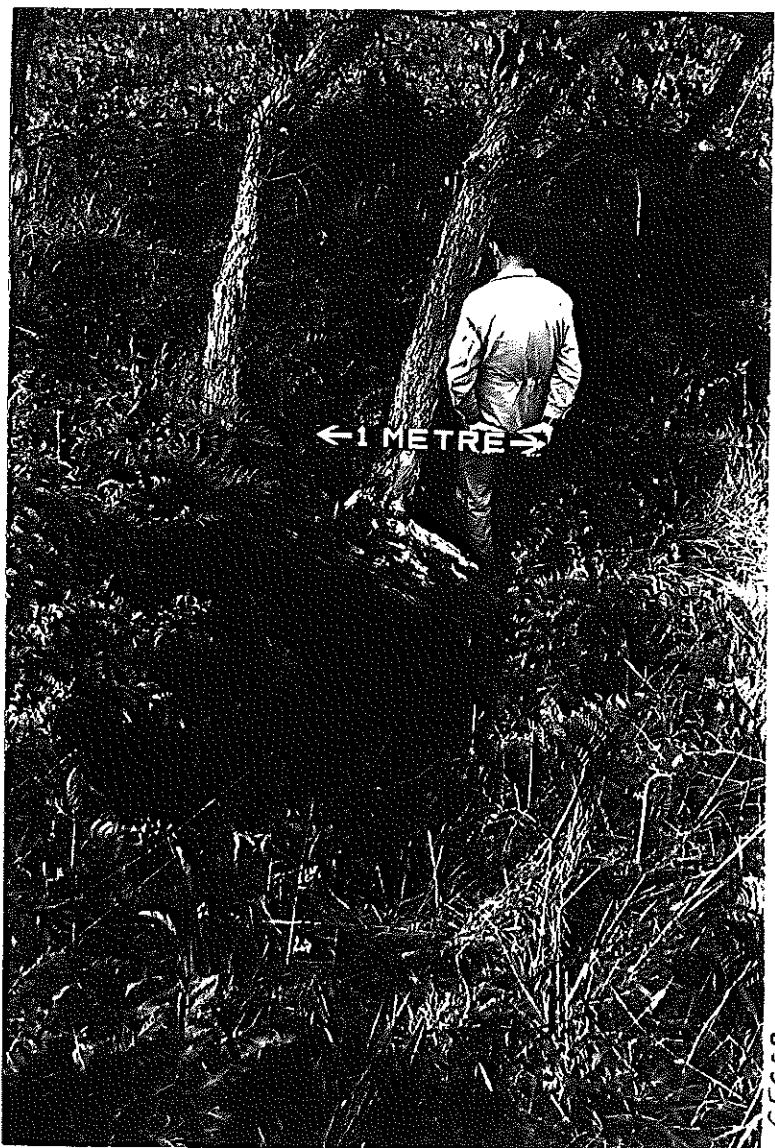
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L76

### PITTS CAVE (Picks Cave).

Reportedly named after a Mr. Pitt, who lived in Helen Street, Mount Gambier when the feature was placed into CEGSA's Records back in December 1964 (after local caver Fred W. Aslin rescued a dog which had fallen in), this small but interesting cave lies in a prominent interdune valley (by local standards, anyway!) and can only be entered via a narrow vertical solution tube "chimney" which requires some 15 metres of ladder.

The tube is about a metre across at the surface, but about 10 metres down, it reaches a kink where it reduces to less than 0.3m across before dropping a further 5 metres to the top of a dirt mound through an even smaller restriction (which would preclude access to rather "plodgy" cavers!).

The cave is a single joint-controlled passage which extends for a total distance of about 17 metres before narrowing to less than 0.2m wide. It has several water-table pools (in narrow fissures) which are virtually inaccessible but evidently more than a metre deep, and there are also a couple of other solution tubes in the ceiling.

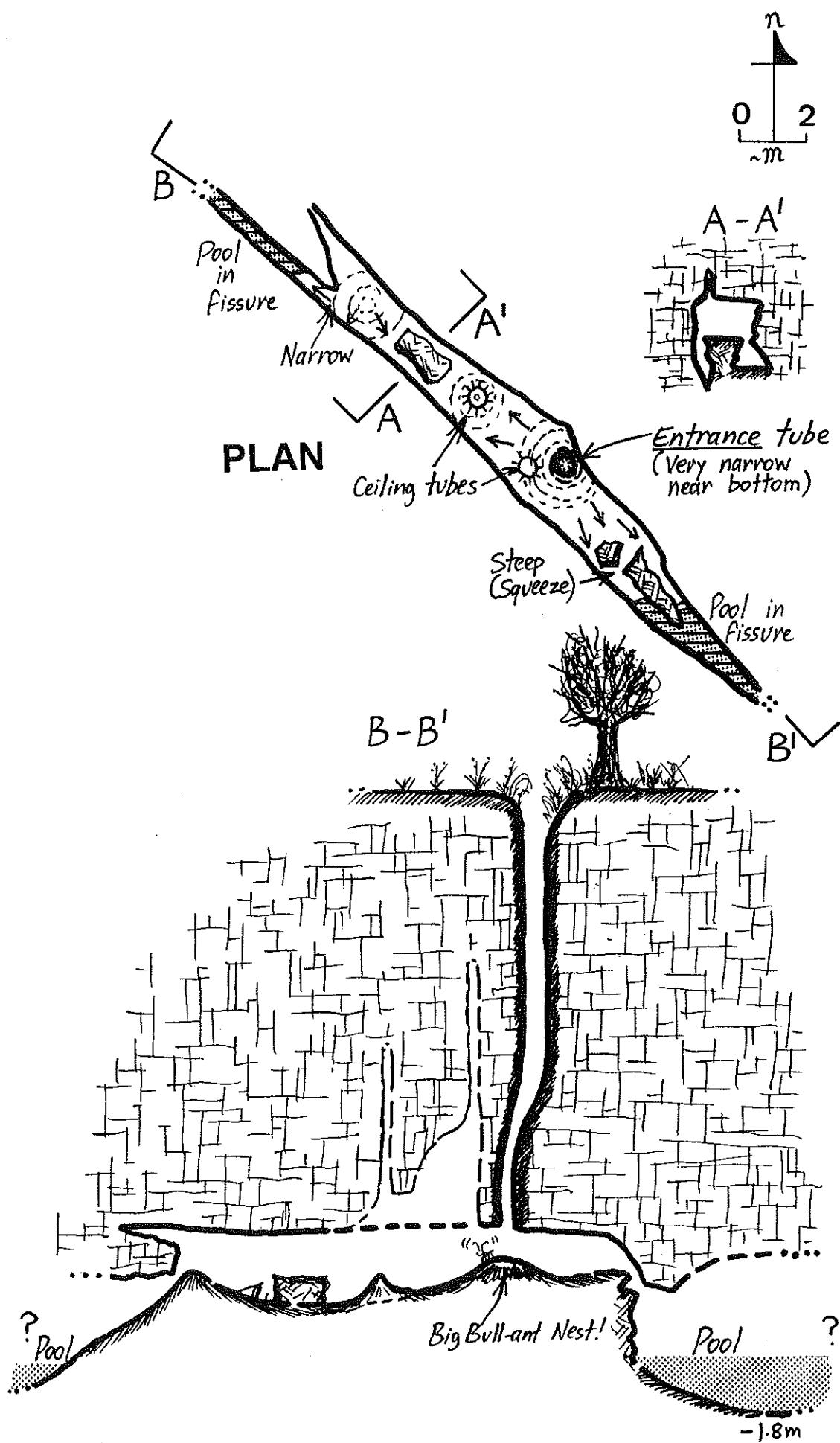


At the time of the author's second visit in 1983, there was a large bullant nest (that is, a large nest with large bullants) in the dirt cone, making entry and exit via the narrow tube rather unpleasant and hurried!

It is one of the many smaller features worthy of a "don't bother" rating, if there was such a thing, in the author's opinion!

# PITTS CAVE

5L76



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L77

## GLENCOE WEST CAVE.

This cave is a large, interesting feature located on private property near the town of Glencoe. The entrance is a very large, degraded doline sloping down to the south-east, and the cave's main lake chamber is about 50 metres long, 25m wide and 5m high with a flat ceiling (which is about 6.5m thick). According to reports, the water level fluctuates considerably, and at the time of the author's diving visit in 1984, the maximum depth reached was approximately 4 metres.

An early scuba-dive by local cave diver Jock Huxtable resulted in his reporting that he had seen a "small parallel cavern to the north and mostly underwater", but despite this apparent lead plus some other reports by earlier Police Department divers of the existence of a 100 (or was it 300?)-metre long flooded passage, exploratory dives by the author (in the company of Andrew Cox and Peter Girdler) in December 1984, and another careful search by Grant Pearce and Chris Murphy in November 1992 found a maximum horizontal penetration distance of just under 30 metres.



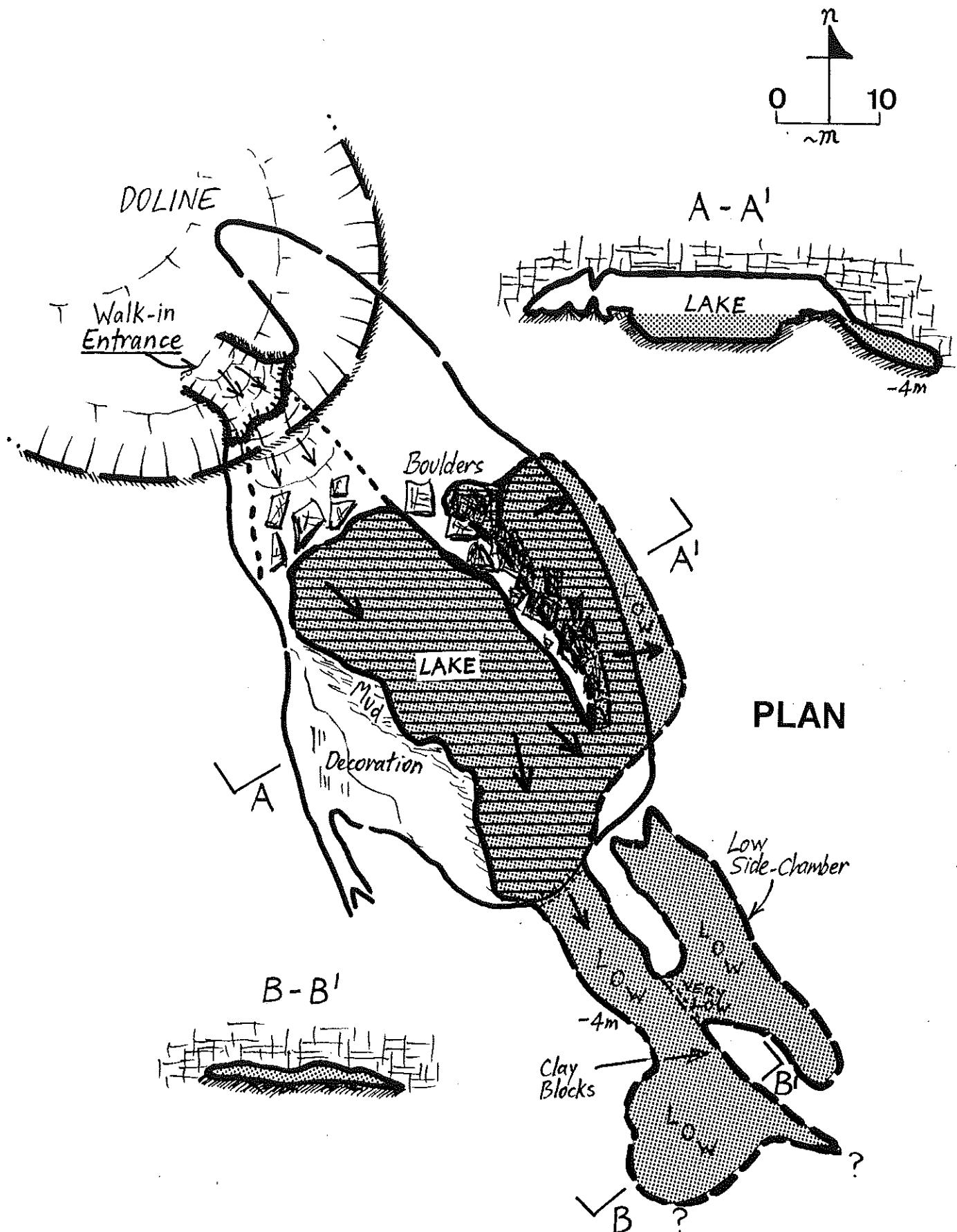
Grant and Chris also had a look at the side-chamber which was seen by both Mr. Huxtable and the author's group, but this proved to be just a lower area of adjoining passage.

Diving in this cave is relatively hazardous and great care needs to be taken in line-laying operations – a difficult job in this case because of the number of soft clay blocks and the lack of suitable tie-offs.

CEGSA first learnt about this cave from the owner in July 1964, around the time that ETSA (Electricity Trust of South Australia) power was connected to a pump which the owner had placed in the cave to spray the surrounding paddocks.

# GLENCOE WEST CAVE

5L77



[Combined Map - surface: ASF Grade 6,  
Aslin, Hocknell & others (CEGSA), 1966;  
underwater area: ASF Grade 22, P.Horne,  
M.Nielsen & A.Cox, 1984; & ASF Grade 3,  
G. & L.Pearce & C.Murphy, 1992]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L78

### BUNGALOW BAY CAVE (Bungaloo Bay Cave).

Located on a bare rise close to Bungalow (or "Bungaloo") Bay, near the coastal town of Carpenters Rocks, this cave is basically a single, low, almost-circular collapse cavern about 20 metres in diameter. Access is made via a small, artificially enlarged (and now gated) 3 metre deep shaft which drops into the centre of the chamber, and a scramble down to the bottom reveals the presence of three deep, clear freshwater pools around the periphery.

A pool on the south-western side of the chamber is a 3 metre squarish lake, which has a maximum depth of 4 metres in a fissure a few metres from the surface. On paper, it appears to be just a few metres from connecting with the underwater region which can be reached by divers approaching from the second pool (at the northern side of the chamber), but attempts by the author in August 1983 to make a light connection failed. However, the northern pool's underwater region does connect with the third (eastern) pool via a low, silty flattener in which some very deteriorated decoration was seen (in the form of decomposing roof straws and a broken column). There would also appear to be a possible lead through a narrow restriction which lies in 6 metres of water at the northern extent of the known cave.

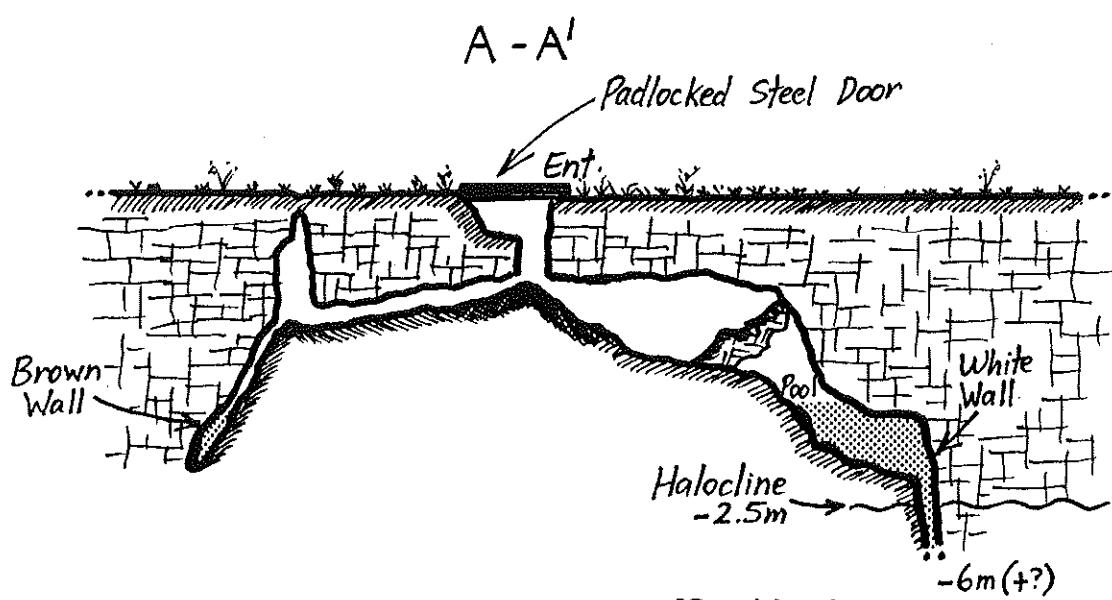
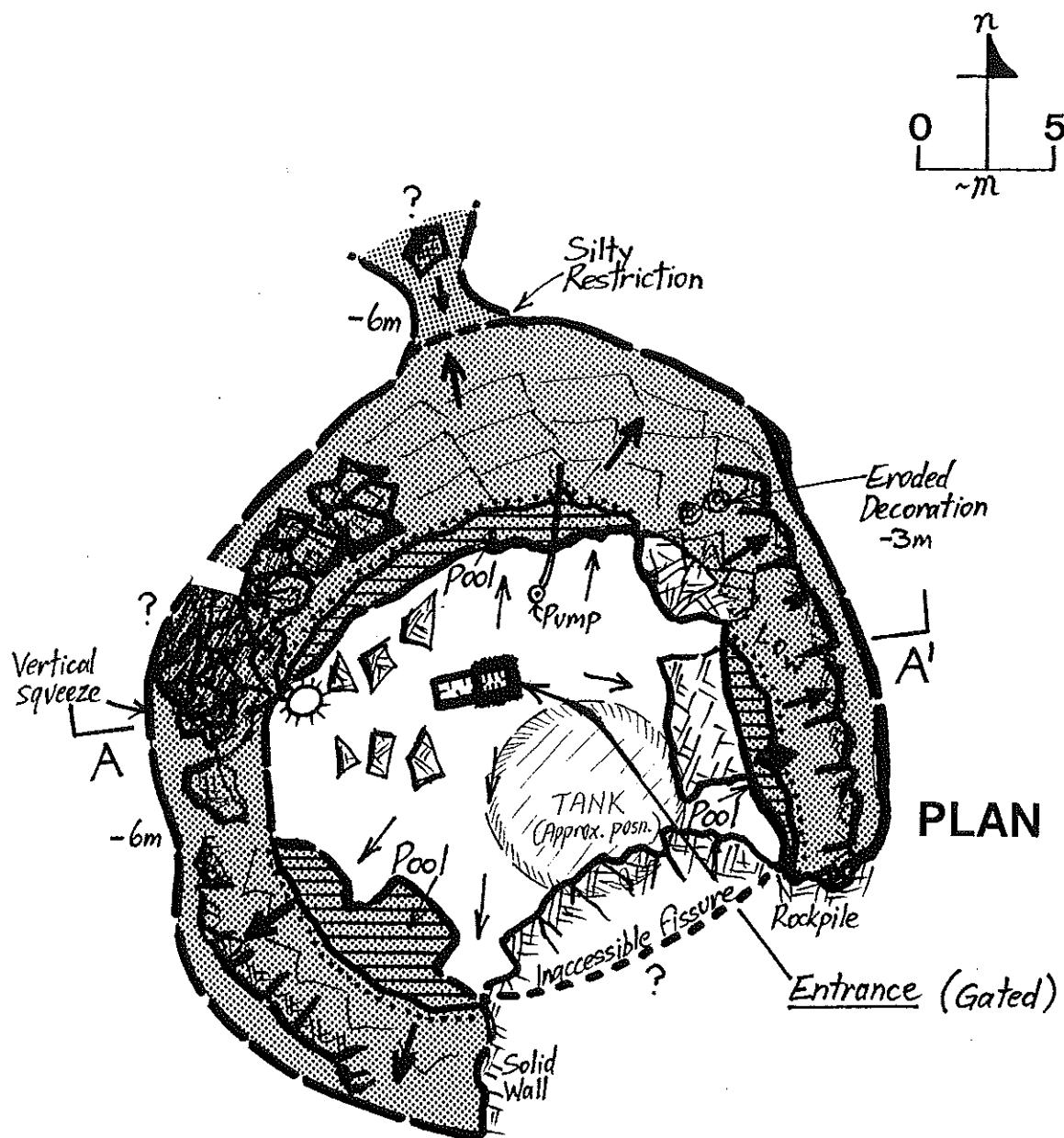
One aspect which makes this cave unique to the Mount Gambier region is the presence of a salt/freshwater halocline a couple of metres below the surface. This might mean that any excessive pumping of the upper-level freshwater could result in saltwater being drawn through the small electric pump which also resides in the cave.



The first reference to this cave in CEGSA's Records appeared in December 1964, when its general shape and size, and reference to a scuba dive by local diver Bob Pulford on 11 July 1964 was made.

# BUNGALOW BAY CAVE

5L78



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 4,  
G.Ninnes & P.Horne (CEGSA); underwater  
area: ASF Grades 1 & 2, P.Horne, P.Stace  
& M.Nielsen, 1983]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L79

### CREVICE CAVE.

This relatively simple karst feature is situated some 40 metres into a pine forest near Highway One, and it takes the form of a single 20 metre long fissure which is oriented north-west to south-east. It is less than a metre wide throughout, and is entered via a very small roof-window collapse.

The water-table is encountered directly beneath the entrance, a little over 4 metres below the surface, but snorkel-dives by local divers Bob Pulford and Gordon MacKenzie on 25 October 1964 indicated that underwater exploration was not safe in the very narrow fissure below a depth of around 4 metres.

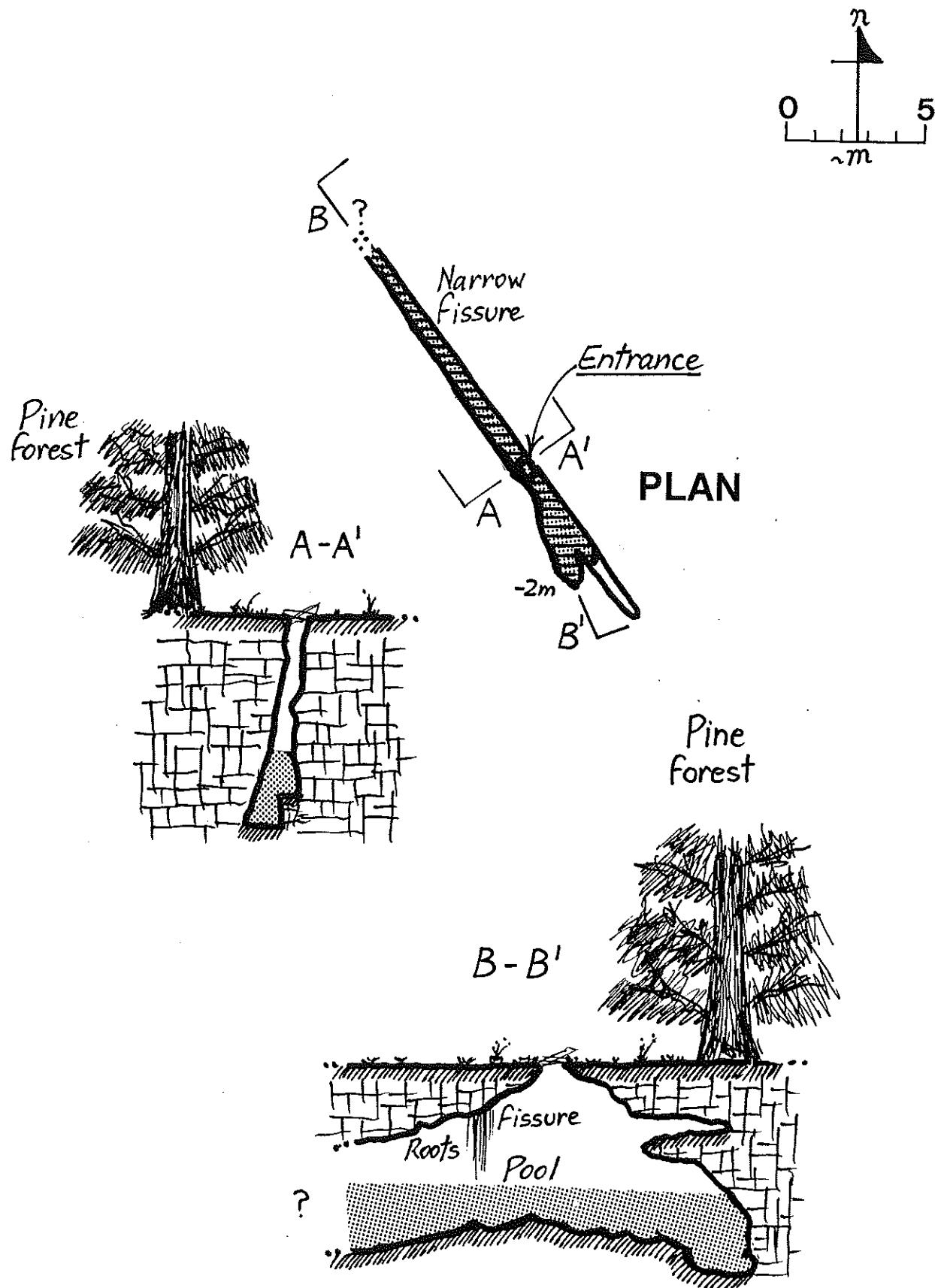
When the CEGSA Trip Report of December 1964 was written, the entrance hole was covered with old railway sleepers and marked with a "2 foot 6 inch high square white Highways Department guide post, 3 feet north-east of the opening".

The feature has changed very little over the last 25 years and is hardly worth a visit.



# CREVICE CAVE

5L79



[Map ASF Grade 2, P.Horne  
(CEGSA), 1982]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L80

## CORPSE CAVE (Dead Sheep Cave).

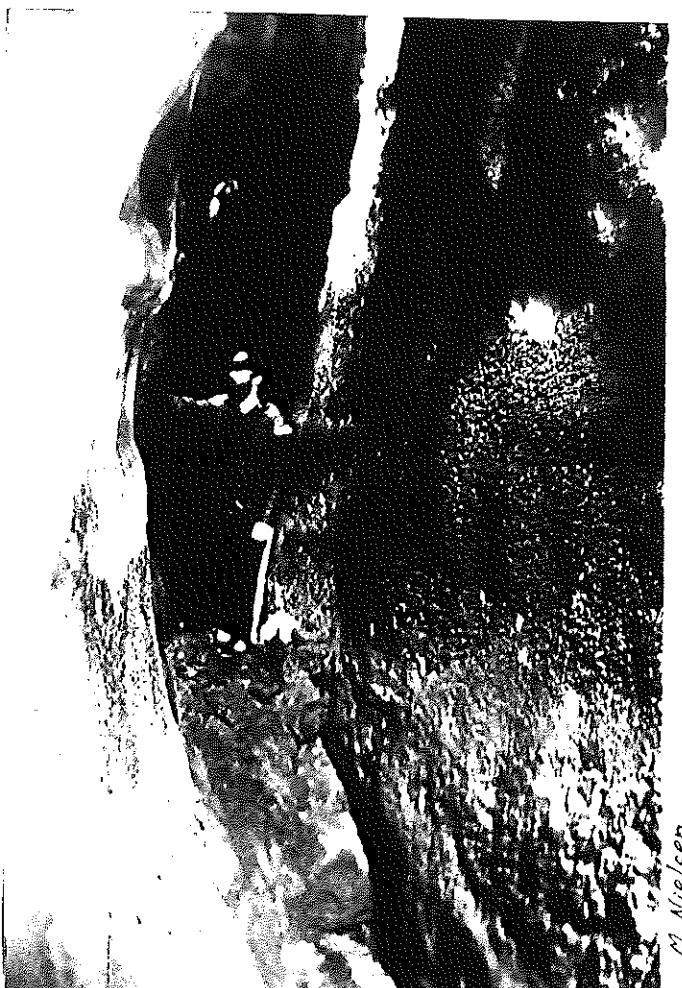
Named by the author in 1979 (after he accidentally stepped into the decomposing bodies of sheep and a calf while attempting to explore it!) and prior to its being almost totally destroyed by rubbish-filling and fires during the 1980s, Corpse Cave was a single joint-controlled fissure-cave running north-west to south-east, with a length of about 140 metres, a height of around 10 metres and widths of up to 3 metres in places.

The cave originally had at least 14 known roof window entrances (virtually in a straight line), and while it might have continued beyond the first, north-western entrance, the continual presence of massive amounts of domestic rubbish and decomposing animal bodies made exploration very awkward. In addition, the huge mounds of rusting drums and tangled masses of barbed wire lying beneath many of the roof-holes prevented cavers from walking straight through the system from one entrance to another.

Immediately prior to the final sealing of the last (southern-most) entrance by the landowner in late June 1990, the south-eastern extension was 'pushed' by the author and his companions for a further 60 metres or so, with the last 20-30m requiring a lot of squeezing. The passage was vertical and quite narrow in this area, with several sections being in the order of only 0.4m or so in width, and the walls were quite straight and fairly smooth, with lots of "moonmilk" encrustations in places. A huge boulder was also "repositioned" to facilitate easier exploration of this end of the feature, and one very narrow pool was found to be at least 4m deep (when a

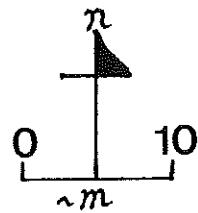
pointed stick was used to probe for a lost bag containing a prescription-lens facemask and some survey notes!).

The cave has very little likelihood of continuing, and is now inaccessible.

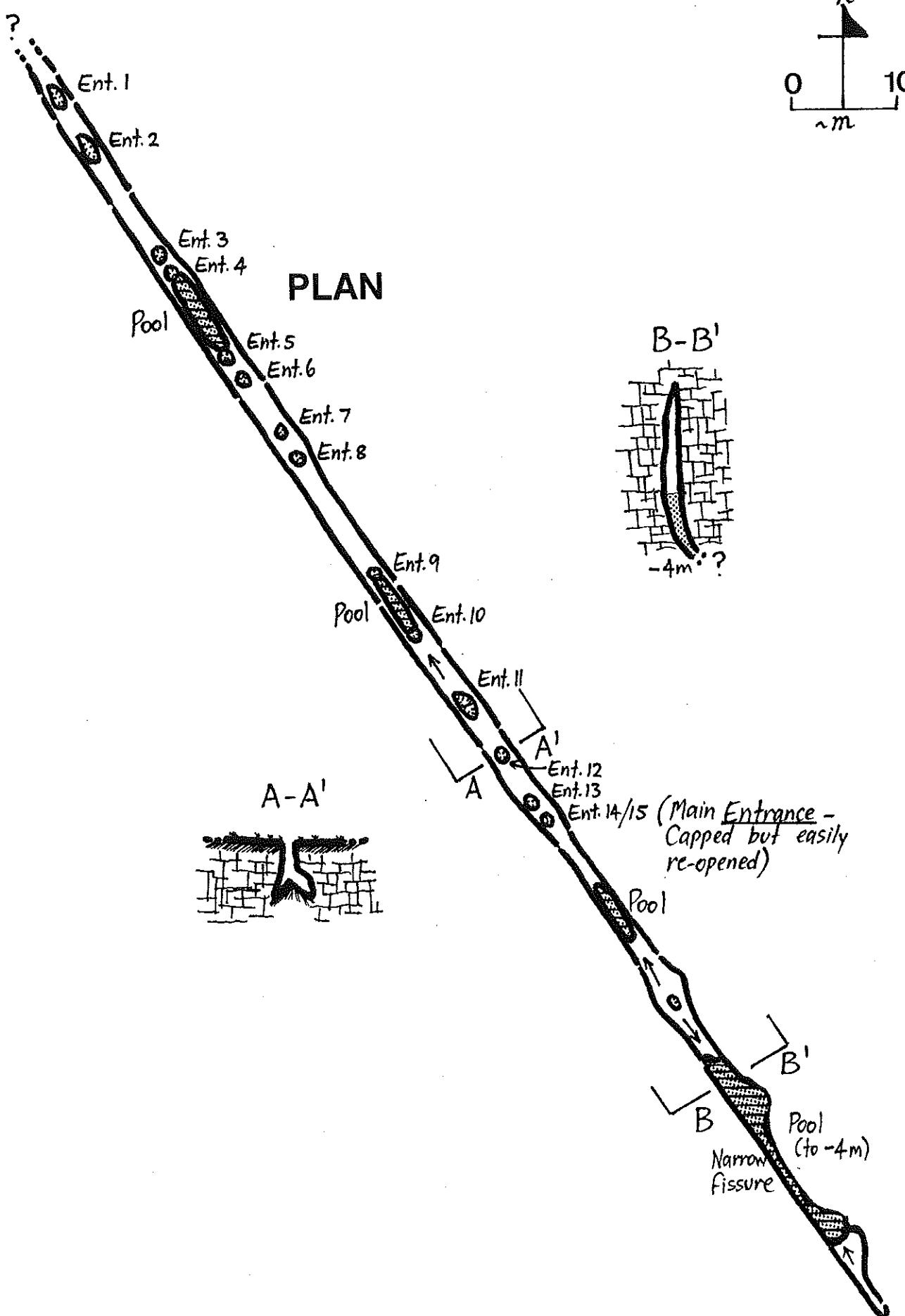


# CORPSE CAVE

5L80



## PLAN



[Map ASF Grades 1-31, P.Horne,  
M.Nielsen & others, 1980-90; underwater  
area: ASF Grade 2, P.Horne, 1990]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L81

### FOSSIL CAVE (The Green Waterhole, Greenwater Hole).

Fossil Cave is an important biological and palaeontological research site as well as an interesting cave dive. Located literally just a stone's throw from the southern edge of Highway One, near the popular Tantanoola Tourist Cave, it also served as a useful water source for the Highway's Department during construction of the highway prior to its being sealed.

The surface feature takes the form of an oval flat-floored collapse doline about 18 metres long by 10 metres wide, and it is shallow, just 3 metres deep with a lake at each end. The north-western lake is infrequently visited by divers, since it only leads to a single "chamber" roughly 10 metres long, 12 metres wide and 6 metres deep with a low, silty flattener heading off to a final collapse. The jumbled boulders here make this region unsuitable for safe bone recovery work, and in fact only a single leg bone from the extinct carnivorous marsupial *Thylacoleo carnifex* – sticking upright and jammed between some boulders near the back of this dangerously silty area – has been found by the author to date.

The south-eastern lake is the main "tourist run", leading to a two-level chamber which contains brilliantly-clear water and some spectacular photographic potential. The sun often shines directly into the lake, lighting up the entire upper level, and numerous steel "star-dropper" pegs and connecting lines can be seen running deeper into the cave. These were installed by a dedicated research team from Adelaide's Flinders University in 1979, during the first major underwater palaeontological "dig" which occurred in this cave. The ceiling slopes down to meet the water about 4 metres from the edge of the lake, where an old circular well has cut in to a 12 metre long low flattener passage just above the present-day water level. Because the ceiling above the upper level cavern is quite flat and right at the air/water interface for a distance of about 13 metres, seasonal water-table fluctuations result in the area being either completely flooded or a 10-metre long, half-metre high air pocket in which people's voices can resonate back to the entrance via the well-hole. At the far end of this area, the ceiling steps down suddenly and divers pass through a minor "Letterbox" constriction to the lower, dark main chamber.

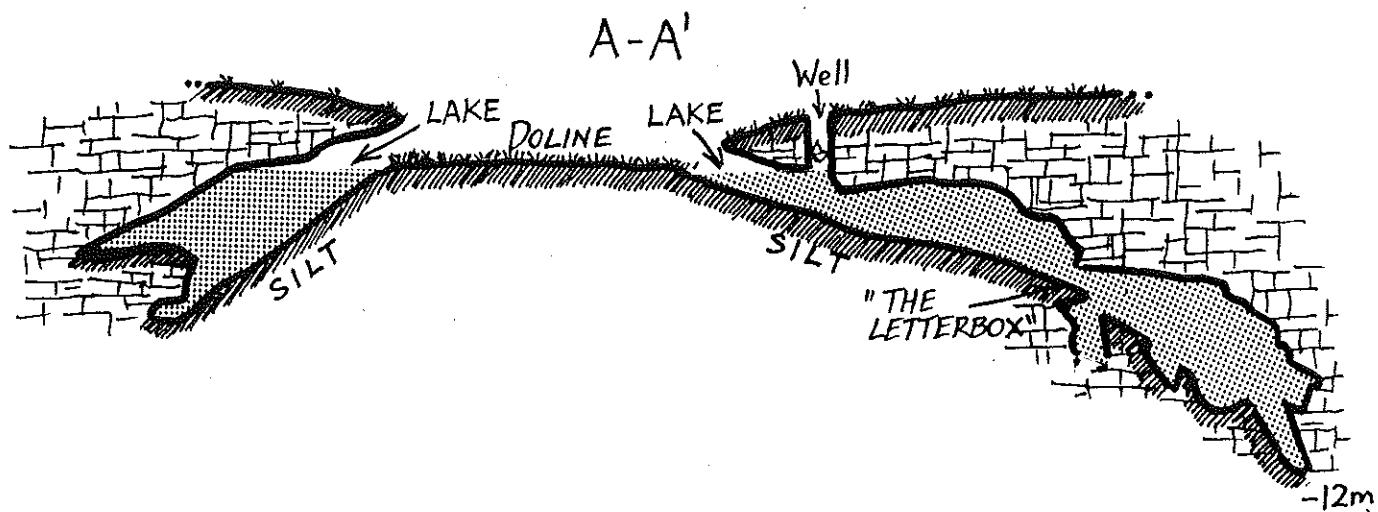
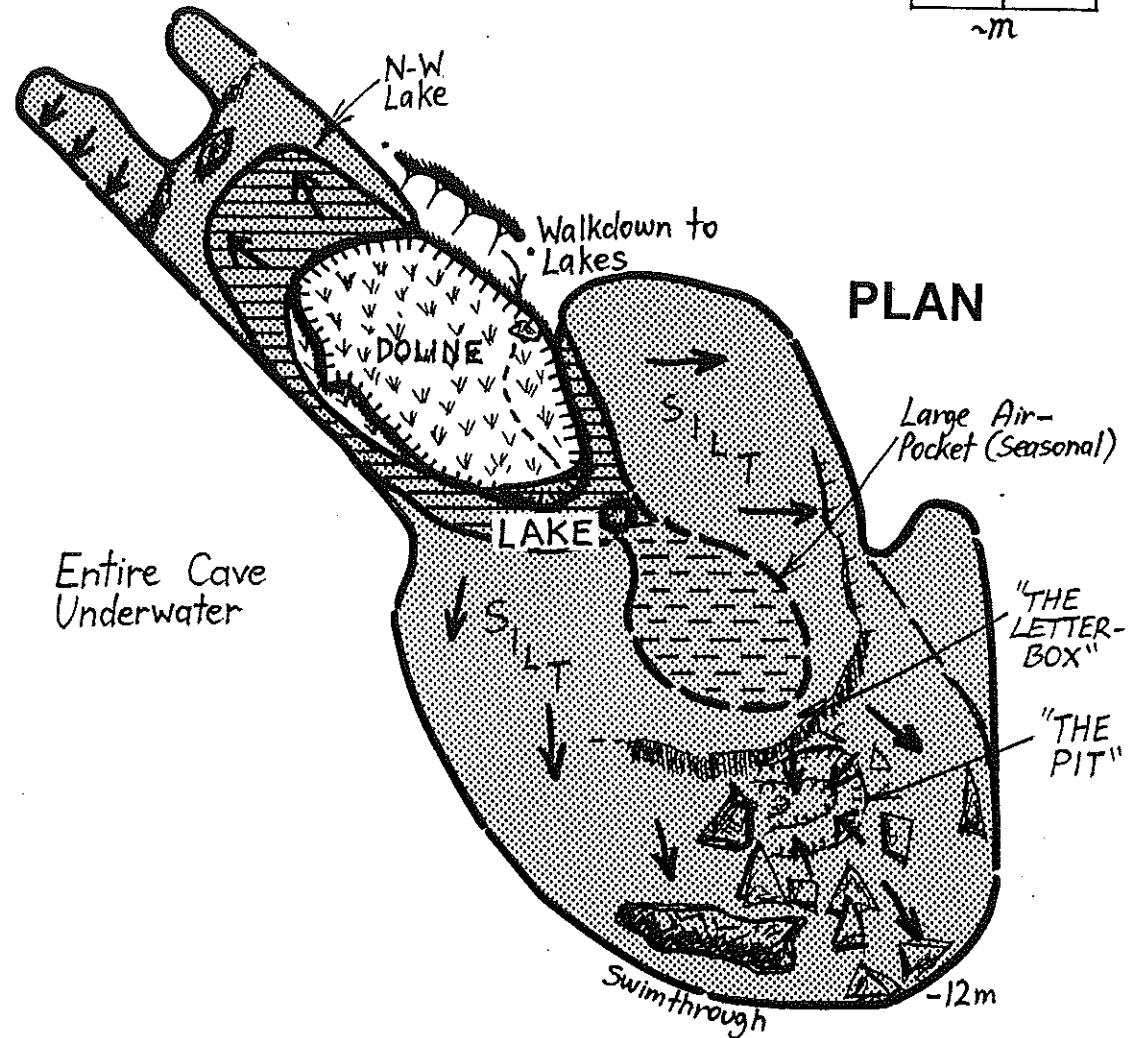
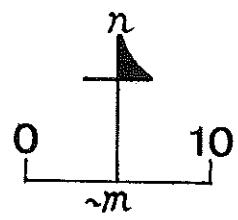
This chamber penetrates for a further distance of about 17 metres and is roughly 30m across, reaching a maximum (safely-achievable) depth of about 15 metres in a jumble of boulders known as "The Pit". The silt tends to be very dark and overlies thick deposits of calcite which evidently formed when the chamber contained a lake perhaps a few thousands of years ago. There is also a prominent swim-through region behind some large boulders which have jammed against the wall.

The cave first appeared in CEGSA's Records in August 1965, although local caver Fred W. Aslin reported that pioneering cave diver Gordon McKenzie had recovered part of an important extinct kangaroo (*Sthemurine*) skull on 10 July 1964, from a depth of 8 metres. This site is also the "type locality" for the species of rare cave-adapted syncarids known as *Koonunga crenarum* which were discovered by the author in 1981 and described by Mr. Wolfgang Zeidler of the South Australian Museum shortly thereafter.

Preliminary water quality research work in August 1989 revealed that Fossil Cave had a relatively high nitrate level of 20 ppm, but heavy metals were almost non-existent and the salinity was only 432 ppm.

# FOSSIL CAVE

5L81



[Map ASF Grade 65AC,  
P.Horne & SAUSS, 1988]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L82

(Unnamed Feature - sometimes called the "Forest Fossil Cave").

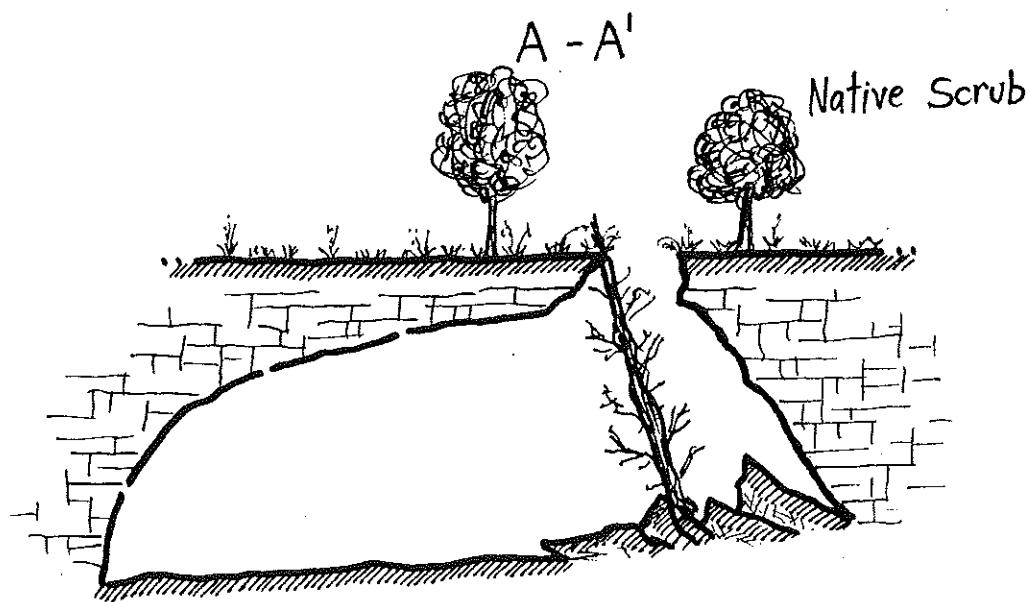
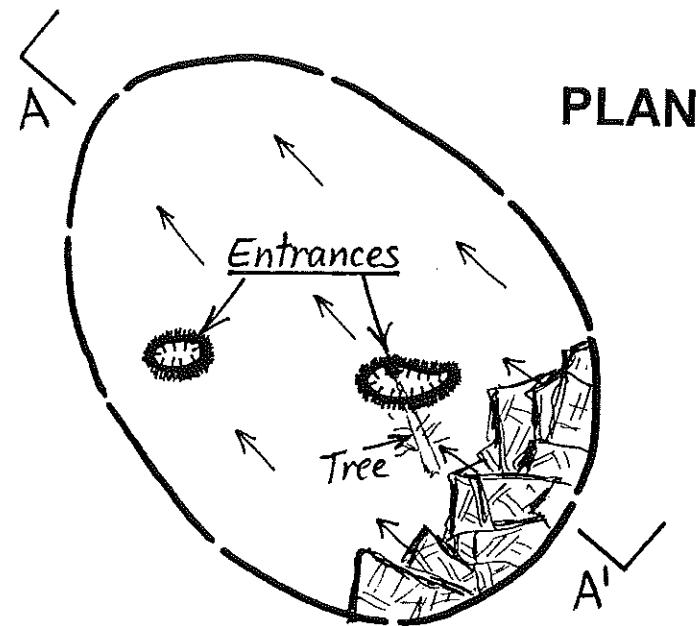
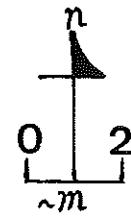
This feature is unfortunately sometimes known by Woods and Forests Department personnel as "Fossil Cave" (not to be confused with the real Fossil Cave, 5L81), and it takes the form of a single dry cavern with two roof window entrances about a metre and 1.5 metres across, which are some 3 metres apart.

The cavern is somewhat oval in shape and has a simple dome-like ceiling, and the feature is about 15 metres long (north-west to south-east) by 9m wide. Due to the 8 metre free-swinging drop to the floor of the cavern, access can only be made via rope or ladder.

The chamber is relatively bland and of little apparent interest to recreational cavers, containing only a few boulders and no decoration or obvious extensions. Because it would also have been an ideal natural animal trap, visitation should be kept to a minimum so that any potentially-significant palaeontological material is not unduly disturbed.

The cave was reportedly discovered on February 1st, 1965 by Fred and Jan Aslin of Mount Gambier, while they were searching for another feature nearby.





## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L83

### (Unnamed Feature).

Reportedly discovered in 1962 when a pine planter watched his spade almost disappear into the ground, this small cave is entered via a very sandy solution tube which is about 10 metres deep. It tapers from more than one metre at the surface to just half a metre across near the bottom.

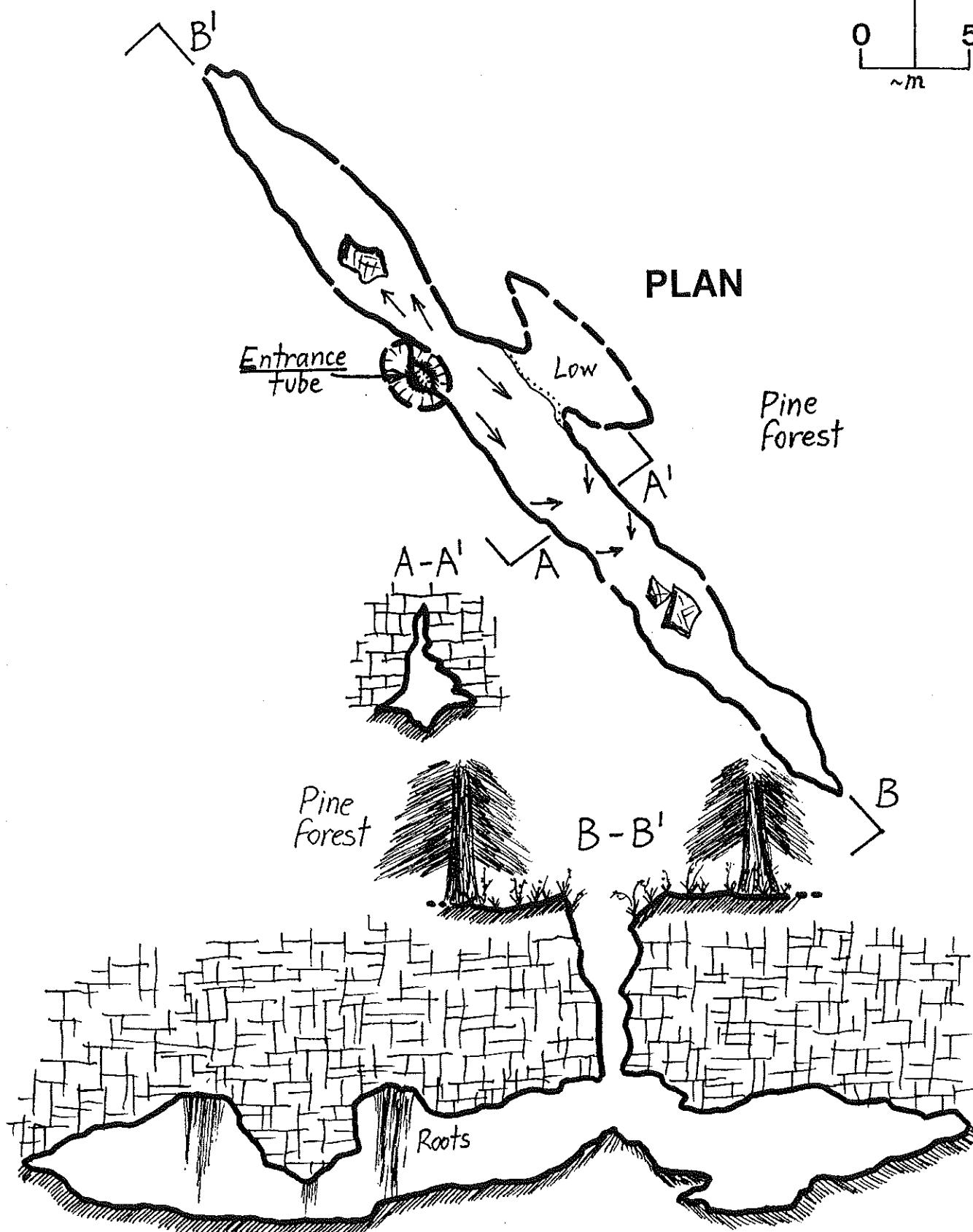
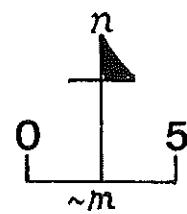
The entry point consists of a 3 metre high sand and rock mound which has more than half-filled the passage at this point. The cave itself is basically a single north-west to south-east slit-like fissure some 40 metres long (roughly 20m in either direction from the entrance) and up to about 6 metres high, with some low flatteners which cannot be entered. Both ends of the passage terminate in boulder chokes, and tree roots hang from the ceiling in several places in the south-eastern end.

Visitation should be kept to an absolute minimum due to the presence of significant bone deposits. In addition, it is important to note that exiting from the cave is reportedly VERY tricky because the narrow restriction at the bottom of the tube makes climbing very awkward.

This cave was first recorded by CEGSA in June 1965, via a person who reported learning of it from the pine planter mentioned earlier. The map in this book was supplied by Grant Pearce, who visited and surveyed the feature in 1992 to assist the author.



5L83



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L84/85

## ALLEYNS CAVE ("S-126", Death Cave).

This relatively small but notorious cave was an insignificant "mud hole" until October 1972, when three Adelaide divers drowned after stirring up the deep silt which covered the floor of a silty side-chamber without being equipped with a safety line. The cave's original form consisted of a walk-in entrance in the bottom of a depression and a large roof-window hole which required ladders for access, but today, access is only possible via a strong steel gate which has been set in a concrete sheet over the latter entrance ... the walk-in area has been filled with huge boulders.

The first (entrance) chamber is a rectangular room with a thin ceiling, with dimensions of around 15 metres (north-west to south-east) by 8m, and cavers can only explore this from the dry vantage point of a dirt "island" which is surrounded by a dimly-lit shallow lake of clear, calm water. A low area with a fine tree-root "curtain" points the way to the other entrance area to the east, but only people who are willing to get very wet can explore this! The floor slopes down especially to the north and west, where a very low, silty "passage" heads off at a depth of 6m.

This silty and rock-floored section runs for a few metres to a point where the ceiling arches up again, allowing divers to enter a waterfilled room with very roughly the same general shape and dimensions of the dry entry chamber. However, there is no air surface; the shallowest water depth on the flat ceiling is around 3 metres – and there are numerous low silty flattener sections and

false leads around the walls. (This is the chamber in which the three divers became trapped.) Some animal scratchings and bones have been found in this room, and the floor consists of very soft, deep clay-like mud. In addition, the ceiling is also extremely soft, clouding the water quickly, so cave divers need to practice perfect buoyancy control and take care not to balance themselves by touching the walls or ceiling unnecessarily.

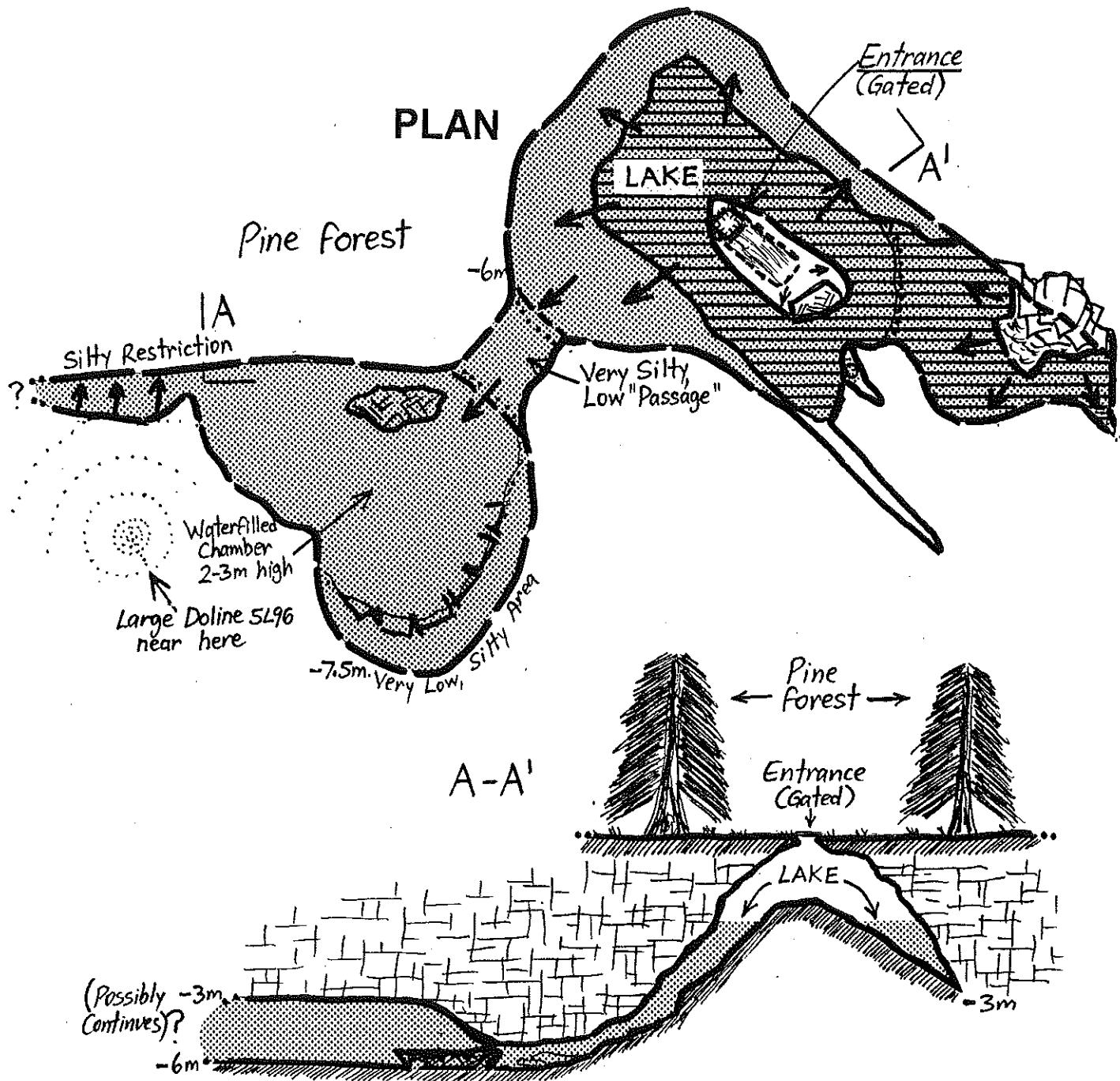
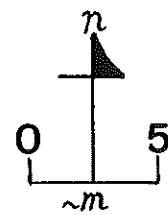


Alleyns Cave was first placed into CEGSA's Records by local speleologist Fred W. Aslin in June 1965, after he learnt of its existence from pioneering cave diver Jock Huxtable. It was reportedly named by forestry workers after the late Mr. "Paddy" Alleyn, who was employed as a rabbit trapper by the Woods and Forests Department around the early 1950s (as discussed by Messrs. Alleyn {circa 1985} and Jack Clayson, a former employee of the Woods and Forests Department {1992} with the author).

A. Cox

# ALLEYNS CAVE

5L84/85



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L86

### CONSIDINES CAVE (Rabbit Hole, Fox Hole/Cave, Black Cockatoo Cave, Hide-Away Cave).

Access to the relatively extensive cave system known as Considines (pronounced as "con-sid-EEns") is made by carefully free-climbing down a narrow tube which is one of several similar features in a clump of pines near Highway One. Approximately 5 metres below ground level, cavers find that they are standing on the top of a sandy cone which slopes to the start of an obvious passage to the south-east, and a not so obvious crawl under boulders to the south-west.

The south-eastern extension soon narrows into an unstable and quite nasty crawl passage/fissure which leads for about 20 metres into a 15 metre diameter collapse chamber with badly unstable sections and some old decoration. However, the other passage quickly proves to be of great importance!

The low, crawly section turns north-west and leads along a much higher fissure, and following the bottom of this, cavers enter a low, somewhat tubular sandy "slippery-dip" which follows the left wall and leads up into a much larger room. From here, much active decoration is visible, and a careful rock-hop over a deep drop between boulders leads into an impressive flat-roofed passage which is about 100 metres long, 15m wide and 2.5m high. This big passage has a lot of active (but unfortunately, vandalised) decoration in places, and flowing water is sometimes observed in the lower areas along the walls. The passage terminates (more or less) in a big boulder collapse area which has numerous crawly bits, many of which (uncomfortably) continue for quite a distance.

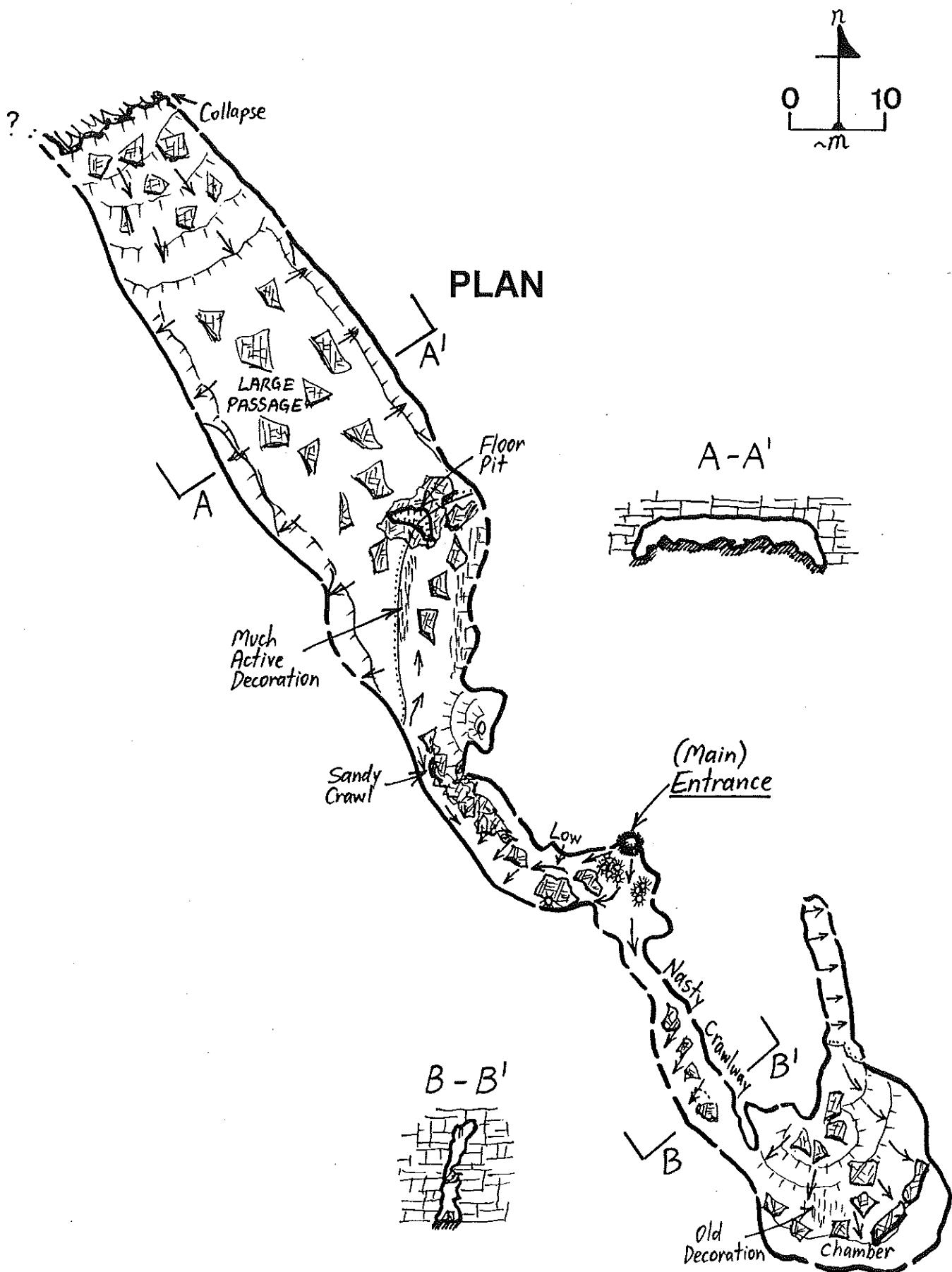


This cave first entered CEGSA's Records in the form of a trip report dated 26 July 1965, when it was mentioned that no detailed exploration of the feature had occurred prior to 29 October 1964, although an adjacent landowner had reportedly entered the main entrance chamber to catch a duck. The major south-western passage was not known at this time, and it has been speculated that the nearby Tartwarp Fault might have played a major role in the system's formation.

There have reportedly been several attempts to seal or fill the cave, and access is absolutely prohibited by the land-owner (who has exhibited what cavers would call a most "unreasonable attitude" to access requests in the past) ... you have been warned!

# CONSIDINES CAVE

5L86



[Map ASF Grades 3C-5D, K.Mott & I.Lewis (CEGSA), 1970s]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L87

### KARLIE-NGOINPOOL CAVE.

This karst feature is basically a single large collapse cavern accessed via a 3 metre diameter roof window, which contains a 'mountain' of rubbish and wire which has accumulated since European settlement in the region.

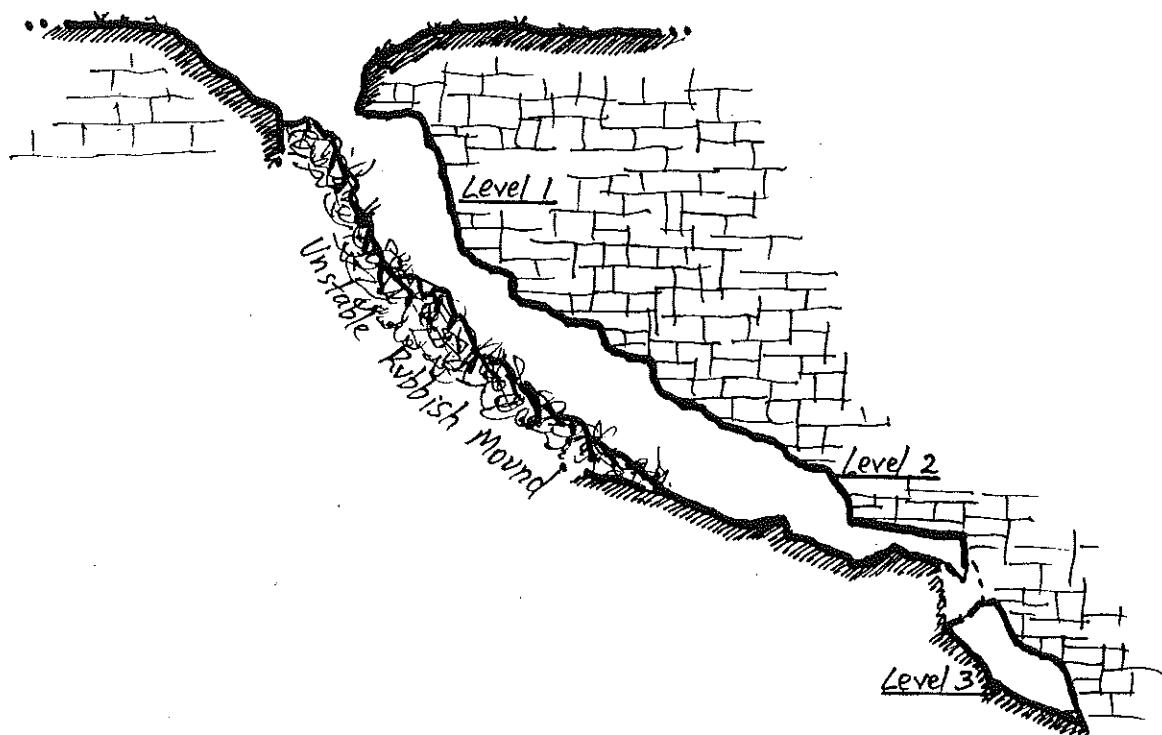
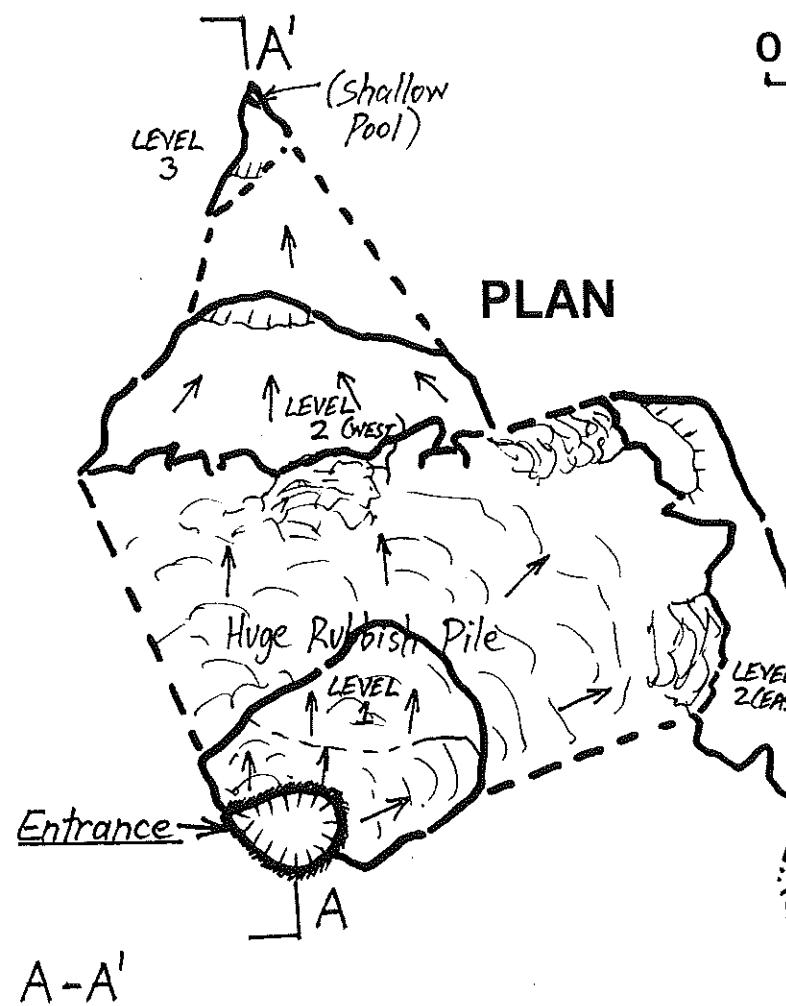
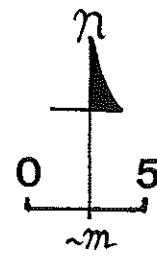
The entrance is undercut all around except on the southern side, where it is vertical. The cavern is about 35 metres across, 20 metres high and three-quarters full of rubbish, with several crawlways leading off between the boulders. The water-table is reached at a depth of about 33 metres below ground level, and the presence of calcite quite a few metres above the water level indicates that it was much higher fairly recently. The pools appear to constrict and do not seem to lead to any accessible underwater passages.

The cave first came to CEGSA's attention from well-known local diver Bob Pulford (recently deceased) via Trevor Bright and Fred W. Aslin in 1965, and bats were found in the cave in June of that year. The Australian Rock Art Research Association (AURA) also knows this cave as "Karlie-ngeinpool" (from the now-extinct Buandik Aboriginal words "kar-li-e-ngein-pool", meaning "many, plenty, numerous").



# KARLIE-NGOINPOOL CAVE

5L87



[Map ASF Grade 3 -  
R & E.Bednarik, 1984]

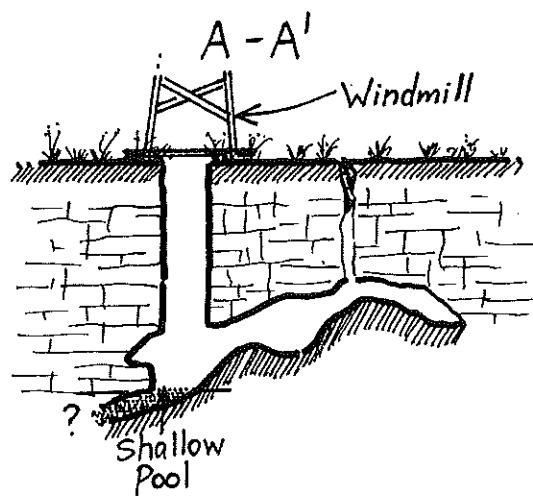
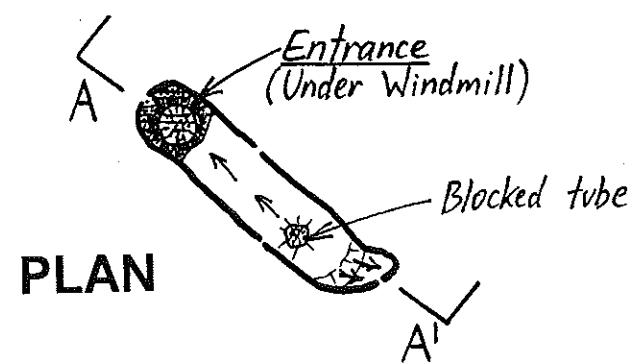
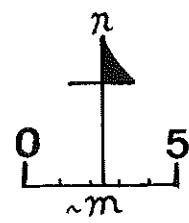
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L88

### (Unnamed Feature).

This small joint-controlled cave lies approximately 6 metres below ground level, under a windmill.

Access is possible via the one metre diameter windmill tube, and the 8 metre long cave appears to end in a dirt mound/collapse to the south-east of the entrance, although a dig might prove otherwise. The feature is only about a metre high and no more than 2 metres wide. It is also possible that the cave may continue to the north-west from the shallow pool under the windmill.

This feature was placed into CEGSA's Records by local caver/diver Peter Blackmore in April 1972.



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L89

## ECHO CAVE.

Named by cave divers Grant Pearce and Chris Murphy in August 1990 after the peculiar sound-effects which were observed there, Echo Cave has been known since at least June 1971, when a windmill serviceman from Glencoe provided local speleologist Fred W. Aslin with some preliminary information, some of which is reproduced here from his 1972 Trip Report:-

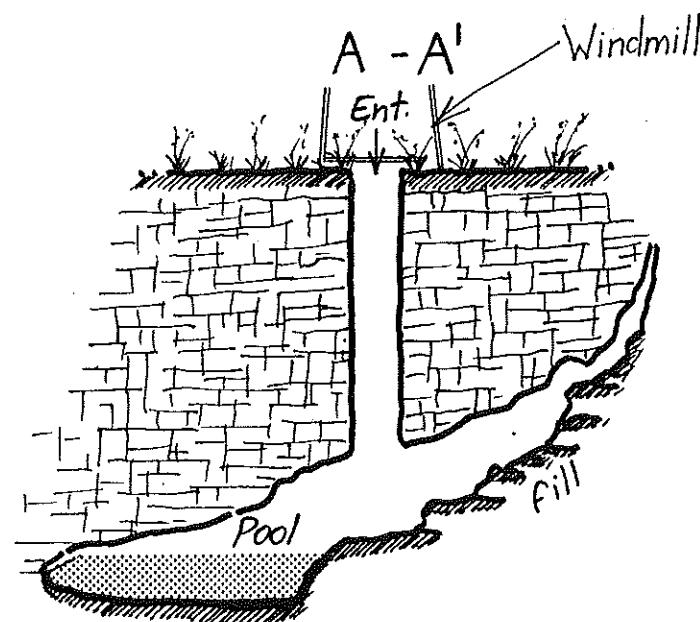
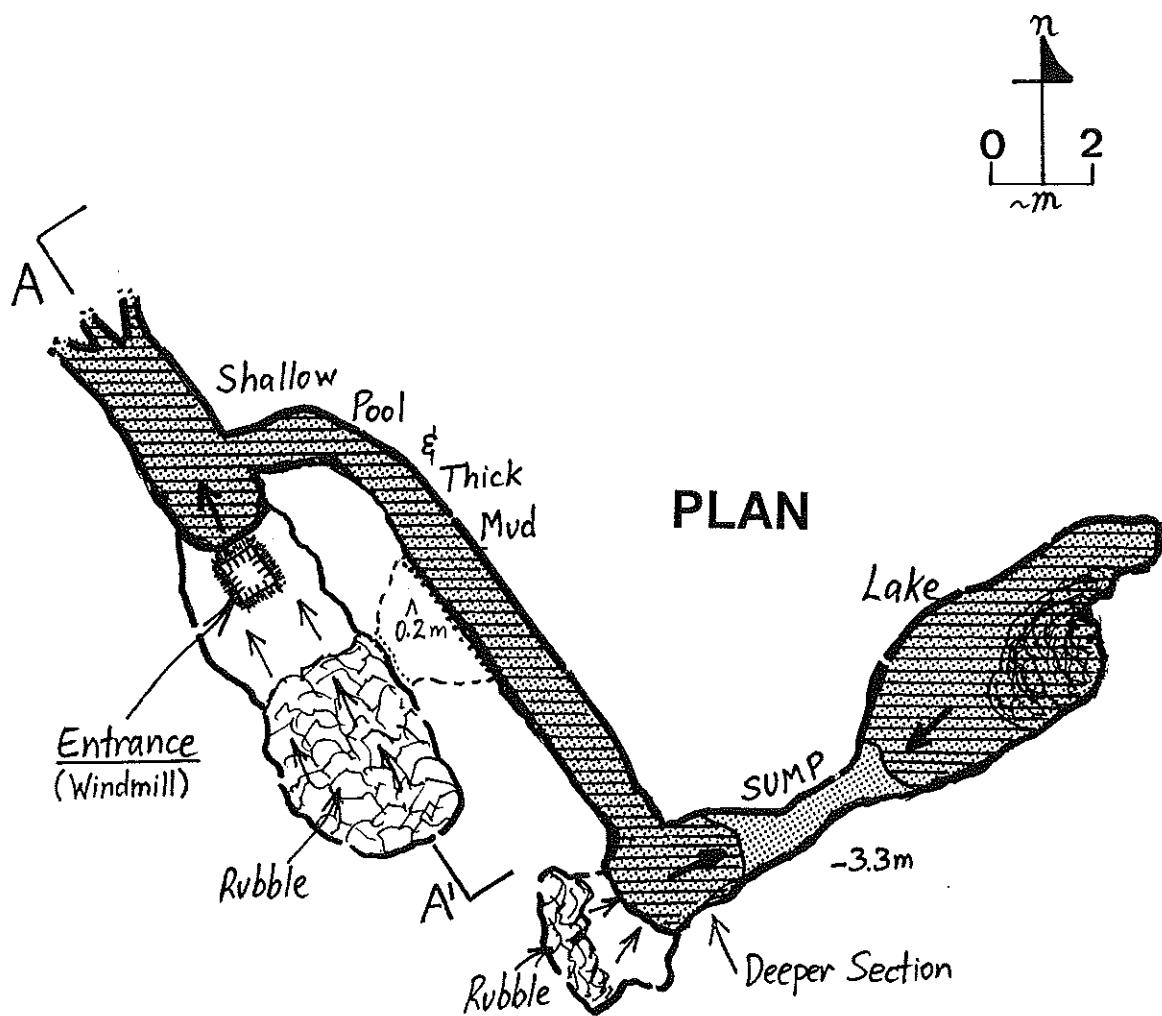
"The cave appears to have been found by well sinking but what natural feature there may have been on the site is not clear. The well measures 4 feet by 2 feet and is aligned with its major axis north-south. It is 28 feet 1 inch mean natural surface to water level" ...and ... "a 25 foot length of ladder and short sling are necessary. The small chamber, trending north-south, is dominated to the south by a near-45 degree rock and earth cone rising to at least 15 feet above water level, and to the north by water ... water commences immediately below the well and extends with an air surface for approximately 16 feet to the north. Beyond this, an underwater extension was noted ... A significant feature was the water flow from south-west to north-east at a surface velocity of 14 feet per minute (average) and volume of 0.8 cusecs. The water appears from the west margin of the rockpile and moves in the basic direction of the deep water, thus the velocity diminishes from approximately one foot per second ... to a few feet per minute where it goes beneath the northern wall."



Recent exploratory dives revealed that the northern lake passage quickly closed down underwater into three inaccessible fissures, while the main part of the cave was entered through a passage on the right (north-eastern) side about 3 metres from the entrance shaft. This passage arcs around to the south-east and takes the form of a muddy gravel 1.5 metres high and just one metre wide. A few metres along, voice contact can be made with others near the entry shaft although physical access is currently impossible. The passage continues for about 10 metres before turning hard left and sumping; a brief scuba dive showed that this was the deepest area in the cave (with a water depth of 3.3 metres), but it was extremely low and rose back to the surface again just 5m or so further along before ending in a small air pocket.

# ECHO CAVE

5L89



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L90

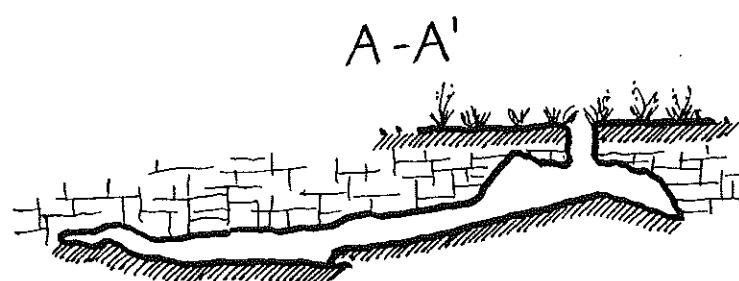
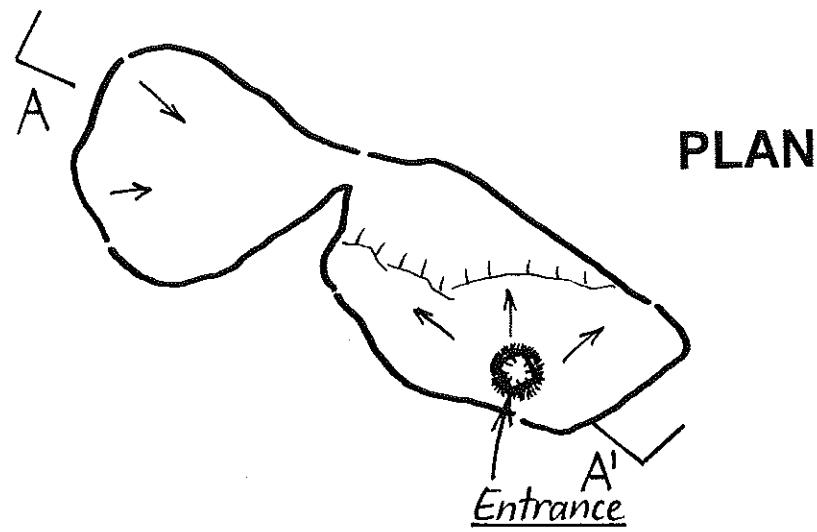
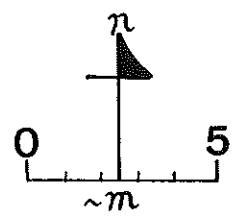
### (Unnamed Feature).

This is another small feature which evidently contains little of interest to recreational cavers.

The entrance is an uncomfortably-small half-metre square (dug) hole which drops 2 metres onto a rock and dirt pile which slopes down to the north, north-west and north-east. The cave has indefinite walls and generally runs north-west to south-east (as usual), and it basically takes the form of a 15 metre long cavity comprised of small, shallow collapse chambers with a maximum width of about 5 metres. The ceiling is generally low, and doesn't quite make 2 metres in places.

Very little additional information is available.

5L90



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: L91

### (Unnamed Feature).

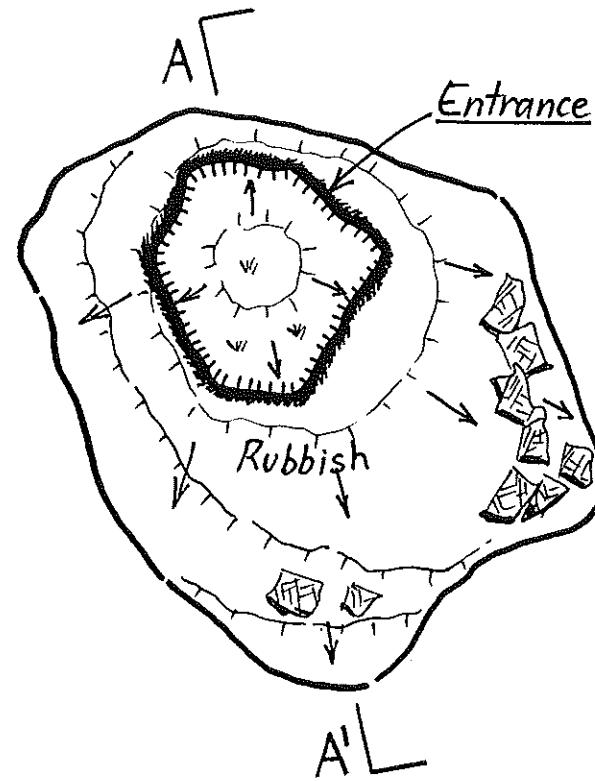
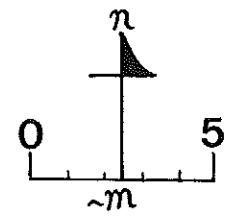
This feature has a 6 x 5 metre diameter roof window which leads to a single rubbish-filled collapse chamber some 12 metres across and around 9 metres deep. It first entered CEGSA's Records in April 1972, when caver Fred W. Aslin recorded the presence of a Bull Frog (*Lymnodynastes dorsalis*) at the feature's deepest point.

In a CEGSA Trip Report dated 16 April 1976, speleologist Kevin Mott reported that the cave "... was visited in Easter 1974 (by Gordon "Nimble" Ninnis) when, with the owner's permission, rubbish blocking the entrance was burnt out. Now there is little evidence to show that any burning took place. The owner has in fact taken advantage of the burn by depositing even more rubbish and cow carcasses into the cave..."!

The northern side of the cave was choked by the rubbish pile, which reached from the floor right to the natural surface at that time.

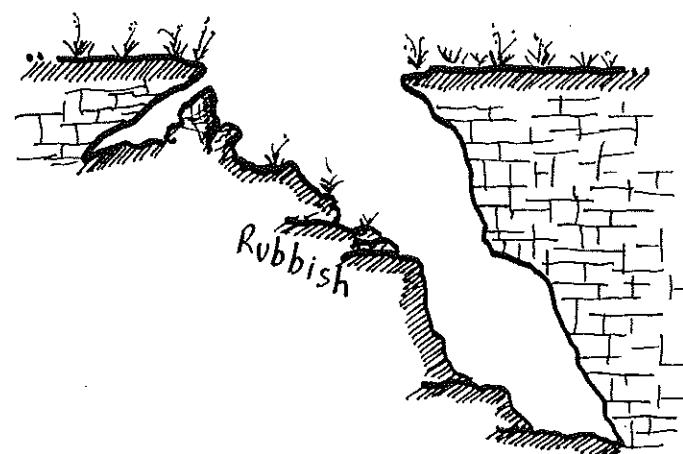
Very little additional information is available, and the present status of the feature is unknown.

5L91



PLAN

A - A'



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L92/93

## BALDS CAVE.

Named after the landowner of the property when it appeared in CEGSA's Records in July 1972, Balds Cave is a quite extensive low dune cave. The 5L92 entrance is on the extreme north-western edge of the cave system, while 5L93 takes the form of a tube entrance on the far eastern end about 70 metres away. Several other smaller entrances also exist.

The cave is relatively complex but the survey indicates that it appears to be mainly oriented in an east-west direction, being spread over an area of roughly 90 by 50 metres.

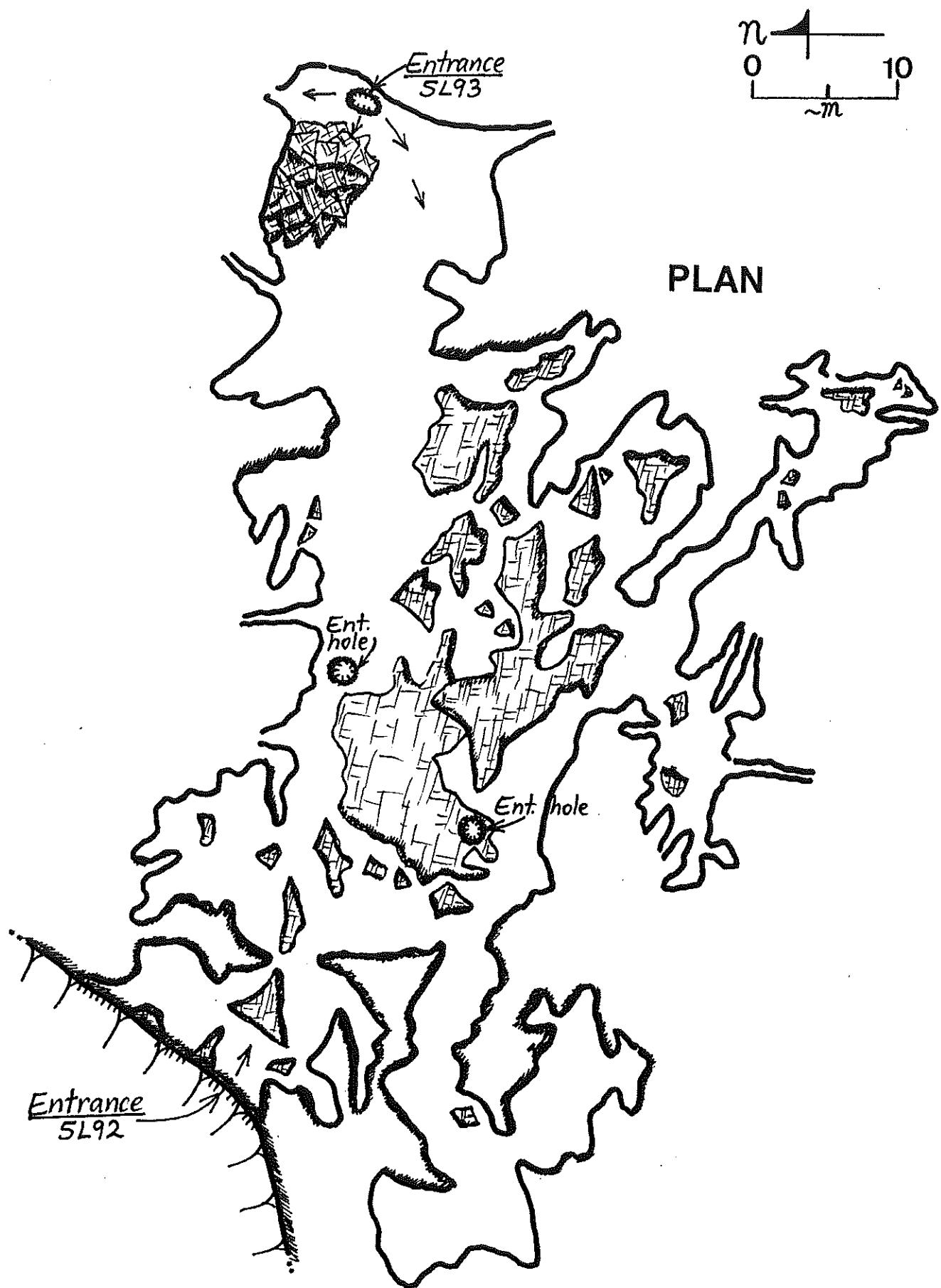
Information found in Records during the compilation of this book consisted only of some basic maps and some early survey notes. Very little additional information is currently available.



P. Horne

# BALDS CAVE

5L92/93



[Map ASF Grades 3-5,  
K.Mott (CEGSA), 1975]

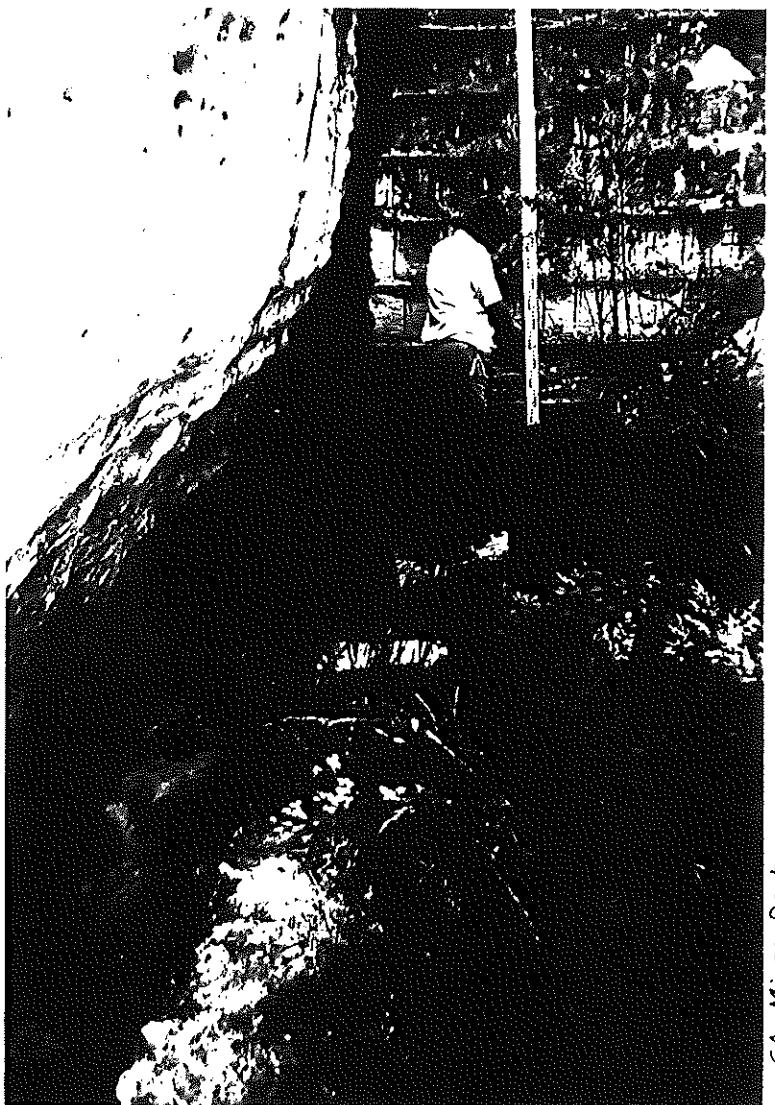
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L94

(Unnamed Feature).

This cave was discovered during quarrying operations when the ground collapsed. It was reportedly a north-west to south-east joint controlled fissure cave which had developed at the water table where it was about 5 metres wide.

The cave is (or was) in excess of 40 metres in known length, continuing to the north-west through 1-2 metre deep water. The south-eastern end was found to be choked off with collapse boulders.

No decoration was found in this cave, and the only reference to the feature in CEGSA's Records takes the form of a single Trip Report dated September 1965. Further information is required to find out whether local rumours of the feature's complete destruction by quarrying operations are correct.



SA Mines Dept.

5L94

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

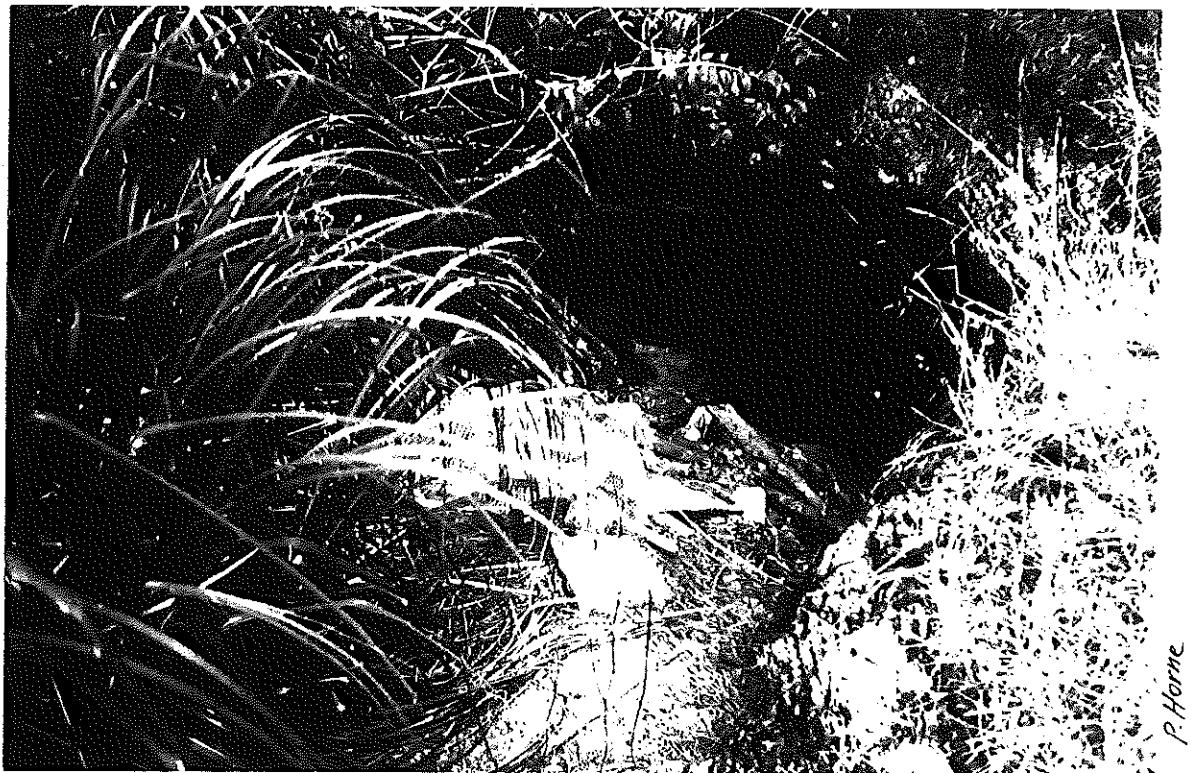
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L95

### (Unnamed Feature).

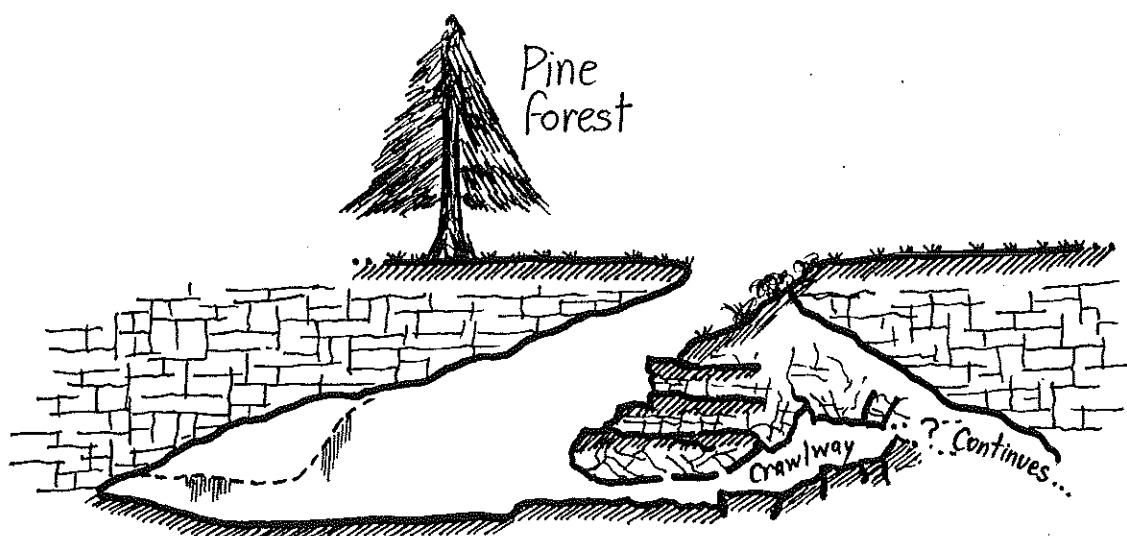
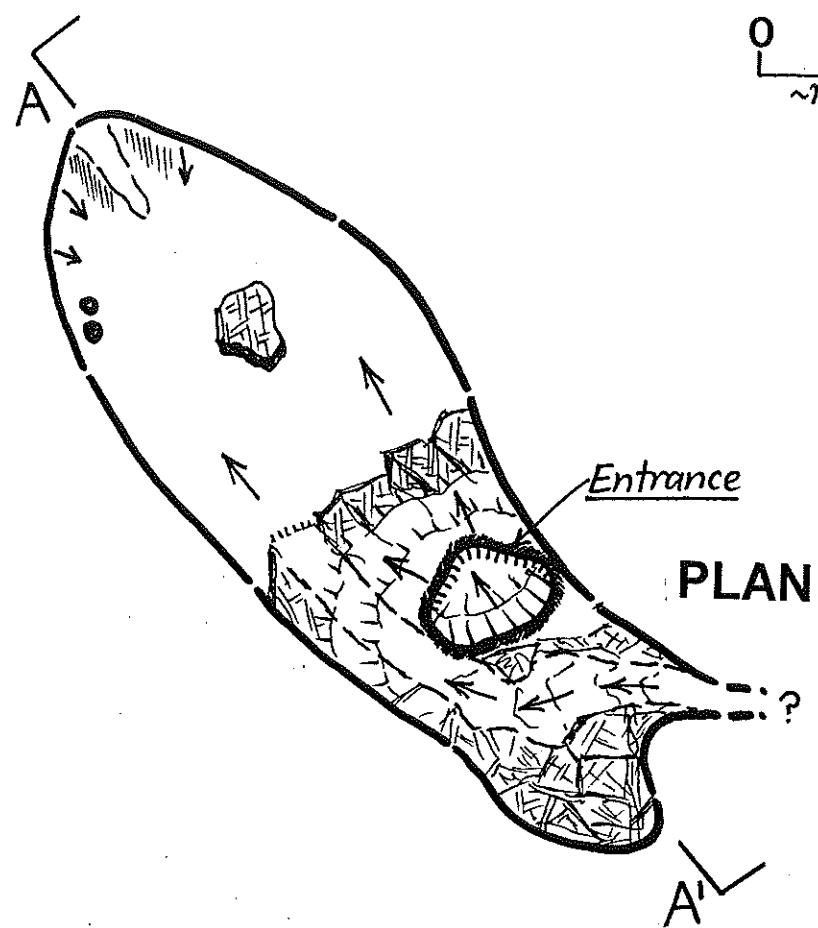
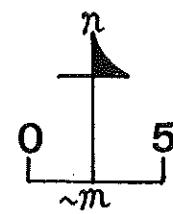
This cave is located conspicuously in a forest track, and its entrance takes the form of a 5 x 3 metre collapse which can be negotiated without any special gear from its north-western side.

The main chamber heads off to the north-west for about 20 metres, where it is about 5 metres high and 10 metres wide and terminates in an old flowstone terrace. By moving around to the left, or south-western side of the collapse mound, cavers can enter a crawlway through the rockpile which leads for about 10 metres more in a south-easterly direction. There is a possible lead at this point, but it would need the persistence of a small and very dedicated caver!

Reference to this cave first appeared in CEGSA's Records in the form of a Trip Report dated 20 October 1965.



5L95



[Map ASF Grade 3, Heyne & Aslin (CEGSA), 1965]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L96

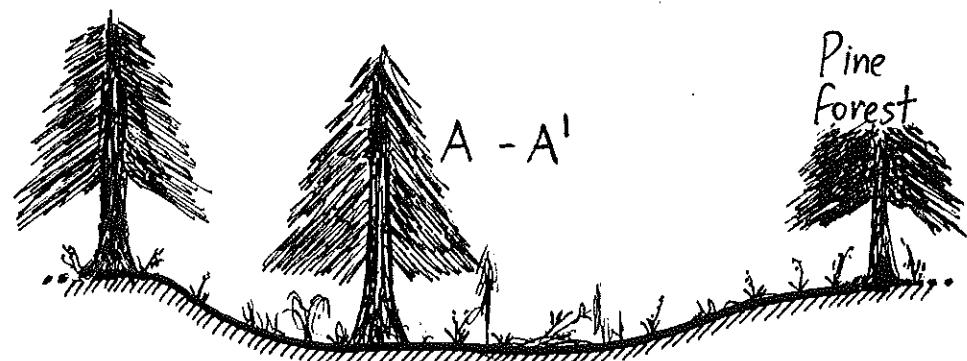
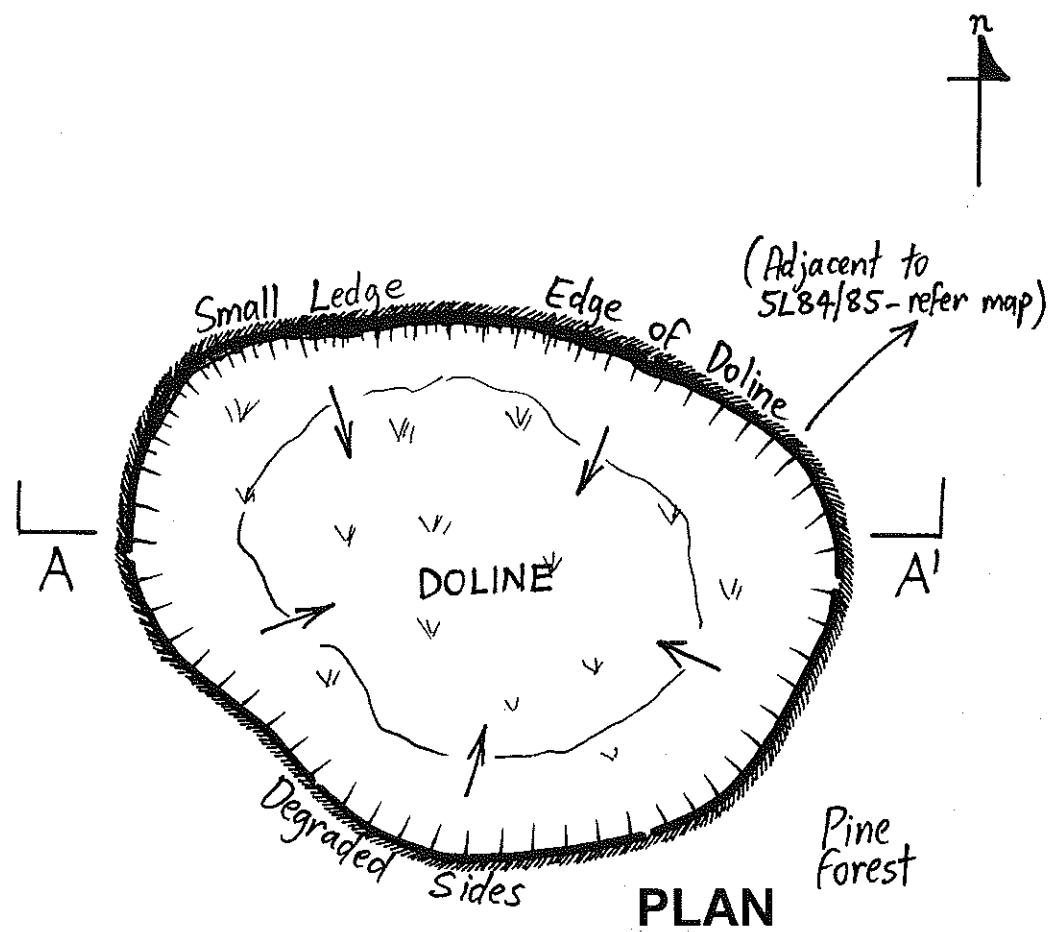
(Unnamed Feature).

This collapse doline lies adjacent to 5L84/85, and takes the form of a simple shallow collapse with indistinct edges (apart from a 1.5m high drop-in ledge around its northern side) and no obvious entrances to the cave underneath.

An underground survey from 5L84/85 indicates that this doline is in line with possible unexplored cave passages, and minor underwater excavation work is currently being carried out as opportunities arise.



5L96



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L97

**MUD HOLE** (Elaines; Wire Cave; Cricket Pitch; Football Field; Daves Hole; Sloth Hole/Cave; The Hole Behind Pines; Alleyns Big Hole).

The CEGSA number 5L97 was originally allocated to a large oval sinkhole with dimensions of about 30 x 25 metres and some 5m deep, which has a flat floor containing a lot of cutting grasses and other swamp plants (unfortunately including the stinging nettle *Urtica incisa*).

In his CEGSA Trip Report dated 28 June 1965, Fred W. Aslin mentioned that "water is accessible in the north-western end and shows promise of going to some considerable depth", and this suspicion was confirmed when cave divers followed a flooded passage into a low silty chamber which pinched off 17 metres below the surface.

Although divers had visited the then-unnamed cave in the mid-1960s, the general cave diving fraternity, keen to find exciting "new" sites, only began to hear of the feature in the early 1980s, when it was called "Elaines". (This name seems to have been brought into being through a mistake, when someone confused the sinkhole with another feature nearby, 5L84/85 (Alleyns Cave), because the pronunciation for Alleyn - according to Mr. Alleyn, who used to live nearby - sounds like **Al-Lain**.) Because 5L84/85 was identified as Alleyns Cave on fire-control maps, and to avoid further confusion and possible delays in the event of an emergency, 5L97 was renamed "Mud Hole" by the CDAA in the mid 1980s after discussion with the Woods and Forests Department.

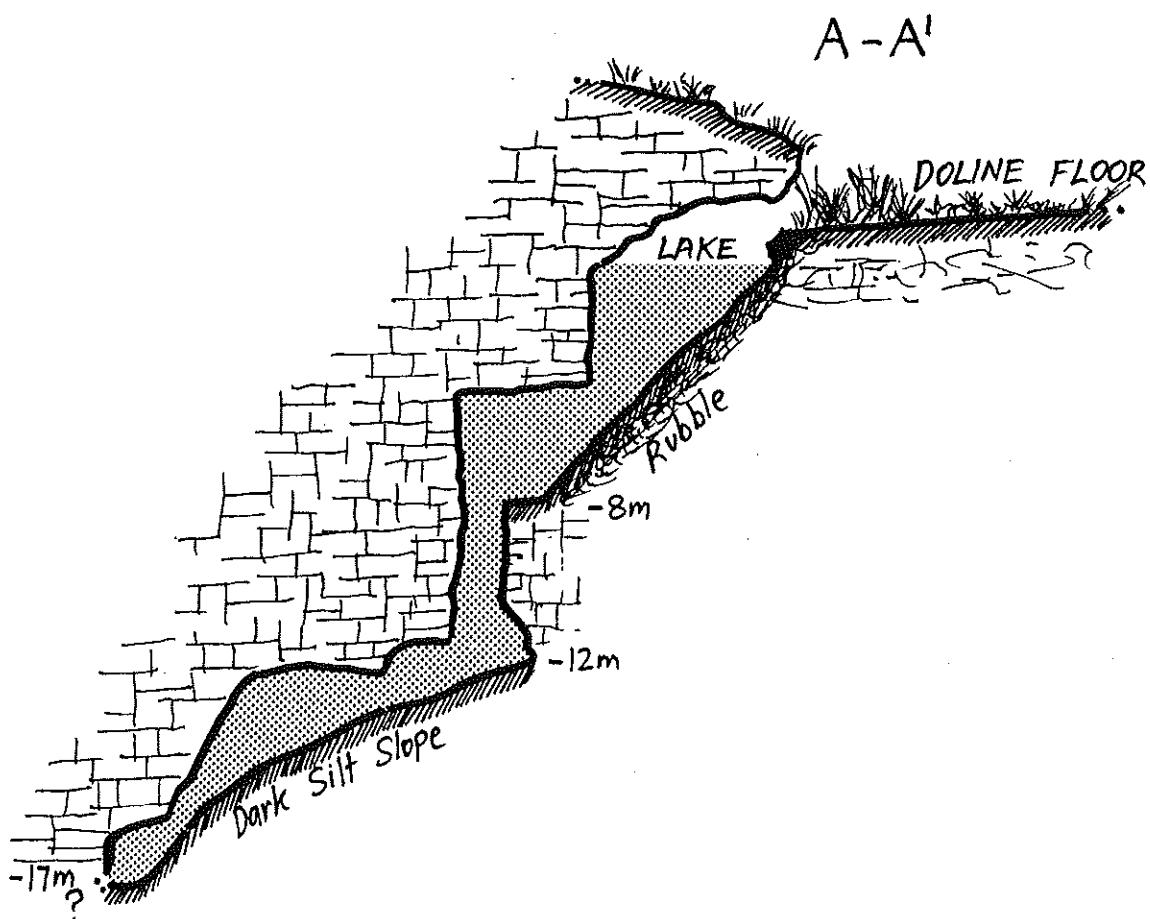
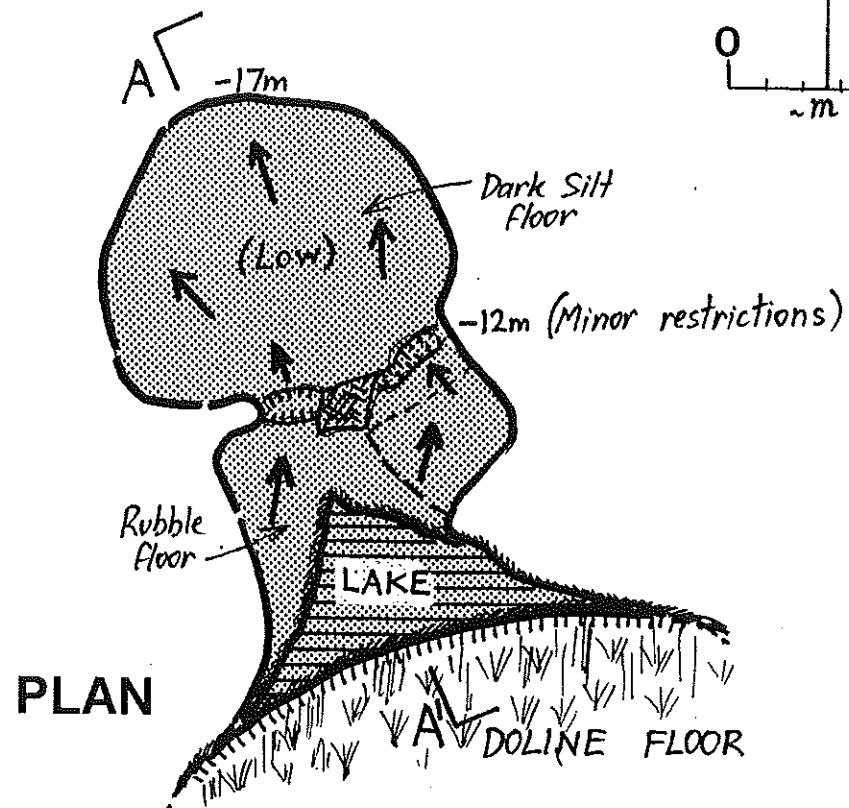
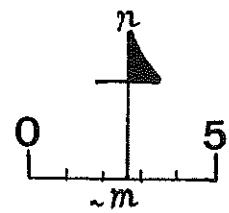


In 1990, Adelaide divers Grant Pearce and Chris Murphy dug out a mass of loose rubble fill at the south-eastern end of the doline and reached the water table, subsequently discovering the much larger waterfilled Nettle-Bed Cave, which was given a completely different number (5L290) to prevent it from being confused with Mud Hole.

The water is constantly shaded and subsequently usually very clear, and cave-adapted crustacea have been observed here. Nevertheless, it is far from an exciting dive and really only entices divers who are getting desperate!

# MUD HOLE

5L97



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L98

### (Unnamed Feature).

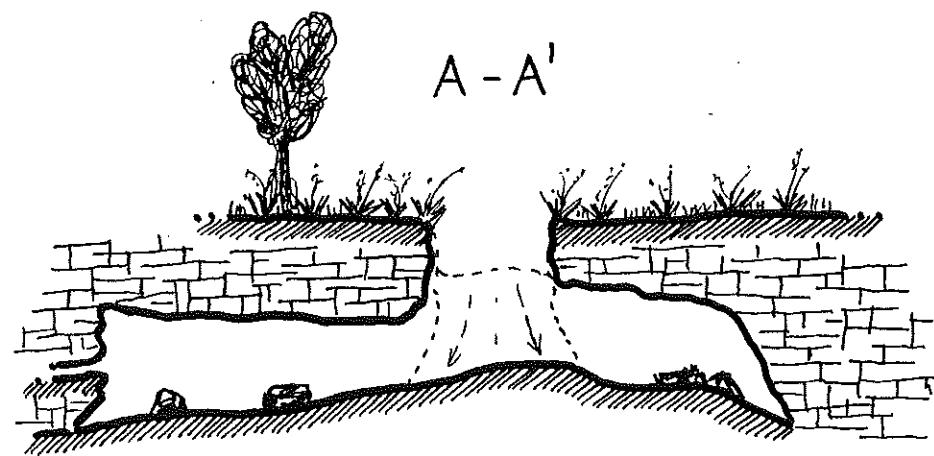
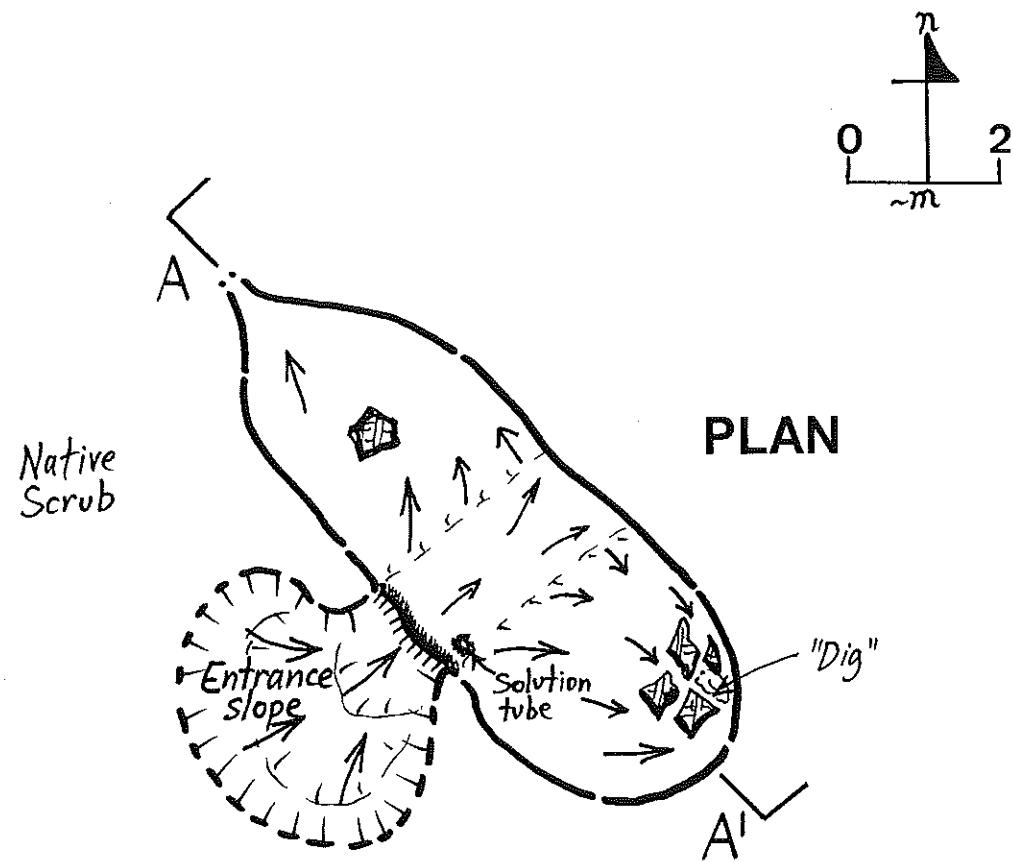
This feature is extremely small and uninteresting ... it consists simply of a single chamber about 9 metres long and 4 metres across, and it is only about a metre high (with some slightly higher areas). And, like the vast majority of joint-controlled cave systems in this region, it is oriented north-west to south-east.

No special gear is needed; access is readily attained via a short walkdown slope which leads to the metre-high entrance.

A CEGSA Trip Report dated 6 November 1965 identified a Mount Schank gentleman as being CEGSA's information source, and there was mention of a horse skeleton on the floor and roots hanging from the ceiling.

Evidence of a minor "dig" was seen in the south-eastern corner of the cave when the author visited the feature in January 1983, and a massive horde of mosquitos was also evident on that occasion, so visitors would be well-advised not to linger!





## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L99

(Unnamed Feature).

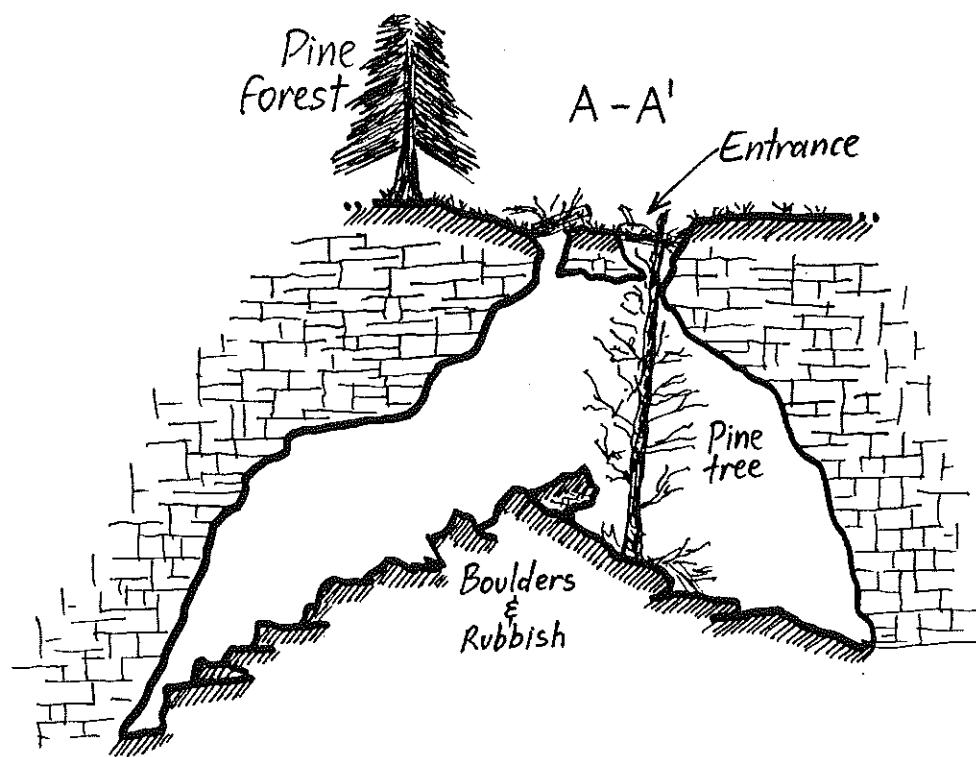
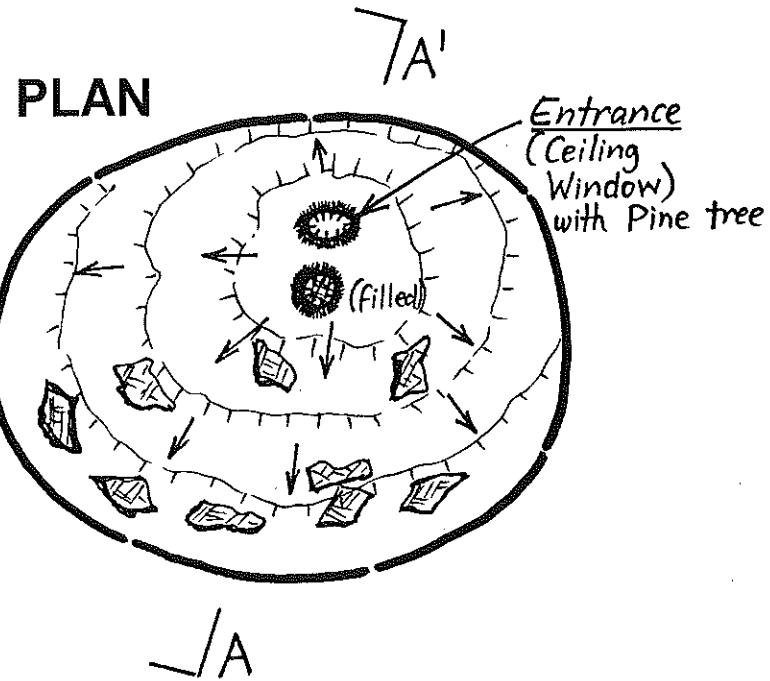
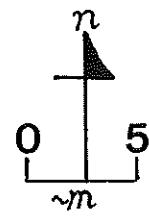
This feature is basically a single large (approximately 20 metre diameter) almost circular chamber somewhat reminiscent of 5L13 – The Three Sisters – because it is accessed via roof window entrances which are some 10m above the cave floor.

The cave first came to CEGSA's attention in mid-1965, when the then Head Forester of Tantanoola Forest, Mr. Geoff Brown, drove several members to the site. It evidently was originally a 6-metre diameter depression some 2 metres deep, but scrub-clearing operations prior to pine planting a short time previously resulted in numerous large gum logs being bulldozed into it.

The cave has only a couple of minor areas of decoration, but it may have quite a lot of useful palaeontological value, and visitors should be careful about where they put their feet.



P.Thann



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L100

## MAXS HOLE.

Named by divers after a previous landowner, Mr. Max Heininger, Max's Hole (or Max's "R" Hole as it was sometimes known to cruder members of the cave diving fraternity!) is a single chamber which is accessed via two roof window entrances which lie underneath a windmill.

Appearing for the first time in CEGSA's Records as "Unnamed Cave S155" in February 1966, Max's Hole was described by Trevor Bright as "... two holes each 10 feet across, separated by a rock bridge 3 feet 6 inches wide by 2 feet thick..." and "... surrounded by the remains of a windmill and fence. The holes merge to form a 12 foot diam. shaft with 53 feet free-fall to the floor of the cave".

The original cased bore was reportedly sunk many years prior to 1966 by Mr. Jack Clarke of Mount Schank, who was an earlier landowner.

The access shaft narrows a little about halfway down, forming something like an hourglass-shaped rim, before opening up into a chamber roughly 12 metres across. Descending cavers land on the top of a steep dirtpile, which then leads down to two pools of deep water somewhere around the eastern and north-eastern sides.

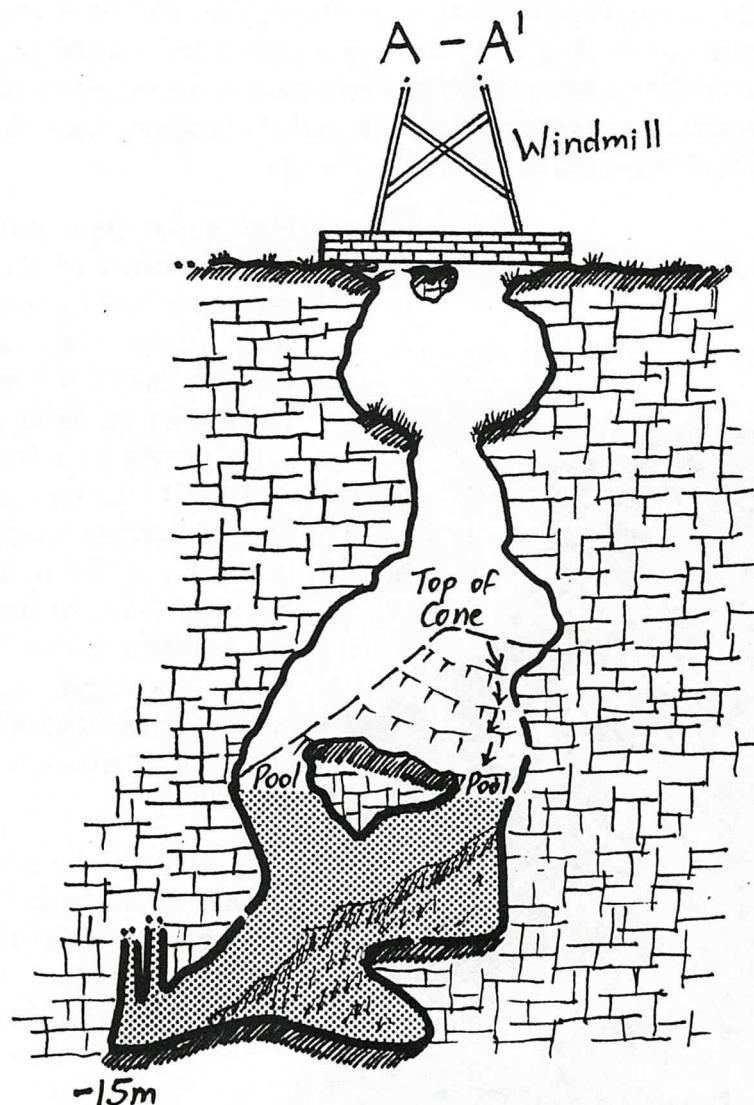
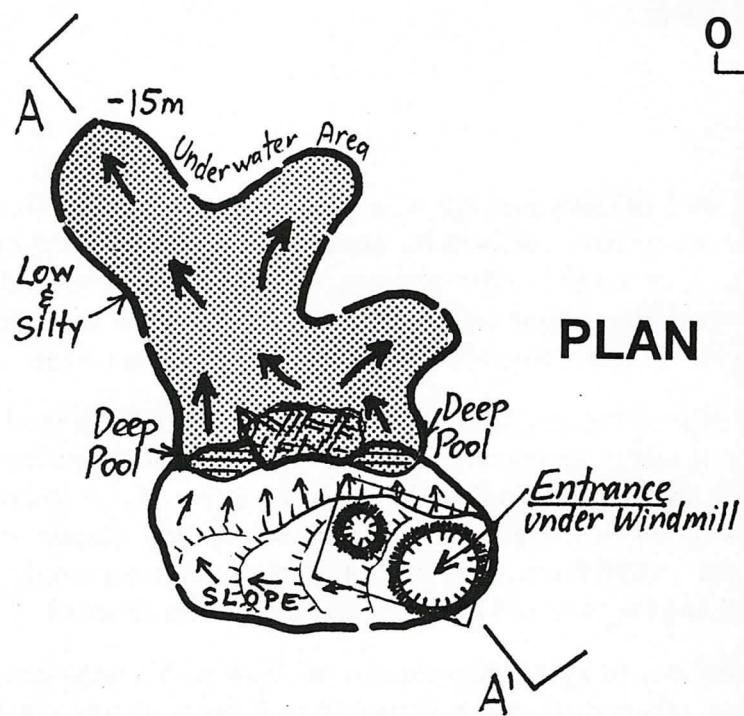
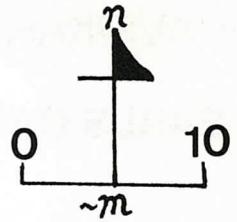
The date of the earliest underwater exploration in Maxs Hole is not recorded, but it had at least been assessed by 1979 because reference to its small, silty structure was made in Lewis and Stace's "Cave Diving in Australia" (1980). A further check by the author in July 1984 found an easily-attained maximum depth of just 15 metres less than 20 metres (guide-line distance) from the entrance pools (which immediately led to the same flooded passage/chamber).

The submerged walls and ceiling consisted of very soft, spongy limestone which crumbled constantly under the impact of exhaust bubbles, quickly reducing visibility to less than one metre (and therefore making the dive unsuitable for two or more divers at a time).

The cave does not seem to have much potential for new exploration and has limited recreational cave diving value due to its size and silty conditions.

# MAXS HOLE

5L100



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L101

## EARLS CAVE.

First appearing in CEGSA's Records in a report written by Fred W. Aslin in May 1967, Earl's Cave was believed to have received its name from a previous land-owner ("Earl" is a common name in this area) or possibly after a ranger who reportedly impounded some stock, prompting the owner to steal his waggon and team and run them into this small cave (where they were "never seen again" ... also a common saying about caves in this area).

By local cave or sinkhole standards, this feature is a heavily polluted and insignificant object of curiosity today. It was evidently once a popular and quite pretty swimming hole containing crystal clear water, but after a great bushfire in the Kongorong area in January 1959, the cave – along with numerous others in this area – was used as a natural carcass dumping ground. Anywhere between 100 and 10,000 burnt sheep and other stock were reportedly dropped into the entrance lake, virtually filling the cave and turning it into a festering cesspool.

Earls Cave today is a 10 by 5 metre collapse window with a large undercut all around except for the western side, where a steep grass-covered wall drops almost vertically for some 5 metres or so to the water. The lake is something like 15 by 10 metres in size, and the maximum underwater depth recorded (by the author in August 1980) was around 12m, on the south-eastern end. Although the underwater visibility was something like a poor 4 metres or so (with a greenish-orange hue), this is a remarkable improvement over its earlier condition, when the water beneath the masses of floating rubbish appeared as a thick green soup!

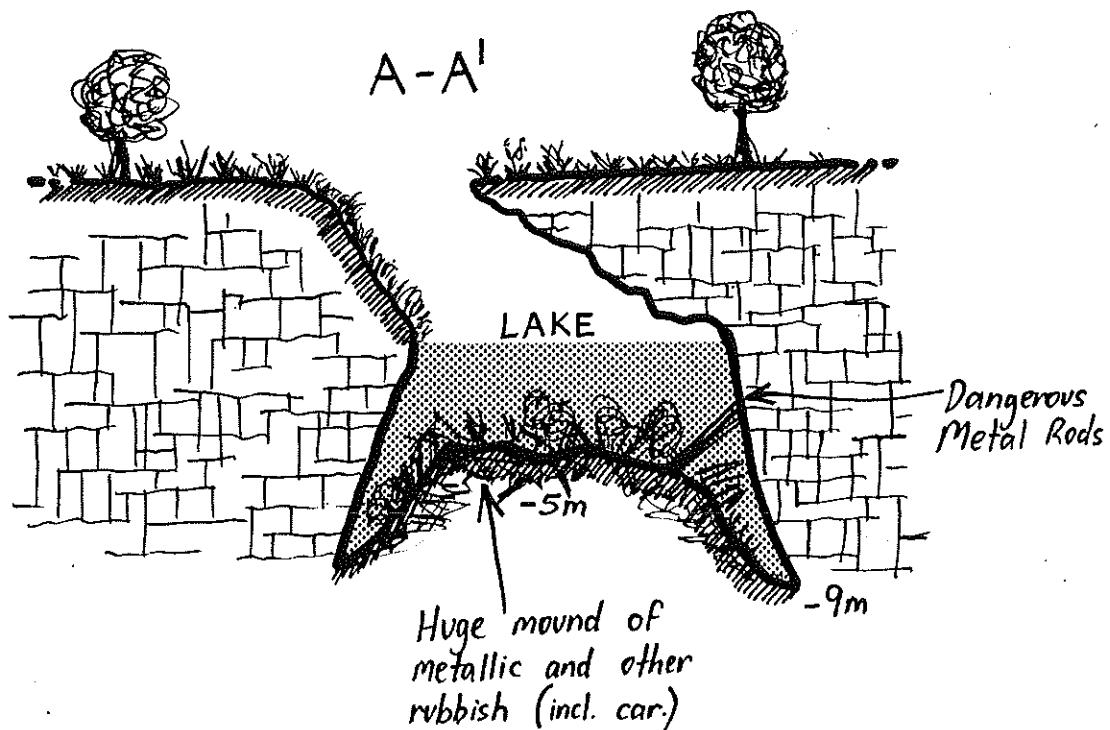
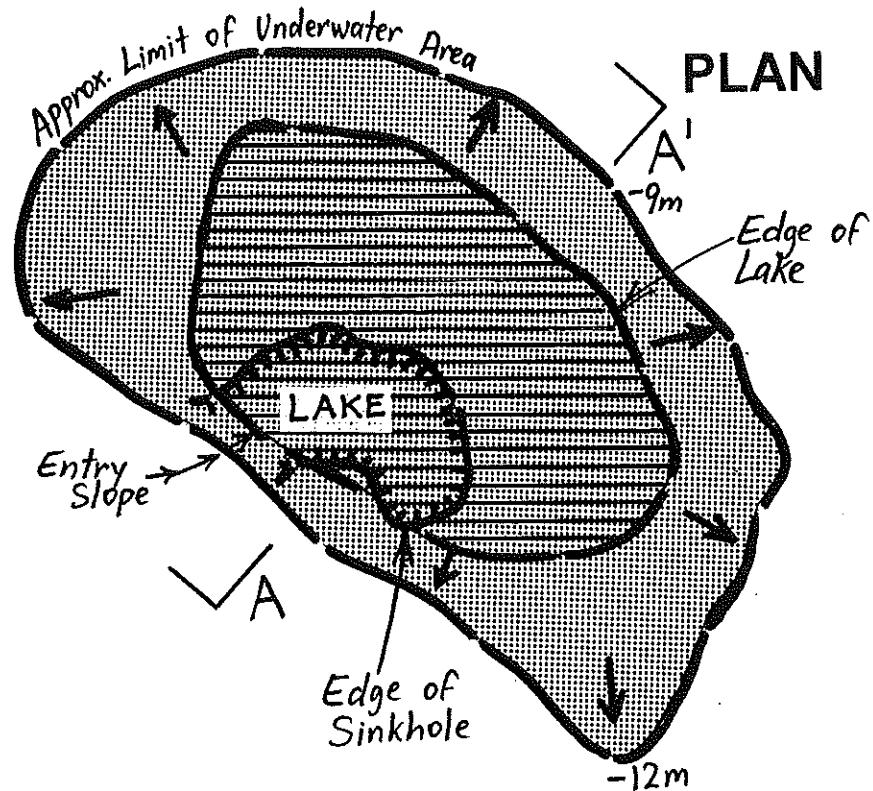
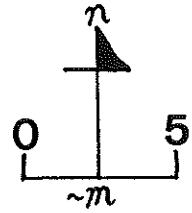


Had it not been for the efforts of representatives of the local Council and other conservation-minded persons (under the coordination of CEGSA members Fred W. Aslin and Ian Lewis) to clean out some 8-10 cubic metres of rubbish on October 30th 1971, the cave might very well have completely disappeared by now. It is still quite full of hazardous debris including sheets of rusting steel and a car, and the walls are liberally covered with a thick layer of orrible orange scunge which looks something like the cakey bit in the dessert known as a "trifle"!

This sinkhole is still a potentially serious health-hazard and comprehensive bacteriological tests should be carried out before any underwater explorers get wet here.

# EARLS CAVE

5L101



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L102

## (Unnamed Feature).

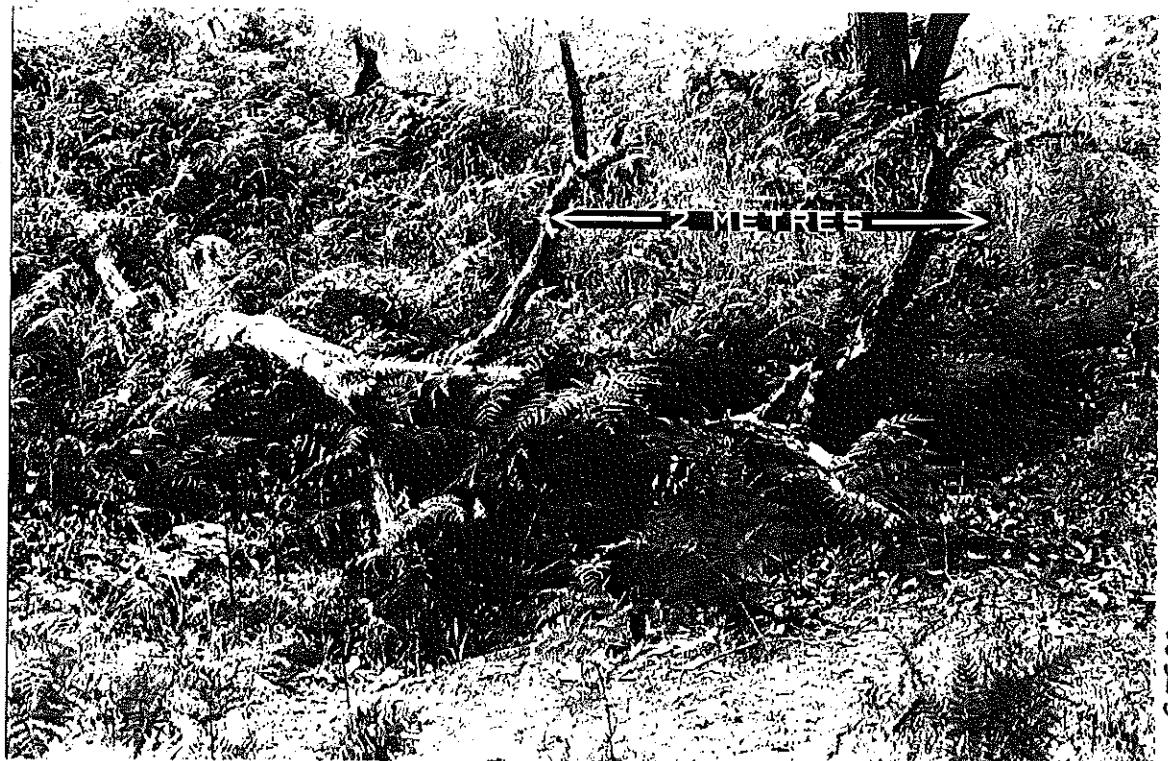
This small cave is one of the many "lost" features which have been filled and/or covered during the past 20 years or so.

The only known reference to the cave in CEGSA's Records took the form of a single trip report dated 3rd June 1967, when local Mount Gambier speleologist Fred W. Aslin reported that "... the entrance tube first collapsed approx. 9 months ago, presumably during bulldozing and clearing of the adjacent section line" and "...there appears to be evidence of a 20 foot diameter by 2-3 feet deep depression which is much older than twelve months". He also explained that the son of an adjacent landowner had mentioned it to local divers Bob Pulford and Gordon McKenzie in late May 1967, and these fellows then passed the information on.

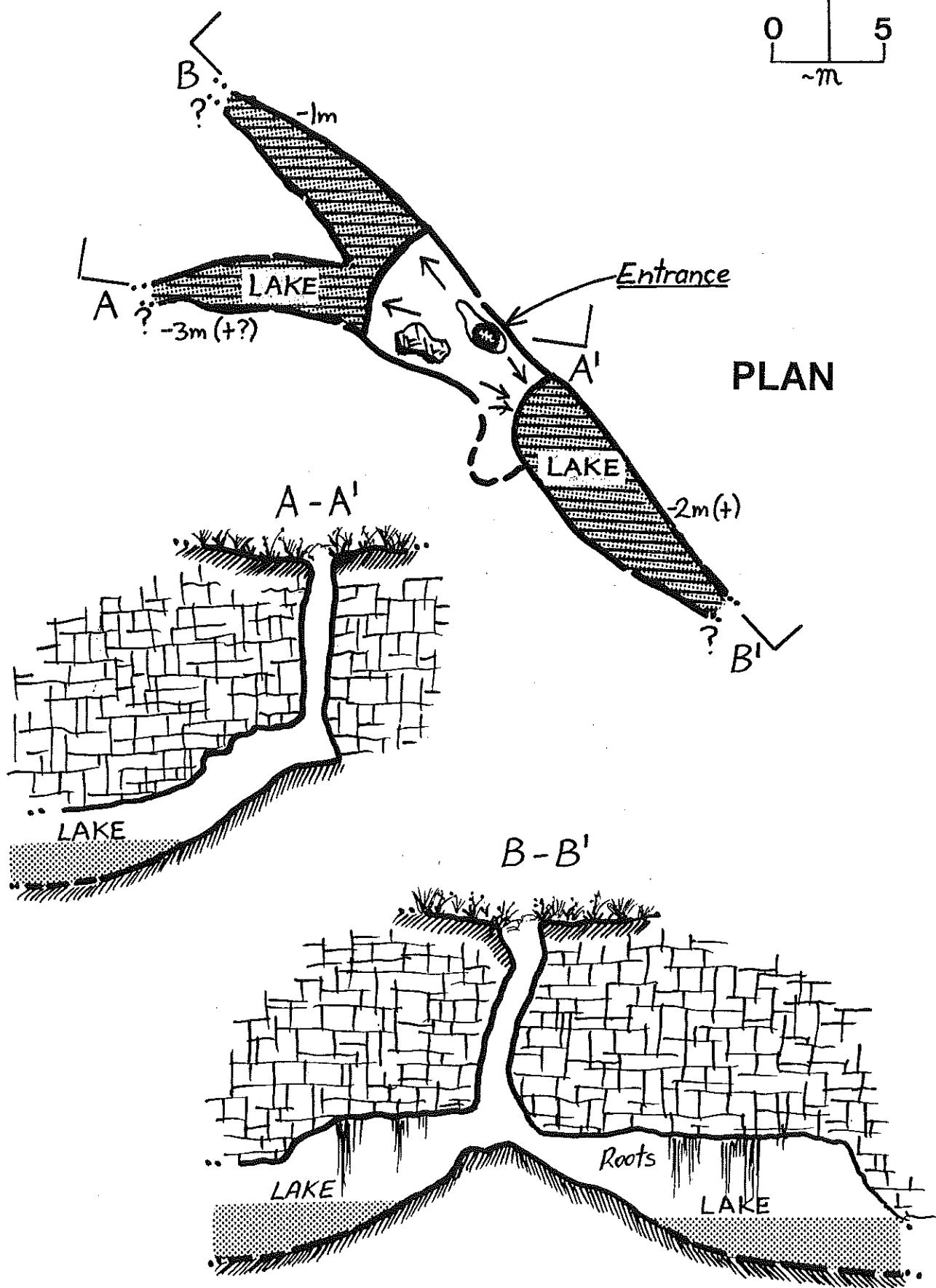
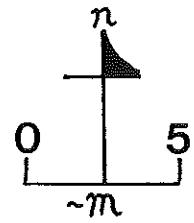
Access to the cave was made possible via a sandy, somewhat irregular tube about 10 metres deep and 0.75m in diameter, constricting to just 0.4m across near the bottom. The cave itself was described as being a joint enlargement with a total estimated length of around 40m and an average width of about 3 metres, with some minor flatteners and several pools.

Although the northern and south-eastern pools appeared to be shallow with little underwater potential, the western elongated pool seemed to be about a metre deep 3 metres from the edge, before dropping sharply to depths which could not be plumbed by torchlight.

It is currently impossible to gain access to this cave.



5L102



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L103

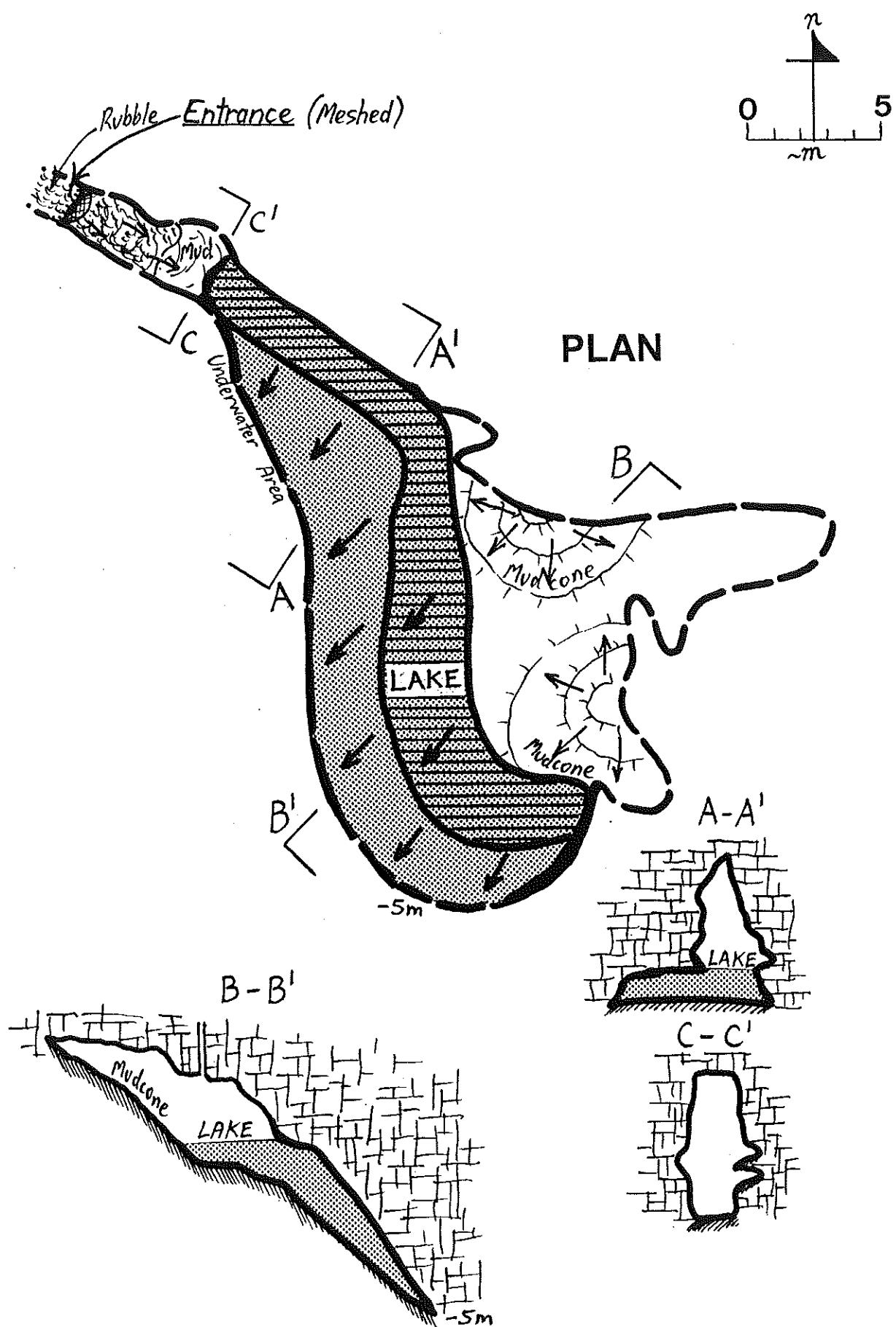
### (Unnamed Feature).

Partially filled with rubble by the landowner prior to his mentioning it to a CEGSA representative in 1965, this "wet" cave takes the form of a narrow, low passage which runs south-east from a 1.5 metre wide duck-under entrance.

After clambering down the rubble slope, visitors find themselves wading through one metre deep water for about 6 metres where they then enter an irregular chamber roughly 10m long by 3m wide and 2m high. Several mud-cones and low flattener areas lie on the north-eastern side of this chamber, above water level, and the water takes the form of a crescent-like lake around the south-western side, deepening to about 5 metres at the bottom of a very narrow muddy slope (confirmed by the author in July 1984). There is also a bore-hole near the extreme south-eastern end of this chamber, above a small dirt-cone.

The cave does not appear to have any significant potential to lead into unexplored regions at this time.

5L103



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 4, Aslin & Staniforth, 1966;  
underwater area: ASF Grade 1  
memory sketch, P.Horne, 1984]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L104

### BLACKMORE'S SINKHOLE.

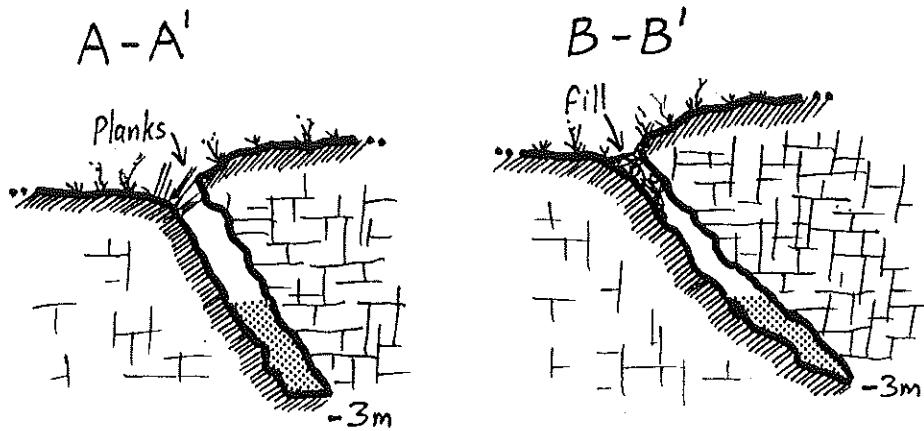
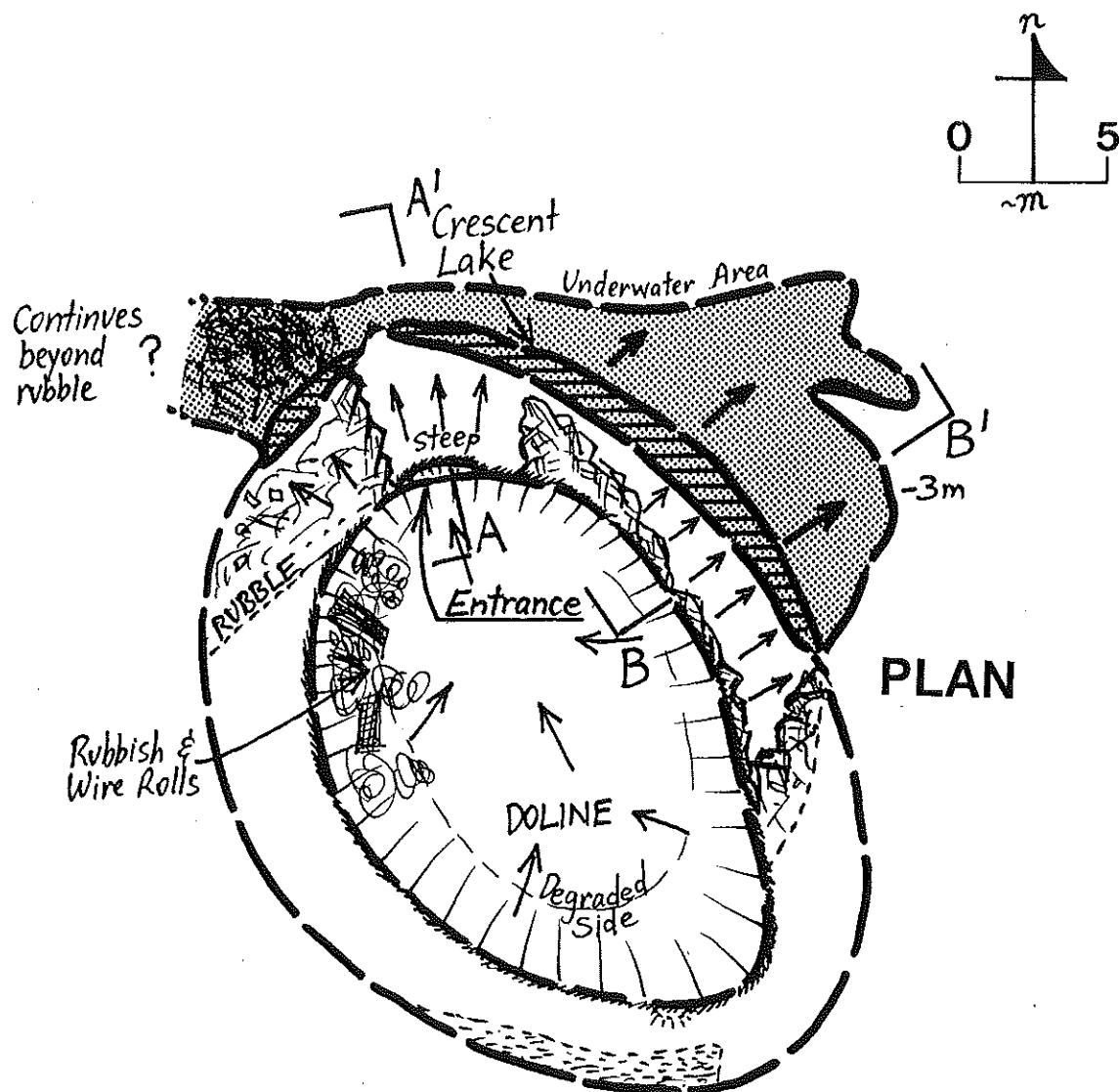
This feature takes the form of a sinkhole roughly 30 by 25 metres across and 4m deep with degraded sides, lying just a few metres to the south of Highway One, in private property. It contains a bit of rubbish and some planks around the northern edge, where a careful descent of a narrow, near-vertical crevice can be made to the water-table some 6 metres below.

An exploratory dive by the author in March 1986 revealed that the presently-accessible areas of the dark zone in this feature consist of a narrow strip of water with a slightly undercut area arcing around the edge of the collapse from roughly north to east (i.e., roughly a quarter of the way around). The southern-most area ended in a definitive wall/floor interface where the remains of a carbide lamp (lost by an earlier caver in early 1966) were encountered in 3m of water in a low chamber, and the northern extent of the cave was found to consist of a very nasty, unstable rubble and rubbish slope beyond which one could see that the cave probably continued under the road. (Indeed, in line with this, the highway has been reinforced after having sunk at some stage!).



CEGSA's first (and only) Trip Report regarding this feature was dated August 1967.

5L104



[Combined map - surface: Map ASF Grade 4, CEGSA, 1966-67; underwater area: ASF Grade 2, P.Horne, 1986]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L105

### (Unnamed Feature).

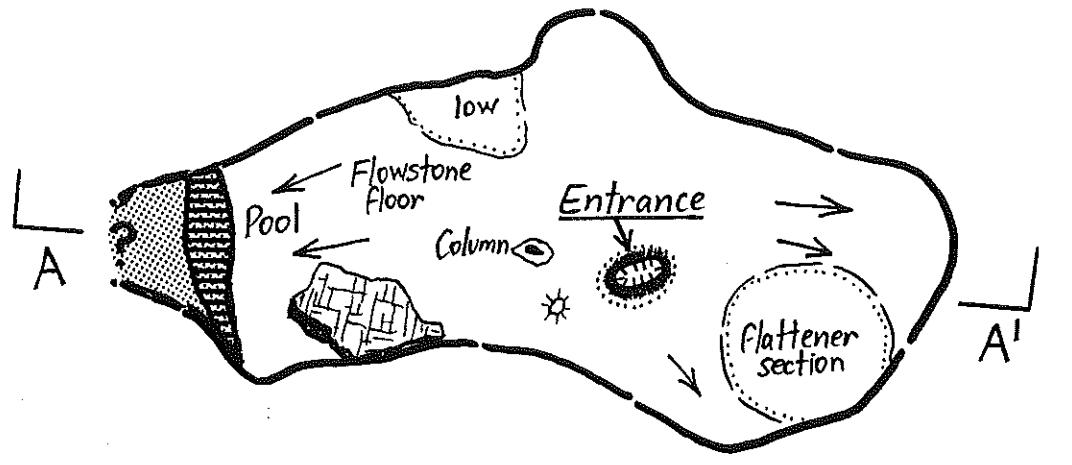
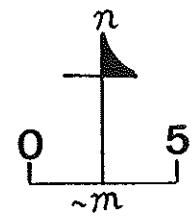
Another of CEGSA's "disappearing" caves, this small feature apparently first came to the attention of Mount Gambier caver Fred W. Aslin early in 1967, and the first exploration took place on 23rd April of that year.

The cave had several roof windows but the main accessible entrance was about a metre across about halfway along the main chamber, which was in the order of 20 metres north-west to south-east and 10m across. Access was easy, being only 2m from the surface to the top to the mound below, and the cave was on average about one metre high.

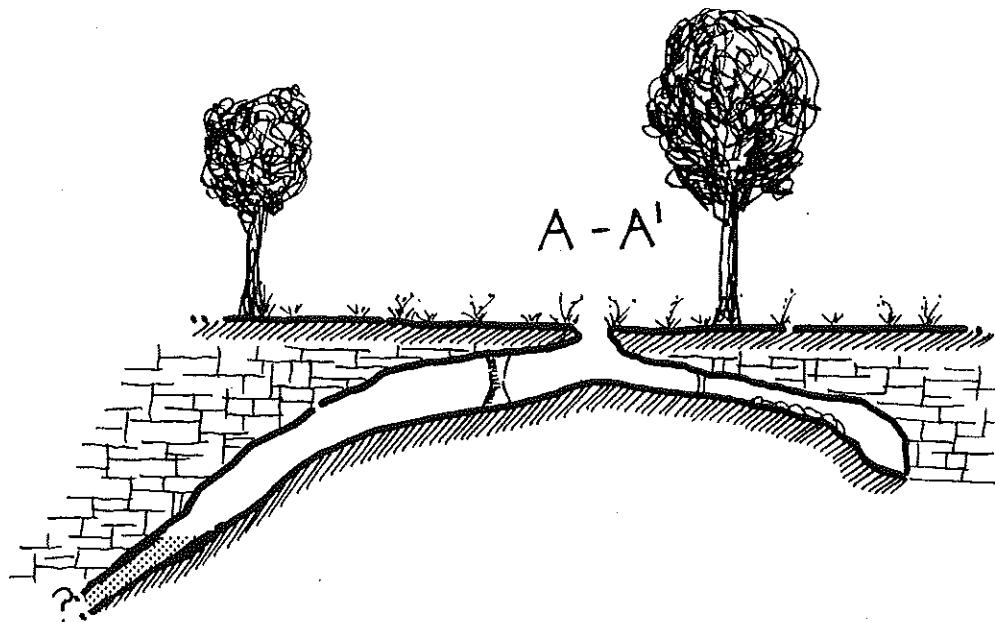
The water-table was exposed about 6m below the top of the mound on the western side of the chamber, and took the form of a crescent about 4m long by one metre wide. The water was very clear and the floor appeared to slope down to deeper areas, out of sight under the wall. The cave, unusually for this region, also contained some decoration including a broken column and flow-stone.

This cave was apparently sealed and/or filled sometime around 1970 or thereabouts, and extensive searches by the author and others during the early 1980s failed to relocate it.

5L105



PLAN



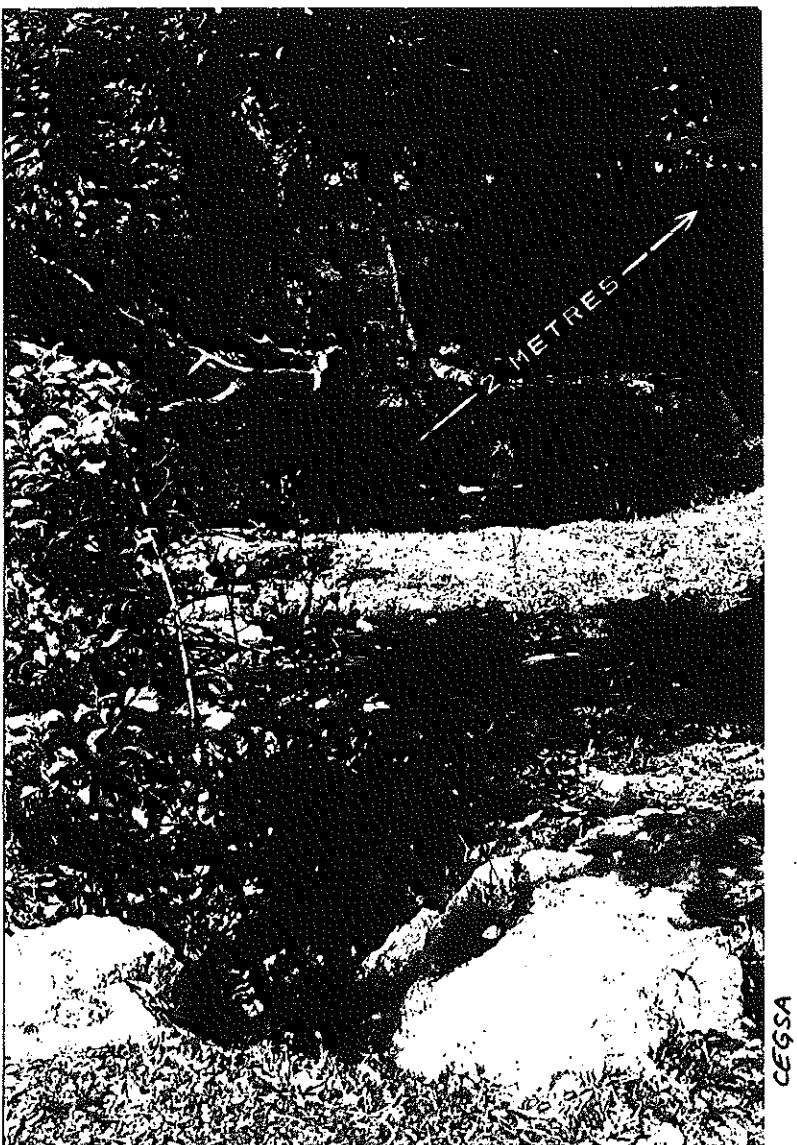
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L106

(Unnamed Feature - sometimes known as "S-161").

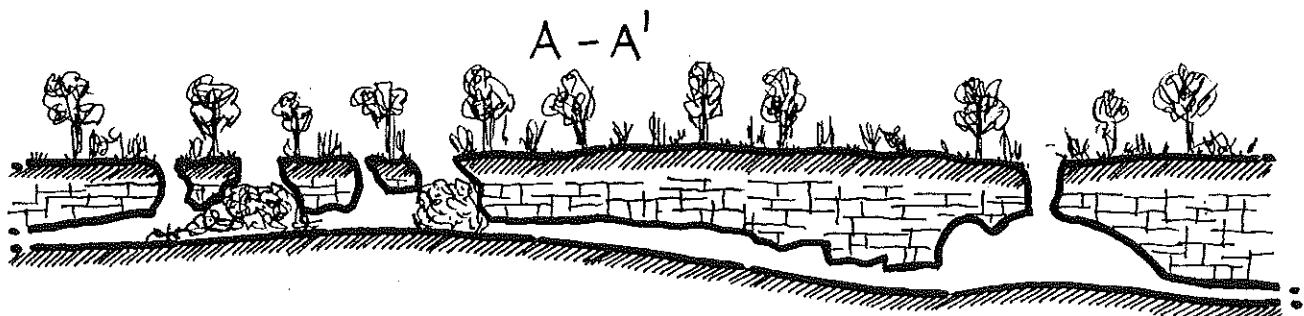
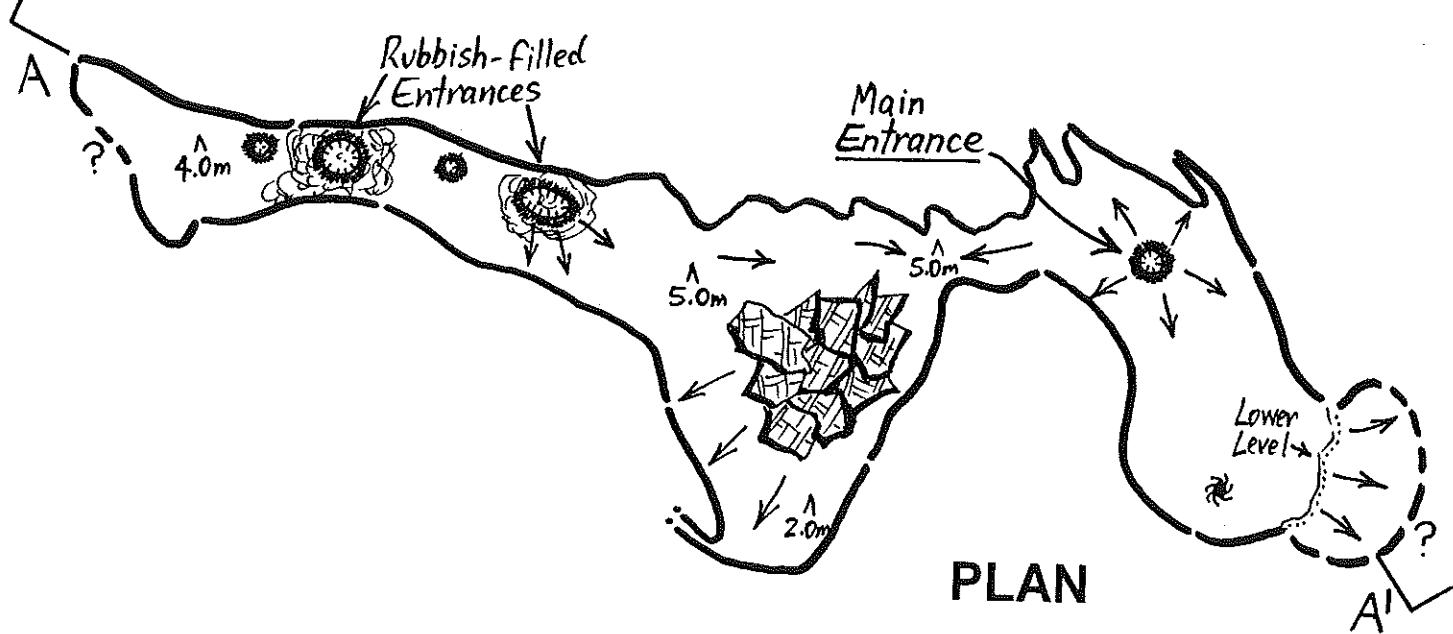
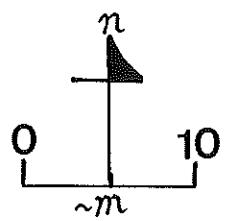
First appearing in CEGSA's Records in the form of a single-paragraph description in a Trip Report dated September 1967, this cave had at least 5 window entrances and one associated surface depression when it was surveyed in April 1968. The cave appears to have been quite significant, in the order of 100 metres in length and between 5 and 20 metres wide (averaging around 6 metres). Ceiling heights shown on the map vary from less than one metre up to almost 2m, and some mostly-dead decoration and bone deposits were also noted.

The cave has obviously been known by locals for a long time (some 19th Century markings were found here and there), but more importantly, a small number of cave crickets (wetas) were found to be co-existing with some bats (*Miniopterus schreibersii*) ... a relationship which is evidently quite uncommon (presumably because one eats the other?).

The cave was first shown to local speleologist Fred W. Aslin sometime around 1958-60, after a gentleman reported finding it while on C.M.F. (Civilian Military Forces) manoeuvres a little earlier. Two of the entrances were apparently blocked by rubbish in August 1971.



5L106



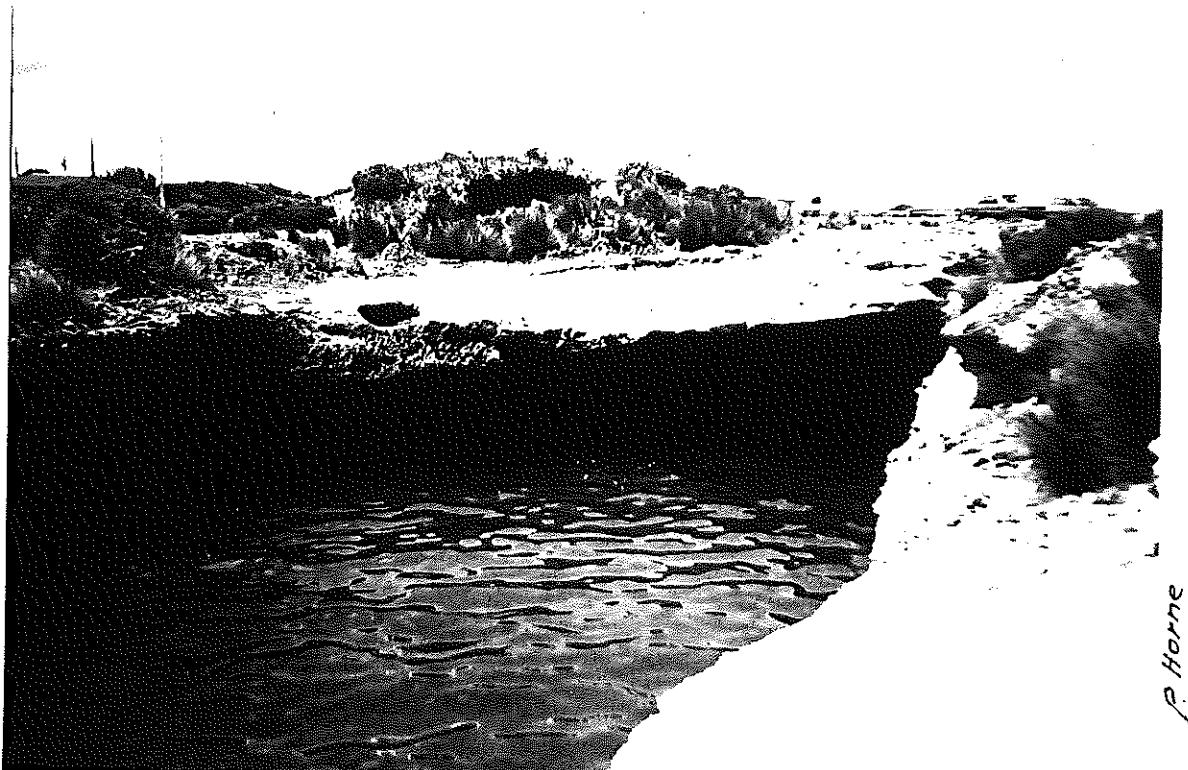
[Map ASF Grade 5, large  
"DCE" party led by F. Aslin, 1968]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L107

### BLACKFELLOWS (SEA) CAVE ("Stinky Cave")

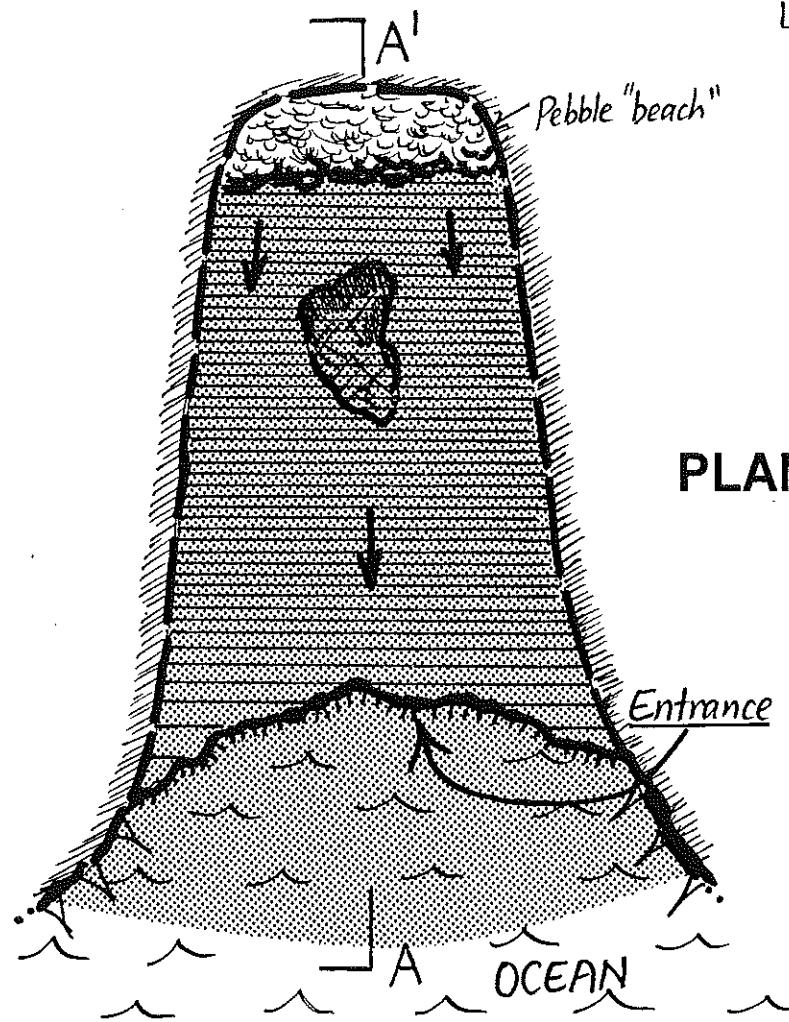
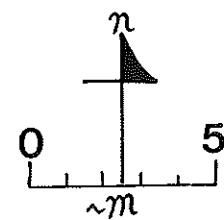
Previously an **unallocated** number (see the South Australian Cave Reference Book, 1975), 5L107 was recently given to a short, smelly sea-cave at Blackfellows Caves, near Carpenters Rocks, so that the number series was more logical and complete. The feature has only been cursorily visited to date ... it is not easily accessible (to "dry" cavers!) and strong wave action and (ob)noxious gases given off by decomposing seaweed frequently makes exploration most awkward and unpleasant!

However, drawing on the memories of fellow cave divers Ian Lewis and Mia Thurgate (as well as his own fading recollections!), the author has been able to draw a rough representative sketch showing the general structure of this sea-cave for the purposes of this book. It is basically a short, flat-roofed passage about 18 metres long, perhaps 12m wide and several metres high, and it terminates on a mass of pebbles where the waves pile up and splash against the back wall.



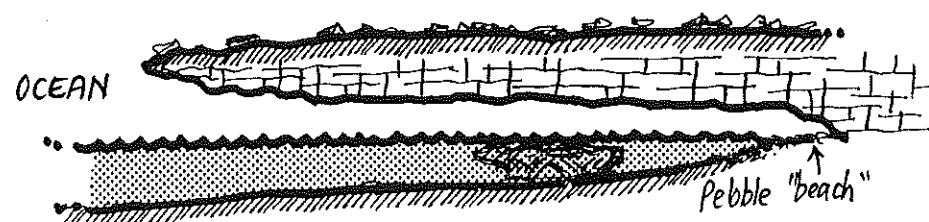
# BLACKFELLOWS (SEA) CAVE

5L107



PLAN

A - A'



[Combination ASF Grade 1  
memory sketch, I.Lewis & P.Horne,  
1980s, & M.Thurgate, 1990?]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L108

## GLENCOE EAST CAVE.

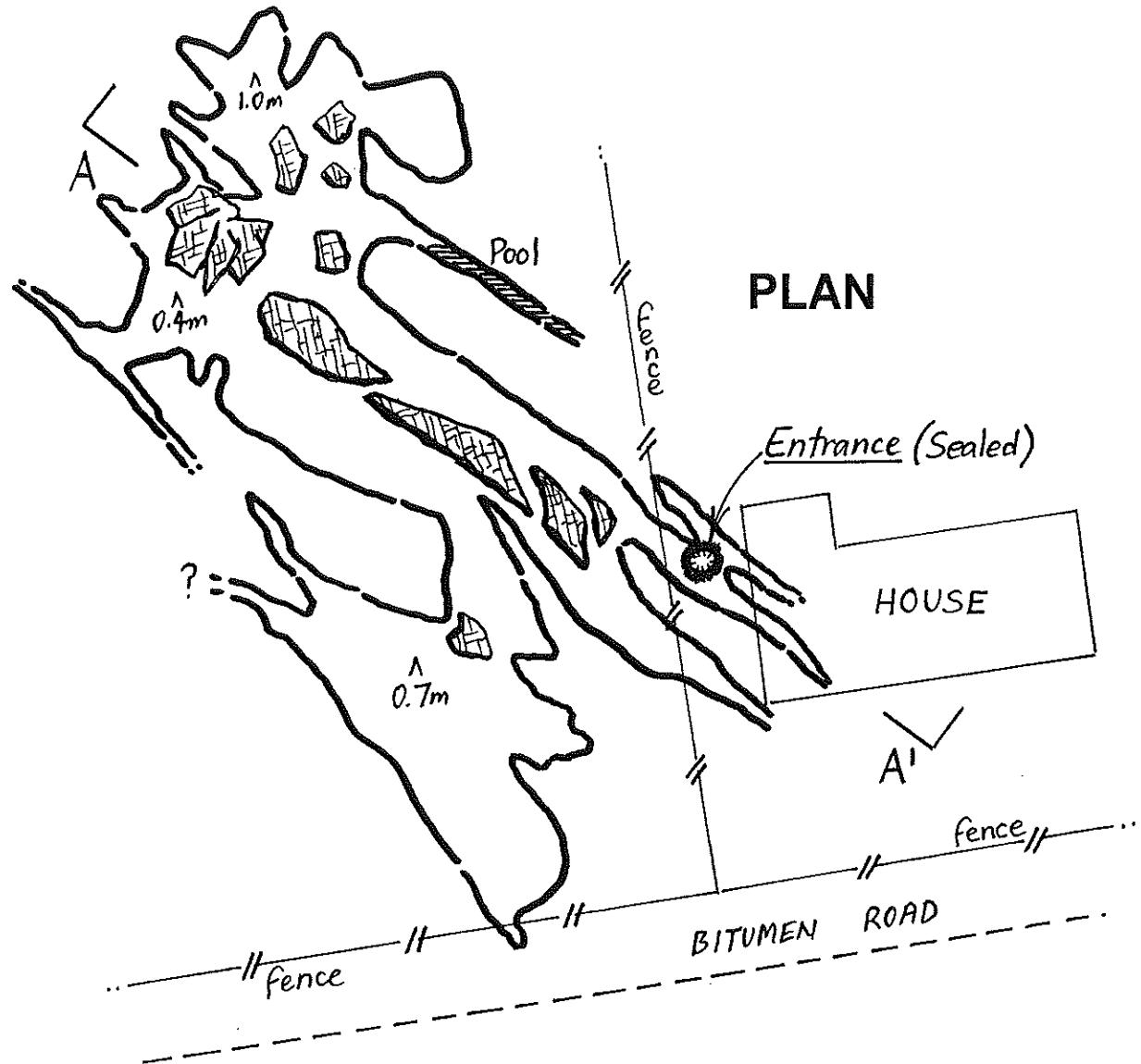
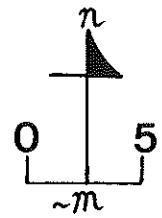
The entrance to this fairly extensive cave system was accidentally blasted open late in the afternoon of 6th August 1966, when the landowner was removing a hard limestone ridge prior to building his house. The feature had no known natural opening, and the artificial entrance – now capped with concrete for hygienic purposes, as the cave is now used for the disposal of laundry and bathroom waste – was about one metre across, dropping about 2 metres into the cave.

A CEGSA Trip Report dated December 1967 by local speleologist Fred W. Aslin described the cave as covering an area roughly 50 metres long by 25m wide, and "the strongly joint-controlled parallel passages are highly water eroded, in some cases leaving very pronounced, acutely-angled edges". Much of the cave had a ceiling height of less than one metre.

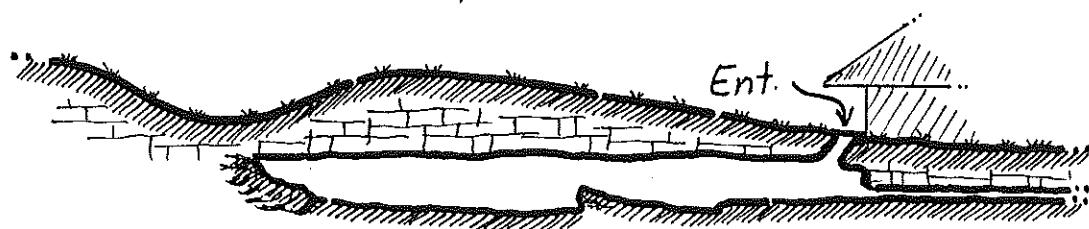
Because the cave had apparently developed at, and slightly below, the interface of "Dune" and "Gambier" limestones, the softer ceiling rock was not especially conducive to the formation of any spectacular cave decoration, and only a small amount (encrusted with mud) was found. The floor was generally covered by a dense reddish-brown clay, although some joints going below the general cave level did not appear to be choked. Surprisingly, some bones were found in the cave, and in the absence of obvious roof tubes or other openings, it was speculated that "these animals must have found their way in through the surface collapse area".

The close proximity of the entrance to the edge of the house (2 metres), and the large concrete lid now completely prevents access.

5L108



A-A'



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L109

### PETROGLYPH CAVE.

Having been advised of caves in this vicinity by a gentleman from Yahl on 8th July 1967, CEGSA members Norman Hocknell and Fred W. Aslin explored this unnamed feature on 31st December of that year when they referred to it as "Entrance A".

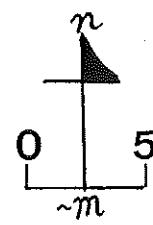
Their description in the June 1968 CEGSA Trip Report closely matches that by the author after a later visit with Mia Thurgate (who allocated the name Petroglyph Cave prior to learning that the wall markings found in the cave were probably non-human in origin) in November 1986 ... "shallow, almost walk-in type roof collapse which has a little rubbish dumped in it. Cave extends at least 210 feet south-east and drops to approx. 35 feet below natural surface ... a narrow vertical joint, in places up to 20 feet high and in places 6-8 feet wide. It is almost a straight line in plan, with only slight undulations about the centre-line. The first 50 feet is clear walking; the next 30 feet is a tight vertical crack, which can only be negotiated right at floor level or 10 to 12 feet above floor level.

"On the north-eastern wall, about halfway through this section, a parallel joint was seen high up. The cave then opens into a flat-floored chamber approx. 15 feet long by 7 feet wide and 15 feet high. The next 50 feet is a fairly tight stomach-crawl on a red earth floor. This opens into another chamber which has a rock choke at its far end. A crawlway was found above this and a torch was shone at least 15-20 feet beyond the point we stopped at."

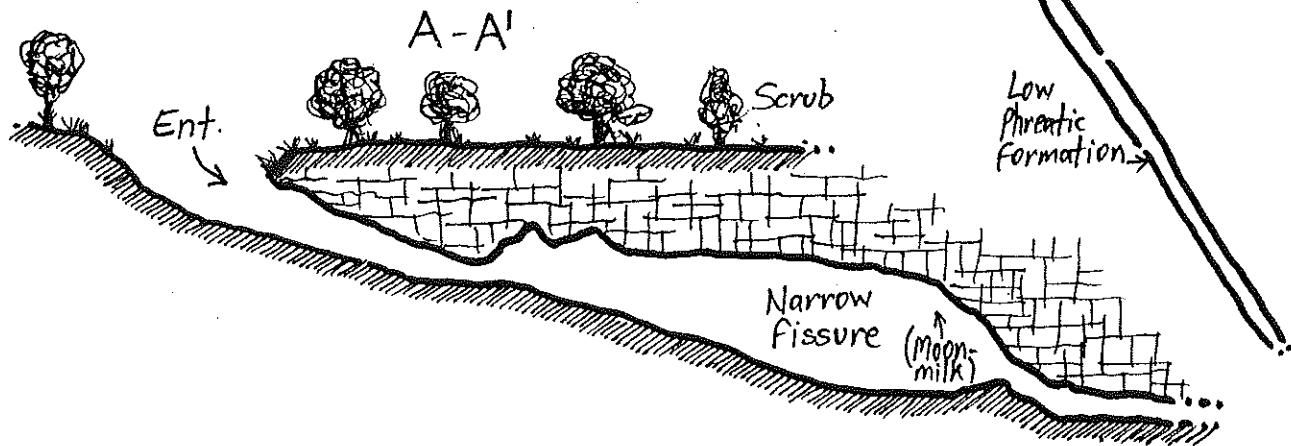
This cave is almost certainly part of a single system comprising 5L110, 111 and 112 which lie nearby.

# PETROGLYPH CAVE

5L109



PLAN



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L110

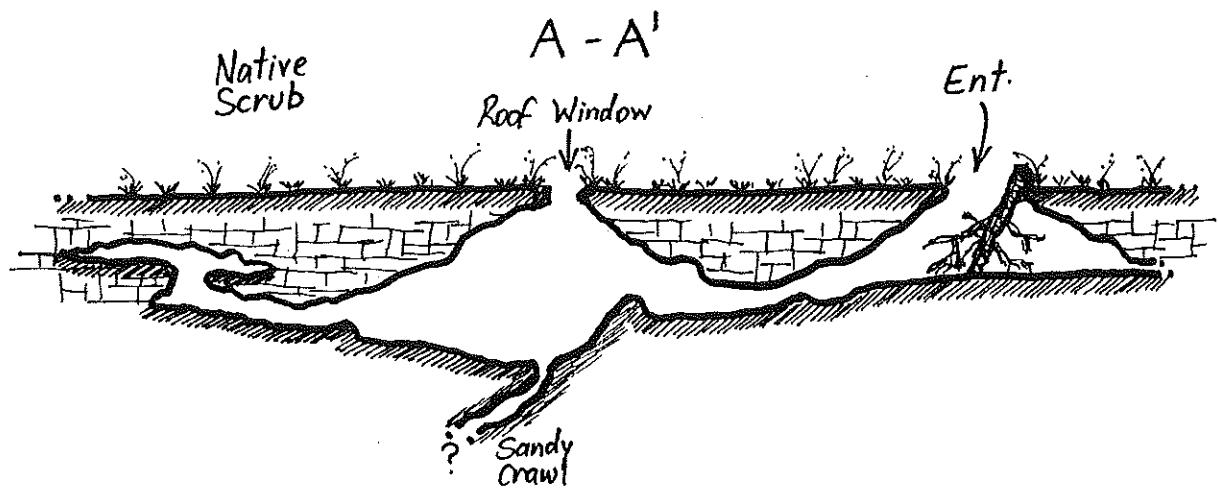
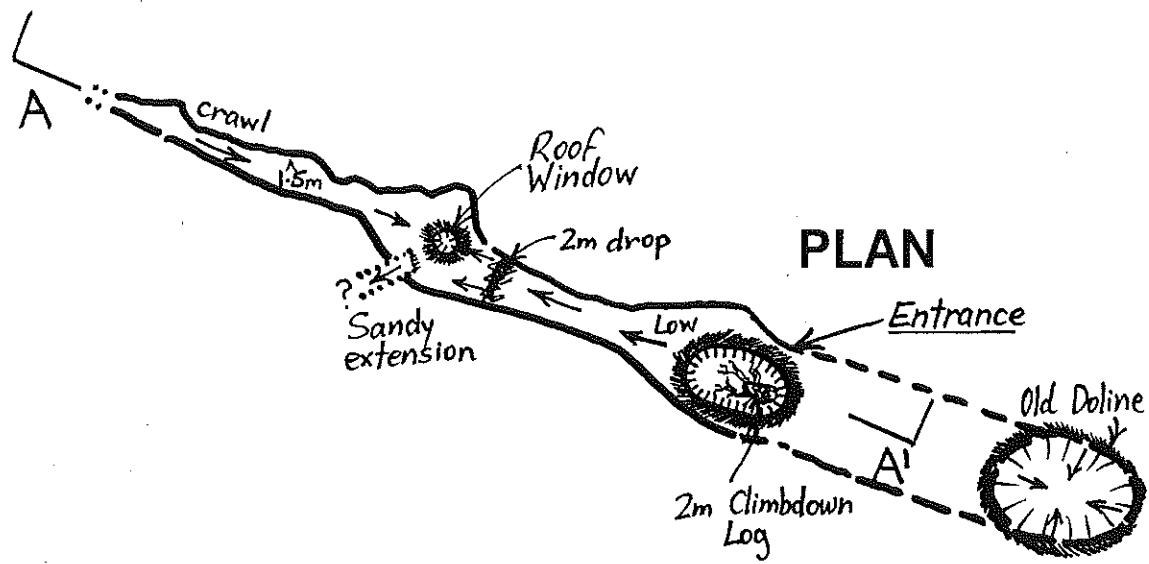
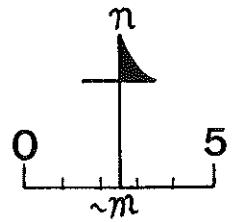
### (Unnamed Feature).

Known as "Entrance B" when first explored sometime around late 1967 or early 1968 (see 5L109), this small cave was visited in November 1986 by the author where he discovered that it was about 20 metres long, one metre wide and ranged between one and 3 metres in height. Entry is made via a 2 metre diameter collapse window which drops 2m into a small cavity, and the passage then heads north-west for a few metres more to the edge of another 2m-deep sandy drop. This is the edge of a small chamber which has a roof window about 5 metres above its lowest point.

This chamber lies under the southern edge of a nearby forestry track where a steel stake has been hammered into the ground. A sandy collapsing floor-hole was found during the 1986 visit, but lack of a breeze provided little impetus for further (risky) exploration, so the north-western crawl-way was pushed to its limit instead. This was found to extend for just another 4 metres or so before it closed down completely and appeared to have no further extensions.



K. Grimes



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L111**

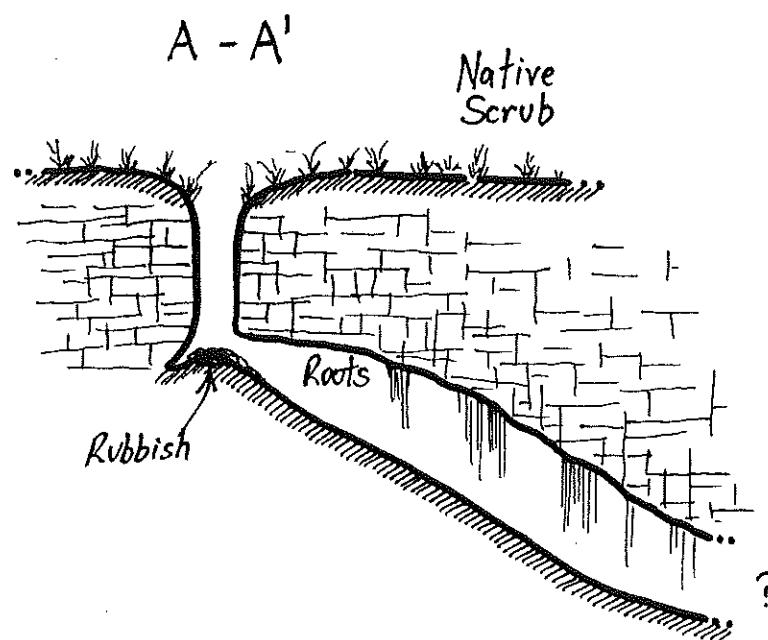
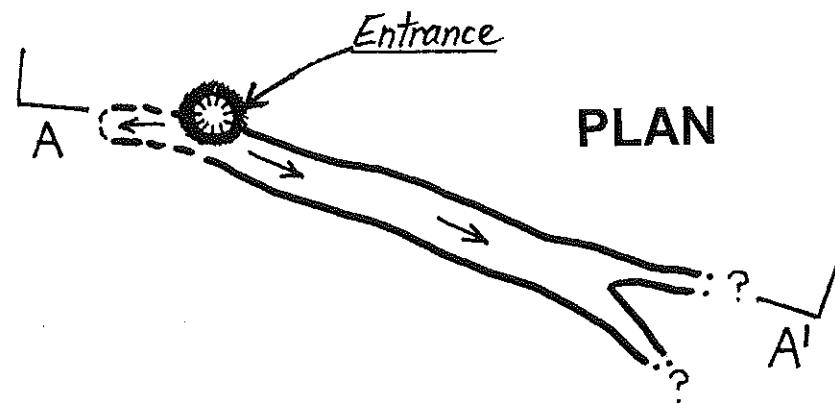
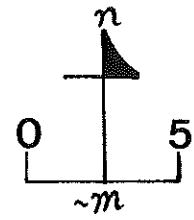
**(Unnamed Feature).**

This feature appears to have originally been known as "Entrance D" in the series 5L109 – 5L111 (refer to texts for these cave numbers), and it was described as being a 6 metre diameter, 2m deep countersunk depression which funnelled down to a one metre diameter tube before dropping some 4 metres to the floor of a north-west to south-east joint-controlled cave.

The cave floor reportedly sloped evenly down at an angle of around 30 degrees to the east-south-east, giving a drop of 8-9 metres in the length of the chamber, which was about 2.5 metres wide. The plan view map indicates that it terminated about 12 metres from the entrance in two very narrow fissures.

Unfortunately, this feature was reportedly completely filled by bulldozing (in preparation for pine planting) within weeks of the CEGSA visit of 7th October 1967.

5L111



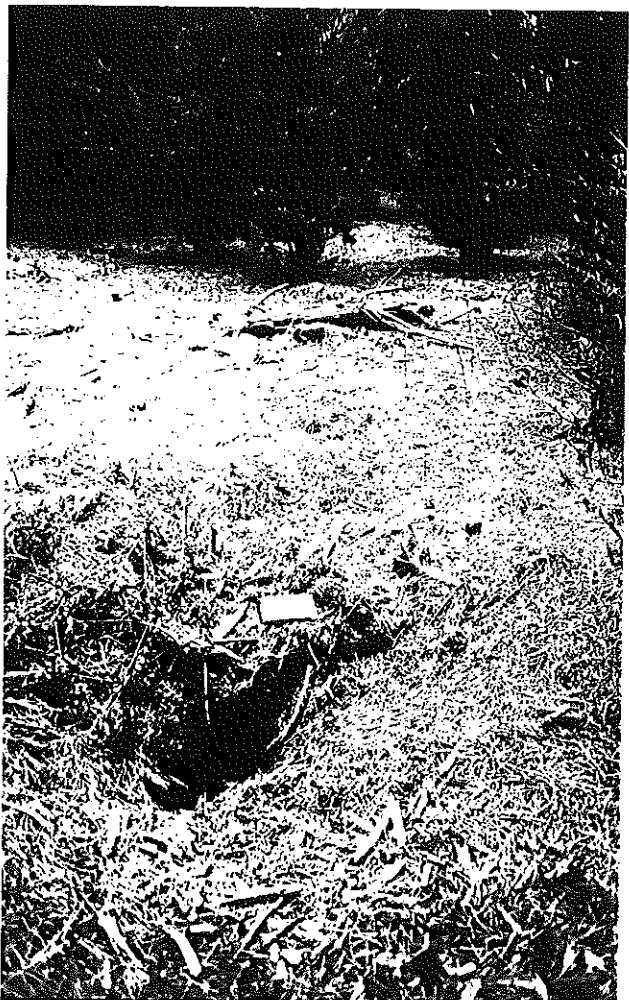
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L112

(Unnamed Feature).

This small cave was first entered by D. Williams and local speleologist Fred W. Aslin on 7th October 1967, who learnt of its existence from a Mr. Jack Thompson of nearby Yahl in July of that year.

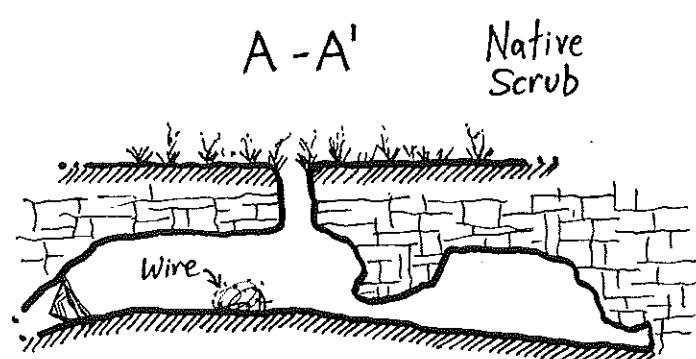
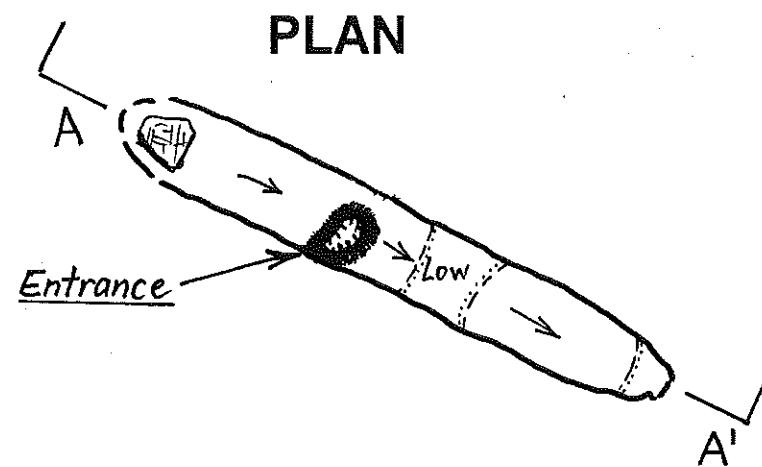
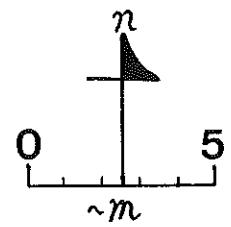
The entrance is a short solution tube or roof window-style hole which is about one metre across, dropping through 1.5 metres of limestone to the floor which lies 4m below. The cave is about 15 metres long overall and it is divided into two chambers about 6m long each with a short constriction between them. Each chamber is about 2.5 metres high and wide, and the floor generally consisted of red earth fill, which was "much excavated and burrowed in by wombats and rabbits".

Further possibilities for extending the known cave appear to be remote.



K. Grimes

5L112



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L113

## MYORA SINKHOLE.

First appearing in CEGSA's Records in a single Trip Report dated 28 January 1968, Myora Sinkhole was described as: "...70 feet diameter at the surface, constricting to 18 feet diameter at minus 23 feet. From the constriction it widens again to an oval-shaped floor ... which is dominated by a cone composed of sand, clay and broken rock, capped by wire and rubbish of recent origin".

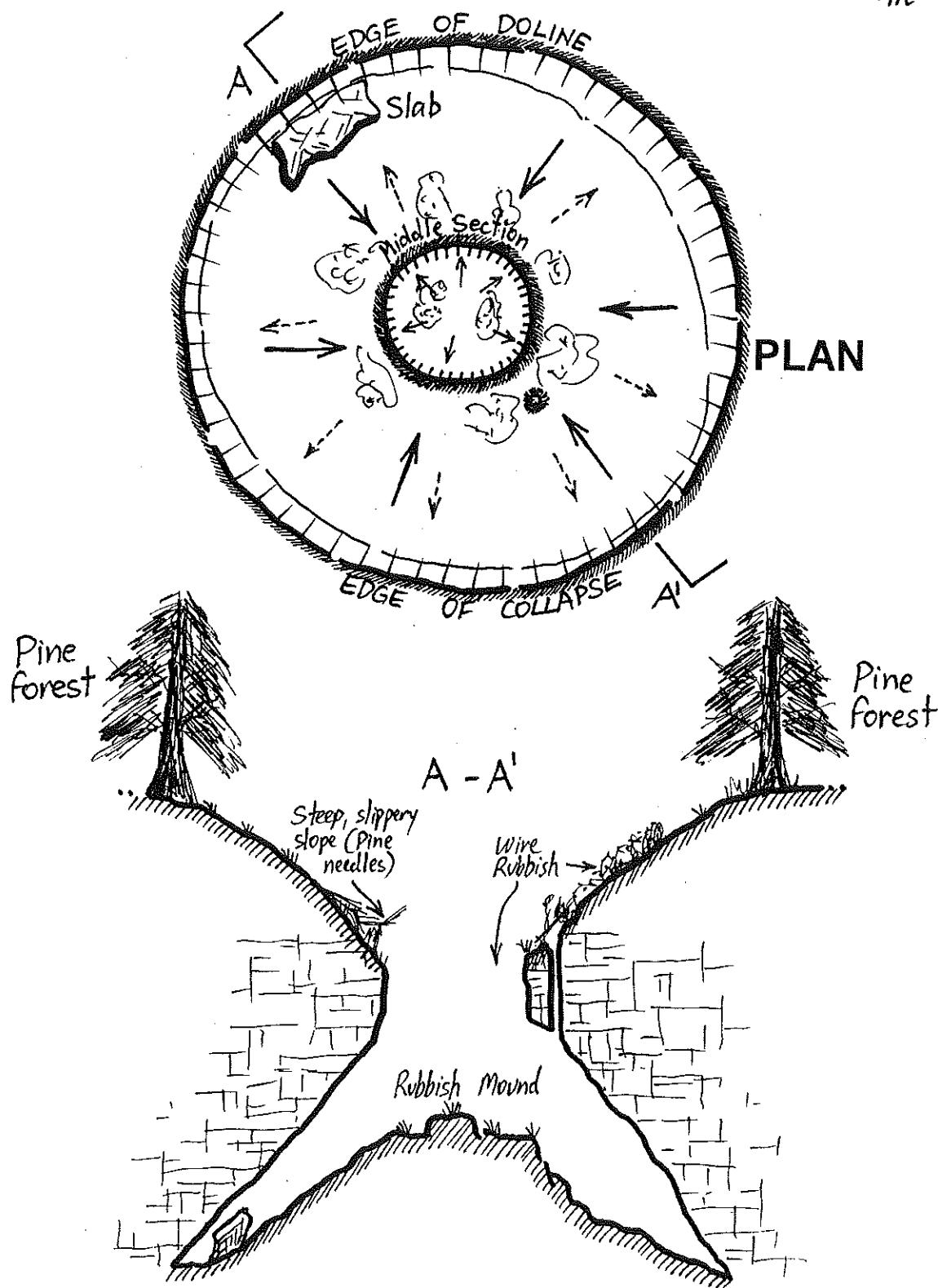
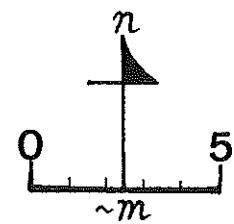
Its shape is basically like an hour-glass in section with the upper and lower segments about equal in both angles and size. Being a large feature, this sinkhole has long been known in the Myora Forest area. The rubbish-mound reportedly did not exist in 1953, when local cavers Fred W. Aslin and Peter Spehr investigated skeletal remains which were visible from the surface (these turned out to be a cow and a horse). Today, this interesting feature can be readily located if one knows where a particularly old (and very ugly!) pine tree stands out in the surrounding dense stands of *Pinus radiata*.



Myora Sinkhole had changed very little when it was relocated in 1989 by the author (although the reported rubbish-pile had evidently dropped somewhat), and no underground extensions were found. The unusual shape of this karst feature requires several 10m lengths of steel-cable ladder for access.

# MYORA SINKHOLE

5L113



[Map ASF Grade 2, F.Aslin & I.Lewis (CEGSA), 1967; ASF Grade 2, P.Horne, 1989]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L114

## MCPHERSONS CAVE.

This simple joint-controlled cave takes the form of a single, low passage reaching the regional water table, running basically north-west to south-east for a total distance of some 60 metres.

Access is made via a 0.8m diameter roof window which drops 2 metres into the north-western end of the passage. This aspect chokes off 5m from the entrance, but after crawling under some loose ceiling rocks and dropping 2m over a boulder, visitors find themselves facing a shallow pool about 10m in length.

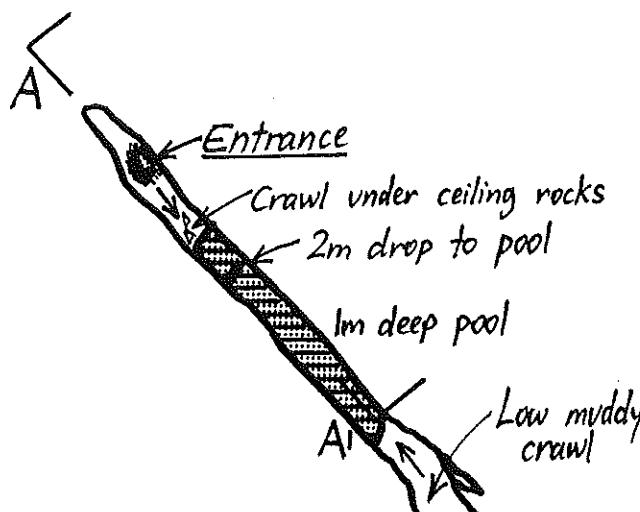
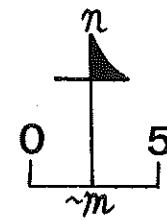
Depending on the level of the water in the cave, this section either ends in a muddy crawlway which leads to a deeper pool, or continues uninterrupted through to the south-eastern end. The water here is significantly deeper – at least 4m in places – but no apparent side-passages have been found to date.

Mentioning the cave in a February 1968 CEGSA Trip Report, Norman Hocknell reported that it: "... was known to the owner for several years prior to March 1967, when he decided to remove a tree blocking access to the cave" and "the width of the cave does not exceed 4 feet". Subsequent survey visits in 1972 and 1973 extended the cave's distance to about 120 feet (36 metres) where the presence of water stopped further exploration (this was evidently in the days when there were still lots of caves to be explored, and South Australian cavers didn't like to get unduly wet!).

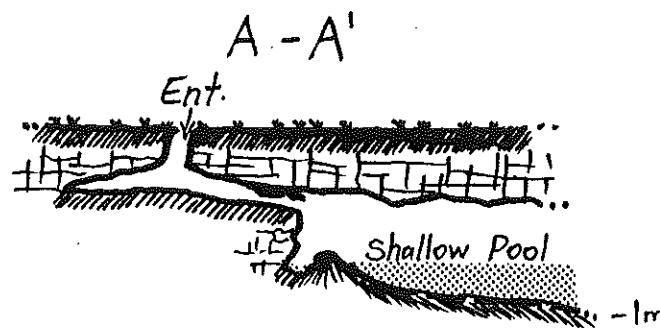
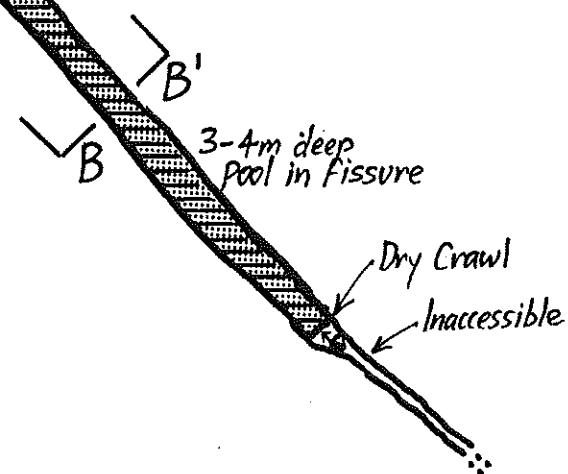
The final 25 metres or so was added by the author after a facemask and wetsuit exploration in March 1986, when the end of the accessible section of the cave was reached. The feature appeared to continue for at least 6 metres or so beyond the final restriction, but it would take a lot of work to make access possible.

# McPHERSONS CAVE

5L114



## PLAN



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 5D?,  
G.Ninnes & party (CEGSA), 1972; underwater  
area: ASF Grade 22, P.Horne, 1986]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L115

### (Unnamed Feature).

This cave was evidently first reported by Bob Sexton in January 1965, and a Grade 2 survey was made by local caver Fred W. Aslin in June 1968.

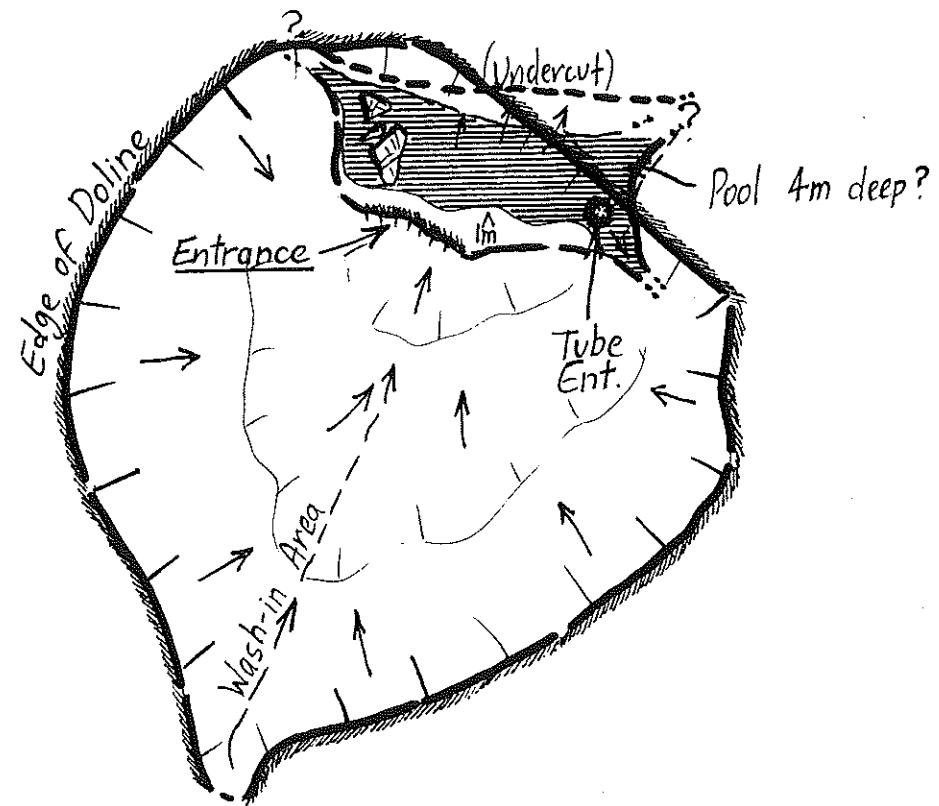
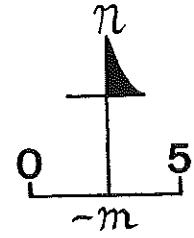
In his April 1976 CEGSA Trip Report, prominent Adelaide speleologist Kevin R. Mott wrote that the cave had two entrances 7 metres apart. The western entrance was a walk-in style hole one metre high and 3 metres wide, while the eastern entrance was one metre in diameter and 2.5 metres from the natural surface to the floor of the cave.

The cave was located in a 22 metre diameter depression which was 3 metres deep, and rain-water drained into it from the southern end, running further into the cave via the western entrance.

The cave itself consisted of a chamber which was approximately 10 by 4m across and just over a metre in height, and considerable joint development was evident. The western and eastern joint passages were about 5 and 3 metres long respectively, and both were about one metre in width.

Water was found along the northern wall (where it was apparently undercut), and this appeared to be around 2 metres deep. Some yabbies were observed in the water near the entrance around that time, and it was also mentioned that the cave had developed in Gambier limestone (while the overlying rock consisted of Dune limestone).

5L115



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L116

### (Unnamed Feature).

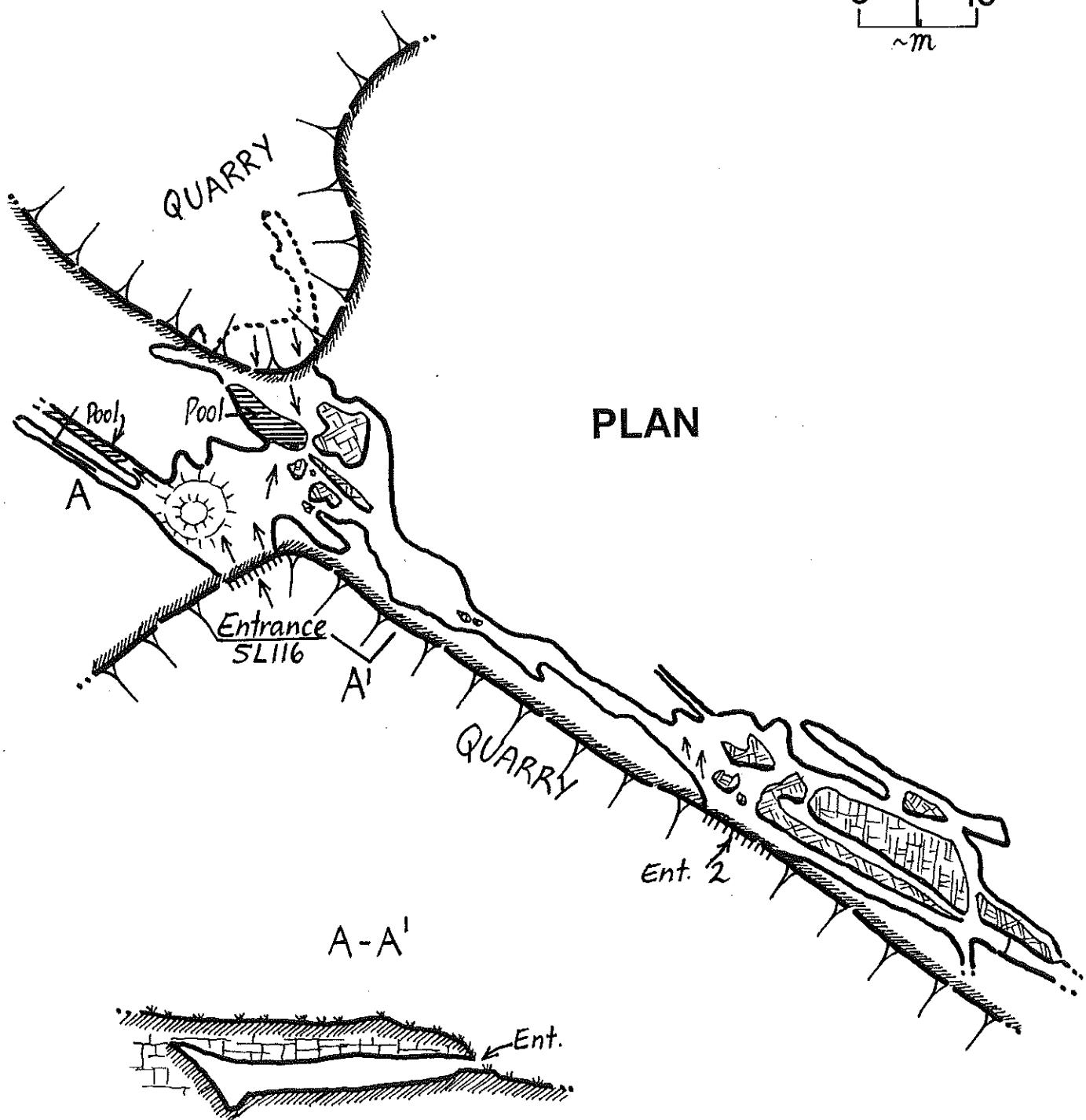
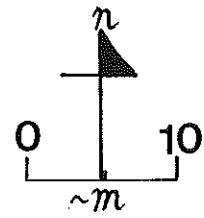
Known by some of the lesser-refined members of the caving fraternity as "Pig-Excreta Cave" (or words to that effect!), this officially-unnamed feature consists of a horizontal joint network of low, thin passages oriented basically north-west to south-east, which is entered via two walk-in entrances in a quarry face. It is quite extensive, covering an area of about 100 x 20 metres.

The cave has long been known in the district (as some 1880s graffiti indicates), and it was easily accessed via a 4 metre long, one metre high fissure which was found at the north-western end of a valley.

According to a CEGSA Trip Report by local caver Fred W. Aslin (dated June 1972), the "... walk-in entrance leads north-west to a 30 by 30 by 8 foot high chamber. Rockfall and dirt mounds dominate the floor. There are at least four parallel joints of 305 degrees Magnetic, one of which has water (depth unknown) covering the floor and going in some 20 feet. Water was flowing into the south-western passage from the west side of the cave."

A single bat was seen in the ceiling of the first chamber, and while there would appear to be a good chance of extending the known cave, the presence of a nearby pig farm in more recent times reportedly makes access "hazardous" nowadays!

5L116



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L117

(Unnamed Feature).

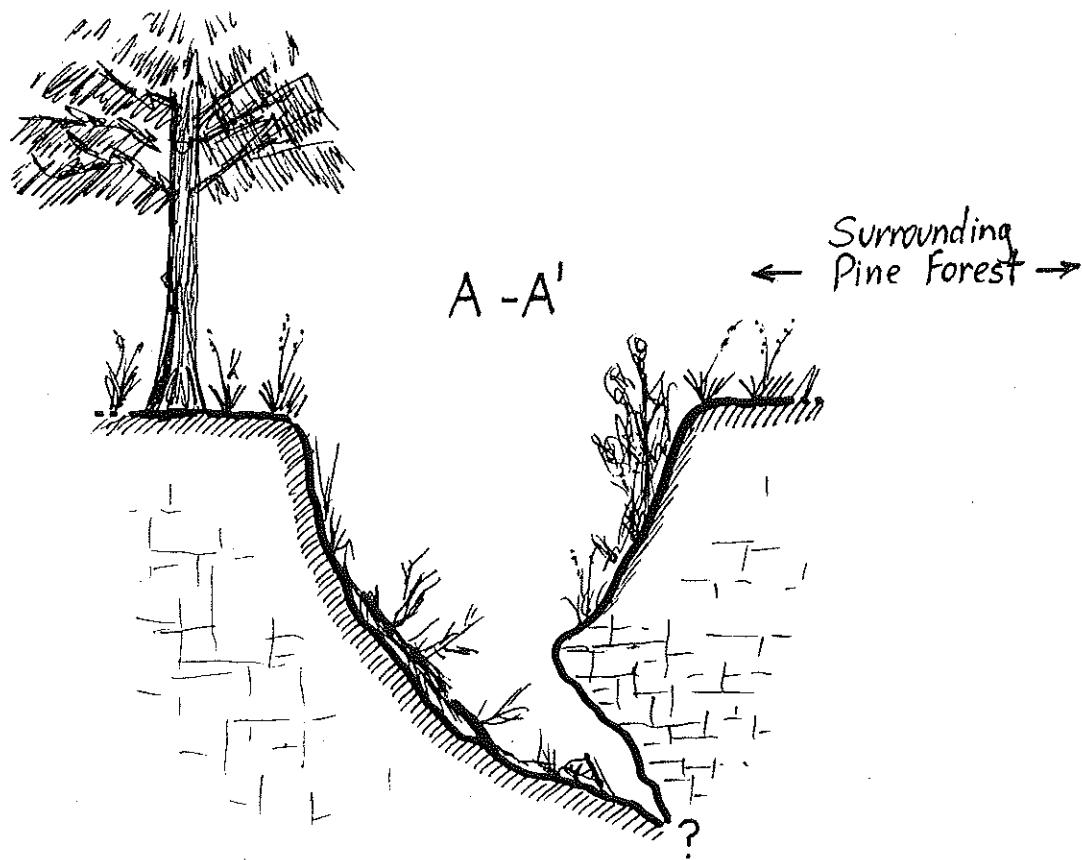
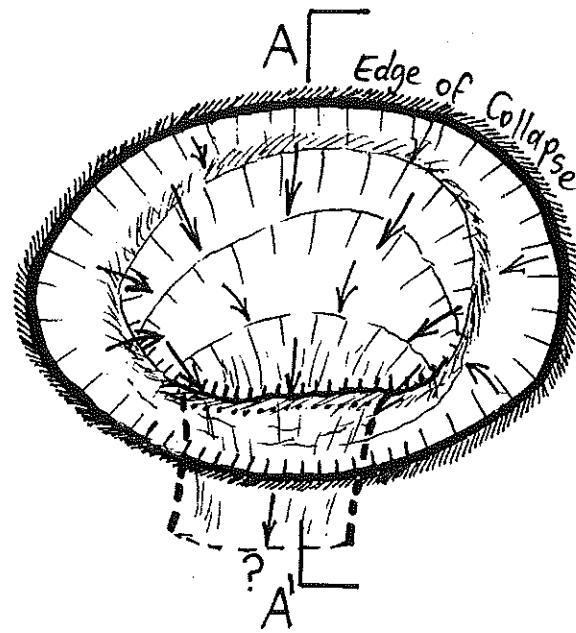
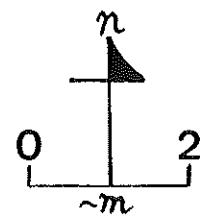
This sinkhole was first mentioned in CEGSA's Records in a Trip Report dated October 1968 by Fred W. Aslin and Norman Hocknell, when they reported that "it was noticed by R.W. Davies in about 1964(?) and described it as being "... 22 feet long by 16 feet wide by 15 feet deep. The north, south and east walls are sheer Dune(?) limestone, liberally interspersed with clay-pots. The west wall is a big soil slope which is in danger of collapsing and must be negotiated with care.

"The bottom of the sinkhole is comprised of broken rock and soil which blocks what appears to be a passage dipping steeply to the south".

A little formation was seen but it was stated that any additional exploration would require a major dig to prevent the collapse of the unstable sides.



5L117



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory sketch, F.Aslin & N.Hocknell, 1968]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L118

(Unnamed Feature - sometimes called "Hollis Cave").

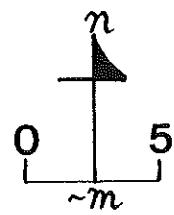
This interesting feature was first recorded in a CEGSA Trip Report by Mr. M.J. Moore (a student at Geelong College) in May 1968, when he described the cave as having three entrances and containing bats, cave crickets and some calcite formation on the walls.

A follow-up visit in October 1968 by Fred W. Aslin and Norman Hocknell found that one of the three entrances was completely blocked by rubbish, and that access to the cave "... was gained by dropping 5 feet onto the top of a huge rubbish heap and then climbing down this to the floor of the cave, some 50 feet below".

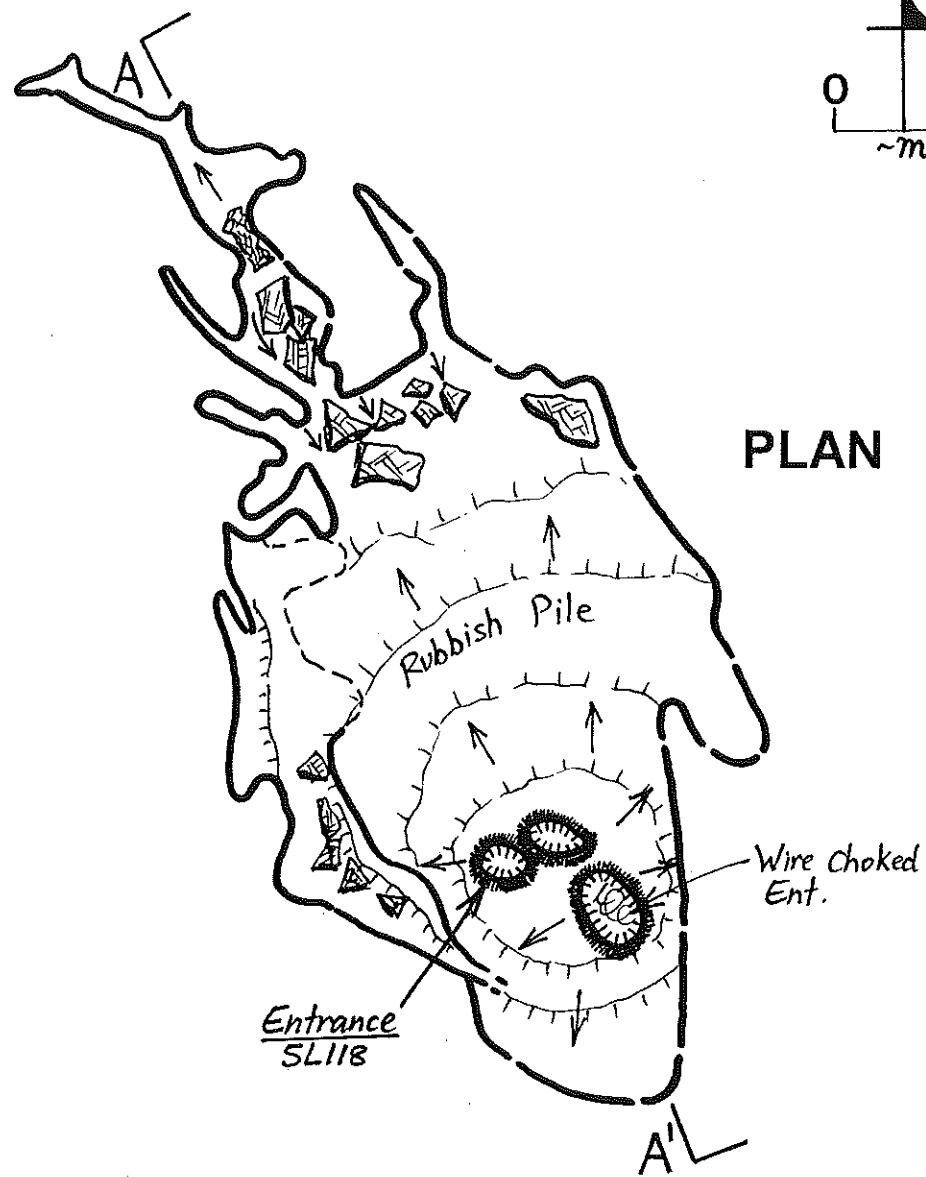
The cave itself was described as starting as a 15 metre diameter near-circular chamber about 15 metres high, with a 16 metre long passage on the north-western side of the chamber and another 15m diameter chamber further around to the west. Entry to this second chamber was made via a drop-hole in the floor, terminating in an area requiring digging.

Although a fairly high-grade map of the cave was prepared in March 1975, the south-eastern end of the cavern may still provide an opportunity for further exploration.

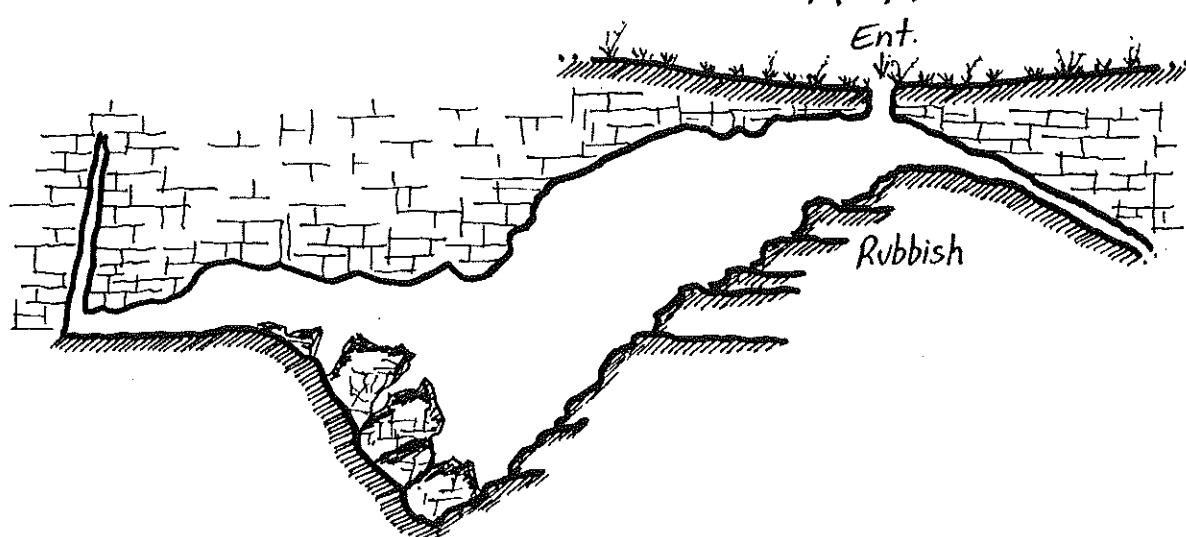
5L118



PLAN



A - A'



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L119

## SNAKE HILL CAVE SYSTEM.

Snake Hill Cave is one of the most extensive and complex cave systems in the Lower South East. A large proportion of the cave consists of reasonably large passage, but there are also extensive areas less than a metre high, creating relatively arduous going unless knee and elbow-pads are worn.

The cave can be entered by any one of some 40 known entrances, ranging from easy walk-ins to more difficult roof window drops, and according to 1976 data, about one kilometre of passage had been surveyed at that time.

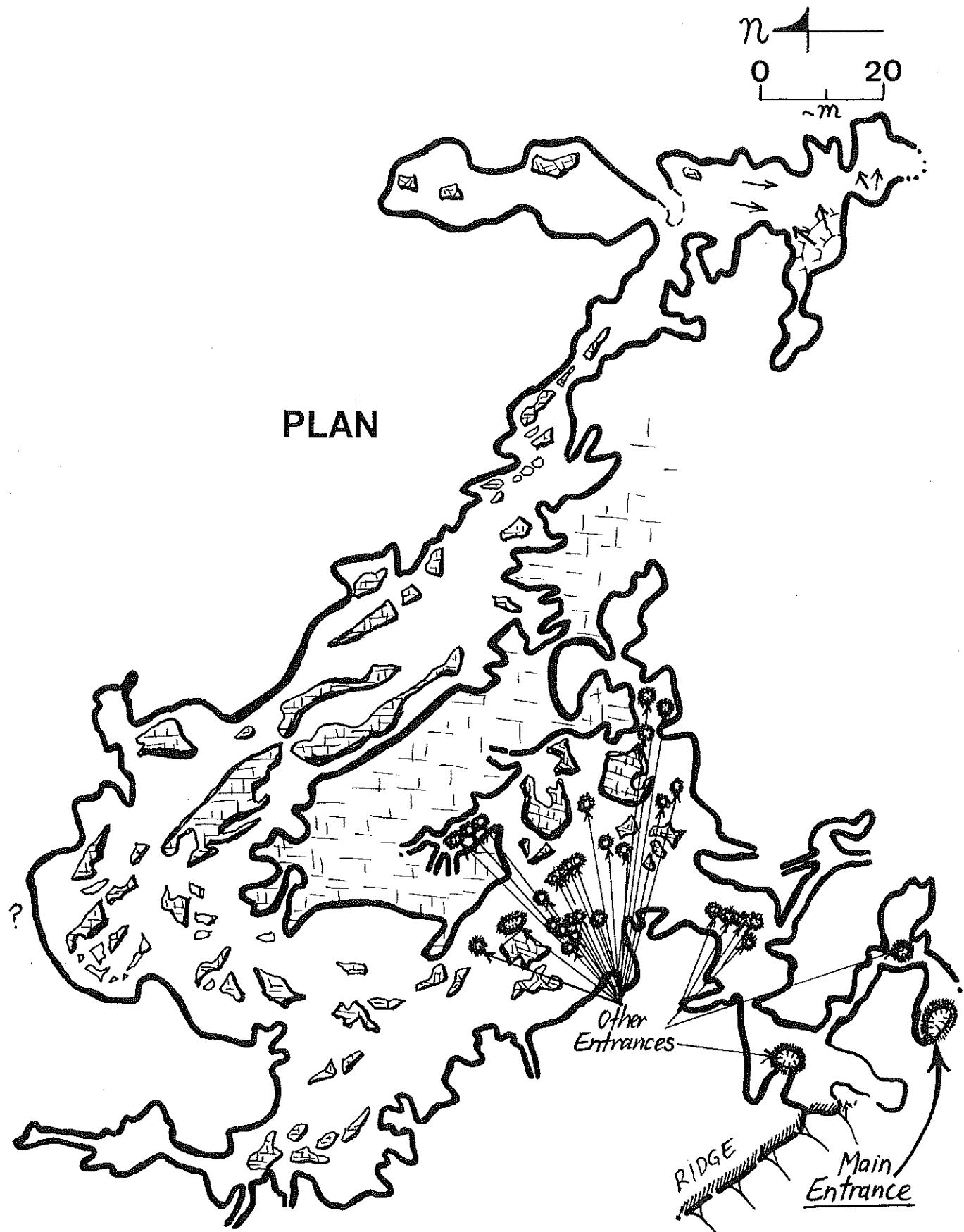
The map appears to be of quite a high standard – perhaps ASF Grade 44 or 54 – and it indicates that the cave is generally oriented north-west to south-east in a series of parallel passages. It lies under an area covering roughly 200 x 150 metres, so it is obviously a significant geomorphological feature.

According to long-time CEGSA member Gordon ("Nimble") Ninnis (pers. comm. with author, early 1993), the cave was named to commemorate an incident in the early 1970s involving several "quiet" snakes which were captured near the entrance and stored in a kit-bag while the caving party explored underground. The story goes that someone placed the bag in a "temporary" shadow, allowing direct, snake-awakening sunlight to heat it as the shadow slowly moved ... resulting in the caving party's confronting a bag full of rather aggressive reptiles upon their return!



# SNAKE HILL CAVE SYSTEM

5L119



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L120

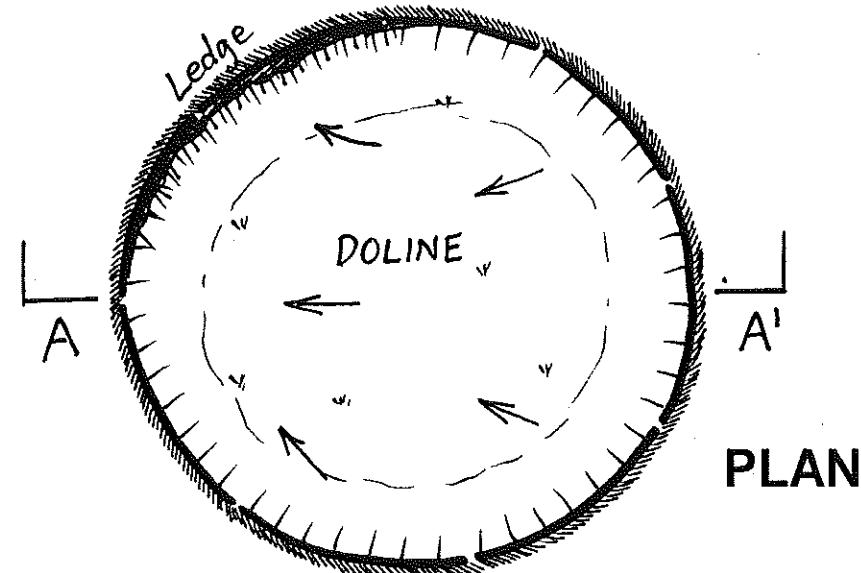
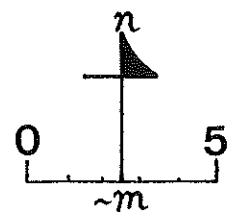
(Unnamed Feature).

This sinkhole was described as being a simple blind doline approximately 25 x 20 metres across and some 4m deep, with a small rockface on the north-western side and a possible dig heading further down for a metre or two.

In his November 1968 Trip Report, Norman Hocknell mentioned that he first visited the sinkhole in August 1965, after learning of it from a Mr. Duncan Williams. The feature had evidently not been visited since about 1930, and according to other sources, the sinkhole was reputed to have a 5-6m deep shaft (now filled with sand) leading to a cave which was supposed to have had some quite good decoration.

Further digging work may therefore prove to be rewarding.

5L120



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L121

## SLUG HOLE.

In a simple one-paragraph description in a November 1968 Trip Report, this insignificant hole was described as being "4 feet in diameter at the top, constricting to 3 x 2 feet some 6 feet down. The top 18 inches is sand and below this it is dune. The tube is a typical drop-out pot, and some sand and clay is still hanging to the sides."

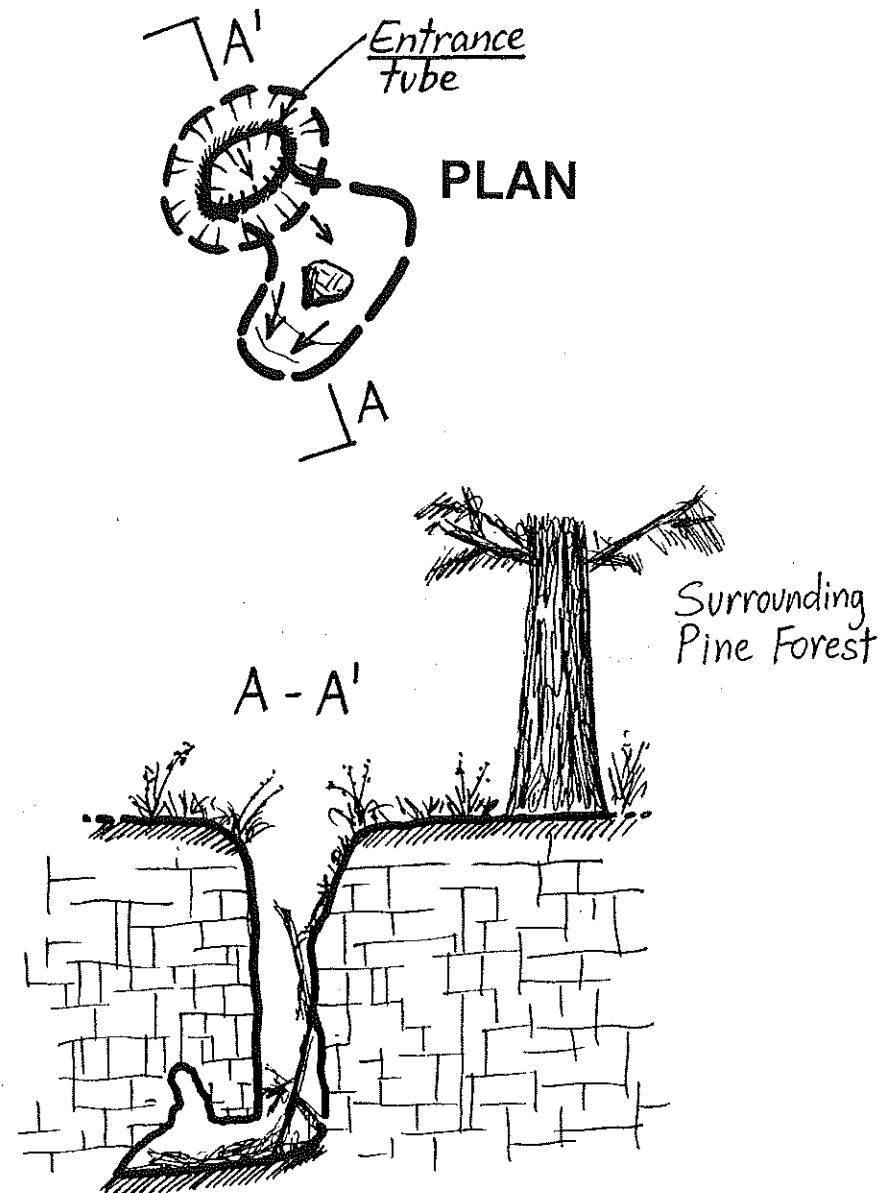
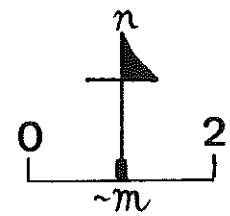
"The tube is 11 feet deep and shows no sign of widening or ending at this depth".

Reference to a dig having commenced in the bottom of the tube in 1966-67 was also made, but no later information has been located to date.



# SLUG HOLE

5L121

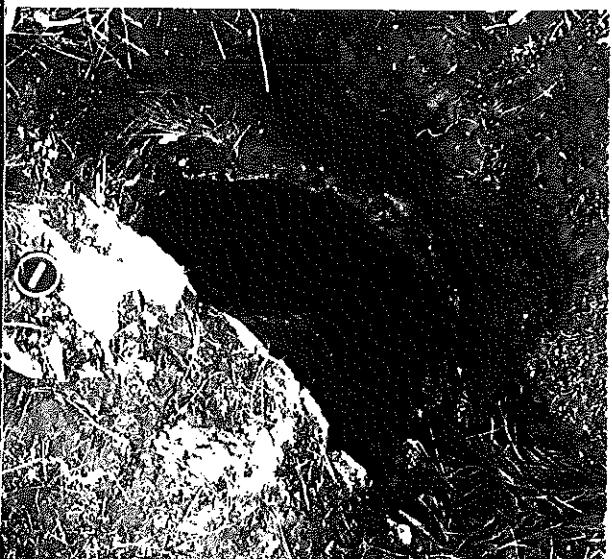


# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L122

## VINES FISSURE.

Discovered around 1970 by Tantanoola Forestry worker Dave Vine while he was using a ripping machine to prepare the paddock for pine planting, this fissure-cave is oriented north-west to south-east and it consists of a narrow fissure some 25 metres long which is entered via a rather tight, 0.7 x 0.8m wide roof window.

Squeezing through the narrow opening, cavers can drop about 8 metres into crystal clear, cool water which is at least 7m deep. The south-eastern end of the fissure is blocked by a rockfall about 5m from the entrance, but the north-western end bends to the right about 10m in, and then back to the left in 90-degree corners, a few metres further along.

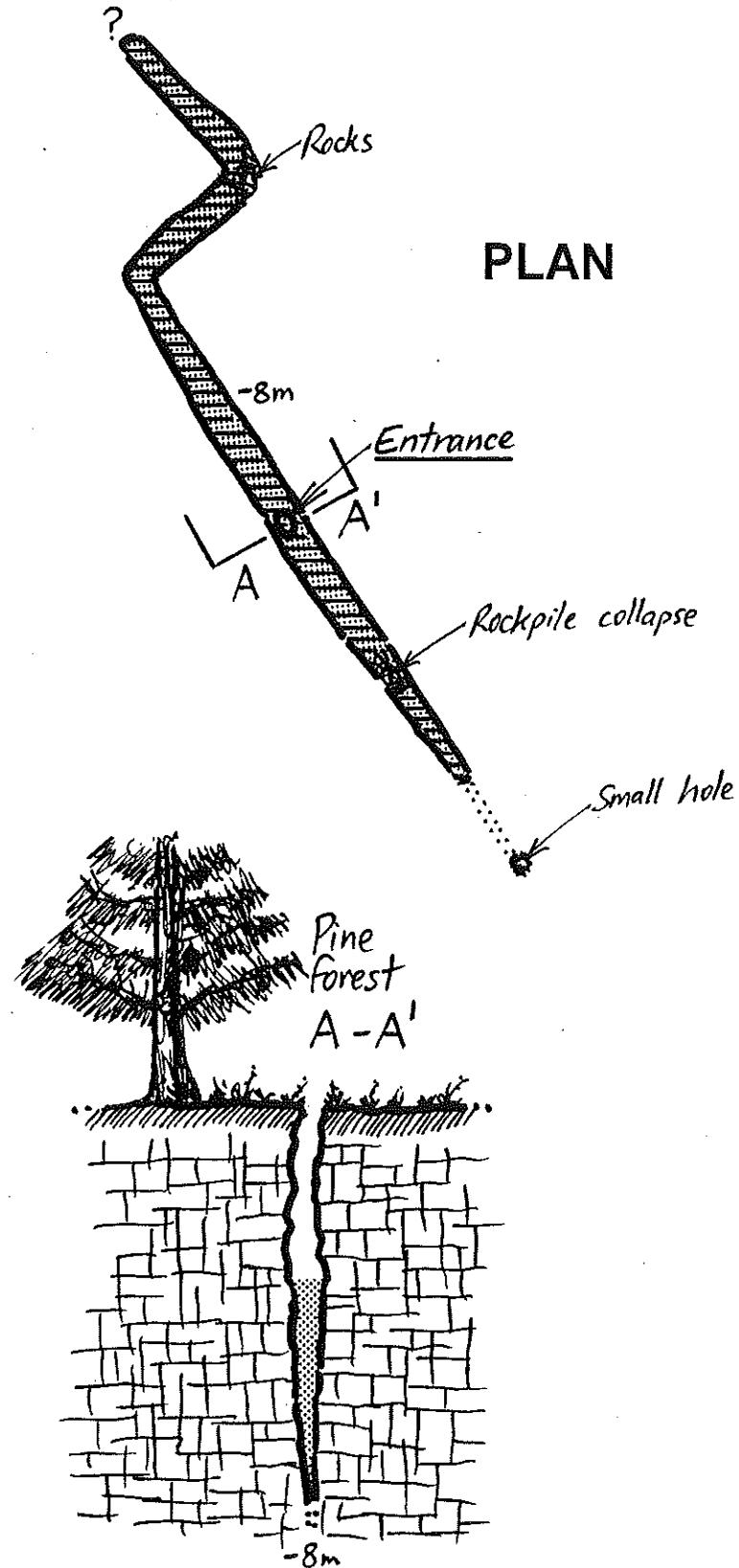
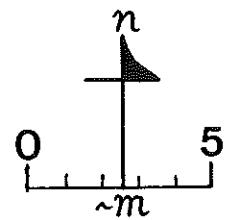


P. Horne

The width of the fissure (less than one metre in most places) prevents safe cave-diving access, and extrapolating from similar features in this area, it is unlikely that the cave as known continues into anything significant.

# VINES FISSURE

5L122



[Combined map - surface: ASF  
Grade 2, CEGSA, 1970; underwater  
area: ASF Grade 2, P.Horne, 1982]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L123

## (Unnamed Feature).

This karst feature was described by Geelong College student, Mr. M.J. Moore, as being a near-circular collapse cavern containing a short passage when his 1968-dated Trip Report was placed in CEGSA's Records by local speleologist Fred W. Aslin in June 1971. It was first explored several years prior to 1968, after the landowner reported its existence.

Mr. Moore reported that "...the entrance is a large, round pit about 20 feet in diameter. The land around it (10 feet from the edge of the pit) slopes gently to the edge.

"At the bottom of the entrance tunnel (some 15 feet long sloping down in the west end of the pit) is a long tunnel running north-west to south-east, which ranges in height from about 15 feet to 4 feet at the ends. This main passage is about 35 feet long. The width of this main passage varies from about 10 feet to 3 feet.

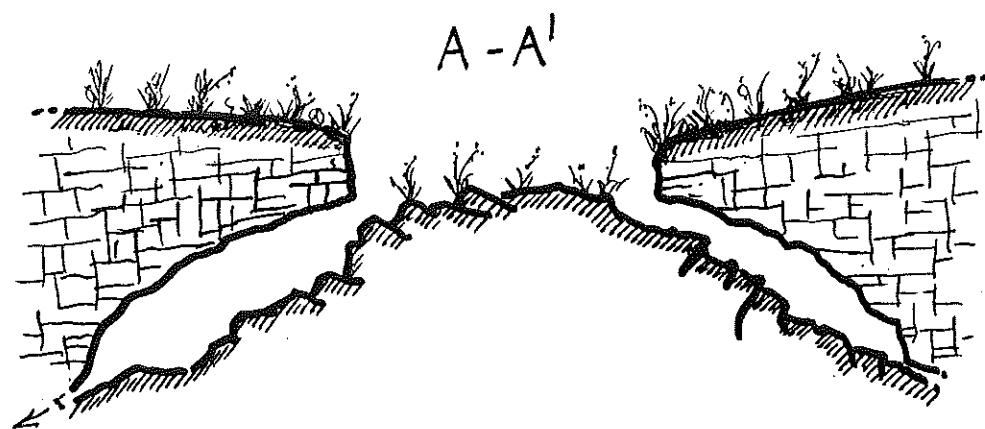
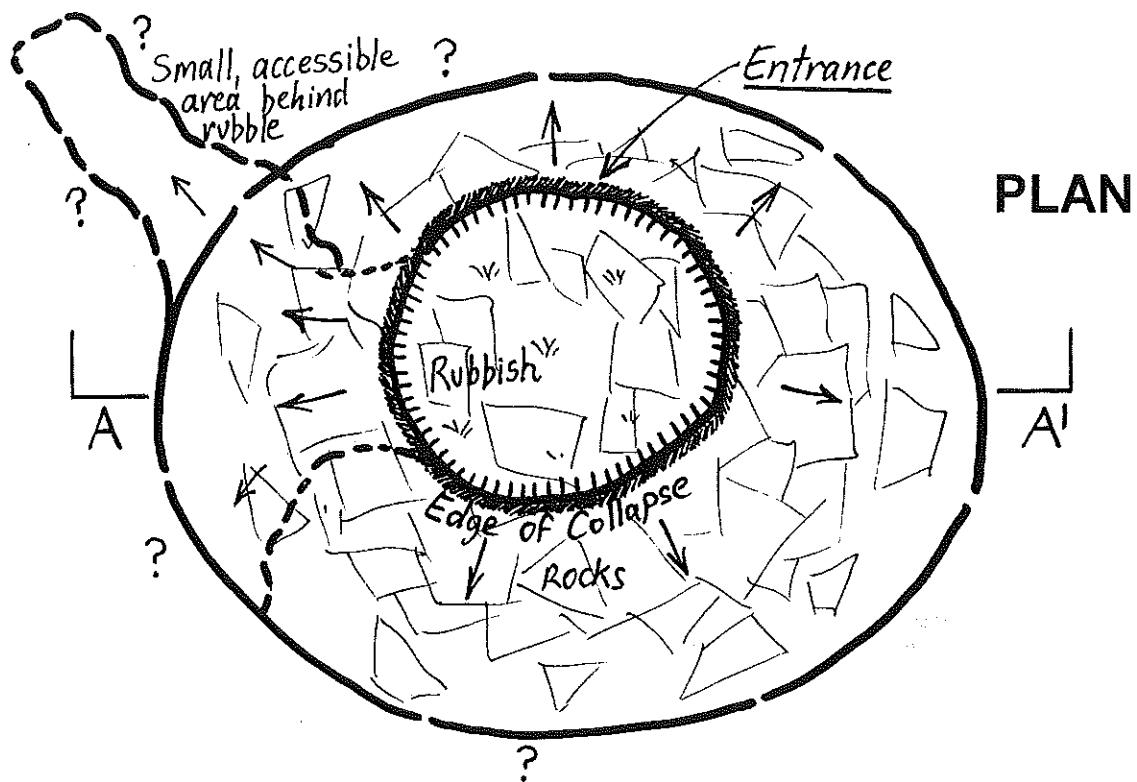
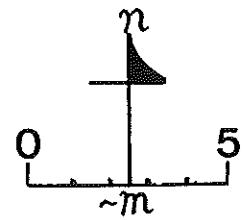
"There is another layer about 8 feet below this which has a couple of small passages which pass underneath this main passage. Some calcite formation was noted on walls and roof.

"Skulls including Macropus, Bettongia, Bandicoot, *Trichosurus vulpecula* and dog (possibly dingo) were collected. Many skulls were fragile because of dampness.

"This cave will soon be so full of rubbish that the entrance will be blocked."

The accompanying map is a rough Grade 2 sketch only (drawn from the surface due to the presence of putrid rubbish in the cave), and it doesn't show the passages referred to above. It should however be mentioned that the initial "15 foot long sloping tunnel" to the west of the entrance was reportedly nothing more than the gap between the ceiling and the rubbish floor (which was in the form of a 6m high mound at that time).

The current status of this feature is unknown.



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L124

### (Unnamed Feature).

One of the more significant fissure-caves for the Mount Gambier region, this feature is basically a single joint-controlled passage about 80 metres long. Access is made via a half-metre diameter solution tube which drops almost vertically for about 8m into a dry area of the passage, where it is about 3m wide and slopes down to the north-west and south-east to clear water which runs along the flat-roofed passage.

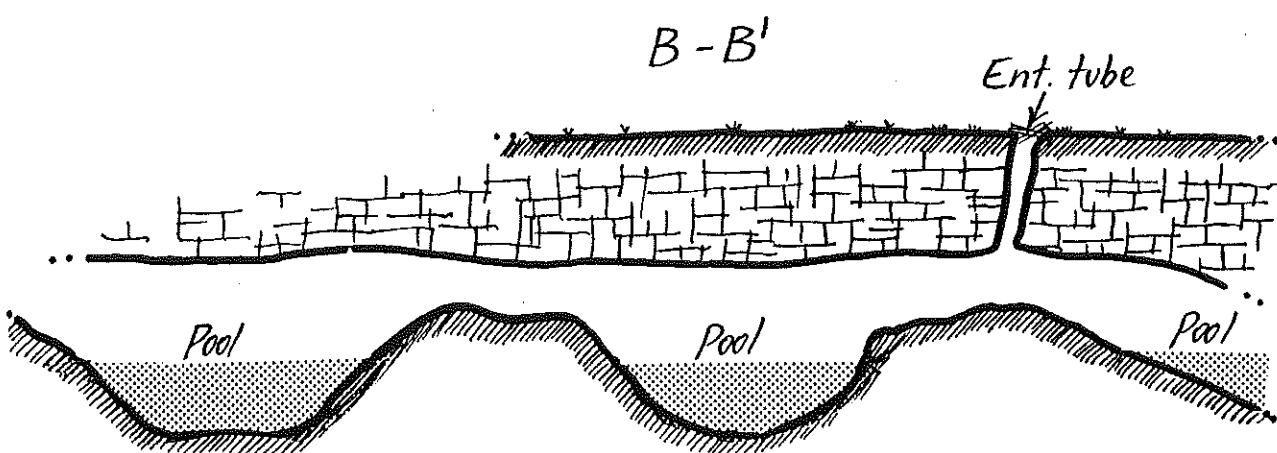
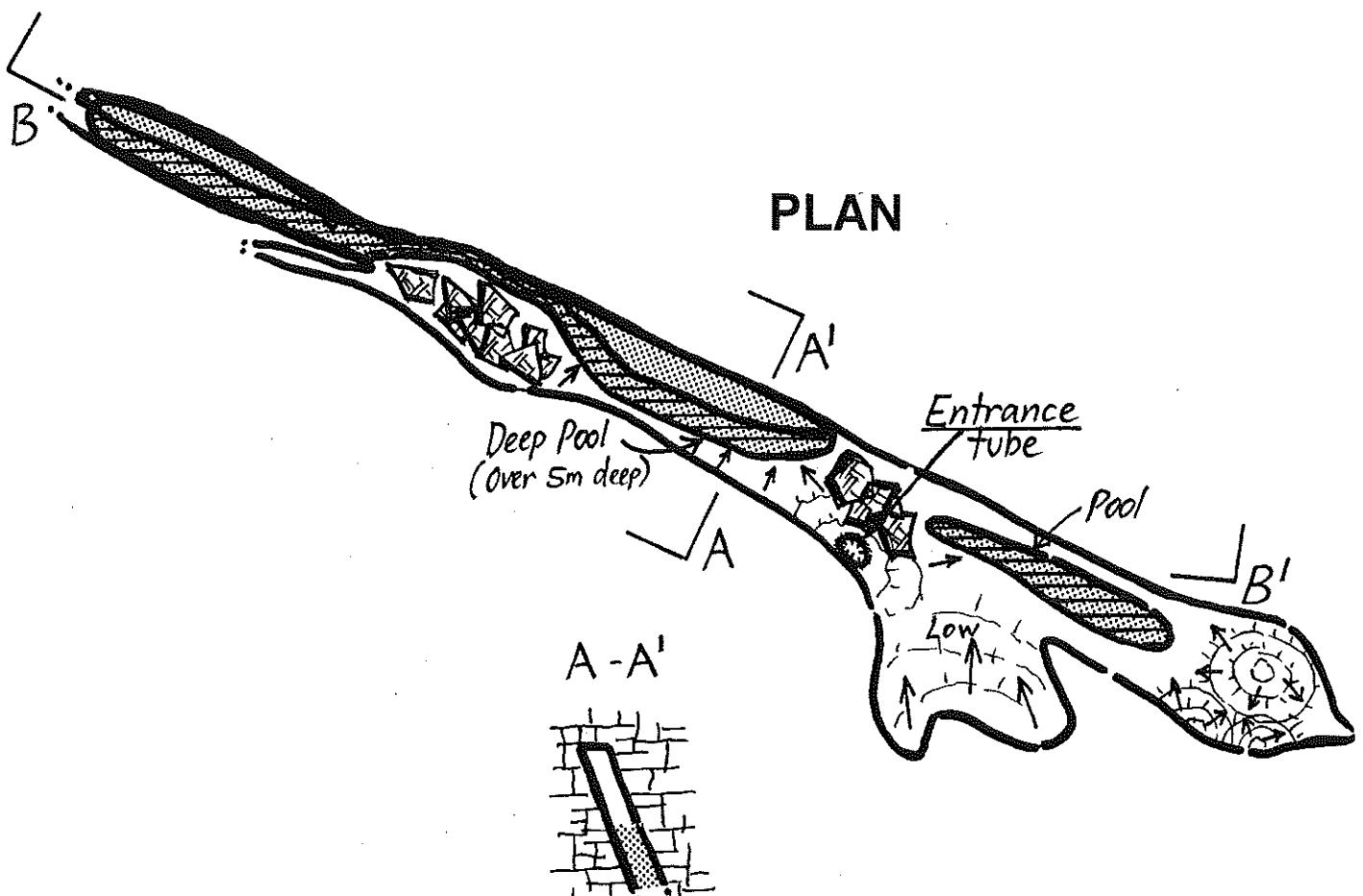
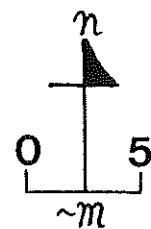
The south-eastern passage reaches a dry beach of red sand after 25m or so, terminating in a narrow crawlway, while the other end passes a bore-hole and ends in a narrower part of the fissure some 50 metres from the entrance. The water in some places appears to be over 5m deep, and it would seem that the cave has a good chance of continuing underwater if the above-water appearances are anything to go by.

Unfortunately, the water surface was contaminated with an oily substance when the author visited the site in August 1983, so exploratory diving activities were not attempted at that time.



According to a "Border Watch" newspaper report of 8th May 1971, the cave first appeared sometime around 1970 when a rear wheel of the landowner's tractor fell into/created a small drop-hole. This hole had then grown to dimensions of around 2 feet 6 inches across and 15 feet deep by mid-1971, when a group of Melbourne-based cave divers learnt about it and spent four hours removing a rock-fall which blocked the entrance. Mr. David Perry was then lowered by rope into the fissure below, reporting that the feature continued; however, it was assessed as being too narrow for a diver to enter at that time. The bore was put down sometime around November 1971.

5L124



[Map ASF Grade 5, W.Gamble,  
S.Avasalv & F.Aslin, 1971, plus  
ASF Grade 1 memory details,  
P.Horne & M.Nielsen, 1983]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L125

## MCKAYS SHAFT.

Added to the cave diving community's list of approved sites in 1992, McKays Shaft was named after the present landowner, Mr. Murray McKay, whose house lies close to the entrance.

The entrance is spectacular enough for many people; a 2.5 metre diameter (possibly artificially-enlarged) chimney in a steep-walled depression which drops sheer for about 18 metres before opening up into an impressive lake chamber some 30 x 20 metres across and 5m or so high.

Landing on a small mound of soft (usually dry) dirt and tree debris (which is almost at water level) after a descent of about 25 metres, visitors are surrounded on all sides by a beautiful clear-water lake and masses of root "curtains" from a couple of very old pines which surround and hang over the entrance. The entrance chimney does not enter the cave in the centre; the nearest wall is only about 4 metres to the west, and the longest axis is about 17 metres to the south-east. A higher, rubbish-choked ceiling tube is situated about 10 metres to the north-east of the entrance chimney, where the ceiling is about 7m above the water. The floor gradually slopes down in all directions from the dirt mound, reaching the nearest wall at a depth of about 5m. The lake chamber is undercut all the way around, so while the lake is something in the order of 30 by 20m across, the underwater extent of the feature takes the form of an elongated cavern about 60 x 35m in size. The depth at the floor beneath most of the lake is around 5-7m, but it gets deeper down the south-eastern end of the cave, to a maximum depth of 15m.

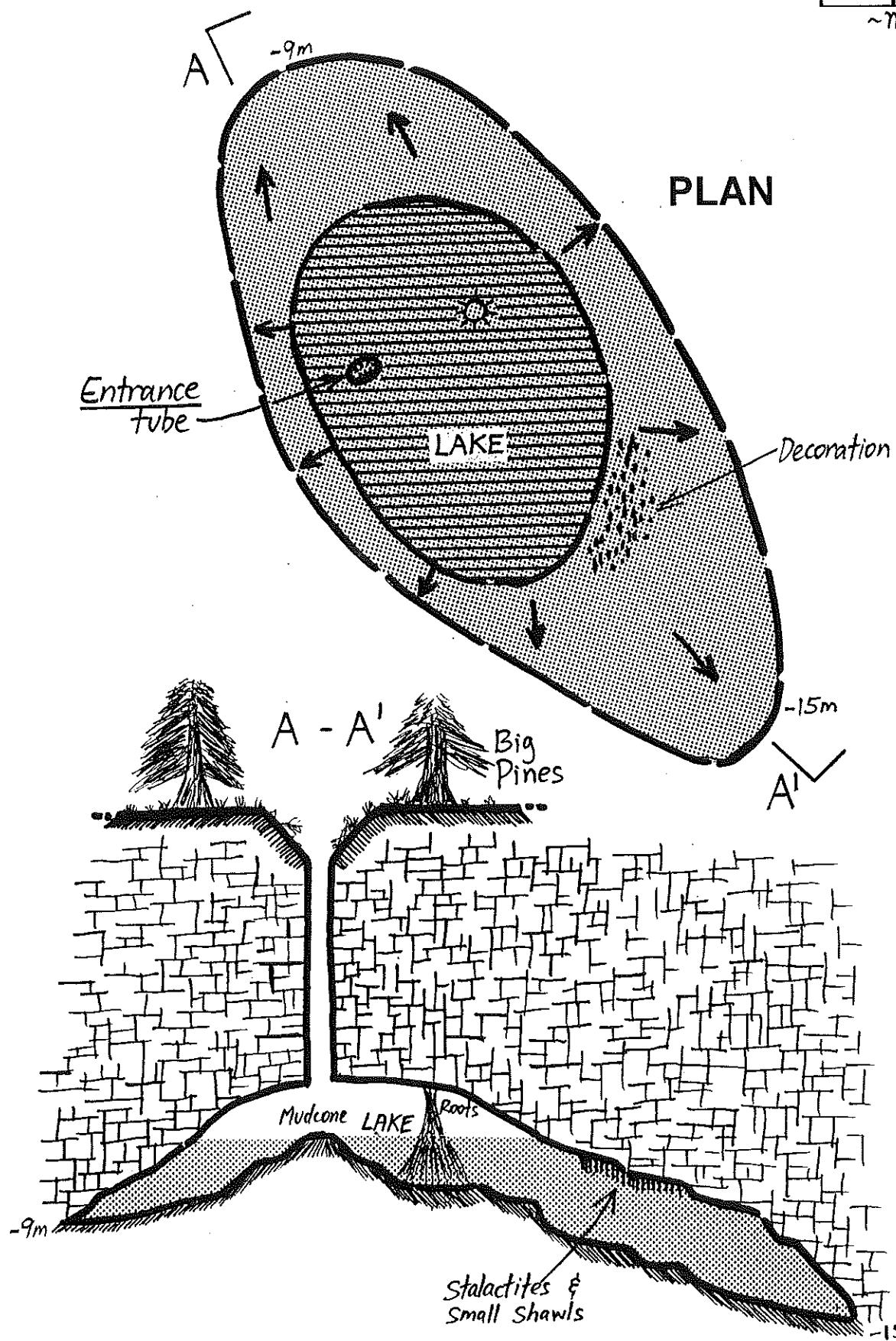
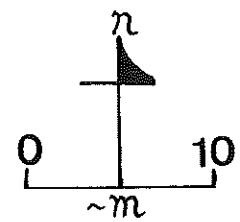


McKays Shaft is unique to this region because it is presently the only known feature with well-preserved SUBMERGED stalactites and shawls. These delicate features are not numerous, and they mainly decorate the walls at the south-eastern end of the chamber, at a depth of about 3m.

The cave was named by early divers after it was reportedly first dived by a large party of people consisting of Ian and "Blue" Berry, Graham McKenzie, Peter Peterson, Jerry Edwards, Hartley Crafter, David Perry, Messrs. F. Magee and Lyons and Archibald ("Jock") Huxtable on July 5th, 1964, after Murray advised Jock of the cave's existence (pers. comm. Mr. Murray McKay, October 1992). It was first mapped on February 28th 1971 when Phil Prust and Ian Lewis, assisted by Dave Stedman and Hartley Crafter, surveyed the main chamber with local cavers Fred and Jan Aslin, and it was entered into CEGSA Records by Ian soon afterwards.

# McKAYS SHAFT

5L125



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L126

### (Unnamed Feature).

This sinkhole consists of a 2.5 metre deep depression which leads north-west to a walk-in opening. The depression was quarried on the north-eastern side at some stage for building slate, and still exhibits sawn faces.

The entrance leads to a small joint-controlled cave about a metre wide which reportedly heads roughly north-west for a "short distance". The ceiling is flat and about a metre thick. The cave was once used as a meat "cool safe" and hanging facilities were still in place when the feature was visited by CEGSA member Ian Lewis in November 1970.

Several dozen cave crickets were recorded in the cave, and stock obviously used the depression and entrance for shelter from time to time; skeletal remains of sheep were found on the floor. It did not reach the water-table.

5L126

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L127

### (Unnamed Feature).

This feature first appeared in CEGSA's Records in the form of an August 1971-dated Trip Report by prominent caver and long-time CEGSA member, Ian D. Lewis.

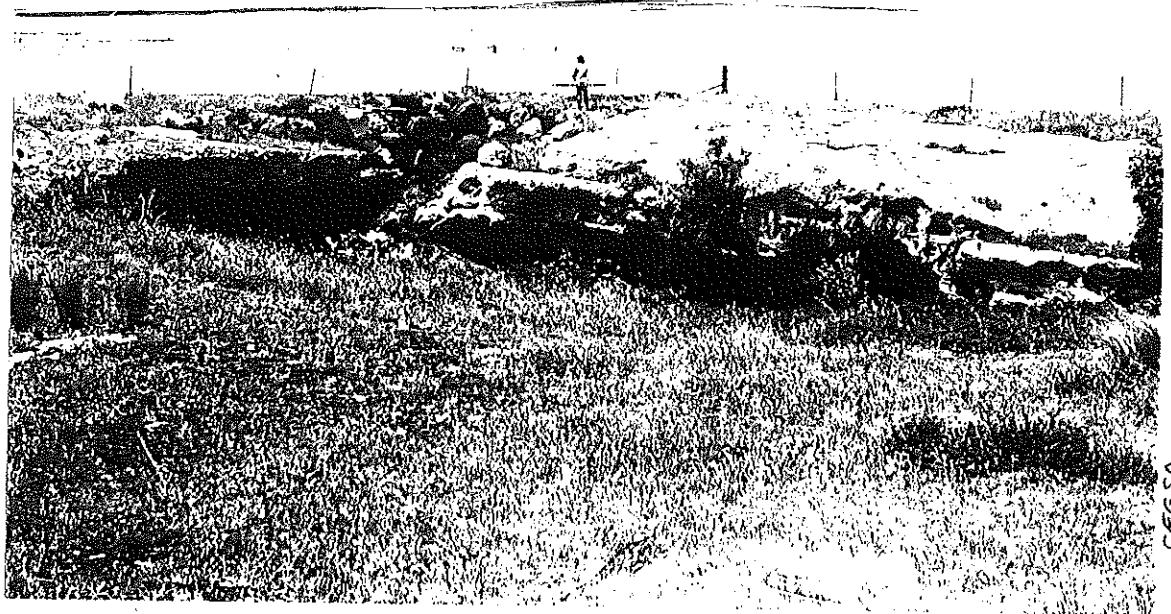
Visiting the feature on 22nd November 1970, Ian wrote that the entrance was roughly "...oval in shape and approximately 120 feet long (major axis) x 90 feet long (minor axis). The "oval" is oriented east/west. Much rubbish obscures almost all possible entrances. Some possible entrances still not blocked are on the south side of the sinkhole.

"Average depth of the sinkhole is 18-22 feet; floor is covered in couch-grass, which in turn covers layers of rubbish – very dangerous to walk on (also probably snake-infested).

"On the east side are horizontal solution tunnels about 18 inches diameter extending on an average of 6 feet or so laterally inwards from the wall.

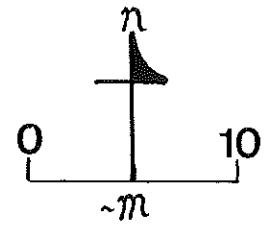
"Possible entrances on the south side (already mentioned) occur as flatteners – again, lone exploration was out of the question because of snakes and other assorted nasty wriggles!"

No special gear (apart from perhaps a gun!) was required to visit this feature.

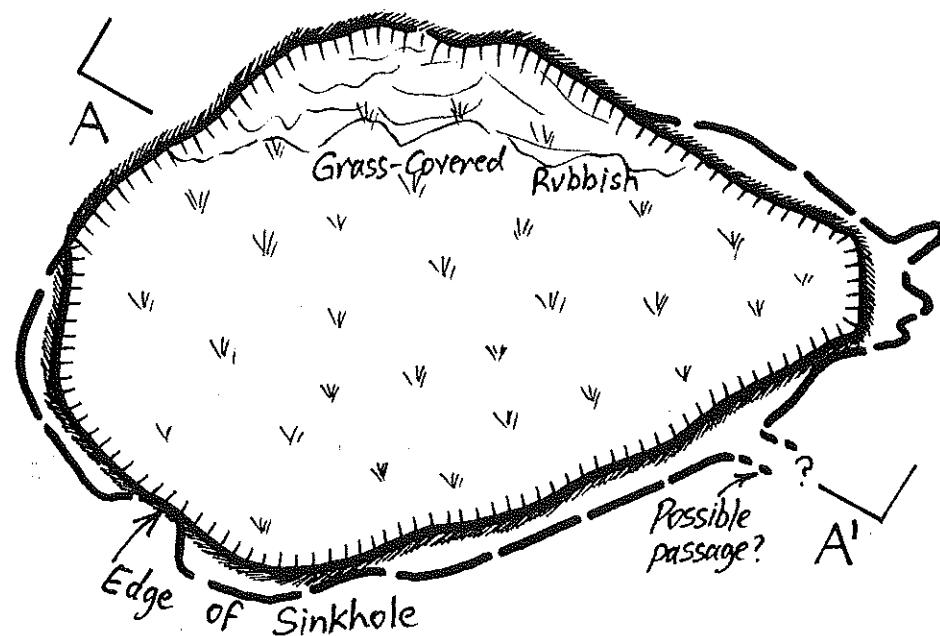


CEGSA

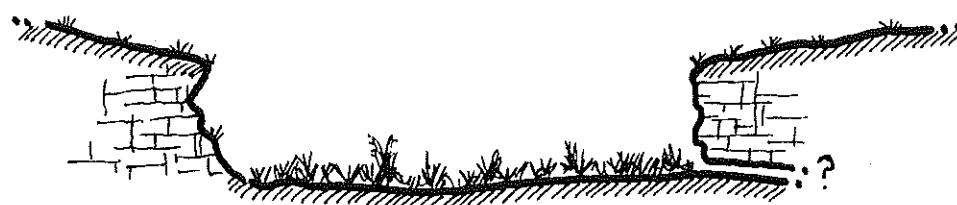
5L127



## PLAN



A - A'



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L128

### TEA-TREE SINKHOLE.

Named after the trees which grow from its central mound of debris, Tea-Tree is an oval-shaped sinkhole roughly 40 metres long, 25m wide and 8m deep, reaching the water table in a deep crescent-shaped pool on its eastern side and therefore attracting the occasional attentions of cave divers.

The walls are all extremely undercut, so access to the water can only be made via a length of rope ladder or similar artificial systems. Divers usually descend directly into the water because the dry mound is covered in dense cutting rushes and stinging nettles. The sinkhole also contains some old metallic rubbish.

The lake area has been extensively used as a rubbish-dump for trees over the years, and divers need to be aware of this because hidden limbs and branches present a severe entanglement hazard in the dark underwater environment (caused by a very dense layer of duckweed which usually completely covers the water surface).

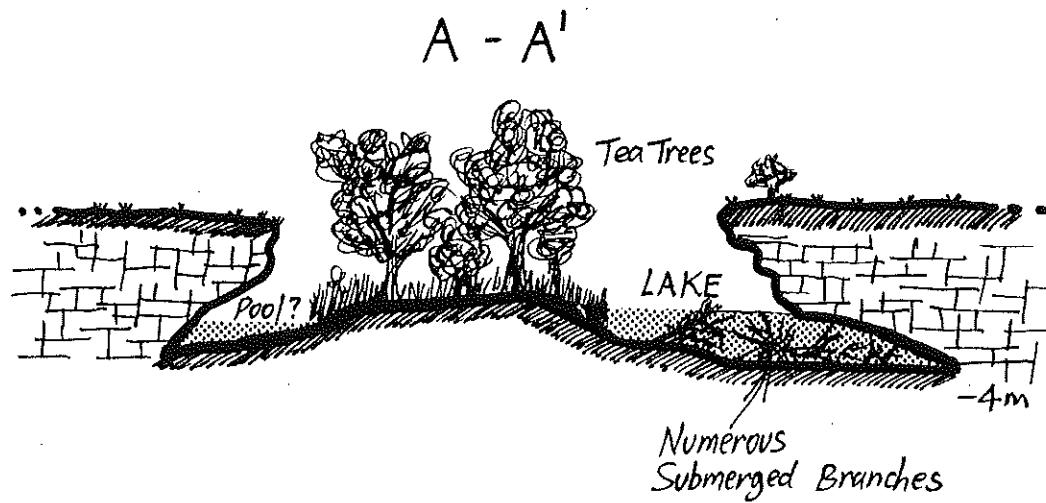
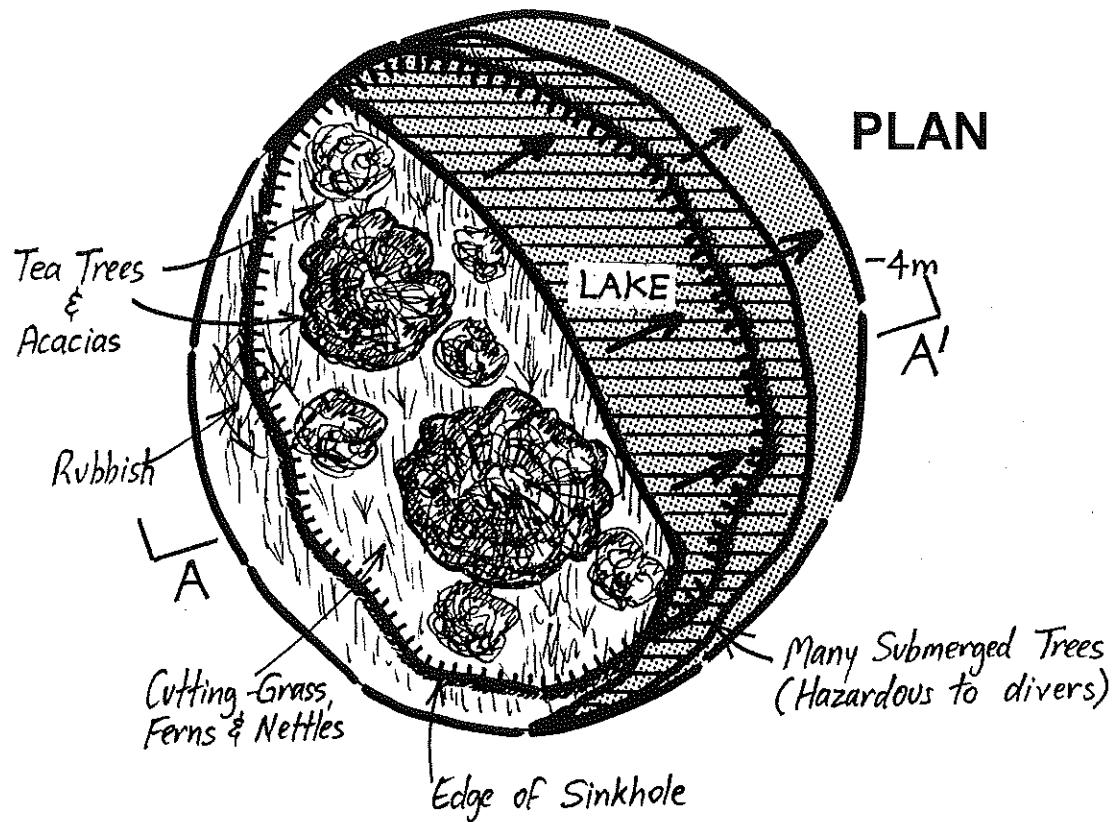
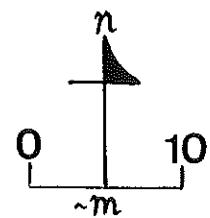


The sinkhole has little to offer recreational cave divers ... with a maximum depth of just 4 metres at the silt floor/wall interface, 5 metres or so from the surface, it does not appear to have any accessible extensions, although a dive by the author in September 1981 indicated that progress MIGHT be possible beyond the obscuring branches around the sides.

Tea-Tree Sinkhole was first placed in CEGSA's Records after Ian Lewis visited the feature in August 1971. Local caver Fred W. Aslin also reported that divers had evidently explored it sometime prior to this date.

# TEA TREE SINKHOLE

5L128



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 3, I.Lewis & F.Aslin, 1971;  
ASF Grade 2, P.Horne, 1981]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L129

## HORSE AND CART SINKHOLE.

Horse and Cart Sinkhole is an almost perfectly-circular sinkhole some 40 metres in diameter with extremely undercut walls, and it drops about 8m to a flat, cutting-grass covered floor with a deep, clear lake on its north-western side. Originally, access could only be made via rope ladders and the like, but nowadays visitors can comfortably walk down a small, steep artificial tunnel/ramp (dug using a back-hoe and muscle-power by Messrs. Don and Neville Telford around 1986) which leads to an attractive wooden landing inside the feature.

The open lake has a flat, silt bottom with a maximum depth of about 8m, just a couple of metres under the wall. The bottom does not meet the wall in a clear-cut zone; small horizontal solution passages meander on, but they cannot be entered safely by divers.

Like nearby Tea-Tree Sinkhole, this feature contained some native species of fish (including native trout and almost-tame eels) and crustacea (crayfish, yabbies and shrimps) until the mid-1980s, but the ecosystem has reportedly been dramatically altered as a result of the introduction of alien species of fish (including brown trout and redfin perch) and the associated recreational fishing activities. Compared with the other major sinkholes and the spring system of Piccaninnie Ponds just a few kilometres away, it has relatively little to offer recreational cave divers.

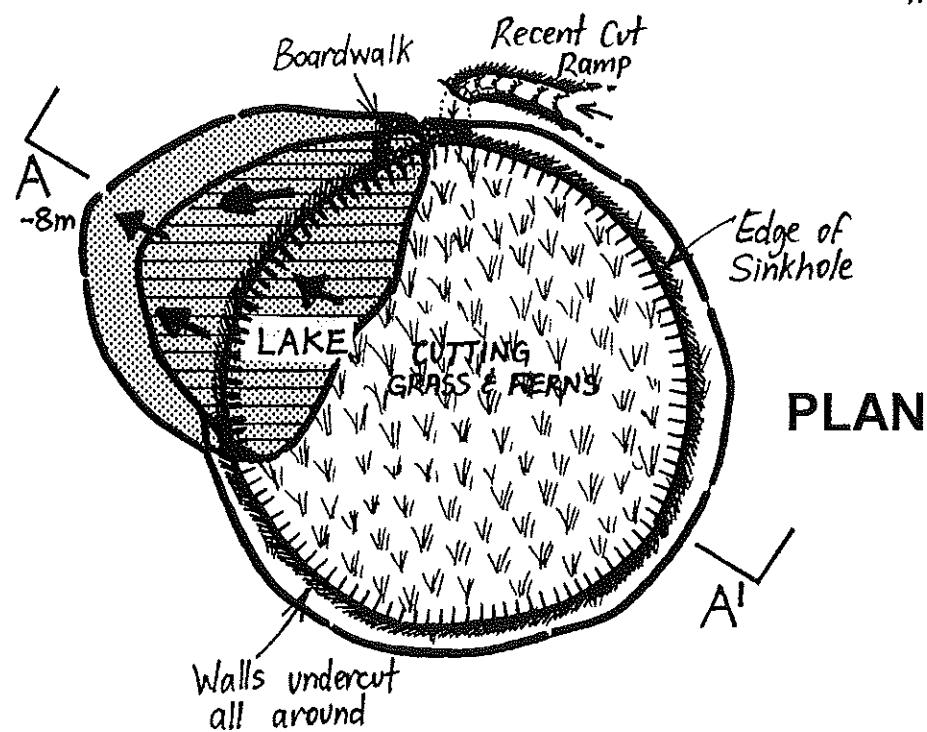
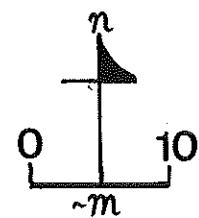


It is believed that Horse and Cart Sinkhole gained its name as a result of an incident involving a horse which was standing near the hole and was startled, backing its attached cart over the edge and dragging the hapless creature to an untimely end. Perhaps a diver with a keen eye might be able to verify this one day!

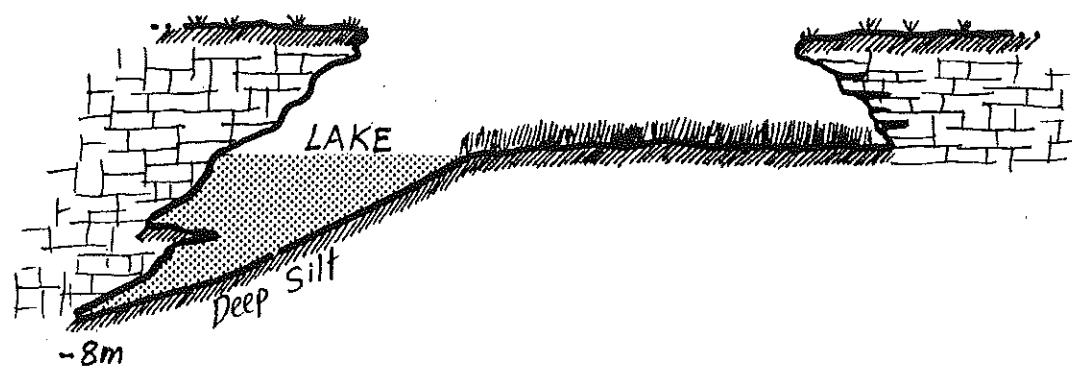
The feature was first placed in CEGSA's Records in the form of an August 1971 Trip Report by Ian Lewis, after a visit in November 1970.

# HORSE AND CART SINKHOLE

5L129



A - A'



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L130

### (Unnamed Feature).

This feature is a relatively simple (but huge) degraded doline, with a diameter of some 60 metres and a flat, grass-covered floor. It does not quite reach the water-table.

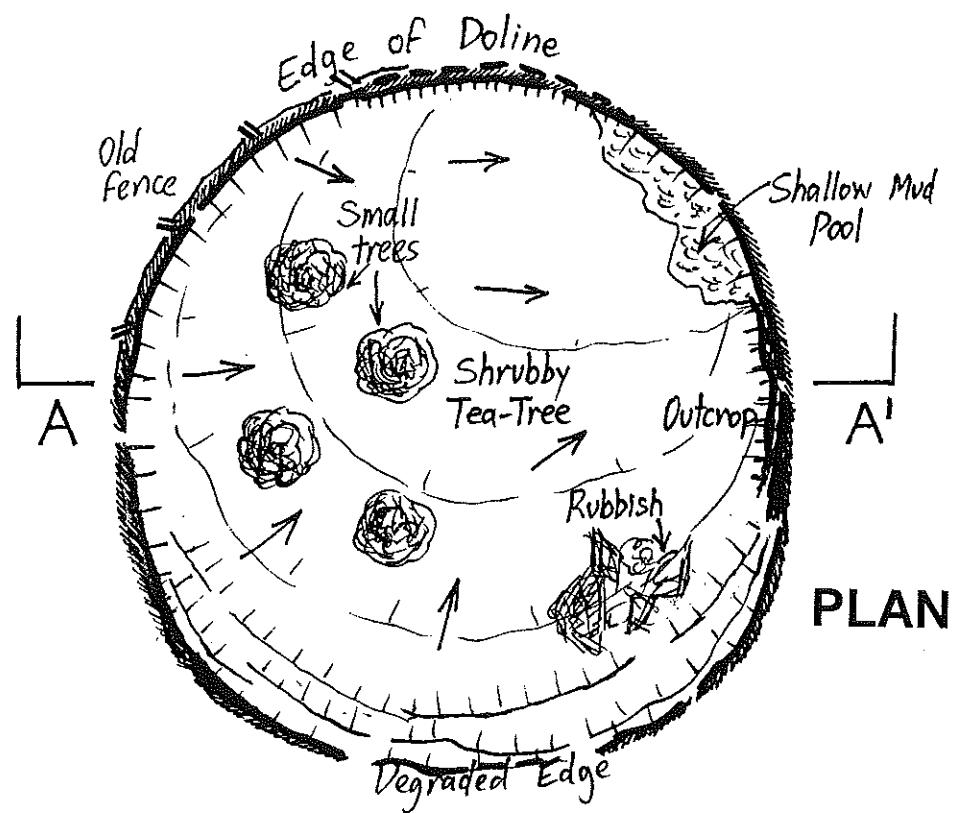
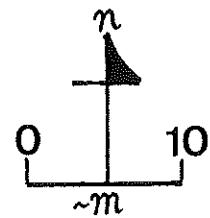
Placed into CEGSA's Records by Ian Lewis in the form of a two-page Trip Report dated August 1971, the feature was described as follows:-

(The doline) "...is fairly shallow (15 feet max.) and fairly close to being circular. On the east side there is a rock outcrop exposed (about 5 ft. high and 60-80 feet long). There is rubbish on the south-east side, a slight undercut on the north side, and a dilapidated fence around the western half. There are also a number of trees ... 10-13 feet high on the sloping western side.

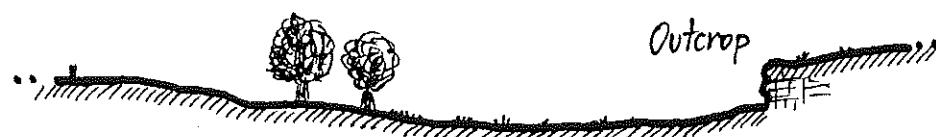
"The diameter is approx. 180 paces ... there are NO 'GOES'.

"General Notes: C.R.G. II claimed (sketch on site); no gear required; no exploration possibilities ... in short, not speleologically rewarding!".

5L130



A - A'

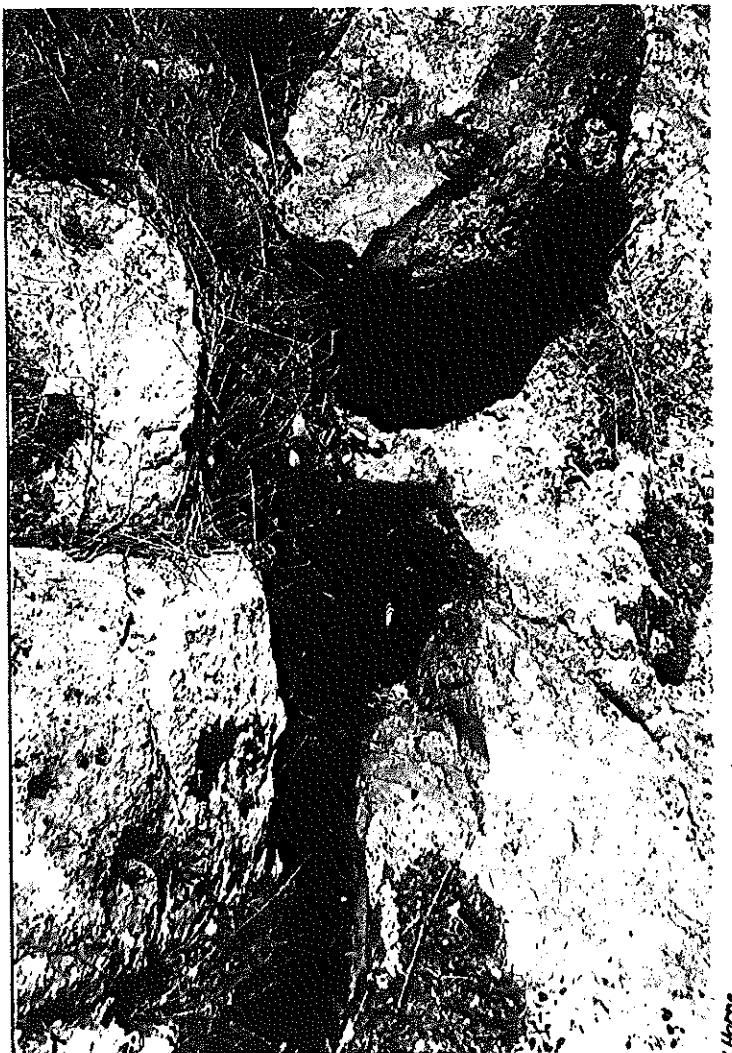


# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L131

## STONECAP CAVE.

A small, joint-controlled cave trending north-west to south-east and with a flattish "3 foot by 2 foot" limestone boulder covering its 1 x 0.5 metre drop-in entrance, Stonecap Cave is a near-vertical fissure about 15 metres long and generally about a metre or so wide. It was first placed in CEGSA's Records in August 1968, after Ian Lewis had explored it (in fact, Ian was most probably the cave's first human visitor). Access requires care in this slippery, awkward fissure, as one poorly-placed hand-hold can easily result in visitors becoming bruised and quite wet after they fall down the 70-80 degree slope (if they should land in the water which fills the joint about 6m below ground level). The entrance is situated almost exactly half-way along the joint, and further exploration is rapidly terminated due to the narrowing of the fissure in both directions.

The underwater regions of the cave were explored by the author in March 1986, when a couple of brief dives resulted in only some very minor extensions being found. The south-eastern end of the cave terminated just a few metres along, at a depth of about 6 metres where the fissure narrowed to an inaccessible 0.3 metres in width at a depth of around 6m, and the north-western end appeared to constrict to an inaccessible width a few metres further along, having a maximum depth of around 7m or thereabouts. The two "lakes" were also seen to connect under a large chock-stone which was wedged in the wall just above water level, directly underneath the entrance.

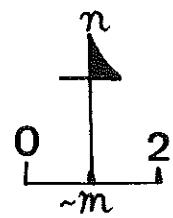


At the risk of appearing to foist personal opinions upon readers, in the case of this cave the author believes that he would be negligent if he did NOT warn potential visitors of this feature's extreme underwater hazards. While the south-eastern fissure is difficult enough to explore, at least in some places a hard-pressed diver might be able to reach the surface pool in an emergency. However, no such "luxury" option exists in the case of the north-western extension ... most of this region lies beneath an inaccessible fissure which is a perfect "line-trap", and access to the underwater area (which is less than 2 metres wide in most places and evidently not continuing anyway) can only be gained via a HORRIBLE and VERY treacherous squeeze which commences just beneath the surface.

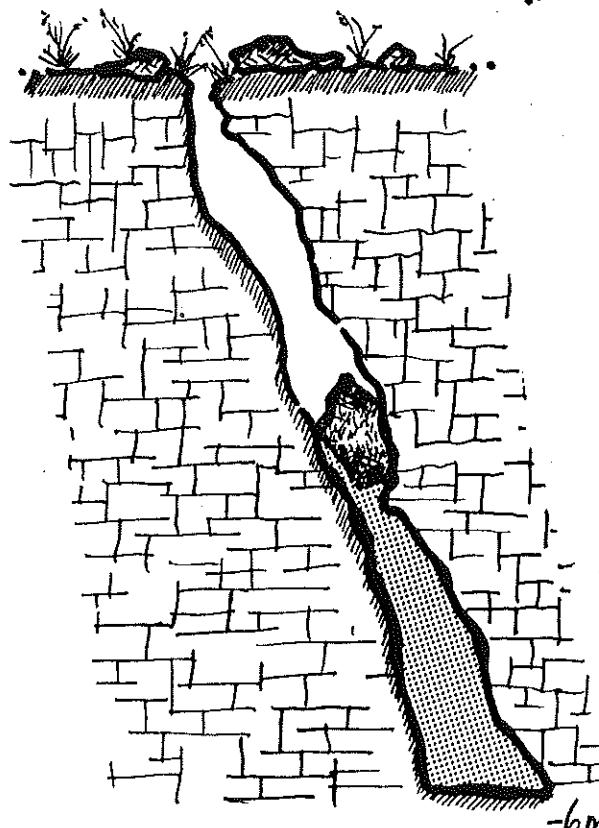
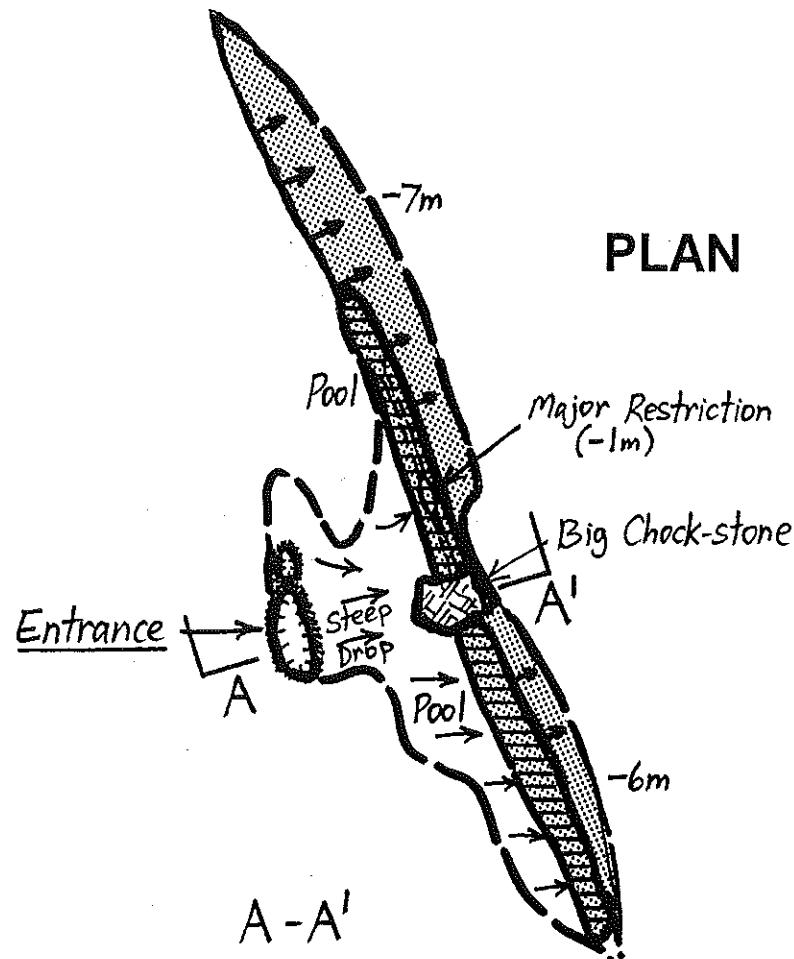
In other words, DO NOT consider diving in this cave if you really enjoy living !

# STONECAP CAVE

5L131



## PLAN



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L132

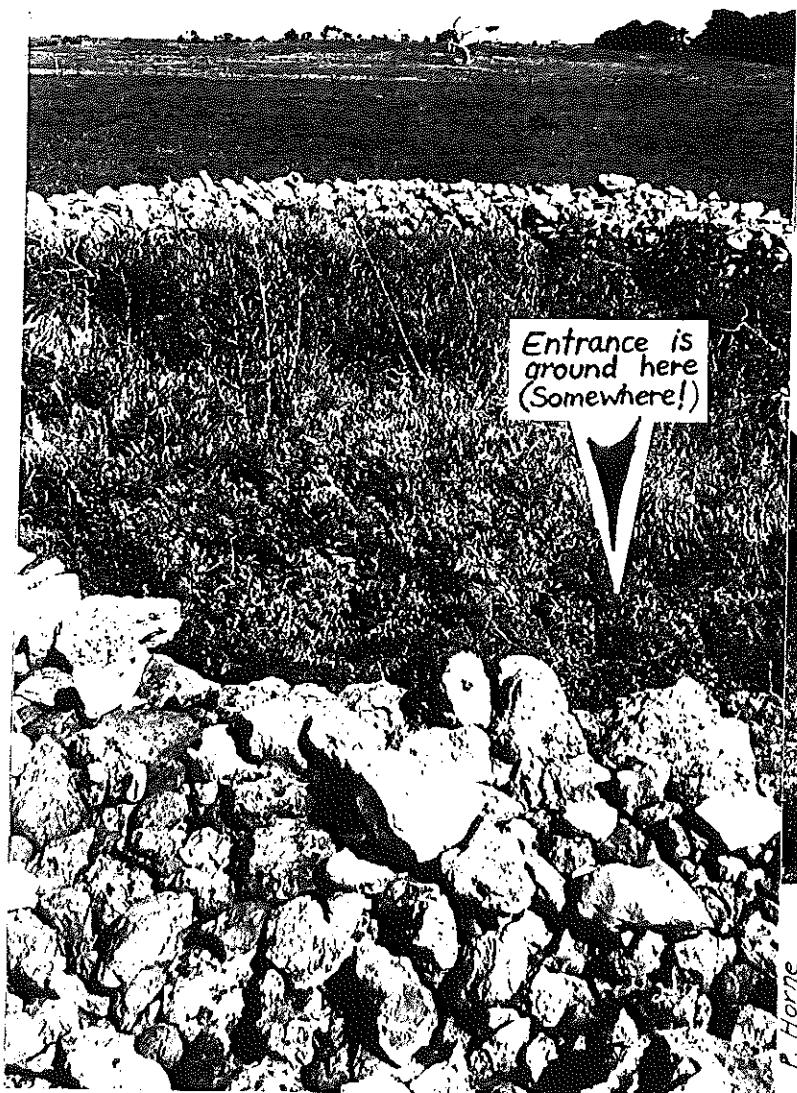
## MUSHROOM CAVE.

Mushroom Cave is one of the smaller features of the Mount Gambier region, consisting of little more than a single chamber about 9 x 4 metres across and 2.5 metres high. The entrance to the chamber is surrounded by an attractive stone fence about 1.6 metres high and 1.2m wide, and the 1.5 x 0.5m elongated roof hole has a 2.5 metre long steel fixed ladder installed against the south-western wall to make access very easy.

A further couple of metres beneath the end of the ladder, one reaches a shallow lake which covers almost the entire floor of the chamber. In 1982, when the author assessed the underwater area of the feature for possible extensions (there weren't any – maximum depth was just over 3m), a broad wooden plank had been placed across the lake so that "dry" visitors could reach the opposite wall about 3 metres away.

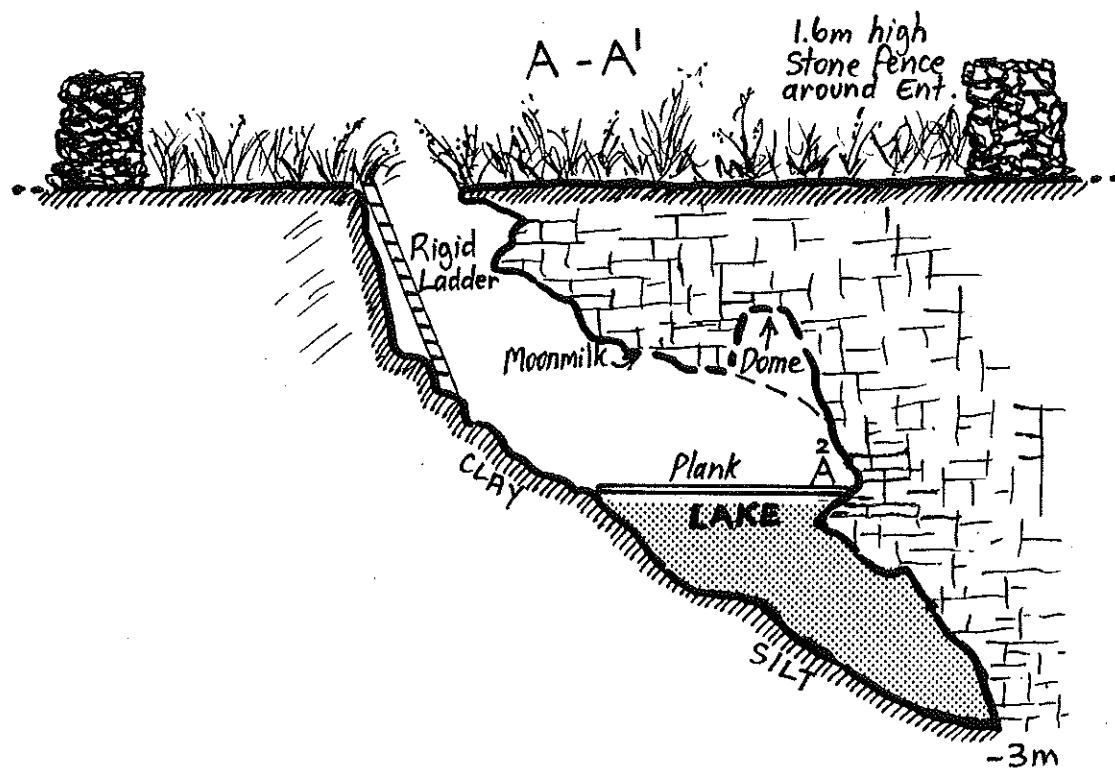
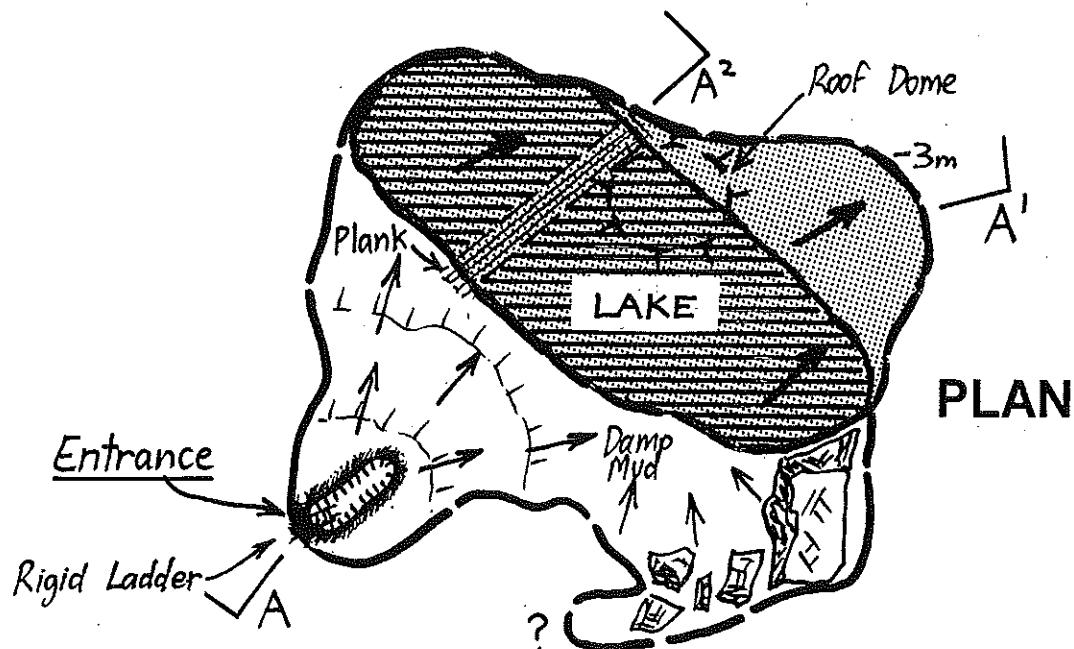
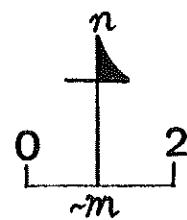
Although the cave contained no apparent extensions, the lake was found to contain some rare syncarids (*Koomunga crenarum*), so this feature is far from insignificant.

Local caver/speleologist Fred W. Aslin reported that he learnt of it around 1965, when the owner stated that the cave had been used to grow mushrooms since at least the mid-1950s. The feature entered CEGSA's Records after he visited it with fellow caver, Ian Lewis, in August 1971.



# MUSHROOM CAVE

5L132



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L133

### (Unnamed Feature).

This relatively uninviting, 18 metre diameter near-circular doline was first described in 1971 as being little more than a rubbish-filled collapse with a degraded northern side.

In his August 1971 CEGSA Trip Report, Ian Lewis wrote that the cave "appears to have not been visited previously (in an exploratory sense). It contains large numbers of sheep carcasses plus other rubbish dumped into it after the Kongorong Fire (Jan. 1958), making the smell etc. quite intolerable."

The feature itself was described as being a "...circular shallow doline about 60 feet diameter, resulting from underground collapse. Grey sand down a slope of 40 degrees to the horizontal, on north side of doline leads to the entrance, which is at the bottom of a small vertical wall (about 10 feet high) which cuts back underneath and does not appear to drop to the floor, at an estimated depth of 30 feet below ground level (at surface); i.e., the cave appears to continue.

"Cave extends approx. southwards with a slope of 40 degrees to the horizontal for 50-60 feet whereupon the floor flattens out and leads into further cave with some broken rock and carcasses, which thin out where the floor becomes horizontal. Cave has a good chance of "going" if the rubbish could be successfully negotiated."

Ian added that the only gear needed to explore the feature comfortably was a nose-peg!



5L133

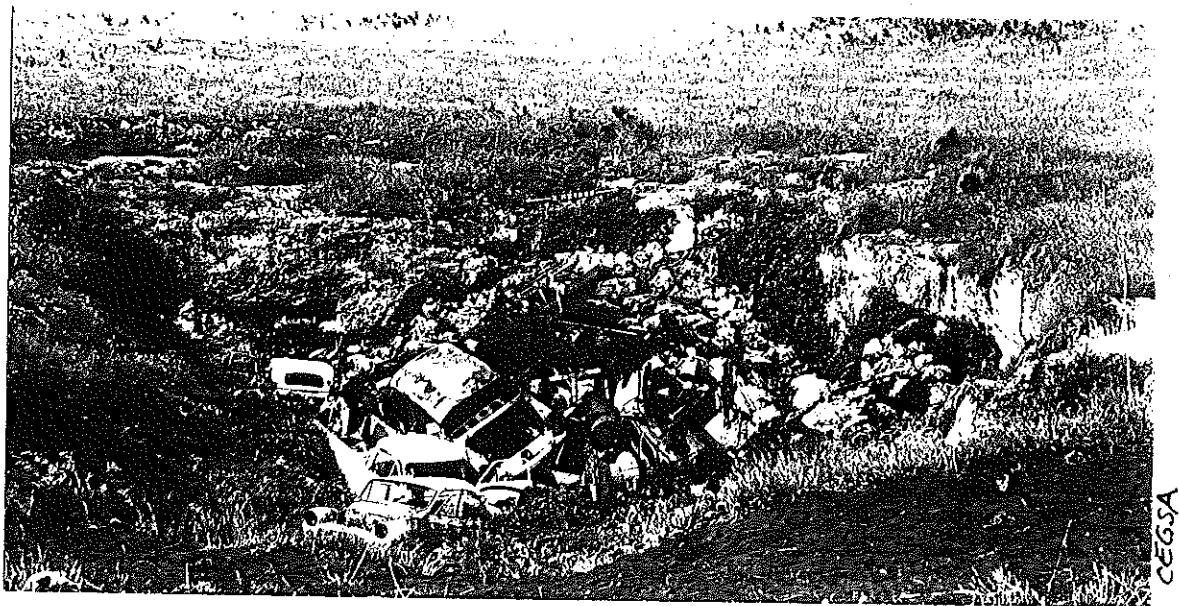
**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L134

### KITTY TEMPLES CAVE (Kongoroo Cave).

Located close to the locally-named "Kitty Temple's Corner", this doline was named after Kitty Temple, a well-known publican who operated an unlicensed "hotel" some 9 miles from Mount Gambier on the Nelson Road in the 1860s-70s. The building was a popular and welcome "watering-hole" for horsemen and other travellers, but the lack of a liquor license meant that Kitty was constantly being raided by the police. However, she was never caught, and she died in 1907.

The feature was filled with rubbish on 12th November 1967, and soon afterwards, Adelaide-based caver Ian Lewis visited the feature and placed a Trip Report (dated August 1971) into CEGSA's Records. Ian described the entrance as being "...in a shallow doline at the bottom of which the cave entrance is on the west side of a collapsed chamber. The collapse is circular, close to 100 feet in diameter, and the western side of the collapse is a 20 foot vertical wall with a further 20 foot undercut into what was the original cave. The east side is a dark sandy slope (approx. 30 degrees) giving a walk-in entrance.

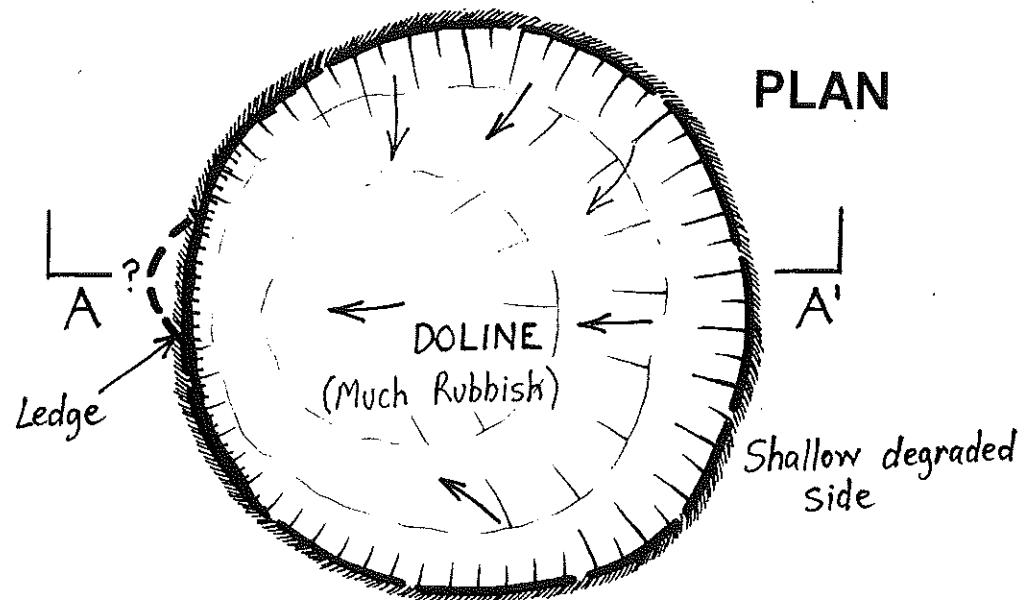
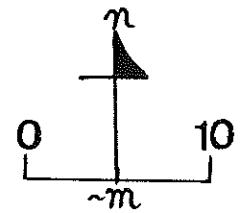


"Rubbish pile includes a rainwater tank, and is about 15 feet high at and against the south-western wall, augmented by three dead cows. There is very little cave obvious, although development would have been fairly extensive. What little cave there is, is undercut, and the floor consists of rubbish and sand, drifting down from the east side of the collapse. Rubbish pile is not to be tampered with ... loose and unstable. A small offshoot on the north-west corner of the vertical wall leads in about 6 feet and closes off, and in the reverse direction, downwards at 30 degrees to the horizontal for 15 feet. This was not pushed, but appears to end at this point."

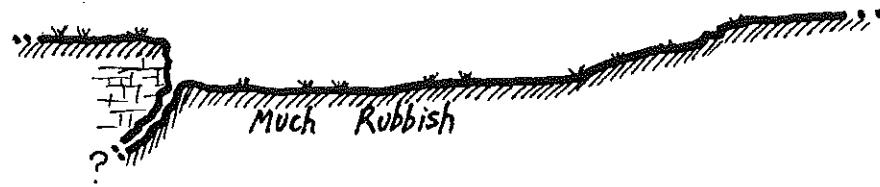
The cave reportedly originally contained water in its south-western corner, and this was used by passing bullock-waggons and stock. The name "Kongoroo Cave" was allotted by AURA representatives who discovered what they believed were signs of early man (petroglyphs) in the feature.

# KITTY TEMPLES CAVE

5L134



A - A'



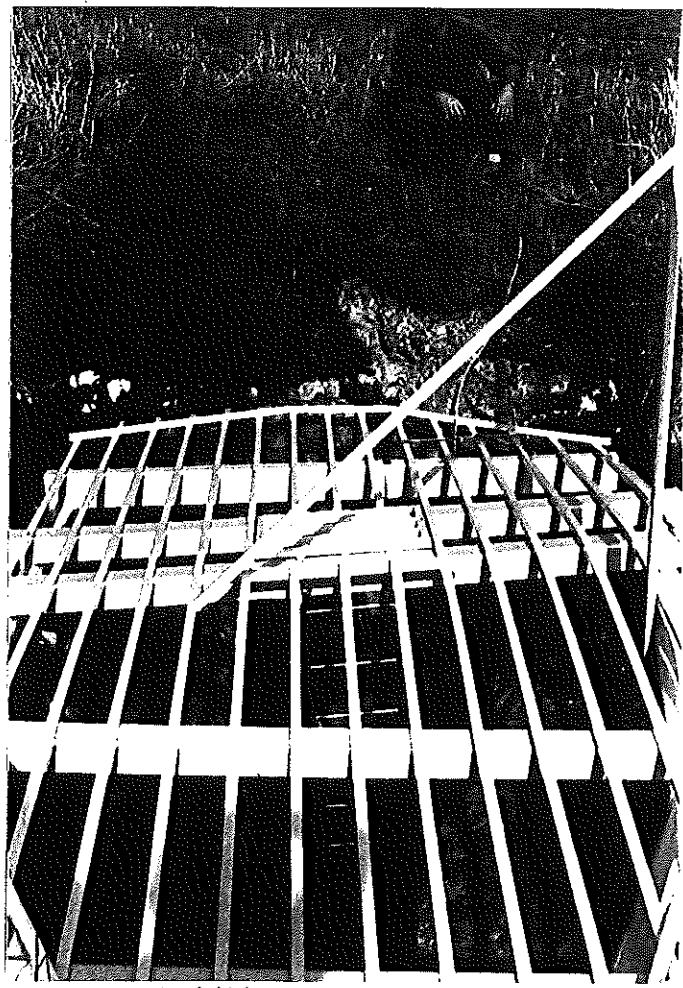
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L135

### GLENHUNTLY CAVE (Paroong Cave).

Recently acknowledged as being one of the most significant prehistoric petroglyph sites in the South East (if not Australia), Glenhuntly Cave is an unusual joint-controlled cave which was named after the property on which it is situated. The feature is also known as "Paroong Cave" (from the now-extinct Buandik Aboriginal tribe's words meaning "abundant") by members of the Australian Rock Art Research Association, AURA.

Unlike the vast majority of "fissure" caves which are found in this region, Glenhuntly Cave runs almost due west-east rather than north-west to south-east. The entrance takes the form of a 4 metre long, one metre wide collapse on the western end of this 100 metre-long cave, where visitors immediately encounter circular wall markings and other very old remnants of early man.

Passing carefully through this low area, one enters a 3 metre high passage which widens a little before constricting again. The cave contains quite a lot of nice decoration, and about 30m in, several small but deep pools of clear water are encountered before a final lake signals the end of the larger part of the main cave. The passage continues for perhaps 30m more in a calcite crawlway, finally ending in a very low flattener which spreads out all around the eastern end.



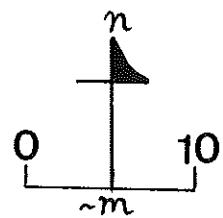
R. Bednarik, AVRA.

The cave was first reported to local caver Fred W. Aslin by the property owner sometime before June 1967, when he penetrated it for a distance of some 170 feet (55m) or so. He returned in August 1971 with fellow caver Ian Lewis, and later, some cave divers (including Peter Stace) checked it out for possible underwater extensions. Following these explorers of the late 1970s, the author and fellow cave diver Andrew Cox attempted to map the underwater regions of the cave in March 1983, commencing their dive in the first pool which was roughly square-shaped and about a metre across. The passage continued underneath the dry passage above, and this low, silty area consisted of black mud which was very easily disturbed. The passage was followed for about 16 metres before its connection with the final main lake was confirmed, and the water reached a maximum depth of 5m.

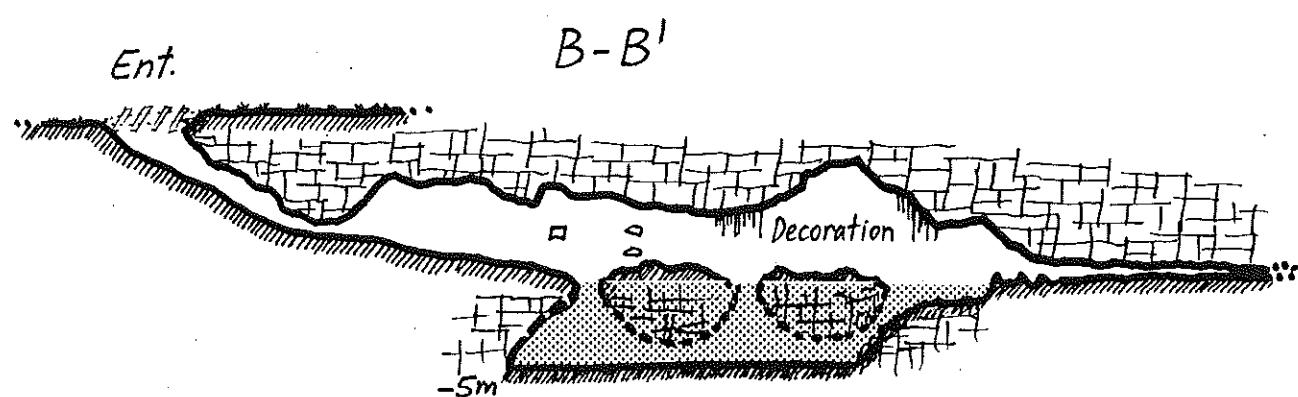
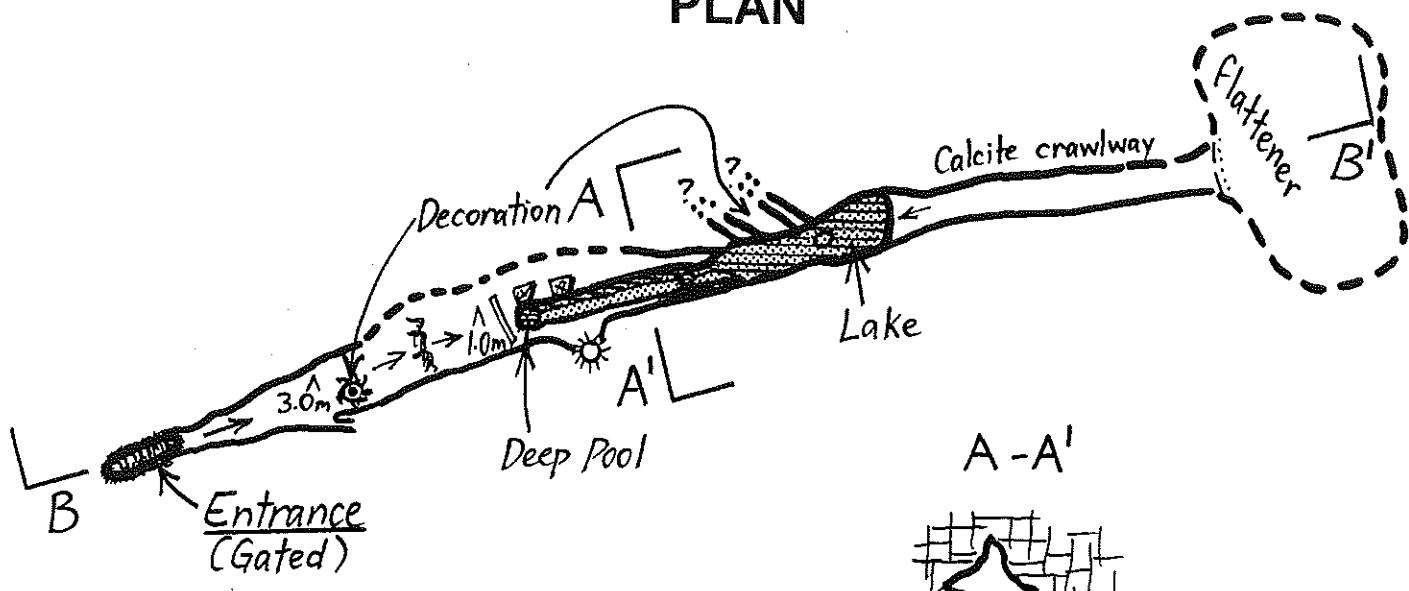
The cave has recently been gated by AURA to enable access to be better controlled..

# GLENHUNTRY CAVE

5L135



## PLAN



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 3,  
F.Aslin & others (CEGSA), 1971; underwater  
area: ASF Grade 22, P.Horne & A.Cox, 1983]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L136

## CIRCUIT SINKHOLE.

This feature is basically a simple dry doline/sinkhole containing many car bodies and lots of other rubbish, and therefore of little importance to cavers.

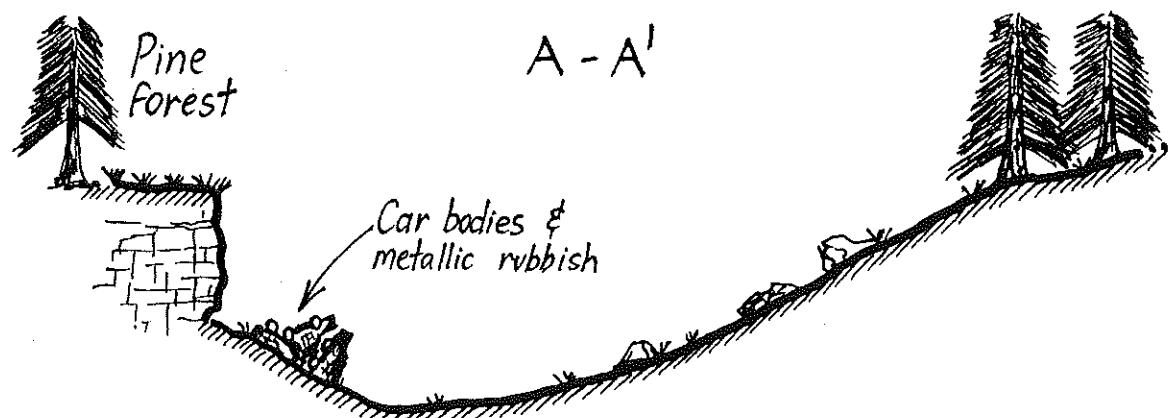
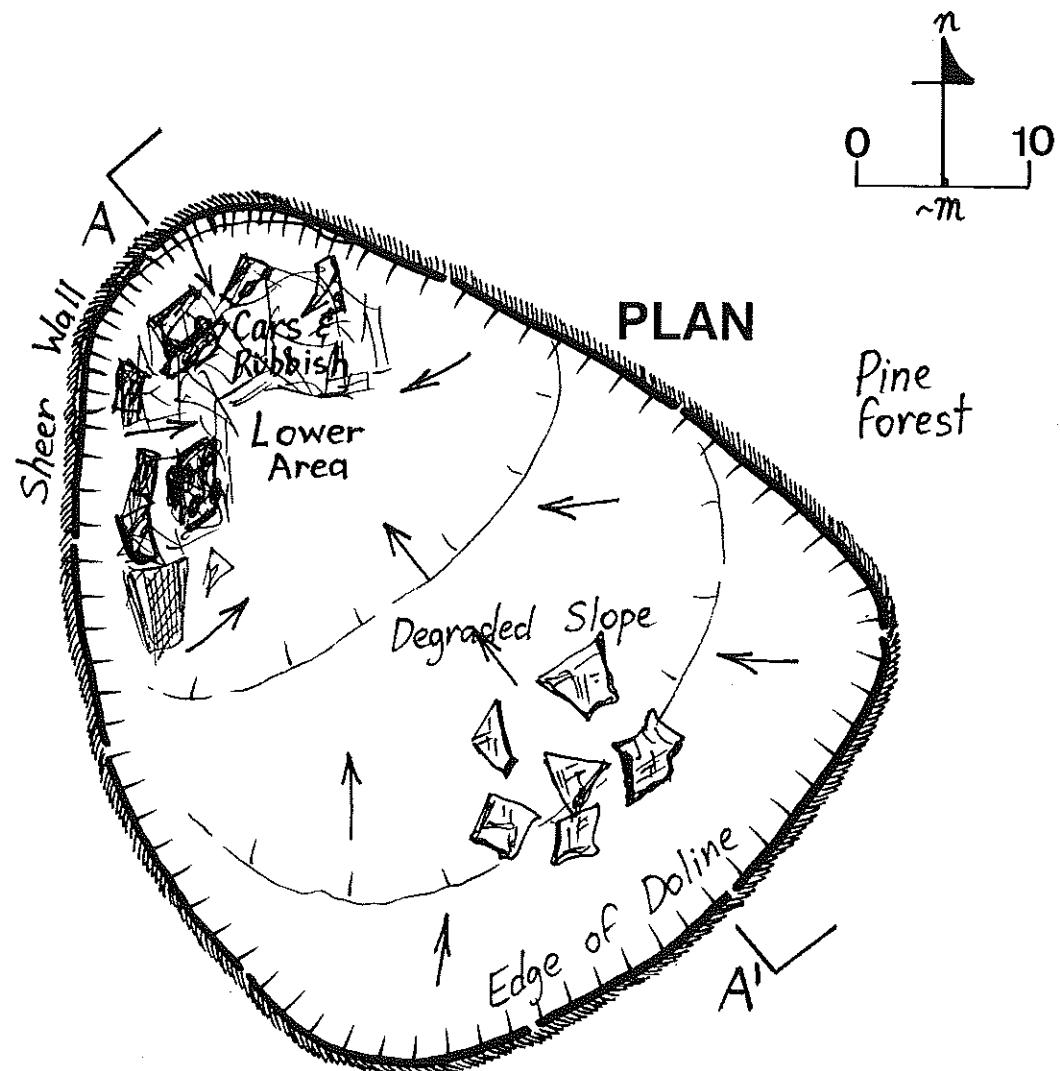
It is relatively circular in shape and it has an easy walk-down degraded slope. It is in the order of around 45 metres across and 12 metres deep, and the name "Circuit" was proposed for this feature by Ian Lewis and Fred W. Aslin in September 1971, as "...it is felt that this sinkhole forms a "circuit" with S166, S88, S67, S95, S24 and S86 (now L113 {Myora Sinkhole}, L55-57, L40 {Hells Hole}, L10 {Caroline Sinkhole} and L54 respectively), which are essentially all similar features. It should be made clear that there is no implied geological or geomorphological significance in the name 'Circuit Sinkhole'".

The only known map is a Grade 3 sketch drawn by Ian Lewis and Fred Aslin in August 1971.



# CIRCUIT SINKHOLE

5L136



[Map ASF Grade 3, I.Lewis & F.Aslin  
(CEGSA), 1971; rough ASF Grade 1  
memory sketch, P.Horne, 1988]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L137

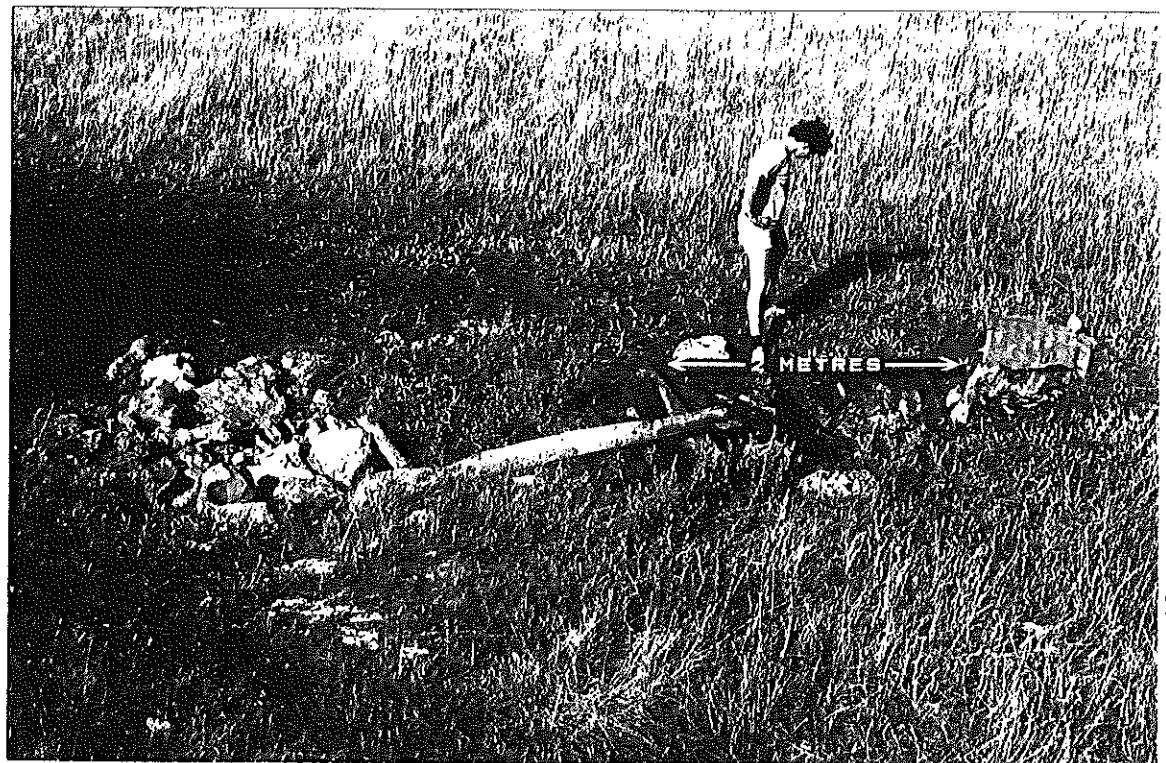
## (Unnamed Feature).

This cave was described as being a single joint-controlled passage about 50 metres long with an orientation of roughly north-west to south-east. Surface features observed in August 1971 (when the only known map was drawn) included two adjacent shallow surface depressions north-west of the entrance.

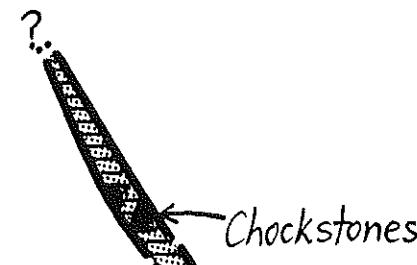
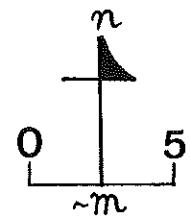
The entrance - which was probably enlarged from a natural solution tube to a one metre square shaft - dropped about 5 metres onto a sloping rubbish mound, which reached the water-table in both directions. Little else is known about the feature, but it would appear from the map that the south-eastern area was very narrow - perhaps inaccessibly so (0.5m wide or less) while penetration at the north-western end was stopped by several chock-stones or restricting walls.

The water in the fissure reportedly appeared to be "deep".

This feature was first recorded in CEGSA's Records as a result of a report to cavers Fred W. Aslin and Ian Lewis by a gentleman named Mr. Urquhart in December 1970, and it contained some interesting specimens of the fern *Asplenium trichomanes* on the upper wall of the entrance shaft at that time.



5L137



A  
Pool

## PLAN

Surface  
Depressions

Entrance

Pool

A'

A - A'



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L138**

### **GLYNN CAVE.**

Named after the landowner of that period, Mr. L.F. Glynn, this cave is a small joint-controlled feature located in a pine forest near Glynn Road, to the south of the small town of Kongorong, and it can only be penetrated for a few metres.

Entry is made via a squeezy walk-down hole about a metre across at the surface, and visitors then crouch low as they descend for about 5m more in a north-westerly direction until they reach the water-table. Here, the cave narrows to less than 0.3m wide, where it continues for at least another 10m or so.

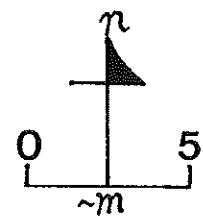
The water is 3 or 4 metres deep but because the right-hand wall slopes under the left, exactly where it leads cannot be determined. It also seems to get even narrower, becoming completely inaccessible, just beneath the surface.

This cave has two bore-holes (one with a casing) penetrating the thin ceiling, and other signs of human usage in the immediate area take the form of old rusty cans and the like.

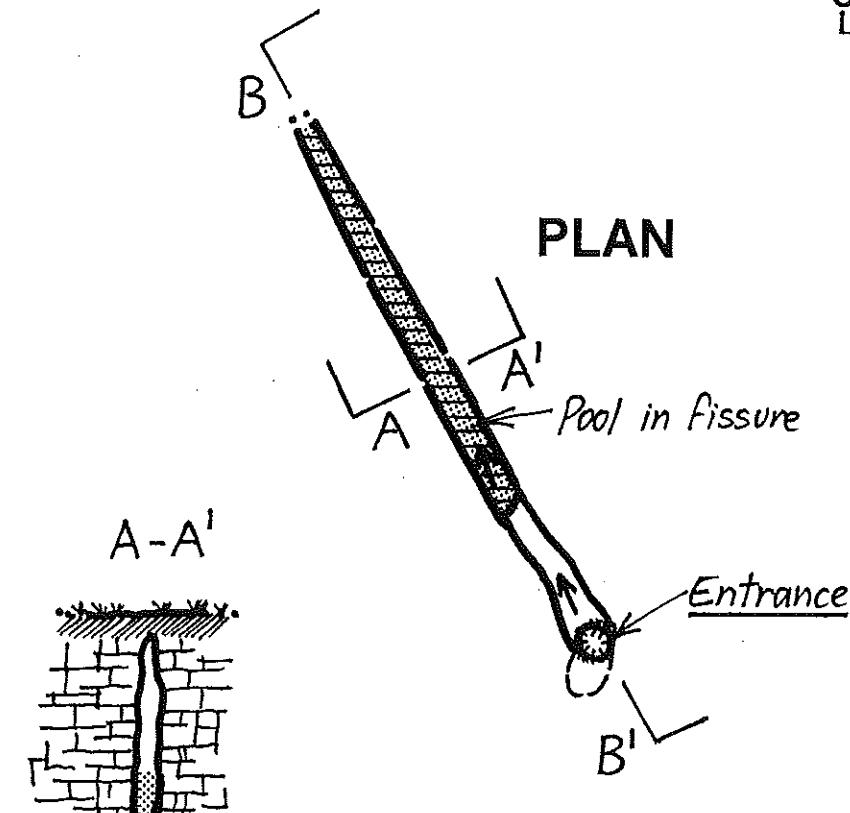
The first map and location of this feature appeared in CEGSA's Records in August 1971.

# GLYNN CAVE

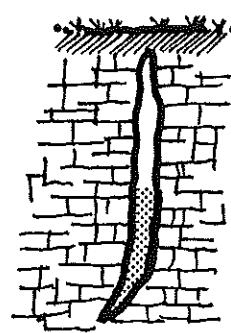
5L138



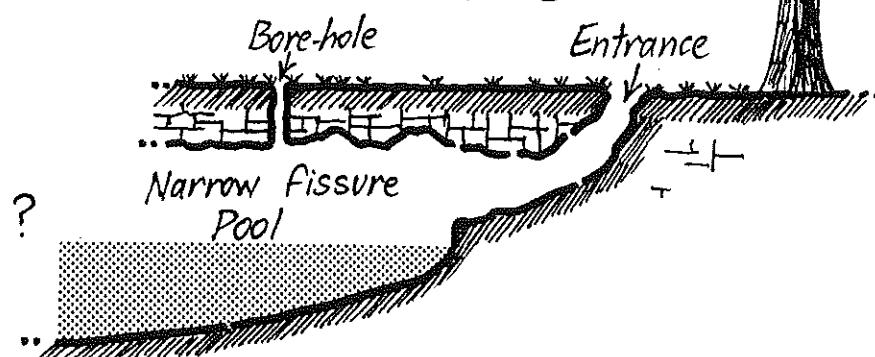
## PLAN



A-A'



B-B'



Surrounding  
Pine Forest

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L139

## KONGORONG SINKHOLE.

Kongorong Sinkhole is an almost featureless doline which is basically a simple 30 metre diameter doline some 5 metres or so deep. It is not exactly within "spitting distance" of the small township of Kongorong from which its name was derived, but someone nevertheless thought it was a suitable name at the time, and it can only be seen from a relatively remote dirt track.

An August 1971 CEGSA Trip Report by caver Ian D. Lewis described the feature as follows:-

"It is on the south-west side of a ridge which runs at 338 degrees. The sinkhole is 100-120 feet long (major axis) and 90-100 feet long (minor axis); it is therefore oval-shaped and degraded along the west and south-western sides.

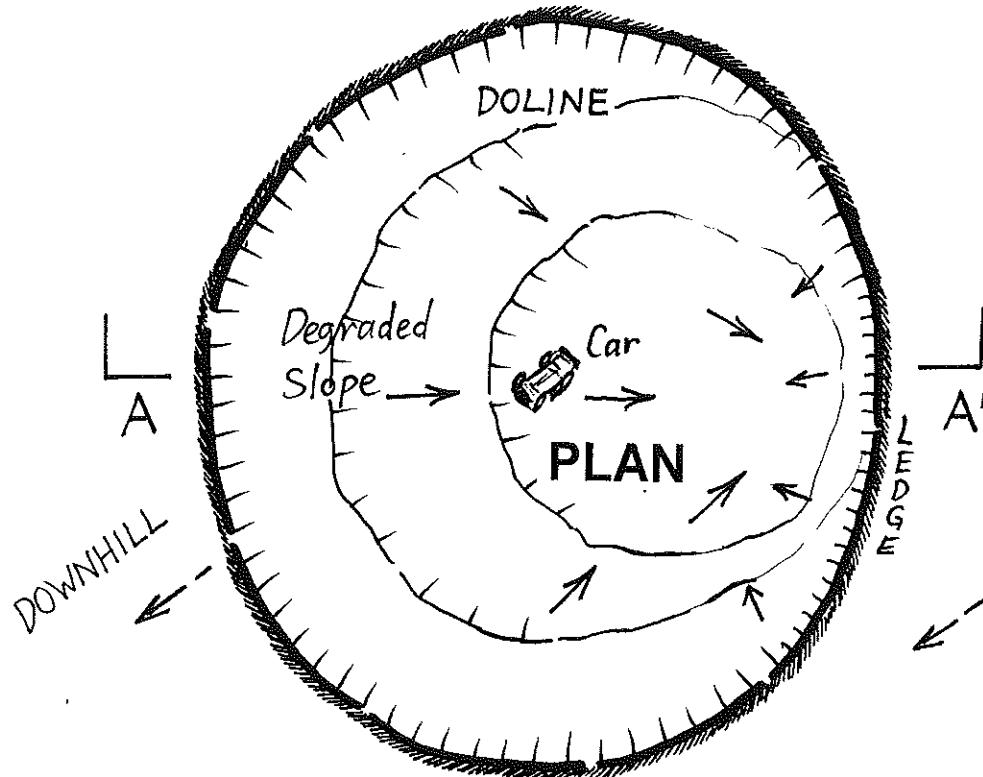
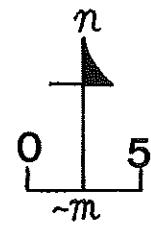
"There is a vertical wall 10 feet high on the east and south-eastern sides. Depth is 15 feet (on the) west side and 20 feet on the eastern side.

"The major axis runs north-south, and there is a small rubbish pile on the south side which does not appear to cover a shaft or similar feature. The inside floor of the sinkhole is a flat grassed area with a few small rocks. Sheep were grazing in it ... when I first approached the sinkhole".

The feature does not have any accessible underground extensions, and a visit by the author in 1984 found that a car had also been dumped in it. It is obviously not really worth the effort of a visit by keen cavers!

# KONGORONG SINKHOLE

5L139



A - A'



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, P.Horne, 1984]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L140

## (Unnamed Feature).

This 12 metre-long cave is entered via a one metre wide windmill shaft which drops 8 metres to the water level.

A CEGSA Trip Report (written by Ruth Richardson) explained that the landowner had first mentioned the feature to local caver Fred W. Aslin on 9th September 1971, and some interesting information was recorded:-

"...the entrance is approx. one foot wide by 3 feet long, being oval in shape. It is not countersunk and is on the south-eastern limits of an exposed rock pavement, which continues to the north-west and rises a little. It is the shaft for an old windmill which is now no longer used.

"Margrett Richardson descended 24 feet to water. At the water level, the cave extended 25 feet south-east and 15 feet north-west ... the depth of the water was at least 10 feet and in places possibly more. The cave is a joint enlargement and ... at the water surface the width is from a few inches at the extremities to about 4 feet in the centre. The cave runs on a bearing of 340 degrees magnetic.



"The native fern *Asplenium trichomanes* was noted growing on upper walls of the joint, and 5 adult and 4 juvenile cave crickets were noted down as low as 6 feet above water."

It was also noted that the possibilities of extending the known size of this feature appeared to be very slight.

No map (if one exists) has been located to date.



CEGSA

5L140

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L141

### (Unnamed Feature).

This quite extensive feature is an interesting multi-jointed cave system consisting of half a dozen or so separate passages which all run basically north-south, with the main trend of large passages heading to the north-east from the main entrance (which is at the extreme southern end of the cave).

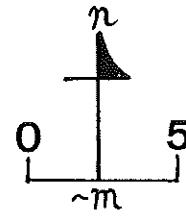
The 3 metre wide walk-in entrance, along with eight smaller roof-window entrances, is hidden inside a fenced enclosure. Walking down the slope to the north, visitors find themselves in a one metre high chamber about 10 metres or so across, with some smaller crawlways immediately to the north and a larger area, more than 3m high, to the north-east.

Moving along the main passage, one encounters some of the larger of the other 8 roof window entrances and some old (1850s and early 1900s) graffiti along with some wire, parts of a windmill and other farm rubbish, and the water table is reached in the form of a 2 metre deep pool at the end of the main northern passage in this area.

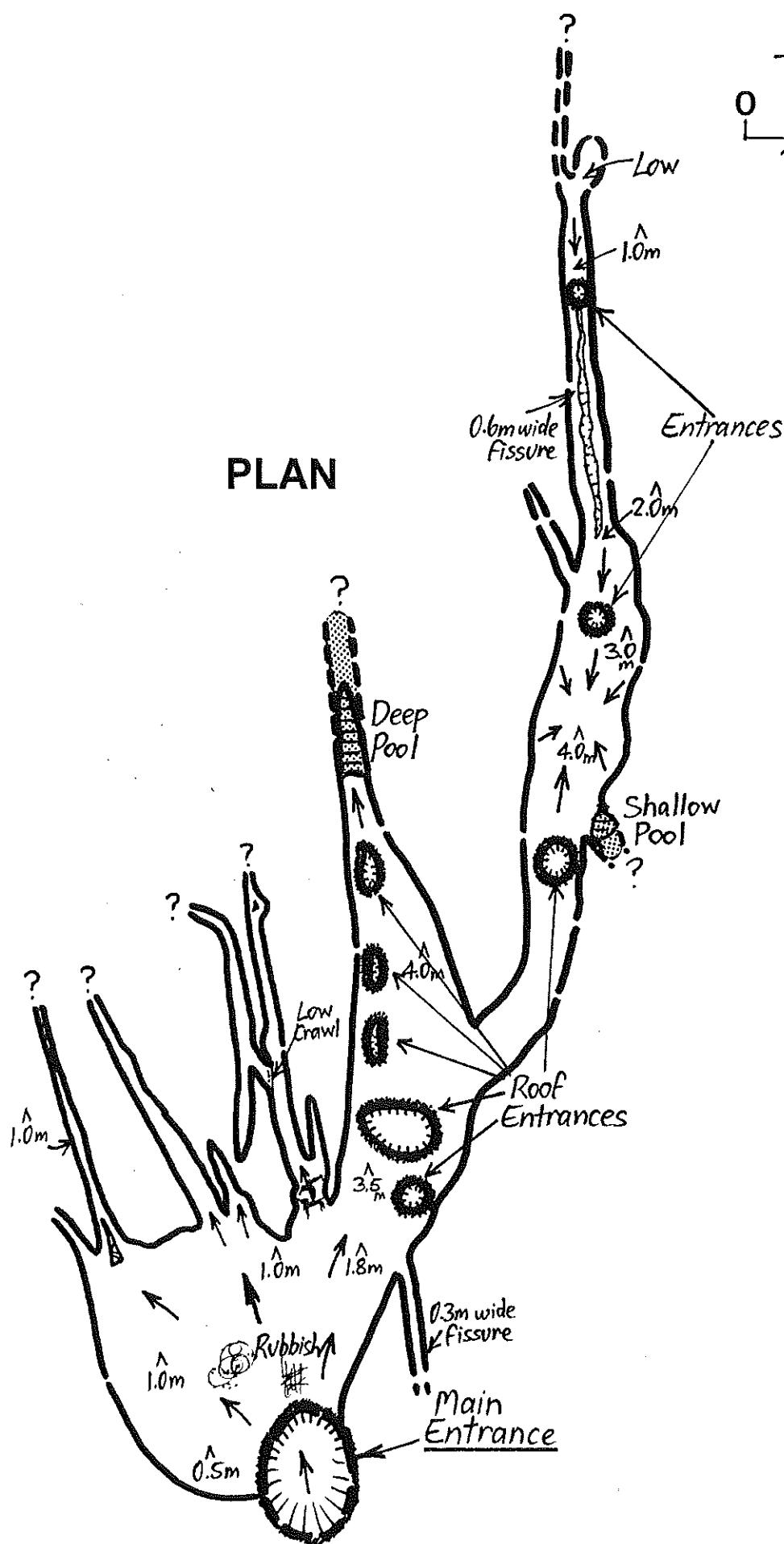
Following another branch of the passage further around to the north-east, another shallow pool is encountered before the passage terminates in an inaccessible restriction (although it may continue). Including the many smaller areas at the north-western end of the first chamber, about 100m of passage has been mapped to date. The highest part of the cave is around 4 metres, and the roof thickness is not great.

The feature was first described in CEGSA's Records in the form of a Trip Report by Ruth Richardson dated September 1971, and several cave crickets were also sighted in the cave at that time. A more extensive exploration by the author and fellow caver/cave diver Maurice Parry in January 1989 resulted in the discovery of some 50-odd metres of virgin passages which were hidden behind some "easily-modified" restrictions.

The cave would appear to have very little chance of leading on to anything significant.



## PLAN



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L142

### (Unnamed Feature).

Another unnamed feature, 5L142 is basically a 50 metre long joint-controlled cave which is entered via a one metre diameter solution-tube.

According to a December 1971 CEGSA Trip Report by Grant K. Ellis, "the entrance to this cave first appeared about a year ago (circa. 1970) although sheep and marsupial remains within the cave suggests access to the surface probably within the last 100-150 years.

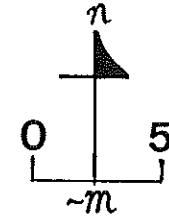
"The entrance to this cave is in the middle of a paddock on the crest of a slight undulation striking approx. north-west to south-east. It is a 3 foot diameter tube with a slight right-hand spiral. A smaller tube entrance about one foot from the other joins the main tube some 6 feet from the surface. At 17 feet from the surface, the tube becomes constricted for 7 feet with minimum dimensions of about 2 feet by 8 inches. Below the constriction a mound of earth is descended to the cave.

"The cave is developed along a joint striking 340 degrees. It consists of a main chamber 35 feet long by 25 feet wide and 10 feet high (essentially rectangular in shape). Beyond the north-west end of the chamber, a constricted passage (2 feet wide by 8 feet high) with intermittent formation (including stalactites, shawls and rimstone pools) continues for at least 60 feet with formation restricting further movement.

"At the south-eastern end and along the south-western side of the chamber, unlike the rest of the cave, flattener is developed which extends for at least 20 feet in many places and is quite accessible with possibilities of further extensions."

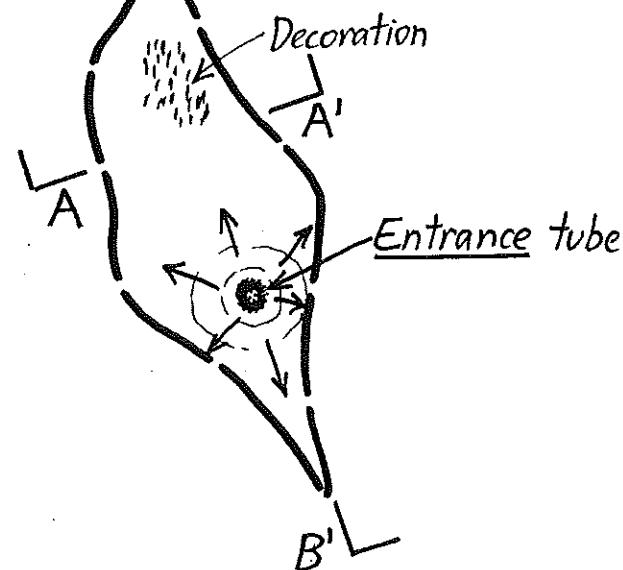
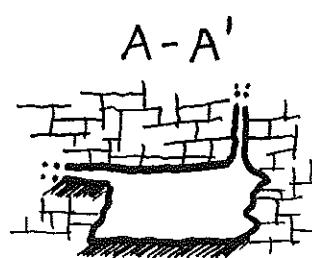
The map for this feature is relatively primitive but good enough to show the general layout of the feature.

5L142

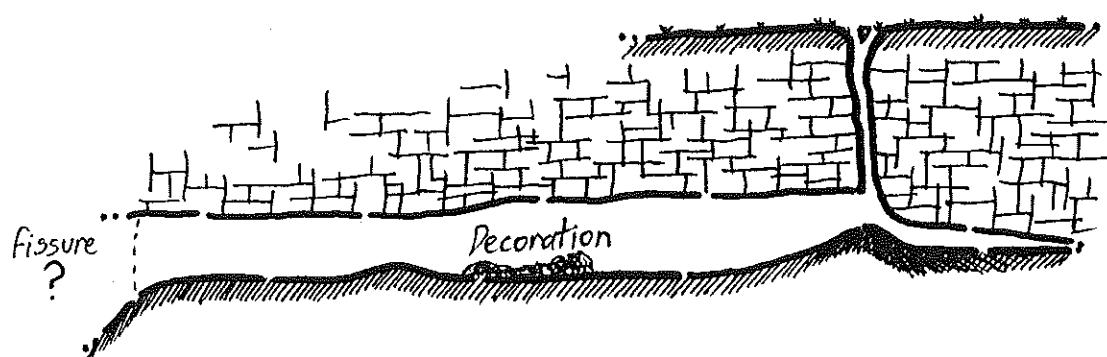


Narrow  
fissure

PLAN



B-B'



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L143

### (Unnamed Feature).

Information about 5L143 is sparse, and the following was taken from a CEGSA Trip Report by Ruth Richardson dated January 1972:-

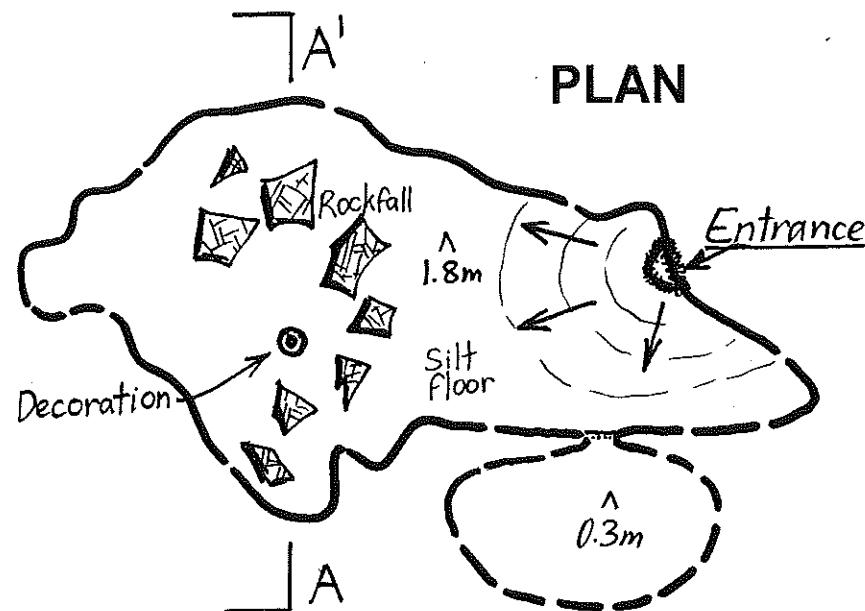
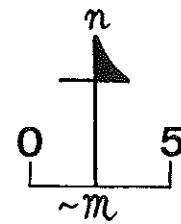
"The cave has been known for a very long time. F.W. Aslin learnt of the position of the cave from Mr. George McInnes (deceased) who went down it 50 years ago."

After digging dirt, wire and broken glass away from the entrance, Ruth reported that "it appeared slightly curved to the west and about 3 feet long north-south, and 1 foot wide. Approx. 6 feet to the east, another small (6 inch diameter) hole was noted. We were informed that this was also part of the original entrance, a long slit running north-south. The entrance is now covered with a piece of tin.

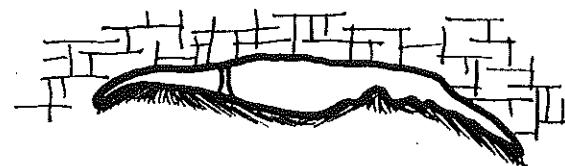
"The cave is basically a large chamber with small offshoots (all in dune limestone). The floor is dirt or silt and there is a large rockfall about halfway through the chamber. Dead broken formations were noted."

The map indicates that the cavern was about 1.8m high, and Ruth also reported the presence of some bone material. She indicated that some flatteners at the western and southern side of the entrance may provide extensions with some digging.

5L143



A - A'



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L144

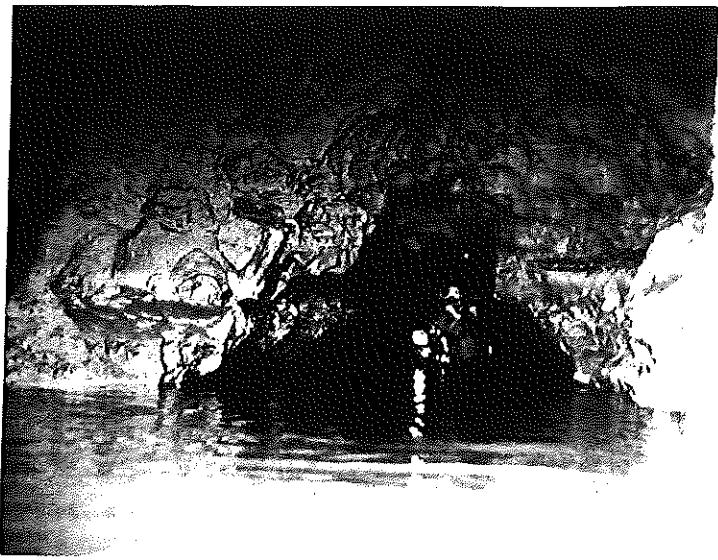
### SHEATHERS CAVE ("144").

Named after a previous landowner, Mr. J.M. Sheather of Wandilo, this interesting cave is more affectionately known simply as "144" by those of us who participated in the early major explorations of the early 1980s.

The cave was reportedly first discovered sometime around 1963 or thereabouts, after a calf fell into the entrance hole. It was first explored and sketched by caving-type people in January 1972, when a CEGSA party made up of Grant Ellis, Gordon Ninnes, Ruth and Margrett Richardson and L. & B. Copping discovered that the first chamber was a fairly small affair (around 5 metres wide) containing a sizeable 3 metre deep lake, and prophetically, Grant wrote that "underwater exploration may prove worthwhile; ... the appropriate diving gear would be required".

Enticed by this rather succinct but tantalizing report, the author and fellow cave diver Peter Stace relocated the entrance in a young, densely-interlocked pine forest on January 3rd, 1982, and, equipped with nothing more than an underwater torch, facemask, shorts and a T-shirt (and considerable enthusiasm to brave 13 degree C. water in such clothes!), the author gasped in shock as he watched his bright blue beam disappear down a crystal clear, 30 metre-long by 10 metre

wide flooded passage which had an incredibly flat ceiling! The next day, equipped with small scuba cylinders and other cave diving paraphernalia, they swam along this "First Tunnel" to a root-covered "Hole in the Wall" which led through into a major parallel passage. This passage was an easy snorkel most of the way along, before it sumped again in a series of very silty, low areas which required careful cave diving and line-following techniques. Many side-tunnels were found, and it became immediately apparent that we had stumbled across a most significant feature!



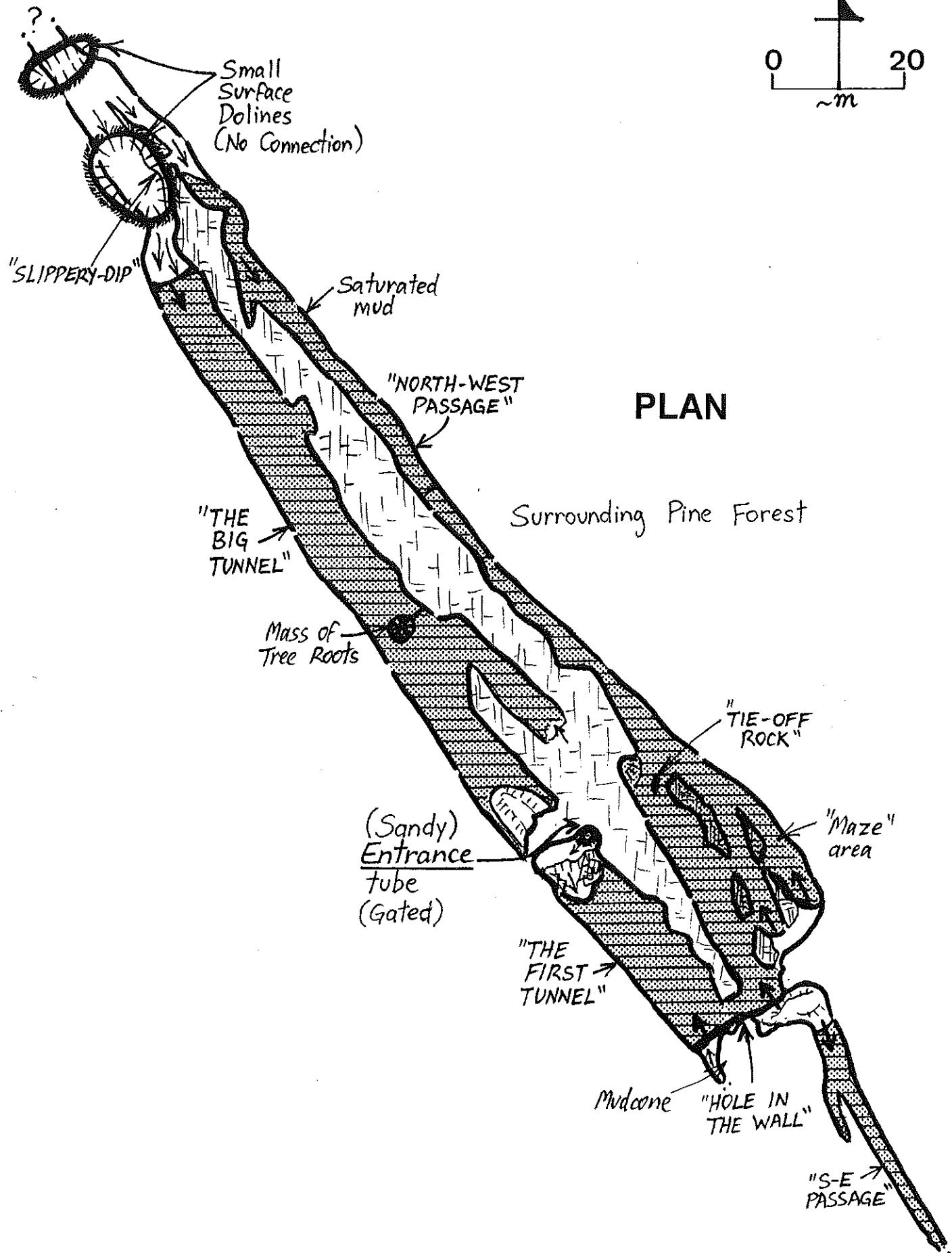
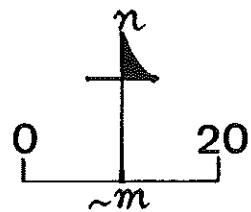
A. Cox

During the next 4 years, after a series of additional dives and digs (led by the author), more than half a kilometre of virgin passage had been discovered and mapped, and all but one major potential dig (at the end of the First Tunnel) had been exhausted. Much of the exploration involving the lower passages only took place because the water in the cave dropped almost a metre during that time as the pines grew overhead. This made exploration of almost the entire cave system possible ... provided cavers were willing to swim in cold, quicksand-like mud which smelt like a sewer and covered their wetsuits up to their necks!

The open, sandy entrance was made more secure by the installation of a metal tube and locking plate by the Woods and Forests Department in the mid-1980s.

# SHEATHERS CAVE

5L144



[Map ASF Grades 2-4, P.Horne, P.Stace,  
M.Nielsen, A.Cox, K.Mott & others, 1982-85]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L145

(Unnamed Feature).

A large oval-shaped sinkhole roughly 75 x 35 metres in size and some 10 metres deep, 5L145 is a doline-like feature which reaches the water-table in the form of narrow, crescent-shaped lakes on its north-western and south-eastern ends. The feature was first placed in CEGSA's Records by Fred W. Aslin in August 1972, about a month after the property manager, Mr. Reg Watson, pointed it out to him.

Access to the marshy-floored sinkhole can easily be made from the western side via an old cut ramp or its adjacent degraded walls, and it is advisable to keep an eye open for snakes as one steps down into the thick bed of swampland cutting grasses!

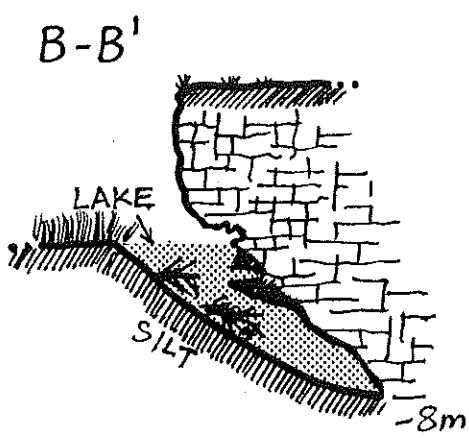
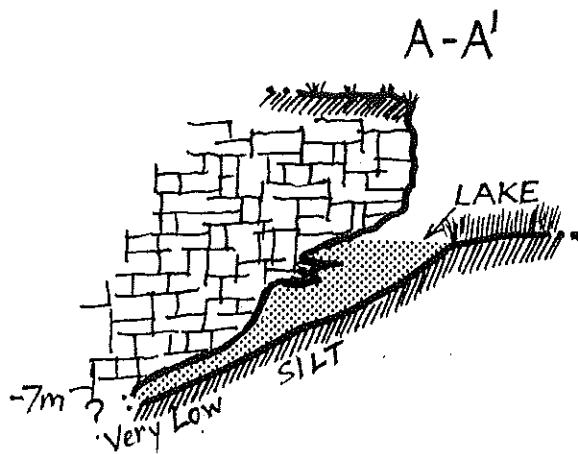
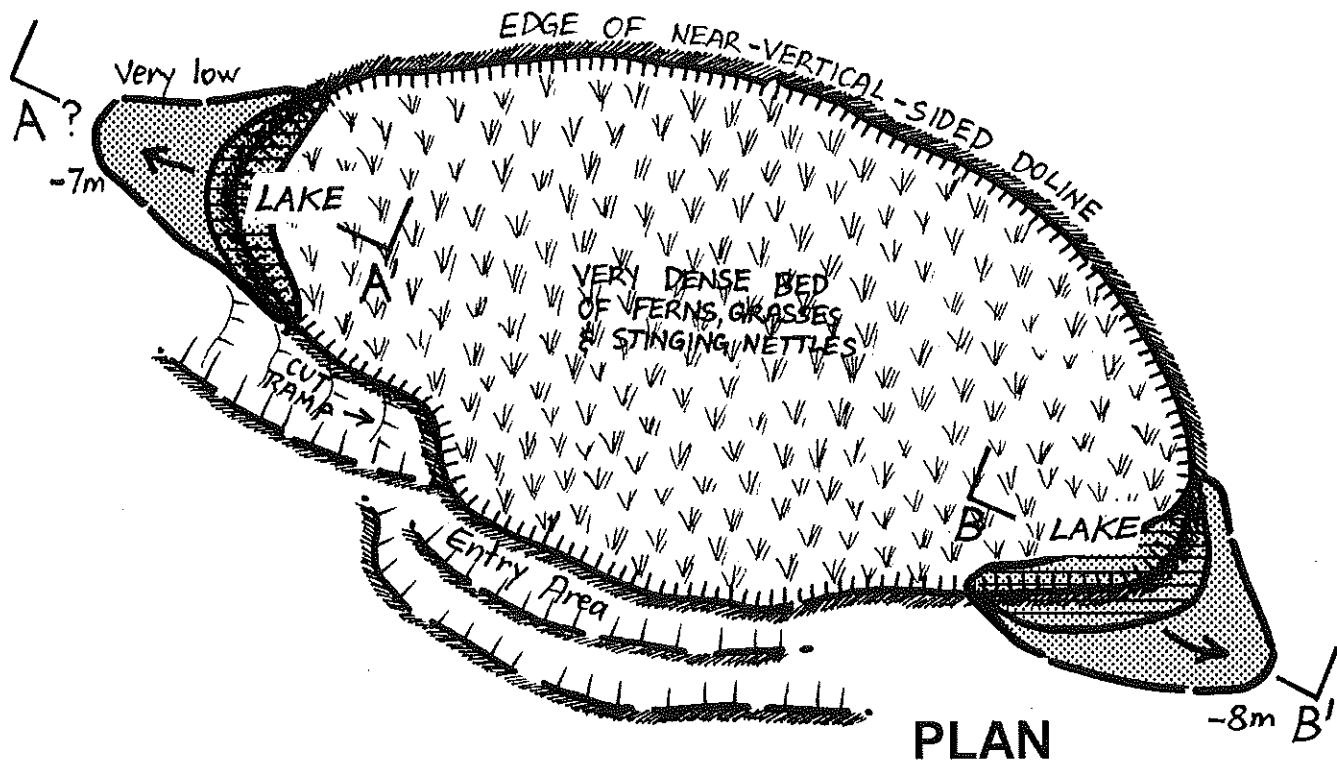
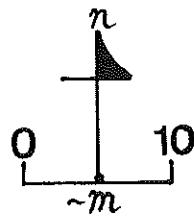
During detailed underwater explorations by the author and fellow cave diver, Andrew Cox, in May 1990, the north-western lake was found to quickly drop through a submerged tree to an inaccessible, low and very silty flattener just 6 metres beneath the surface, while the south-eastern lake, although bigger underwater, still only reached a maximum depth of about 8 metres perhaps 10 metres from the water's surface. It also contained a couple of trees.



Both lakes were covered in duckweed (probably *Lemna minor*), and prominent chert bands and ledges covered with silt stuck out along the underwater walls, creating views which were quite different from the other water-filled sinkholes of this region.

This feature is not one which would interest the average recreational sinkhole diver.

5L145



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L146

## FURNESS CAVE.

Named after the late Mr. George Maultby Furness of Wandilo, Furness Cave is a relatively complex dune cave system which has multiple entrances and extensive uncomfortable crawls. Mr. Furness believed that the cave's existence had been known since at least the early 1930s.

Ian Lewis noted in CEGSA's "Occasional Paper Number 5 - South Australian Cave Reference Book (1975)" that the cave "...is horrible to survey (in fact to do anything in!)", and the generally-low ceiling heights indicated on the 1974 survey (between 0.3 and 2.0 metres) gives a good indication of why this comment was made.

A CEGSA Trip Report dated June 1972 by Jim Cundy provided some additional details; the entrance was in the form of a "...low flat opening just above swamp water level north-west of the house and milking shed ... it runs at a bearing of 150 degrees magnetic and the first chamber is about 30 feet long and 15 feet wide and 1.5 feet high; the floor is muddy and littered with fowl bones. The entrance is blocked by large rocks..."

The cave itself was a "...dune system with a series of main passages running at a bearing of approx. 135 degrees magnetic within a large hill running back under the house at approx. 120 degrees mag. At least 6 main passages are known to exist..."

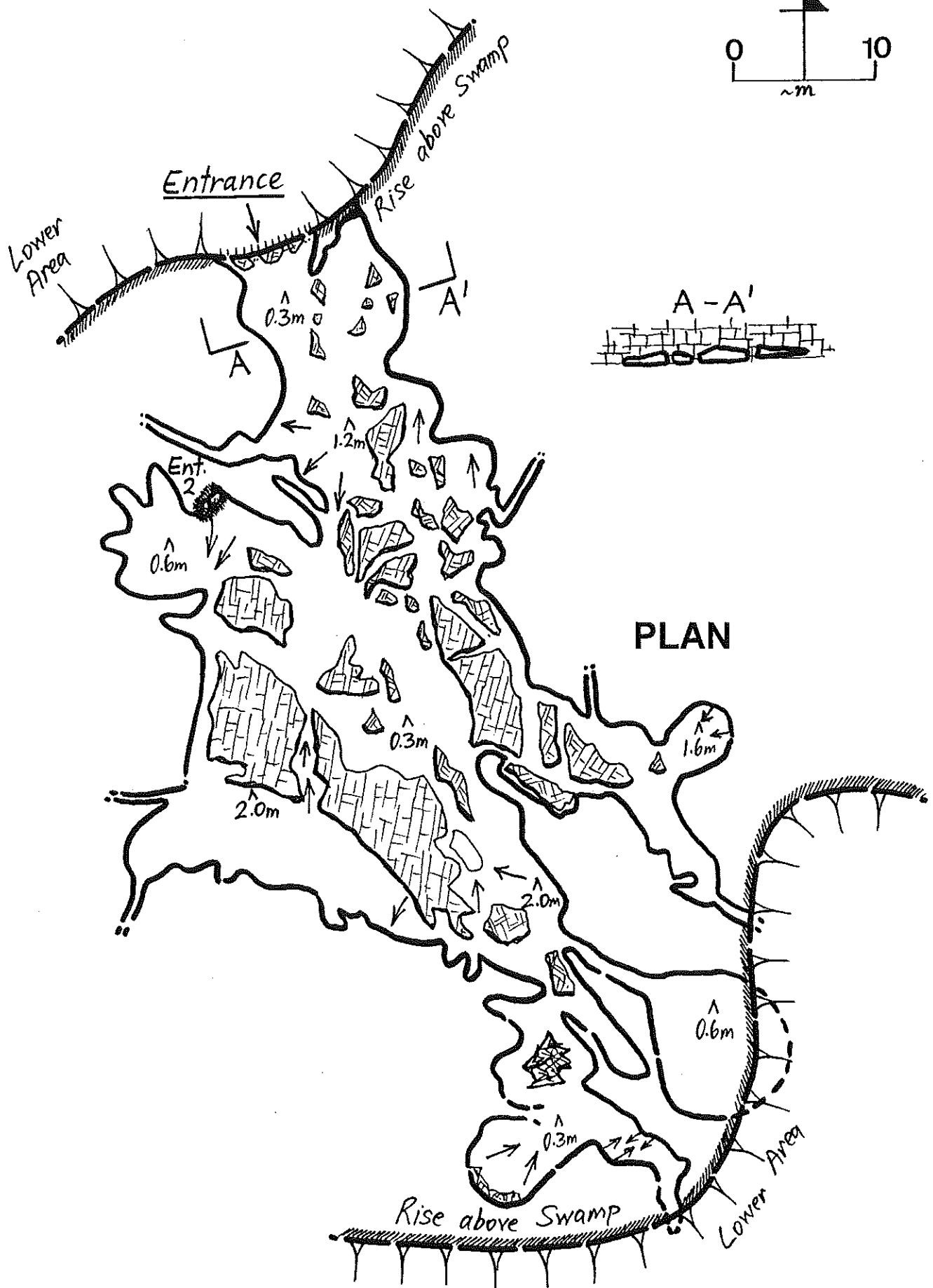
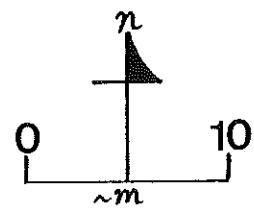
"Light can be seen through the roof in many places. The floor varies from damp to one apparently permanent pool about 140 feet from the entrance ... the second chamber contains a large amount of formation, the only formation as yet found in the cave."

Several interesting creatures were caught in the pool; three freshwater yabbies (*Cherax albifidus*), a tadpole (unidentified) and a fish (*Galaxias attenuatus*).

Because Furness Cave was also a multi-levelled feature, it was very difficult to represent it in Plan View at the small scale used in this book; consequently, the enclosed is a simplification of the much more detailed CEGSA maps.



5L146



[Map ASF Grades 3C-4D,  
J.Cundy (CEGSA), 1974]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L147/148

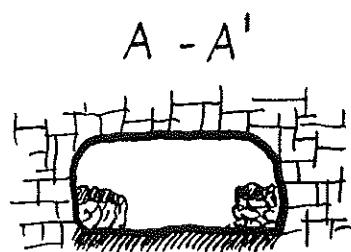
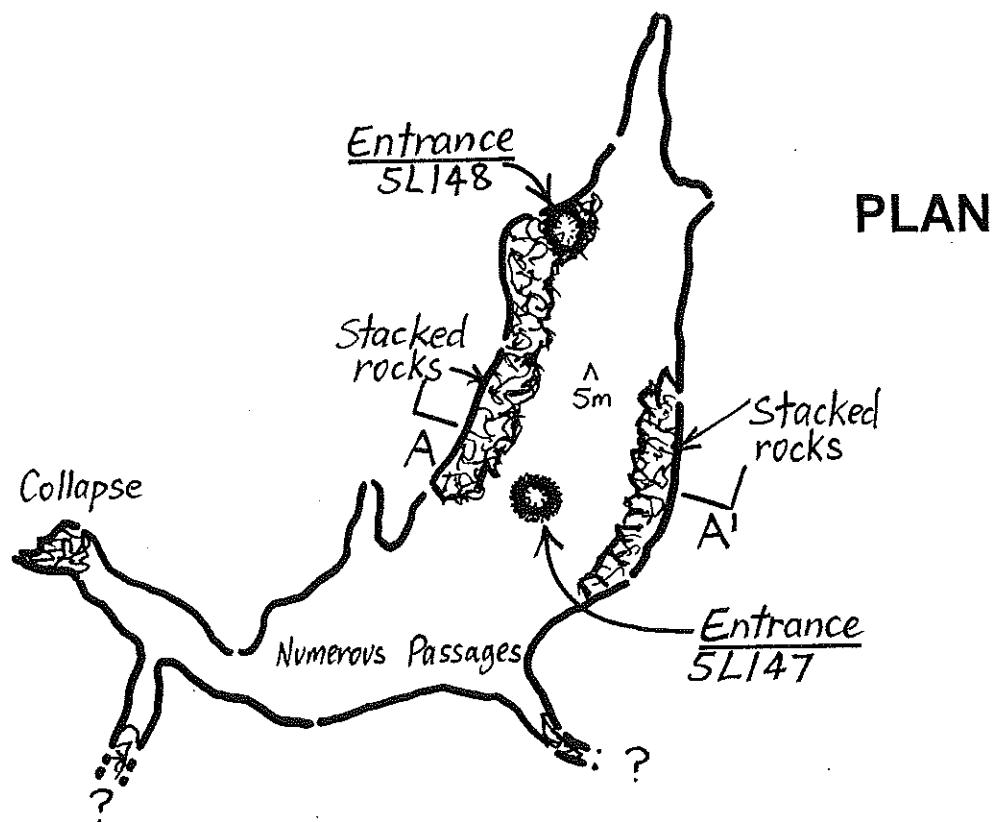
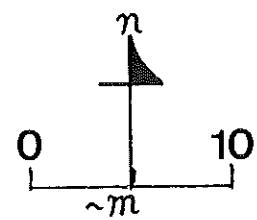
### (Unnamed Feature).

This cave reportedly had two entrances – one just over a metre in diameter and another which was about 1.2 x 1.8 metres across – which were some 13 metres or so apart and dropped 8 metres into a chamber with dimensions in the order of 20 x 10 metres across and 5m high. The 5L147 entrance was located near the centre of the cave; 5L148 was the hole which was virtually against the northern wall, at the end of the passage in this area.

The cave appeared to be about 50 metres long and generally ran in a north-east to south-west direction, with some smaller sections at the western end. A CEGSA Trip Report by Gordon Ninnes (dated March 1972) also mentioned that the natural walls were partially obscured by some stones which had been stacked up against them ... possibly remnants of the cave's earlier reported use as a source of quarry stone in the very early days of settlement in the Lower South East.

The feature also contained some old names and dates, and appeared to be visited on occasion by bats.

5L147/148



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L149**

### **(Unnamed Feature).**

Information about this feature is sparse ... it was described in a very scratchy, hand-written Trip Report (placed in CEGSA's Records sometime in early 1971 or thereabouts by Toby McLeay, Bob Allanson and Rick James) as being a small tube entrance which dropped about 3 metres into a 12m long, 3 metre wide chamber which was just over a metre high.

The entrance was close to the owner's house, and the cave was dry and contained no decoration.

5L149

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L150**

### **NEECHY CAVE (Koorine Cave, ?Wilkies Cave).**

This 50 metre-long joint-controlled cave is entered via a 3 metre wide sink entrance which lies at the north-western end of the system.

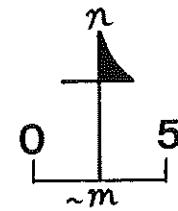
The cave is basically a single, almost-straight passage containing a rock "bridge" and several changes in floor level, with a ceiling height of up to 6 metres and a passage width of around 3 metres or so.

Although there are reportedly no speleothems in the cave, the presence of some long, picturesque tree roots and wall markings makes this a significant karst feature in several respects.

The name "Koorine Cave" was allocated by AURA workers who specialize in petroglyphs in this region, after the (now-extinct) local Buandik Aboriginal tribe's words for "my daughter".

# KOORINE CAVE

5L150



DOLINE  
Entrance

Rock  
"Bridge"

6m

PLAN

[Map based on ungraded  
AURA map, late 1980s]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L151

### NOONANS EAST CAVE (Two Dog Cave I, Malangine Cave).

One of two closely-spaced horizontally-developed caves lying in the same stranded dune system, Noonans East cave is basically a single passage some 30 metres long, up to 12m wide and about 1.5m high. Access to this gated feature is made via a small cutting through a limestone ridge at the cave's mouth, which was made for the purposes of removing bat guano in bygone days.

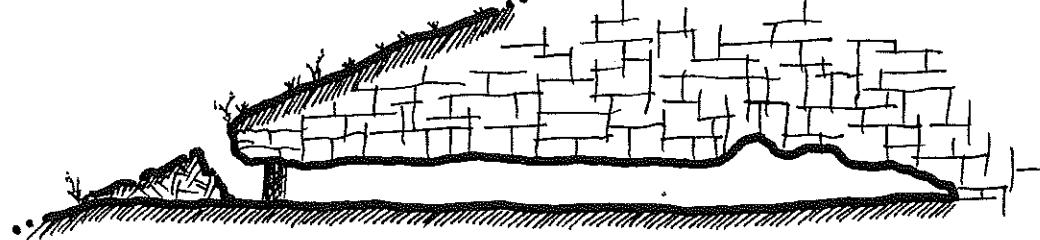
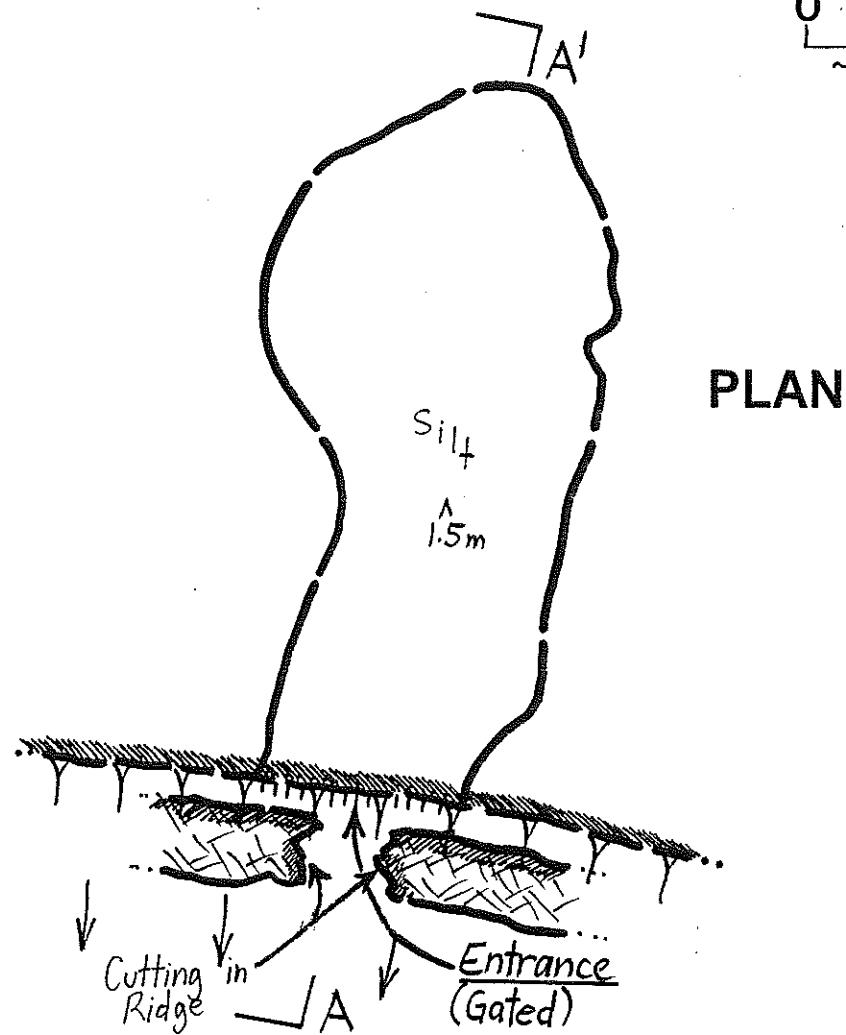
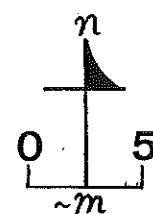
More recently, after recognising it as being a significant prehistoric Aboriginal site, AURA workers allotted the name "Malangine Cave" to the feature after the local (now extinct) Buandik Aboriginal tribe's words for "my wife".

The cave entered CEGSA's Records in the form of a preliminary, hand-written report by Toby McLeay, Bob Allanson and Rick James around early 1971.



# NOONANS EAST CAVE

5L151



[Map ASF Grade 4, I.Lewis & F.Aslin  
(CEGSA), 1971; additional info. from  
AURA map, late 1980s]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L152

### NOONANS WEST CAVE (Two Dog Cave II, Koongine Cave).

Located a short distance to the west of, and being roughly similar in size and overall shape to 5L151, Noonans West Cave is a 25 metre long horizontal passage about 15 metres or so wide and between 1.5 and 4 metres high, with a low walk-in (gated) entrance.

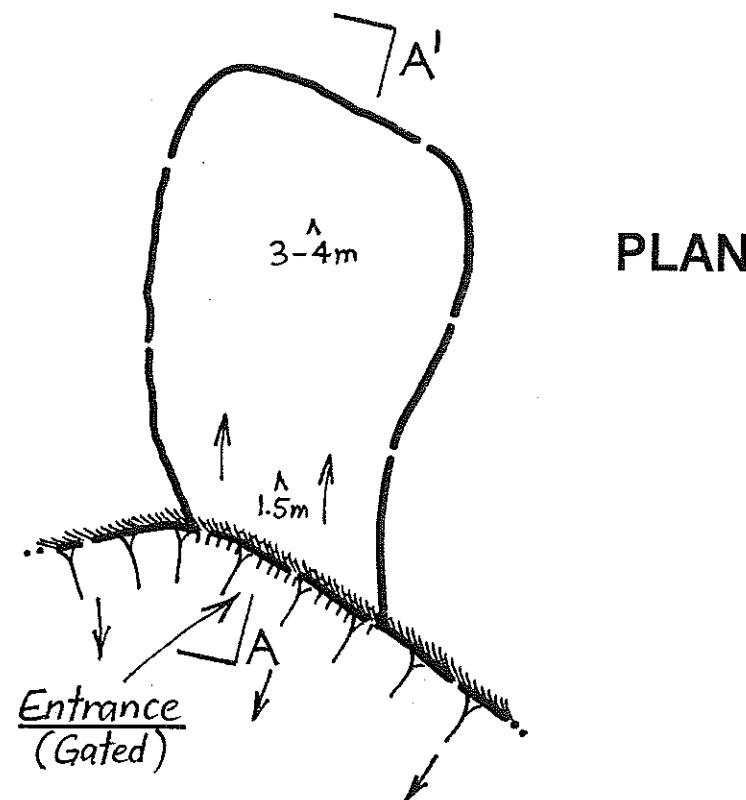
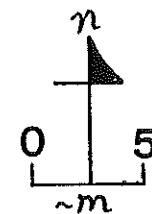
Once reportedly the home of a Mr. Moulden during World War I and the Great Depression years, 5L152 is a bat winter hibernation site, and it has recently been identified by AURA workers as being a major petroglyph site as well. It is known in such archaeological circles (no pun intended!!) as "Koongine Cave", after the (now extinct) local Buandik Aboriginal tribe's words for "my son".

Noonan's West Cave entered CEGSA's Records on the same hand-written page as Noonan's East Cave as a summary of the exploratory work undertaken by Toby McLeay, Bob Allanson and Rick James in early 1971.

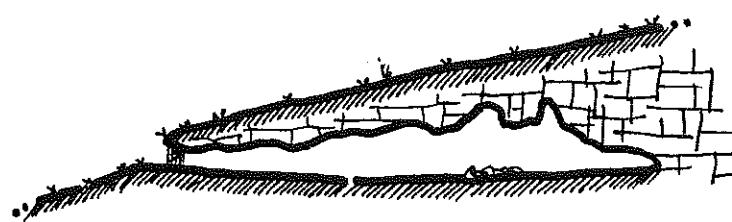


# NOONANS WEST CAVE

5L152



A-A'



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L153

## FOWLYARD CAVE.

Named after its location in an enclosure near the landowner's house in the early 1970s, Fowlyard Cave is a quite large feature entered via a narrow (0.6 metre diameter) vertical solution tube which drops about 3m onto a talus mound. It was apparently first noted prior to World War II.

Visitors move down the slope to the north into the cave proper where they can see a steep jumble of quite large boulders, associated joint controlled passages, a slow-moving stream and pine roots in an area to the west and pools of deep, crystal clear water. One pool in particular, at the lowest point in the main chamber area, takes the form of a narrow, mud-floored lake which slopes under the wall and out of sight.

The cave has several levels; the higher area takes the form of the stream passage (which is about 35 metres long and is decorated with some picturesque tree roots in places) mentioned above and a 3 metre high passage which heads off to the north-west for about 12 metres, while the lower, larger chamber is more spacious. The water level in the larger lake fluctuates considerably – for example, it was about 8 metres below the surface in June 1972, which was some 2 metres lower than in December 1971 – and there are a couple of shallow pools and damp calcite sheets on the silt floor of the "upper level" passage as well.

The first known exploratory dive at this site was undertaken by the author and fellow cave diver, Mark Nielsen, in November 1982, when the deeper (but exceptionally muddy) main lake was dived to a depth of about 5 metres before opening up into a higher and wider submerged chamber. Here, a vertical pit was found, and it dropped from a depth of about 7m to 12 metres or so near the back wall, beside a large limestone block. Several narrow passages were seen to continue to the north-west and south-east; the north-western fissure was quickly assessed and appeared to shrink in size, but exploration of the south-eastern (and apparently much larger) "passage" was abruptly aborted when the very soft, moonmilk-like ceiling began to collapse and reduced the visibility to less than half a metre ... not the most ideal circumstances for safe cave diving exploration in this feature!

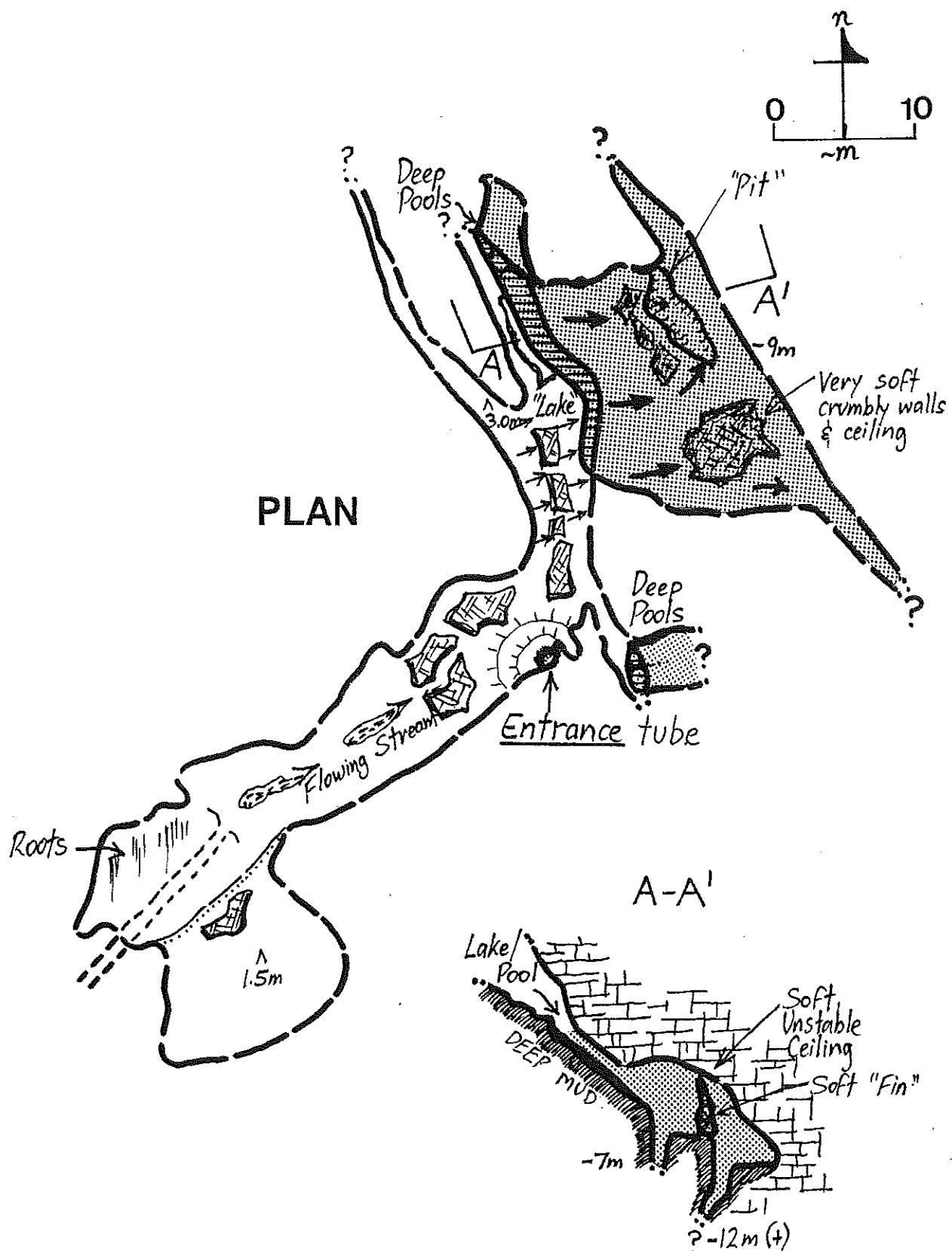
The submerged chamber also contained some unusual and very soft limestone blades or "fins" which were quite "cheesy" in feel and appearance; the safety line actually began to cut through one of them, so any future diving which is undertaken in this feature would require careful line-placement planning to minimize both the risk to the diver/s and damage to the cave. It was felt that the restrictive nature of this area indicated that the cave more than likely didn't continue for much further anyway, but further exploration may prove to be rewarding.

Mark also attempted to explore the other smaller pools to the north-west of the main lake, but these were extremely small and completely silted-out when he entered them, so whether they lead to anything significant or not is a question which remains unanswered at this time.

Fowlyard Cave entered CEGSA's Records in the form of a brief report by Toby McLeay, Bob Allanson and Rick James in early 1971.

# FOWLYARD CAVE

5L153



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 5, K.Mott (CEGSA), 1972; underwater area: ASF Grade 22, P.Horne & M.Nielsen, 1982]

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L154**

### **SWAMPHOLE CAVE.**

Very little is recorded about this feature in CEGSA's files. A single hand-written Trip Report of early 1971 by Toby McLeay, Bob Allanson and Rick James provided the following sketchy information:-

"Entrance via crawl under rock ledge in swamp depression. At least 500 feet of low passage 2 to 3 feet high - extent unknown. Fills with water in winter. Water, mud and frogs in summer."

Further follow-up surveying visits are strongly recommended!

**SWAMPHOLE CAVE**

**5L154**

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L155

### LIVE SHEEP CAVE.

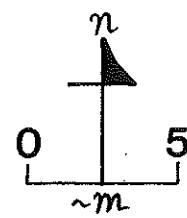
Live Sheep Cave first appeared in CEGSA's Records around early 1971 (another Toby McLeay/Bob Allanson/Rick James effort!), when it was simply described as a "...10 foot by one foot crack (which) drops 10 feet into 120-foot long joint-formed passage; up to 15 feet wide and 20 feet high; rubbish pile at entrance; dry; no decoration." A later brief note (dated November 1971, by Fred W. Aslin) mentioned that a local fellow had also reported finding a shallow pool of water at the north-western end of the cave earlier that year.

In July 1991, at the request of the author (to aid the production of this book), cavers Grant and Lynne Pearce visited the cave and produced a good-quality map (see opposite page). This indicated that the feature was oriented (like the majority of known joint-controlled caves in this region) roughly north-west to south-east, and it was actually around 55 metres (180 feet) long and generally between 1 and 2 metres in width. The greatest ceiling height measured was about 4 metres.

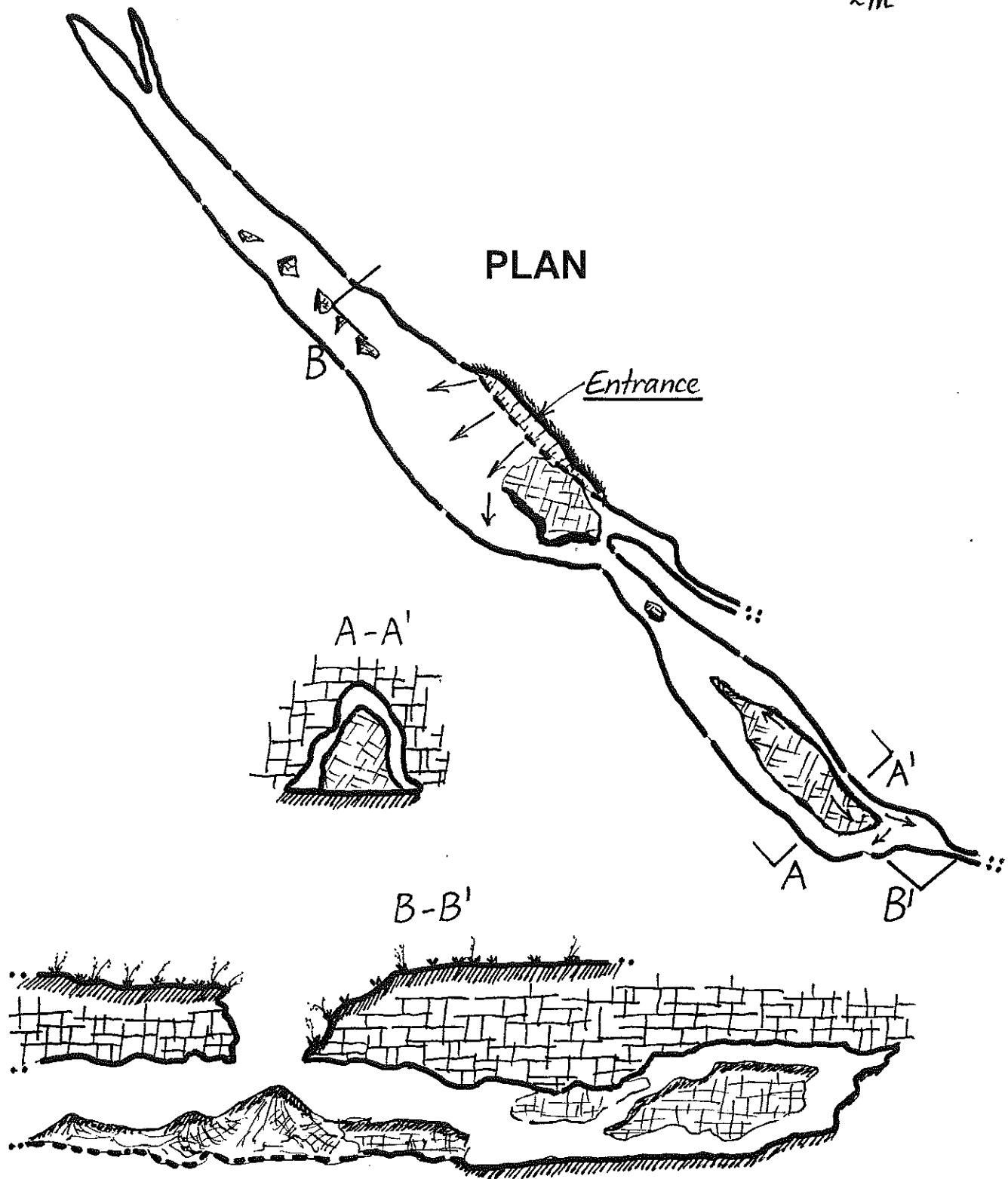
Further work may reveal some extensions, although it is most unlikely that anything significant would be discovered in this case.

# LIVE SHEEP CAVE

5L155



## PLAN



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L156

## NORMANS CAVE.

Named after Mr. N.G. Norman, the landowner on whose exposed (and very rugged) karst pavement paddock it is situated, Normans Cave is a joint-controlled fissure comprised of several small roof-window entrances and two vertical-walled, cigar-shaped cavities which run in the same line (and which can be connected by voice contact).

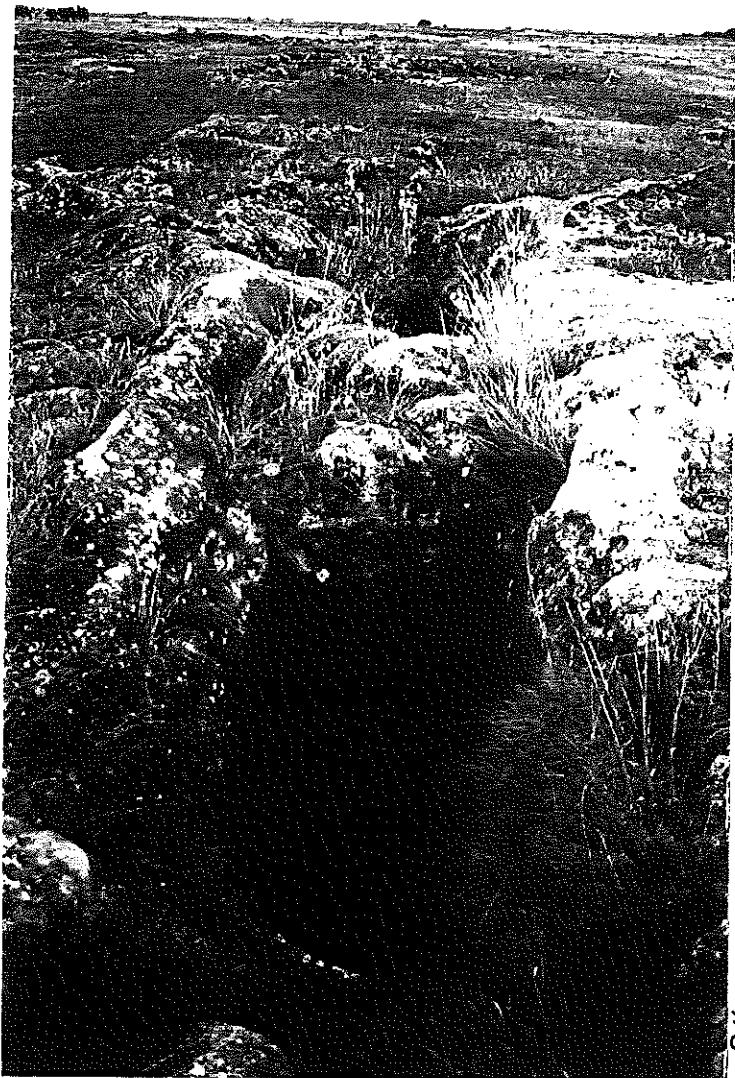
The main entrances lie at the north-western end of the system, where an old watering trough and other metallic rubbish is seen about 3 metres down the hole, partially blocking the way. This opening is actually a single collapse, but a large boulder is jammed across the middle near the surface, giving it the appearance of two holes. The 'floor' of the cave then drops sheer for about 6 metres into the main fissure, reaching a 2 or 3 metre deep water-table pool about 7 metres below paddock-level. The cave's maximum recorded width is something around 1.6 metres, and a ladder or SRT equipment (tied to a peg or vehicle, as there is nothing else readily available) are required for entering and exiting the fissure.

Some 10 metres to the south-east of the entrance mentioned above is another main window entrance (and an adjoining window which has been covered and partially filled with rubble), and this drops vertically for about 5m to boulders and rubbish which is wedged in the fissure, a few metres above the water.

Finally, about 20 metres further south-east again, another depression about two metres in diameter is encountered, indicating that the extent of the inaccessible region of the cave is considerable by local standards. Small colonies of the native fern *Asplenium trichomanes* were also found near the entrances.

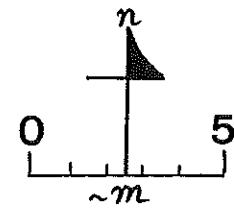
The amount of cave explored by the author and his companion, Mark Nielsen, in 1982 was about 15m in length, but the awkward shape of the fissure precluded a serious "push". Therefore, keen cavers who possess the skills and stamina to safely clamber over piles of dangerous rubbish and slide along slippery, deep and narrow fissures are eagerly sought!

CEGSA first placed the cave in its Records in September 1971.

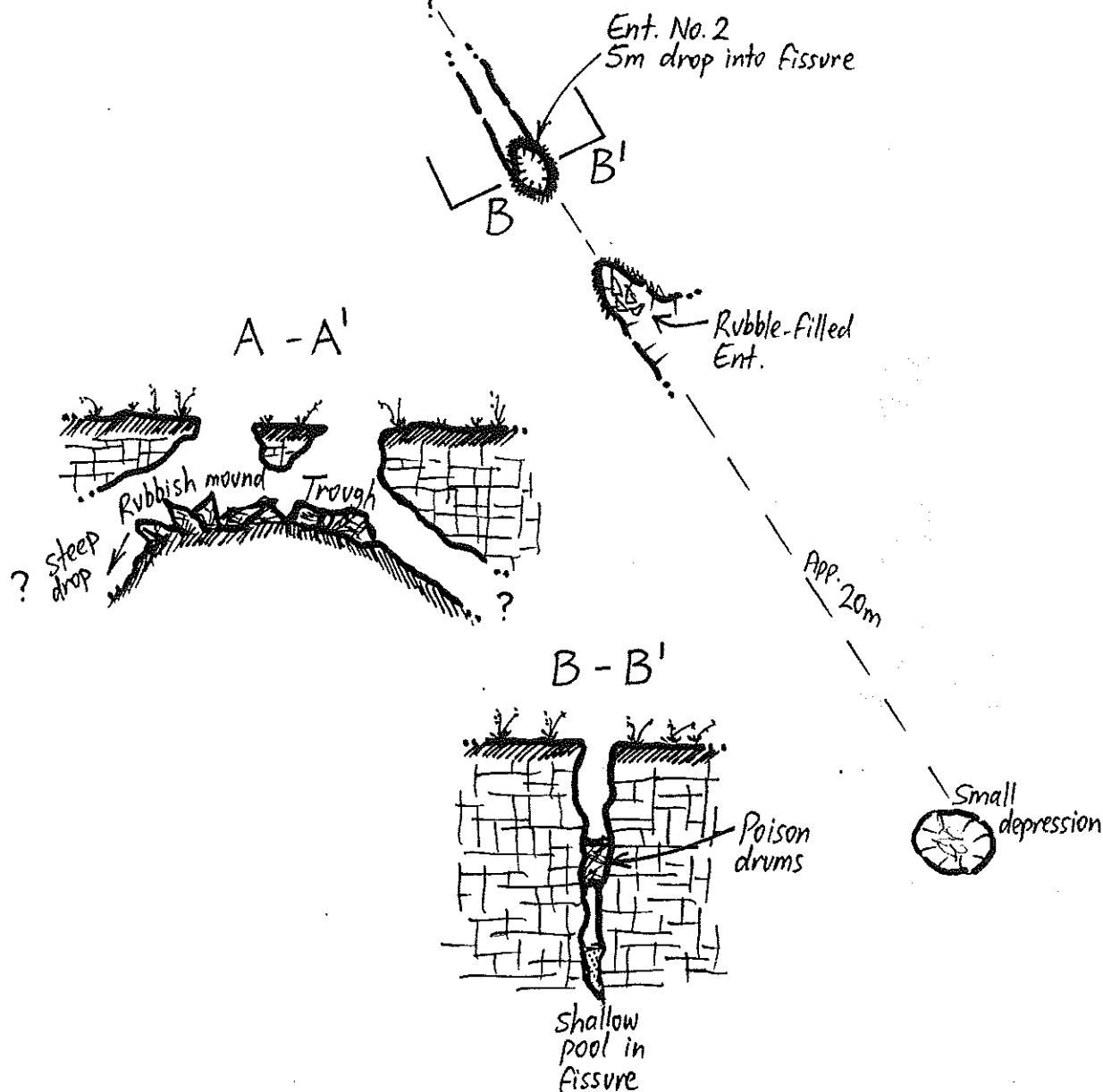


# NORMANS CAVE

5L156



## PLAN



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L157

### (Unnamed Feature).

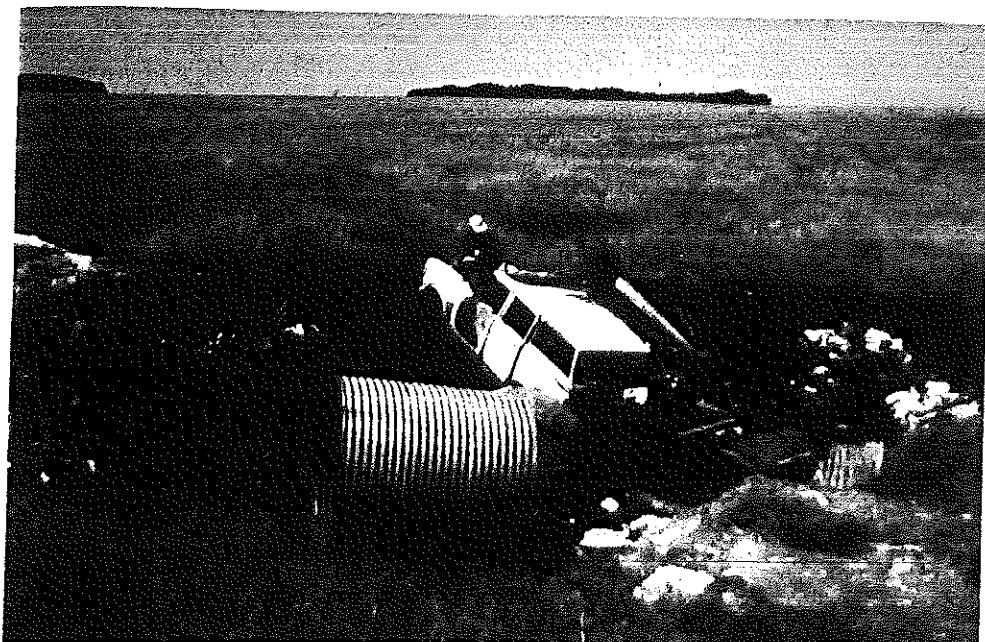
There isn't very much to report about poor unnamed "rubbish-dump" cave feature number 5L157!

A simple collapse doline about 17 metres long, 12 metres wide and just 3m deep, this feature has a degraded eastern wall and a short, low undercut shelter on the south-western side.

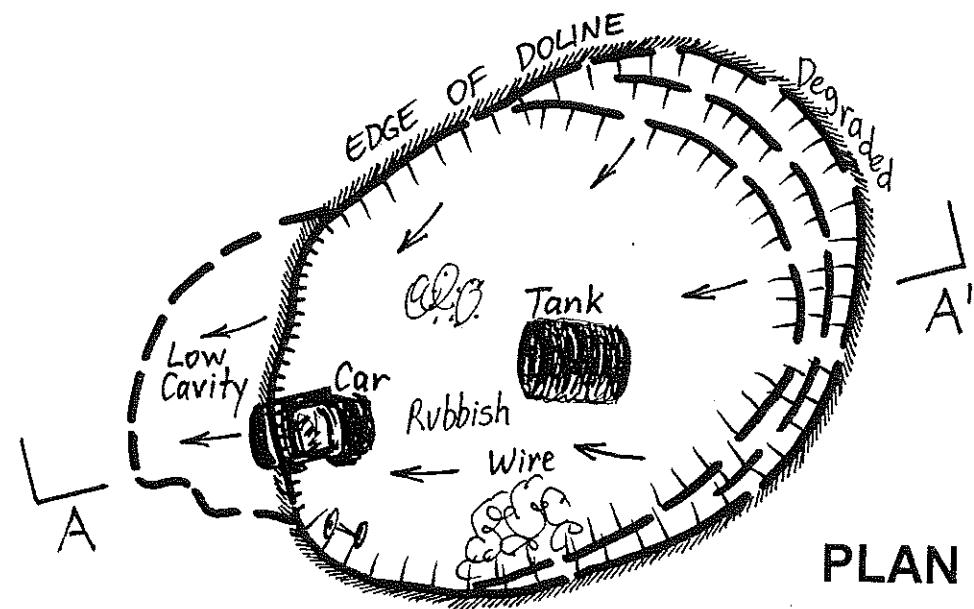
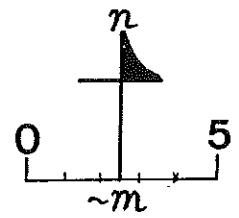
It stops well short of the local water-table, but was worth recording because of its close proximity to some of the many very deep waterfilled "cenote"-style sinkholes which are located nearby, on the same property.

When visited by the author and fellow caver Andrew Cox in December 1984, it contained a car body and an old rainwater tank, as well as a bit of wire rubbish. It entered CEGSA's Records sometime around 1962, when Bob Sexton drafted a basic map.

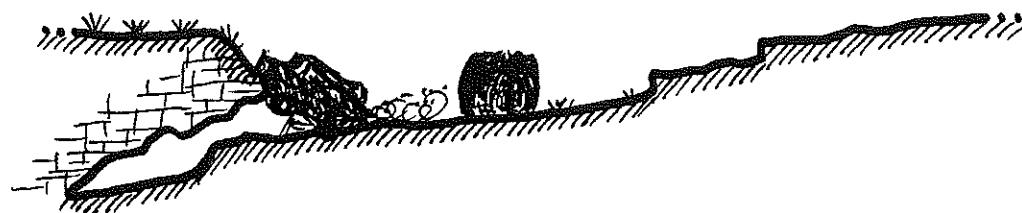
It is obviously of little or no interest to recreational cavers!



5L157



A - A'



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L158

## THE SHAFT.

The Shaft is a fabulous, gigantic waterfilled cavern which is renowned throughout international cave diving community for its unbelievable clarity and spectacular lighting effects – especially when the summer sun slices through the water like a bright-blue, scintillating laser beam, spot-lighting divers up to 60 metres distant like tiny blue dancers in a vast, darkened ampitheatre.

According to Mrs. Jean Ashby, the cave was discovered by an earlier family member, Mr. Don Kerr, around the year 1938, when one of his plough-horses stumbled after putting its hoof through the small dirt-filled tube entrance. The shape and extent of the cave remained a mystery for many years; all that was immediately known was that a drop-line lowered through the original 12-inch (0.3 metre)-diameter hole revealed water about 18 feet (5.5m) below the surface, and an ultimate floor depth about 130 feet (36m) further down! It wasn't until the mid-1960s that local diver Jock Huxtable climbed down the rain-enlarged 0.8 metre-diameter tube into the cave's 17 metre-long lake-chamber, and made the first descent to a depth of about 21 metres with (reportedly) a near-empty scuba cylinder. (Upon surfacing soon afterwards, he reported that it "appeared to continue"!).



P. Horne

The hundreds of budding cave divers who explored The Shaft during the next few years discovered to their amazement that it was a very large cavern with a central rockpile of introduced rubble and very deep sections all around the walls; especially on the north-western side, where a huge passage (the "Big Tunnel") dropped away to great depths and roared off into the blackness, out of range of even the most powerful underwater torches.

The first truly representative map of

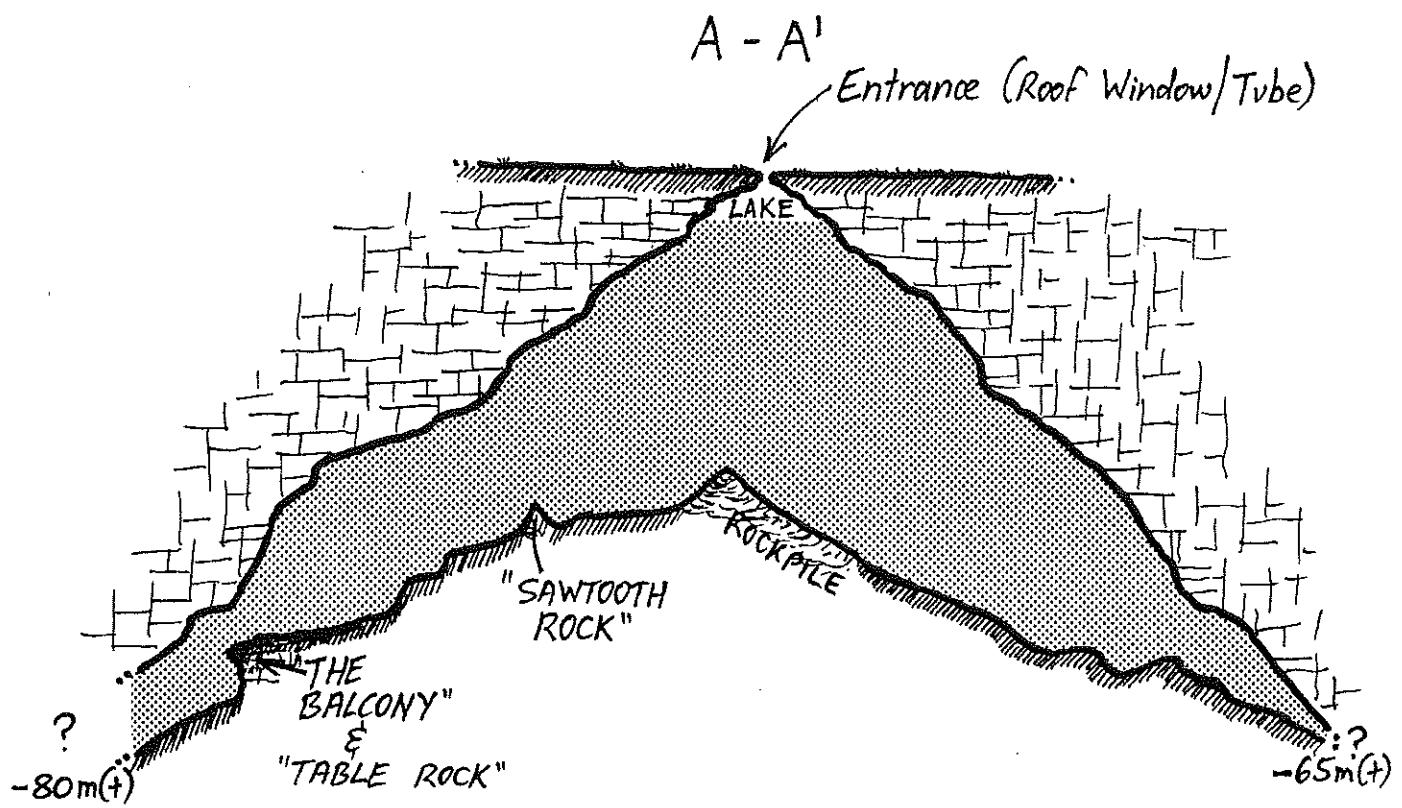
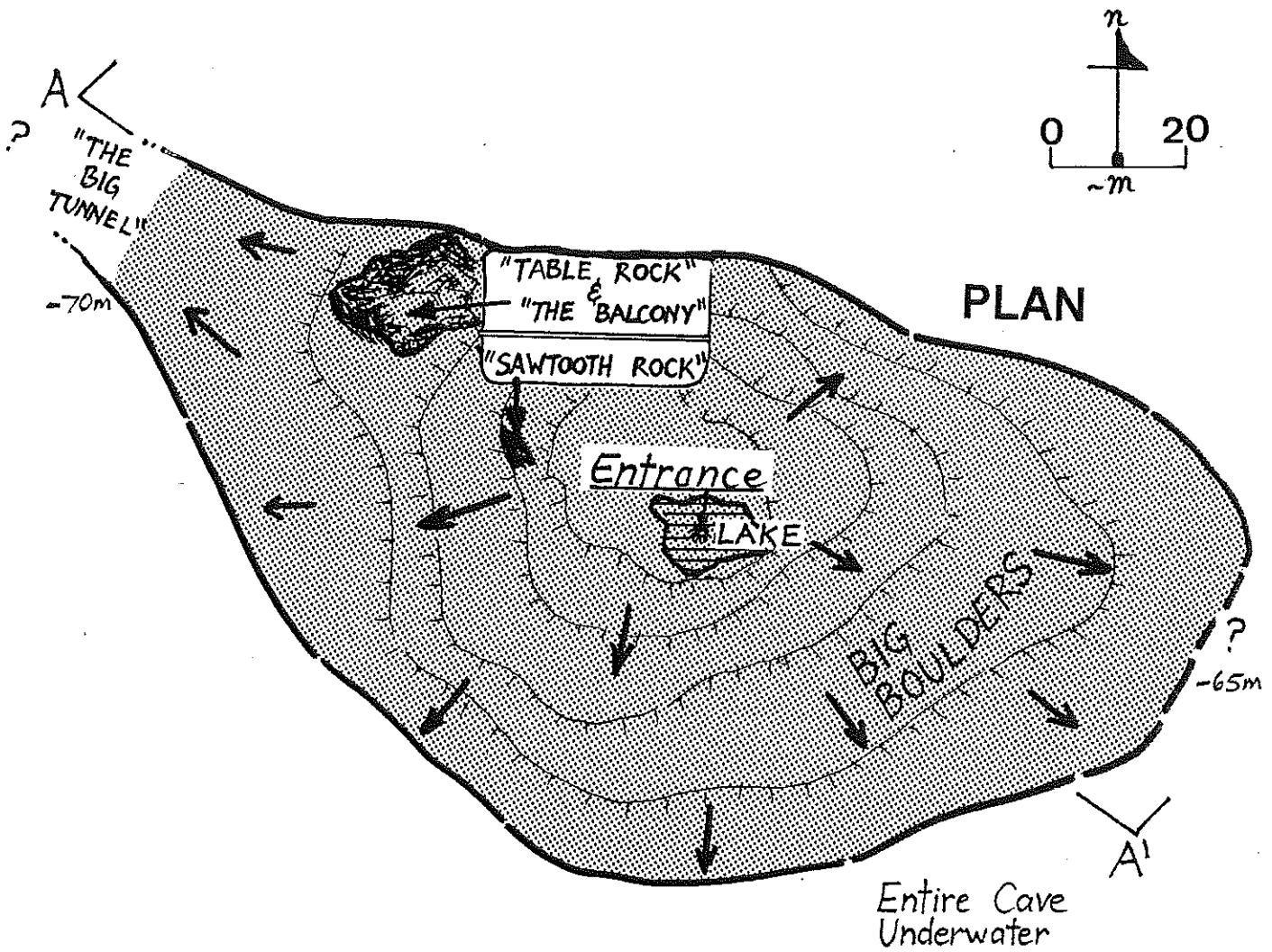
The Shaft was made in 1984, after a team of about 20 keen members of the newly-formed CDAA Research Group performed 73 mapping and photographic dives (totalling 102 manhours) in the cave. This showed that the feature was basically an oval-shaped chamber lying along a major west north-west to east south-east axis, with a width of about 80 metres at its narrowest and a known length of more than 150 metres.

While a detailed survey of the deepest regions of The Shaft has never been attempted, the Big Tunnel reportedly does not extend for more than a couple of hundred metres beyond the main chamber; and while it is certainly exceptionally deep, the cave in fact does not quite reach the 90-metre mark. Whatever it actually does, though, is really immaterial to recreational divers, because such depths are insanely beyond the CDAA's recommended maximum safe diving depth of 40 metres.

It is truly a premier cave diving site and an important geomorphological feature.

# THE SHAFT

5L158



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L159/160/161

## EWENS PONDS.

The freshwater spring system known as Ewens Ponds is one of the Lower South East's most popular recreational snorkelling and scuba sites. It consists of three quite large, roughly-circular spring-fed ponds and a smaller, final "fourth pond" which are linked via a series of shallow streams known as "races", and (with the exception of an isolated and much murkier, smaller feature in the swamp to the west) they contain fantastically-clear freshwater and various unusual and rare species of aquatic flora and fauna. The ponds were reportedly discovered sometime just prior to 1878 by a Mr. Thomas Ewens, whose dog chased a kangaroo into the area.

The entire area surrounding the ponds – including a carpark, a trout farm and open paddocks – was originally a broad, shallow peat bog swamp which was so dense that, back in the early 1900s, it took three weeks for a party of police (who were investigating a murder case) to row from the First Pond to the sea, cutting a rough track through the tea-trees as they went! Between 1938 and the late '40s, the water-table was lowered via an extensive series of drains to provide new land for the settlement of returned World War II soldiers.

The ponds are known today as "Pond 1", "Pond 2" and "Pond 3" from north to south, but to divers they are also known as the "First Pond" and the "First Race", etc. Each pond is basically a karst feature similar in structure to the other dolines which are found around the Lower South East, and they are all quite active springs, flushing around 80 million cubic metres of good-quality freshwater into the Southern Ocean each year via an artificially-enlarged drain known as Eight Mile Creek.

The First Pond is the largest feature, with surface dimensions of around 75 x 50 metres and a maximum depth of 9m (in a sandy area), and divers gain access to the spring system by using a handy wooden jetty and stairway on its north-eastern side. Access to the 2nd and 3rd Ponds is possible from the First Pond's southern end, where the First Race flows southwards for approximately 20 metres into the 6m deep Second Pond.

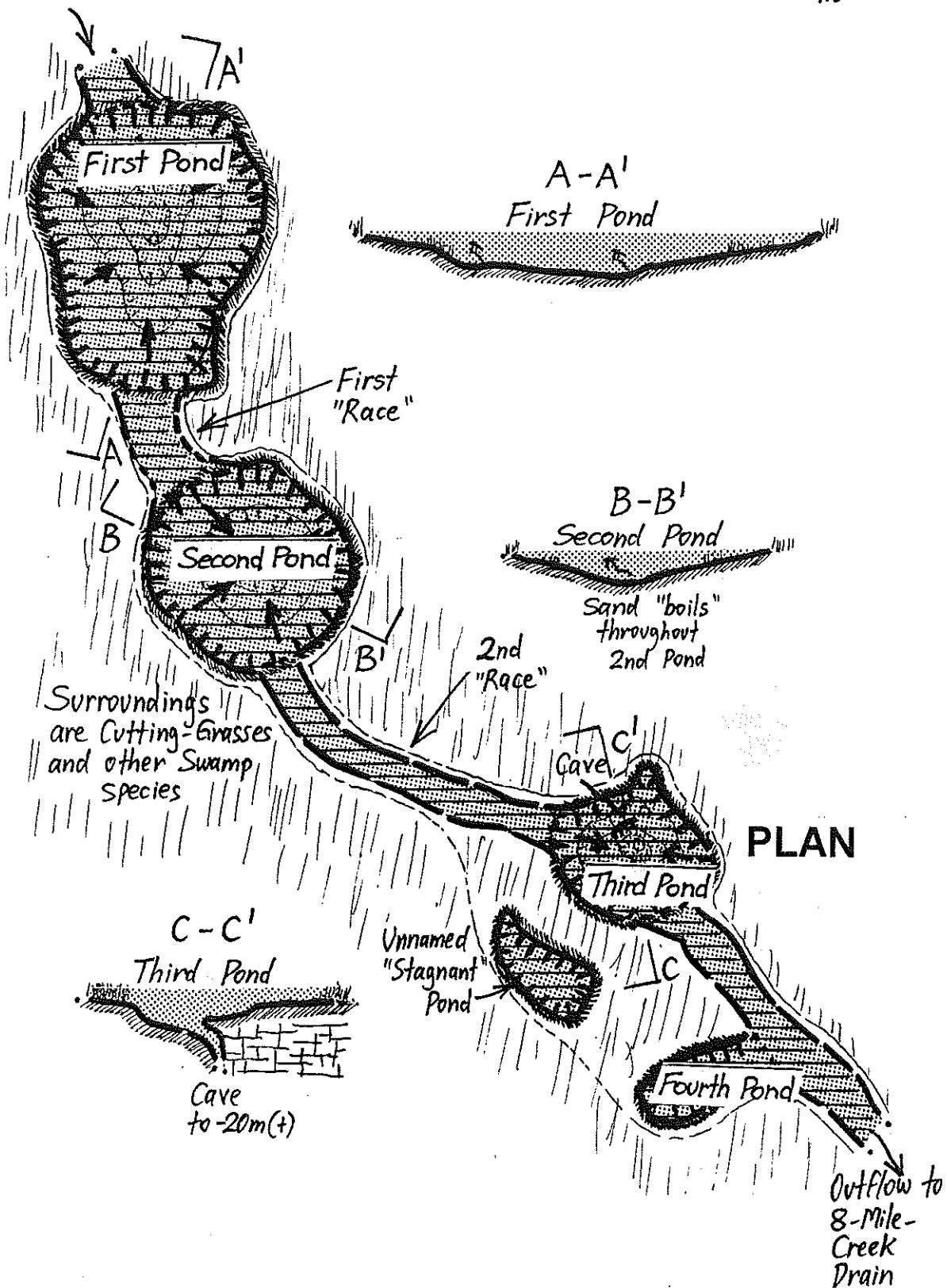
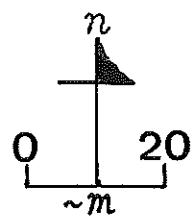
In its undisturbed state, the Second Pond is very beautiful, with small white "sand-boil" pools on its soft, algae-covered floor (where the 16 degree C water silently surges up from underground). By swimming about 45 metres across this pond, visitors can enter the very picturesque Second Race and drift southwards in a now quite substantial current for a further 50 metres or so into the smaller Third Pond.

This pond is perhaps the most interesting feature in the system, as it has a small cave under a ledge on its north-western side. The cave, however, is extremely unstable and should not be entered; it is little more than a narrow fissure with fast-flowing water at the 'heart' of the spring. Divers can leave the ponds via a ladder on the eastern side of this pond and walk back to their cars (while watching out for snakes on the path!), or they can continue along the drain, past the "fourth pond", for several kilometres to the sea, if they feel particularly energetic!

The very clear, open bodies of water and beautiful aquatic growths make Ewens Ponds a unique and ideal photographers' paradise, and a considerable amount of biological research has been undertaken at this location. It is one of only a handful of areas of remaining natural vegetation in the entire State, and consequently needs to be respected and protected as much as possible.

# EWENS PONDS

5L159/160/161



[Map ASF Grades 1-3, I.Lewis,  
P.Stace & P.Horne, 1980s]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L162

### STRATMANS POND.

Named like so many other features in the area after a landowner, Stratmans Pond is a picturesque, spring-fed "natural aquarium" with dimensions of approximately 30 x 20 metres and a maximum depth of about 6m at its inflow point, which takes the form of a loose rubble-pile and depression at the bottom of a vertical underwater cliff. The wall of this sheer drop is oriented north-west to south-east, and is found at the south-western end of the lake.

The pond is fairly shallow – generally less than 5 metres deep around the main area – and it has a lot of very delicate and beautiful algae and plant growths in most areas. Although relatively small, it also harbours various crustacea, fish, snakes and leeches (which use the surrounding lush beds of cutting grasses and stinging nettles ... and visiting divers' beards and exposed lips, in the case of the leeches! – as homes), so it is obviously not ideally suited to cater for hordes of underwater tourists.

A small rowboat which was used to provide a drier form of adventure in 1981-'82 or thereabouts has more recently joined the other algae-covered artifacts at the bottom of the pond, and a visit by the author and fellow diver and researcher Mia Thurgate in September 1987 revealed that a small drum-supported swimmers' pontoon had also been established in the pond at some stage during the mid-1980s:

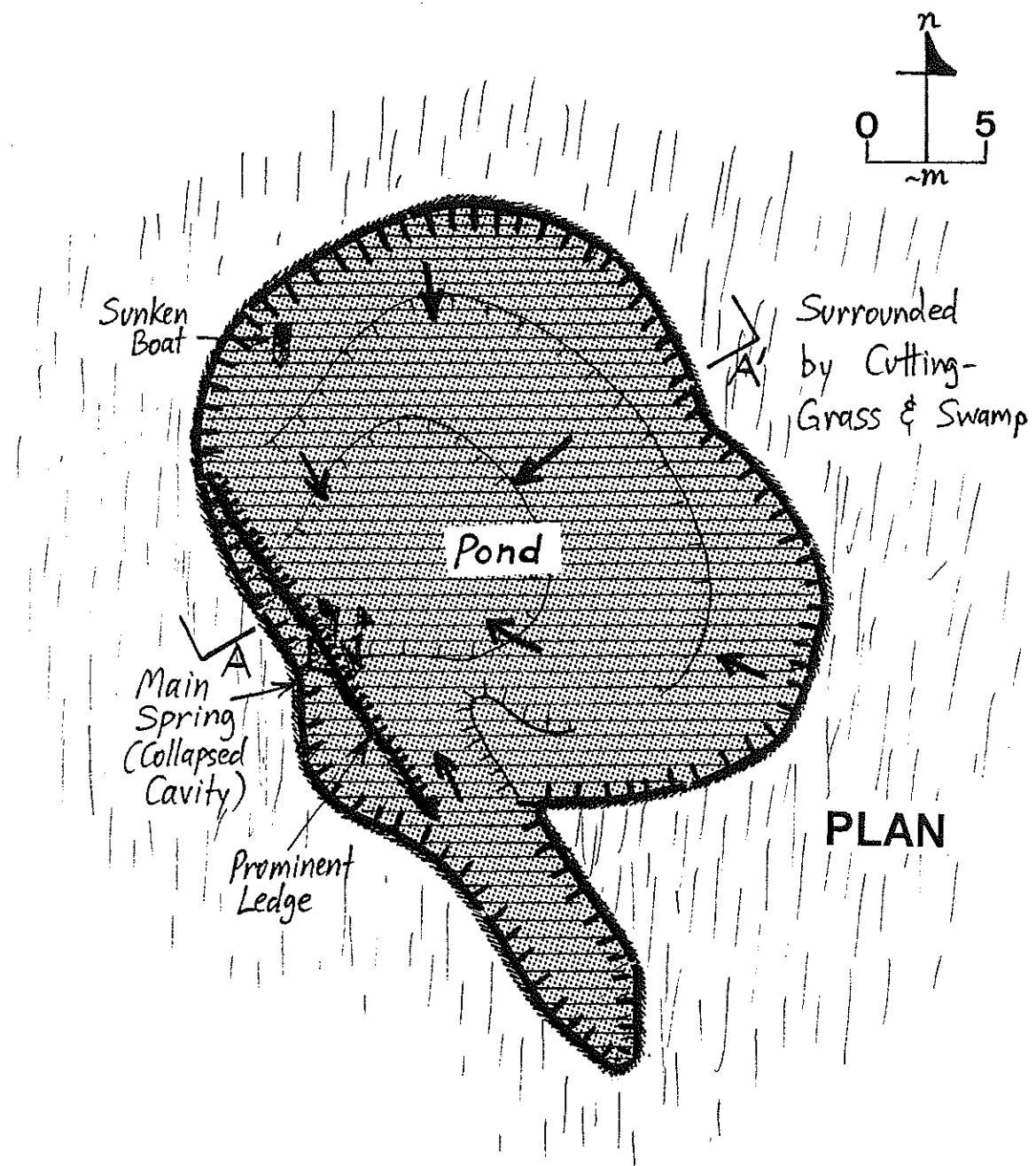


M. Nielsen

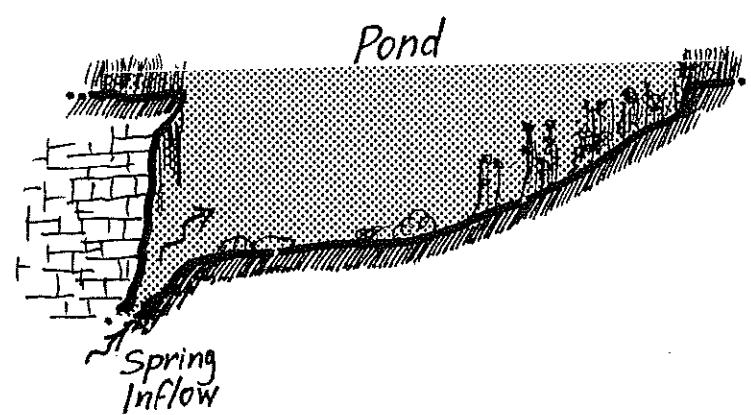
Stratmans Pond is one of the very few natural surviving springs in the region, and it is hoped that this little pond will be spared from the ravages of excessive visitation.

# STRATMANS POND

5L162



A - A'



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L163

## THE BULLOCK HOLE.

The Bullock Hole is a favourite – and classic – cave diving sinkhole in the Mount Gambier area.

Located close to several other famous large "cenote"-style sinkholes on the property known as Barnoolut Estate, The Bullock Hole looks quite impressive when viewed from its sheer overhanging walls. Its calm water is usually fantastically-clear ... a very enticing sight indeed for keen cave divers!

After clambering down a rope ladder for about 5 metres to a ledge on the western side (or about 8 metres directly into the 16 degree C. water from the overhanging eastern walls), divers descend to the shallowest point about 20 metres below, directly beneath the entrance lake. The main cavern is around 20 metres in diameter with numerous deeper holes behind the boulders to 25 metres or so depth; however, it is a large underwater passage which is found on the north-western side of the main cavern that attracts the interest of most divers.



P.Horne

This sloping passage is actually more like an elongated room about five metres high and perhaps 10 metres wide in most areas, dropping to a maximum readily-attained depth of about 50 metres, 30m or so in. This side of the cavern is actually quite interesting from a morphological view-point; the whole area is basically an enlarged open joint with some hard-to-survey fissures and a shallow "chamber" near the surface. However, these offshoots are small and tight in some areas, and the shallowest one is particularly silty and crumbly, so divers need to use proper line following techniques to explore this safely.

A previous Manager of the property, Mr. Reg Watson, recently recounted the

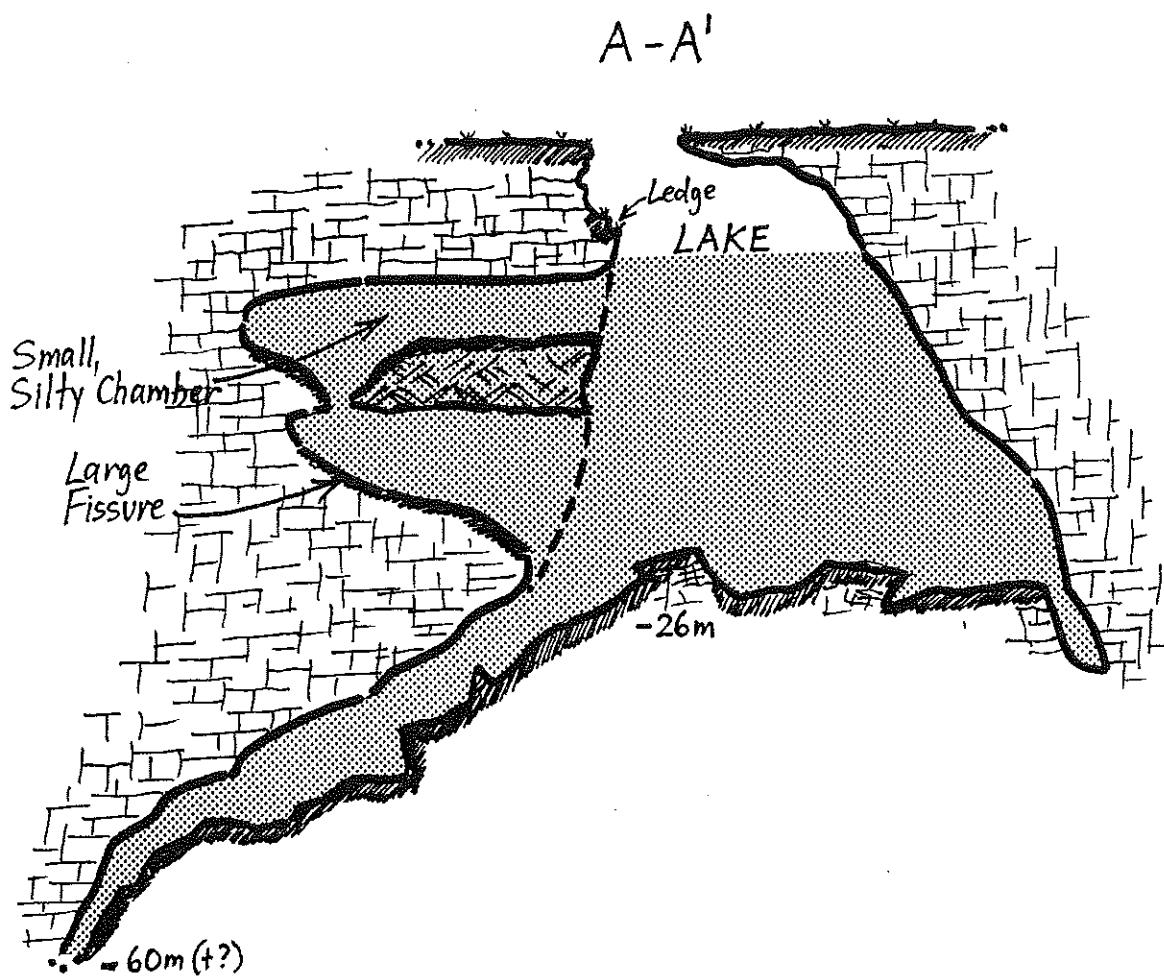
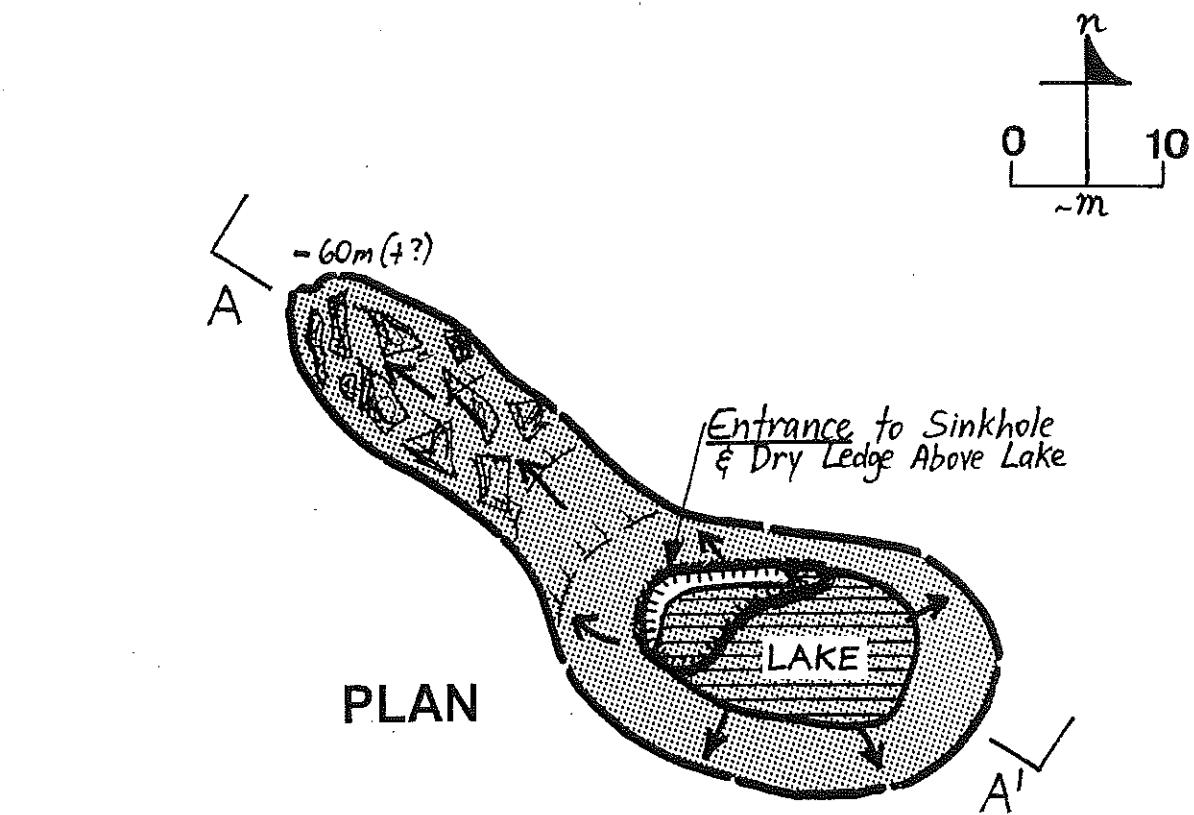
story surrounding the naming of The Bullock Hole. It relates to an occasion in the early 1920s

when a large bullock (a castrated bull, for those city slickers who are ignorant about such things!) fell into the unfenced sinkhole and survived on hay which was lowered to it for several days, until it was finally extricated with the aid of a wooden block and tackle and two horses ... an incident which was repeated in 1971 or '72, when another bullock fell in!

The feature entered CEGSA's Records sometime around 1975, when Ian D. Lewis was tidying up the Records during his monumental efforts to produce his "South Australian Cave Reference Book".

# THE BULLOCK HOLE

5L163



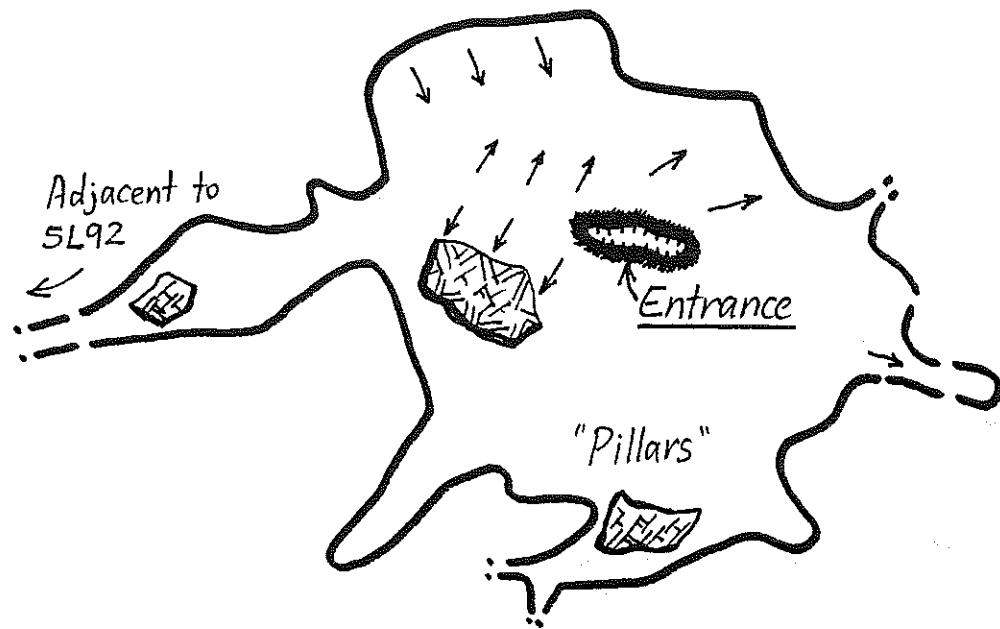
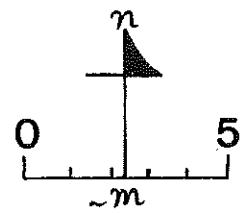
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L164

### (Unnamed Feature).

This small cave is a relatively uninteresting feature, and very little information could be found in CEGSA's Records.

The feature is shown as being basically a low, flat circular chamber about 8 metres across, entered via an elongated roof window about 3m long and a metre wide or thereabouts. There are indefinite flatteners around the edges and "pillars" as per the map, and a low crawlby bit on the western side heads towards the nearby 5L92/93 "Balds Cave" system (and 5L165).

5L164



## PLAN

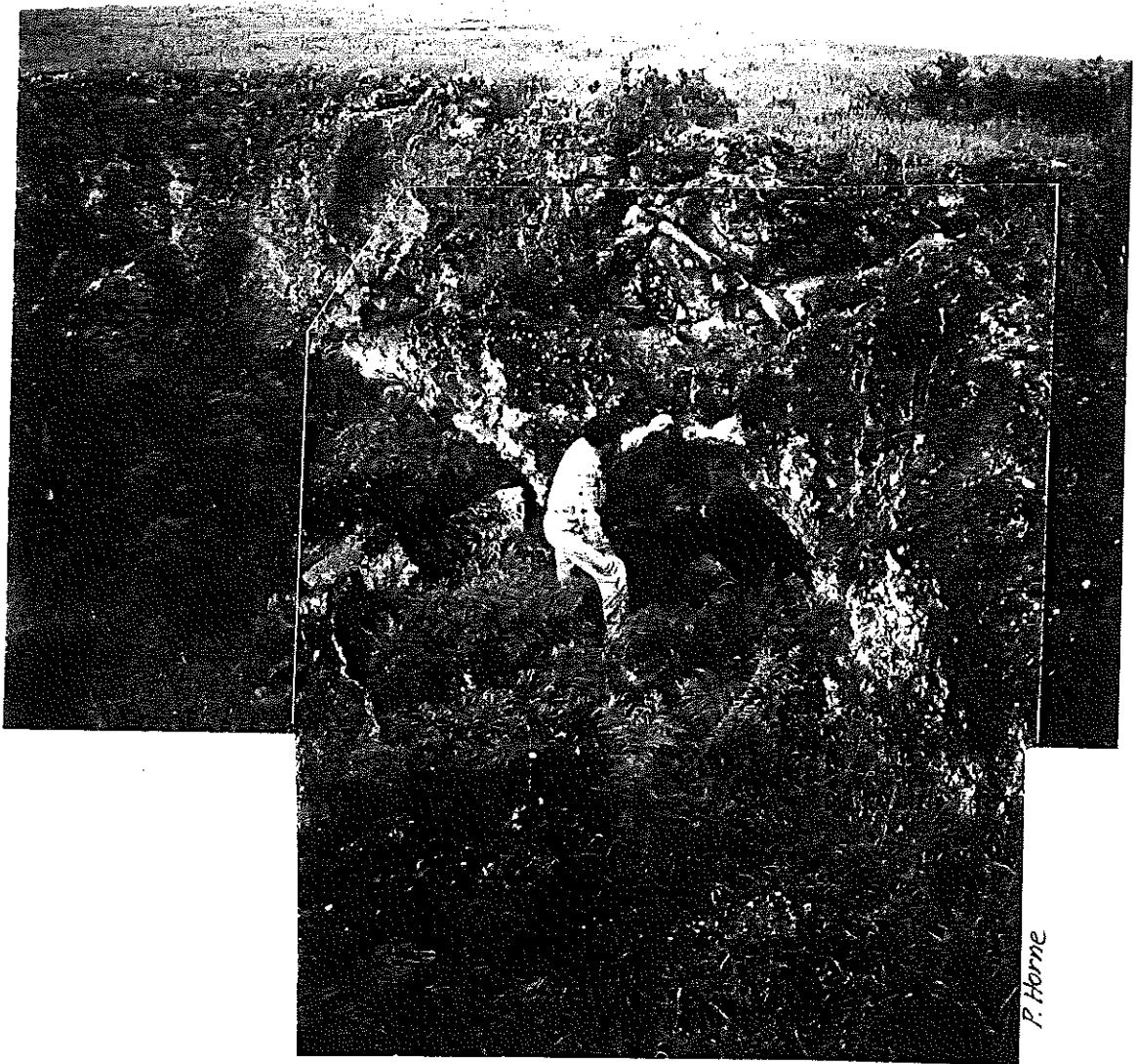
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L165

(Unnamed Feature).

This feature is a low, wide cave which is entered via a low horizontal passage in a quarry face at the eastern end of the system. Like 5L164, it is also located close to 5L92/93.

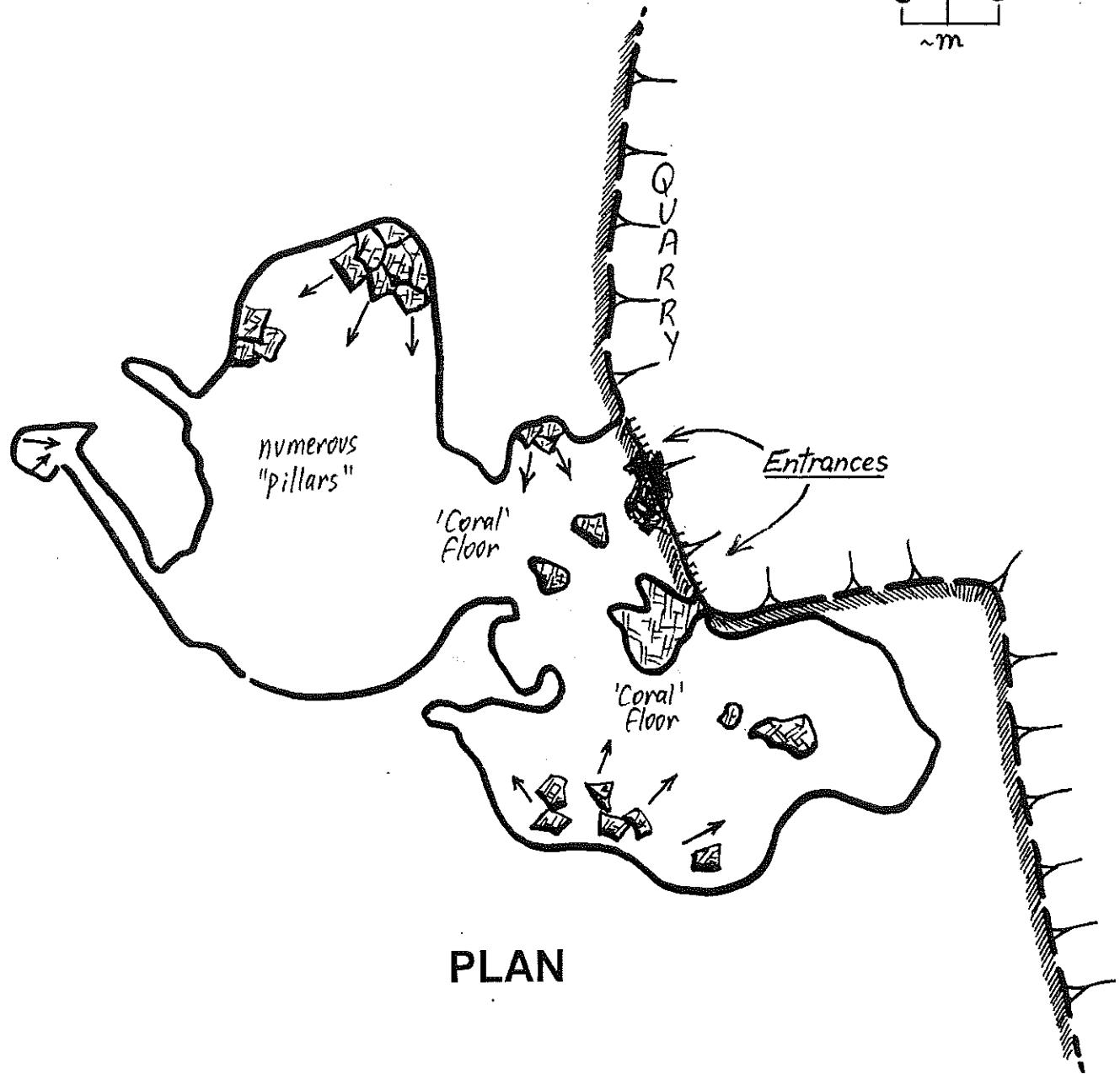
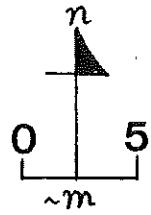
The main chamber is approximately 35 x 25 metres in size and only half a metre high. The Grade 3 map indicates that there are also numerous 'pillars', a 'cave coral' floor and some small collapses, as well as numerous crawls, in various areas of the cave.

No other information is available at this time.



P.Horne

5L165



[Map ASF Grade 3C, D.Field  
& J.Davidson (CEGSA), 1975]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L166

## (Unnamed Feature).

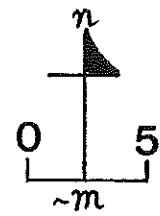
Although apparently not very well known, this cave is fairly significant by local standards, as it contains quite a few features of interest.

The tube entrance is situated on the south-western end of the cave and it is readily negotiated thanks to the presence of a rigid 3 metre ladder. A short exploration to the north-east leads to a flat-roofed chamber about a metre or so high with steep sides and a width of more than 10 metres in places. Much of the cave contains decoration in some form or another; "Bugs Bunny's Carrot" is a prominent feature on the northern wall about 13 metres from the entrance, and some rock collapses hint at their antiquity by the large amount of flowstone which has covered them.

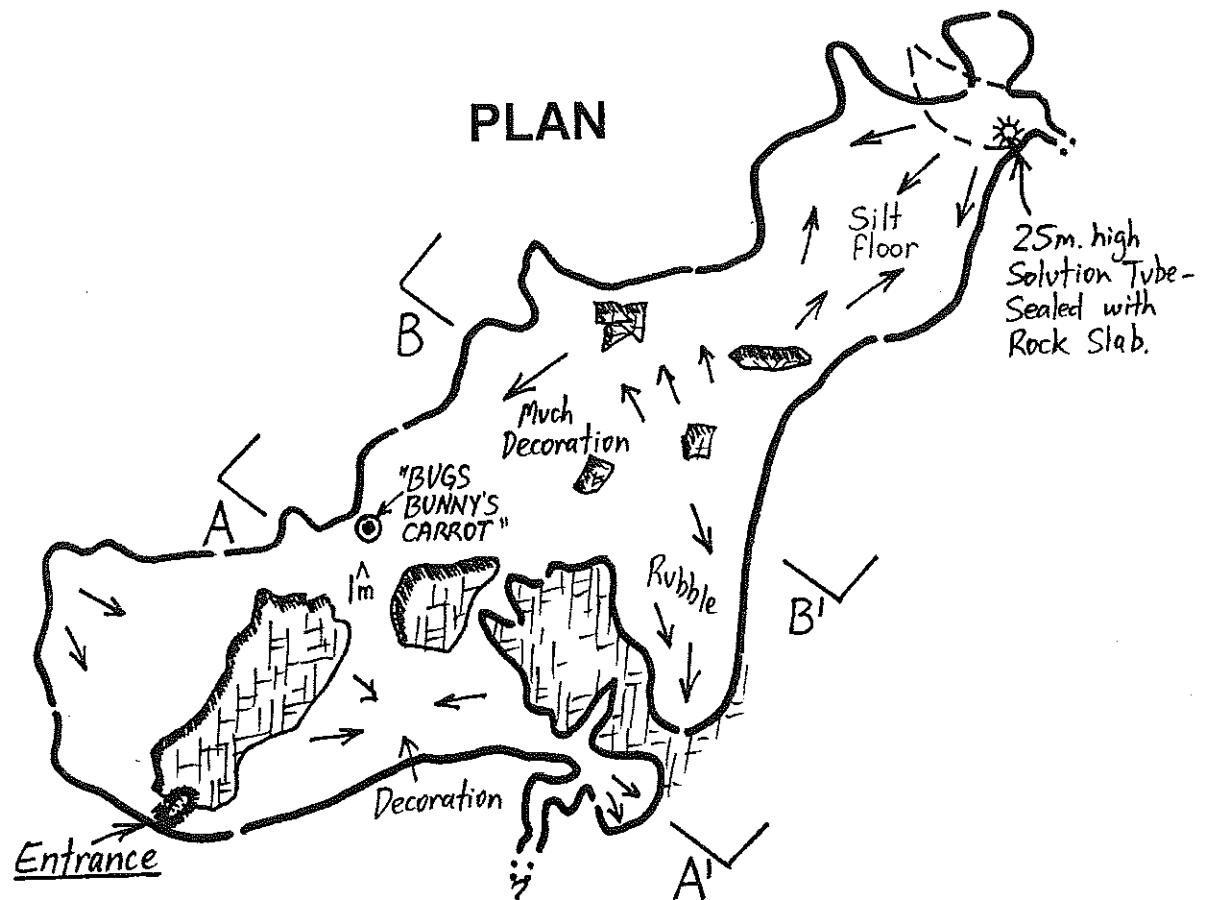
The far end of the cave is basically a silt-floored chamber where some blind roof tubes almost reach the surface.



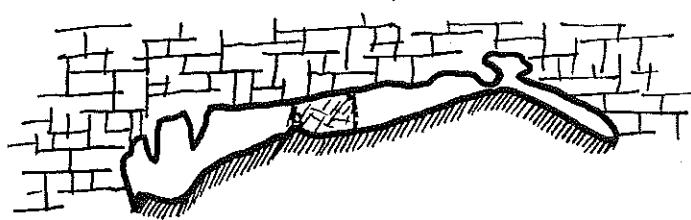
5L166



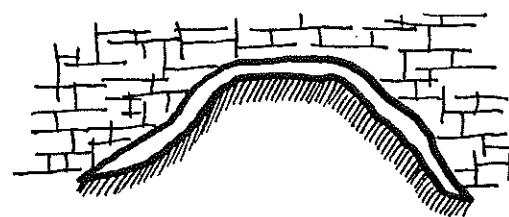
## PLAN



A-A'



B-B'



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBERS: 5L167/168

## SWIM-THROUGH CAVE (The Swim-Through).

Swim-Through Cave (or The Swim-Through, as it is popularly known by cave divers) is one of the many flooded vertical joint-controlled "fissure caves" in the region, but unlike most of the others, this cave is big enough to take virtually any-sized cave diver!

The cave has two entrances; a small "chimney" which drops about 3 metres directly into the water at the extreme south-east end of the system, and a much larger (and easier!) rectangular cutting underneath some trees about 15 metres to the north-west.

Entering the shallow water in the cutting (with the aid of a good rope), cave divers can see underwater passages heading off both to the north-west and the south-east. The area of most interest is the latter, which is safer and leads through to the other entrance; hence the name of the cave!

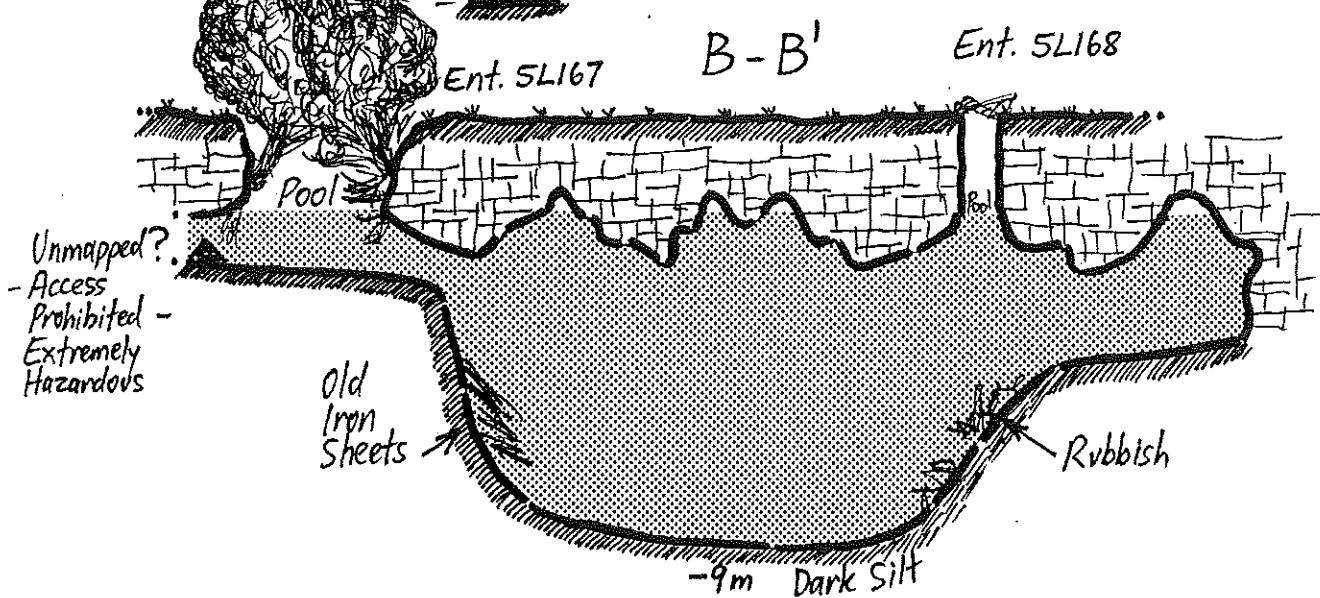
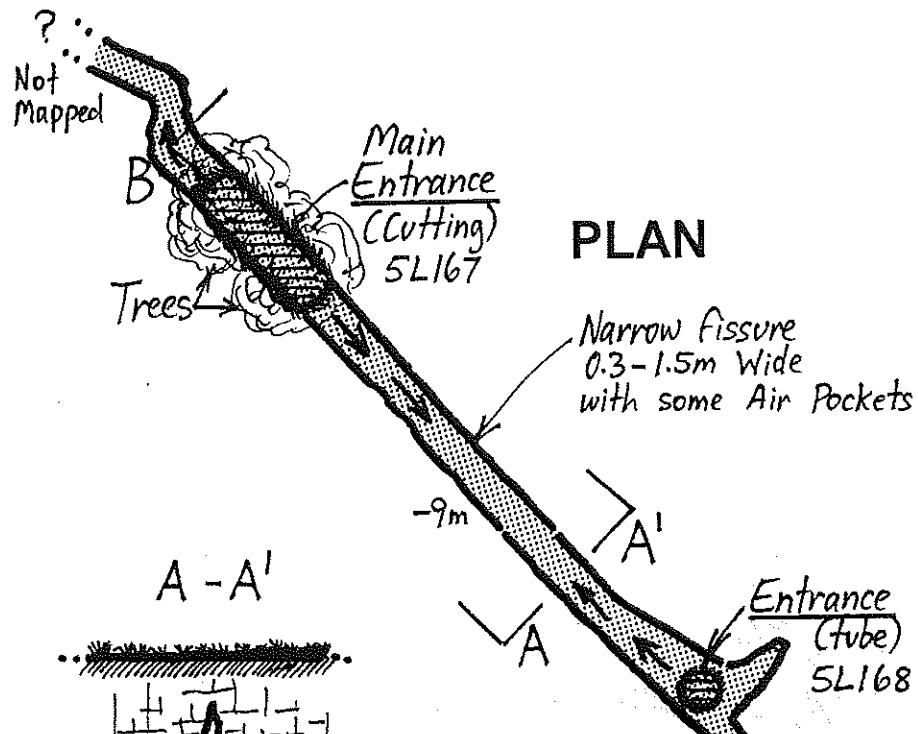
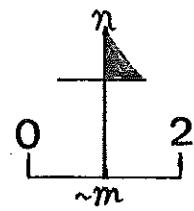
The passage floor drops immediately to a maximum depth of just 9 metres in this fissure, where a layer of dark silt covers the bottom. Most of the fissure is between 0.3 and 1.5 metres in width in this area, but divers still need to take care not to get caught under some of the debris and sheets of metal which jut out along the bottom – especially in low visibility, where a guideline reel is essential.



The narrow tube at the south-eastern end of the passage is too small and awkward for safe exit without prior planning and ladders, so divers need to retrace their path to the original entrance.

The cave also reportedly continues in a north-westerly direction for many tens of metres, and although it reaches a depth of around 15m, this area is inaccessible thin in most places ... a very dangerous "line trap" which contains a LOT of fine white silt which is readily disturbed from the ledges. Bearing this in mind, access to the north-western end of The Swim-Through is prohibited to recreational cave divers.

# SWIM-THROUGH CAVE 5L167/168

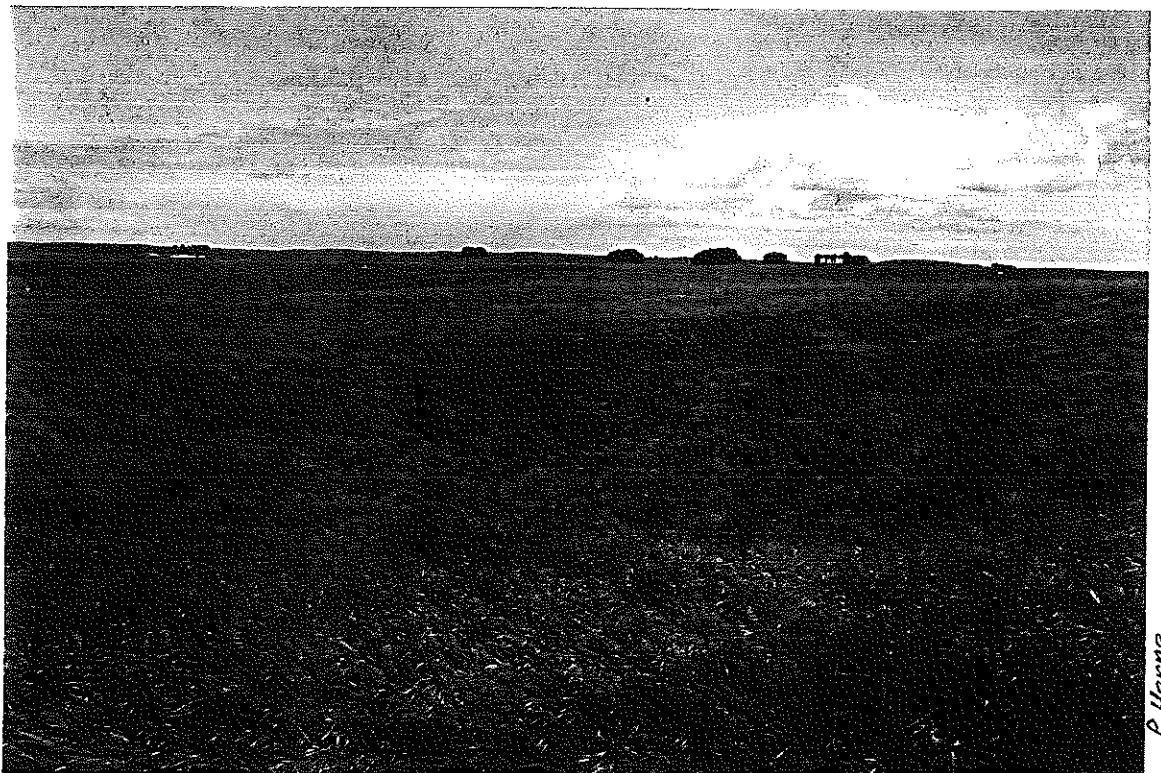


# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L169

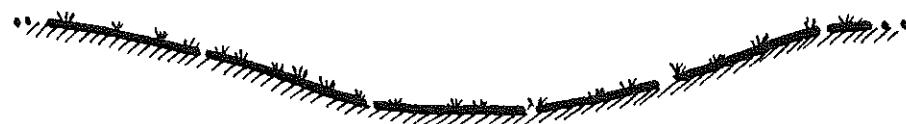
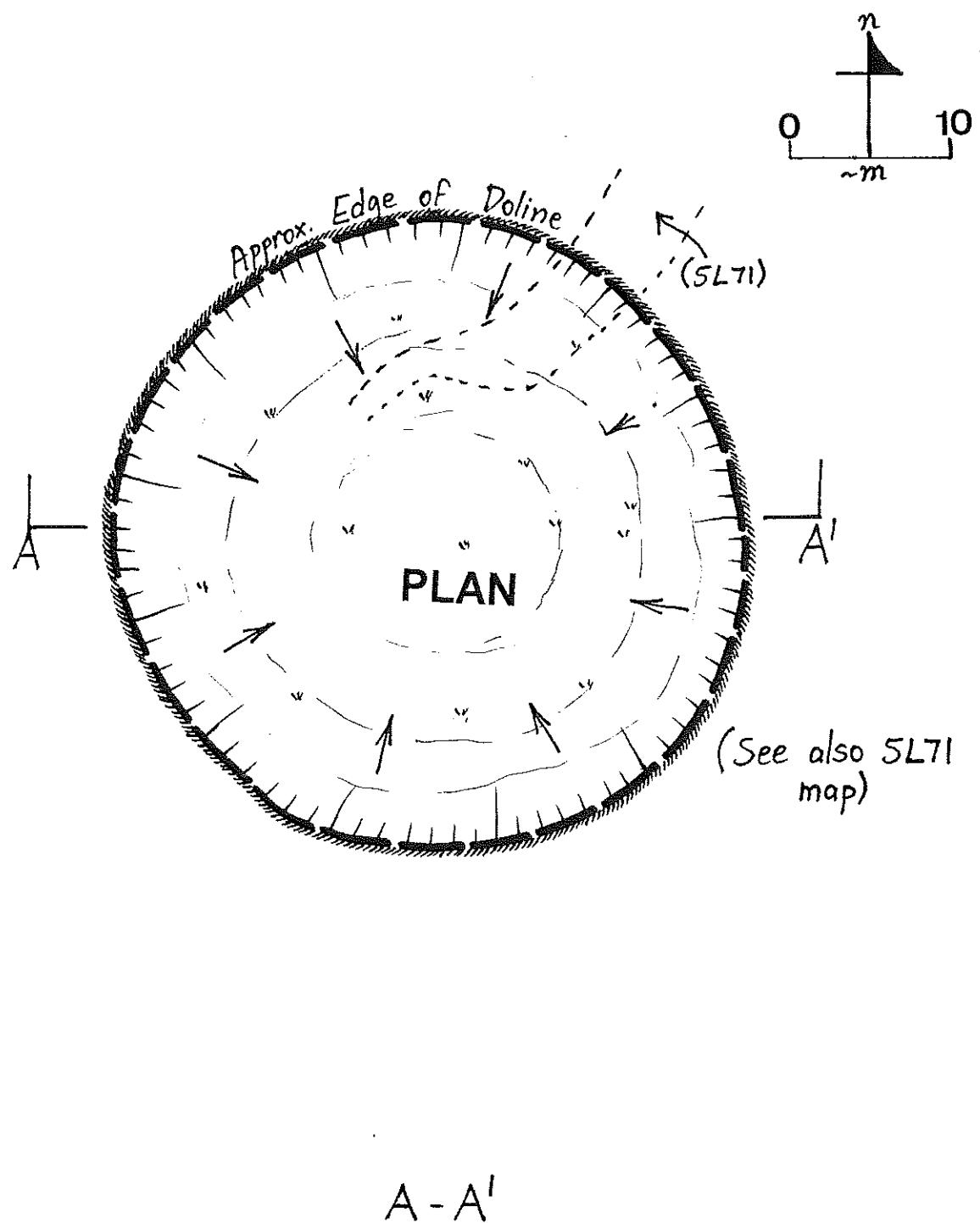
(Unnamed Feature).

This feature is a simple large collapse doline in the crest of a hill close to Hereford-Stream Cave (5L71). It is about 40 metres in diameter and 5m deep, and has no accessible connection to the cave nearby.

Please refer to the map of 5L71 for more details.



5L169



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, P.Horne, 1992]

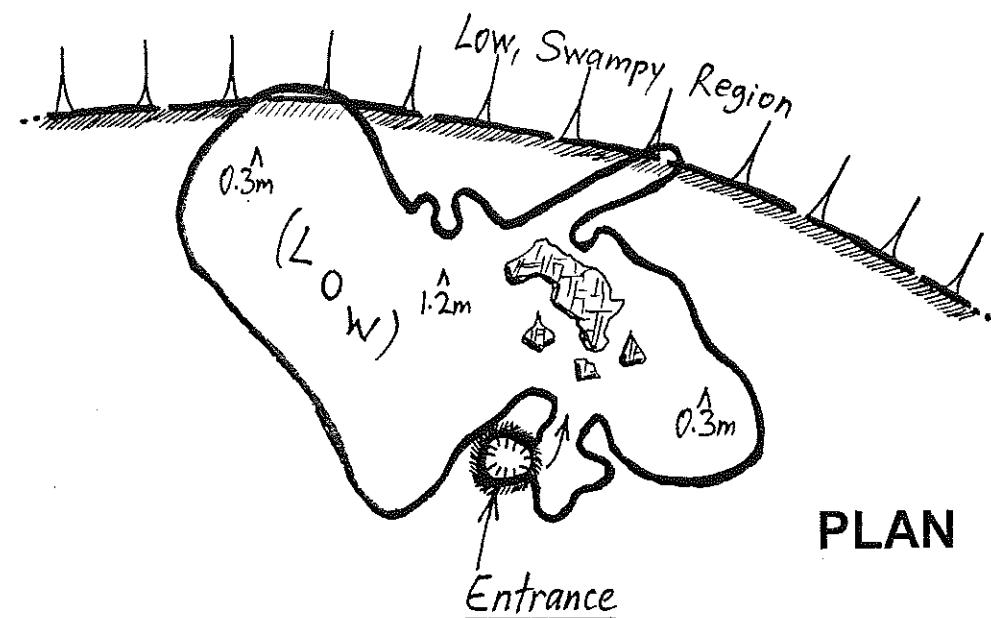
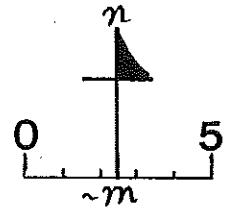
## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L170**

**(Unnamed Feature).**

This small and relatively uninteresting feature is only a metre high at most – generally around 0.3m in most areas – with a "main chamber" about 10 metres long by 5m wide. It is accessed via a small collapse entrance.

It is also vulnerable to periodical inundation from a nearby swamp.

5L170



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L171

### (Unnamed Feature).

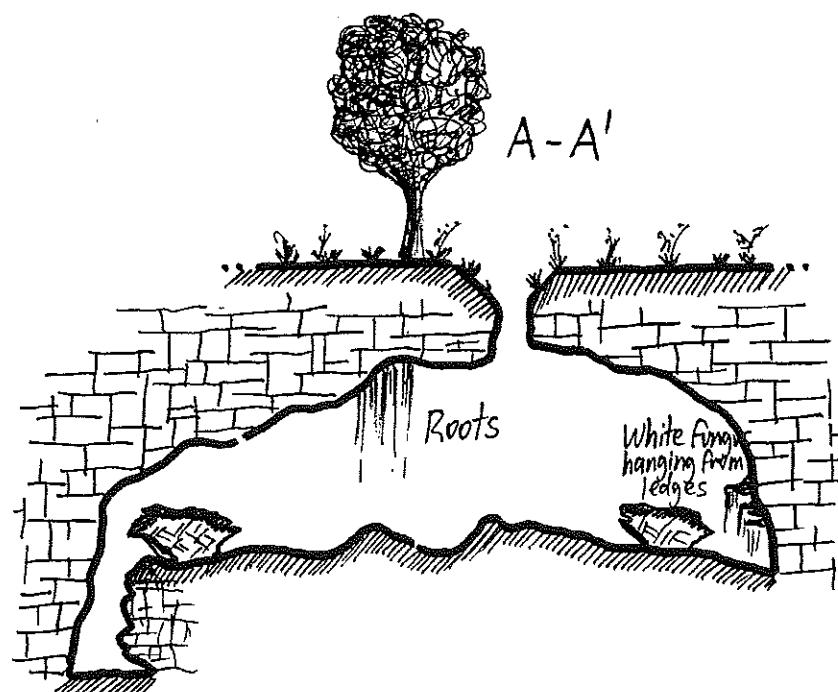
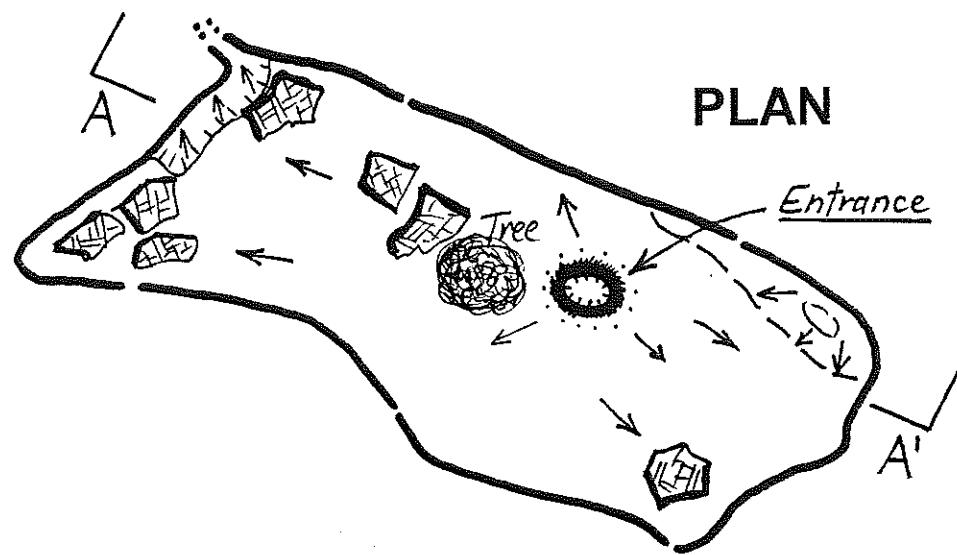
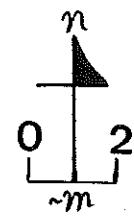
This cave is a single chamber about 17 metres long, 7 metres wide and up to 4 metres high, with a roof-window entrance some 10 metres above the floor. A cable ladder or similar device is needed for safe access.

The cavity contains almost nothing of interest to most cavers ... just a few wetas, some tree roots and white fungus, and there appears to be little chance of finding any significant extensions. It does, however, make an ideal natural animal trap, so there is a good chance that some useful fossil bone material might be buried in the rubble.

Another small doline a few metres roughly to the south-west of the entrance doesn't quite make it into the cave.



5L171



[Map ASF Grade 3C, K.Mott (CEGSA)  
1976; Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, P.Horne, 1983]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L172

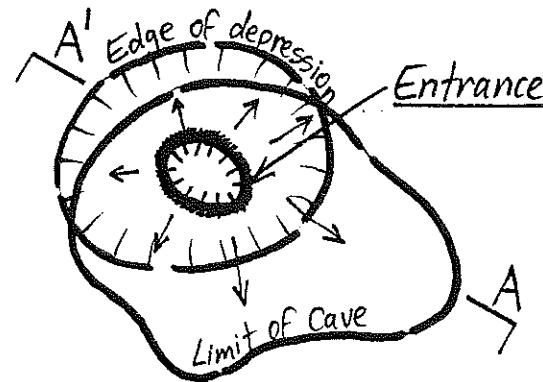
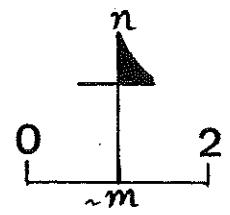
(Unnamed Feature).

This relatively inconsequential karst feature is a simple 3-4 metre diameter cavity about a metre high, entered via a tapering 3 metre deep solution tube "chimney".

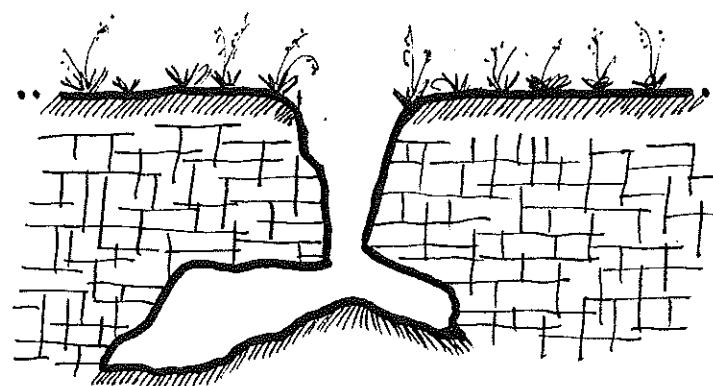
No features worthy of special mention are known, and it is believed that this feature has now been filled!



K. Grimes



A-A'



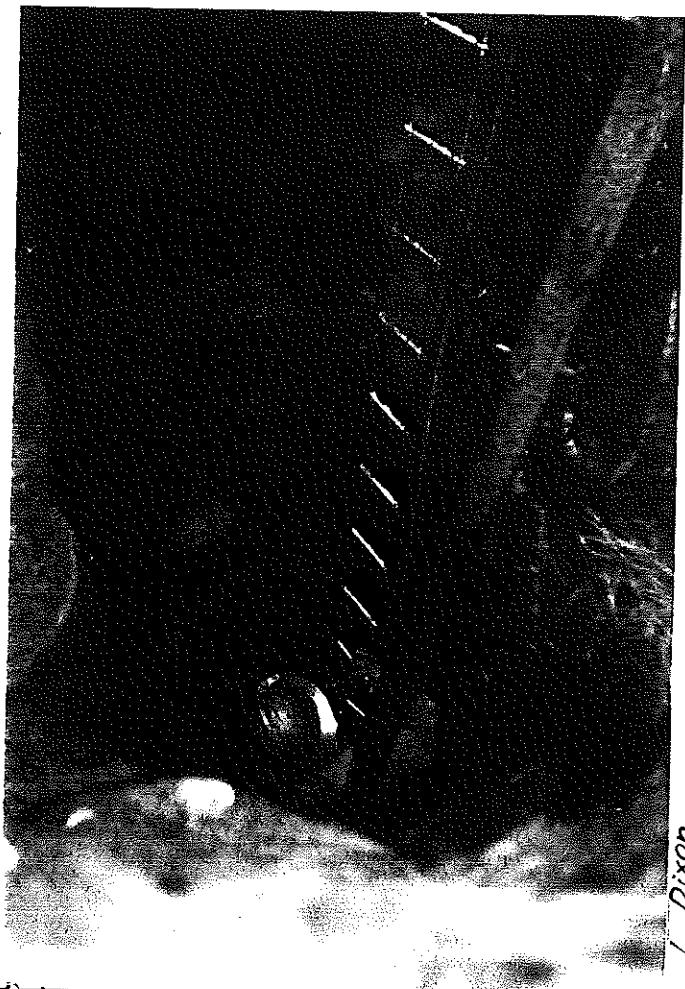
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L173

### (Unnamed Feature).

There is a bit of confusion regarding exactly which cave is known as 5L173 these days! This stems from the fact that a number of features were discovered very close to each other in a dense pine forest, and after the major bushfires of the early 1980s, some holes were filled with logs while at least one new feature apparently opened up. Consequently, when the author and his companions visited what THEY thought was 5L173 in April 1983 – while the black burnt-out trunks of the pines were still standing – they found something which was quite different to the one described.

The "original" 5L173 was a relatively simple feature – little more than a 3 x 2 metre roof window dropping some 3.6 metres to a 5 metres diameter, sloping-floored chamber (please refer to the sketch by CEGSA member Neil Smith, dated 1976, at top left of the map page). The feature which was explored in 1983, however (and which is the subject of the main map), appeared from the surface to be little more than a simple sandy-walled chimney about 1.5 metres in diameter which was apparently blocked off with wood debris and sand about 9 metres down.

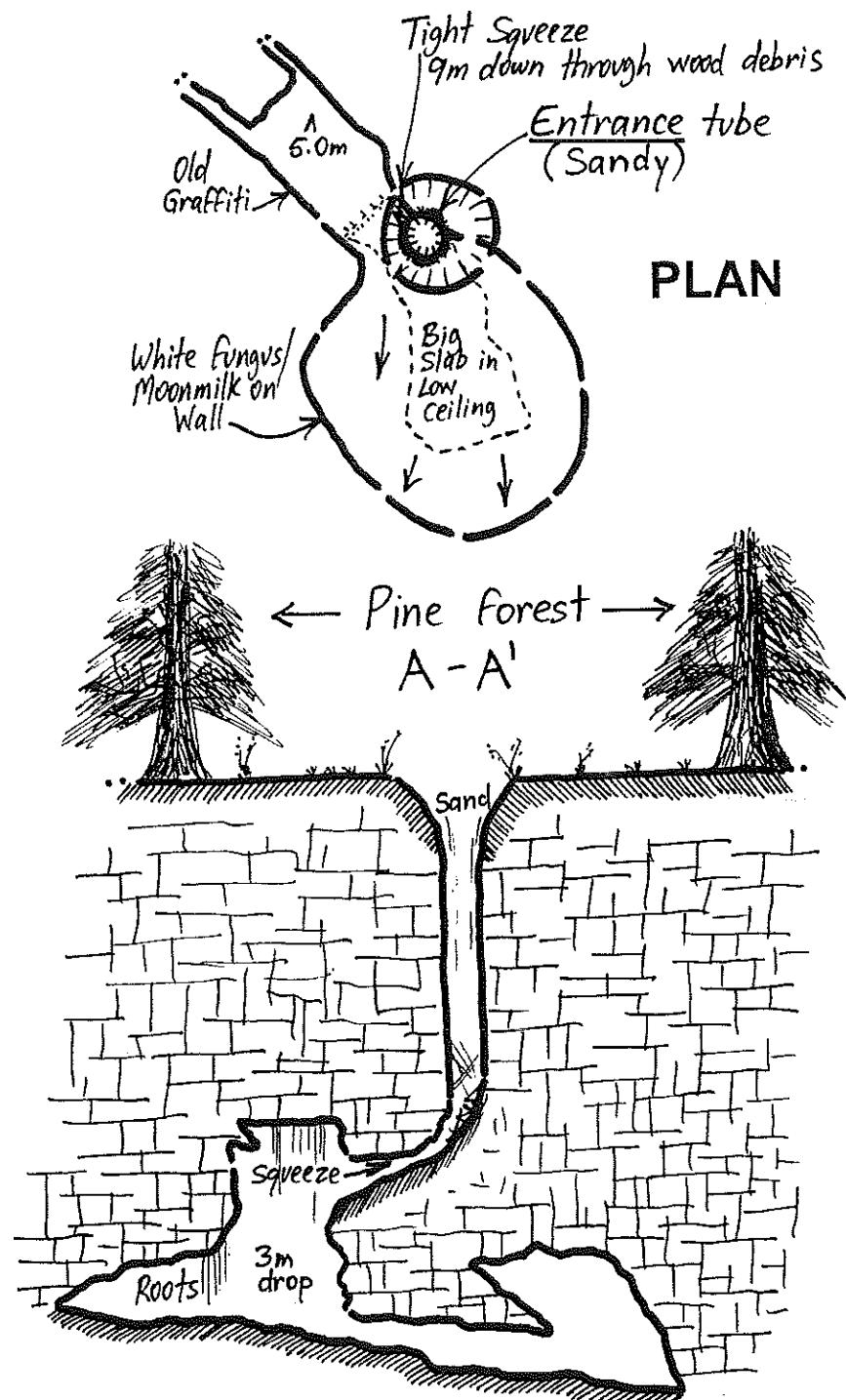
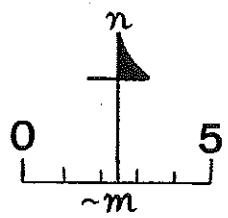
A closer inspection of the walls at the "bottom" of the tube, however, revealed the presence of a narrow near-vertical fissure just a quarter of a metre wide which, with care and sand-filled eyes, one could uncomfortably negotiate feet-first using a wire cable ladder. Dangling legs then signalled one's arrival at the top of a 5 metre high cavity!



Descending into this first chamber, explorers immediately encountered a low passage underneath a large hanging roof slab. This leads to a second final cavity which, although devoid of crystalline decoration, contains lots of damp, white fungus and moonmilk. Surprisingly, there is also a bit of fairly modern graffiti here, too.

The fate of this feature is unknown at present; some much more accurate surveying work needs to be done to sort out exactly where this cave is located relative to the other caves nearby.

5L173



[Map ASF Grade 2, J.Cundy (CEGSA),  
1974?; ASF Grade 1, P.Horne, 1983]

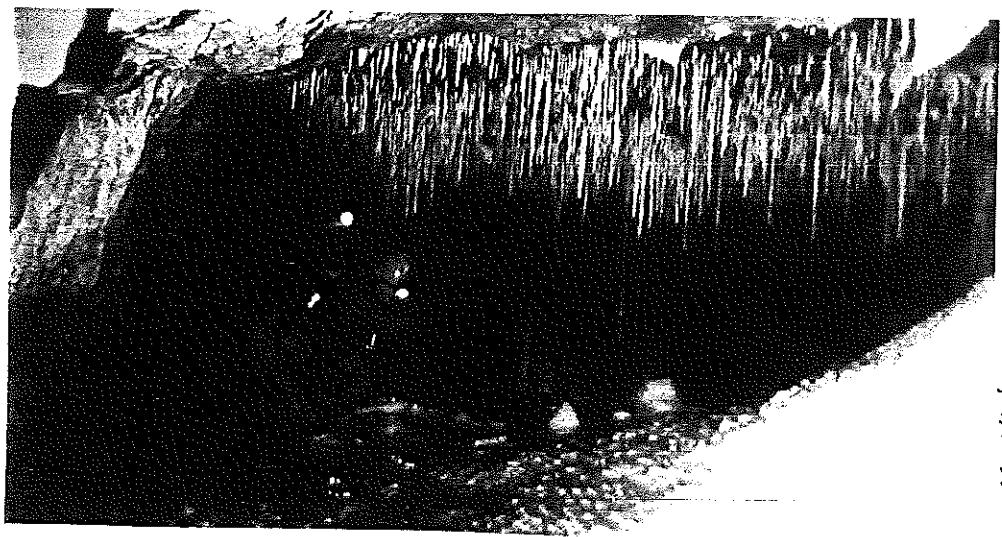
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L174

### STAFFORD ROAD CAVE (Crystal Cave, The Crystal Palace).

Stafford Road Cave was named by the author after a visit in 1983 to roughly identify its location relative to a nearby track in a very heavily-forested and bland area. More recently, it has been called the Crystal Palace (see "Crystal Chamber" below) by other visitors, which is perhaps a more suitable and descriptive name.

The entrance to this fascinating cave is a solution-tube "chimney" about 14 metres deep. The tube is fairly wide and sandy at the surface and it gradually narrows in small steps to about 6 metres, where the harder limestone is reached and the sandy overlying dune material terminates. From here the tube drops almost vertically as a neat but narrow circular tube for another 8 metres onto a small ledge which stands about 2m above the floor. "Larger" cavers could encounter trouble negotiating the lowest areas of the tube, and everybody needs to be careful of sand which blows in or out of it, depending on how the cave is "breathing" at the time.

Upon reaching the ledge, one can see up a large rockpile collapse to the north, but the main cave in fact actually heads south, cutting back underneath the entrance tube ledge. It then follows a sloping dirt floor for about 10 metres into the start of a low, horizontal passage which contains many flat slabs and a flat ceiling.

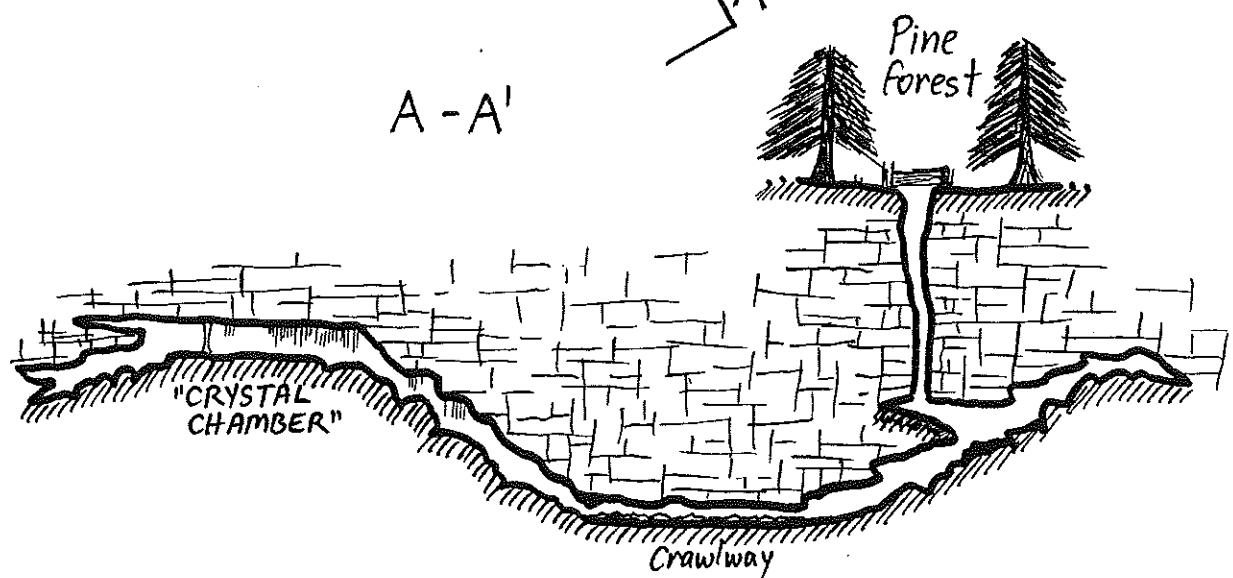
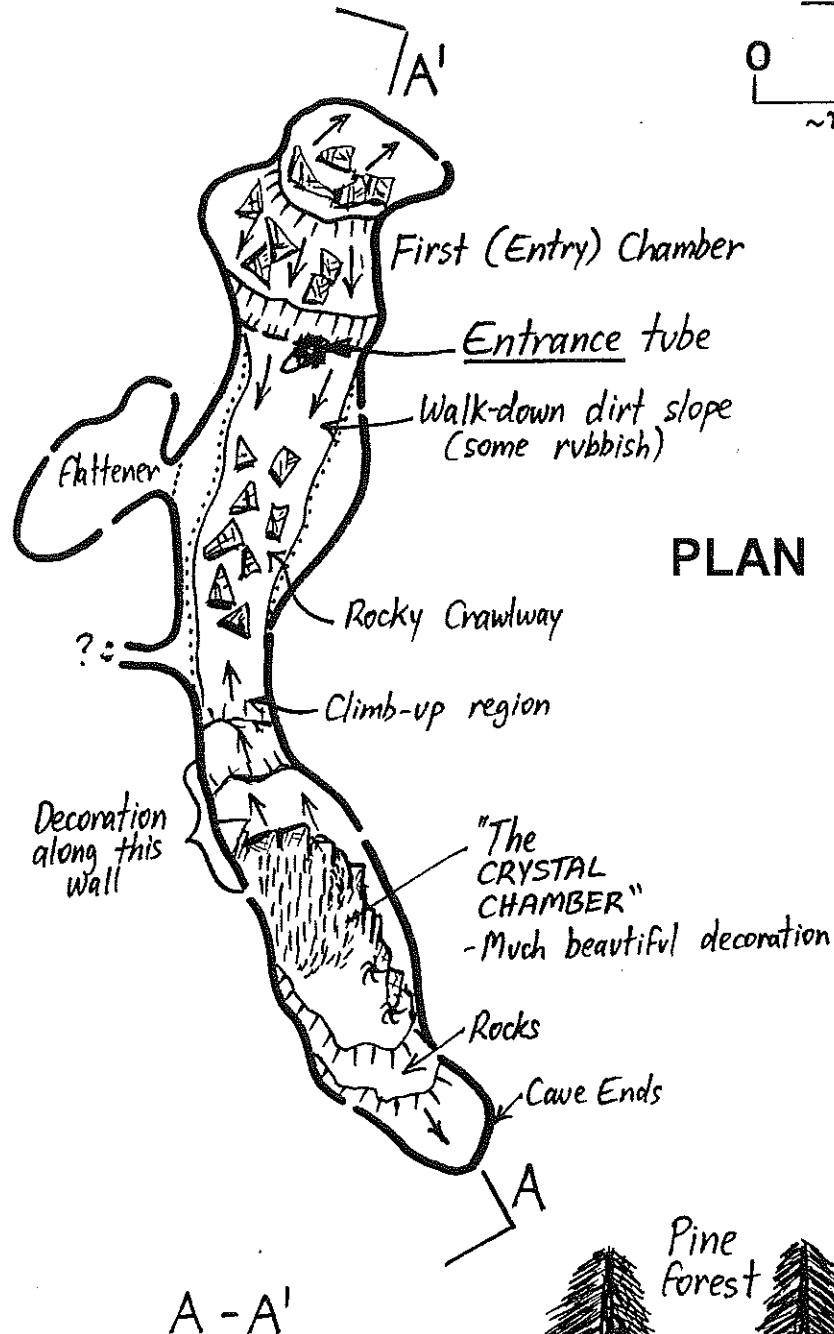
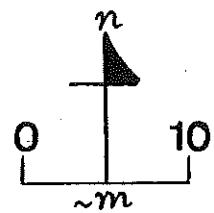


After negotiating this low section (between about 0.5 and one metre high) for perhaps 20 metres, one reaches a minor restriction and the start of a steep climb over a major breakdown area. Fortunately for cavers, the collapse has followed the shape of the walls all the way down without blocking off any section, so one can easily climb up to the highest levels of the cave, passing some nice and active decoration along the way. The climb ends in a final stepped chamber which has one of the most beautifully-decorated rooms of all caves in the Mount Gambier region. Its great delicate beauty was what prompted the author to name it the "Crystal Chamber" in 1983, and although the passage does continue for a little bit more (and has a couple of crawlly offshoots along the sides), nothing else in the cave compares with this area of active straws, shawls, columns, rimstone pools, cave pearls, stalactites and stalagmites.

This cave entered CEGSA's Records in the form of some notes by Ian Lewis in December 1971, and because of the damage which was occurring as the feature became more widely known, all access is now prohibited.

# STAFFORD ROAD CAVE

5L174



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L175

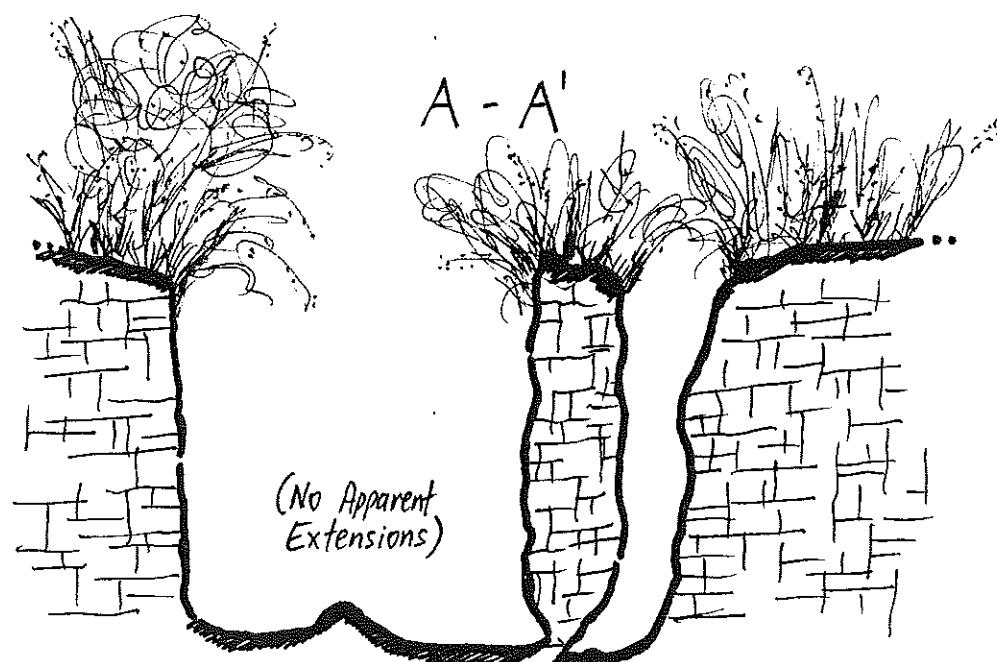
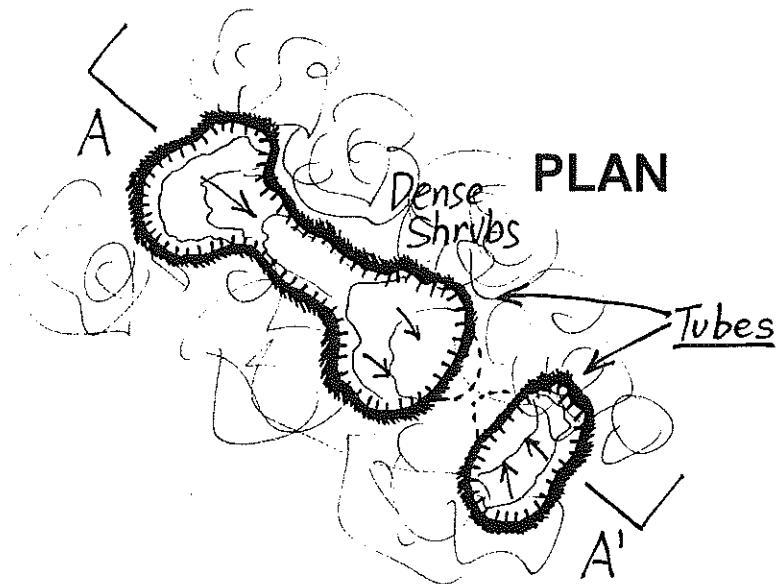
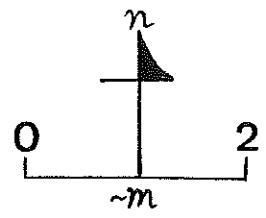
## (Unnamed Feature).

This feature originally entered CEGSA's Records sometime around June 1975, when it was described as being a simple solution tube "chimney" which dropped about 7 metres to the top of a rubbish choke. However, a recent check-out visit to the feature by Grant and Lynne Pearce in late 1992 (at the request of the author) found that it was not a single shaft at all; it actually took the form of a dual-tube structure which was only about 4 metres deep.

A subsequent (night) visit to the area by the author and Grant in late March 1993 also confirmed its shape and shallow depth. Unfortunately, no photos could be taken because of thick plant growth around the surface depression.

This feature is obviously of little speleological value.

5L175



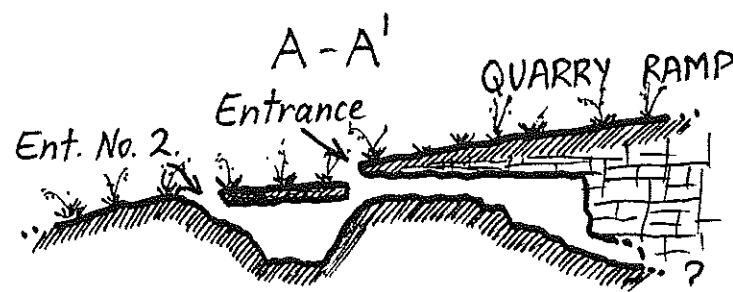
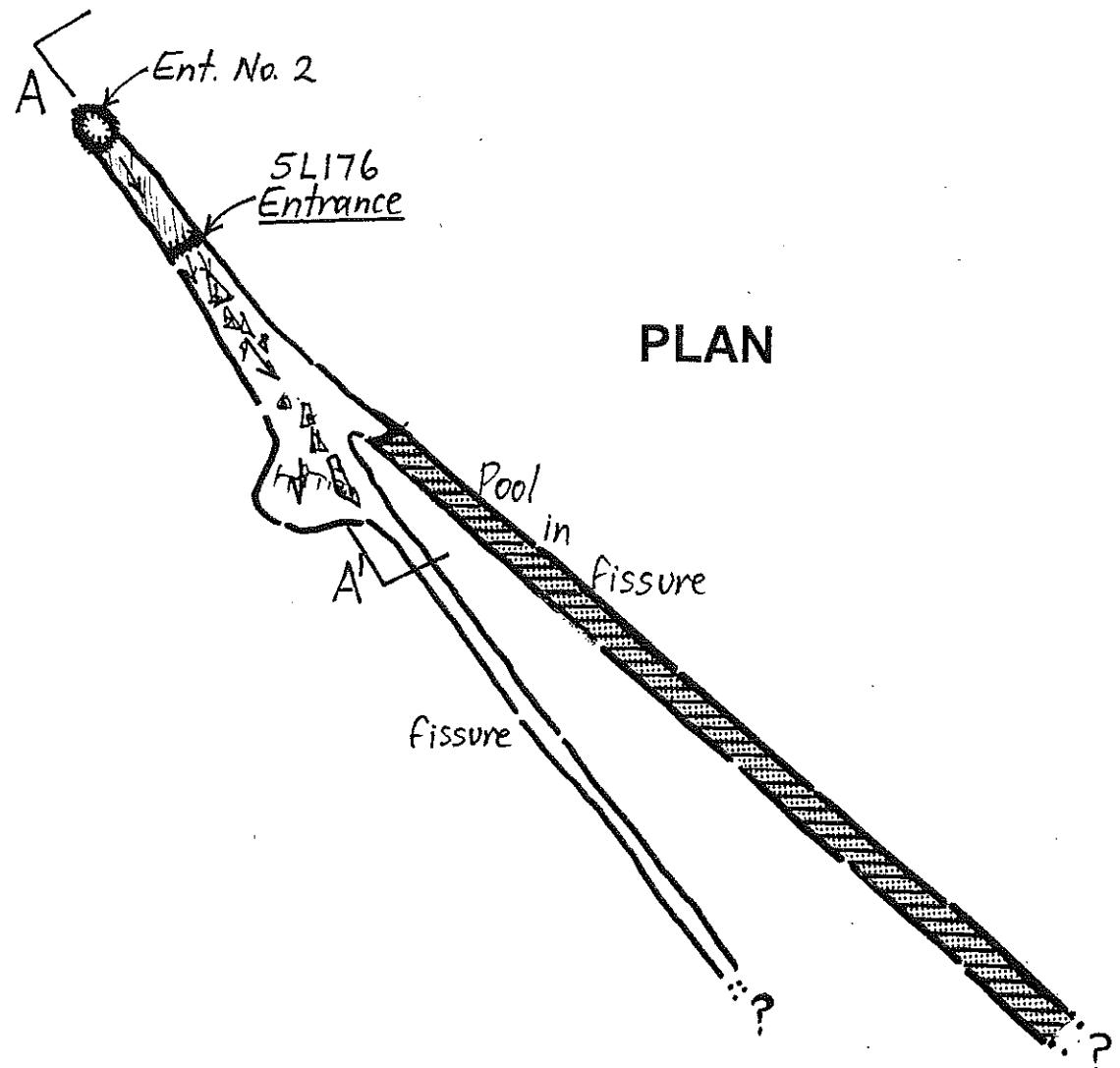
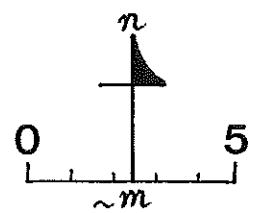
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L176

### (Unnamed Feature).

This cave is poorly described in CEGSA's Records, although the map indicates that it is a dual-entrance feature with a small lower chamber and a longer upper chamber/passage (off the main entrance) which is about 8m long by a metre wide, and around half a metre high.

Two very narrow fissures (with water) continue in a south-easterly direction from the end of the main entrance.

5L176

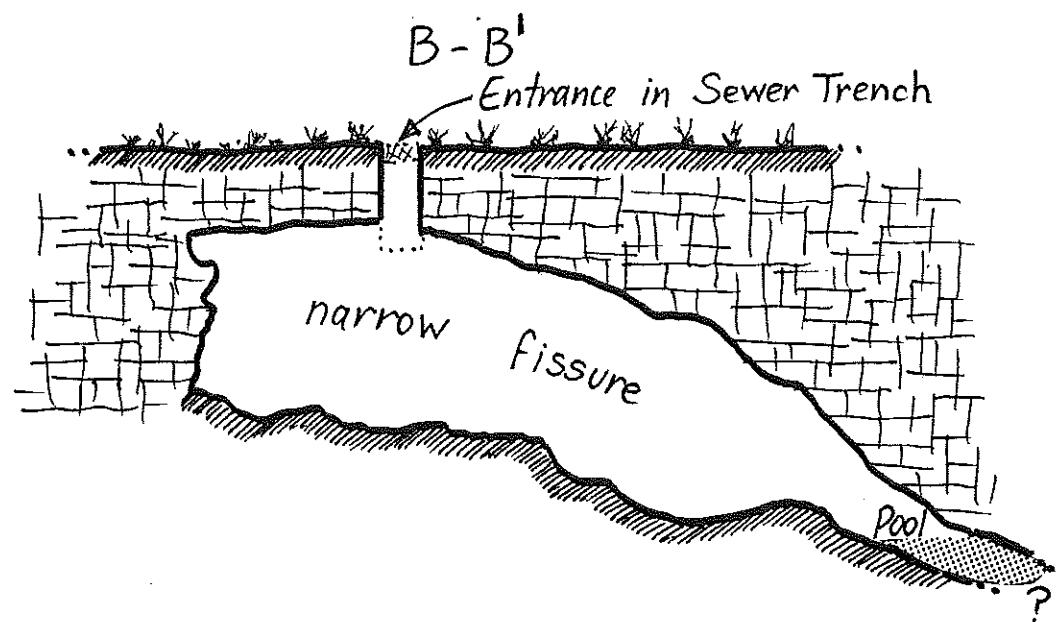
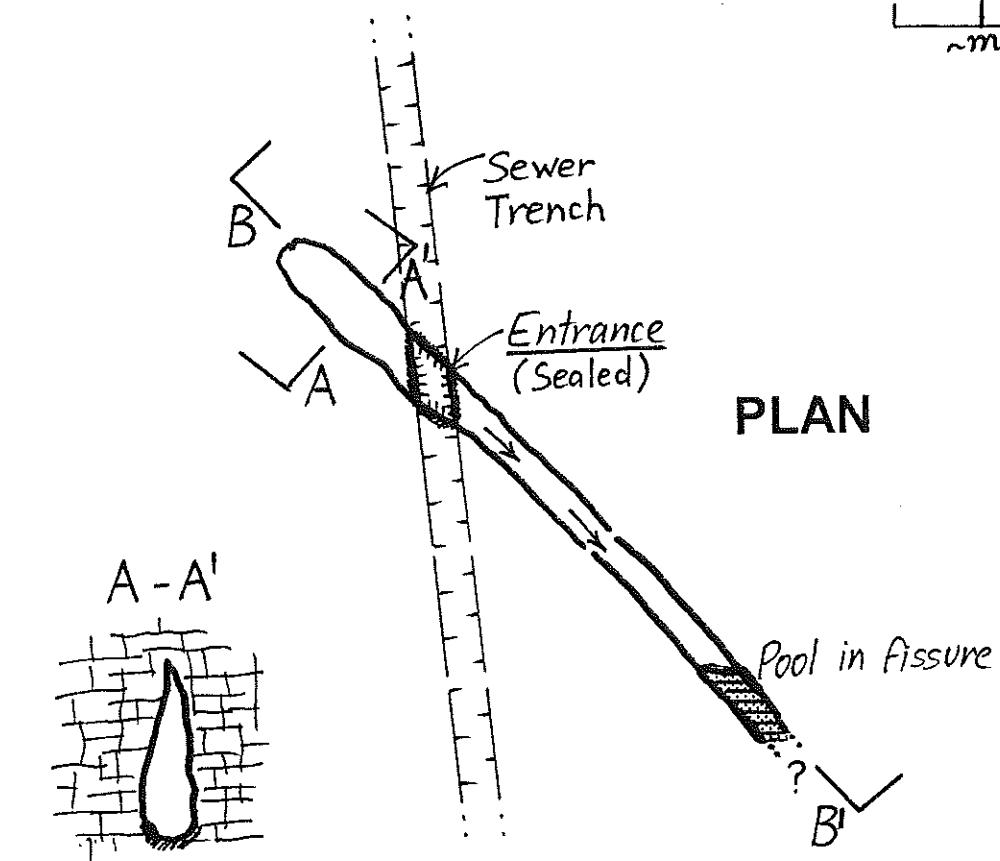
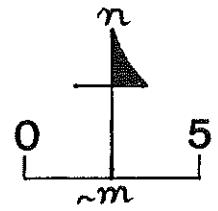


## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L177**

### **(Unnamed Feature).**

This fairly basic joint-controlled feature was discovered during a major sewer trench excavation sometime around March 1978. The trench broke into the top of the narrow fissure revealing a cavity approximately 5 metres deep, about 18 metres long and up to perhaps 1.5 metres wide at the most. The cave intersected the water-table at its south-eastern end, where a narrow pool a couple of metres or so deep was encountered.

The feature has subsequently been permanently sealed.



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L178

### (Unnamed Feature).

This feature entered CEGSA's Records sometime in 1978, in the form of a Trip Report. It was mentioned that the cave was discovered in 1968, when the quarry was opened for road metal, and it was artificially extended by Fred W. Aslin and Brian, Alan and Owen Shephard around 1975.

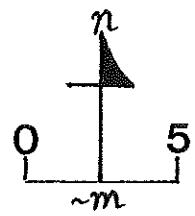
The cave was apparently low but quite extensive, as the following excerpt from the Trip Report explains:-

"The cave is entered by a (cigar-shaped) opening into horizontal flattener. The entrance is 0.4 metres high and one metre wide. The cave is approximately 45 metres of low solution flattener; maximum height is 1.3 metres, but the mean height is 0.4m. The artificial crawls were dug through calcite grit which had been pushed to the sides and now blocks a lot of the cave.

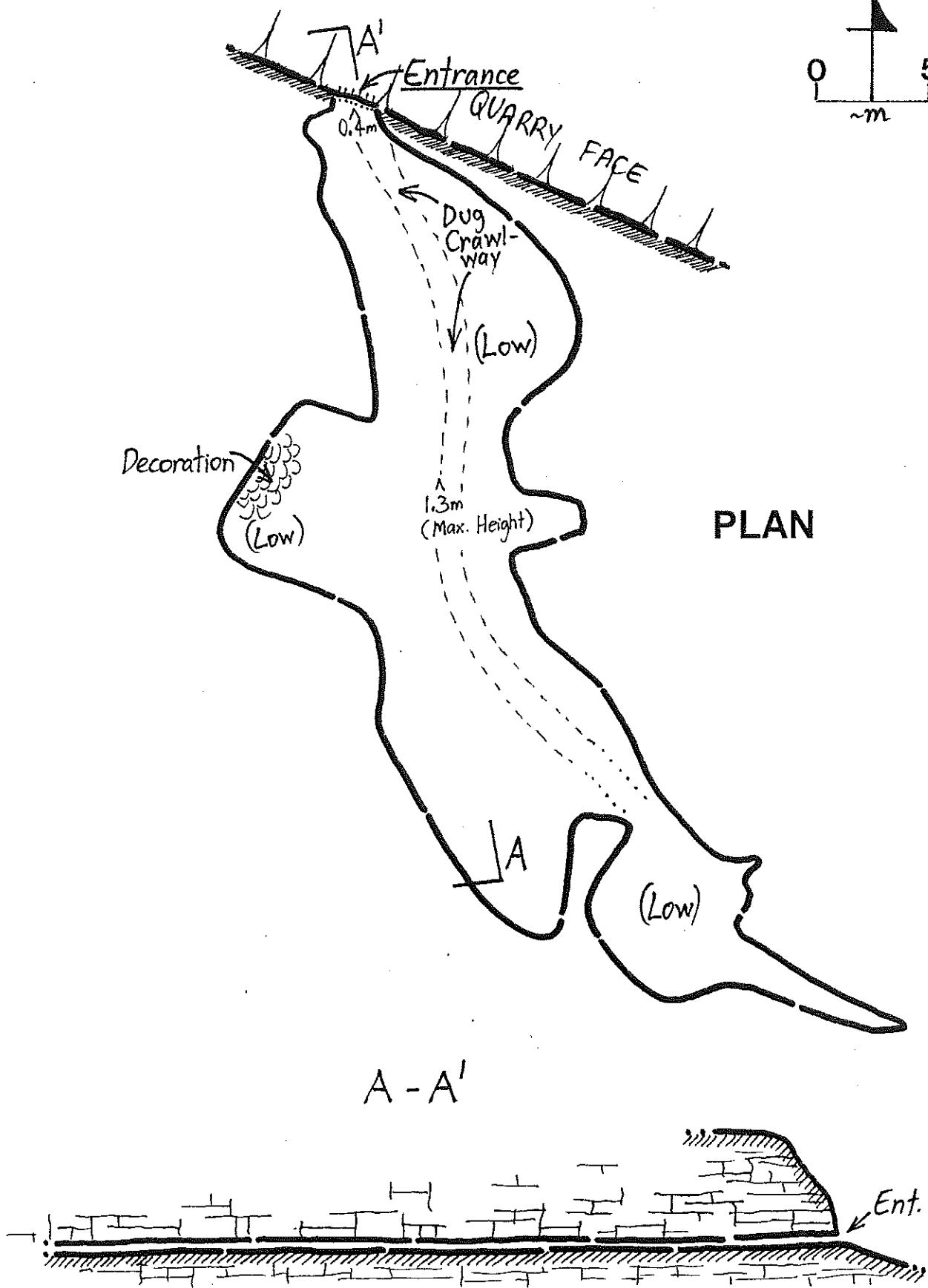
"The cave contains considerable small formation, consisting of mainly stalactites and straws, with some stalagmites and a few helictites. It also contains considerable flowstone beneath formations."

Unfortunately, no further possibilities exist for future exploration at this time (if ever!) because the quarry was reportedly completely back-filled in 1978.

5L178



## PLAN



[Map ASF Grades 42-44,  
J.Probert (CEGSA), 1978]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L179

## CAVETON PARK ESTATE CAVE.

This extensive joint-controlled cave was first explored in detail in March 1981 by the author and his cave diving "buddy", Mark Nielsen, after the landowner mentioned the presence of a deep solution tube "chimney" on a remote paddock on his property.

The initial visit revealed the presence of a 20 x 15 metre diameter chamber at the bottom of the 6 metre deep entrance tube, and a major lead was obvious on the north-western side. This led for some 25 metres to a large limestone drop-out slab which almost completely blocked the passage, and after several subsequent trips, this was bypassed via a tricky bit of manoeuvring of smaller boulders in January 1984 to reveal a continuing passage some 90 metres long with several restrictions, ultimately leading to a small lake which could only be entered with great difficulty via a very slippery and narrow fissure.

The lake was dived by the author in July 1984 using a waist-mounted 16 cu.ft. scuba cylinder, and this revealed the presence of a 20 metre long, 4m deep passage which terminated in a small air-filled area of fissure-cave. It was also interesting to note that the walls of this underwater passage were draped with some form of algae or bacteria, giving it a "graveyard" look.

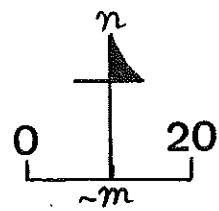
Some serious "pushing" and digging efforts by the author and others in early 1985 resulted in the discovery of a south-eastern extension (which added another 50 metres or so to the map); and in January 1986, fellow CEGSA members Chris Hales and Jack Haywood pushed a small dry passage above the north-western lake and discovered another 100 metres of quite large passage. This made the cave about 270 metres in total length; quite a lot for a "new" feature in the Lower South East!

The prospects of further extensions being discovered are now considered to be remote.



# CAVETON PARK ESTATE CAVE

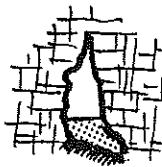
5L179



A - A'

Upper-Level  
Passage  
Discovered  
Jan. 1986

End of U/Water  
Passage, 22 Jul 1984.



"MAIN LAKE"  
discovered Jan. 1984

Deep Fissure

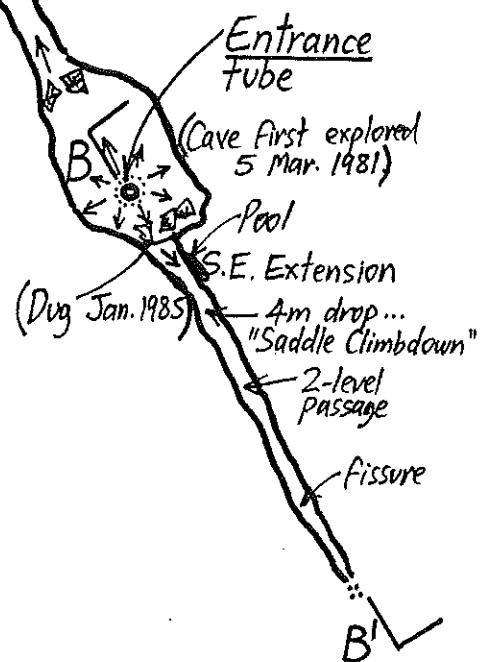
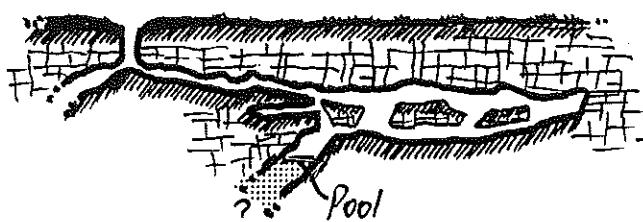
Crawls

"The Block"  
- bypassed 1 Jan 1984

**PLAN**

B - B'

Ent.



[Map ASF Grades 22-33, P. Horne,  
M. Nielsen, A. Cox, C. Hales,  
J. Haywood & others 1981-86]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L180

(Unnamed Feature).

This (presumed) karst feature is little more than a 5 metre deep hole which is made up of two narrow solution tube-like features which are connected by an undercut limestone "bridge" section.

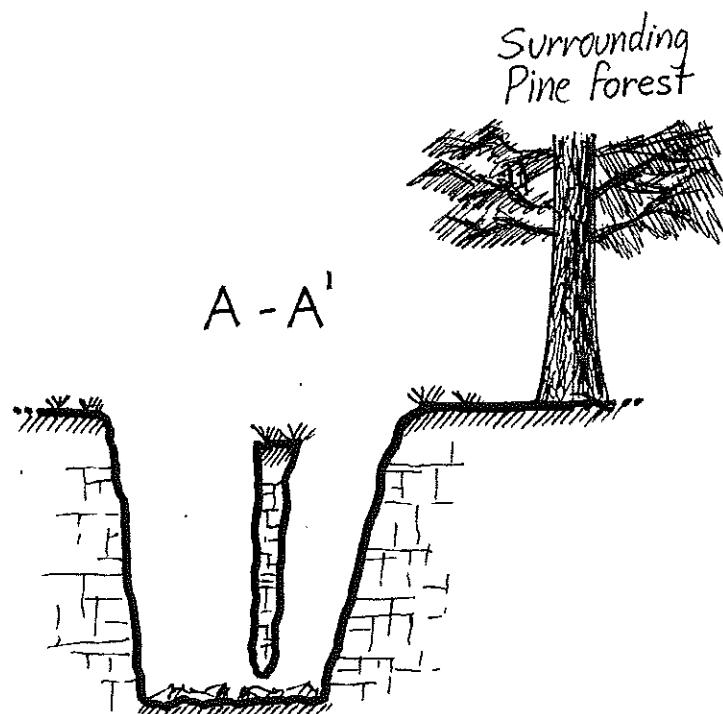
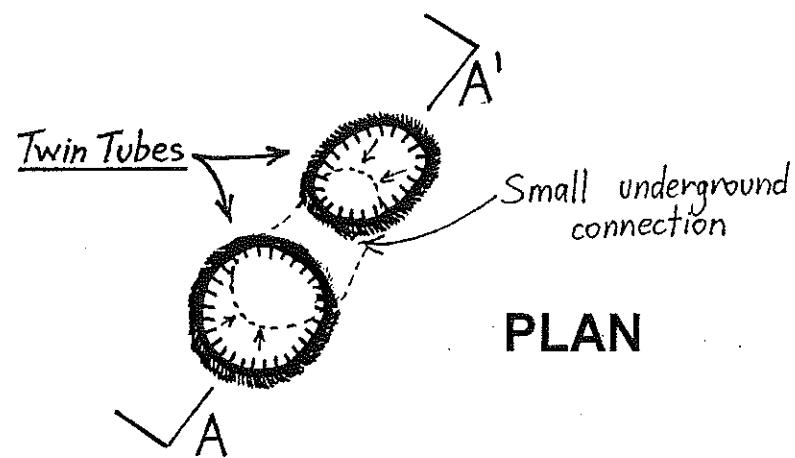
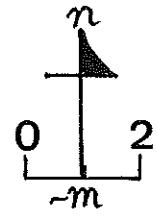
The northern tube is about 2 metres across at the surface and half a metre in diameter at - 5.5m, while the southern tube is 3 metres in diameter at the surface, narrowing to 1.7m across at the bottom.

No accessible cave is evident, and both tubes were blocked by rubbish when they were mapped in 1979.



CEGSA

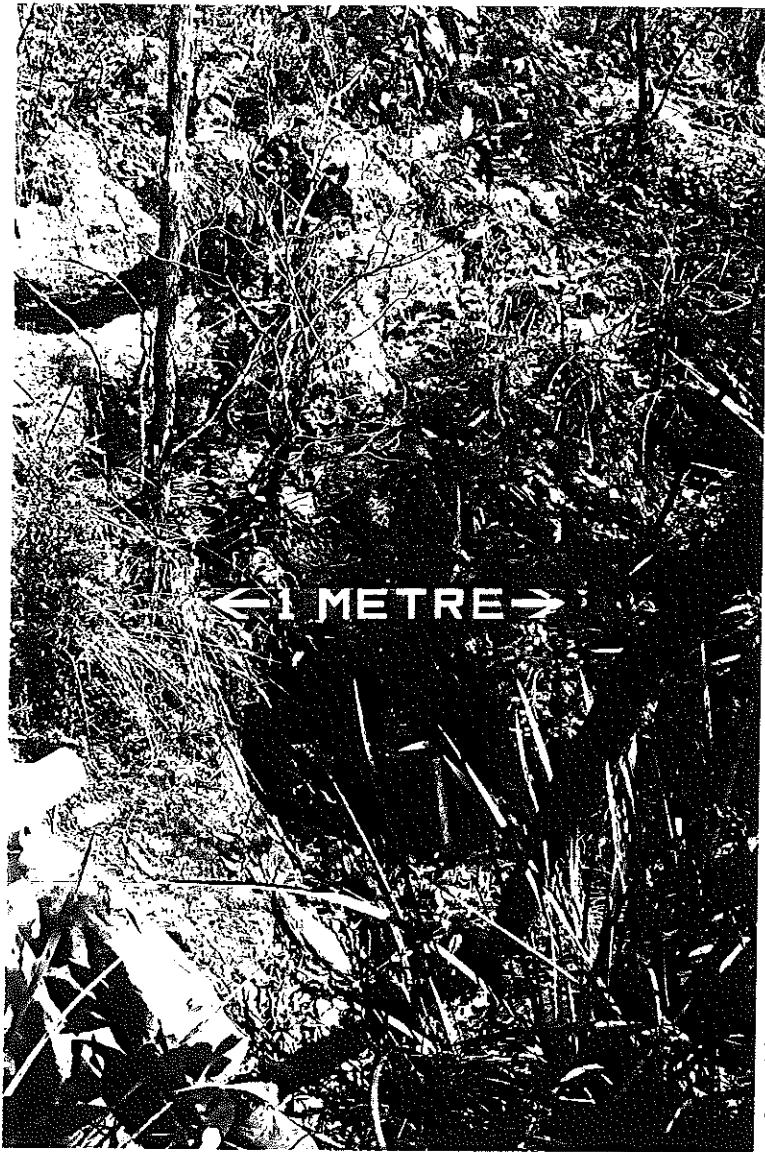
5L180



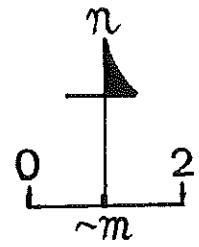
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L181

(Unnamed Feature).

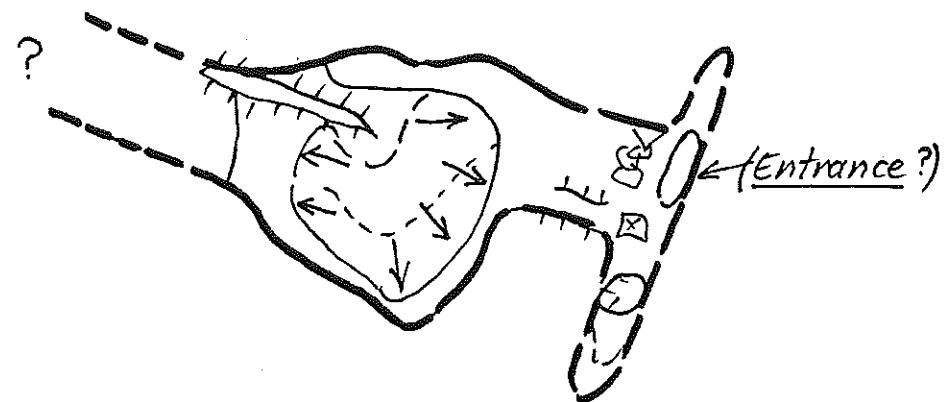
Very little is known about this feature in CEGSA's Records. It is reportedly a small cave about 9 metres long, and is accessed via a 0.7 x 0.4m irregular vertical joint which drops 6 metres into the feature.



5L181



## PLAN



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L182

## O'LEARY ROAD CAVE.

This feature doesn't have an official name at this stage, but the author knows it as "O'Leary Road Cave" because it runs underneath the road by that name, near Mount Gambier.

The entrance is a 1.7 x half-metre high hole in a quarry wall, and this leads into a joint enlargement cave which runs almost directly south-east of the quarry for about 27 metres or so.

The average dimensions of the passage are in the order of 1.5 metres wide by 2 metres high, although in one area the ceiling is 4 metres above the floor.

Apart from some crustal decoration at the end, the caye reportedly contains very little of interest (unless you happen to like rubbish!).



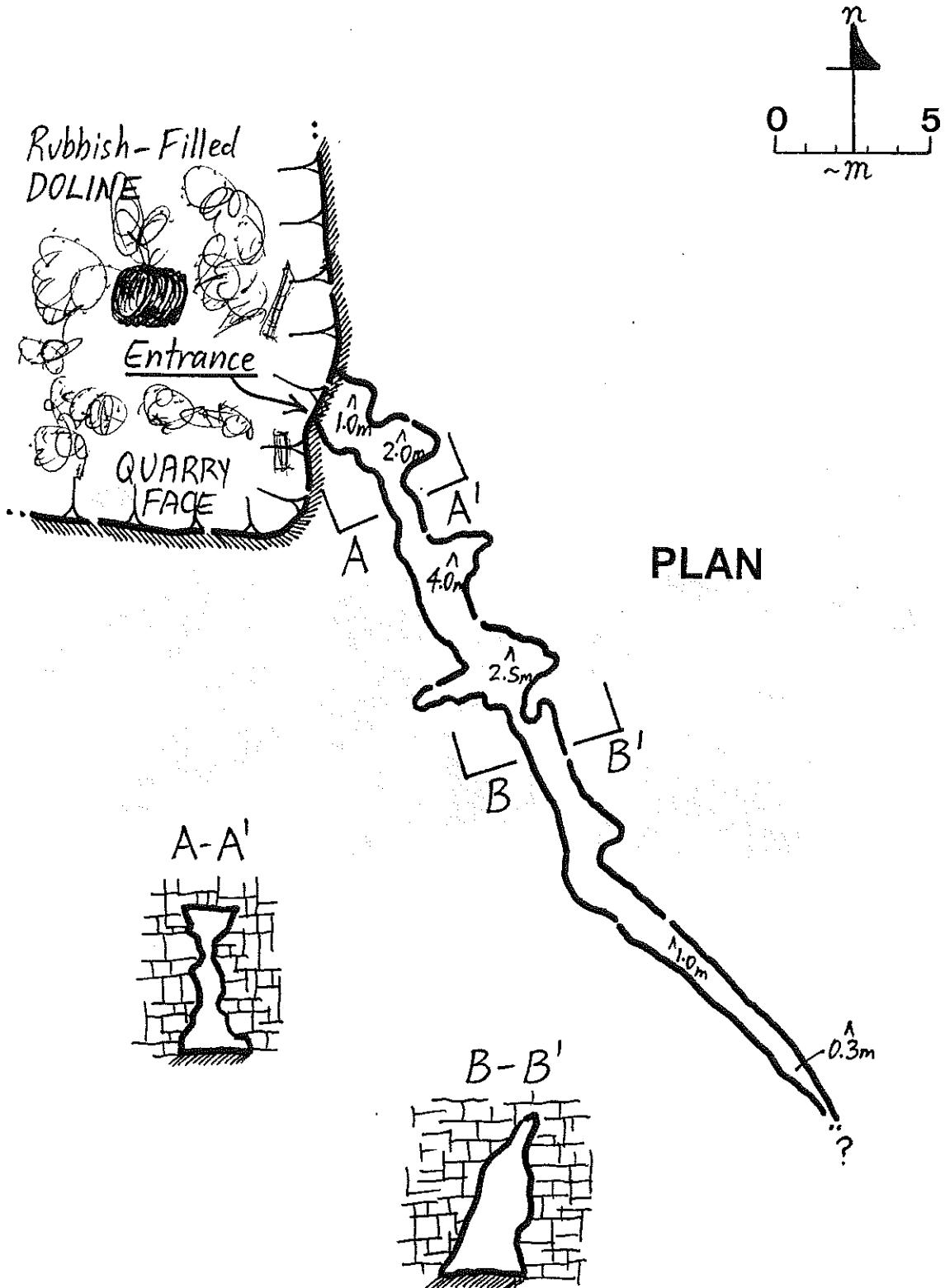
CEGSA



P. Horne

# O'LEARY ROAD CAVE

5L182

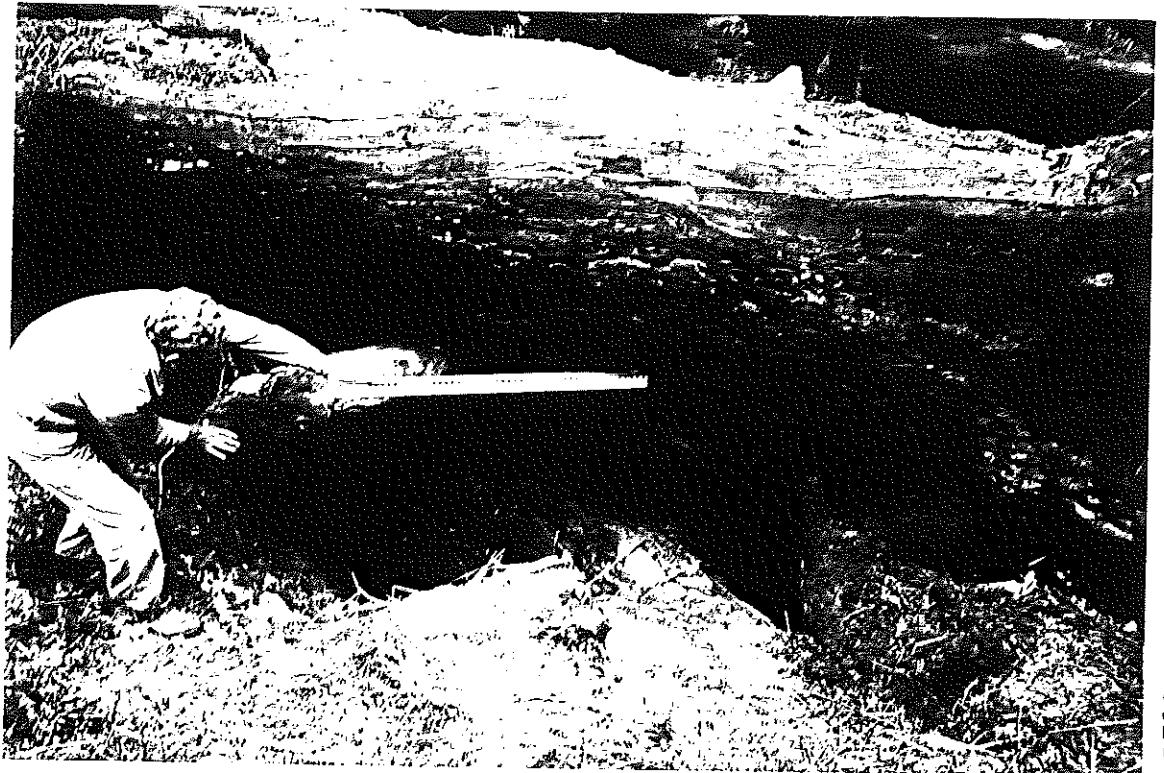


# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L183

## INITIATION POT.

Karst feature 5L183 is reportedly little more than a 2 metre diameter solution tube which drops 8 metres to a log blockage.

No formal map is currently available; however, with a description like this, and aided by the photo below, one should be able to imagine it with relative accuracy!...



5L183

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

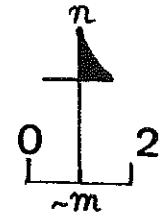
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L184

(Unnamed Feature).

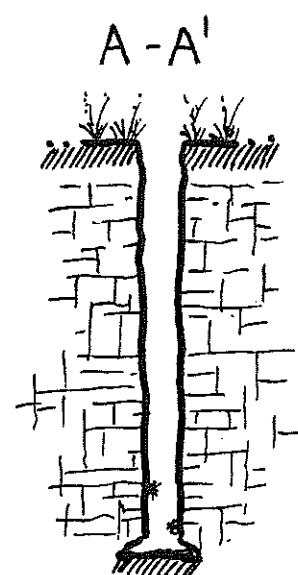
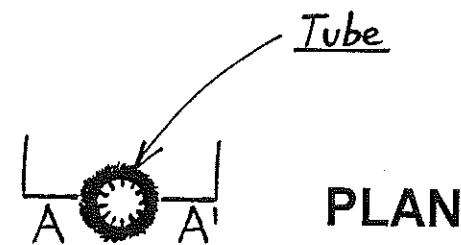
5L184 is a similarly-boring solution tube feature like 5L183 – this one is a metre in diameter and nine metres deep, and it has a tiny pocket at the bottom which might lead to a cave of some type (with some digging).

Would-be visitors should ideally be immune to feelings of arachnophobia, as the hole contained a VERY big spider (almost as big as an adult's outspread hand) during the author's visit in the early 1980s! (Well, at least as seen from about 5 cm from one's face, it LOOKED that big!...)

5L184



0  
~m 2

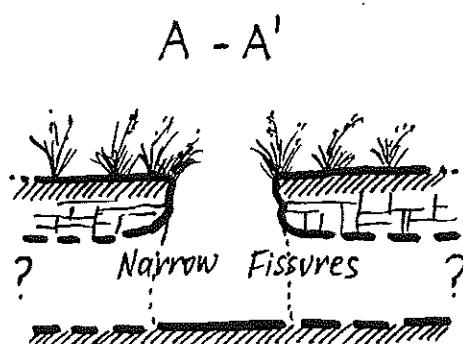
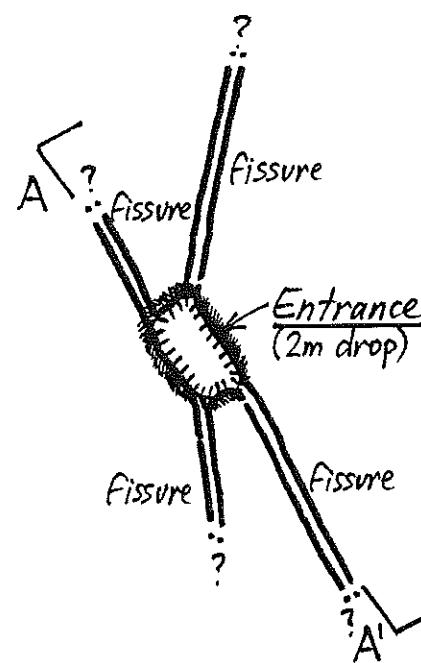
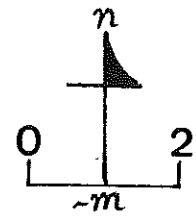


## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L185

(Unnamed Feature).

This unnamed (and justifiably so!), relatively insignificant karst feature is nothing more than a 1.3 x 0.5-metre wide rectangular hole which drops 2m to several extremely narrow joint fissures about 4.5 metres long.

At least it had ONE endearing quality in the form of some pretty ferns which were growing around the entrance back in 1979!



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L186

## NETTLE CAVE (Stinging-Nettle Cave).

Descriptively named by the author after encountering great masses of nasty *Urtica incisa* (common-or-garden cosmopolitan stinging nettles) in the base of the doline in 1985, this 14.5 x 11 metre diameter collapse has a degraded, rubble-filled southern side and drops about 3 metres to a narrow water-table lake which is found up against its north-western walls.

After opening up a small hole through some limestone rubble in July 1985 (with the assistance of fellow cave diver Dennis Thamm), the author utilized a small hand-held scuba cylinder and slid feet-first under the surface to discover an (apparently) virgin waterfilled cavity. The soft, crumbly ceiling showed no signs of previous visitation, and the 2m high cave quickly bottomed-out at a depth of 8 metres where a very silty restriction was encountered. A false passage was discovered and seen to head in a clockwise direction behind a large slab which was leaning against the wall, and this was followed behind more breakdown boulders for 15 metres to a terminal collapse consisting of a jumble of very hazardous loose boulders.

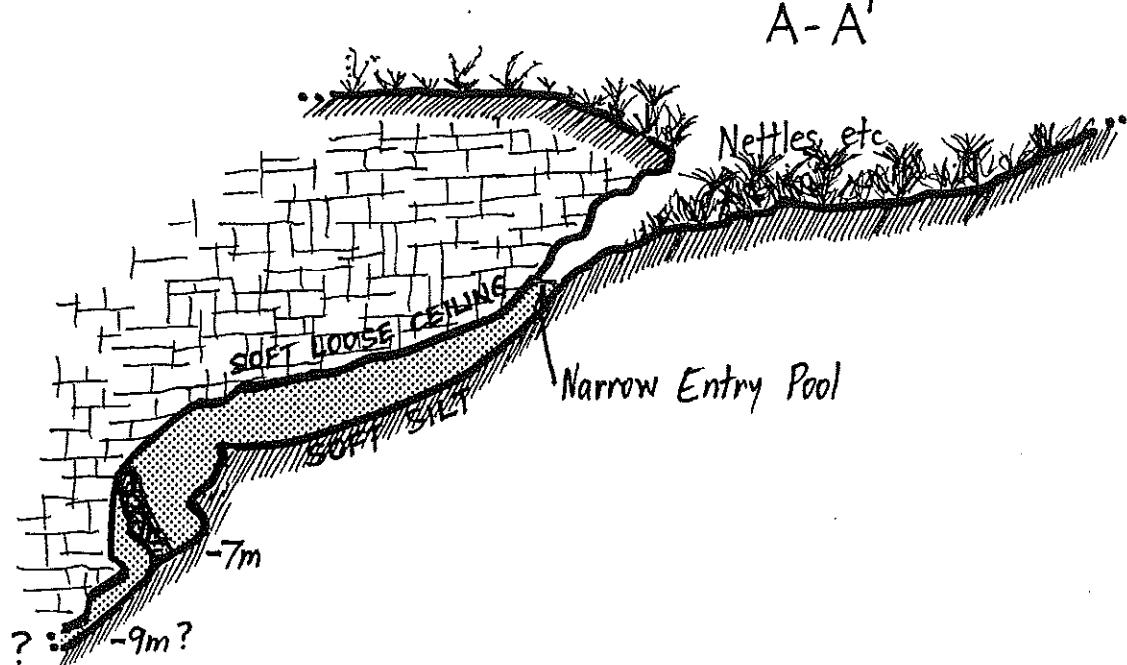
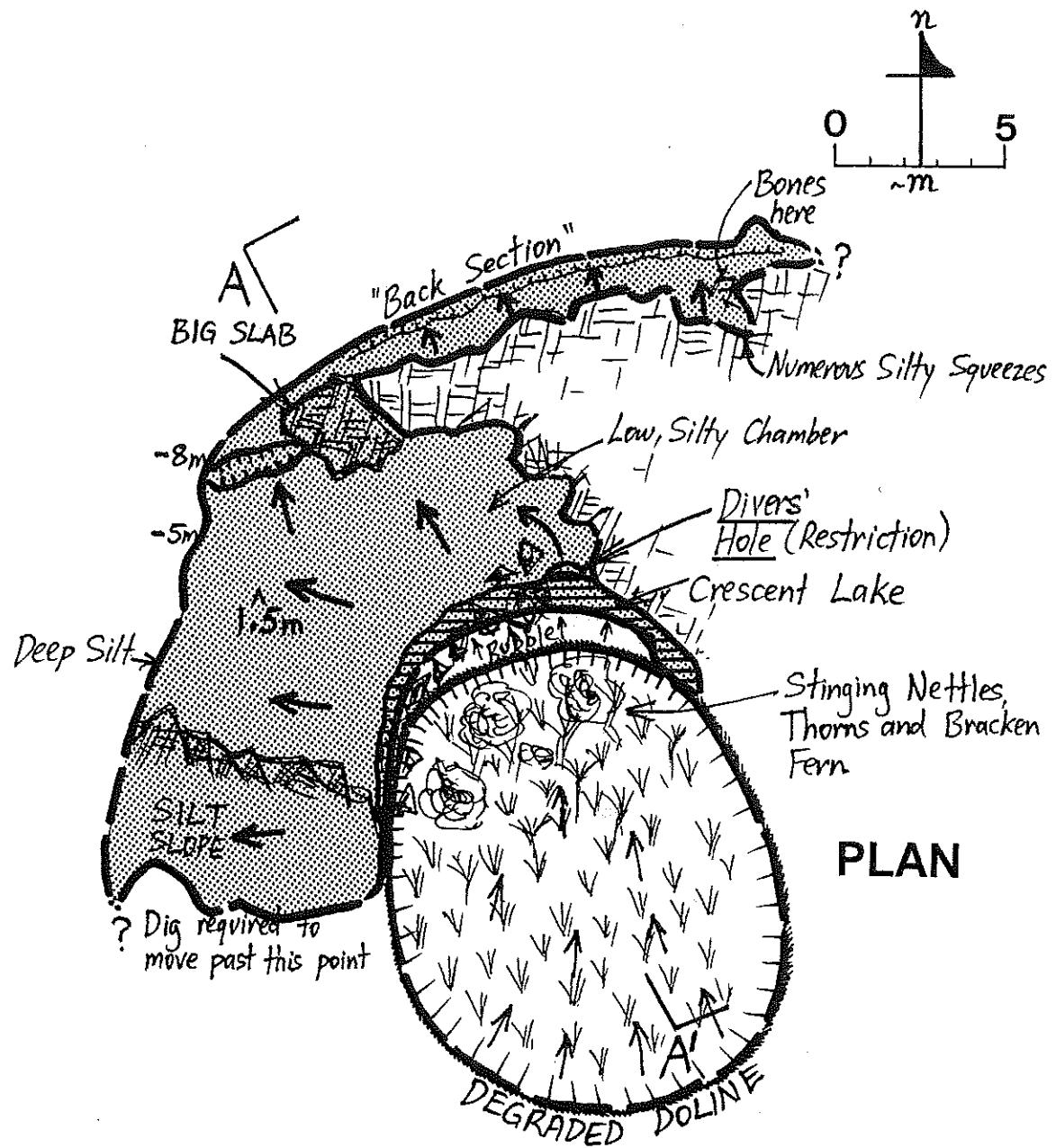


The western aspect appeared to continue in a southerly direction and may be worth "pushing" with an extensive underwater dig (especially since it is directly in line with The Pines (5L61) which is only about 100m to the south-east, adding fuel to the author's theory that they may be connected with a presently-undiscovered flooded passage); however, the huge mound of mud would limit such work to a significant degree and the removal of the fill from the south-eastern end of the doline ABOVE the water might prove to be more productive.

Beware of broken bottles around the edge of the pools!

# NETTLE CAVE

5L186



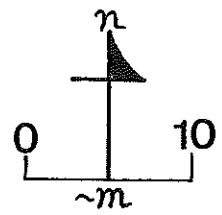
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L187

(Unnamed Feature).

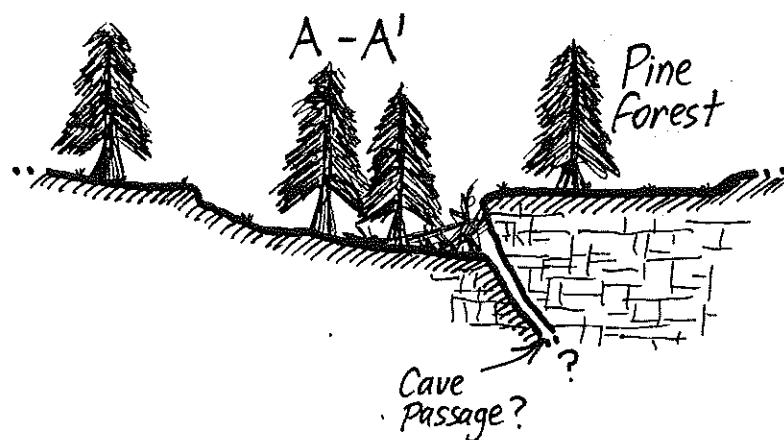
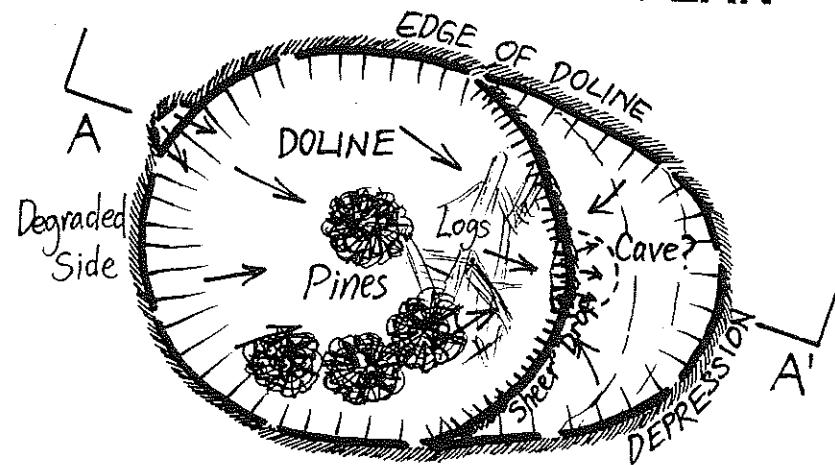
This feature is a relatively standard 20 metre diameter doline with a degraded western side and a 4 metre high cliff on its eastern side, and it has a small, steep passage heading down for a few metres more.

Another small passage reportedly exists somewhere around its western side as well.





## PLAN



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L188

### (Unnamed Feature).

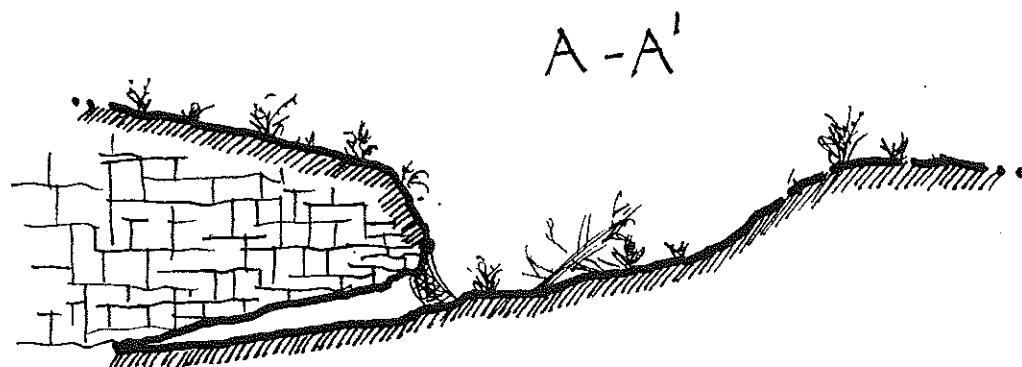
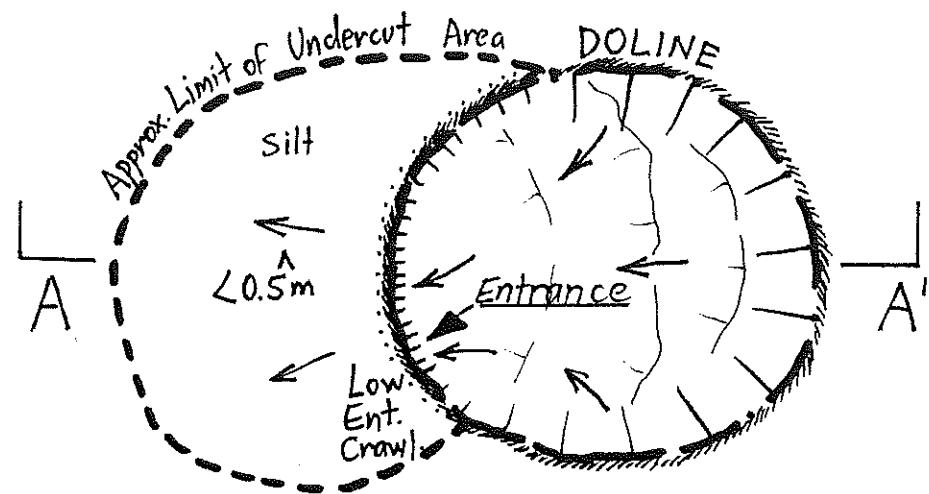
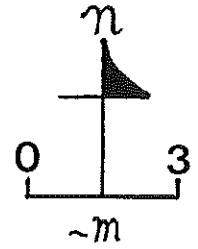
CEGSA Records provided very little information about 5L188 and its nearby "sister" feature, 5L189. However, when the surrounding forest was felled in late 1992, the author and fellow caver Kevin Mott were able to have a quick look at both features briefly in November of that year.

5L188 proved to be a low, undercut, horizontal crawl-passage about 1-1.5m high, some 6 metres deep and about 8 metres long, running under the edge of a rock face on the western side of an 8 metre diameter surrounding doline. It wasn't possible to locate 5L189 accurately amongst the tree debris, but both features appear to be about the same, judging by word-of-mouth descriptions heard to date.



P. Horne

5L188



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory sketch, P.Horne, 1992]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L189

(Unnamed Feature).

Please refer to 5L188! No map as such exists at this time.



CEGSA

5L189

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L190

(Unnamed Feature).

This cavity is basically a simple rock shelter in a cliff face, near Mount Burr.

No map is available at this time.



C2GSA

MOUNT BURR ROCKSHELTER

5L190

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L191

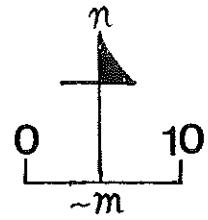
(Unnamed Feature).

Typical of so many similar blind dolines in this region, 5L191 is a simple, relatively featureless depression about 50 x 35 metres across (containing a lot of bracken fern) in a pine forest.

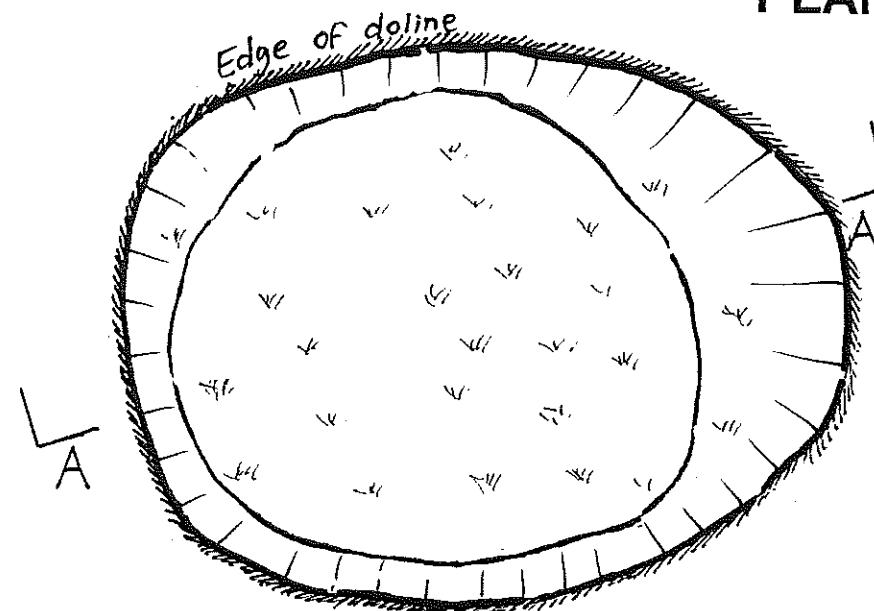
There is no indication of possible connections to cave passage from the floor of the doline.



5L191

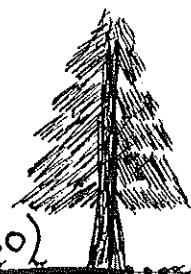


## PLAN



Surrounding Pine Forest

A-A'



Pine forest (1930)

Ferns

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L192

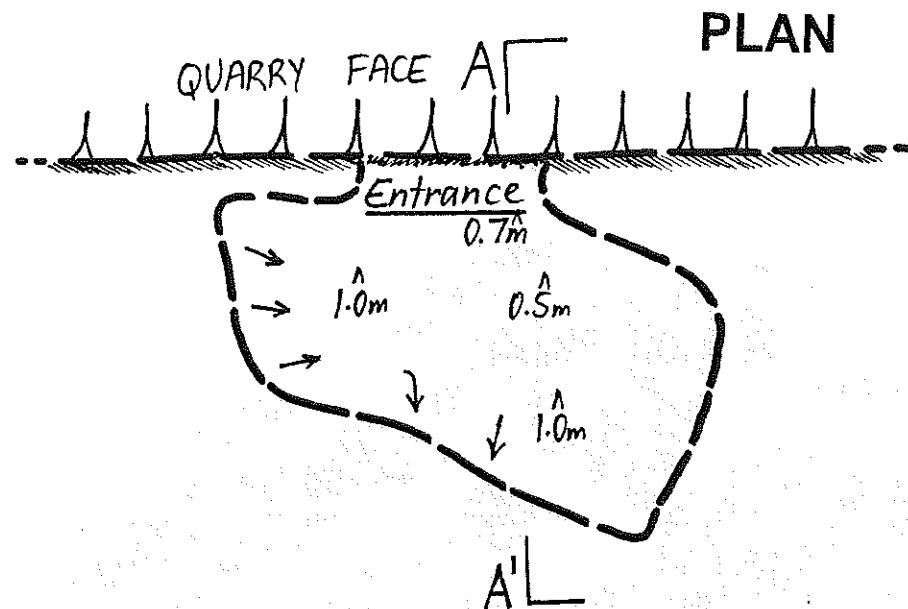
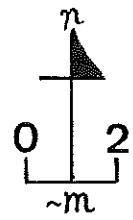
(Unnamed Feature).

Another quarry cave, this feature has a one metre high, 5m wide entrance which leads directly into a single low chamber about 12 x 8m across and half to one metre high, with a rubbly floor.

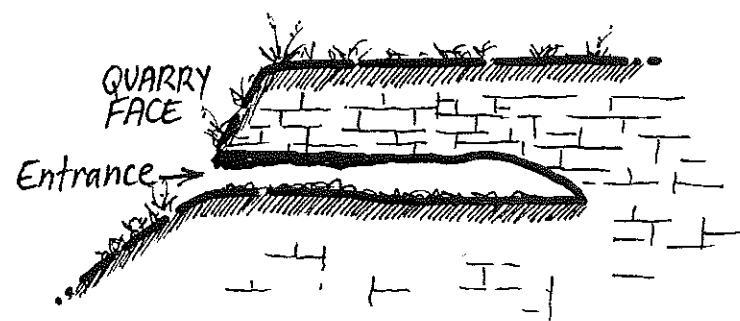
It is a very minor karst feature for this area.



5L192



A - A'



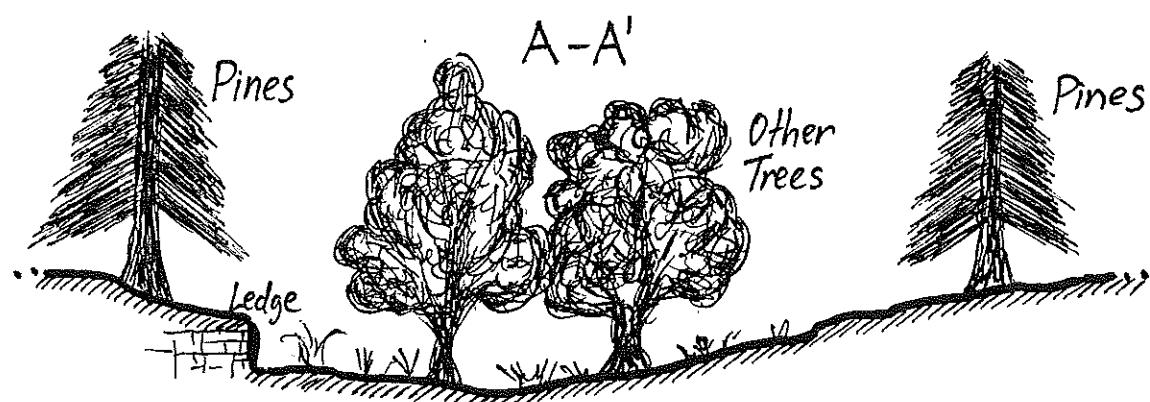
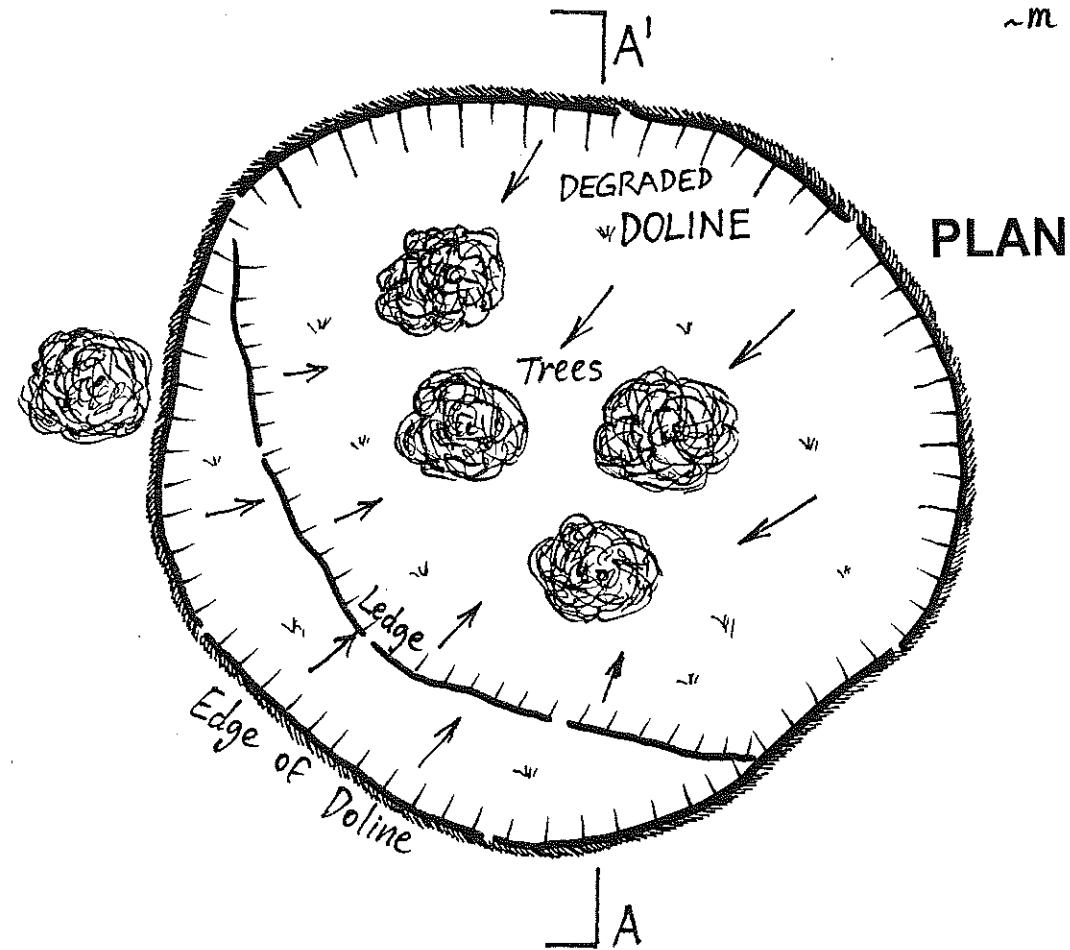
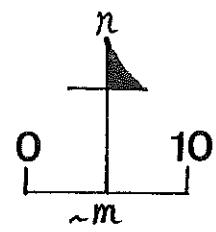
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L193

(Unnamed Feature).

A near-circular depression with a 3-4 metre high rock face 6m from its western edge, this doline is about 38 metres in diameter and just over 5m deep. It lies in a small block of pines near the town of Allendale East, and has some other trees growing in its base.



5L193



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L194**

**(Unnamed Feature).**

Lack of information in CEGSA's Records precludes a detailed description of this karst feature, apart from mentioning that it comprises a "group of three small entrances in Dune limestone".

No map is available at this time.

5L194

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

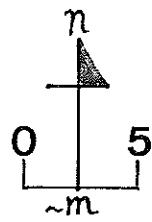
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L195

(Unnamed Feature).

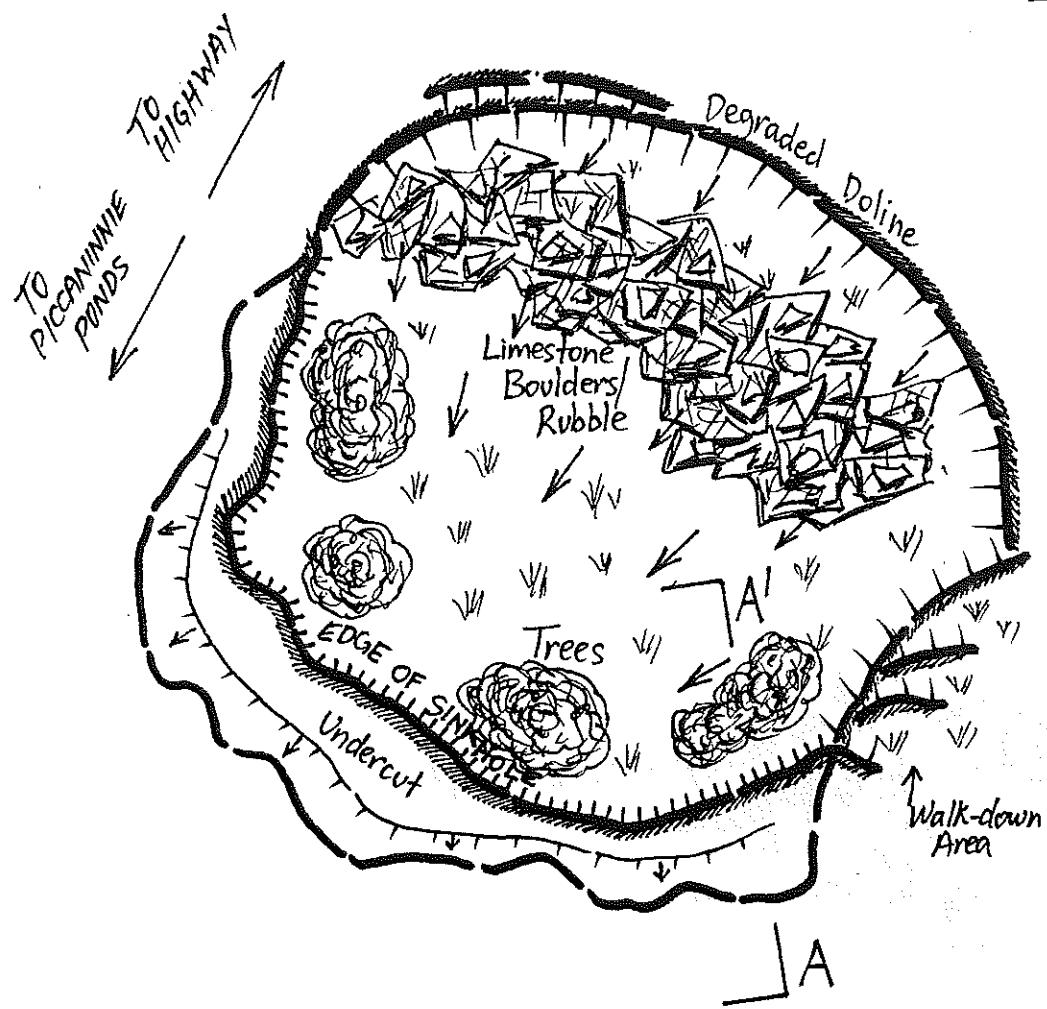
This readily-observed feature is a large dry sinkhole on the side of the Mount Gambier-Nelson road, close to the Piccaninnie Ponds turnoff. It is a 30 x 28 metre depression about 5 metres deep, and a cliff face on the south-western side shelters a small undercut area. It appears to have been partially filled with limestone rubble during the building of the nearby highway.



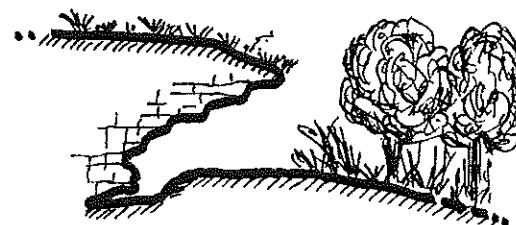
5L195



PLAN



A - A'



[Map ASF Grade 3,  
P.Horne, 1991]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L196

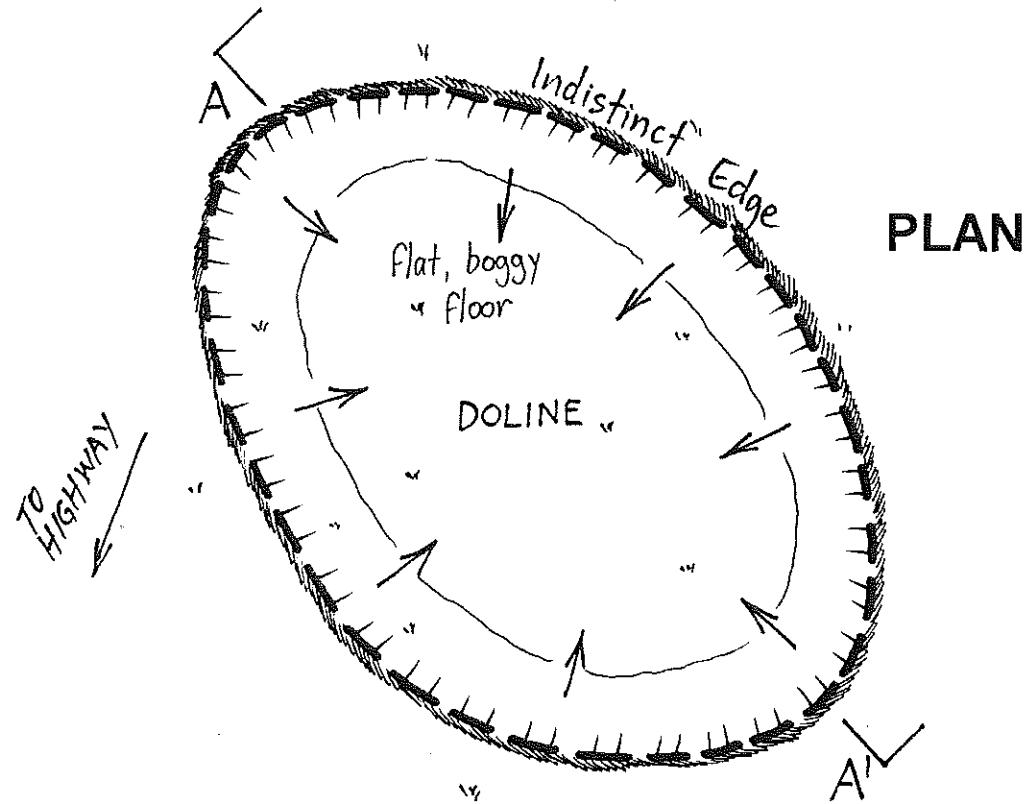
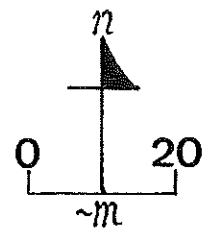
(Unnamed Feature).

Hardly recognizable to most people as being a karst feature at all, this broad, shallow depression has indistinct edges and is approximately 110 x 75 metres across, and it has a quite flat, damp floor (except in summer, when it is usually completely dry). It appears to be about 5-6 metres deep compared with the adjacent dune, and it reportedly once had an active spring at its lowest point.

It is easily observed on the northern side of the Mount Gambier-Nelson highway, just west of the Victorian Border.



5L196



A - A'

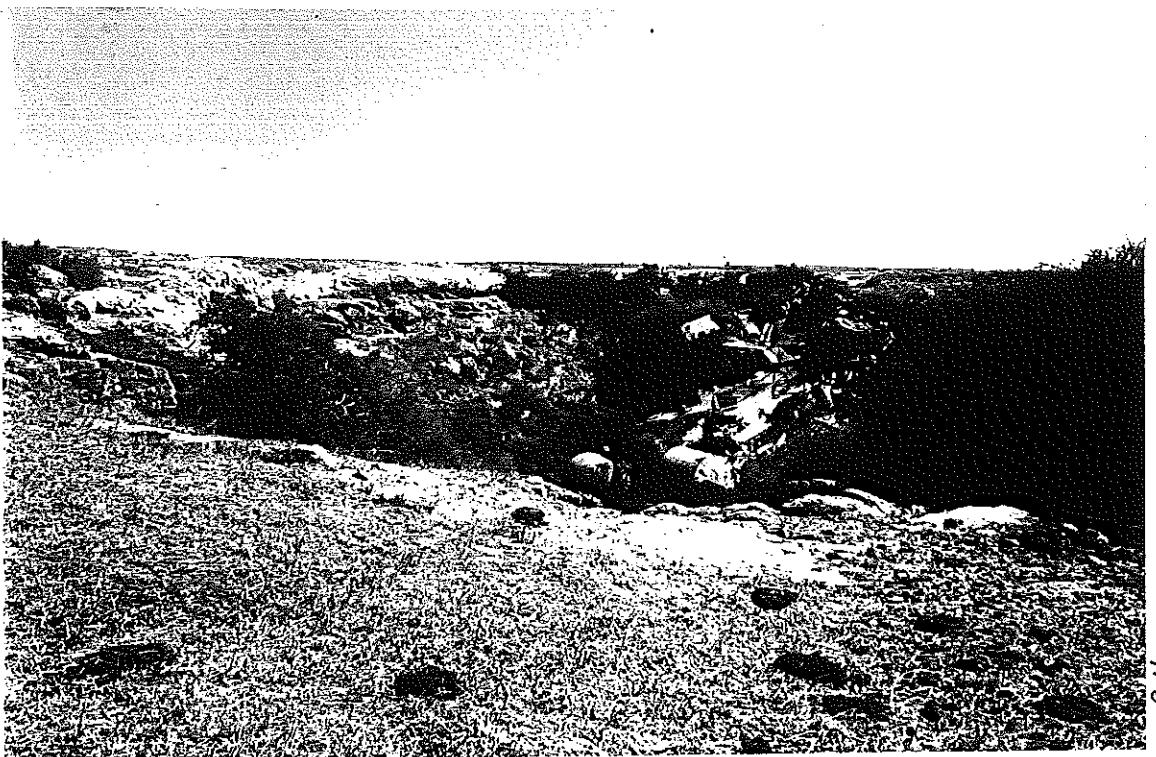


## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L198

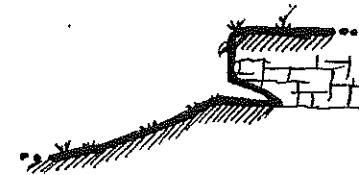
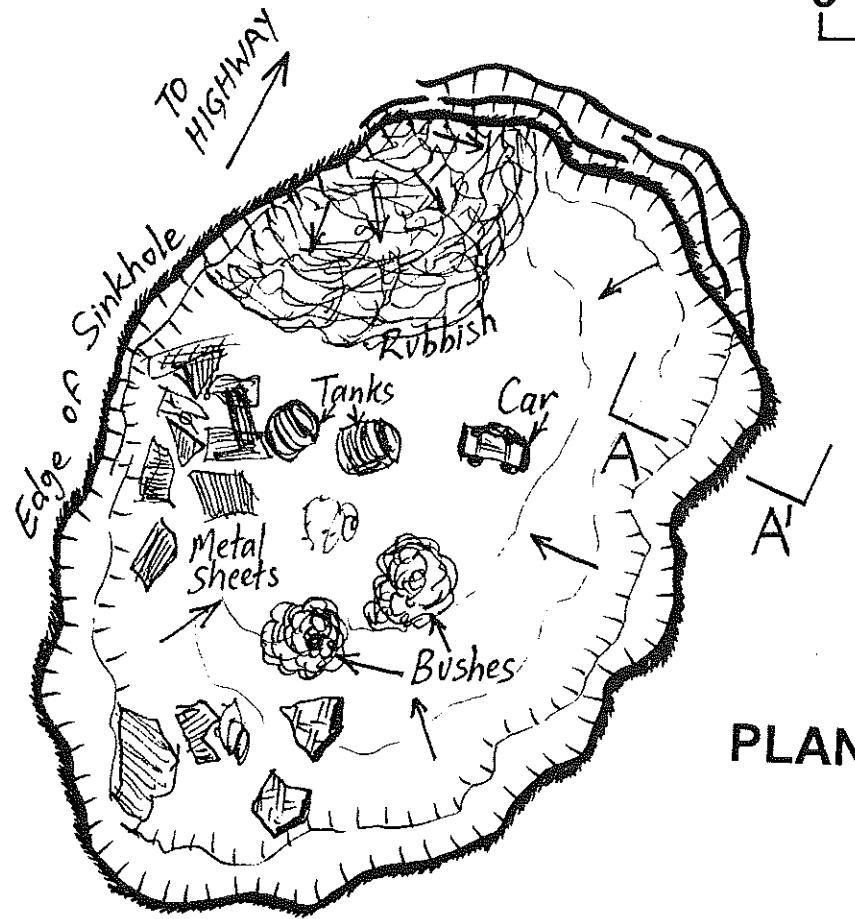
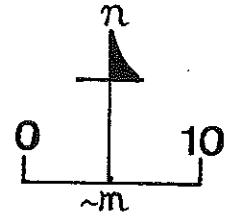
### (Unnamed Feature).

This sinkhole is another of the large doline-like karst features which are visible from the Mount Gambier-Nelson highway close to Piccaninnie Ponds. It is an oval-shaped sinkhole about 44 metres long and 27m wide, and it is around 7 metres deep. It contains a lot of metallic rubbish, especially on its northern side.

The northern and western sides are vertical, and a small alcove can be found under a ledge on the eastern side.



5L198



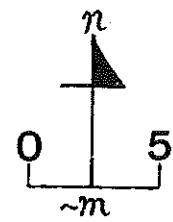
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L199

### (Unnamed Feature).

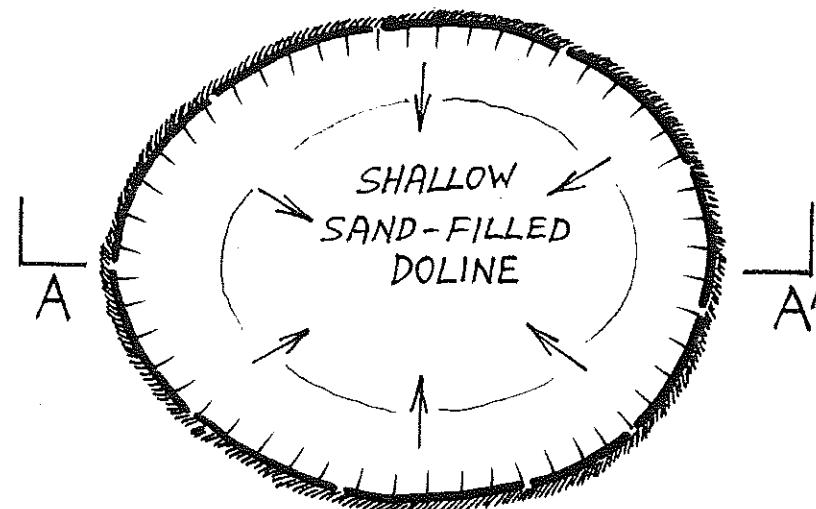
Located to the north of, and close to Little Blue Lake (5L9), this sandy doline (while once reportedly reaching the water-table) is today nothing more than a shallow, dry depression about 24 x 19 metres across and just 1.7m deep.

Whether it ever connected (or still connects under the fill) to true cave passage is not known.

5L199



## PLAN



A - A'



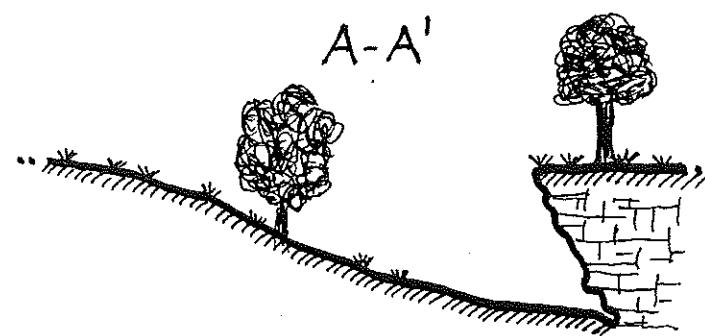
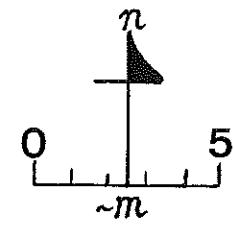
[Rough ASF Grade 1  
sketch, P.Horne, 1984]

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L200**

### **(Unnamed Feature).**

Cave/karst feature number 5L200 is a simple depression/doline about 16 metres long and 13 metres wide, with a degraded western side which slopes down to a depth of 4 metres underneath the eastern limestone wall.

A small cave passage is reported to be found descending under the wall in this area, but no other details are available at this time.



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L201

### MURNA CAVE.

Murna Cave is a pretty little cave with quite a lot of decoration and moonmilk in its deeper regions. The entrance is a 1 x 0.5 metre collapse which drops 2m into a small cavity before dropping for another couple of metres into the main chamber. This is about 10 metres long, 5m wide and on average a metre or so high.

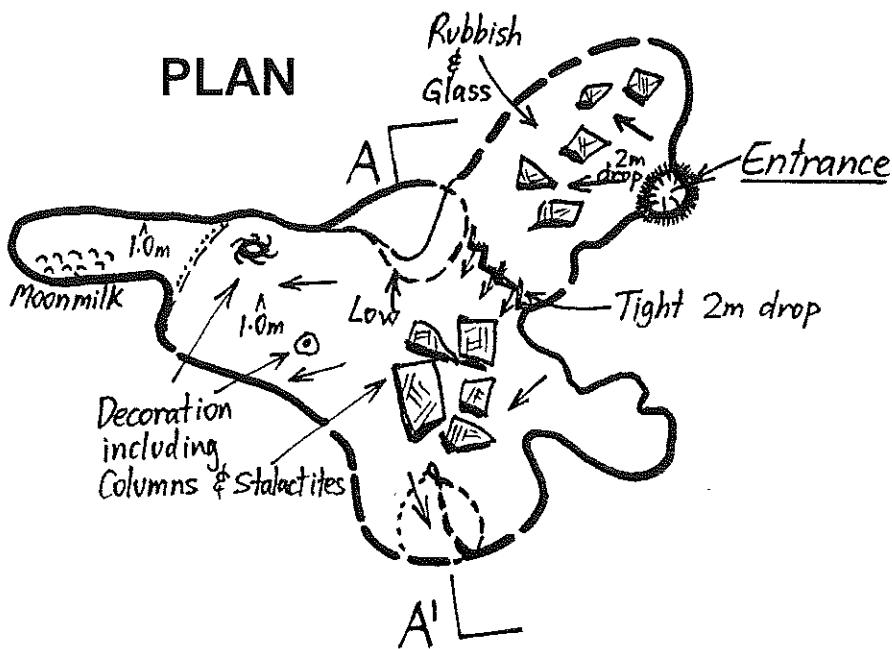
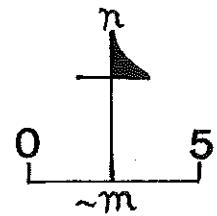
Recorded decoration includes straws, "bells", cave coral and columns, and despite its proximity to a dirt road the cave has incurred surprisingly little vandalistic damage.

The cave was named by petroglyph researchers from AURA, using a word which was chosen from the (now extinct) local Buandik Aboriginal tribe's language meaning "hand" or "fingers".

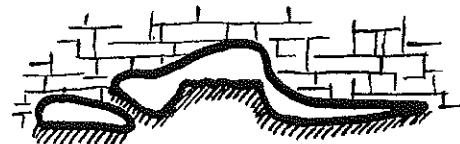


# MURNA CAVE

5L201



A - A'



[Map ASF Grade 5, M.&K.  
Sefton (CEGSA), 1987; ASF  
Grade 22, P.Horne, 1986]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L202

(Unnamed Feature).

This relatively minor karst feature is a low cave with dimensions of about 4 x 3 metres across and about one metre high, entered via a 1.6m wide, 0.3m high crawlway in the side of a small doline.

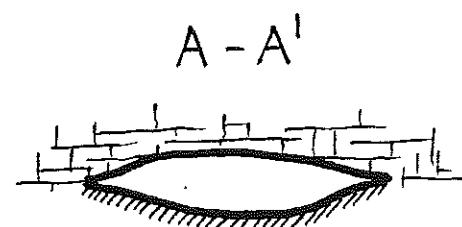
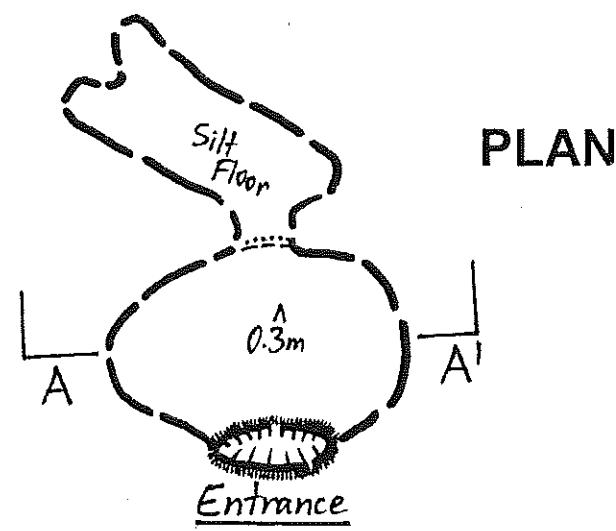
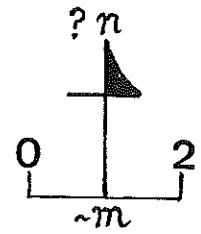
In a CEGSA Records Trip Report dated June 1976 (shortly after the cave was first reported), it was stated that the feature had "obviously ... been used as a fox den at some time, as a rusted rabbit trap was found in the extreme end of the cave". A weta count also revealed 27 of the little beasties living in the cave at that time.

The cave reportedly appeared to have virtually no chance of continuing.



K. Grimes

5L202



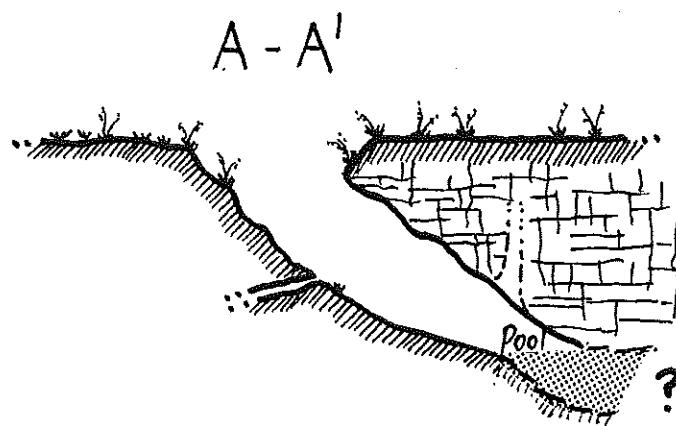
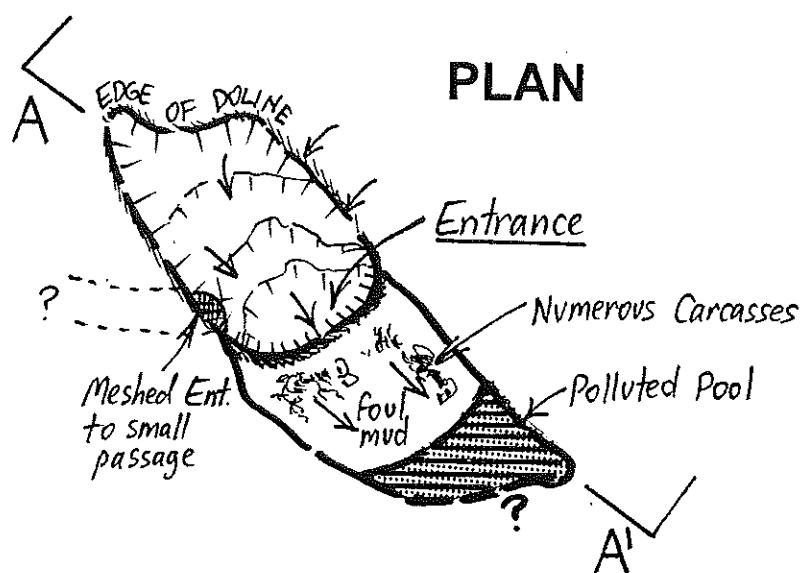
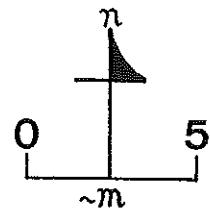
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L203

### (Unnamed Feature).

This small karst feature consists of an 8 x 5 metre collapse with a 3.4m wide, 2 metre high walk-in area on the southern side.

This alcove-like area takes the form of a single cavity about 8 metres long and 5 metres wide, reaching the water table at the south-eastern end. A small meshed hole on the north-western side also may continue for a few metres more.

The south-eastern lake was extremely polluted during the author's brief visit in 1982, having been made putrid with bovine carcasses and excreta, so underwater exploration was not attempted at that time. However, it is possible that further extensions may exist in this part of the sinkhole (due to the south-east trend of the presently-known cave) ... but it will be up to someone ELSE to discover whether this is indeed the case!!



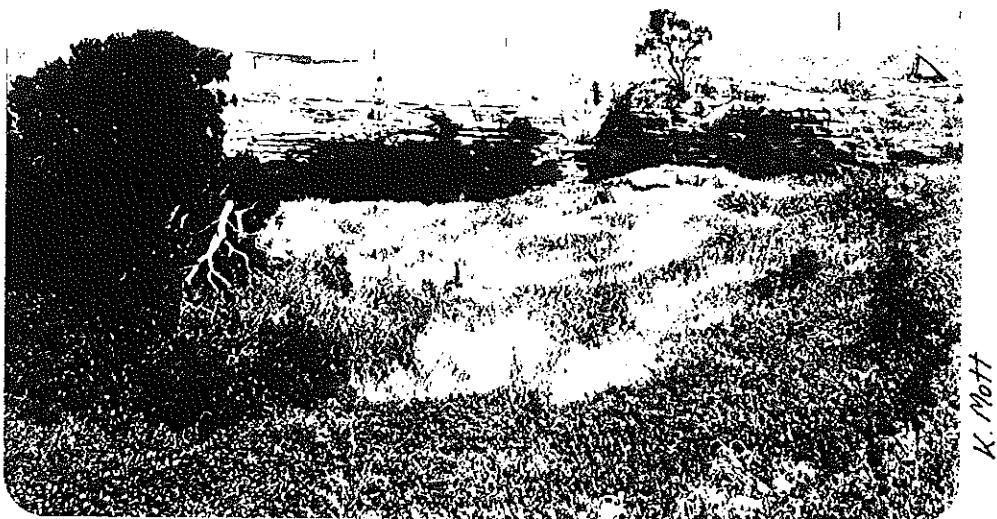
[Map ASF Grade 33, K.Mott  
(CEGSA), 1981; additional ASF  
Grade 1 (memory) details  
by P.Horne, 1982]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L204

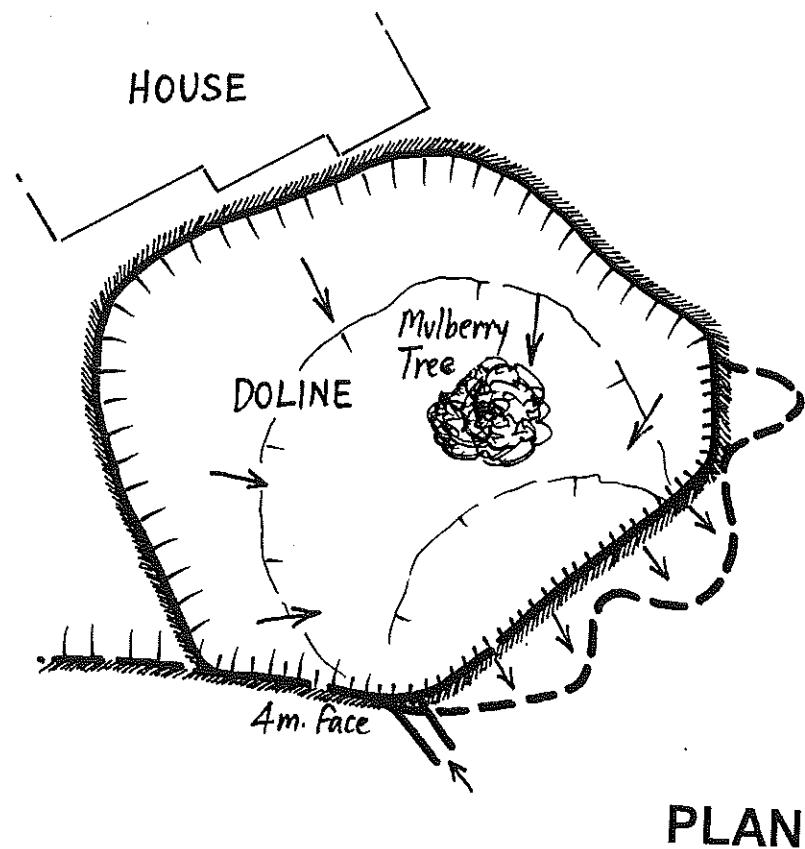
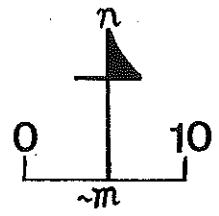
(Unnamed Feature).

This blind doline is roughly circular in shape and about 30 metres in diameter. It has a 4 metre high vertical face on its southern side.

Its location right beside the landowners' house and the lack of apparent underground connections places it in the "don't waste your time" category for caving enthusiasts!



5L204



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L205

### (Unnamed Feature).

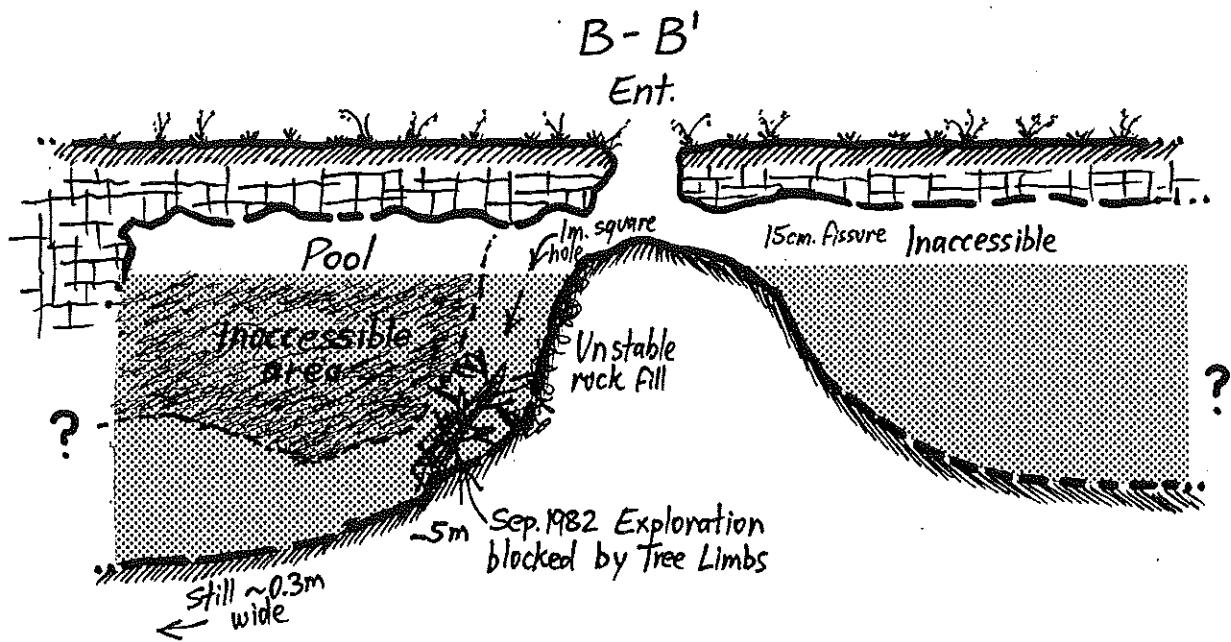
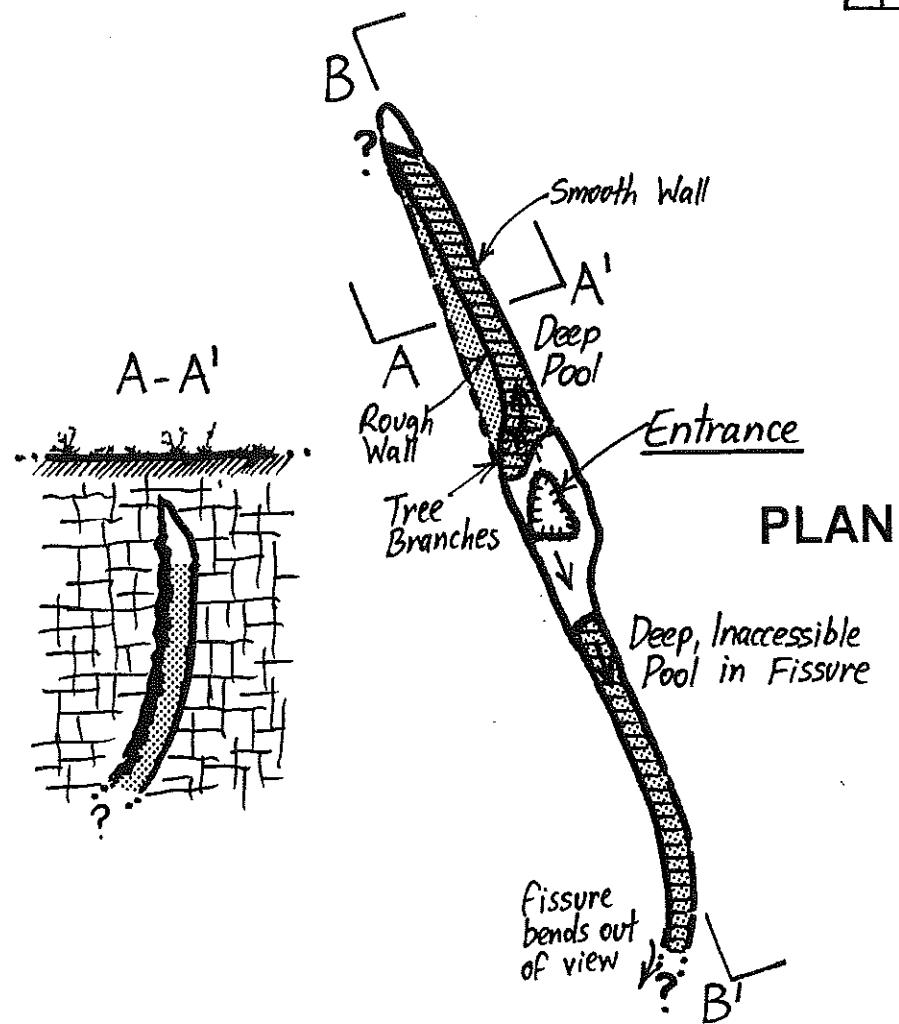
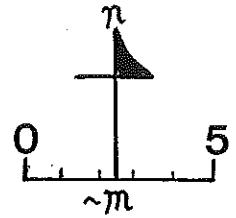
5L205 is a small partially-flooded vertical joint passage with a triangular 1.4 x 0.8 metre wide roof window, which drops 2.4 metres to a small dry platform.

The cave continues for at least 10 metres in a south-easterly direction in the form of an inaccessibly-thin vertical crack, but the main (accessible) section heads off north-west along a one metre wide, 2m high fissure which contains 5-6m deep water.

The right-hand wall of this area is very smooth and can be seen to curve down under the rougher left-hand wall a few metres beneath the surface of the "lake". Although most areas along the flooded fissure are too narrow for safe passage, there is one area close to the dry natural platform about a metre across which can be accessed by a minimally-equipped cave diver.

An exploratory dive by the author in September 1982 found a readily-attained depth of 5 metres, where the passage constricted to about 0.3m wide, but further penetration was not then possible due to the presence of many tangled tree branches and some unstable rock fill overhead.

The likelihood of further extensions from the known cave appears to be extremely remote.



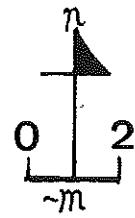
## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L206**

### **(Unnamed Feature).**

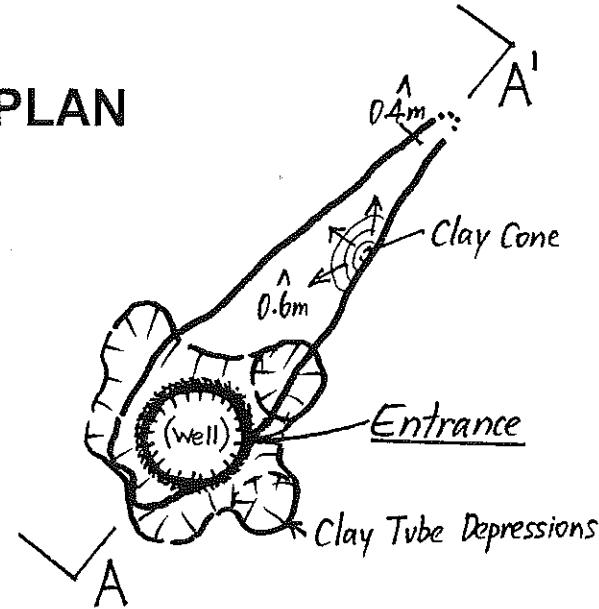
Accessed via a 1.7 metre diameter, 5m deep well which was sunk beside several clay tube depressions, this cave was reportedly a simple north-east-trending linear passage about 6 metres long, 2 metres wide and about 0.6m high.

Some tiny decoration was to be found about halfway along the passage, so it is not a completely insignificant feature.

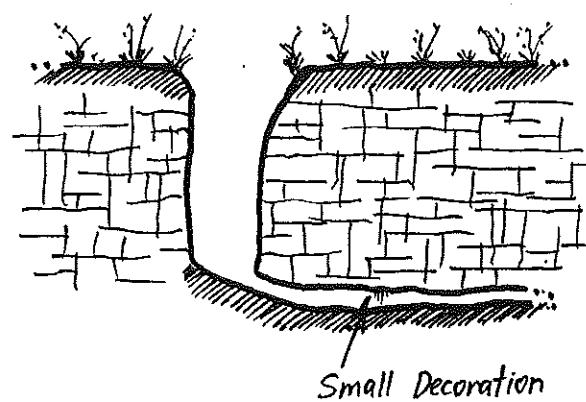
Possible extensions may be found with further work.



## PLAN



## A-A'

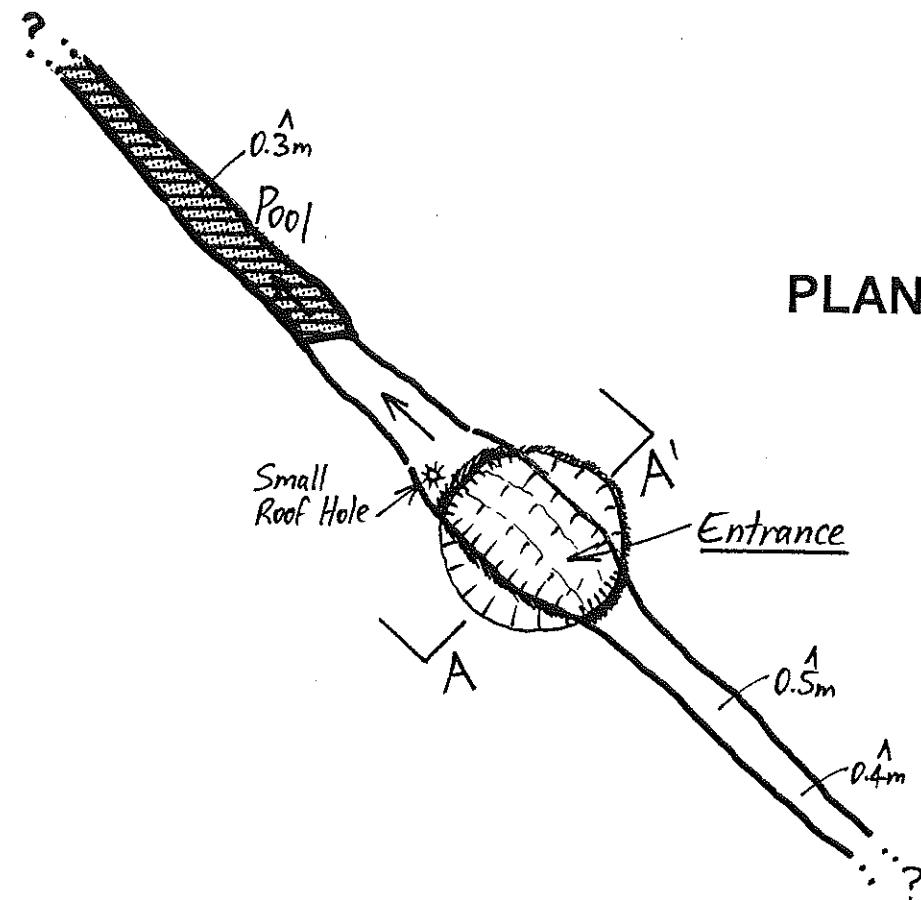
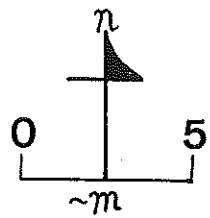
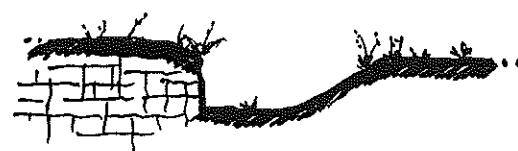


## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L207**

### **(Unnamed Feature).**

Another fissure-cave with the usual north-west to south-east orientation which is common to this area, this feature has a total known length of about 25 metres and is accessed via a collapse entrance about 4 metres long, 2 metres wide and 1.5 metres deep.

The north-western end apparently reaches the water-table in the form of a long, narrow pool, but no other details are available at this time.

**A - A'**

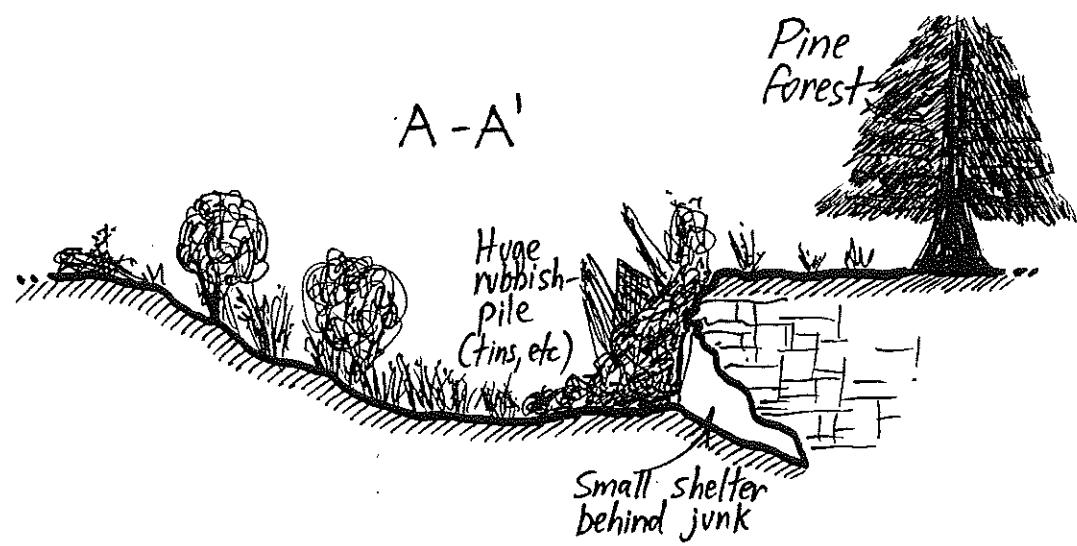
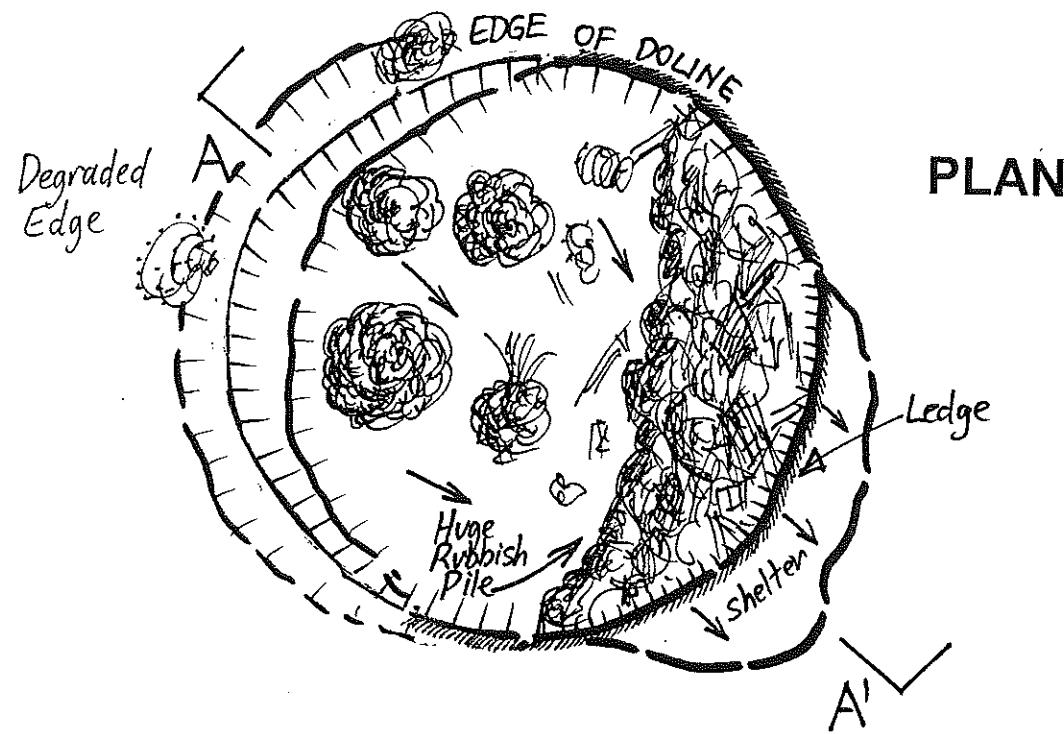
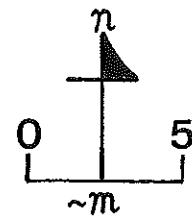
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L208

### (Unnamed Feature).

Although 20 metres or so in diameter, this rubbish-filled doline lies deep in a pine forest, well-hidden from curious eyes.

The mound of metallic rubbish which chokes the eastern side and exposed rock faces has created a false "wall" behind which a visitor can scramble into a low 3 metre deep alcove. However, it has no (known) true cave passage as such, and is therefore a relatively unimportant feature.





[Map ASF Grade 2, F.Aslin (CEGSA),  
date unknown; additional ASF Grade 1  
(memory) details by P.Horne, 1982]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L209

## GEORGE VARCOE CAVE.

Not a lot of descriptive information was recorded about this feature in CEGSA's Records ... "Collapse entrance leads to cave 5 metres in diameter and one metre high" about sums it up!

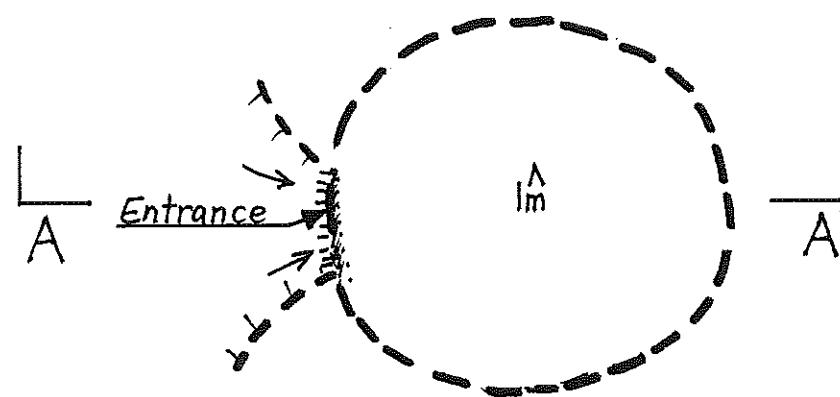
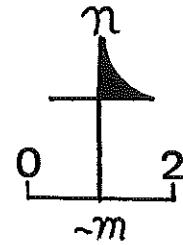
Some recent information from Kevin Mott (pers comm. Feb. 1991) provided some interesting historical data about the naming of the cave ... according to Mr. Jeff Varcoe, of Furner, the cave was named after his father's second cousin, perhaps sometime around the 1920s-'40s. Mr. Varcoe apparently married a "domineering" woman and eventually walked out and lived in the cave. Fearing for his sanity and health, his family forcibly removed him and had him committed to an asylum. He was later declared sane, and promptly returned to the cave!

George Varcoe reportedly ended his days during a train trip to Adelaide, when he told fellow passengers that he needed some fresh air and jumped from the carriage near Kalangadoo.

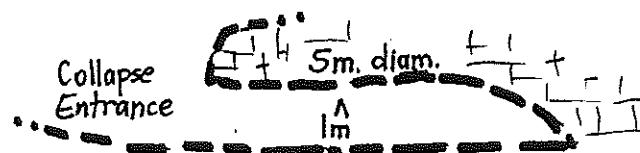


# GEORGE VARCOE CAVE

5L209



A-A'



[Rough representative sketch  
based on description only]

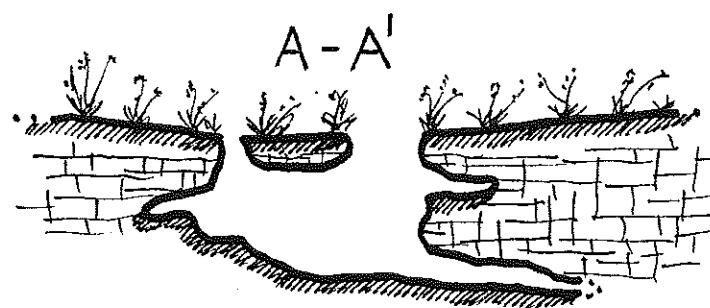
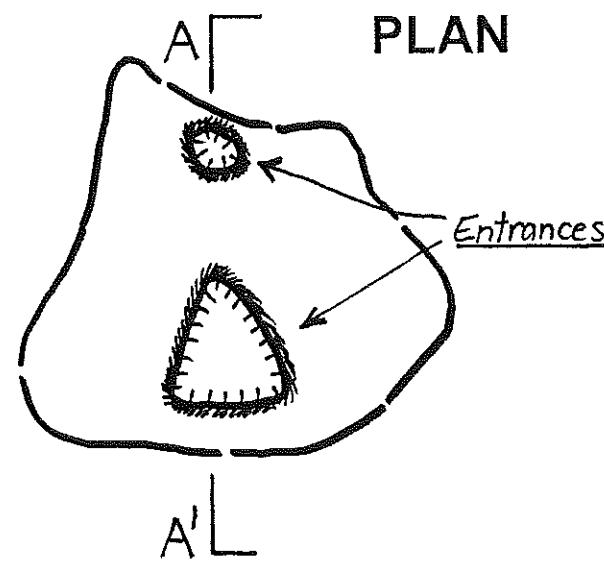
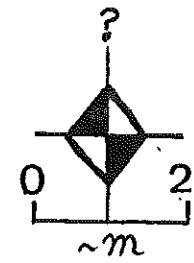
## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L210**

**(Unnamed Feature).**

As was the case with 5L209, not a lot of information was available about THIS feature, either.

It can be readily summarized as: "twin entrances which lead to a 5 metre diameter chamber about one metre high ... the strata dips 2-3 degrees north ... there are small debris cones under the entrances".

5L210



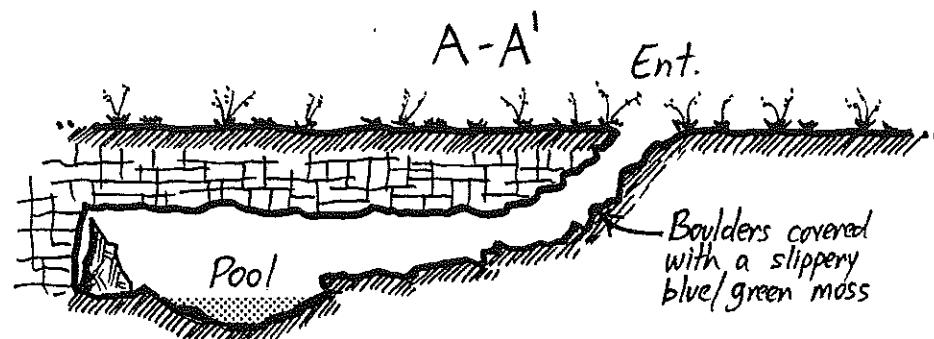
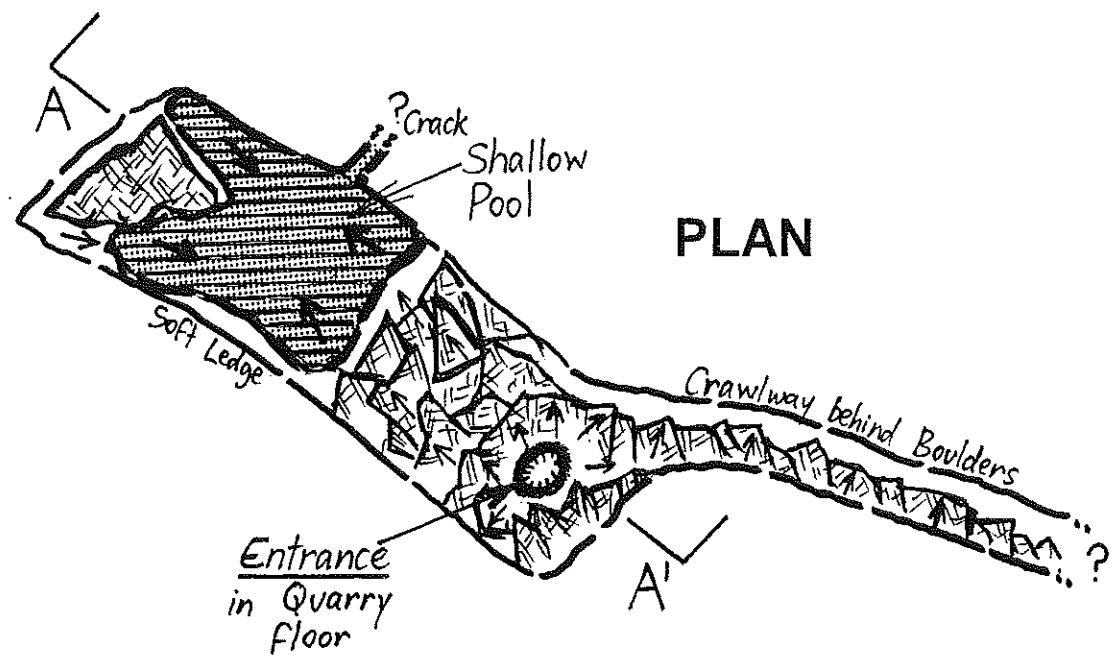
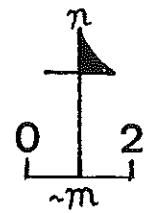
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L211

### (Unnamed Feature).

Yet another "quarry cave", this 15 metre long, 4m wide feature is entered via a one by 0.5-metre hole which was opened up during quarrying operations.

The floor drops away on slippery blue-green moss-covered boulders towards the north-west, levelling off just above a one metre deep pool which was found to 'terminate' in an inaccessible crack when the author explored the feature in September 1982.

A push around the south-eastern rockpile revealed a passage about 12m in length, and this may continue with more work. However, being located in a quarry means that the cave's future is far from secure (if, indeed, its fate hasn't already been sealed!).



[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 4, F.Aslin, 1982; underwater area: ASF Grade 1, P.Horne, 1982]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L212

## (Unnamed Feature).

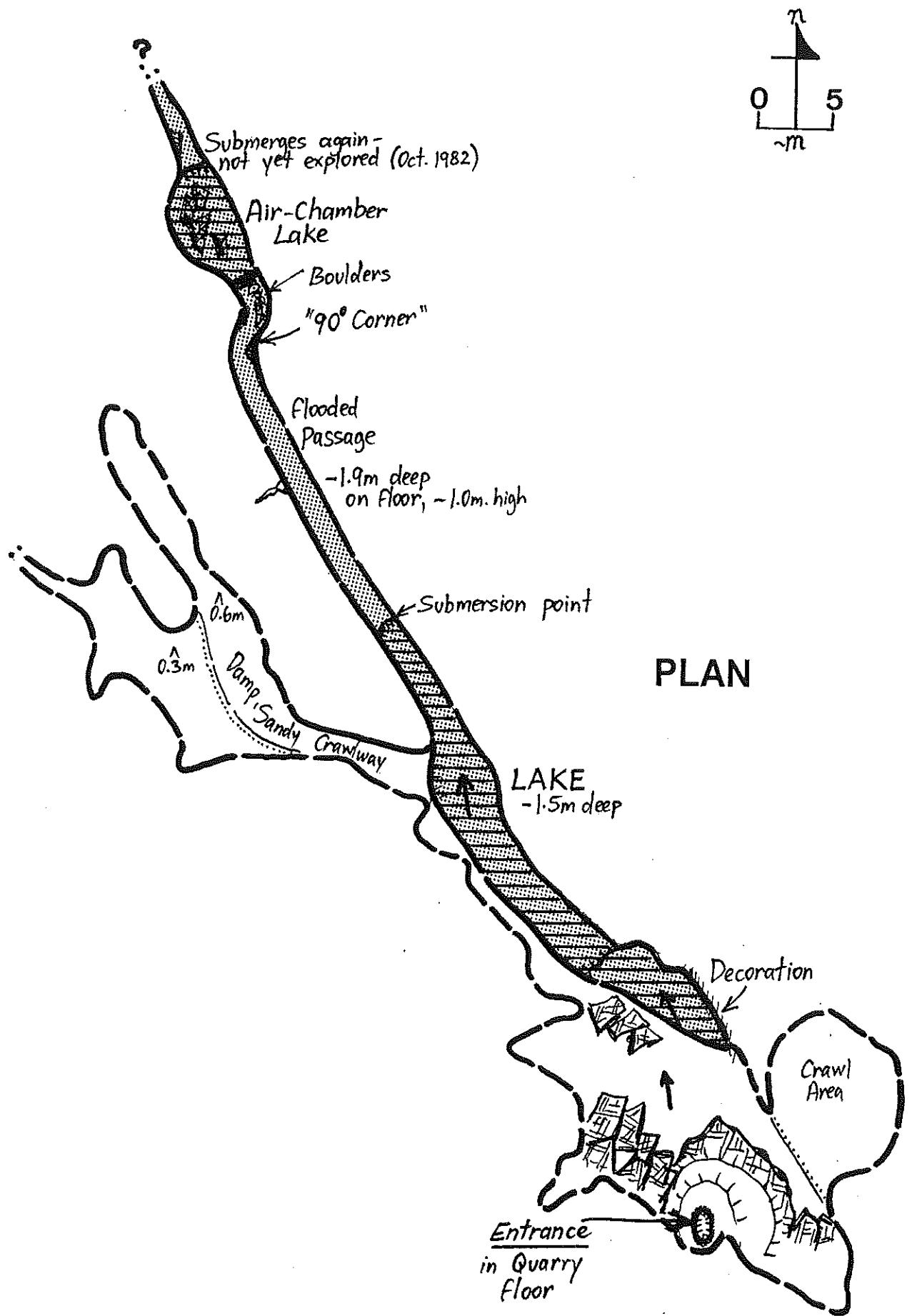
5L212 is a fairly significant north-west to south-east trending joint cave. Like 5L211 which lies nearby, the entrance was probably artificially broken into during quarrying activities, and by climbing down the 1.5 metre diameter hole, visitors drop into a chamber which leads down to flatteners and a large joint passage about 30m long and 3-4 metres wide.

This passage consists mainly of a shallow lake which stretches north-west for about 20 metres before reaching the wall. Near this spot, a low sandy crawlway leads up to the left and into a 0.6m high flattener area which is almost 20 metres in length.

An exploratory and mapping dive by the author in September 1982 revealed that the cave continued underwater in the form of a semi-tubular tunnel for some 20 metres, at a depth of just under 2 metres, before turning 90 degrees to the right and then hard left again. Here, some submerged boulders were carefully negotiated before a small airchamber was entered, about 30m from the start of the dive. Although the passage appeared to sump and continue again, lack of a guideline (a fibreglass tape was being pulled along behind) precluded safe exploration beyond this point at that time.

The cave is an impressive karst feature in itself, and it also contains some very picturesque decoration in a couple of areas.





[Combined map - surface: ASF Grade 4, F.Aslin, 1982; underwater area: ASF Grade 23, P.Horne, 1982]

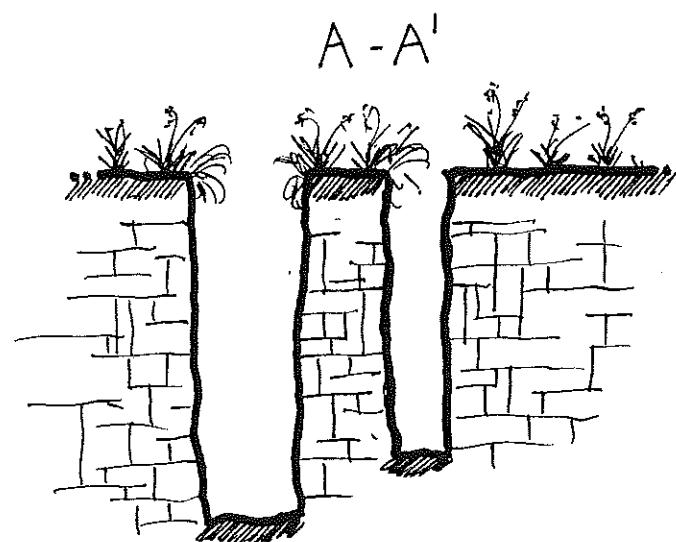
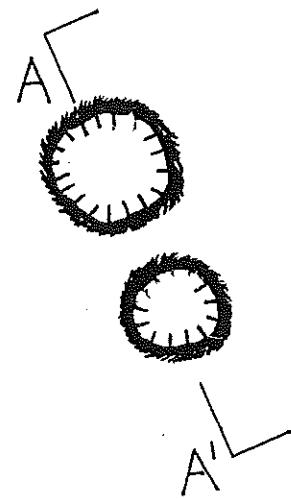
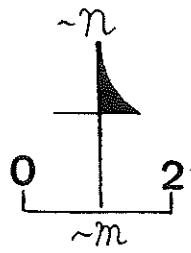
## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L213**

### **(Unnamed Feature).**

Feature SL213 is yet another "twin solution-tubes" phenomenon.

The description is simple but effective ... the northern hole has a diameter of 1.6 metres and is 4.6m deep, while the southern tube is a metre in diameter and 3.8m deep.

5L213



[Rough representative sketch  
based on description only]

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L214**

### **KERRY'S FOLLY.**

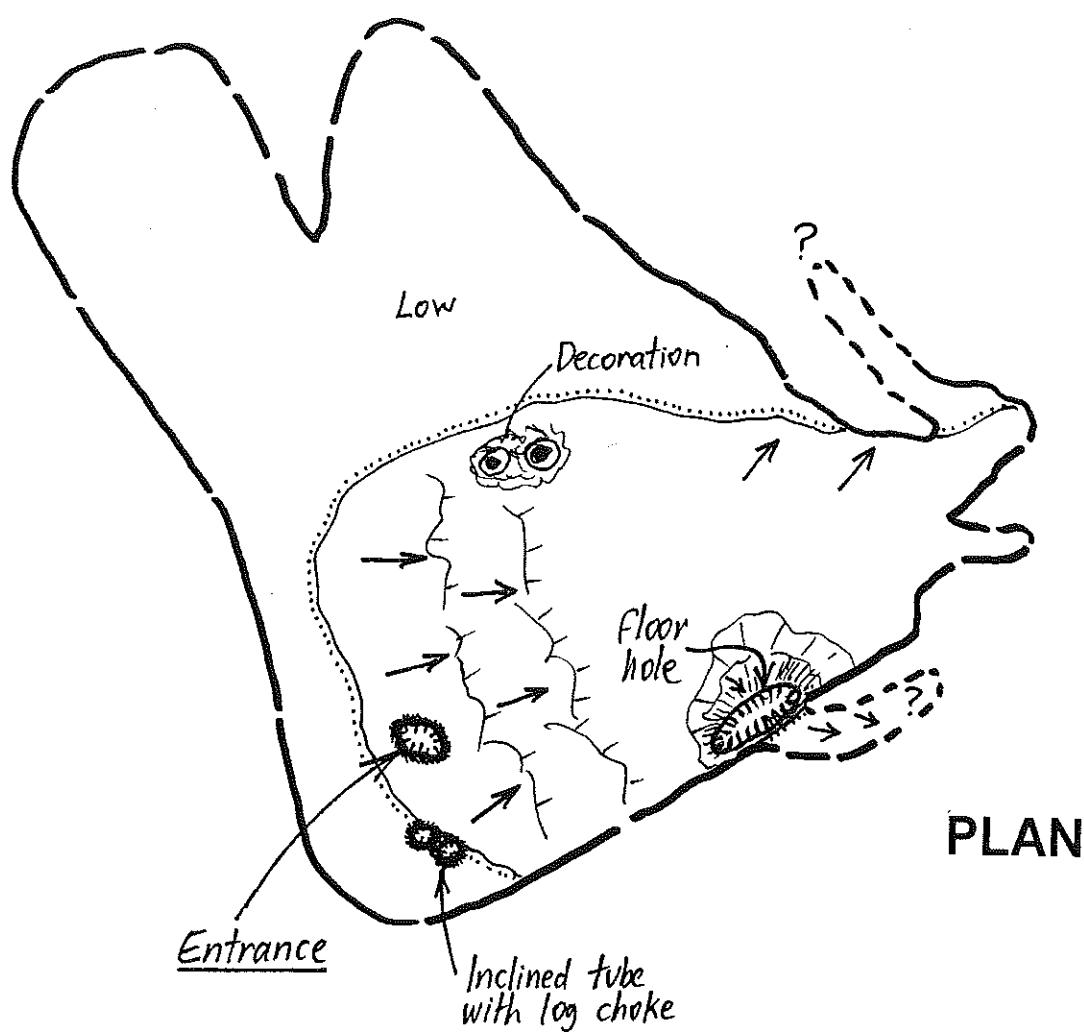
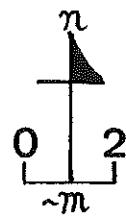
Named to commemorate an occasion when CEGSA caver "Kerry" (her real name!) gave some fellow cavers a scare by removing their cable ladder during a visit, this 15 x 12 metre chamber is about 1.5m high and is accessed via a 3m deep roof tube "chimney" which tapers from its 0.9m by 0.5m surface dimensions to a tiny 0.45 x 0.3m at the ceiling of the chamber.

The northern wall of the chamber is ill-defined, consisting of large areas of low inaccessible flat-teners. A second smaller entrance nearby has been blocked with logs.

The cave also contains a little decoration.

# KERRYS FOLLY

5L214



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L215

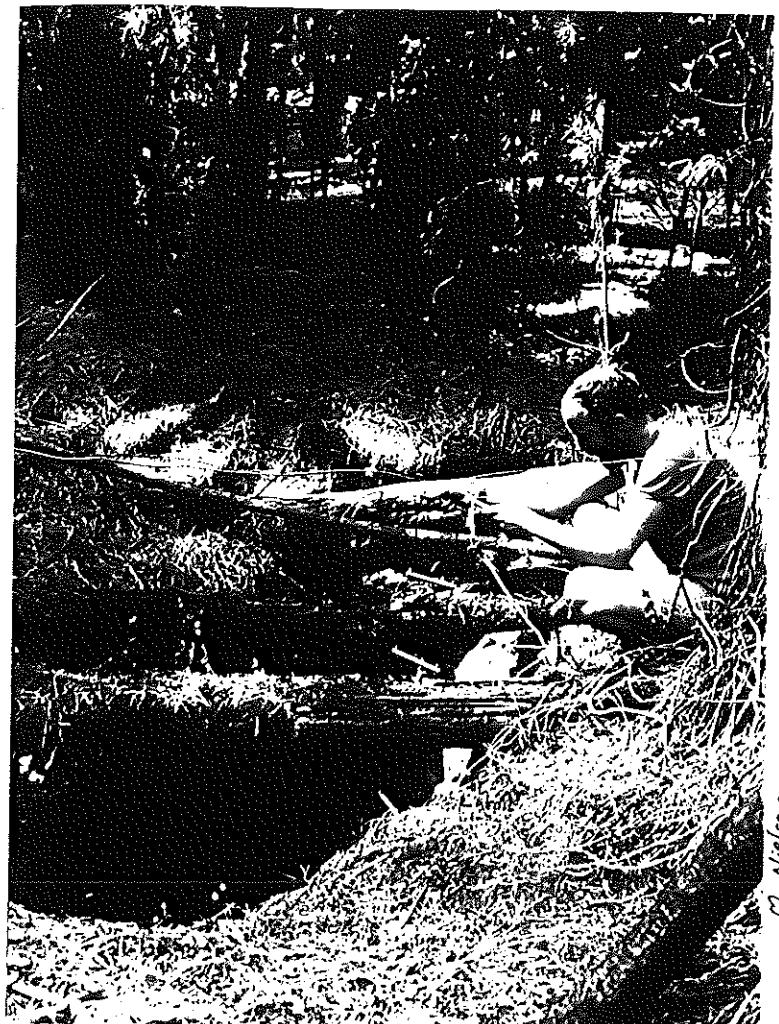
### DAVES CAVE (Dave's Secret Cave, Warnesy's Waterhole!).

Hidden deep in a fairly old pine forest lies the picturesque 3 x 2 metre collapse entrance which leads into the lake chamber known as Dave's Cave (officially named by the author in honour of a "certain pioneering cave diver from Adelaide who is considered by many to be a living legend"!).

Access to the lake requires a careful ladder-assisted descent down a very steep sandy slope which has been made slippery by millions of pine needles which have fallen into the open hole. Standing on a small ledge about 3 metres above the 7m diameter blue-water lake, one can see what appears to be a very obvious (and for cave divers, deliciously enticing!) underwater ledge and passage on the northern side.

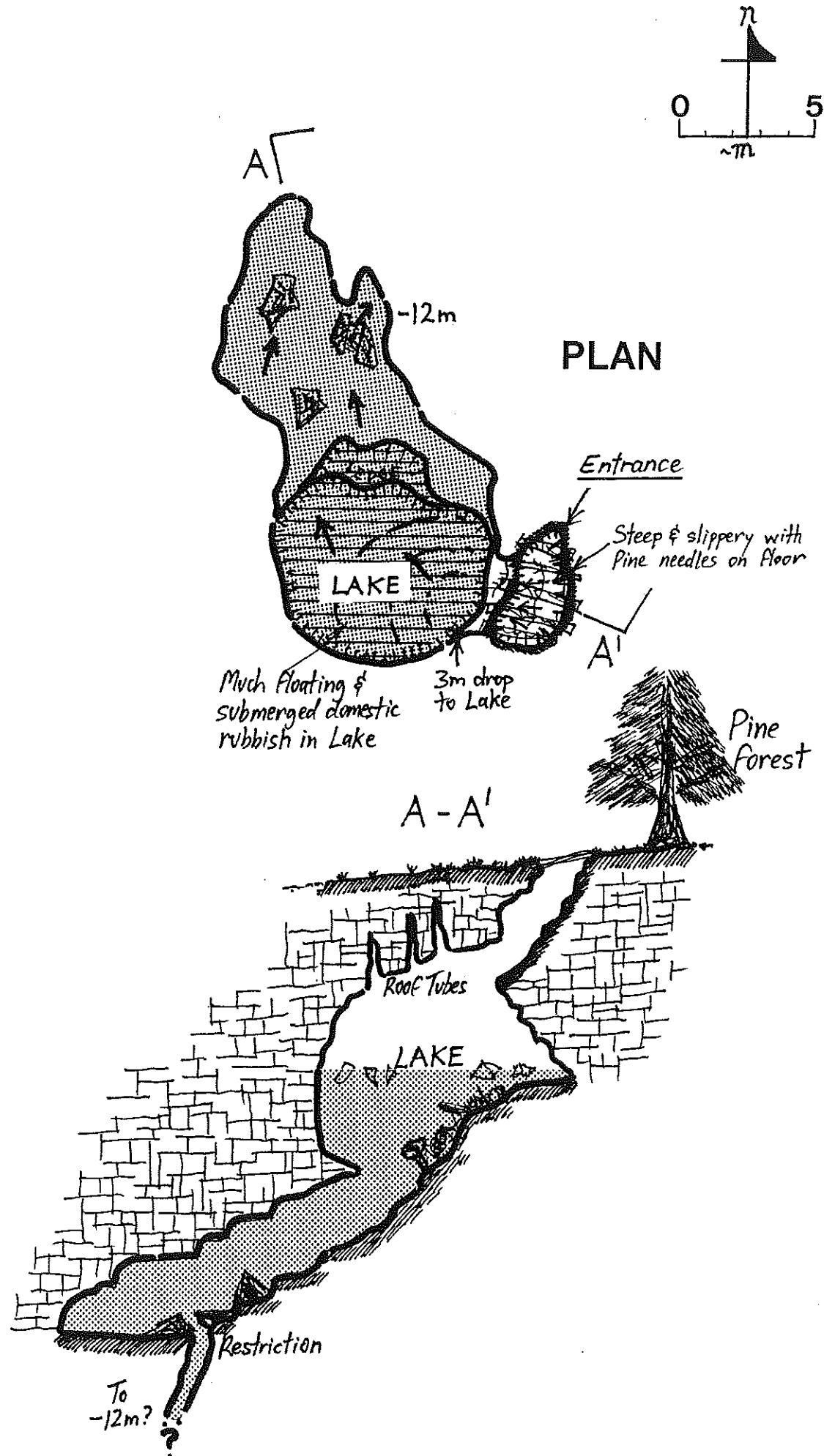
During his December 1982 exploration with fellow cave diver, Mark Nielsen, the author 'discovered' much rubbish (oil-cans, bottles etc) and discarded poison drums both floating at nose level and sticking out of the sloping muddy floor of the lake chamber. Carefully descending under the lip, they penetrated for a distance of just 18 metres to a maximum depth of about 12m before their planned progress (through a tight and very silty restriction) was unexpectedly cut short when a camera was accidentally dropped, creating unsafe silt-out conditions.

It is possible that the cave might continue under the talus mound in this area, but only very experienced cave divers with the right equipment should consider giving it a go!



# DAVES CAVE

5L215



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L216

### SPENCERS POND.

Named after an adjacent landowner, Spencer's Pond was one of the Lower South East's most picturesque "underwater gardens" until the early 1980s, when sudden die-back of the vegetation and increasing visitation by (clumsy?) divers virtually denuded the spring.

With a length of 24 metres, a width of around 20 metres and a depth of 7m, Spencers Pond is of similar dimensions to many of the dry doline features which are common to this region. The main spring vent is located on the floor of a small alcove beneath a north-east to south-west oriented rock face, and holes between the rocks obviously lead to depths in excess of 8 metres.

Directly to the south-east of the main vent lie several other karst openings (an inaccessible fissure and a solution-tube-like hole) which suggest a possible underground connection along that line (which also leads into the exit drain at that end of the pond).

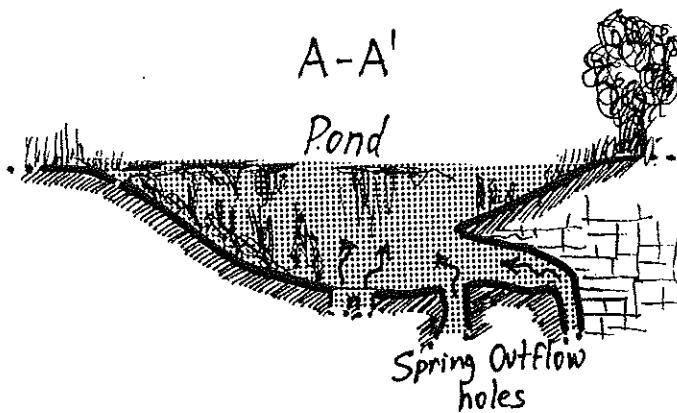
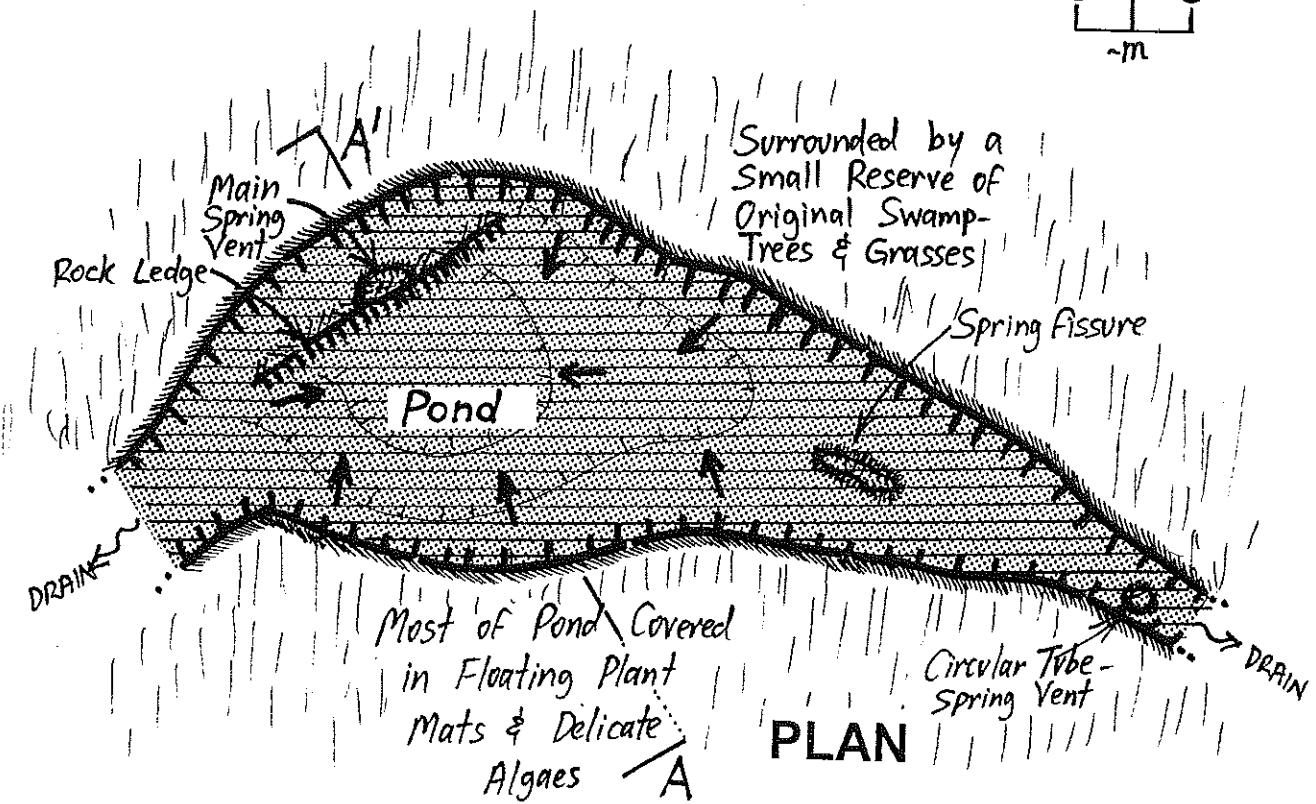
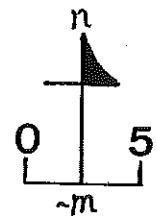
It is recommended that visitation be kept to a minimum in the future; the site is now protected by the Department of Lands and is not accessible to the public for recreational purposes.



P. Horne

# SPENCERS POND

5L216



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L217

### FIFTY FOUR FOOT POND (The Fifty-Four-Footer).

A main spring-fed pond at the head of a drain near Port MacDonnell, Fifty Four Foot Pond is a joint-controlled feature approximately 40 metres long, 7 metres wide and 4m or so deep in most places with a 0.3-0.7m wide fissure which drops into a small chamber at a depth of 12 metres in one area.

An old yabbie pot was found wedged in the narrow crack by the author in 1982, and further explorations in 1987 revealed the presence of a low, silty horizontal flattener-like cavity in the drain about 20m north-west of the deepest area.

The pond contained a lot of floating plant-life but no submerged plants (thanks to the huge amount of black peat-soil and manure which had been trodden into the water by grazing cattle owned by an irresponsible farmer some years ago), but the water was relatively clean, judging by the schools of native trout and occasional crustacea which were seen here and there.

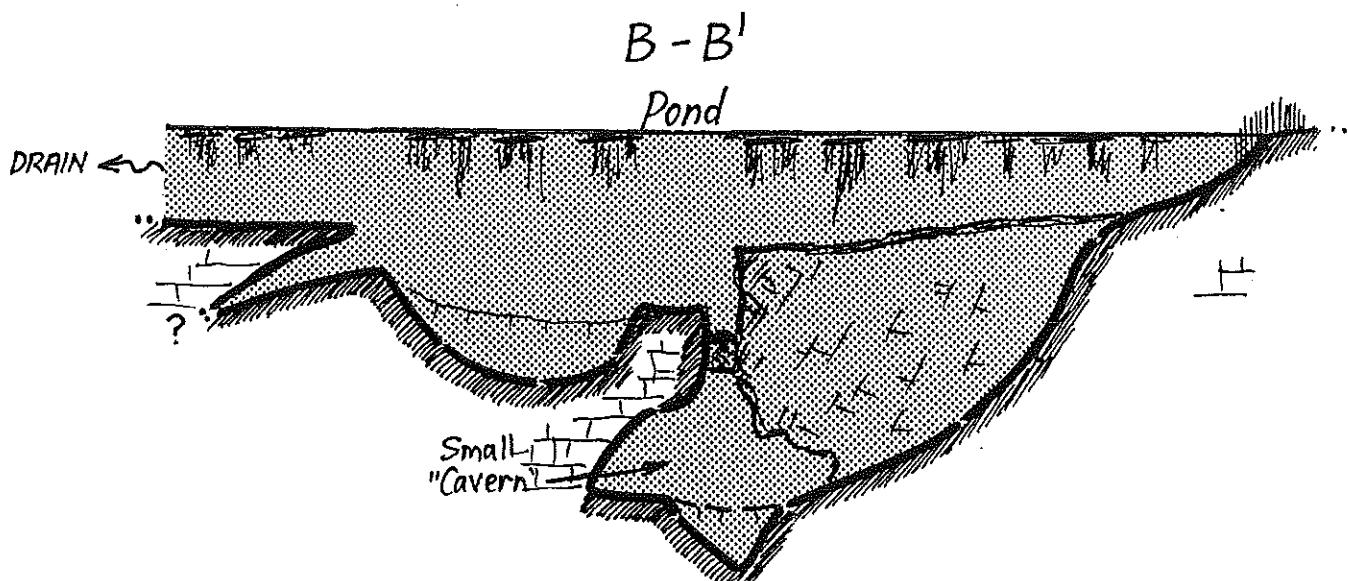
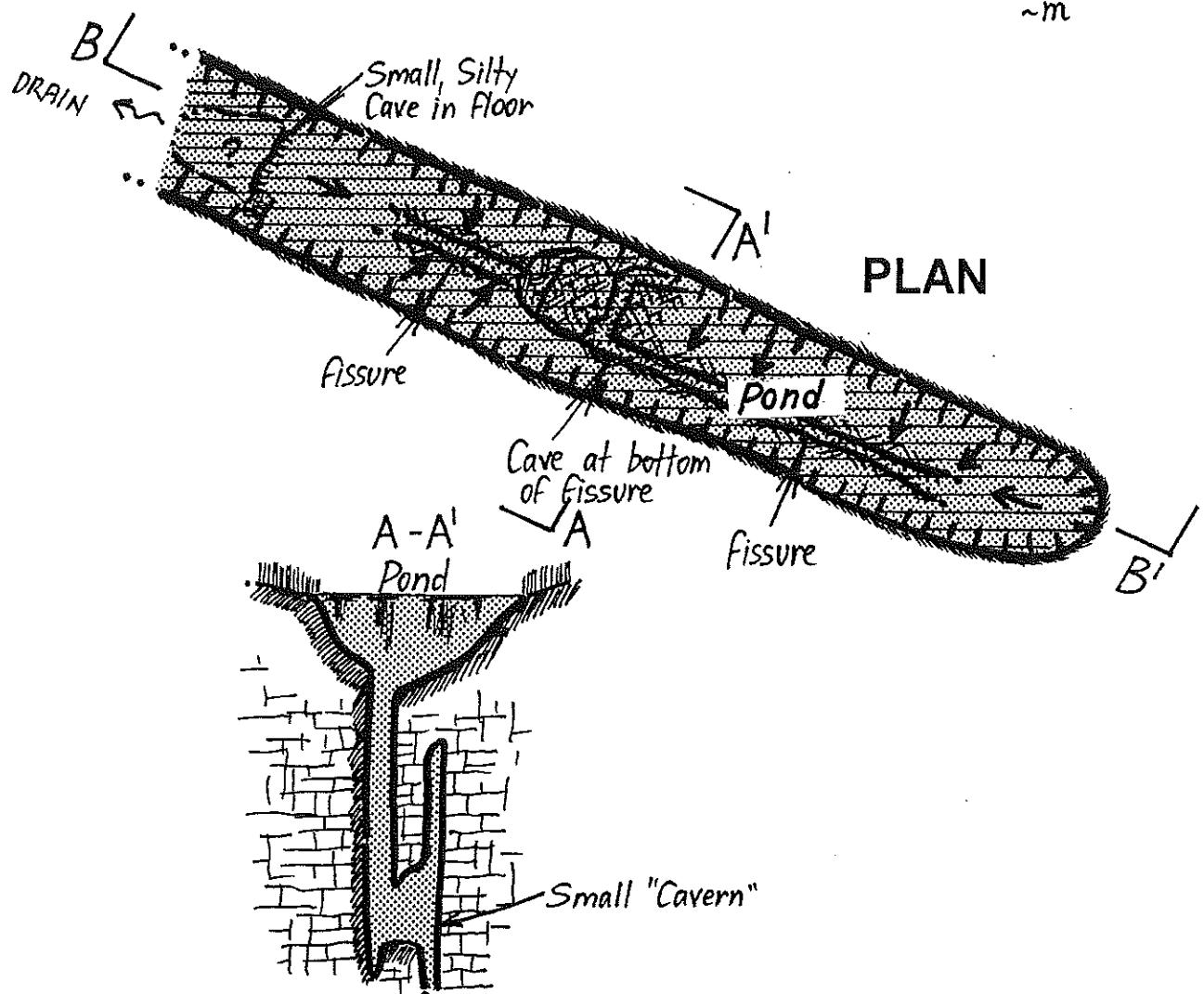
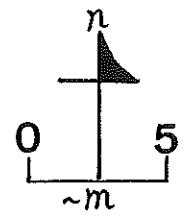
The deepest known part of the "54 Foot Pond" system is actually at a depth of around 12 metres (about 40 feet using the old Imperial measurements), so the naming of the feature is something of a mystery ... or has the water-table been lowered THAT much by the extensive drainage system of the Lower South East?!



P. Horne

# FIFTY-FOUR-FOOT POND

5L217



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L218

## CRESCEENT POND (Donovan's Pond).

Hidden deep in an almost-inaccessible swamp filled with cutting grasses, quicksand, leeches and snakes lies a serene, crescent-shaped (and spring-fed) pond of exceptional beauty.

Although containing water of relatively poor clarity (around 10 metre visibility compared with the 'standard' sinkhole visibility of 30 metres or more), the pond is rich in relatively rare aquatic life-forms including fish, crustacea and numerous plants and algae, and snorkellers visiting the site need to take EXTREME care with their hands and finning techniques if they want to avoid causing any shock-wave damage to the numerous fragile growths.

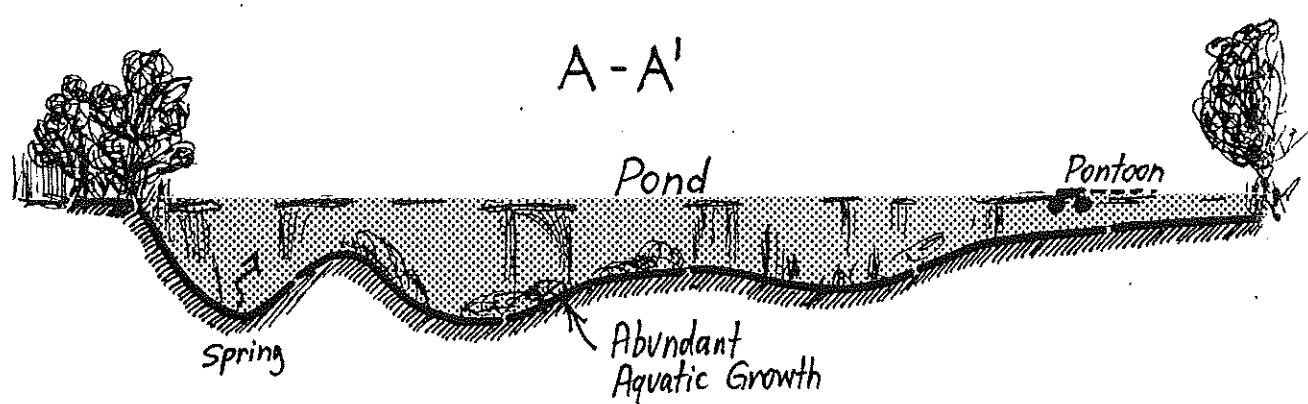
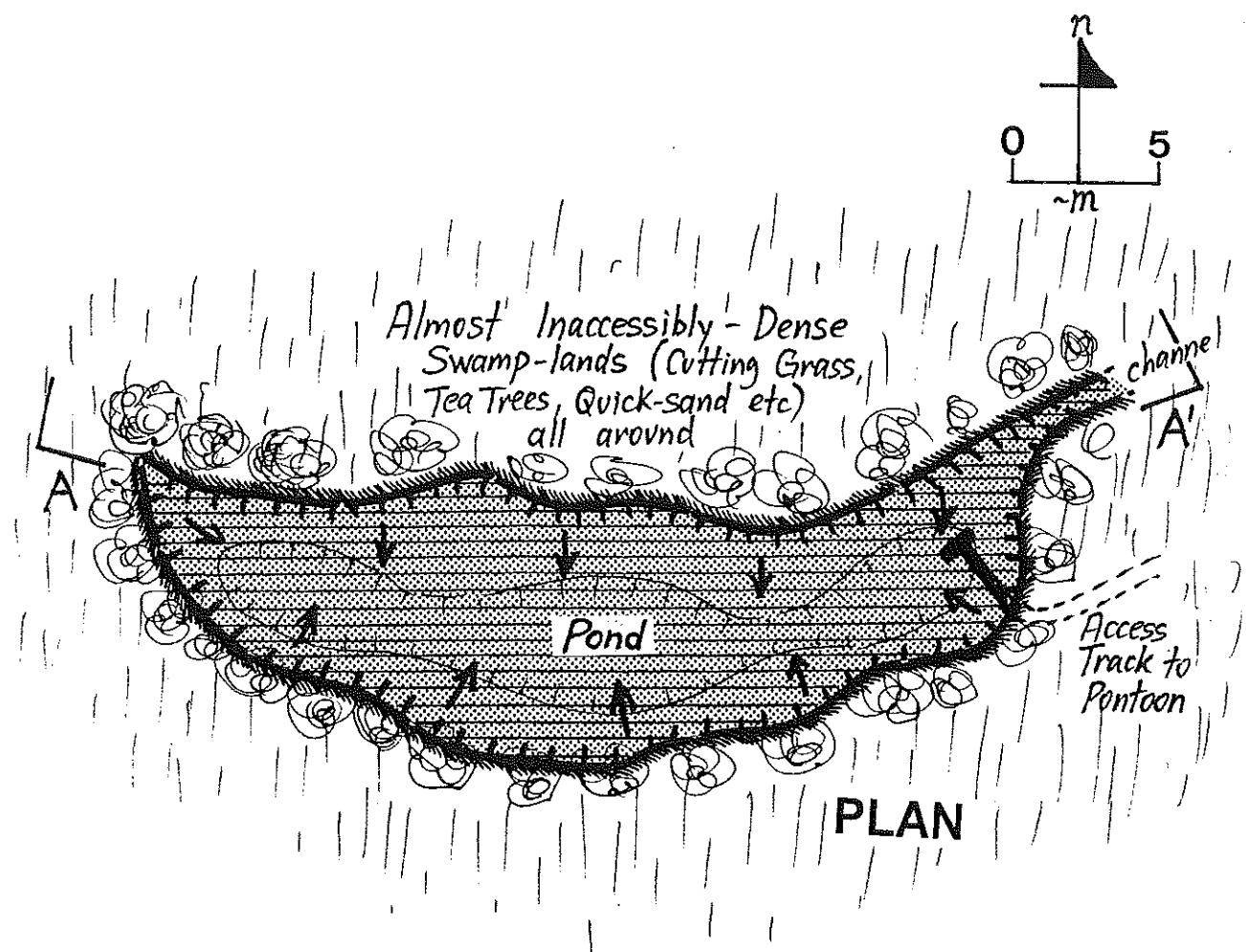
The pond is about 50 metres long overall and around 12 metres wide in the centre, and it is comprised of three interconnecting depressions running west to east with depths of 4m, 5.8m and 4m respectively. Some inflow can be observed in the western depression, although it is very weak compared with the boils in the more popularly-known Ewens Ponds.

A track was cut through the swamp to provide access for a handy floating pontoon which was constructed at the eastern end of the pond by the landowner around 1987, minimising damage to surrounding vegetation by visitors and providing a safe and enjoyable view of the entire lake from an elevated (and leech-free!) position.



# CRESCENT POND

5L218



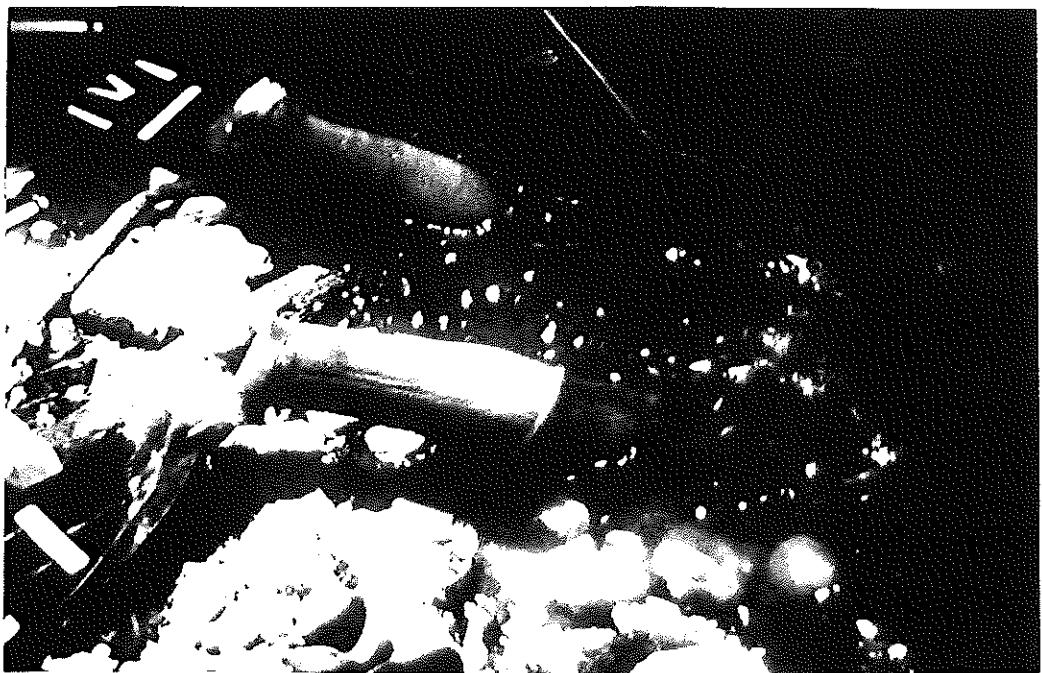
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L219

### BULLOCKS HEAD CAVE (The Bullock's Head).

Known locally by this unusual name, and being relatively hard to find in a very dense area of protected native vegetation near Carpenters Rocks, The Bullocks Head was once apparently a favourite source of pure, fresh drinking water before it was partially filled with a large amount of metallic and other rubbish many years ago.

Today, the cave appears to be an insignificant bell-shaped cavity about 3.5 x 2.4 metres in diameter, and just 3 metres deep. Clear water can be seen around the edge of the rubbish pile here and there, and a body-sized opening was made through the rubbish in the northern side by the author and a companion in December 1982, enabling him to squeeze beneath the surface to explore the submerged area of this unusual cave.

The cave was found to almost completely surround the air chamber except on the north-eastern side, where solid wall was reached. About 4 metres to the west was a very low, silty flattener which reached a depth of about 4m and appeared to end ... this also had some unusual greenish-brown hanging material which was probably some form of algae, fungus or bacterial colony (which has only been sighted in a couple of other local caves to date).

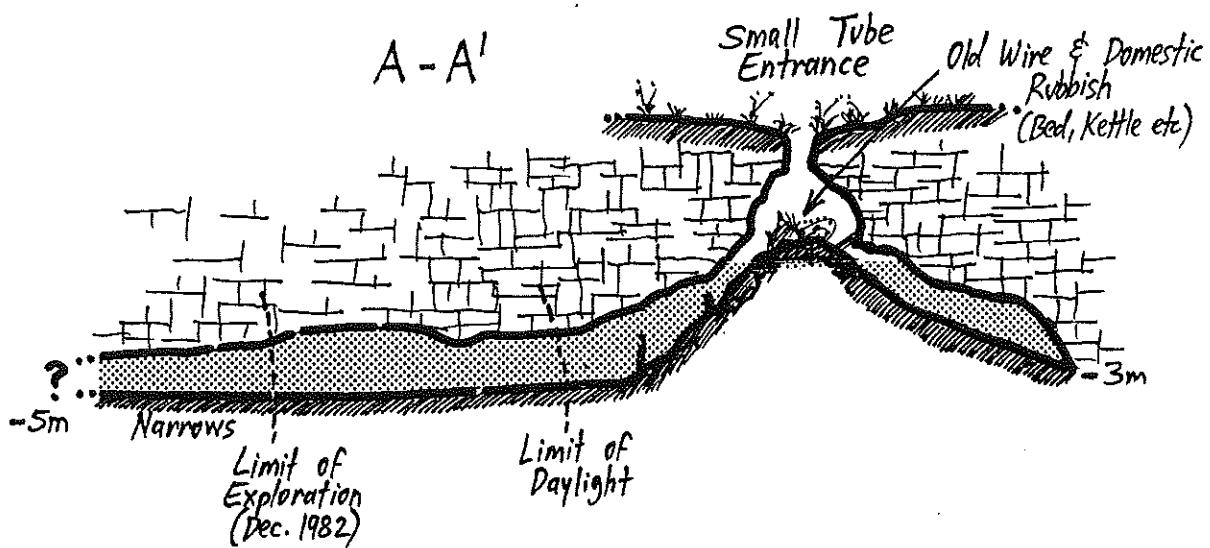
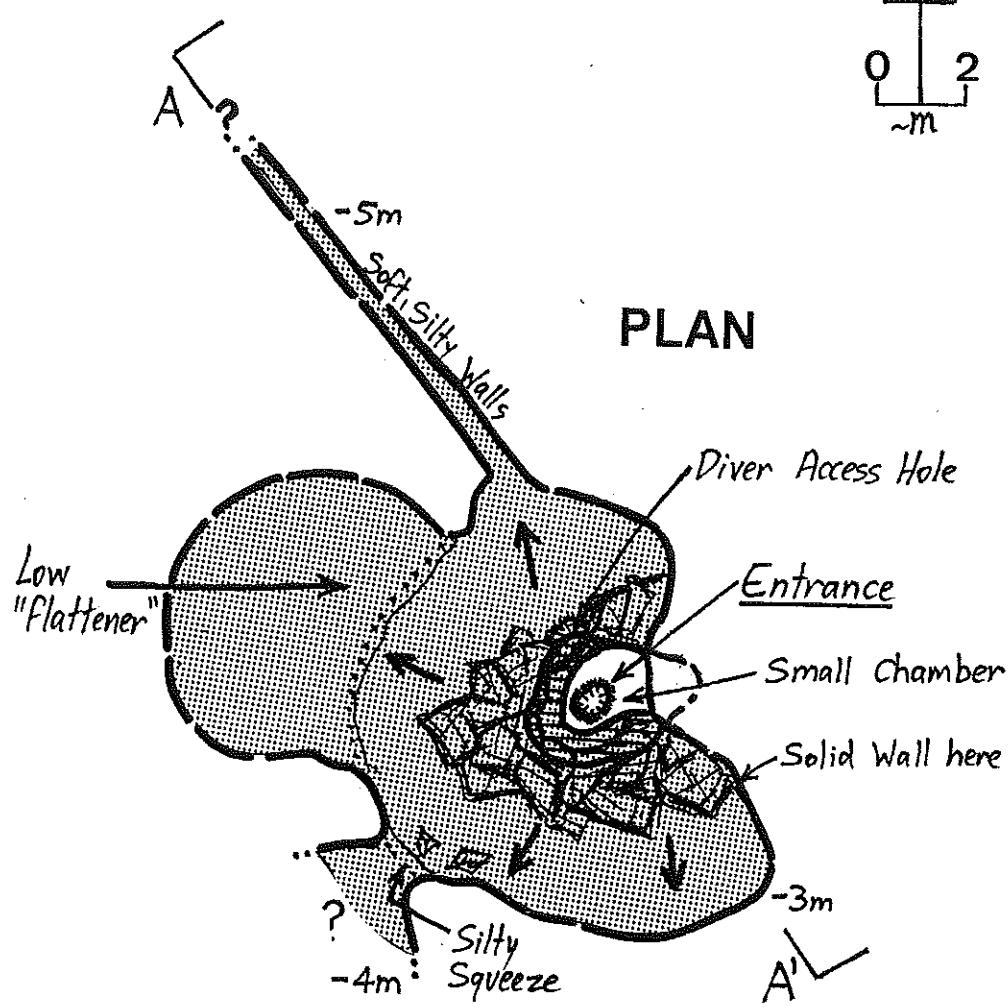
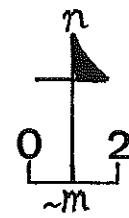


A low squeezy hole in the south-western wall may lead on, but it appeared most uninviting ... the more interesting area was a narrow vertical fissure which headed almost due north-west from the entrance pool for more than 10 metres. Here, at a depth of 2.5 metres, a rotting length of strangely knotted rope with a weight was discovered, indicating that someone else had previously tried to "push" this area of the cave at some stage (perhaps when the water was lower?).

Stories of the presence of large red-bellied black snakes in the rubbish at water-level do not serve to encourage people to visit this unusual little cavity ... it's not worth the effort, anyway!

# THE BULLOCKS HEAD

5L219



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L220

## HUNTERS CAVE.

Hunters Cave is truly a "new" cave by any definition ... collapsing on the morning of Saturday 2nd July 1983 after a torrential downpour the night before, the 8 x 7 metre entrance was an amazing sight when it was discovered by the landowner, Mr Fred Hunter, in the middle of what had been an otherwise featureless and very green paddock the day before. It looked as though a huge hollow tube had come out of the sky and had literally pulled a plug of soil away!

Through a fortuitous coincidence, members of CEGSA (including the author) were attending an annual dinner in Mount Gambier at that time, and word of the discovery reached the cavers (via the police and local cave diver, Ian Ploenges) that evening. Consequently, arrangements were made for a small party to visit the site the next day ... less than 48 hours after it had first broken through to the outside world.

Expecting a small and relatively insignificant minor subsidence, the cavers were astonished at the spectacle of the large rectangular opening which led via a steep, soft dirt slope to a shallow lake (in which grass-covered slabs of soil could be seen) and two major passages heading off to the west and south-east. Surveying and exploration began in earnest, and it wasn't long before the western passage had been pushed to its limit of 55 metres or so. A dive in the lake by the author also revealed no major underwater passages – just a small one metre diameter crawlway at a depth of 2m – and it was obvious that the bulk of the cave lay along the south-eastern passage system.

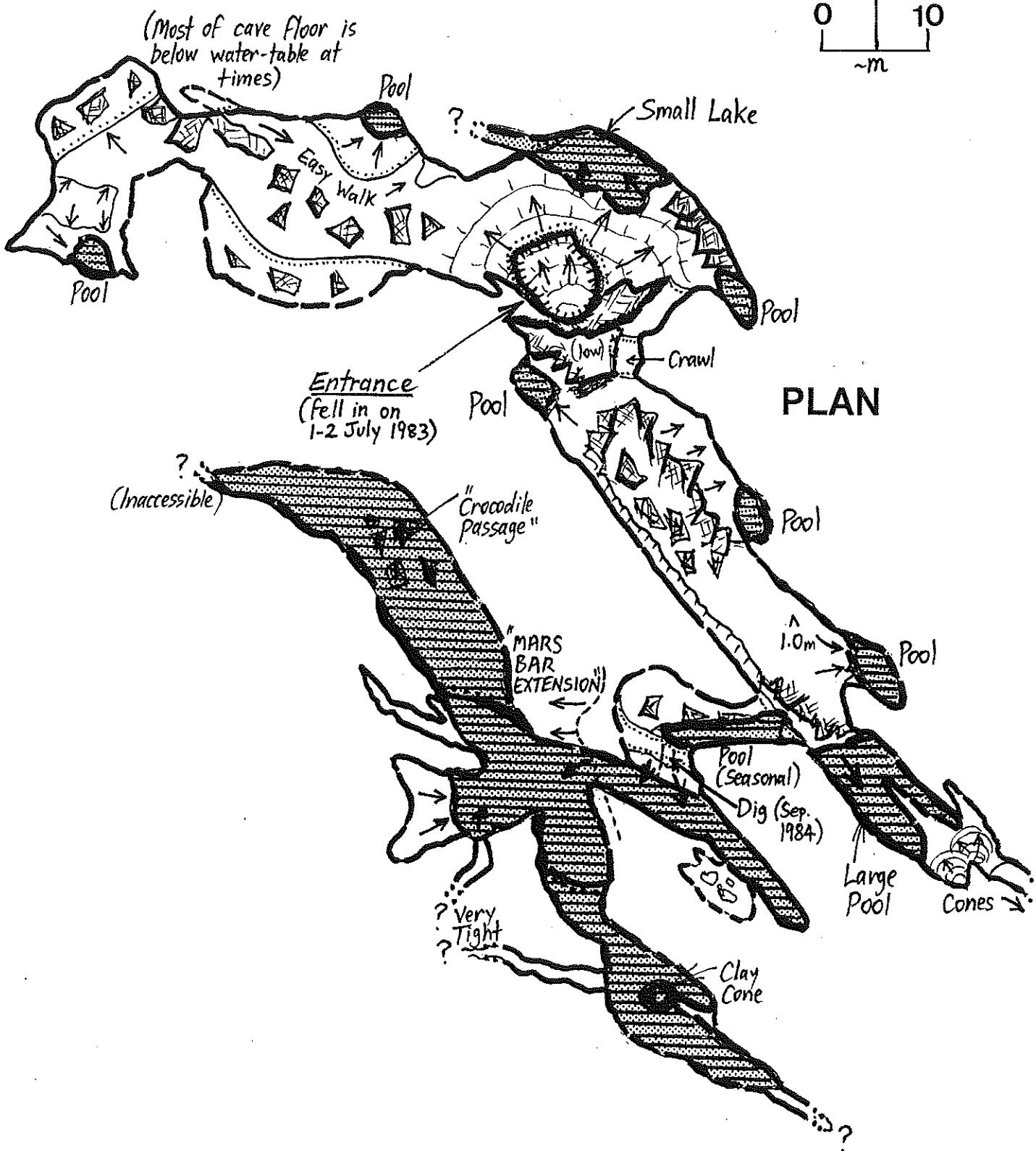
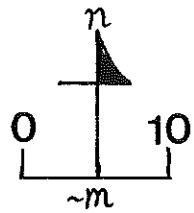


Subsequent visits by the author, Andrew Cox, Tony Hambling and others resulted in the discovery of another 230-odd metres of low (and very wet!) passage which often could only be entered by digging around the edge of mudcones or cutting a groove in a boulder.

It is now felt that all major extensions have probably been found, although it is always possible that something was missed. It is indeed a most significant cave and a major find for this area.

# HUNTERS CAVE

5L220



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L221

## WALSGOTTS SINKHOLE ("Walscott's").

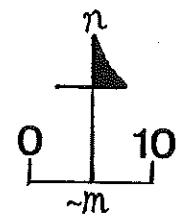
A large collapse doline some 40 x 35 metres in diameter and 15m or so deep, Walscott's Sinkhole was found to contain more than a HUNDRED burnt car bodies (we counted 'em!) and other masses of rubbish when the author and his caving companion, Andrew Cox, visited the feature in December 1983. It is also rumoured to contain hordes of venomous snakes, and if it reaches the water-table, there's no way to safely know nowadays!

The "cave carcass" which is Walscotts Sinkhole today is a sad indictment of mankind's typically wanton and thoughtless actions when it comes to dealing with the many "useless" karst features which are taken for granted in the Lower South East.

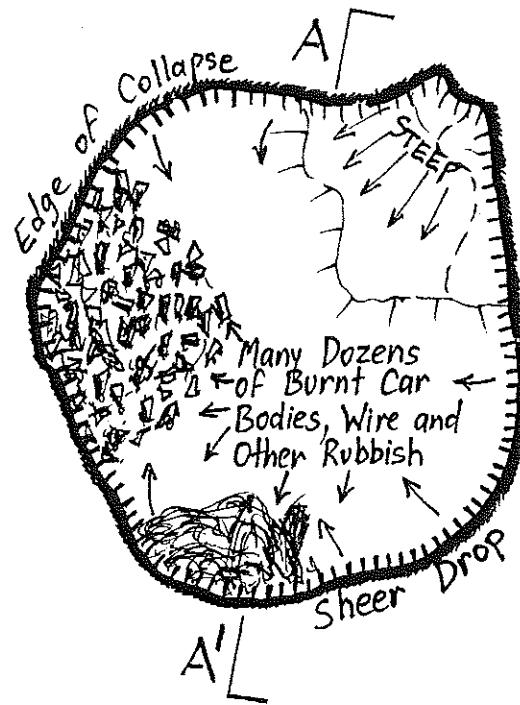


# WALSGOTTS SINKHOLE

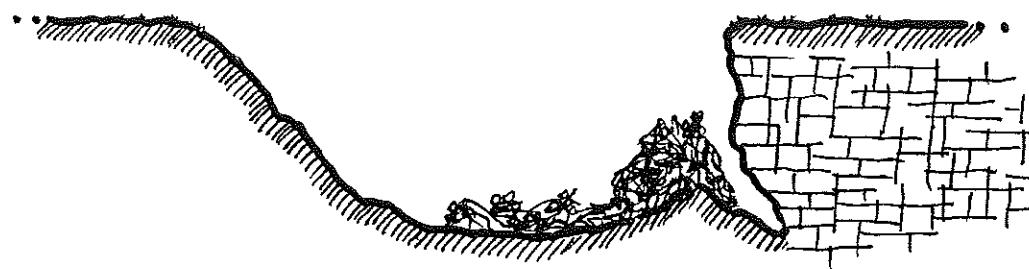
5L221



PLAN



A - A'



**CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L222**

## **MITCHELLS WEST CAVE.**

Recently named after the landowner, Mitchells West Cave is one of the Lower South East's more unusual (and larger) dry karst features.

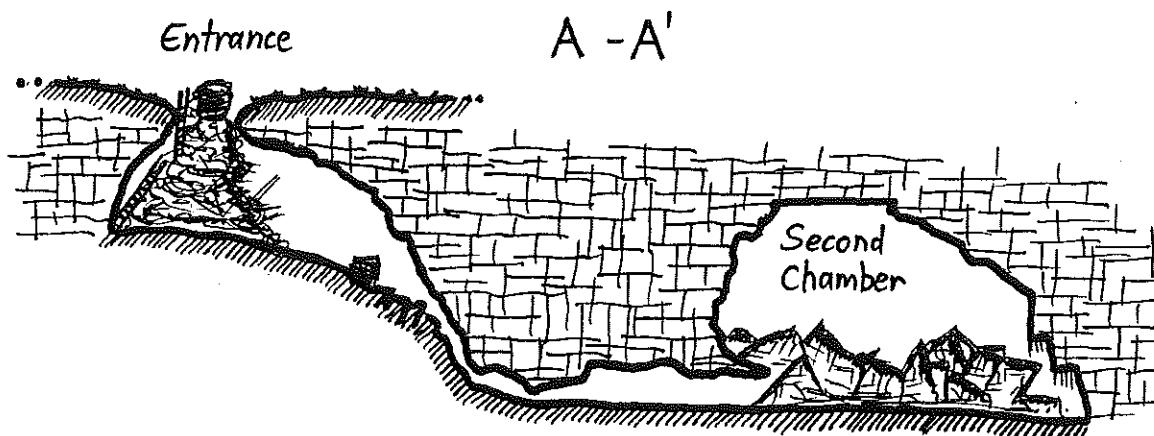
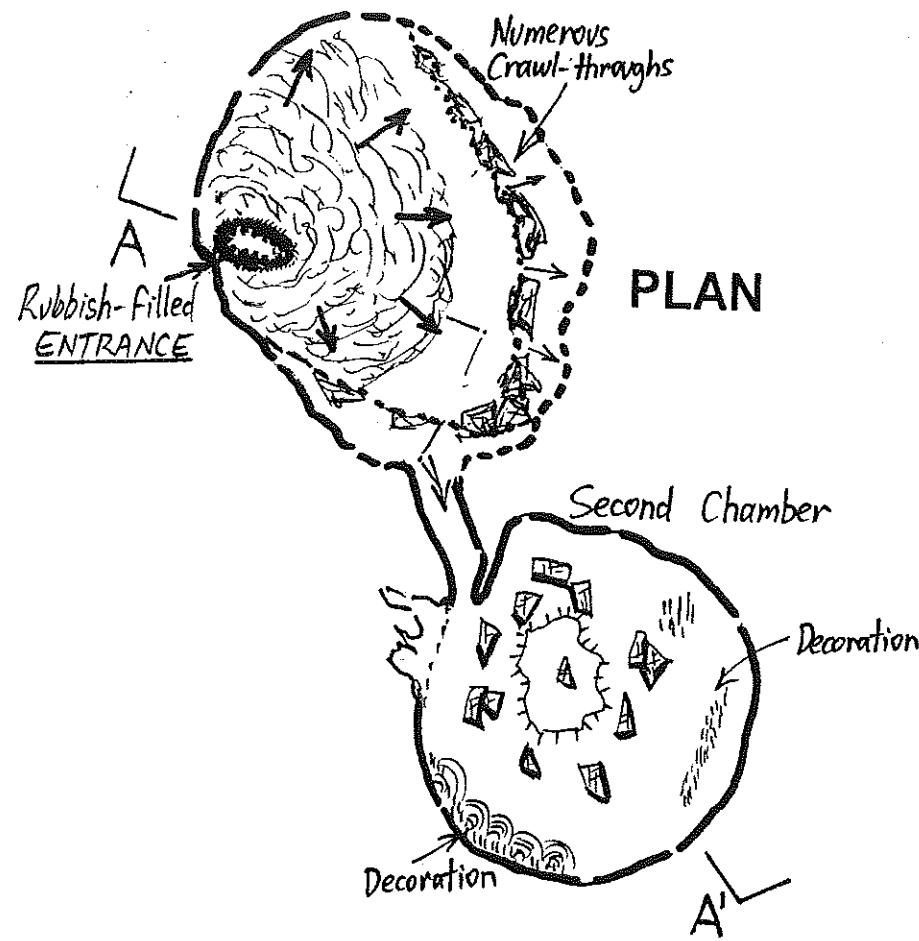
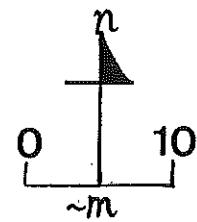
Its entrance consists of a ceiling window about 5 x 3 metres in size in the middle of a 30 x 20m doline, and this drops down a steep rubbish-pile of wire and rubble for some 12 metres into a 20 metre diameter chamber which has numerous crawlways around its walls.

One of these little passages, at the south-eastern side of the chamber, leads into a small passage which continues for a short distance into a second, 20 metre diameter chamber which is something like the entrance chamber in general shape and size. This cavity has a bit of quite good decoration, but not to the degree that it would be of value as a general tourist cave.

Mitchells West Cave is a most interesting geomorphological structure, as there are very few dual-chamber caves in this part of the country.

# MITCHELLS WEST CAVE

5L222



[Map ASF Grade 5?, K.Mott, CEGSA,  
1990?; ASF Grade 22, P.Horne &  
M.Nielsen, 1983]

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L223**

### **MITCHELLS EAST CAVE.**

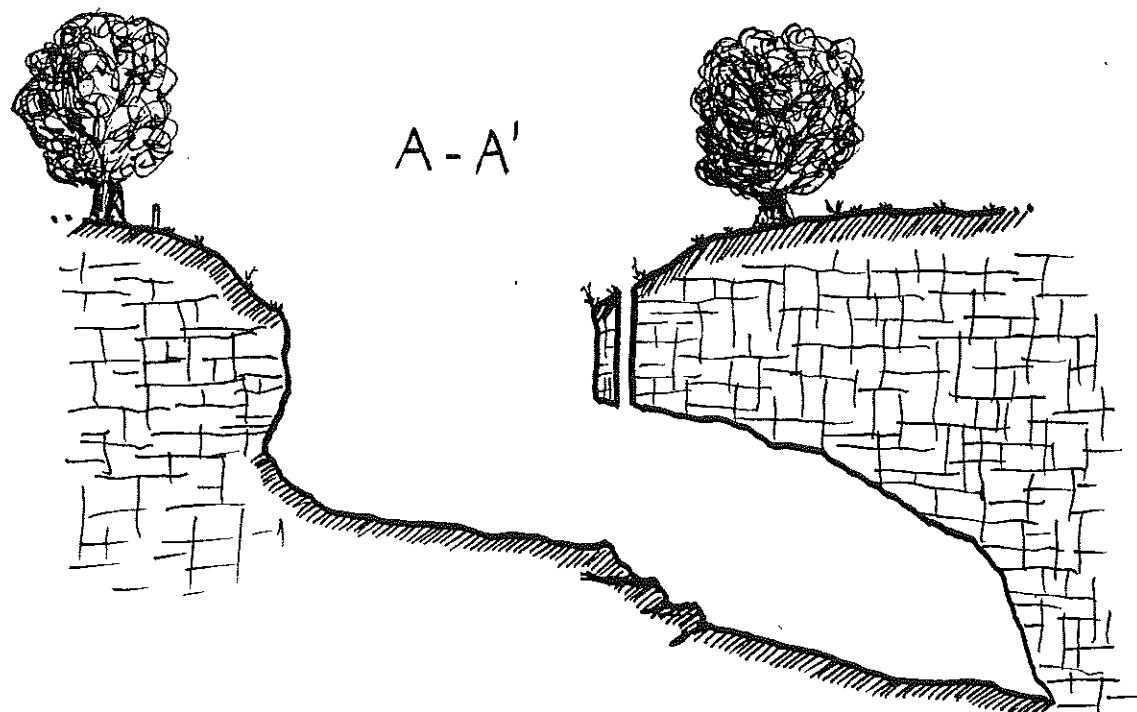
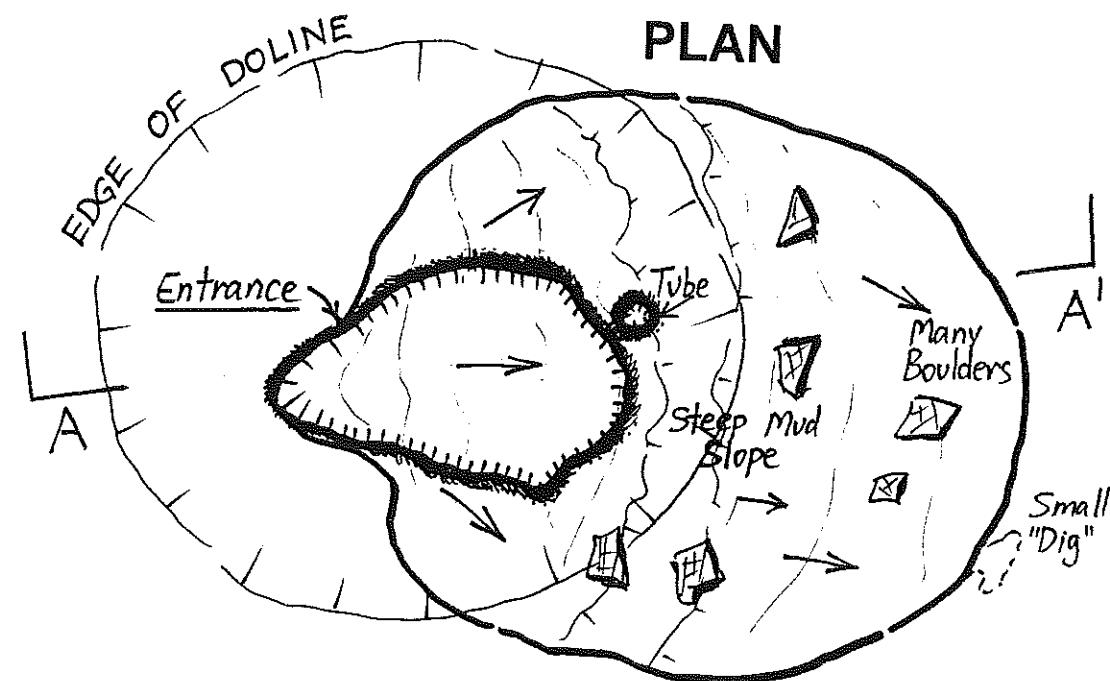
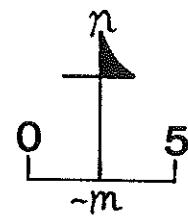
Located to the east of 5L222 (Mitchell's West Cave) and on the same property, Mitchell's East Cave consists of a single dry sinkhole-like collapse entrance some 10 x 7 metres in size, dropping vertically for about 9m into the mouth of a cavity which leads down to the east from the entrance talus mound.

The cavern at base level is around 20 metres in diameter and 15m below ground level; just above the regional water table at this location.

No decoration to speak of was noted in this feature when the author and fellow cave diver, Mark Nielsen, explored and surveyed it (along with Mitchell's West Cave) in August 1983.

# MITCHELLS EAST CAVE

5L223



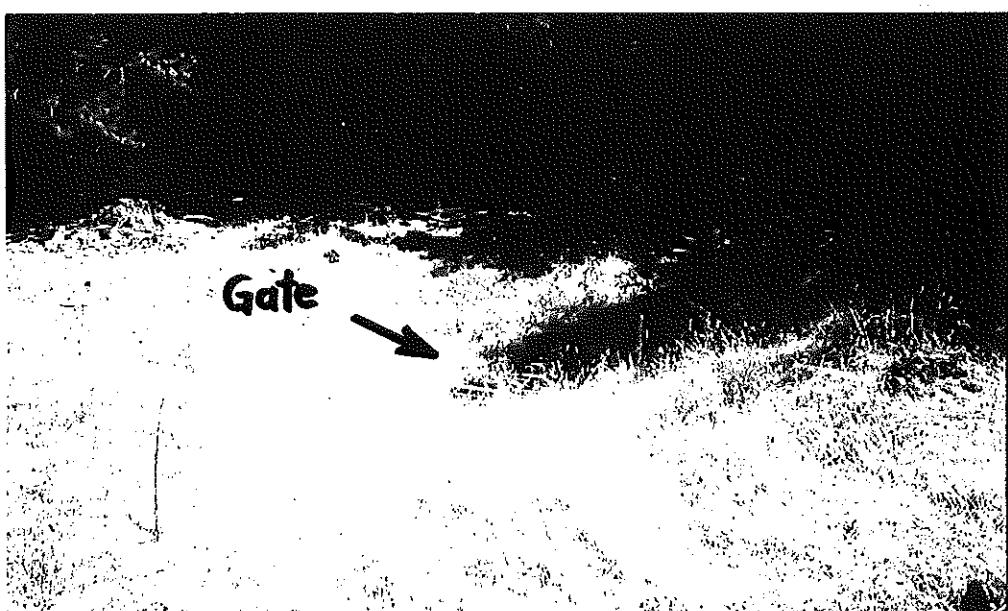
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L224

## PRUNG-KART CAVE.

Named by AURA members using local (now extinct) Buandik Aboriginal words for "root of a tree" (and NOT to commemorate the pranging of a go-kart into the hole by local kids!), this feature is a typical elongated joint-controlled fissure-cave about 30 metres long and, like the vast majority of caves in this region, it is oriented roughly north-west to south-east.

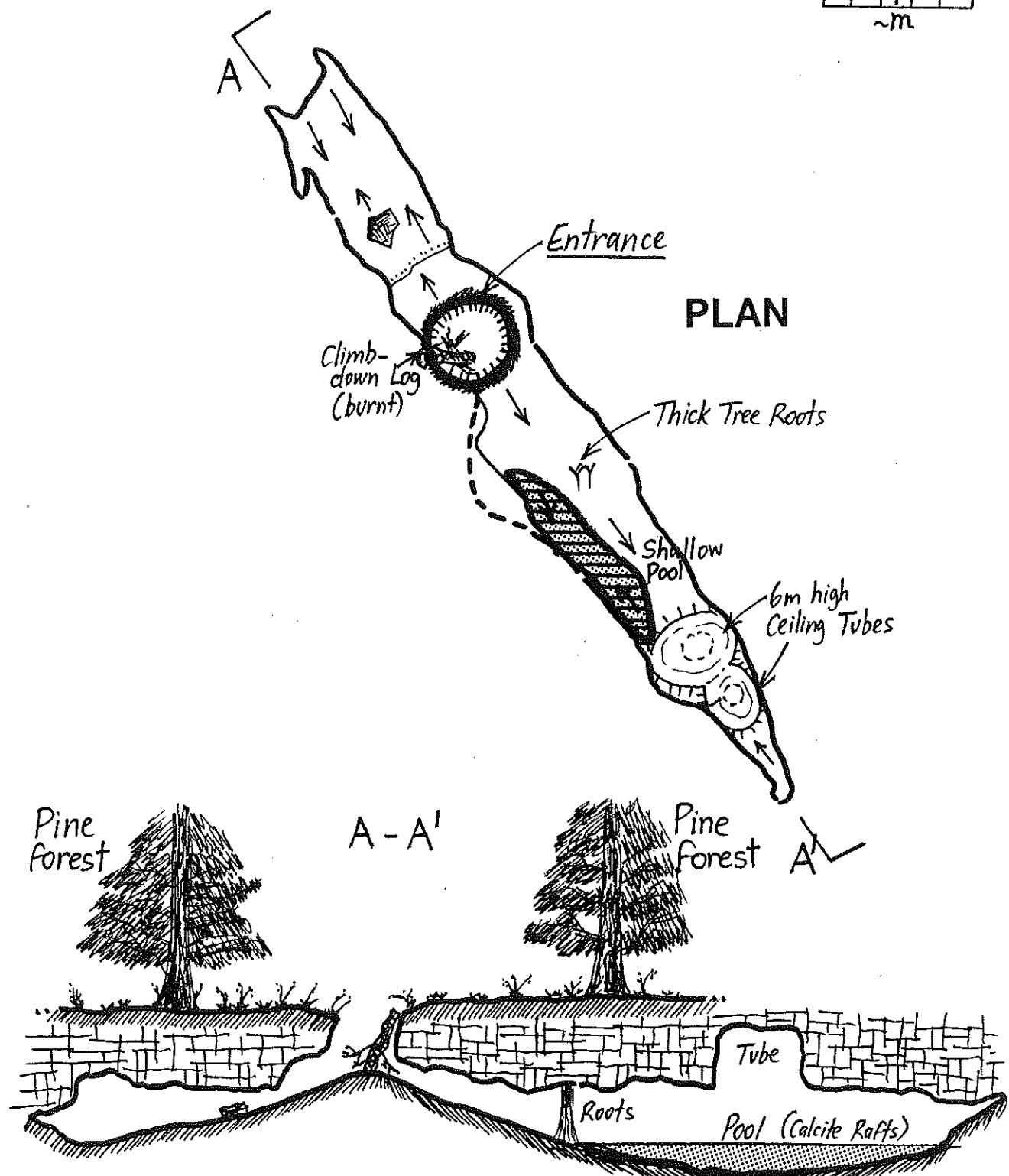
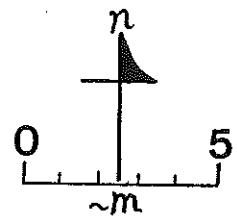
The entrance consists of a 2 metre diameter circular solution-tube collapse which drops about 2.5m into the cave, where it is about 4 metres wide and 2m high. The north-western extension is about 10 metres long from this point, while the south-eastern passage is 20m or so in length. Tree roots, a shallow-water pool and some blind ceiling tubes are also to be found in this end of the cave.

Prung-Kart Cave was recently found to contain petroglyphs which are believed to be quite old.



# PRUNG-KART CAVE

5L224



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L225

## NO-GO CAVE.

This tiny feature was allocated a karst number by the author because of its unusual features, after a series of digs and grovels which ultimately allowed him to get under the water's surface with hand-held scuba gear .. only to find that it was a simple waterfilled hole just 2 metres across and 2m deep (hence its name)!

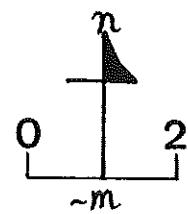
The entrance lies in a track in a pine forest, where the hole has been fenced off to warn car drivers of the danger. The tube is only 0.7 x 0.6m across, and it drops vertically for 1.4m to the top of a small mound which slides down through a restriction to a small "puddle chamber". This horrible little cavity is just 2 x 1.5 across and a metre high at the most, and it has a large rock slab right in the centre, making access to divable water very awkward!

The dive is very tight behind the boulder ... definitely a 16 cu.ft. hand-held tank (or "hookah") job ... but it's been done and it doesn't "go", so other keen (stupid?) cave divers don't need to lose any sleep over this one!

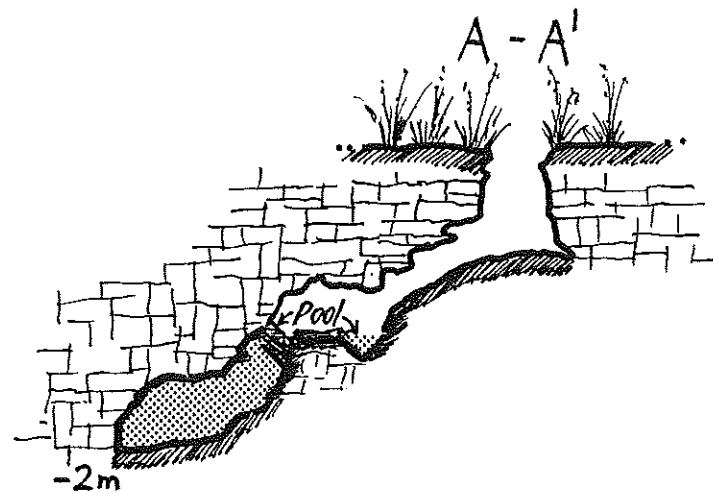
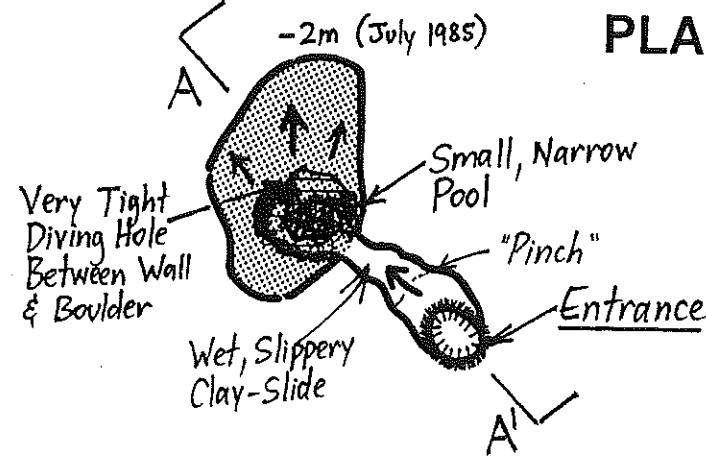


# NO-GO CAVE

5L225



## PLAN



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L226**

### **DREWS DROP.**

Named by the author and fellow cave locator, Andrew ('Drew') Cox, after the latter intrepid "Groveller" almost literally dropped into the hole during an extensive paddock-search for new caves in December 1983, this fairly large joint-controlled fissure-cave is quite interesting.

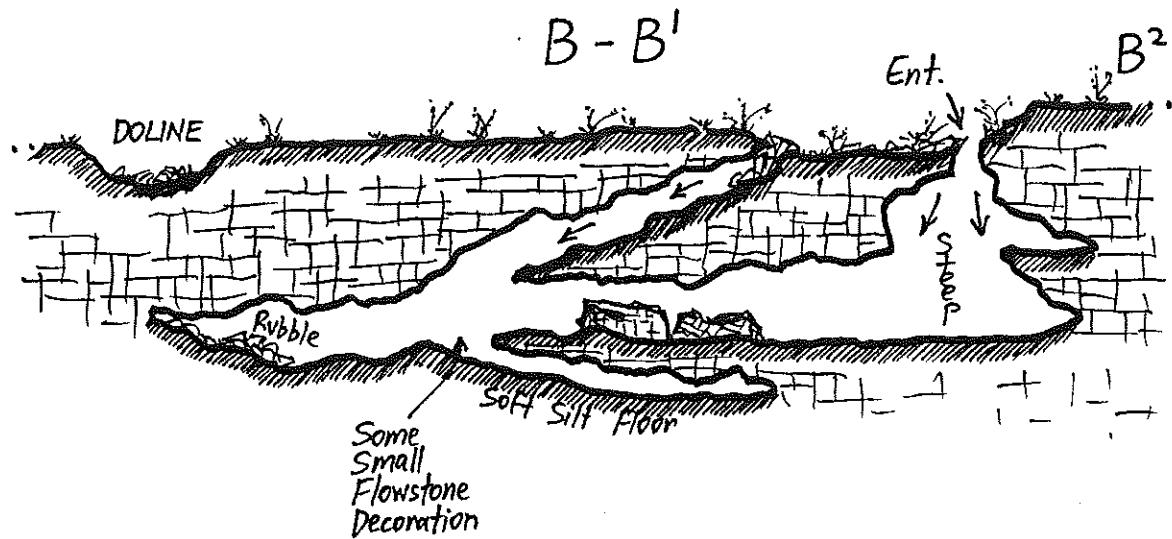
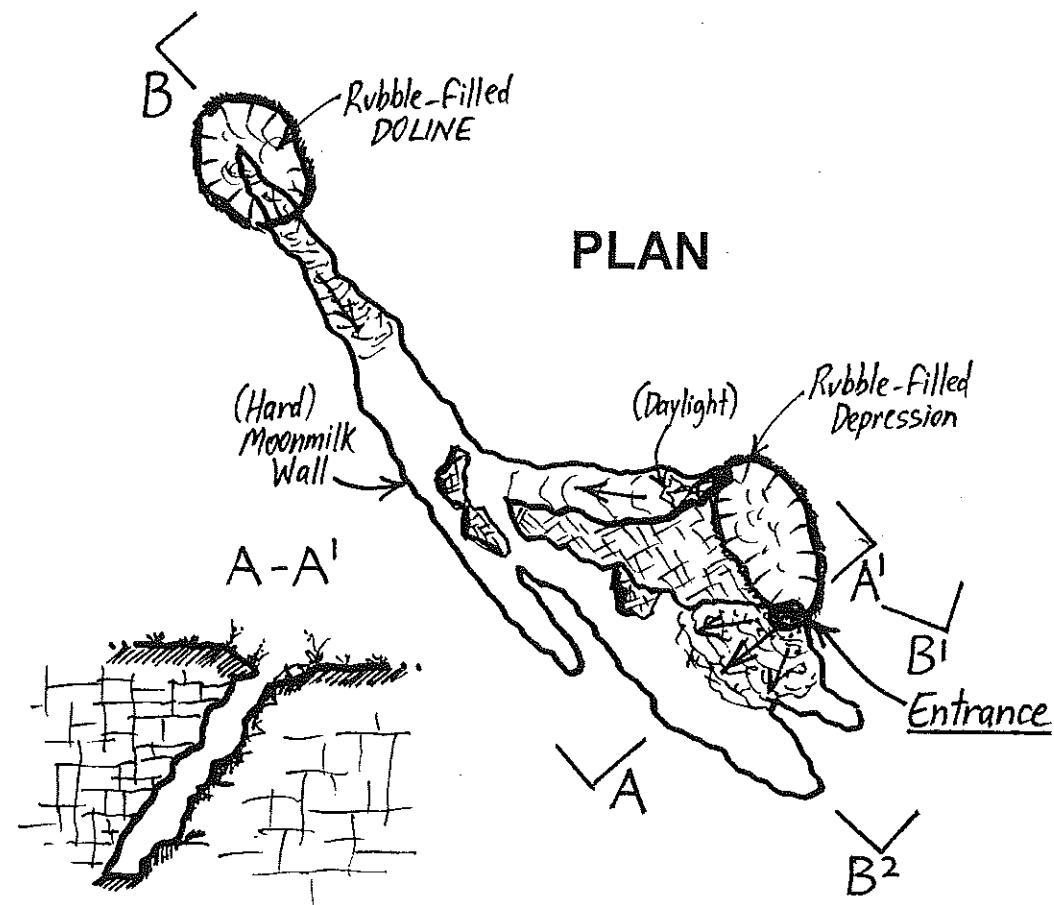
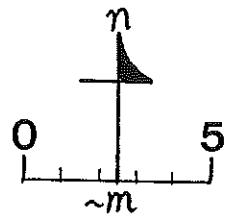
Its entrance consists of a 0.5 x 0.3 metre hole/crawlway in a 5 x 2 metre shallow, rubble-filled doline, and this leads down a collapse rockpile to a chamber about 5 metres in diameter.

From here, the main passage heads north-west for another 25 metres or so to the underside of a filled doline which is readily located on the surface.

The cave is a little unusual for such a feature as it has quite substantial hardened moonmilk walls and a little bit of flowstone decoration in one area.

# DREWS DROP

5L226



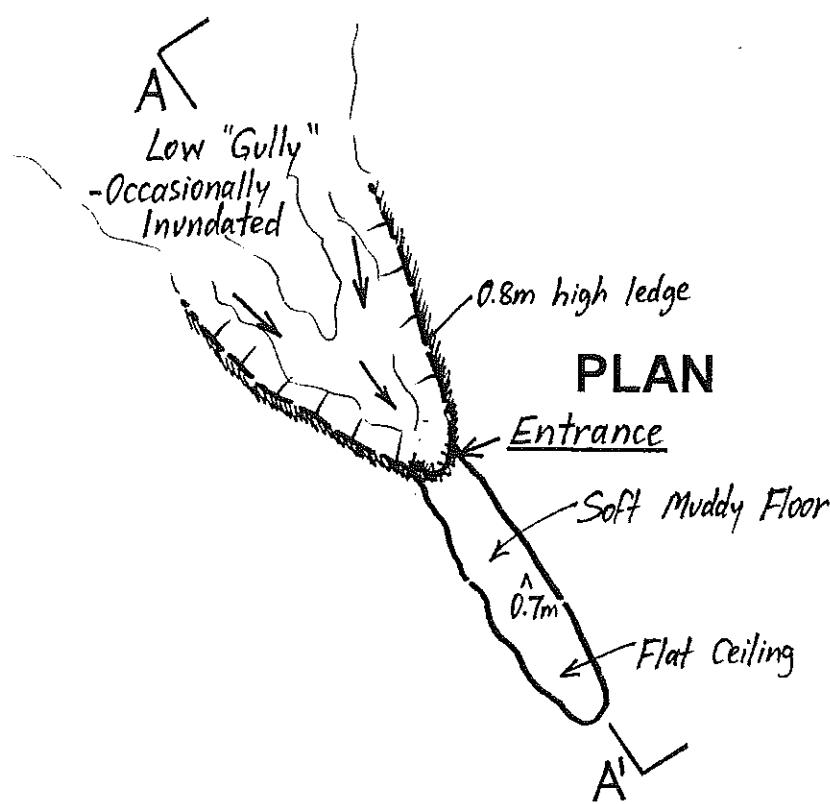
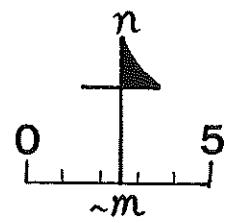
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L227

## (Unnamed Feature).

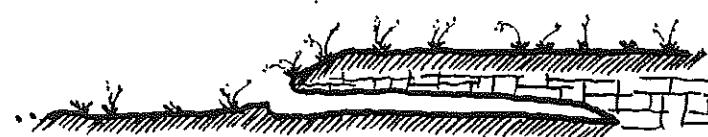
This karst feature is an unusually-shaped joint-controlled cave about a metre and a half wide, 0.7m high and about 8 metres long, running south-east from a small muddy trough in swampland.

It had a flat dirt floor when it was visited by the author and fellow cavers (including Kevin Mott) in December 1983, but it reportedly can be very muddy (perhaps even submerged?) in wetter periods.

5L227



A - A'



[Map ASF Grade 2,  
P.Horne, 1983]

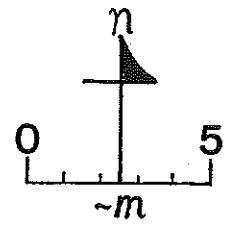
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L228

### (Unnamed Feature).

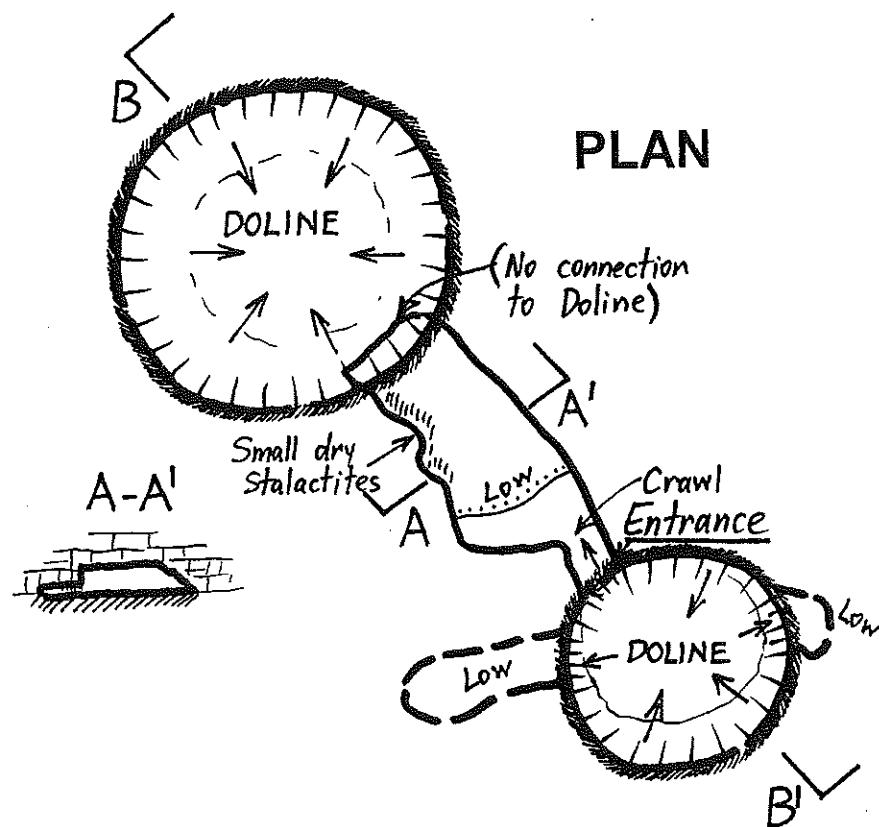
Located close to 5L227, this feature is a simple dual-doline collapse with a low passage which almost joins the features together.

A low crawl entrance about 0.6 metres high and 3 metres wide leads north-west from the smaller of the two dolines – roughly 6m across – for about 9 metres or so to the edge of the second doline, which is about 9 metres in diameter.

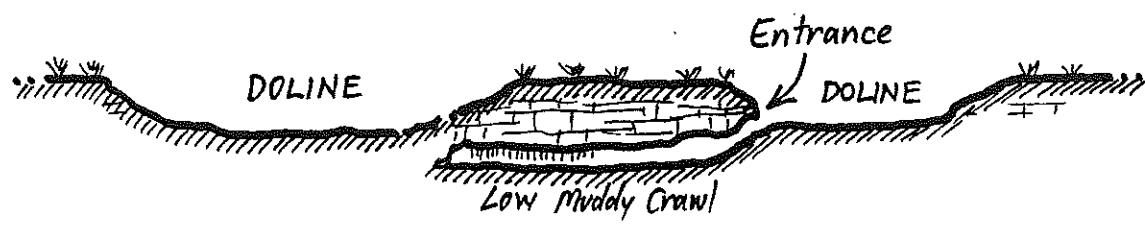
There are a few small, dried-out "dead" straw-like stalactites on the ceiling to the left (western) side of the passage near the larger doline, and several very low, crawly leads are also to be found around the edge of the smaller doline (although they are not thought to lead to anything worth noting).



## PLAN



B-B'



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L229

### NASTY NICHE.

This ugly and perilous little grovel was named by the author after he and fellow cave explorer Andrew Cox paid it a visit upon the request of Mount Gambier City Council members in December 1983. (The name was inspired after a fairly large stone, falling down the steep slope near the bottom of the cave, was "intercepted" by Andrew's face, right above his nose and underneath the peak of his safety-helmet!)

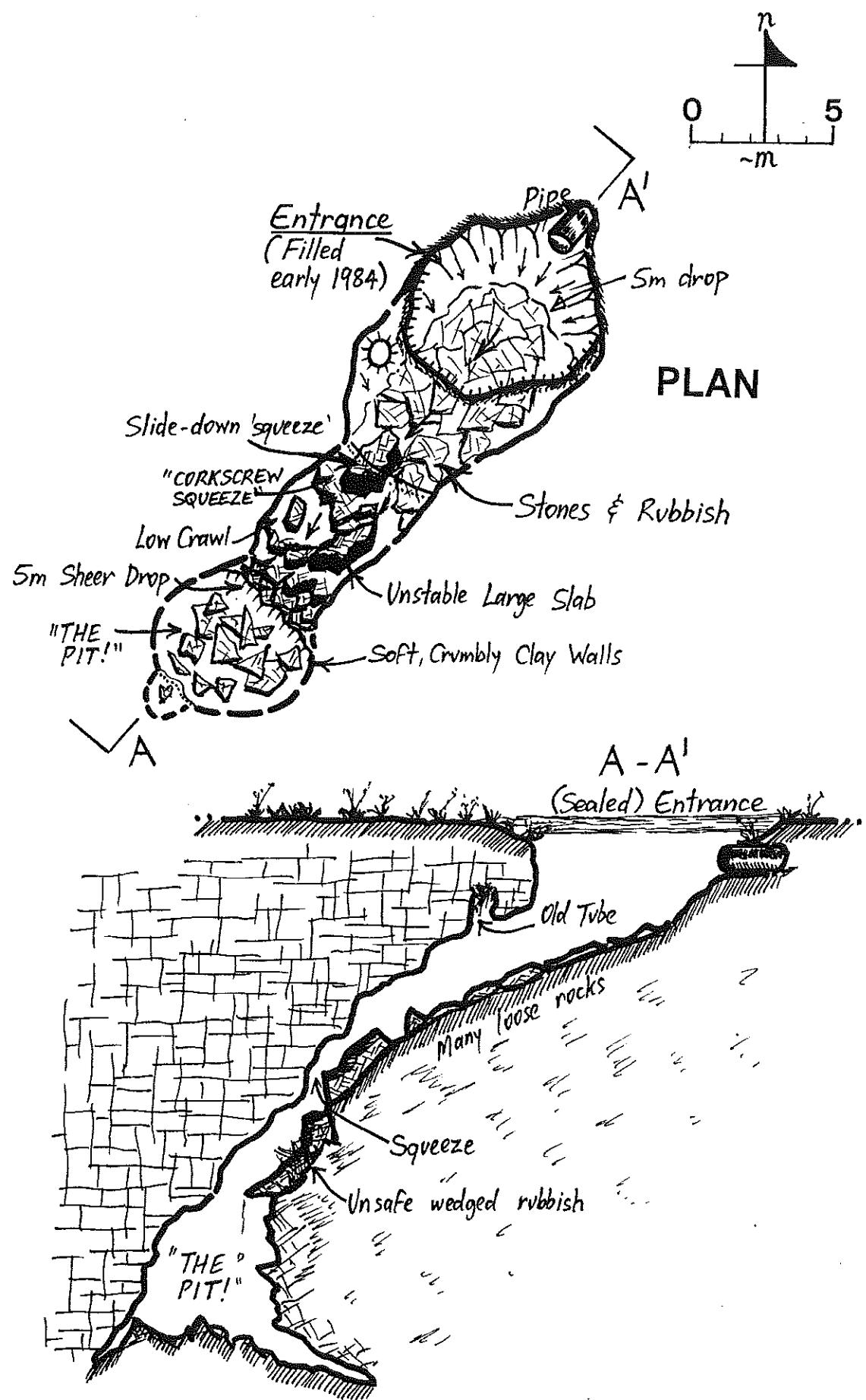
Before it was partially refilled and then covered with a concrete slab (to prepare the area for a new housing development) in June 1984, the entrance consisted of a 5 metre diameter hole which dropped down a very unstable slope which had lots of domestic rubbish, metallic debris and large limestone slabs teetering at amazing angles towards a 5m deep (and very sheer) pothole which was about 4 metres across at the top. This cavity (which we aptly named simply "THE PIT") was made up of unusual clayish material, not nice hard limestone like so many of the other caves in this area ... fingers and feet kept slipping from the crumbly wall ledges, so climbing was not a safe practice here at all.

A low, horribly-sharp and rocky crawly passage headed back under the main entrance area for perhaps 5 metres or so, but it didn't appear to have much potential and was not pushed during our single brief visit.

This was one cave which the author was actually PLEASED to see being "lost" to humanity!

# NASTY NICHE

5L229



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L230

### TANK CAVE (Windmill Cave; Cave-Under-The-Windmill).

Rumoured since the late 1960s as a "cave diving site" of some type (although nobody seemed to be able to describe it in any detail), this amazingly extensive feature is today considered by many to be the "cream of the crop" as far as South Australian (even Australian?) cave diving sites goes.

The first real recognition of the cave's potential significance occurred on 9th August 1983, when the author and his cave diving companion, Mark Nielsen, negotiated the low, muddy cave to discover a fantastically clear and wide horizontal passage which headed north-west for 70 metres to the base of a rockpile, where other extensions were also obvious. After encountering "some difficulty" negotiating a rather nasty restriction near the exit, the author decided to stick to researching OTHER sites for a while, and Mark and another diver, John Hansen, went back on 20th May 1984 to subsequently explore (and roughly map) another 200-odd metres of 'virgin' passage, before believing that they had basically exhausted the main possibilities of new extensions being found.

The site had already shown that it was a singularly important one, so the author named it Tank Cave (after a large windmill tank which used to cover the boarded entrance until its destruction during the later gating in 1989) and allocated the CEGSA number 5L230 in conjunction with CEGSA caver, Kevin Mott. After stressing the potential importance of the site to fellow cave divers Phil Prust, Chris Brown and Paul Arbon, they decided to have a look and after a false start through low-visibility water, Phil and Chris were finally able to see the maze for themselves.

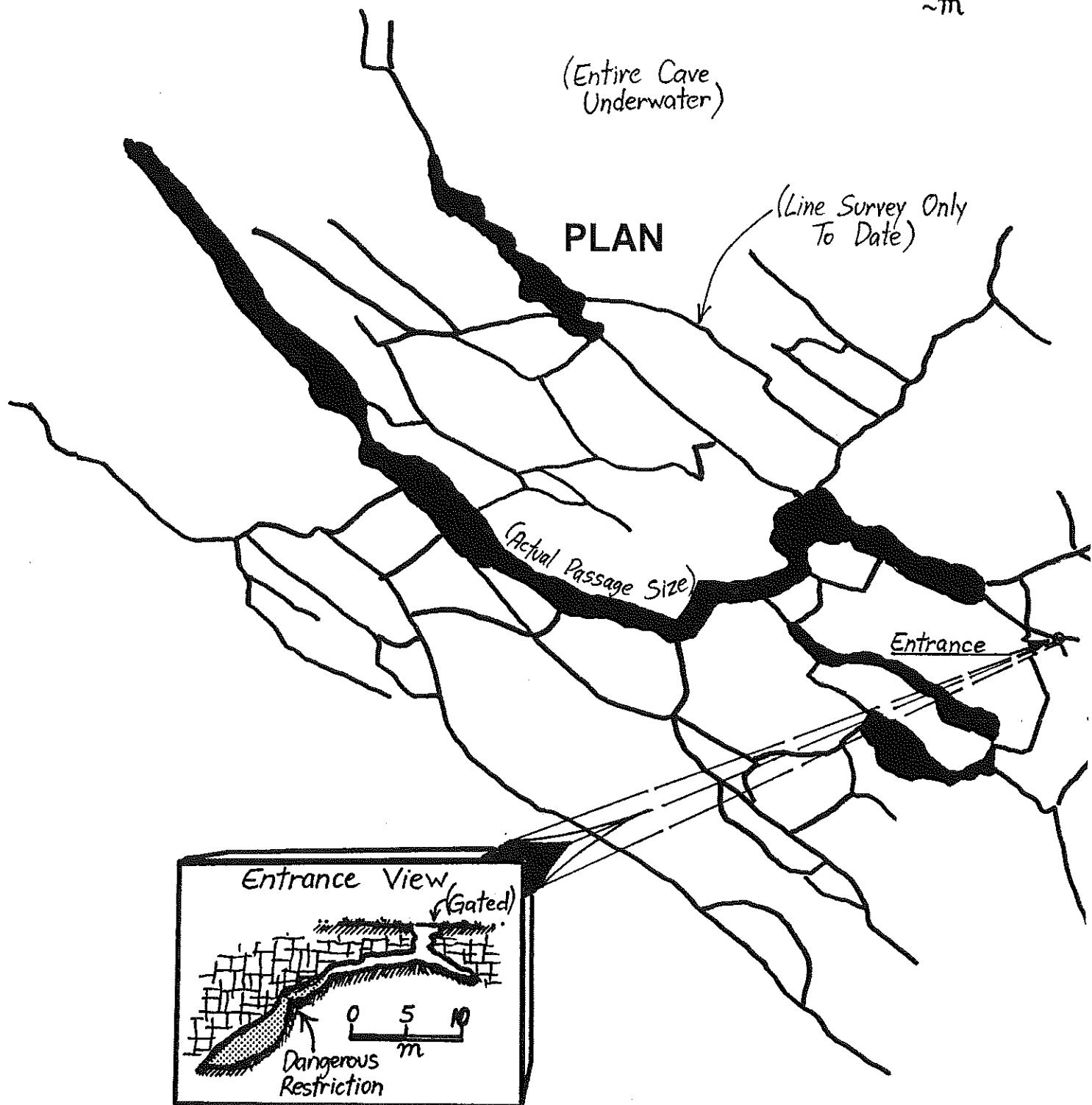
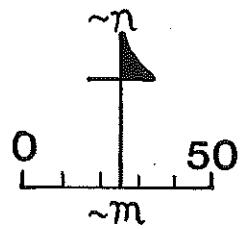
With their modern underwater lighting and back-up air-supply systems, Phil and Chris had a very good look around, discovering numerous leads, and with the support of a team of other experienced cave divers, they quickly broke into many hundreds – and finally, THOUSANDS – of metres of spectacular virgin passage. This made Tank Cave one of the largest water-filled caves in Australia, and perhaps even the longest cave in South Australia!

The known network at this writing consisted basically of a series of about half a dozen major horizontal passages which ran north-west to south-east, more or less parallel with each other in a rectangular-shaped area of confinement, and many cross-connecting passages and chambers ... ALL of which is completely submerged! The entrance lies at the eastern corner of this pattern – it has now been significantly dug out and gated – so all cave dives are necessarily complex and lengthy, requiring a lot of careful planning, special gear-handling knowledge and penetration skills. The known passages total more than FIVE KILOMETRES at this time, ranging from very small and silty crawlways to 15 metres or so in size. Depths can reach around 14m in places.

Because of a change in ownership, access to this spectacular site is currently restricted; there is obviously a lot of potential still waiting to be checked out in this remarkable cave!

# TANK CAVE

5L230



[Map ASF Grades 1-3, C.Brown, P.Prust,  
P.Arbon, P.Horne, M.Nielsen & others  
(CDAA Res. Group), 1984-93]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L231

## (Unnamed Feature).

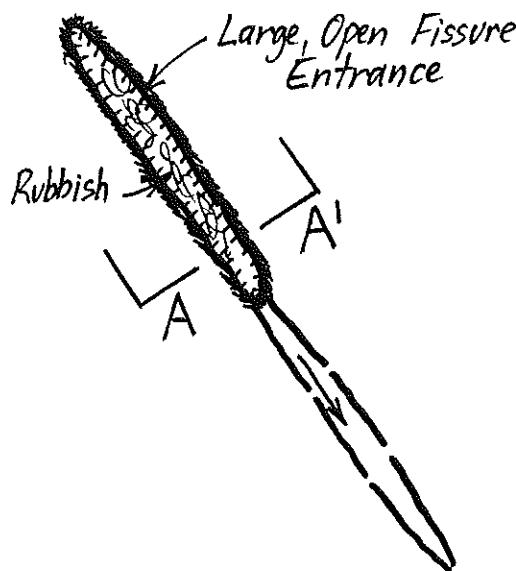
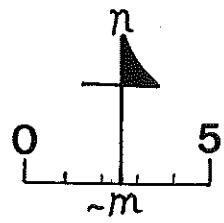
This simple joint-controlled fissure system has two entrances which probably connect to a single passage underground (although this has not yet been confirmed).

The north-western entrance is the largest, being about 9 metres long by one metre wide, and it drops some 8 metres through a lot of wire rubbish into a narrow fissure which heads south-east for 10m or so, towards the other entrance which is about 30 metres away.

The second entrance is basically a one metre diameter tube-like hole which drops 8 metres into a passage which runs about 6m further south-east, and more than 10 metres to the other entrance to the north-west, where 7-8m deep, clear fresh water could be seen at the bottom of the narrow fissure.

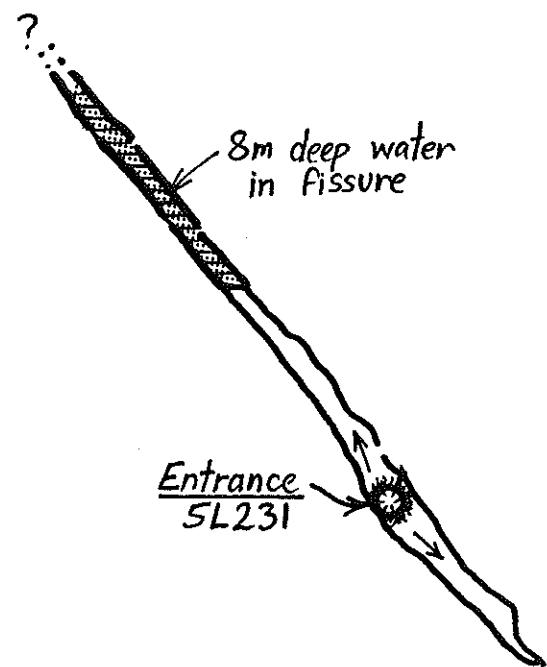
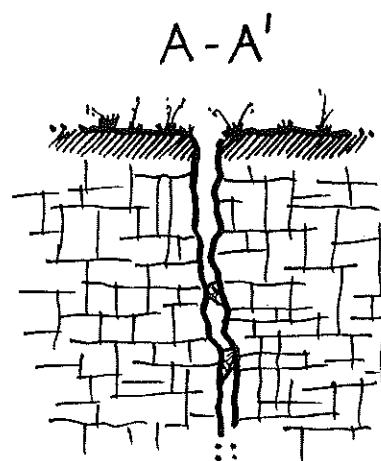
This information (and map) was collected very hurriedly by the author (during a 3-minute flying visit through the paddock concerned) sometime around 1983-4, so details need some clarification for accuracy!

5L231



## PLAN

? Connects?



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, P.Horne, 1985?]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L232

### (Unnamed Feature).

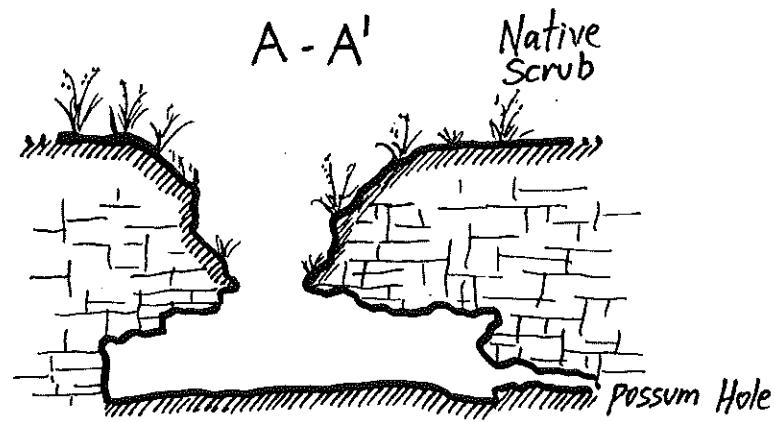
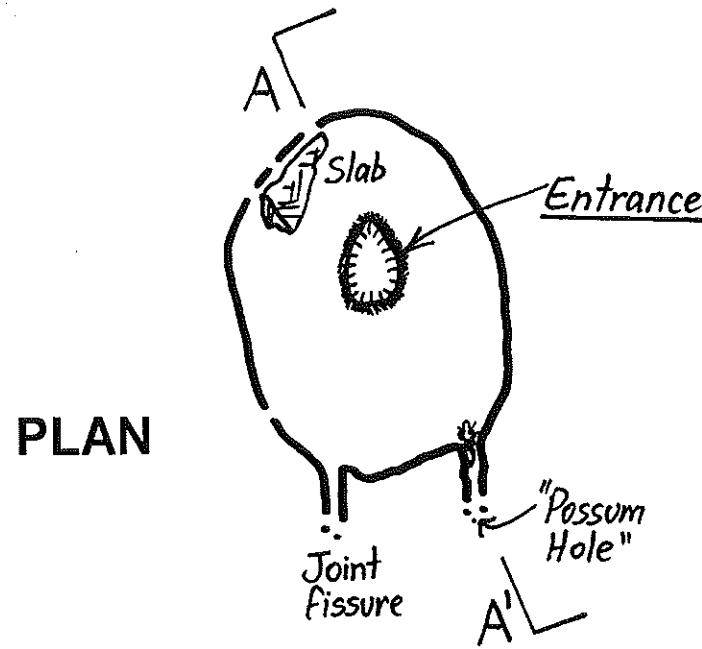
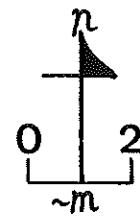
This small and rather unusual cave lies well away from any main roads, in a dry, rugged bushland area which the author thought would be one of the last places anyone would choose for new housing developments ... until early 1992, that is, when he returned to photograph the site and found several allotment numbers and housing foundations being constructed just 100 metres or so from the entrance!

The hole is not obvious or easy to find unless one knows exactly where to look; it is a simple collapse entrance about 1.3 x 1 metre in size and drops 4.5 metres to the floor of a chamber which is roughly 7 metres across and 2 metres high.

The author's January 1983 visit also revealed the presence of a small joint fissure and an occupied possum-hole in the southern wall!



5L232



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L233

## (Unnamed Feature).

First dug out and explored by the author and fellow caver, Kevin Mott, in October 1984, "233" is an interesting fissure cave which is only accessible via a low 0.4 x 0.3m belly-squeeze-twist-crawl hole which lies at the southern end of a small rubble-filled doline collapse.

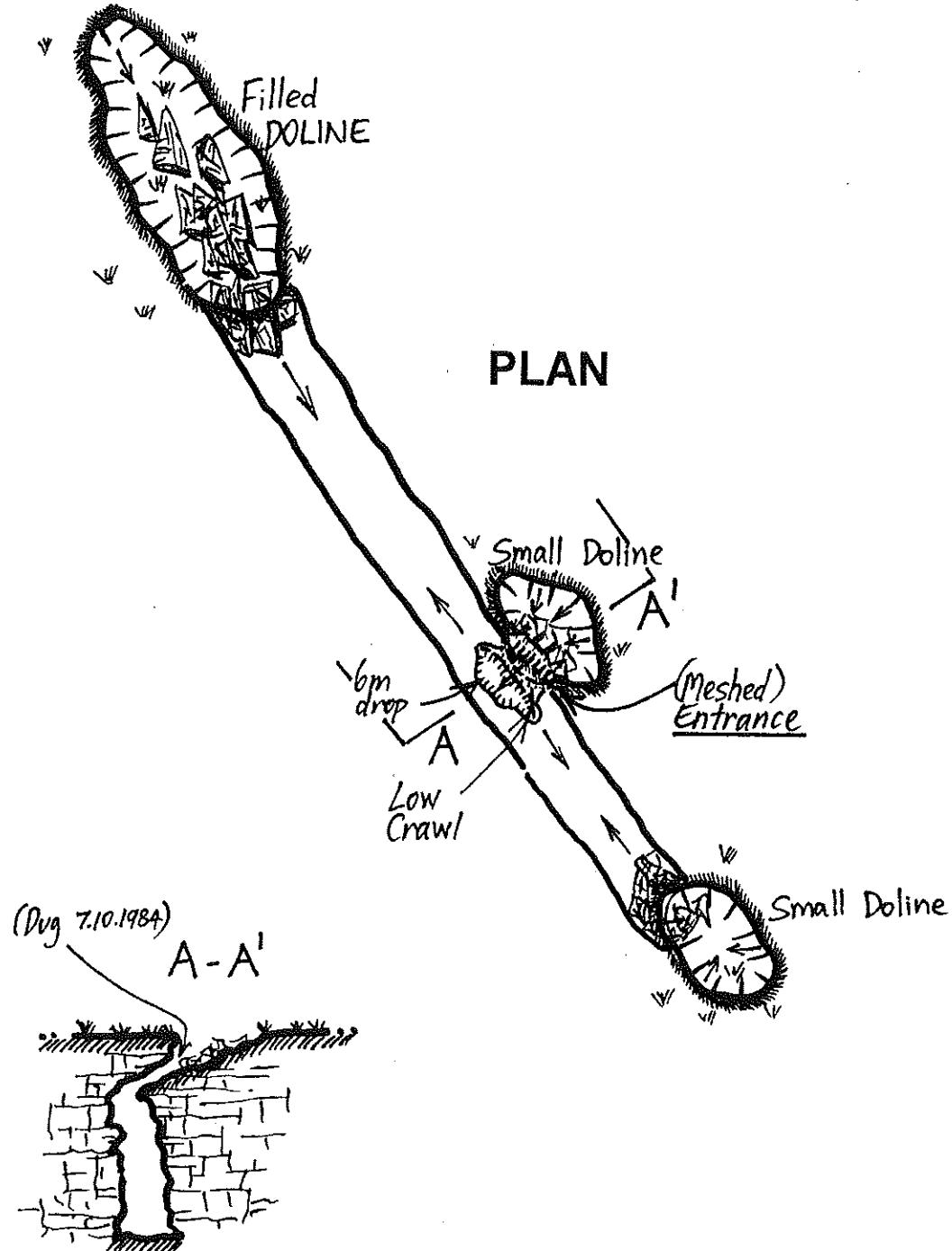
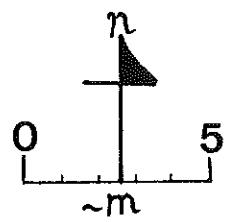
This (obviously!) "sporty" and very low crawlway leads into the cave for just one metre before reaching the edge of a sheer narrow crevice, where the floor drops away for about 5 metres. This is the main joint passage, and it has a total length of about 20 metres and is oriented north-west to south-east.

The entry hole is roughly in the middle of the cave, and both ends of the passage end in im-passable rock chokes which lie directly underneath some adjacent filled dolines (which often tempt cavers to try their digging time in the wrong areas)!

Free-climbing up the sharp (and very wet and slippery) walls without a safety rope or other support of some kind is NOT highly recommended!



5L233



[Map ASF Grade 2,  
P.Horne, 1984]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L234

### SNAKE PIT.

This highly original name was chosen by the author after he encountered said brown-skinned reptile just one metre below his face while exploring a narrow crawlway near the entrance of this cave in February 1984, prompting fellow cave explorer Andrew Cox to volunteer to immediately exit the cave "to seek a weapon of some kind" (which never arrived, strangely enough)!

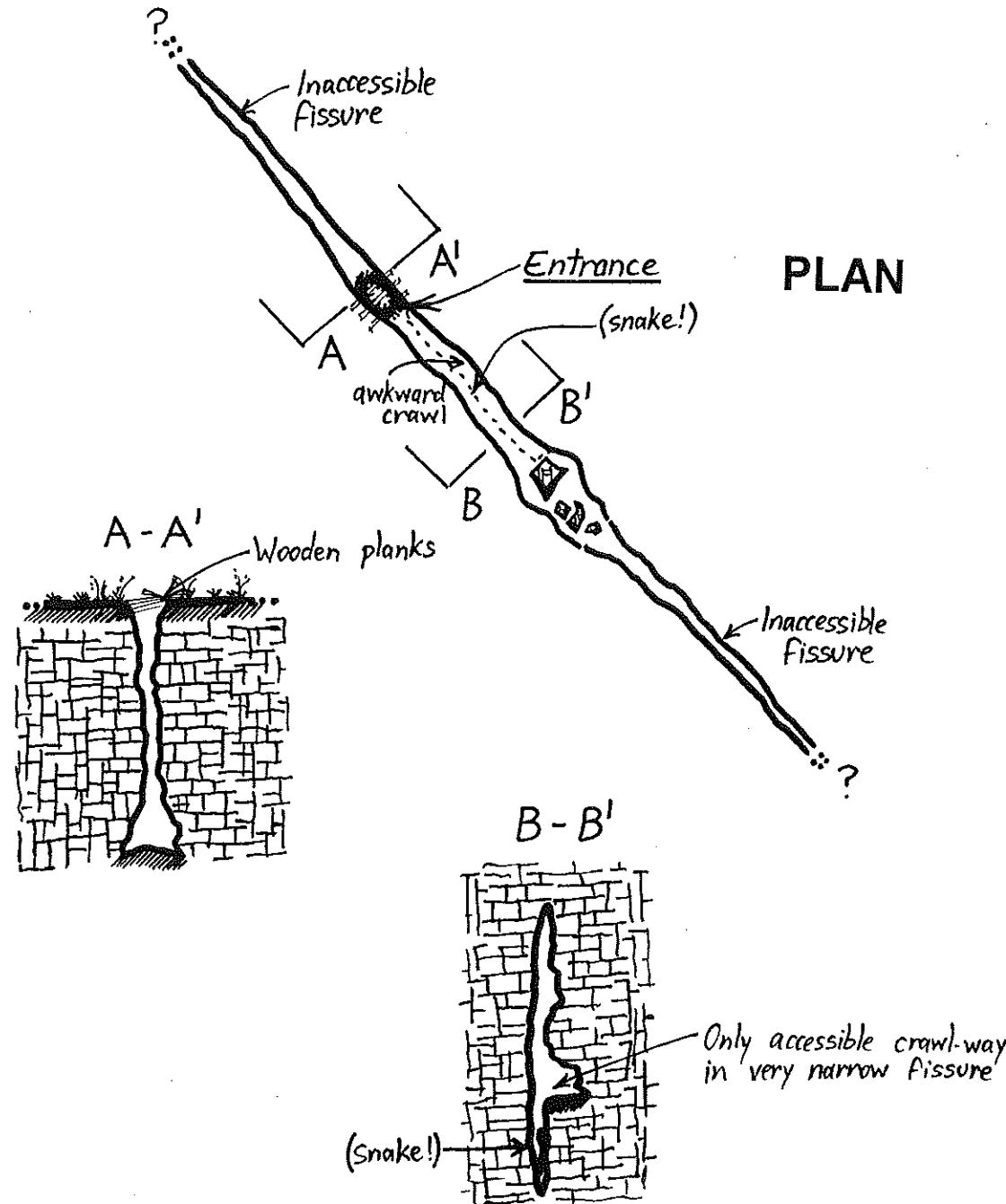
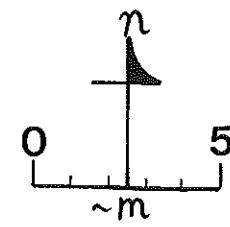
Access is a typically-small rock-hole in a karst field; the half-metre diameter roof hole was evidently artificially enlarged to make access just barely possible for someone else in the past, and it was covered with wooden planks in 1984.

After descending for some 7 metres to the floor of the fissure, one can see vertical cavities running off horizontally both to the north-west and south-east. The north-western extension is nasty and short, and ideal for brown snakes, while the south-eastern passage consists of a difficult horizontal crawl along an otherwise inaccessible fissure for some 10 metres before entering a one metre wide "chamber". Here, the cave shrinks to around 0.3 metres in width as it continues out of sight...

The overall length of visible passage is around 30 metres, but it does not appear to have any real chance of continuing (for human-sized explorers, at least!).

# SNAKE PIT CAVE

5L234



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L235

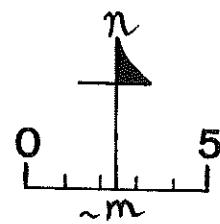
### (Unnamed Feature).

This small cave is a single north-west to south-east-oriented passage about 15 metres in length and several metres high.

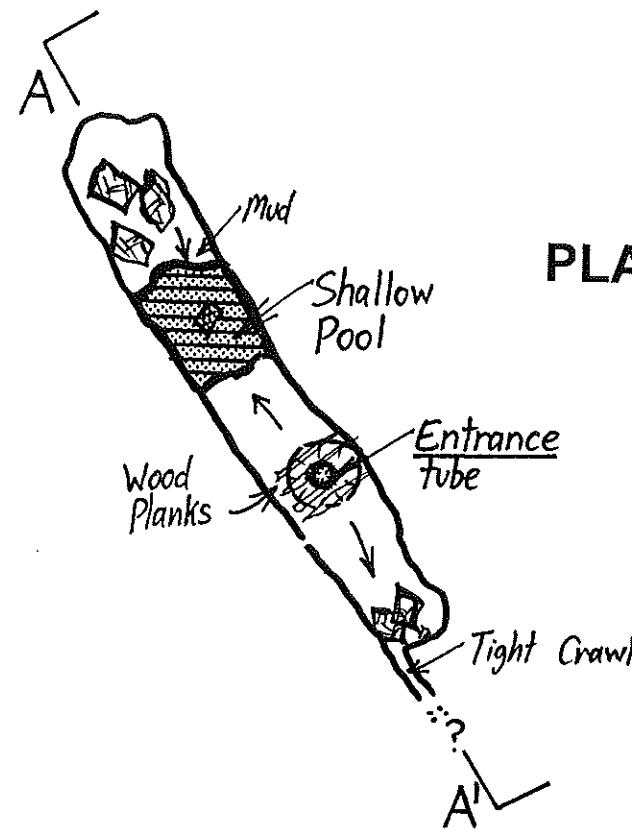
The plank-covered entrance is a 1.5 metre diameter solution tube which drops some 5 metres to the top of a talus mound. From this position, the floor drops away in both directions, terminating in a rockpile about 5 metres from the entrance at the south-eastern end and reaching the north-western wall some 10 metres from the entrance, on the far side of a shallow pool.

There would appear to be some possibility of extending the cave if a very narrow fissure at the south-eastern end was dug and pushed, but this is not clearly recorded at this time.

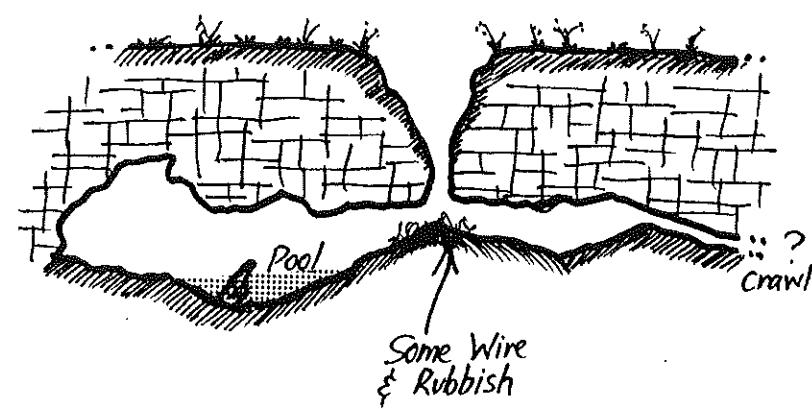
5L235



## PLAN



A - A'



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory sketch, P.Horne, 1982]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L236

## OLD WOMBAT HOLE.

Named after some features near Glencoe which appear on forestry fire-control maps, the Old Wombat Hole is a large and quite impressive depression which appears to be a karst feature that is different to the other collapse dolines in the region.

The wide, deep trough has a sheer limestone ledge near the bottom, at the end of a short valley where rain-water runs down among a series of large rocks at the deepest point. Although a small cave passage leads on for a short distance from this point, the main cave of interest actually lies several metres higher up and to the left, in the wall of the giant depression itself.

This entrance takes the form of a small and unusual horizontal "window", and with care, a fairly slim caver can negotiate access without too much damage to either knees, head or fragile cave decoration which covers the ceiling near this area. Immediately upon entering the dark zone, a visitor is confronted with a massive flowstone floor and another "window"; this time, a sheer ledge drops about a metre or more into the top of another cavity.

Many fine straws and stalactites block access here, so cavers should remove their helmets and keep a sharp lookout at all times.

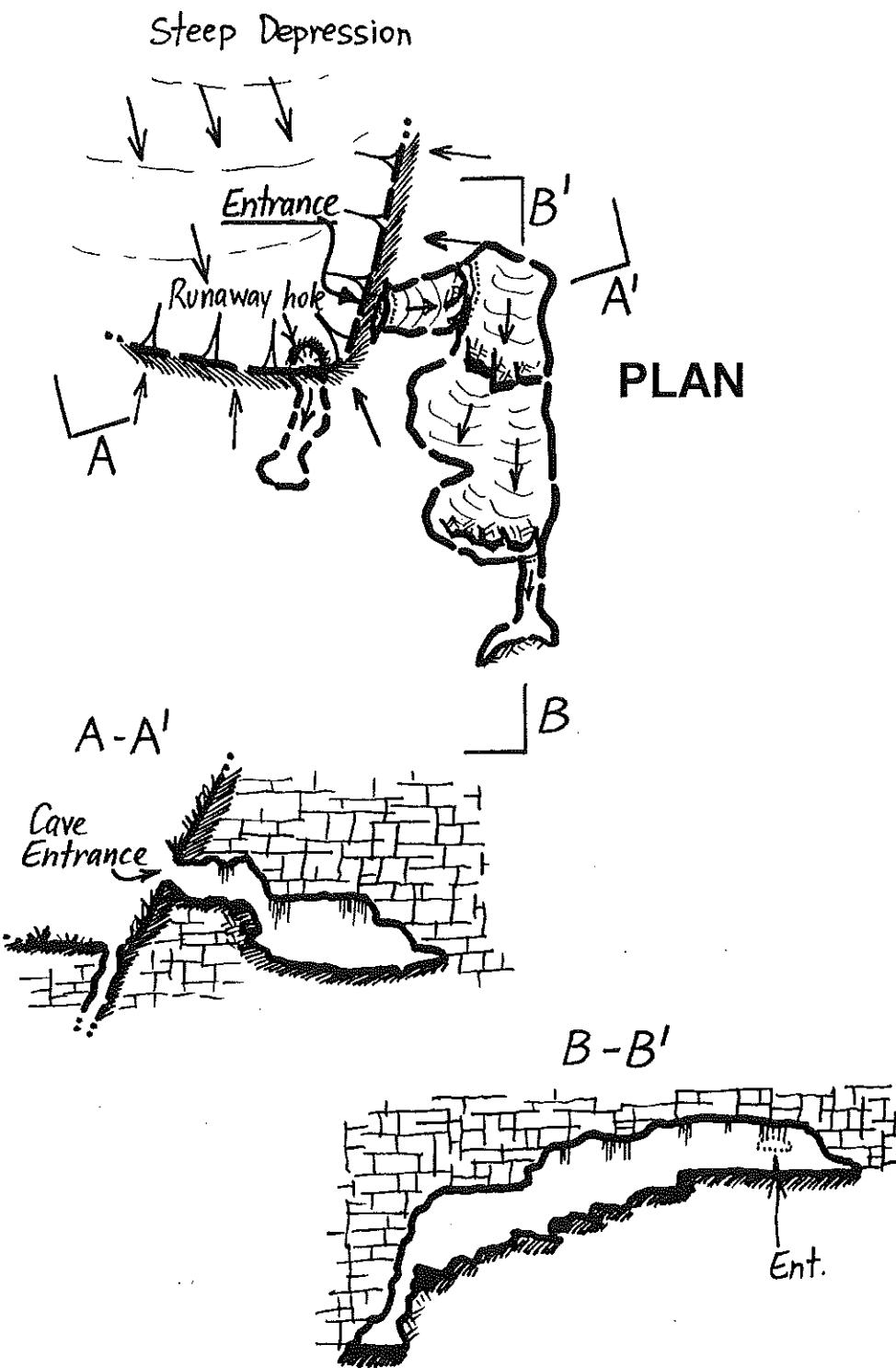
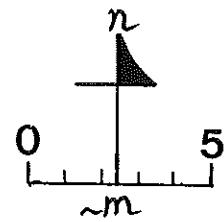


From this position, one can see almost the entire cave passage; some 10-15 metres of it, stepping down like a cascading waterfall, and displaying many beautiful cavey things like mist-like water-drops on moon-milk, flowstone floors and calcified animal remains.

It is too small to handle tourists, but is indeed worth a visit from conservation-minded speleonauts!

# OLD WOMBAT HOLE CAVE

5L236



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory sketch, P.Horne, early 1980s]

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L237**

### **WILKIES CAVE.**

This is another poorly-documented feature; CEGSA records available to date stated that the cave is a simple 4 metre diameter chamber about one metre high, with some low passages continuing for about 10 metres in a north-westerly direction and about 5 metres to the south-east and south.

The floor of the cave consisted of black mud, and pools of water have been reported.

No map is available at this time.

WILKIES CAVE

5L237

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L238

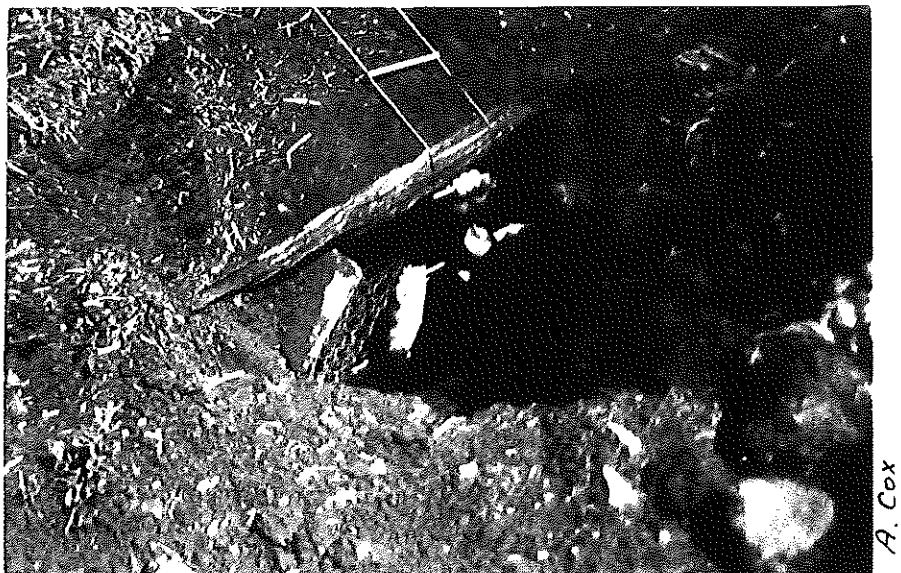
## GLENDENE PARK CAVE.

A seemingly insignificant one by 0.5 metre diameter roof window in a shallow rock-filled doline, the entrance to cave 5L238 was bulldozed closed sometime around the early 1960s and was reopened by the author and fellow caver, Andrew Cox, after several hours of digging on 1st Feb. 1984 ... resulting in the "discovery of one of the most impressive fissure-cave systems in the Lower South East in recent times" (according to prominent caver Kevin Mott, anyway!).

After descending via a 3 metre length of ladder to the floor of the entrance chamber, visitors can see several large passages running off both to the north-west and south-east. The cave is a fairly complex maze system comprising several major parallel passages and exhibiting phreatic joint-controlled development, with the main area of cave stretching out to the south-east.

The north-western passages intersect and lead to a fissure with water in its bottom (where a tiny amount of decoration is also found on the ceiling), but the cave ends here with silt fills.

The south-eastern passages take the form of several very narrow (and one much larger) joint passages with extensive and very beautiful, white moonmilk walls and several crawlly fissures which head back towards the entrance from the end of the main passage. Motor vehicles can also occasionally be heard in one section of the main passage as they pass a few metres overhead!

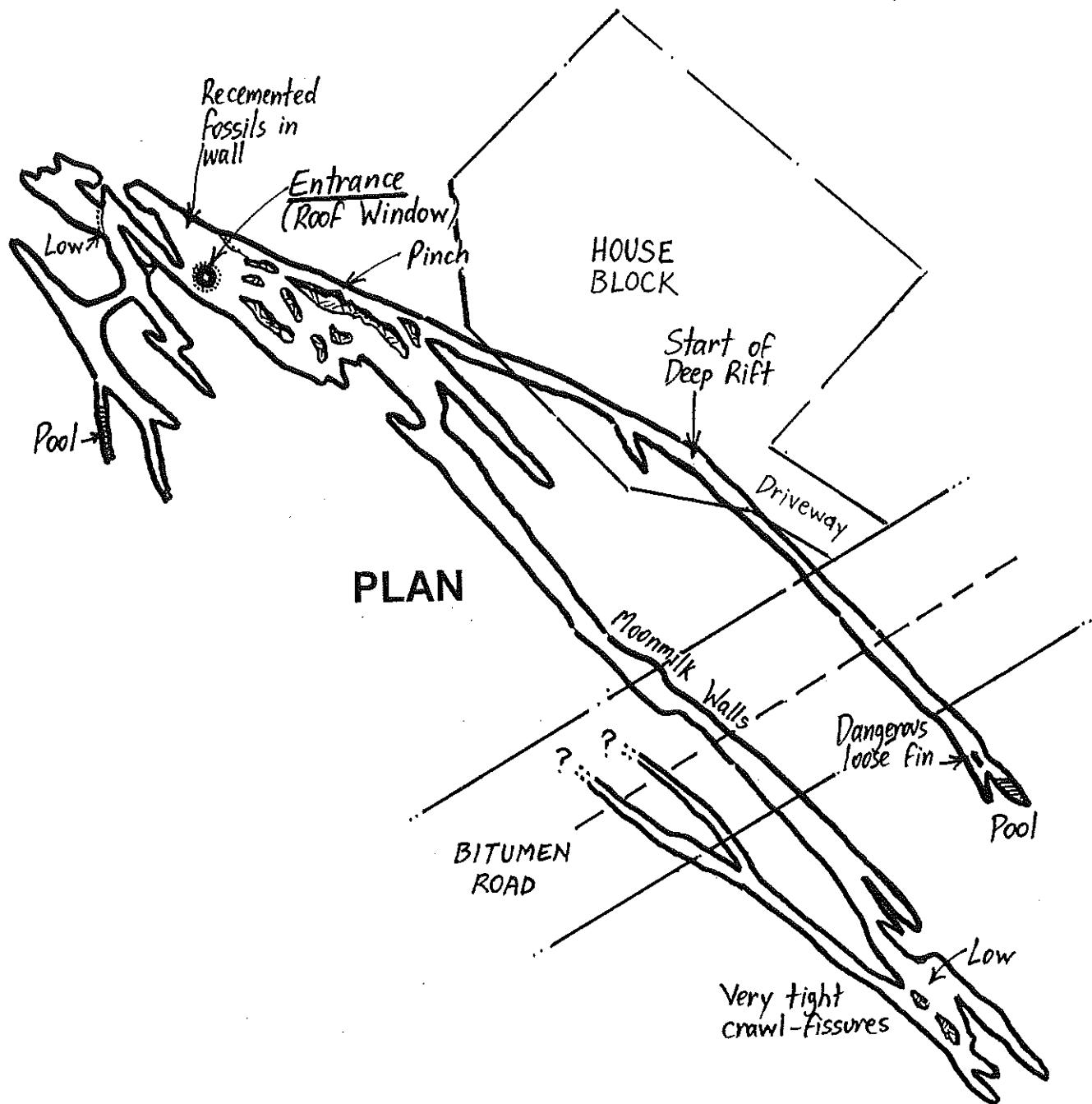
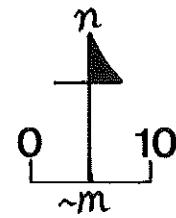


5L238 is actually just one (but significant) part of a much larger joint system which includes 5L67 and 5L243 (and other associated features) which lie directly to the north-west and south-east of this cave respectively. While it is highly probable that these caves were once directly connected as a single unit in the distant past, there are no known connections today, so they are considered to be individual caves in their own right.

Apart from its significant size (more than 240 metres of passage to date), the cave is also an important palaeontological site and needs to be protected from excessive visitation and subsequent degradation.

# GLENDENE PARK CAVE

5L238



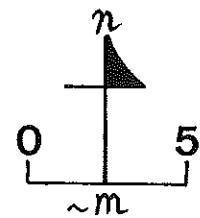
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L239

## (Unnamed Feature).

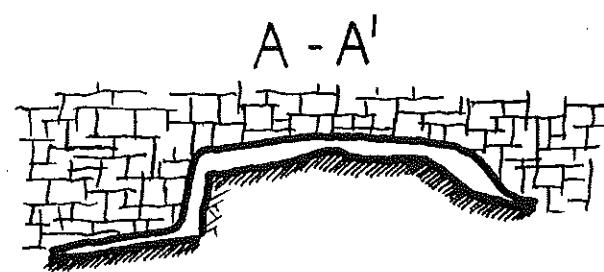
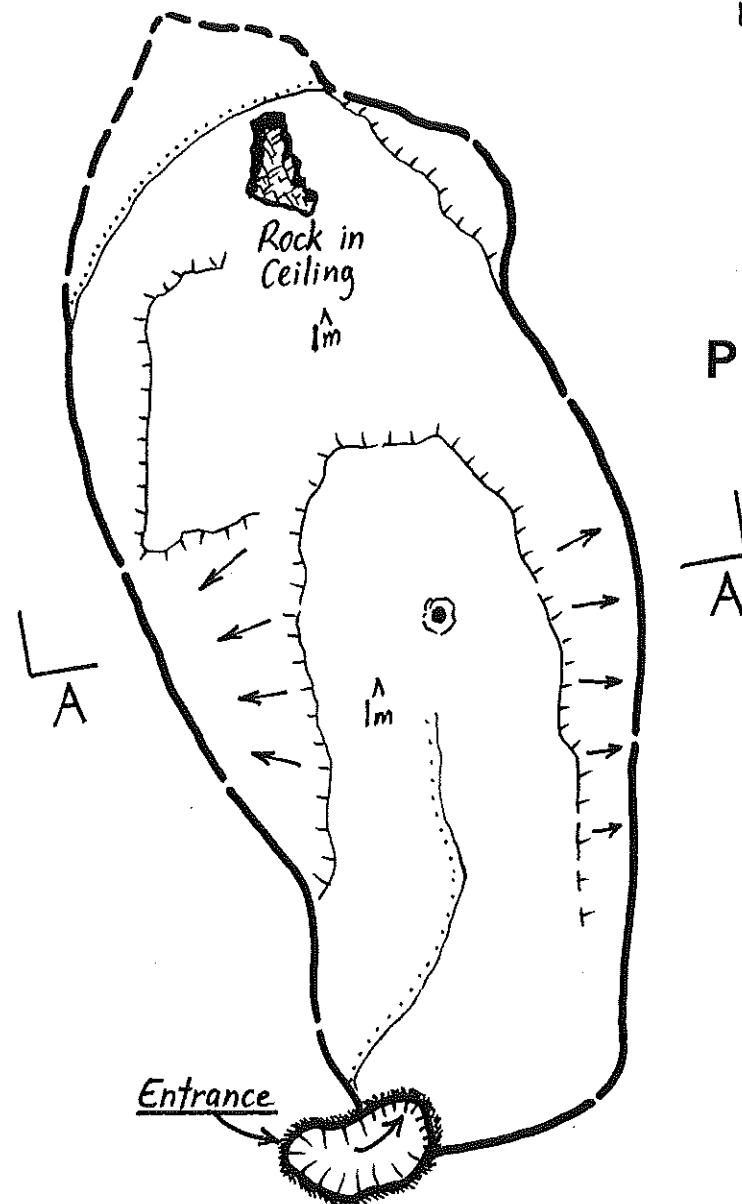
This cave consists of a low but fairly extensive collapse chamber some 36 x 16 metres in size and one metre high. Several low flattener passages extend from each side of the main collapse, and the cave reportedly has a little bit of decoration.

The entrance appears to be in a 4 metre diameter doline or similar feature.

5L239



PLAN



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L240**

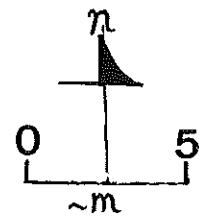
### **KARAKE CAVE.**

Believed to be a significant prehistoric petroglyph site, Karake Cave (from the now-extinct local Buandik Aboriginal tribe's words meaning "marks, ornamental carving") is reportedly a chamber with dimensions of about 17 x 10 metres across and 4 metres high leading to a passage under the western edge. The entrance is a collapse about 14 metres across, dropping into an overhang cave about 11 x 8 metres across and 2 metres high under the northern edge.

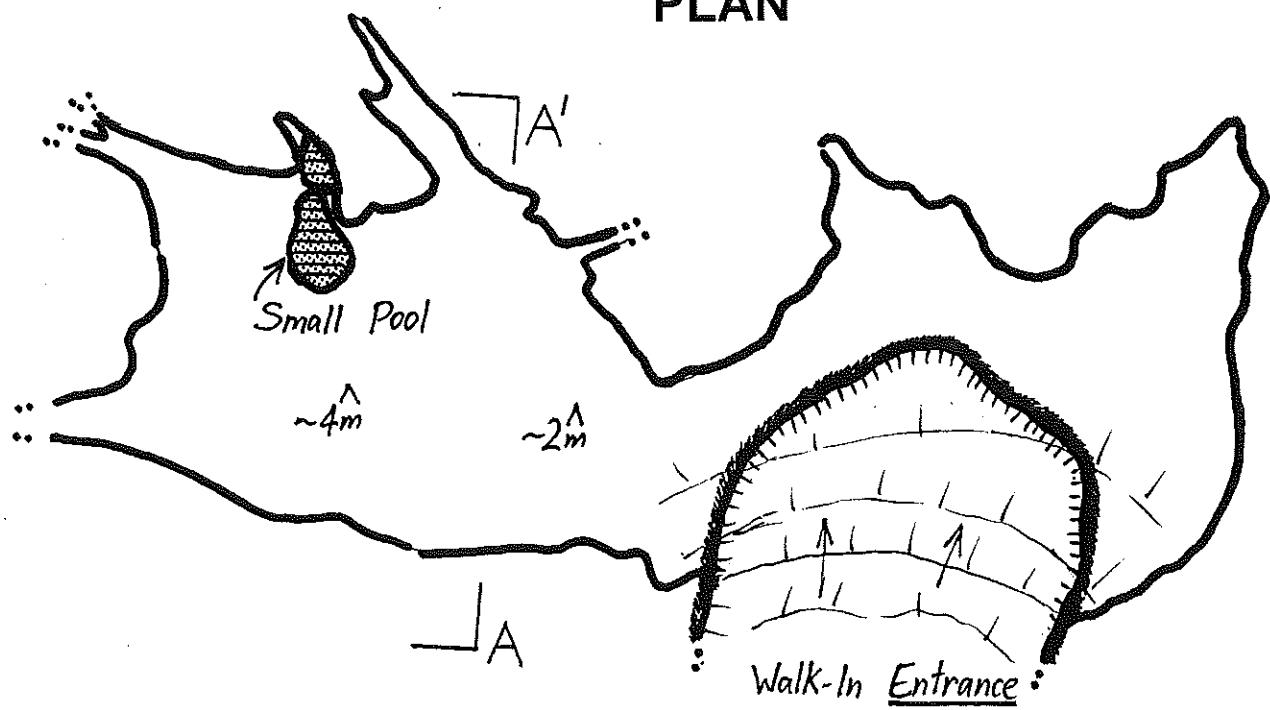
Extensive decoration has been reported, but access is restricted because of its archaeological significance.

# KARAKE CAVE

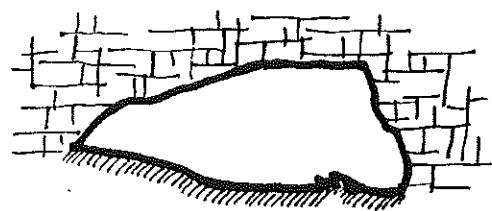
5L240



## PLAN



## A - A'



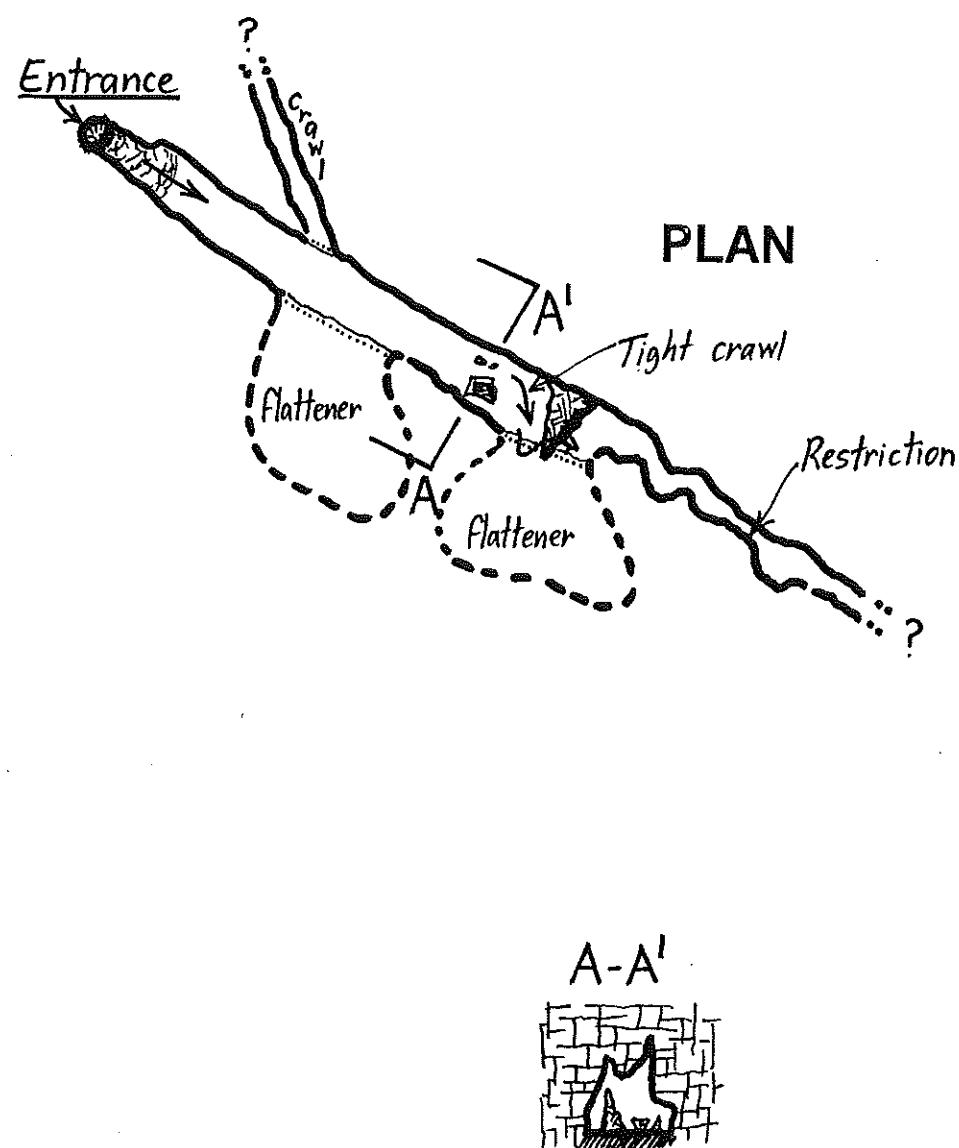
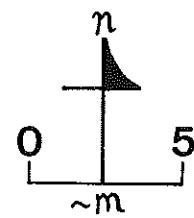
## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L241**

### **(Unnamed Feature).**

This relatively small cave is entered via a crawlway which leads down to the south-east from a one metre diameter collapse. The cave is a joint-controlled passage approximately 25 metres long, 1.5m wide and up to 2 metres high with low flatteners off the southern walls.

A narrow squeeze at the end may continue with some digging.

5L241



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L242

### (Unnamed Feature).

Located close to 5L241, this interesting karst feature is a 100-metre long cave system with a host of different surface and subterranean morphological aspects.

Seen from the air, the system appears as a series of depressions (plus a small roof fissure-entrance) lying in a line which is oriented roughly north-west to south-east ... the northern-most doline is the largest feature (and the part of the system which was allotted the number 5L242) and this is about 12 metres across; the roof-window fissure is 2.3 x 0.7 metres in size; the next doline is filled with rolls of wire and is about 4 metres in diameter; and the final, south-eastern doline is about 5 metres across and 2 metres deep. However, the cave cannot simply be walked through from one doline to another!

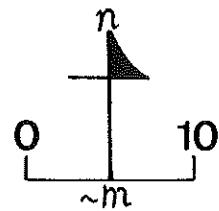
From the large 5L242 doline, two meshed entrances are visible. The north-western one leads down a slope of rubbish for a few metres into a boulder-filled room which is about 3 metres high and 2.5m wide before terminating in a couple of very tight fissures about 25 metres from the entrance, while the south-eastern hole, in the degraded slope of the doline, leads into a short, low passage about 10 metres long before choking off. (This passage is in fact overlying a deeper fissure which is entered via the next entrance).

About 25 metres south-east of the second meshed entrance of the big doline lies the small roof fissure entrance, which drops vertically, past slippery mosses and ferns, onto a small mound of debris about 8 metres below ground level. From here, one can either slowly negotiate the narrow fissure for about 20 metres back towards the big doline (carefully passing over a 3m deep pool of water in the fissure) or head the opposite way for about 20 metres or so, encountering a slope of rubble and debris which has fallen in from the 4 metre-diameter doline.

Emerging from the roof window, one can then explore the final portion of the cave by walking 22 metres further south-east to the 5 metre-diameter doline, where the low crawlly passage can be entered and 'pushed' back to the wire-filled doline.

The system is worth visiting but it is certainly not for armchair adventurers!

5L242



Lower level

Rubbish

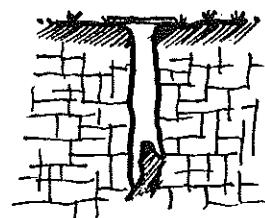
### 5L242 Entrance PLAN

DOLINE

Upper & Lower  
Levels

Water-table  
Pool

A - A'



A

A'

Fissure  
Entrance

Shallow pool

Silt & Rubbish

DOLINE filled with  
rolls of wire

B'

B - B'

Upper Level

wedged Chalkstones

Pool

Pool

H

Low Crawl

DOLINE

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L243

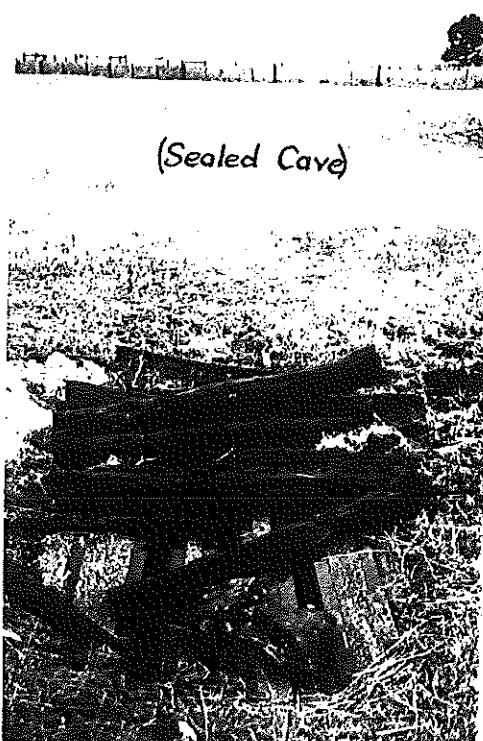
## (Unnamed Feature).

Somewhat like 5L242, this cave system is actually a series of north-west to south-east oriented entrances and cavities which are associated but which are not immediately accessible using underground connections at this time.

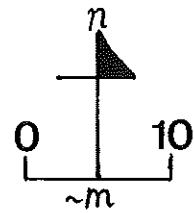
The northern-most hole is a blind depression near a bitumized road, and the first accessible entrance is a fissure-like roof window a little to the south-east which currently has a permanent stobie-pole grid cemented over it (i.e., it has no gate). This was reportedly placed in position with financial support from the S. A. Museum many years ago, to protect some significant fossil deposits which reportedly were found there.

Further to the south-east lie two other depressions about 20 metres apart, and a half-metre diameter roof window about halfway between them drops 6 metres into a 20 metre long passage which leads to both dolines.

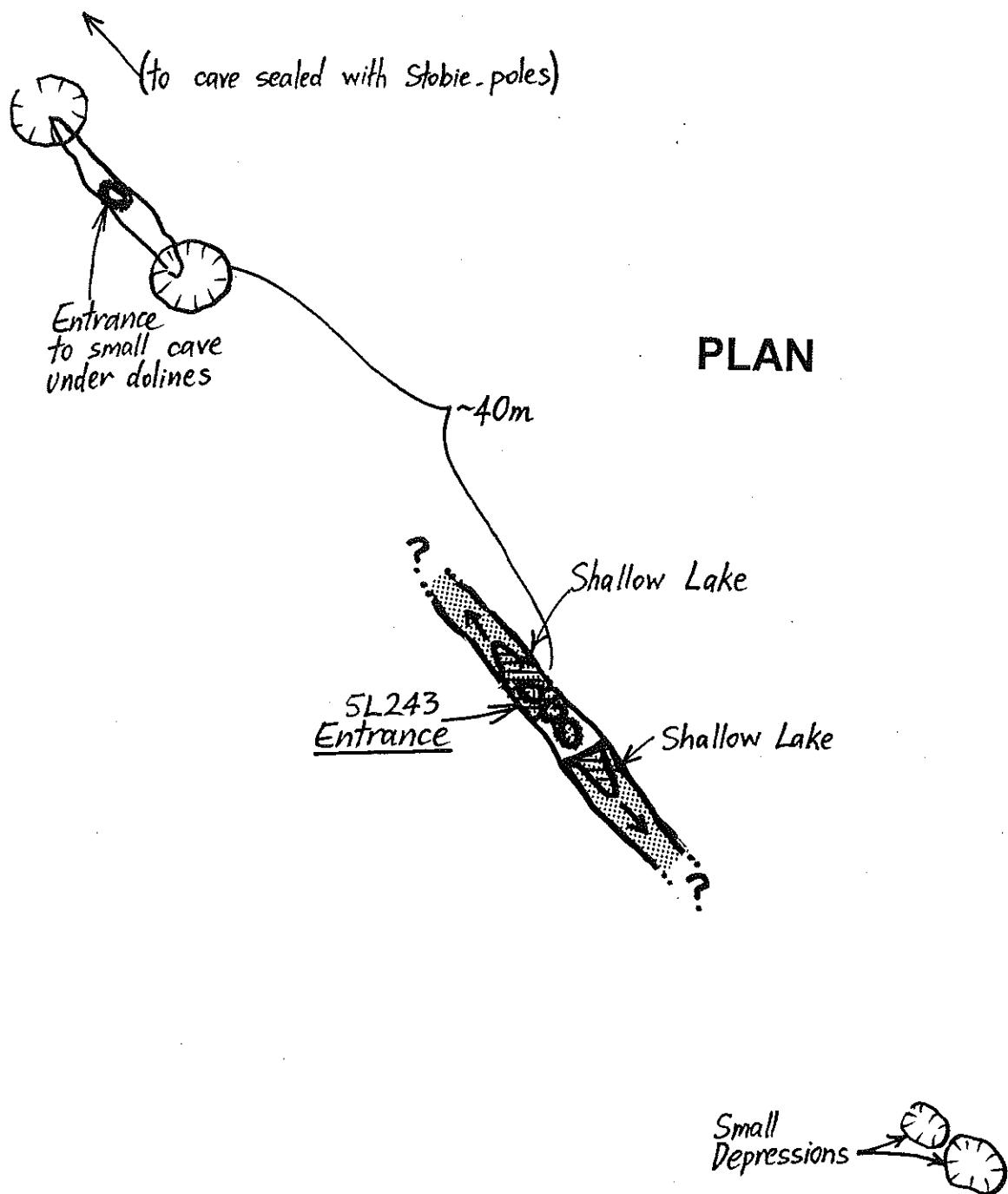
Approximately 40 metres further south-east again is the feature which was allotted the number 5L243. It is a cave about 20 metres long reaching the water-table in 2-3m deep pools, with a couple of small roof window entrances in the centre; whether the feature continues underwater for any extent, however, has not yet been determined.



5L243



## PLAN



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L244

## BEEHIVE CAVE.

Originally an impressive 9 x 6 metre doline dropping about 10 metres into a reasonable cavern (which was about 13 x 10 metres across and 3 metres or so high) on its south-eastern side during the author's visit in February 1984, Beehive Cave was named after the presence of an enormous beehive which was seen on the cliff-face on the feature's southern edge. The cavern itself contained little of value; little more than a few old drums and other rubbish. A small vertical solution tube also was situated about 5 metres south-west of the main sinkhole entrance.

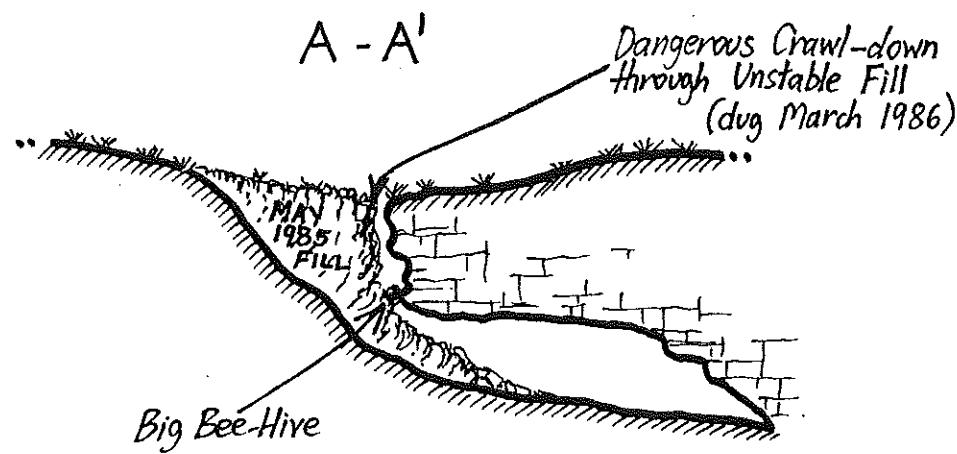
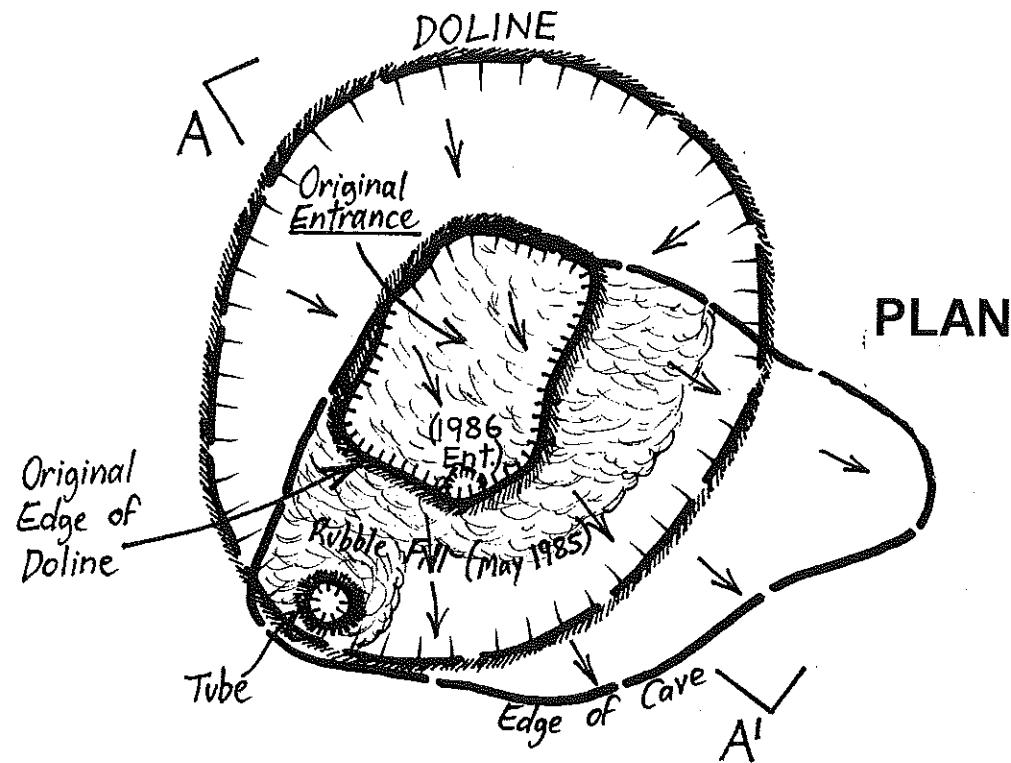
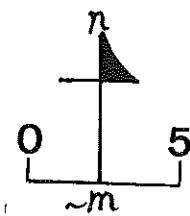
However, when the author returned in May 1985, he discovered that the sinkhole had "disappeared", after a new landowner had completely filled the feature with hundreds of tonnes of limestone paddock-rubble. Fortunately, after a bit of "gardening", a small crawlway was opened up beside a limestone ledge, and this revealed that most of the lower chamber was luckily more or less intact ... but access was extremely dangerous due to the instability of the enormous rubble mound.

A more recent check again (late 1992) found that the feature had not changed significantly in the intervening years.



# BEE-HIVE CAVE

5L244



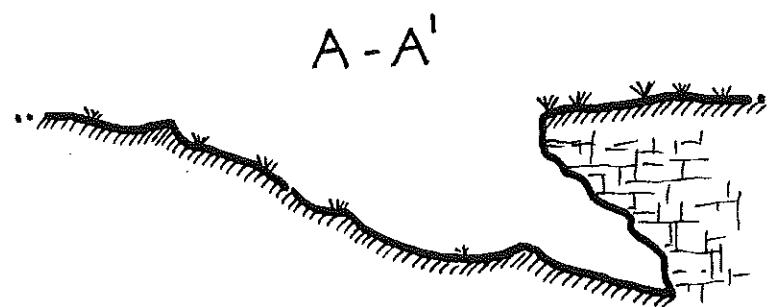
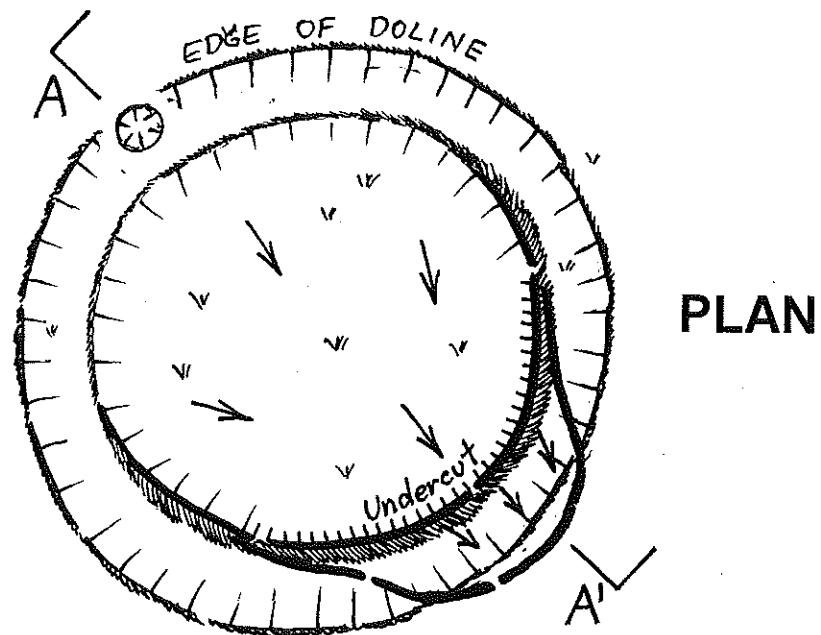
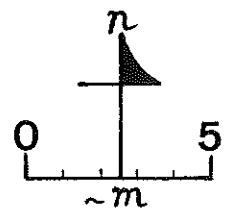
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L245

(Unnamed Feature).

This sinkhole is a simple collapse doline about 15 metres in diameter with a minor undercut ledge on the south-eastern side. Signs of prehistoric human habitation in the form of flints, charcoal and bones have been found here, so it is unsuitable for casual visitation.

It has no known associated cave passage or decoration.

5L245



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, P.Horne, 1983]

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L246**

### **NUNG-KOL CAVE SYSTEM ("Nielsens Niche").**

Like several other joint-controlled cave systems in the Lower South East, 5L246 is an interesting north-west to south-east-trending series of limestone outcrops, roof and window entrances and fissure-like passages which occasionally reach the water-table.

The cave system passes under a road, and the largest portion of the feature has not yet been mapped, although it is quite substantial in length and passage size ... much bigger in fact than almost any other fissure-cave in the region. This part of the system was named "Nung-Kol" by members of the Australian Rock Art Research Association - using local (now extinct) Buandik Aboriginal words meaning "these two" - after their discovery of significant petroglyphs in this area.

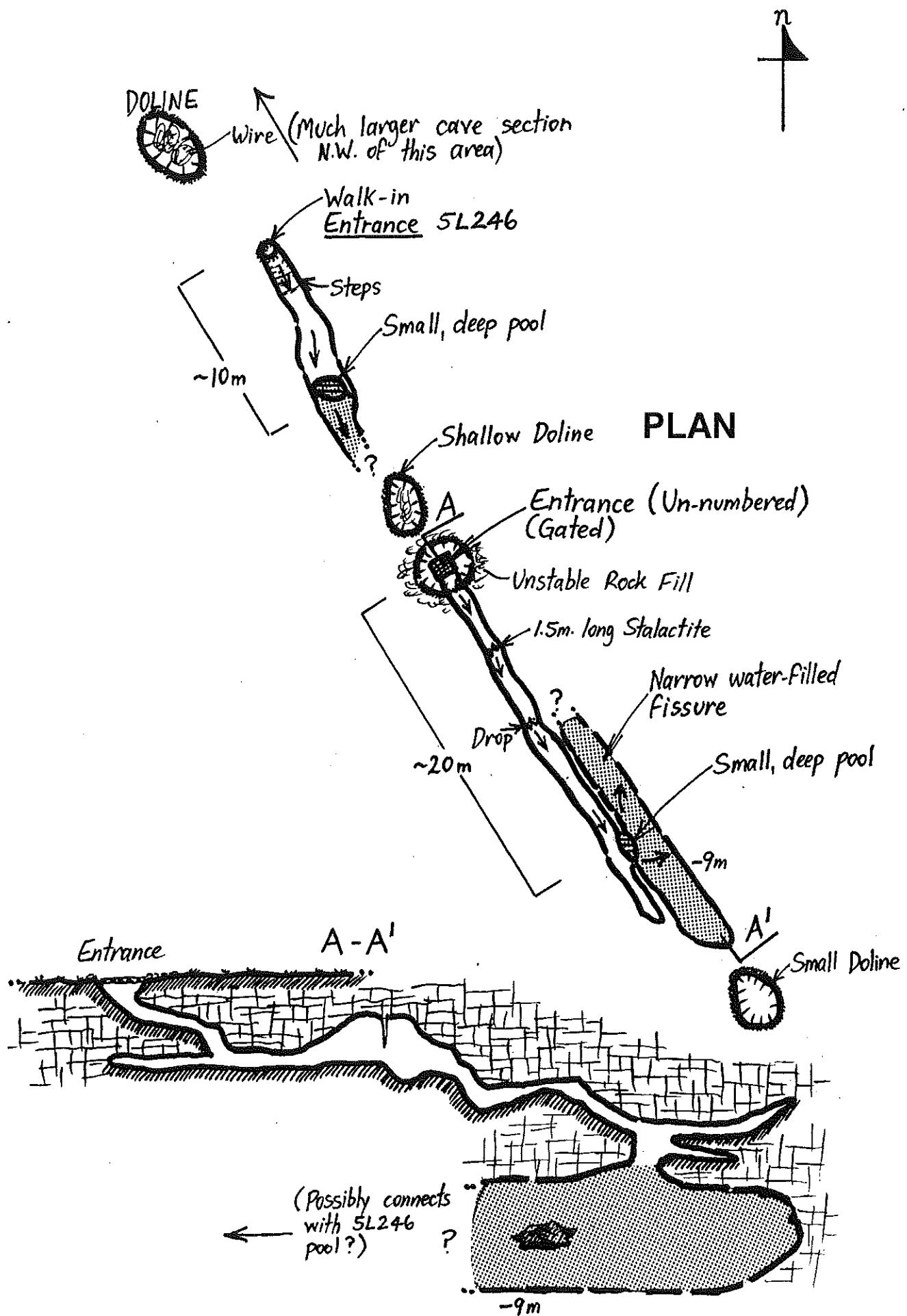
The better-known areas lie to the south-east, where they take the form of two entrances. The entrance numbered 5L246 is a small hole which leads down a steep dirt slope (with cut steps) to the south-east for about 10m to a one metre-diameter pool of fairly deep water. This cave had an old electric cable and light socket on the wall when it was visited by the author and Mark Nielsen (who originally spotted the associated limestone outcrop from a nearby road) in 1983, and it might have underwater potential ... however, the hole is too small for cave divers to enter with standard cave diving equipment.

The other entrance further to the south-east, past some filled depressions, has been gated and lies in a small depression in a rocky area. This hole leads down to the south-east as well, through several restrictions and crawlways and past a large and unusual stalactite to a steep crevice in which a deep pool was found. A short dive by Mark on 11 August 1983 found a maximum depth of about 9 metres in the fissure, which looked quite large from the surface but which was in fact less than a metre across at the most. Several associated rubble and wire-filled depressions nearby also might be worthy of closer examination.

The main portion at the north-western end of Nung-Kol is currently the subject of an intensive research program. No map is available of this region at this time.

# NUNG-KOL CAVE SYSTEM

5L246



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L247

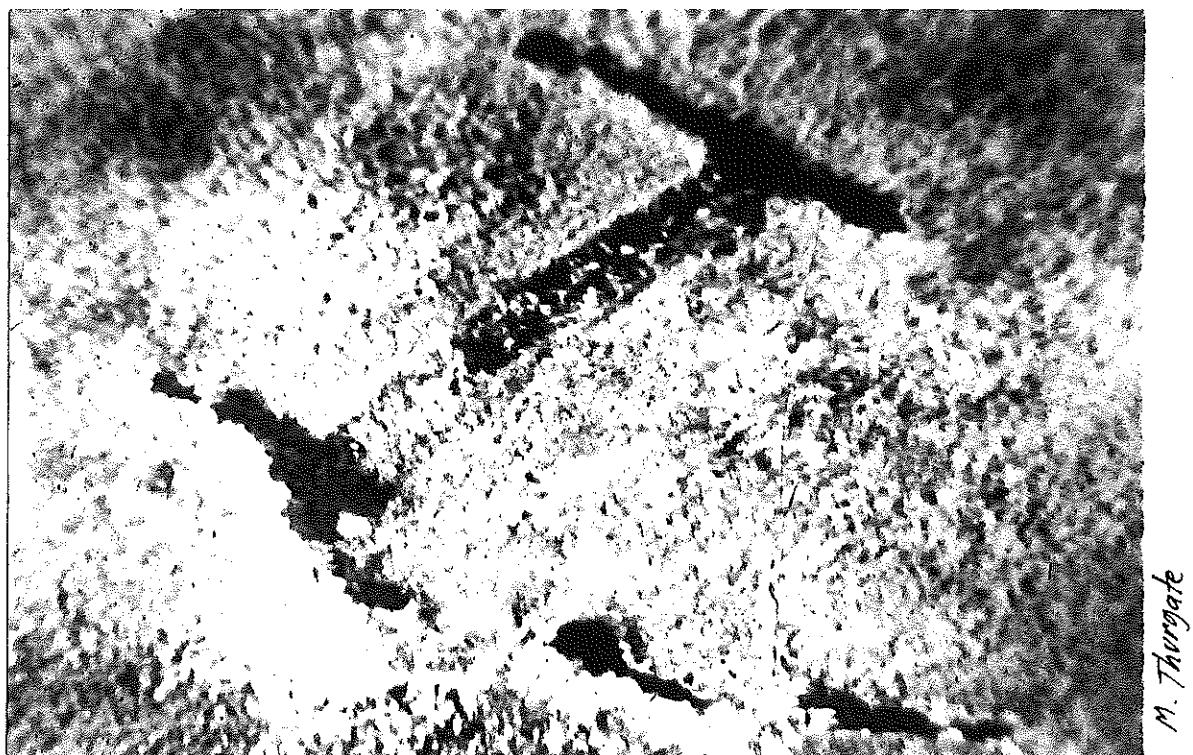
## THE HAMMERHEAD (Hammerhead Pond).

Officially named by the author after its apparent shape as seen from the air – possibly after having the name suggested from other cave diving sources? – The Hammerhead is an unusual spring-fed pond system located in almost-inaccessible swampland.

The feature is comprised of two north-west to south-east-oriented depressions which lie parallel to each other and are joined by a shallow, broad band of water which carries the outflow from the northern-most pond down to the second one, and then out to the east (to 5L248 – Tadpole Pond). They are not deep but they are both obvious karst features of importance.

Both ponds are roughly 40 metres long and between 3 and 8 metres wide (generally); the northern pond has an obvious spring vent in its western end (via an inaccessible hole between the rocks) and numerous smaller floor-holes along its length with a maximum depth of about 5 metres, while the southern pond has an unusual, shallow cave in its floor which is barely accessible and reaches a depth of about 6m but does not seem to contain moving water.

The channel connecting the two features is only about a metre or so deep and contains a lot of very delicate plant life, making the area unsuitable for heavy visitation. It is one of the mere handful of remaining areas of true swamplands in this region of South Australia and must be protected at all costs!

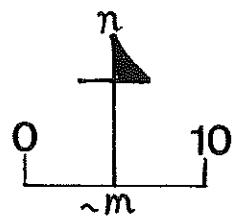


(Tadpole Pond)  
SL 248

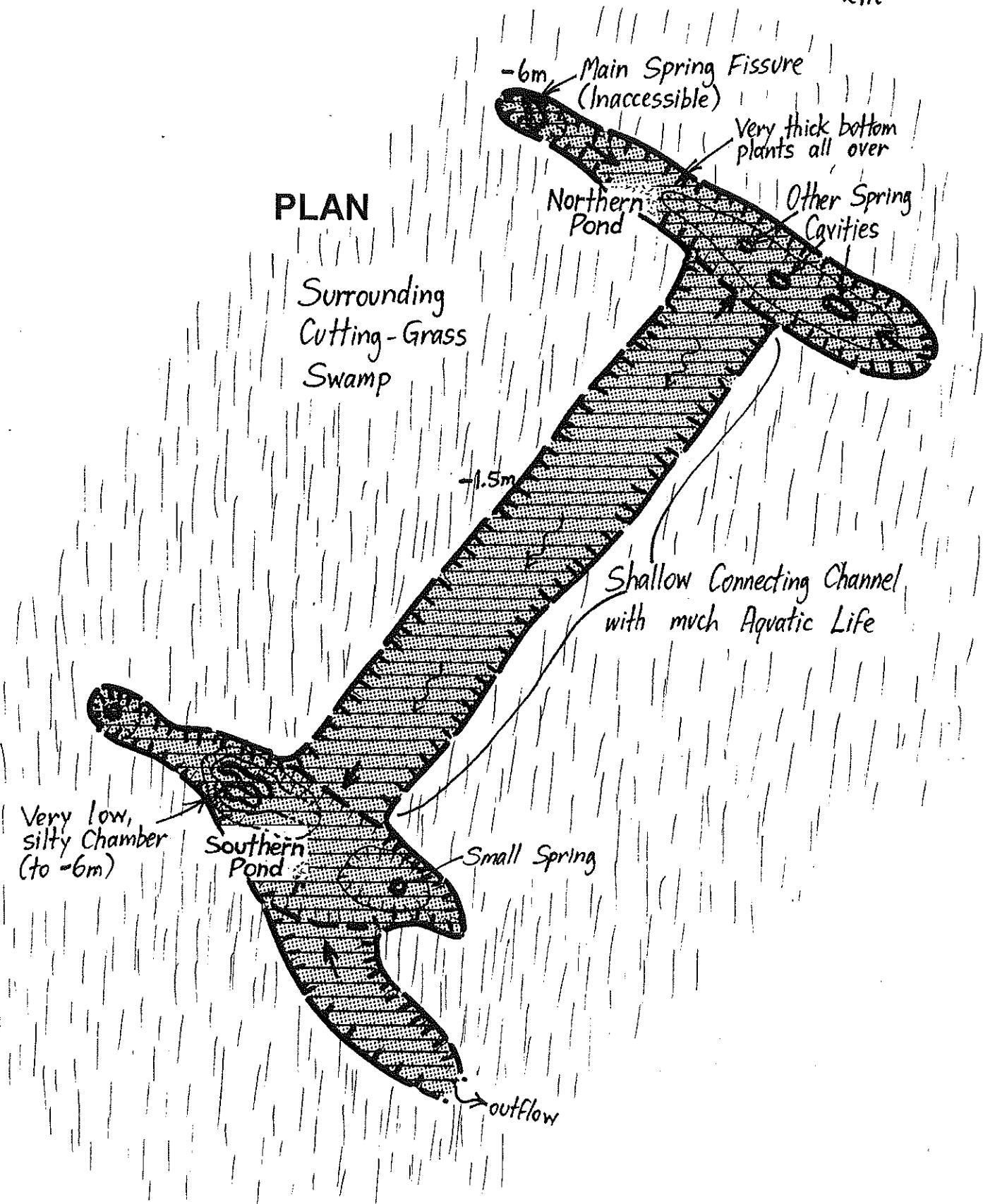
M. Thringate

# THE HAMMERHEAD

5L247



## PLAN



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L248

## TADPOLE POND.

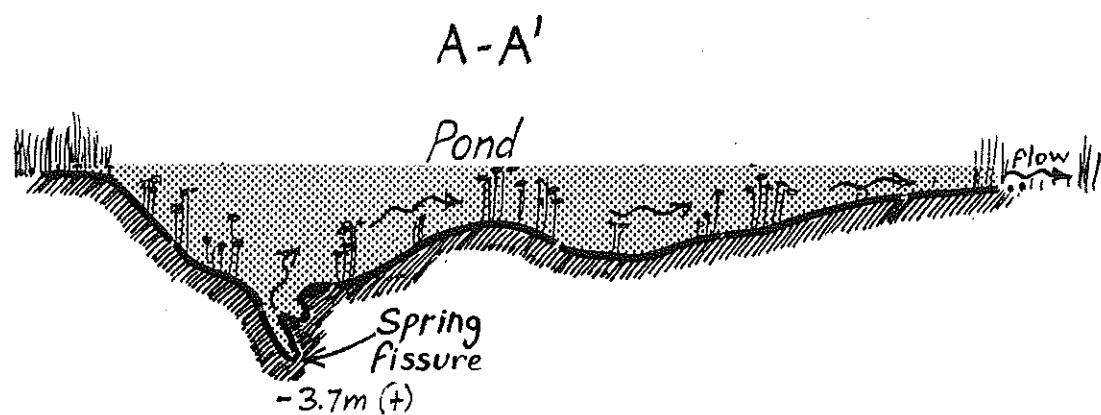
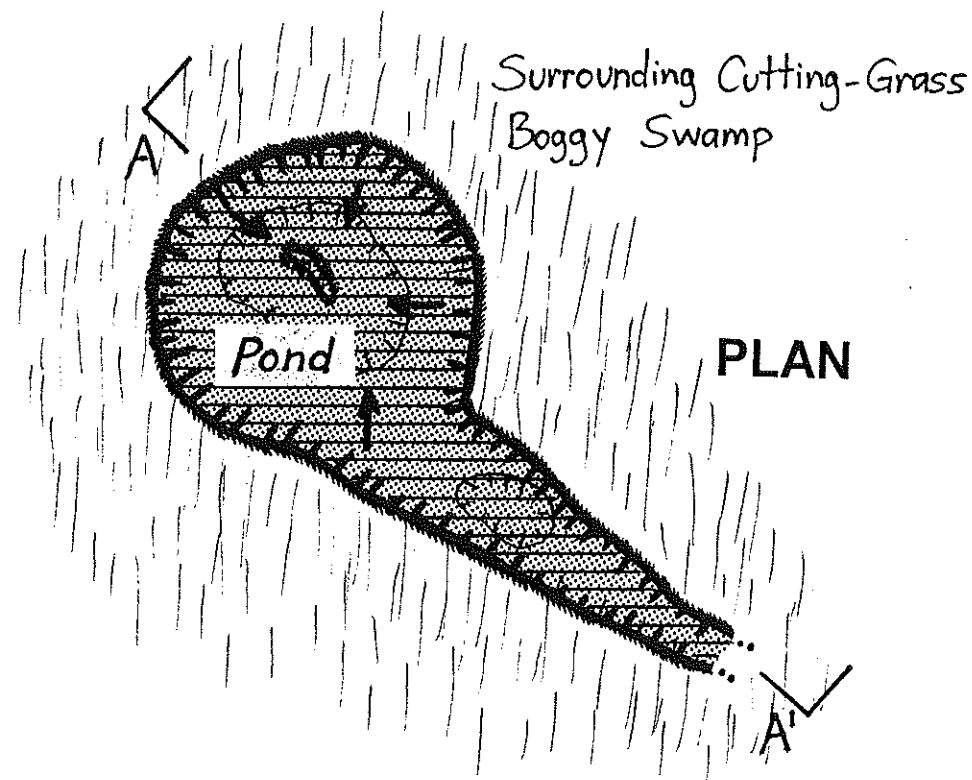
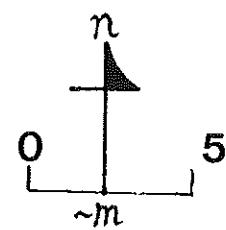
This spring-fed flooded doline lies adjacent to L247, and is little more than a tadpole-shaped pond about 8 metres in diameter and around 4m deep. Apart from collecting water from the nearby Hammerhead Pond system, the pond is filled with water from a small fissure-spring in the bowl.

The feature contains virtually nothing of interest to cave divers.



# TADPOLE POND

5L248



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L249

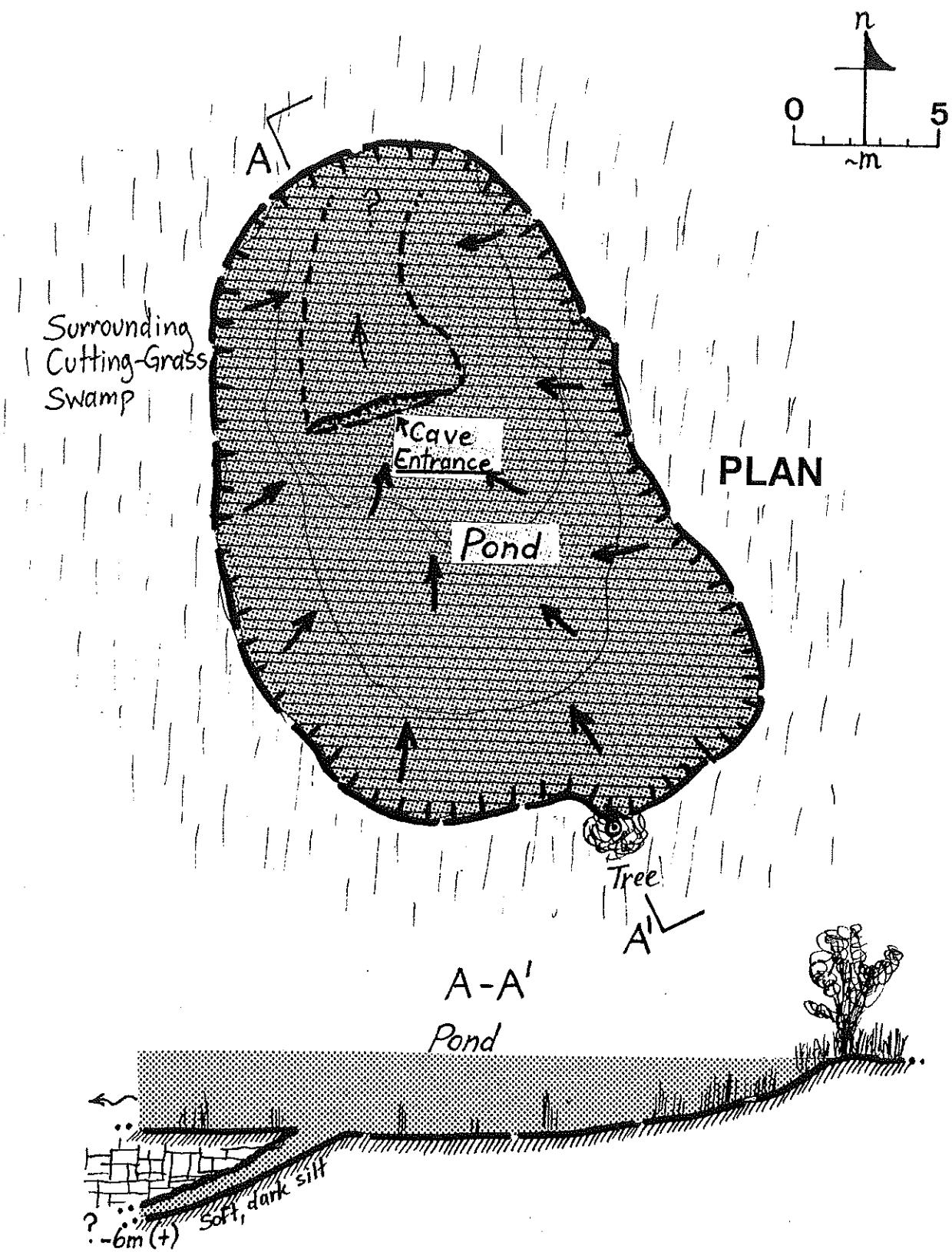
### (Unnamed Feature).

Although this feature is believed to be the pond which was originally called "Turtle Pond" by members of the Mount Gambier Skindiving and Spearfishing Club in the early 1960s, when they discovered the nearby Piccaninnie Ponds, it is nowadays an unnamed feature because the name erroneously went to a small cave which lies to the south of the popular diving pond ("Piccaninie Blue Lake") after a young lad drowned there in 1972.

The pond is basically a large shallow lake with a 3-4 metre wide, one metre high (and very silty) flattener-style passage on its bottom. From a floor depth of about 3 metres, the cave continues in at an angle of about 30 degrees or so to at least 6 metres deep, roughly north of the entrance; however, severe silting during the author's brief 6-metre penetration in August 1982 meant that the full extent of this passage was not discovered.

The pond is irregularly-shaped and has not been properly mapped to date.

5L249



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory sketch, P.Horne, 1982]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L250

## IDDLEBIDDY CAVE.

At the time of its discovery by a small party of unqualified local divers in late 1983 or early 1984, Iddlebiddy Cave (a satirisation of the mighty "Cocklebiddy Cave" in the Nullarbor, because of its smaller but similar underwater appearance) was one of the most significant cave diving finds of the decade.

The cave's discoverers kept the feature's location a closely-guarded secret for many years, and the first truly-representative map of the cave was only compiled after members of the Cave Divers Association of Australia undertook an officially-sanctioned assessment and research dive on November 26th, 1988. A more detailed survey was later initiated by the CDAA, and it was this work, from the efforts of Tony Hambling, Frank Homewood and John McCormick, that the map on the opposite page was produced.

Like many cave features in this area, the entrance to 5L250 is a relatively insignificant chimney-like vertical solution-tube about 0.7 metres in diameter which drops for about 6 metres into a small, humid cavity containing a very deep pool of blue-green water. The pool is actually "roof-hole" to a very large submerged room, where a silt mound below the entrance attests to the many animals – and a young human – which tragically ended their days in this cave.

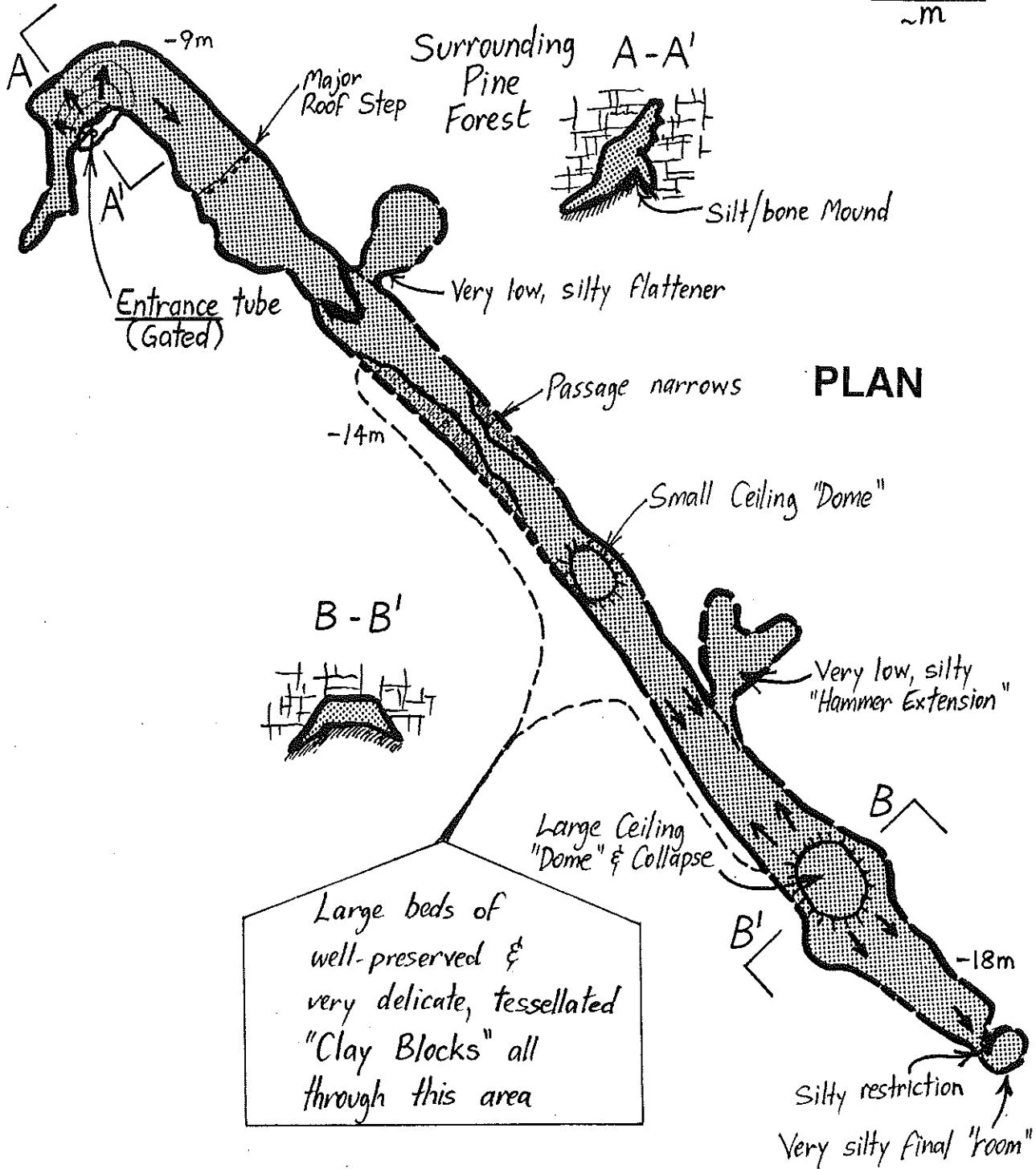
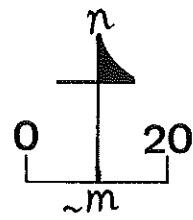


The flooded chamber has a short, narrow passage leading off to the north-west, but the main run is in the form of a single, large passage which heads south-east. This passage is generally about 12 metres wide and 5 metres high, and it contains many interesting sedimentary and morphological features which are seen in no other south-eastern caves. The floor of the cave is almost totally covered in large, thick blocks of multilayered clay, giving it an "alligator-skin" of tessellated appearance in many areas. The known cave ends in a low, extremely silty chamber where clay seems to be "flowing" out of the walls.

Iddlebiddy Cave is indeed a valuable cave diving site worthy of considerable protection.

# IDDLEBIDDY CAVE

5L250



[Map ASF Grades 32-43, T.Hambling,  
F.Homewood, J.McCormick & P.Horne  
(CDAA Res. Group), 1988-92]

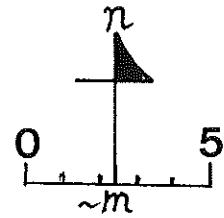
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L251

### (Unnamed Feature).

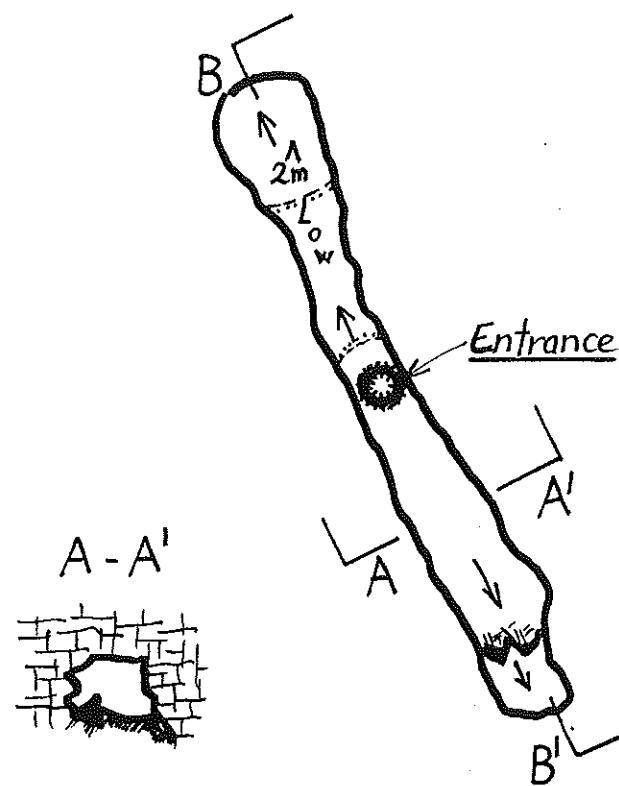
This cave is entered via a small circular roof tube which drops about 2.5 metres into the middle of an 18 metre long passage. The highest part of the cave is about 2 metres near the north-west end (after a crawl), and the south-eastern end terminates in a restrictive area which drops down behind the rocks.

The cave has no known special features of interest.

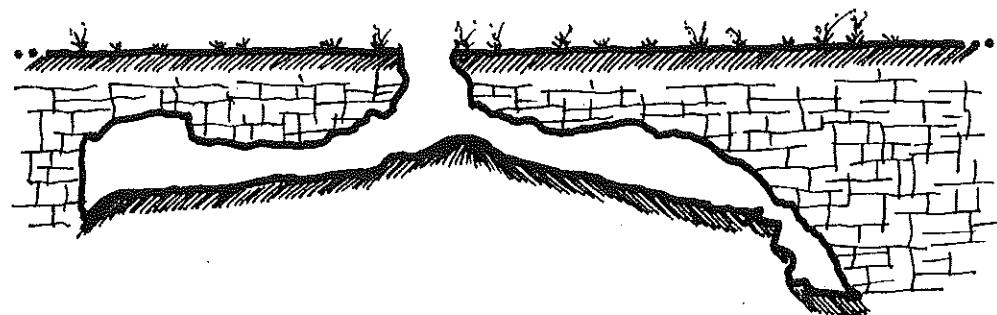
5L251



## PLAN



## B - B'



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L252

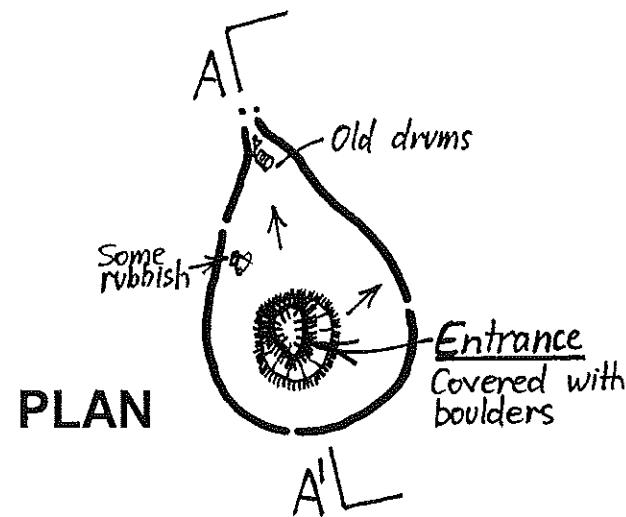
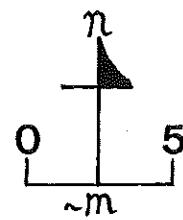
### (Unnamed Feature).

Lying adjacent to 5L251, this cave is another very small and almost insignificant karst feature which is little more than a shallow cavity.

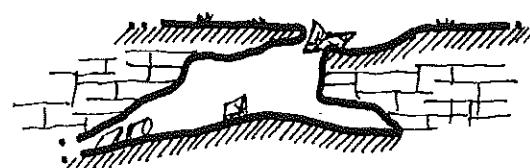
Its entrance (which is usually blocked with boulders) is about half a metre across, and a careful climb down for perhaps 2.5 metres leads into a single 5 metre diameter chamber with some old drums blocking the north-western end.

It is one of several features in a line of depressions and small entrances.

5L252



**A - A'**



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, P.Horne, 1984]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L253

### **WITCHES CAVE.**

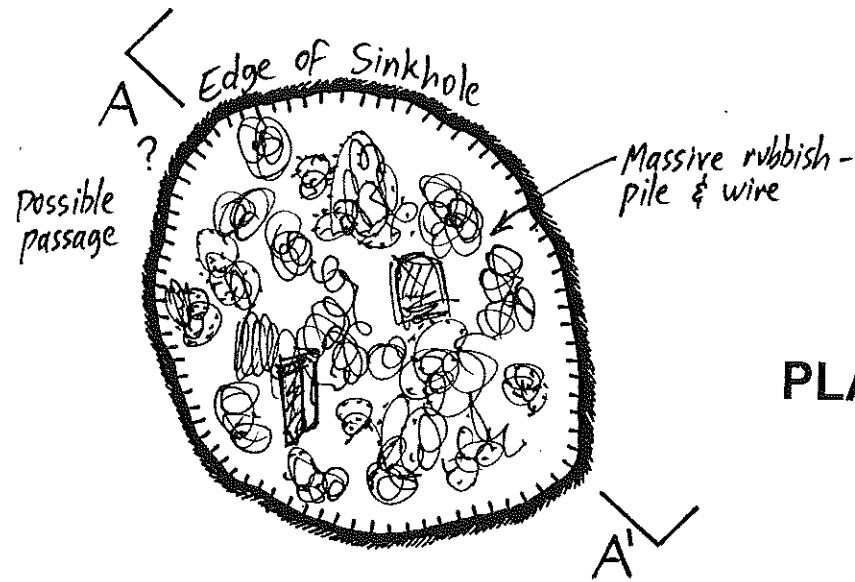
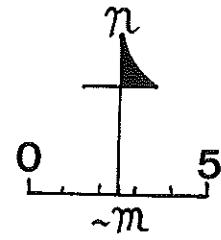
Lying to the south-east of nearby 5L254, Witch's Cave (apparently so named because it "looks like a witch's cauldron", according to Kevin Mott!) has not yet been entered or explored. It appears as a sheer-sided sinkhole about 12 metres in diameter and 4m or so deep, with much wire rubbish blocking an apparent undercut area on the northwestern (?) side.

A strong outblowing wind was observed by the author during a brief visit in October 1984, indicating either the existence of a large underground expanse or a connection with other features which lie nearby.

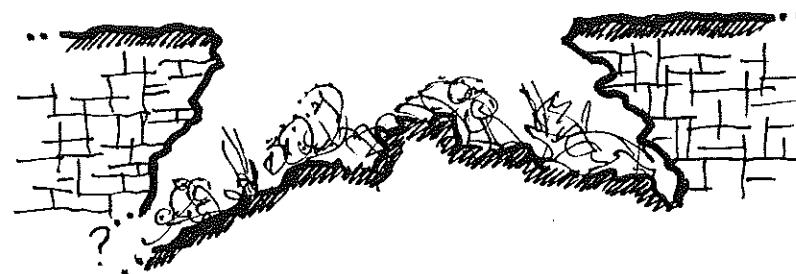
Further exploration and mapping is warranted; only a rough sketch is available at this time.

# WITCHES CAVE

5L253



A - A'



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, P.Horne, 1984]

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L254**

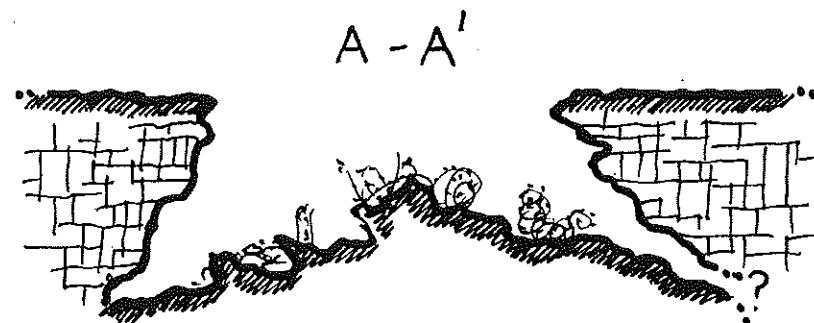
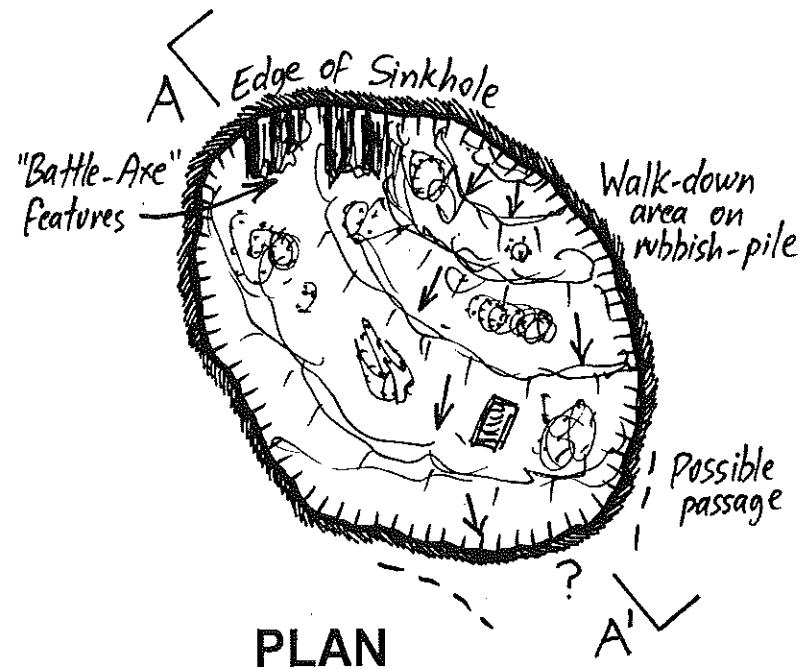
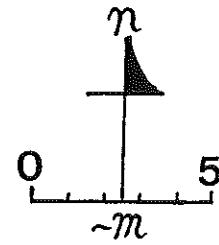
### **BATTLE-AXE CAVE.**

Like nearby Witches Cave (5L253), Battle-Axe Cave is a 15 x 10 metre wide, 8m deep sinkhole with sheer sides and lots of old domestic rubbish. Some interesting large "columns" and stalactitic decoration ("like battle-axes" - again refer to Kevin Mott!) can also be seen on its northern side.

This cave has also not yet been fully explored, but it is reportedly quite large underground and probably connects with Witches Cave in some manner.

# BATTLE-AXE CAVE

5L254



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, P.Horne, 1984]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L255

### MARMINE CAVE.

Another south-eastern feature which has been given a name from the (now extinct) local Buandik Aboriginal tribe's language (meaning "my father") by AURA researchers, Marmine Cave is one of the region's more significant dry caves.

Its entrance consists of a large elongated collapse which offers easy walking access down a slope, where the first main chamber is entered. This is quite large – about 20 metres across and 7 metres high – and a rockpile on the north-western side leads up into a second chamber. A little 'live' decoration is also to be found on the northern wall near the collapse.

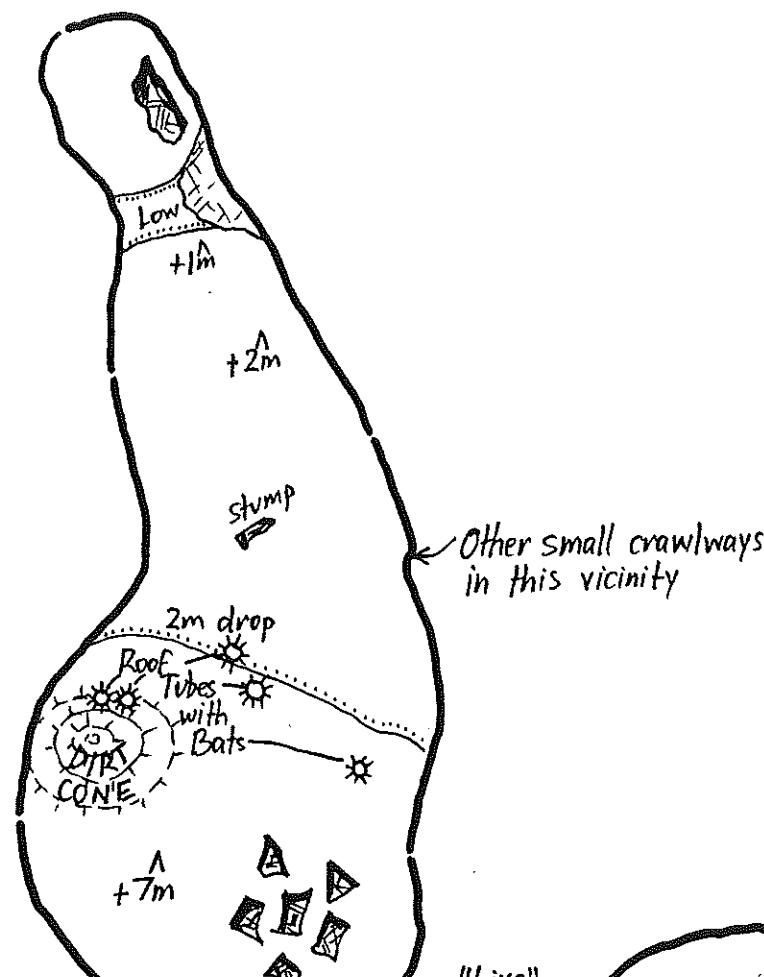
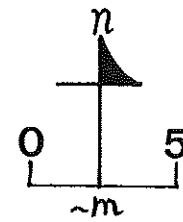
The second chamber is entered via a 2 metre drop; this is also about 7m high and has a prominent dirt cone on its northern side, some 10 metres across the cavity. This area has several large, blind ceiling-tubes in which bats may be found.

The final area of the cave lies further north again, past another 2 metre drop where the passage constricts to 2 metres high and then turns into a sandy crawlway. There are numerous wall-holes and potential extensions, but nothing major is apparent.

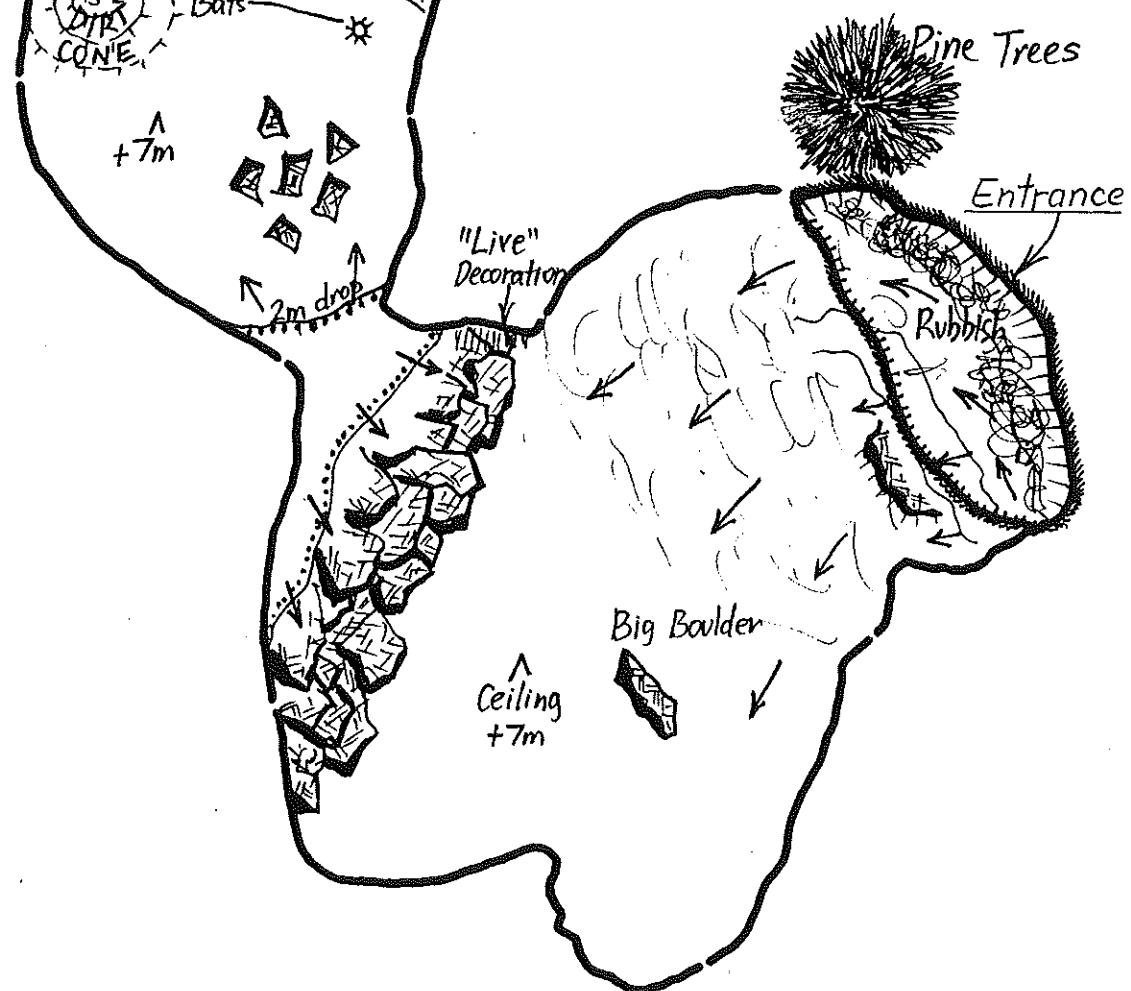


# MARMINE CAVE

5L255



## PLAN



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L256**

### **BOOTLACE (SCORIA) CAVE.**

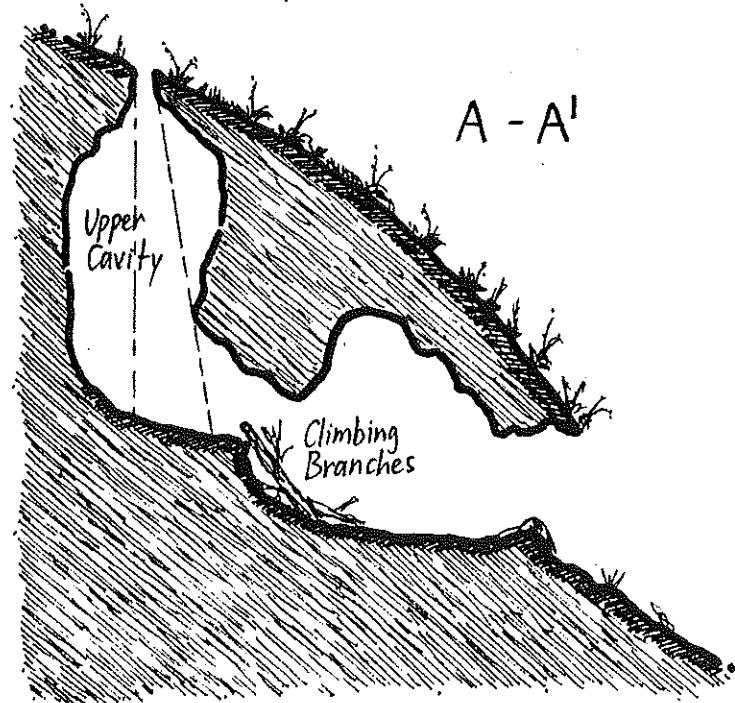
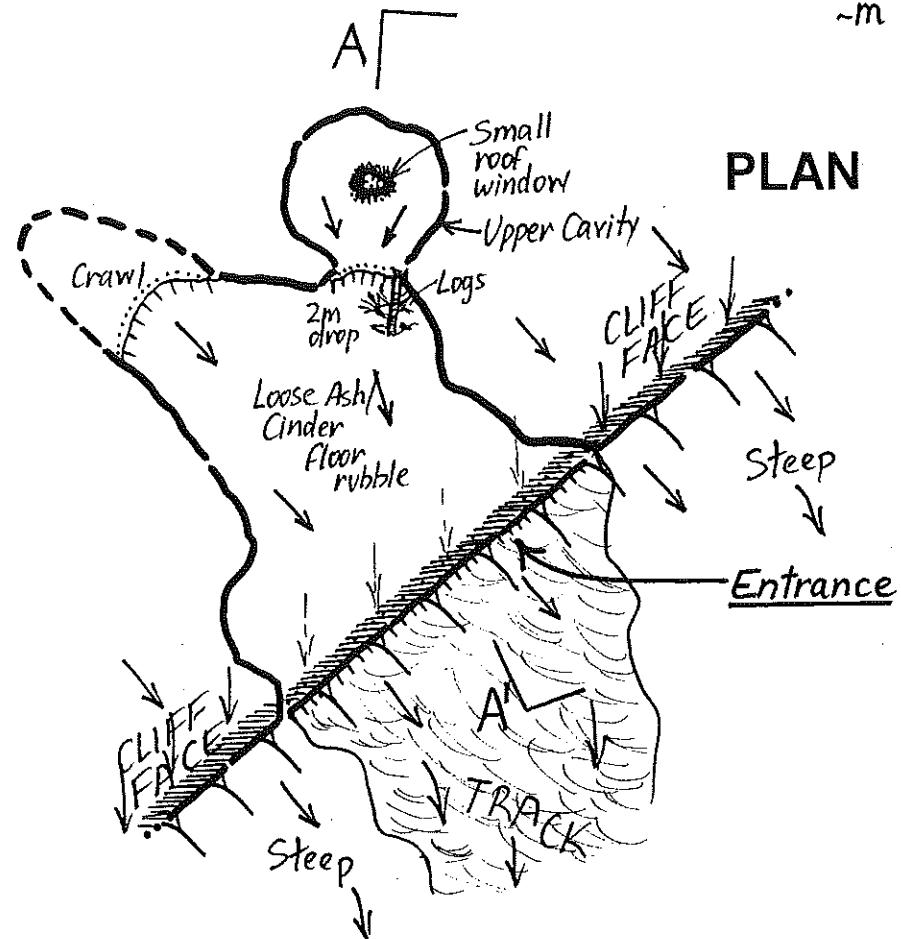
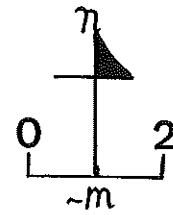
Named a long time ago (perhaps even before the beginning of the 20th Century?), Bootlace Cave is one of the only two known non-karst cave features which are to be found in the Mount Gambier volcanic complex. It is a small cavern in geologically-recent scoria (basalt pumice) and it is relatively fragile, with the walls crumbling away at the slightest touch.

The 5 metre wide, 2 metre high walk-in entrance is situated on a steep slope, and the floor is slippery, consisting of crunchy, rounded ash granules and fine dust. The cavern is only about 8 metres long and perhaps 3.5 metres high in the main portion, and it has a 2 metre high step on the northern side which leads up to another small cavity with an open roof window about 5 metres overhead.

A low flattener is also located on the north-western side of the main chamber.

# BOOTLACE (LAVA) CAVE

5L256



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L257

## CENTENARY TOWER LAVA CAVE.

Named to highlight its association with the Mount Gambier volcanic system (rather than the usual karst features) after a visit by local caver, Geoff Aslin and the author in November 1984, this small horizontal tunnel is located on a ridge-like section directly below Mount Gambier's Centenary Tower lookout, several tens of metres down the near-vertical cliff which commences there.

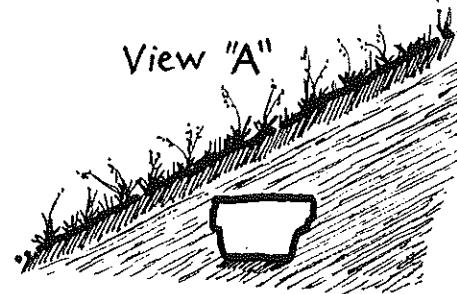
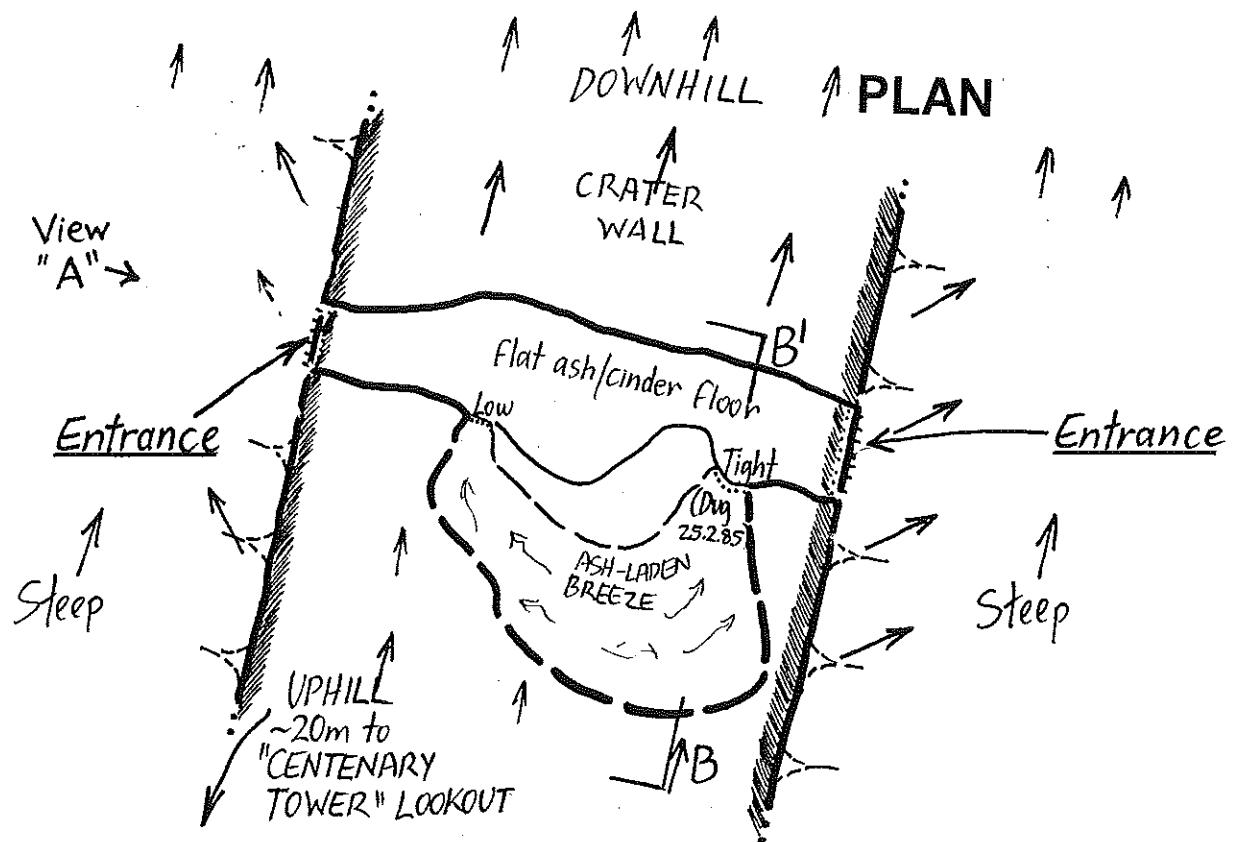
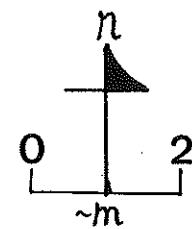
Like the nearby Bootlace Cave, this feature is a geologically-recent formation in cinder-like scoria above the dormant volcanic Valley Lake crater, but it is only about a metre high at the most and runs from one side of a vertical ridge for 7 metres right through to the other. The tunnel is generally lower than this, especially under the southern wall, where a 0.3 metre high flattener was dug out by the author in February 1985 and found to reconnect with the passage a little further along.

It is one of the few recorded cave features (and the only non-karst cave) in the area to have a "walk-through" tunnel instead of a single entrance.



K. Grimes

# CENTENARY TOWER (LAVA) CAVE 5L257



[Map ASF Grade 2, P.Horne,  
G.Aslin & P.Johnson, 1984-85]

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L258**

### **KOORAMA CAVE.**

Information about this feature is severely lacking; apart from the fact that it was recently named by members of the Australian Rock Art Research Association - AURA - using a word from the local, now-extinct Buandik Aboriginal language for "large possum", it is described as being a "large sinkhole with some shelters".

No map is available at this time.

KOOR-AMA CAVE

5L258

**NO MAP CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

**CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L259**

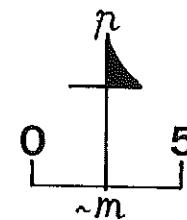
**TEMPORARY CAVE.**

This flattener cave was a small, 6 x 6 metre cavity less than a metre high which USED to be found on the northern side of the Rendelsham Quarry, near 5L38.

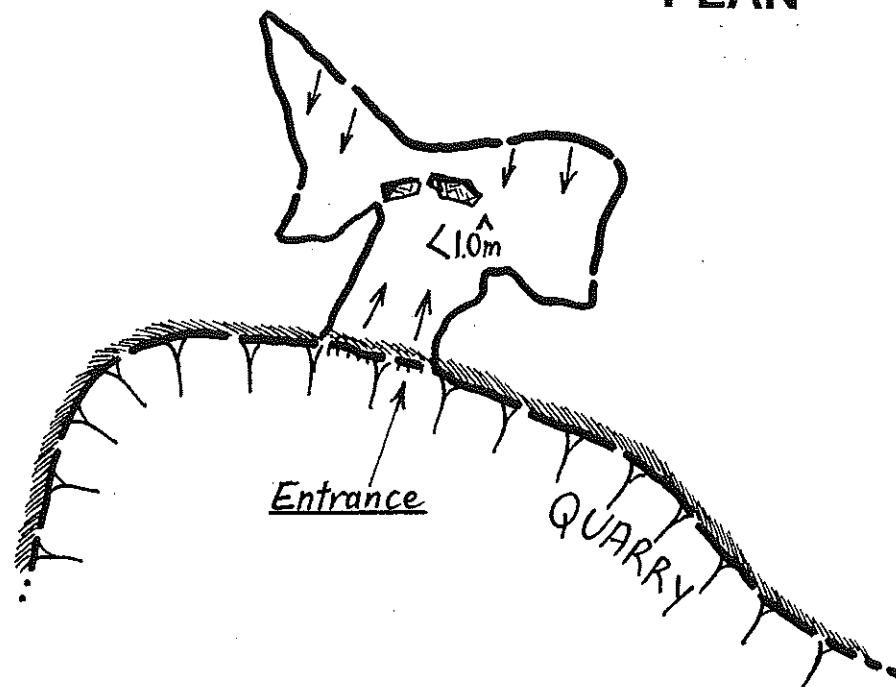
It was reportedly completely destroyed by quarrying operations in 1986.

# TEMPORARY CAVE

5L259



## PLAN



(See also  
SL38 Map)



Rendelsham Cave  
to S.E.

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L260**

### **(Unnamed Feature).**

This feature, like 5L259, is located in the Rendelsham Quarry but in this case it is actually another entrance to the established 5L38 cave system.

This entrance is an L-shaped collapse entrance, which was cleared of rubbish in December 1969.

Please refer to Cave 5L38's map for additional information.

5L260

See 5L38 Map

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L261

### PICCANINNIE CAVE (Piccaninnie Rock-Shelter).

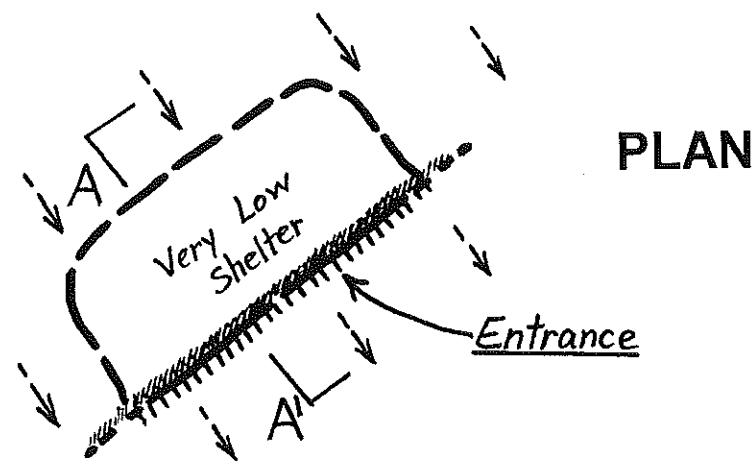
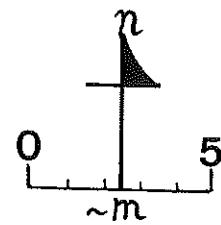
Located near the top of a ridge which overlooks Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park, this feature is a 0.8m high, 10 metre wide rock-shelter type cave which runs horizontally into the limestone ridge for about 4 metres before pinching off to an inaccessible flattener.

It is reportedly a significant archaeological site and should not be disturbed by curious cavers without permission from the authorities.

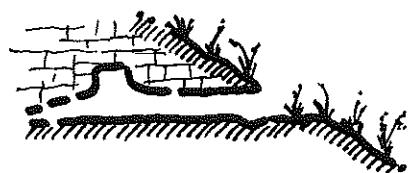


# PICCANINNIE CAVE

5L261



A - A'



[Map ASF Grade 2, P.Horne  
(CEGSA) 1992; also based on  
Grade 3 AURA map, late 1980s]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L262

### LOFTYS CAVE.

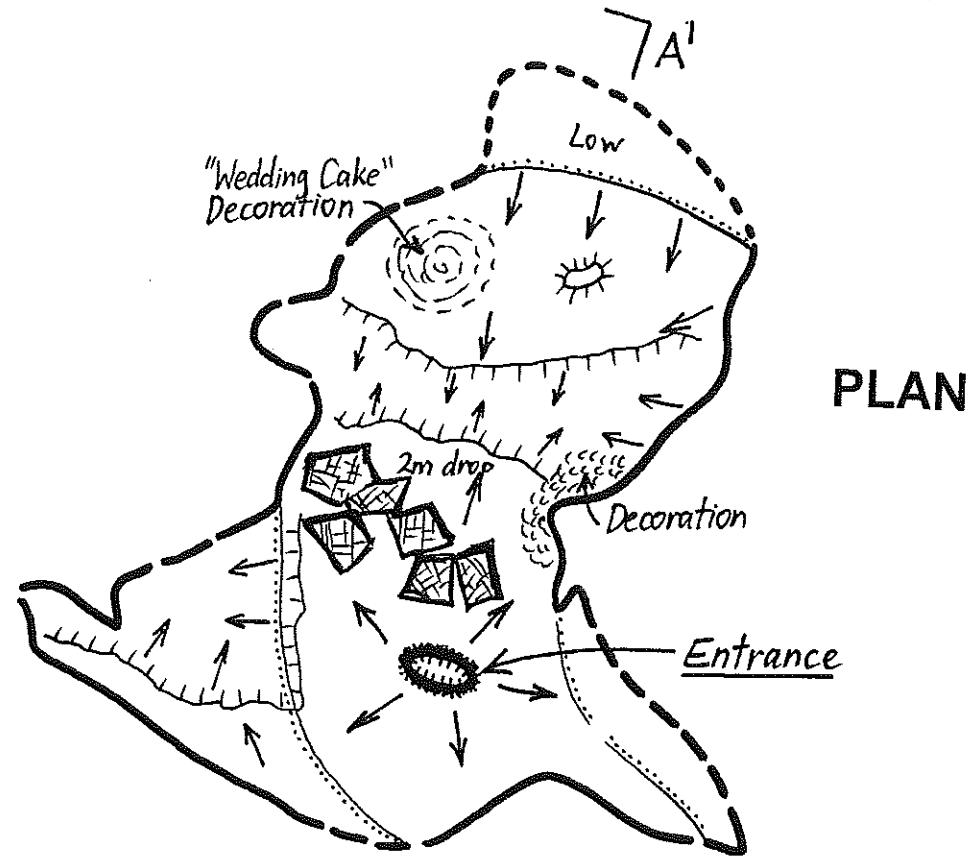
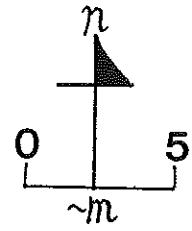
Named after Woods and Forests Department maintenance worker Malcolm "Lofty" Clamp by cave researcher, Mia Thurgate, after he pointed out the cave in the late 1980s, Loftys Cave is one of the more significant local features. Its entrance consists of a 1.5 x 1 metre wide roof window which drops about 6 metres into a 10 metre diameter chamber, and a large collection of shawls and other flowstone decoration immediately stands out on the eastern wall.

The northern wall of the chamber drops away for 2 metres into a second cavern which is bigger – about 15 metres across and 4m high – and this has some picturesque "wedding-cake" decorations on its western side.

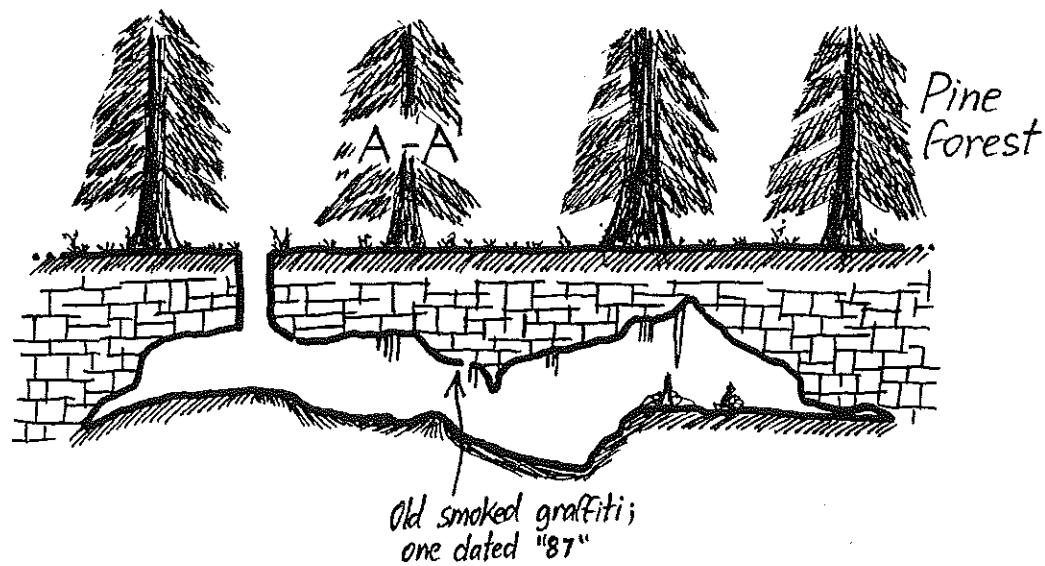
There is also a little 100-year-old smoked graffiti in a couple of areas.

# LOFTYS CAVE

5L262



✓A



[Map ASF Grade 4?, K.Mott  
(CEGSA), date unknown; ASF  
Grade 22, P.Horne, 1986]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L263

### HAYDNS CAVE ("Hayden's Cave").

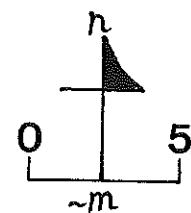
Another reasonably-large cave containing some picturesque decoration, Haydn's Cave is entered via a 2 x 2.6 metre roof entrance which is found in a 20 metre diameter, 1.6m deep depression. Access is made via a 4 metre drop onto a talus mound, and the north-eastern side of the entry chamber leads to a 20 metre diameter cavern which is about 2 metres high.

A short passage also heads south from the south-western corner to a 10 metre diameter chamber about 4 metres high, and the floor of this chamber is littered with large blocks.

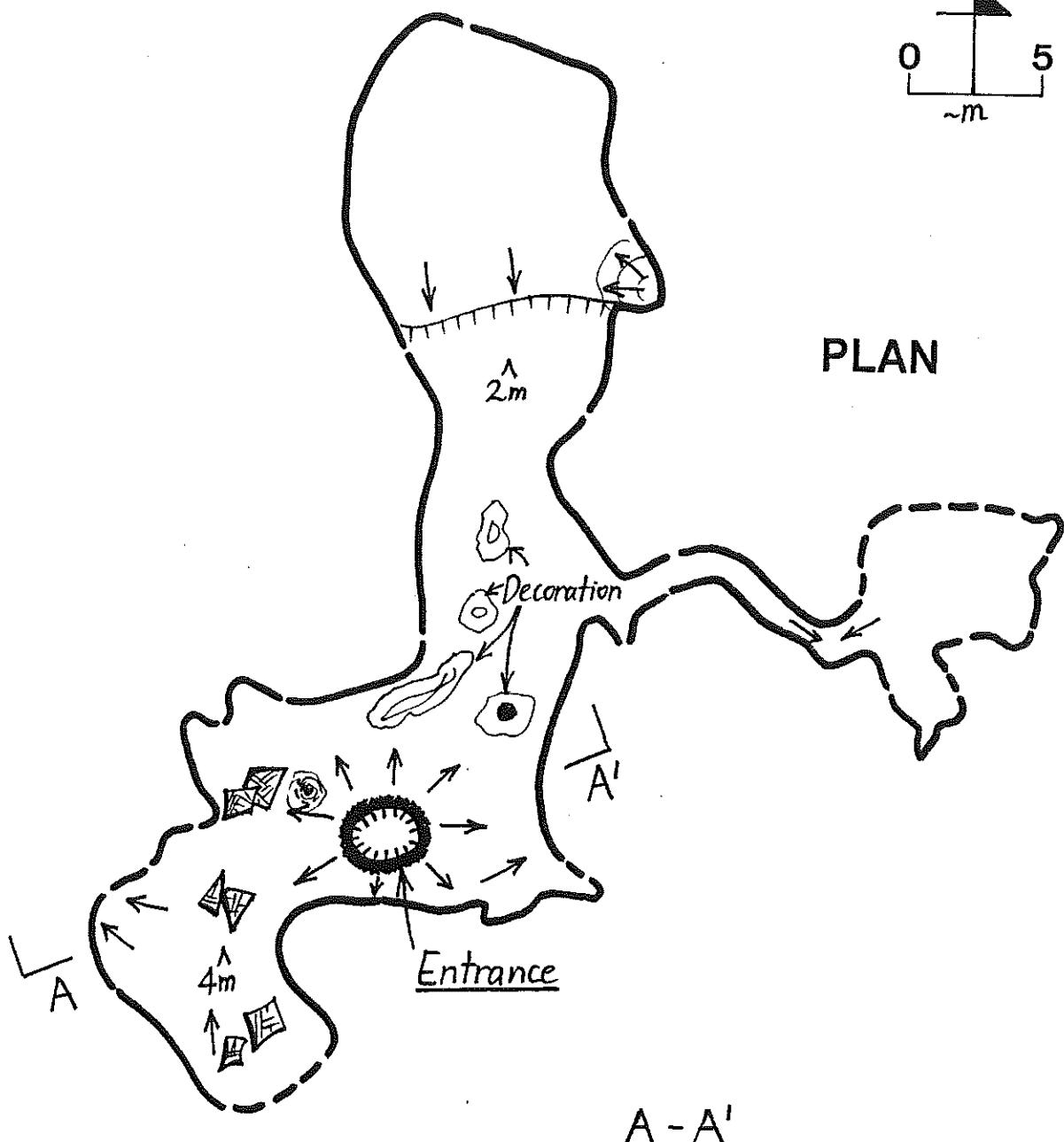
Haydn's Cave was named by cave researcher Mia Thurgate in the late 1980s in recognition of Woods and Forests Department Supervisor, Haydn (not Hayden) Dow, after he showed her the entrance.

# HAYDNS CAVE

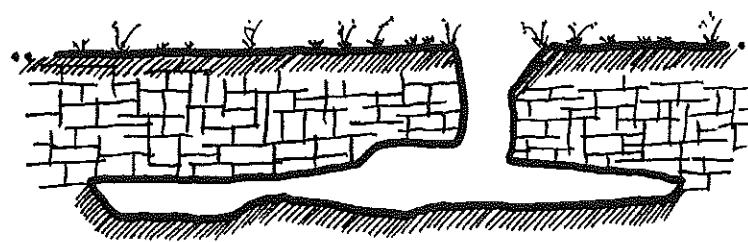
5L263



## PLAN



A - A'



[Map ASF Grade 4?, K.Mott  
(CEGSA), date unknown - 1986?]

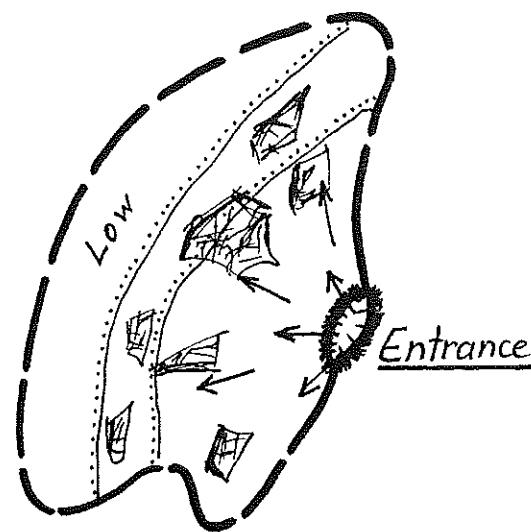
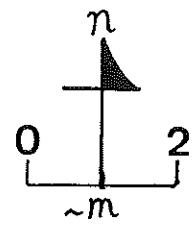
## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L264**

### **WANDO CAVE.**

This cave lies adjacent to 5L262, and consists of a small entrance which drops down a rock collapse for 4 metres. The deeper 'chamber' is reportedly low and only about 3.5 x 7.5 metres across.

The name "Wando" comes from the now-extinct Buandik Aboriginals' language meaning "one", and was allotted by members of AURA.

5L264



PLAN

[Map ASF Grade 4?  
K.Mott (CEGSA), 1986?]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L265

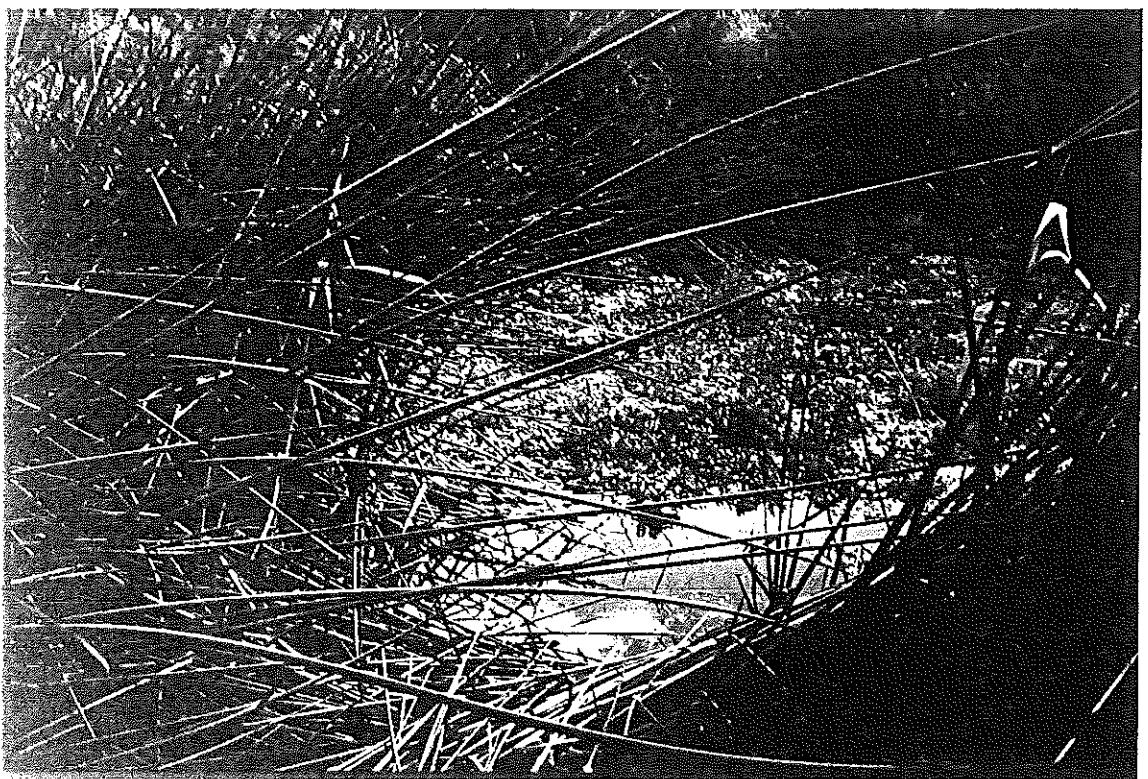
## BONES PONDS.

This spring-fed karst feature is a simple, shallow pond located in a very dense area of stinging nettles and snake-infested swamp-grass.

While it is possible that larger and deeper features exist in this head-spring, the main area located to date (and numbered 5L265) consists of an irregularly-shaped pond about 10 x 6 metres in size and up to 3 metres deep.

A small cluster of limestone boulders or blocks lies along the eastern side of the pond, and numerous small spring vents can be seen all over the bottom here and there. It also contains quite a lot of aquatic flora and fauna, but it is too small to be able to cope with more than a few snorkellers per year and is certainly not worth the effort for general recreational visitation.

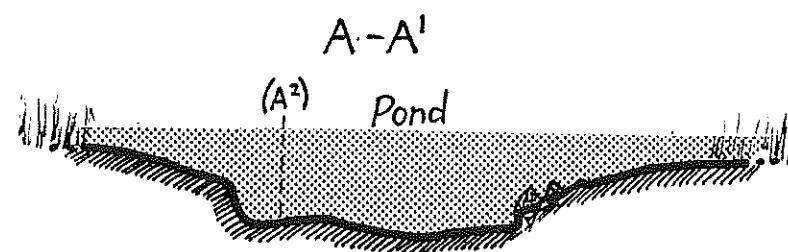
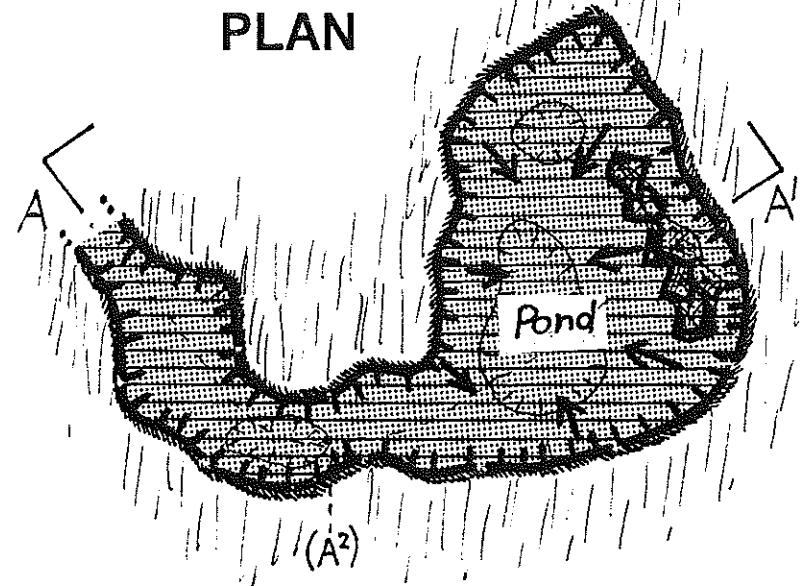
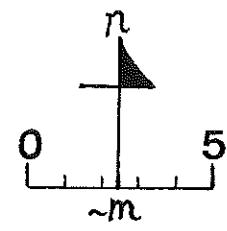
The pond was mapped and formally numbered by the author (in the company of Department of Lands representative, Mark Watson) in October 1986.



(Revised 20.12.93)

# BONES PONDS

5L265



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L266

### PRETTY POND.

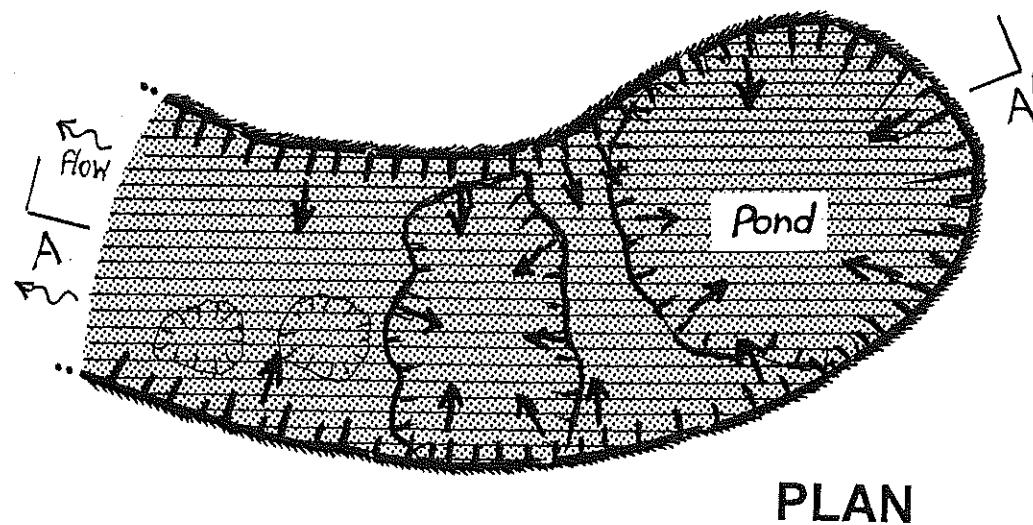
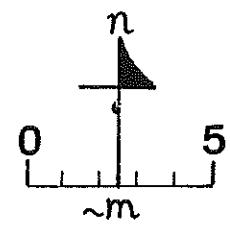
This pretty little spring-fed pond is about 20 metres long and 10 metres wide, with a maximum depth of only 2 metres or so. It contains numerous small spring boils and much aquatic floral life, as well as occasional eels, crustacea and fish, but it is too small and fragile to cope with regular visitation (even snorkellers).

This feature was mapped (with the assistance of Mark Watson – see 5L265) and officially numbered by the author in October 1986. The descriptive name was later allocated by Mark.



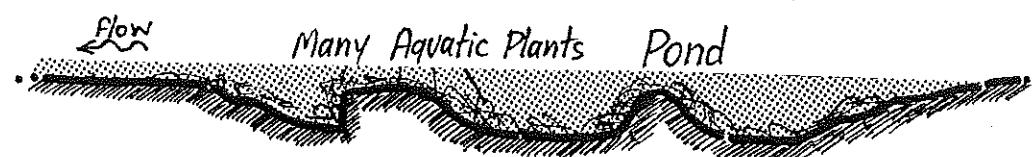
# PRETTY POND

5L266



PLAN

A - A'



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L267

### (Unnamed Feature).

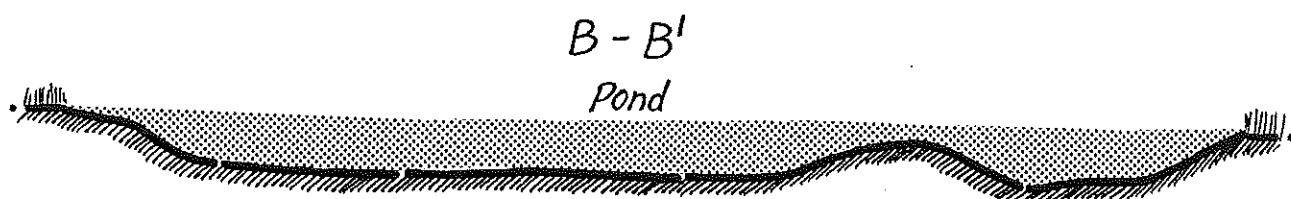
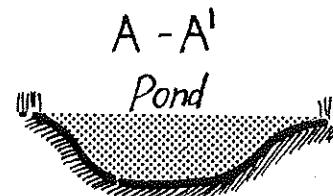
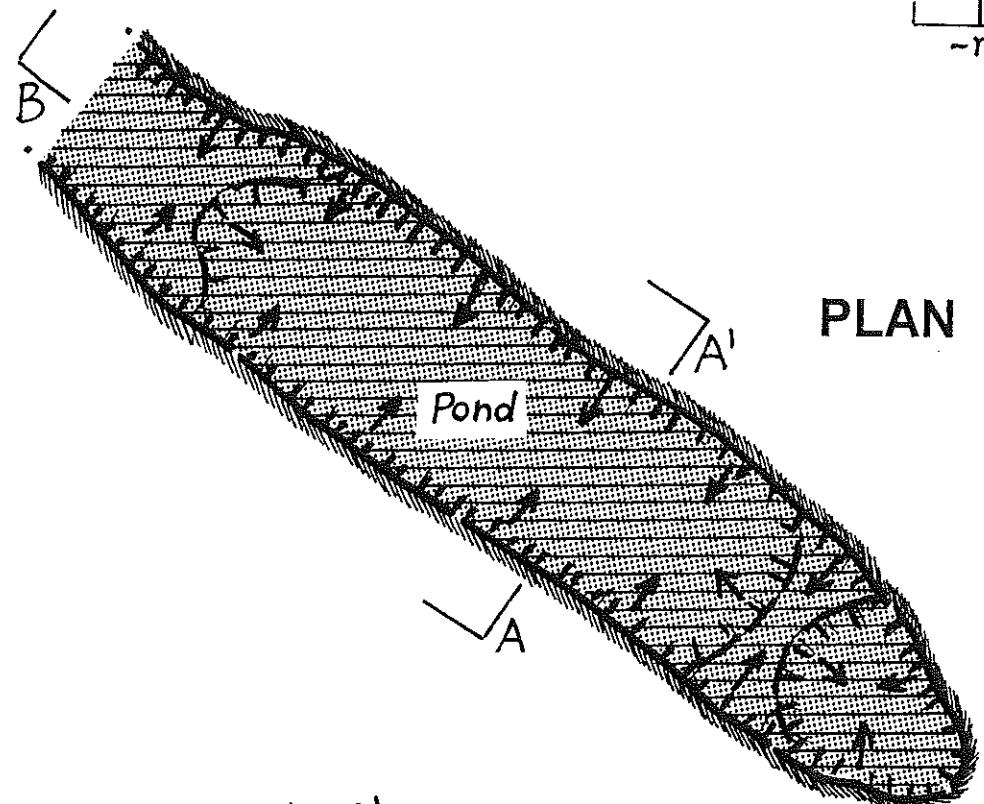
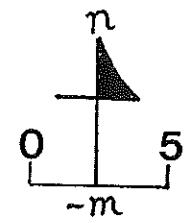
Like 5L266, this unnamed spring-fed pond is a relatively shallow feature at the head of a drain. However, 5L267 is elongated and exhibits some joint-control in that it has a north-west to south-east orientation; similar to most of the joint caves of the region.

It is quite large – about 30 metres long and 8 metres wide – but its flat bottom, with a maximum depth of about 3 metres, is silty and featureless, with only a little aquatic life being apparent.

A few minor spring boils can be seen all along the feature, usually emanating from the deepest sections.

This feature was mapped (with the assistance of Mark Watson – see 5L265) and officially numbered by the author in October 1986.

5L267



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L268

## BUGGA-BUSH POND.

Named by the author to commemorate the truly stupendous effort required to locate this karst pond in an almost-inaccessible swampland, Bugga-Bush is an almost perfectly circular lake about 10 metres in diameter with neatly sloping walls which lead to the mouth of a small cave in the pond's centre.

This cave is a strange feature; it is only about 4 x 2 metres across and between one and 1.5m high, and it looks something like an open pit which has been artificially capped with a single flat slab of limestone! There is also another smaller roof-hole further to the north of the main access hole.

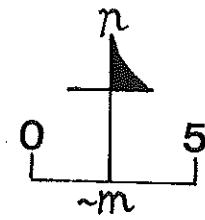
Painfully-organised scuba exploration of this remote pond and its grovelly cave by the author in September 1987 revealed no apparent extensions (thank goodness!), and the fine suspended silt cloud which remained in the cave indicated that the pond did not fill from this area ... rather, it seemed to be filled by water coming in from other nearby ponds in the swamp.

It is a strange and unexplained karst feature worthy of more study, but visitation should be restricted to protect the fragile surrounding swamplands.



# BUGGA BUSH POND

5L268



PLAN

A - A'

Pond

-8m

Small Cave

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L269

### EEL POT.

Like nearby Bugga-Bush, Eel Pot is a karst pond hidden in almost-inaccessible swampland. The presence of some greyish eel-like creatures (probably short-finned eels or perhaps even saltwater lampreys?) prompted the naming of this feature by fellow cave diver/researcher, Mia Thurgate, in September 1987, during a joint study with the author.

Eel Pot pond is a north-east to south-west oriented lake about 20 x 10 metres in size, snuggling under some large overhanging trees right into the edge of a big sand-dune. The presence of the large dune has created a smooth sandy slope which runs down the pond's south-eastern side, partially filling the depression where it reaches a maximum depth of about 7.3 metres at the mouth of a tiny cave.

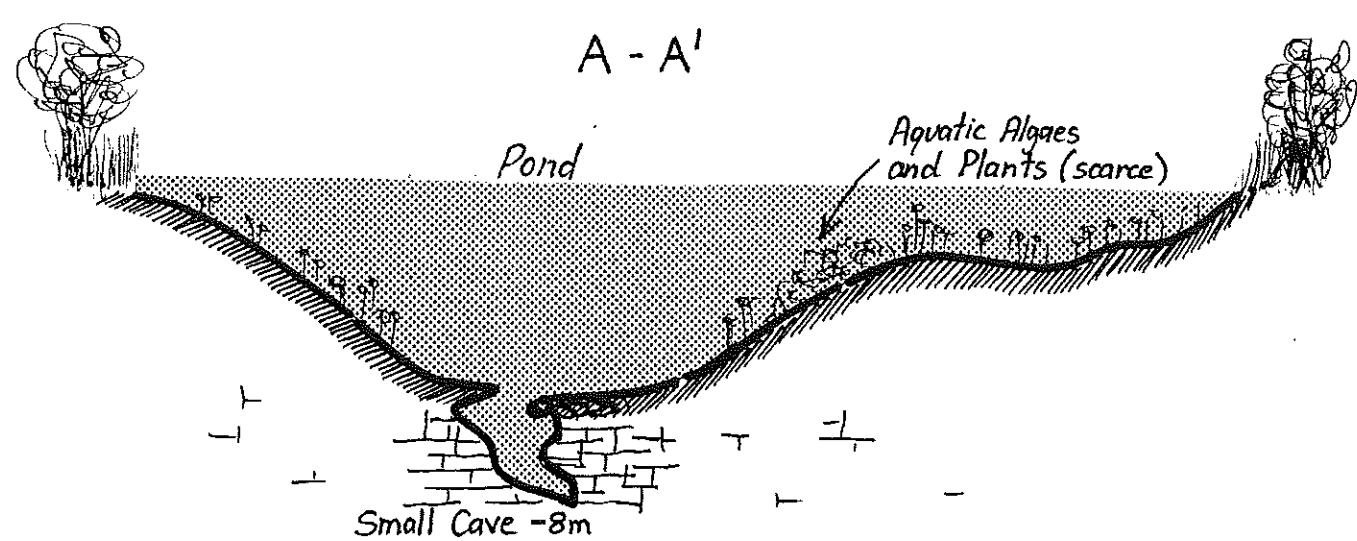
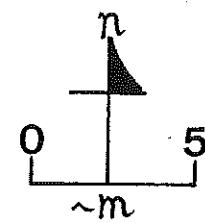
The cave is very low (only a metre or so high and to a depth of about 8 metres), and despite having several entrances it did not appear to have any sign of spring activity from the cave when it was explored at that time. The cave wasn't fully pushed, but it would appear to have little chance of going anywhere significant.

Like 5L268, Eel Pot and the surrounding swamplands should be treated with respect, and visitation should be restricted to only those with scientifically-based needs.



# EEL POT POND

5L269



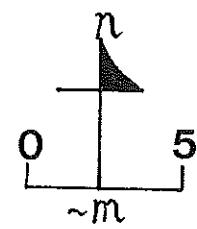
## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L270**

**(Unnamed Feature).**

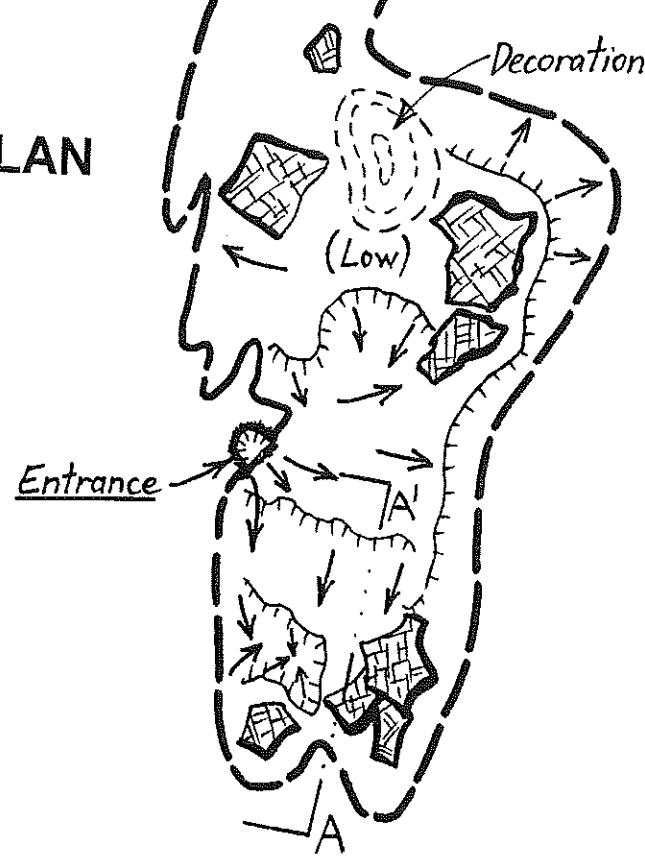
Not a lot of information is currently available about this cave ... it is entered via a 1.3 x 0.7 metre hole which drops into a 5 metre deep, low cavern with about 30 metres of passage.

Numerous flatteners were reported around the eastern and western sides.

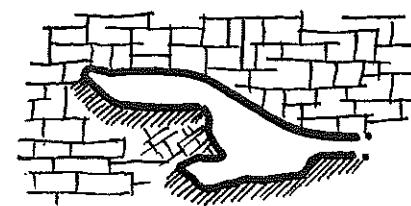
5L270



**PLAN**



A - A'



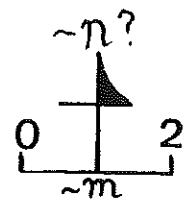
[Map ASF Grade 4?  
K.Mott (CEGSA), 1980s]

## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L271**

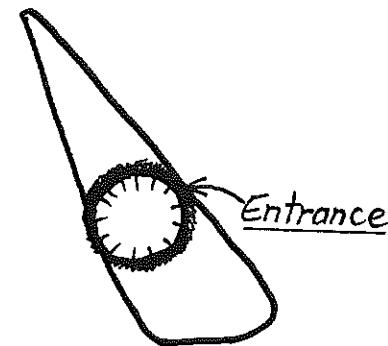
**(Unnamed Feature).**

Very little information is available about this feature, also. It reportedly consists of a 1.5 metre diameter hole which drops the same distance into a small V-shaped chamber.

5L271



## PLAN



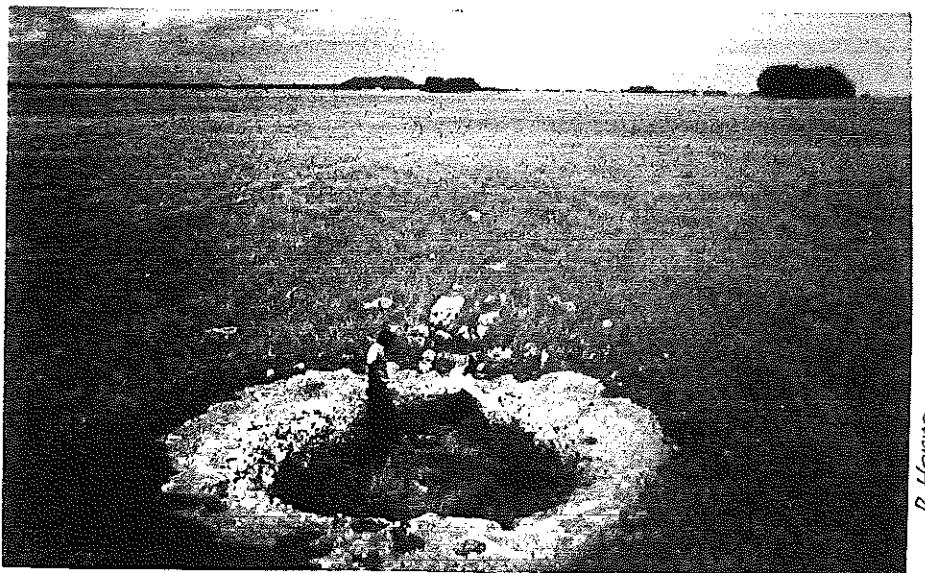
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L272

### HANGING ROCK CAVE.

Named by the author after some small chockstones which were precariously balanced against each other in a narrow fissure overhead, Hanging Rock Cave is entered via a low crawl which starts in the south-eastern wall of a 0.8 metre deep, almost perfectly circular doline which is about 4 metres across. (A minor passage also heads off from the north-western wall, but this is only about 8 metres long and ends in some inaccessible fissures).

The main (south-eastern) cave passage runs in for a couple of metres to a multi-level area; the upper section leads on through a restriction into a final crawl which leads to a terminal collapse area about 22 metres from the entrance, and the lower section drops sheer for about 4 metres to a mud "beach" and an elongated lake.

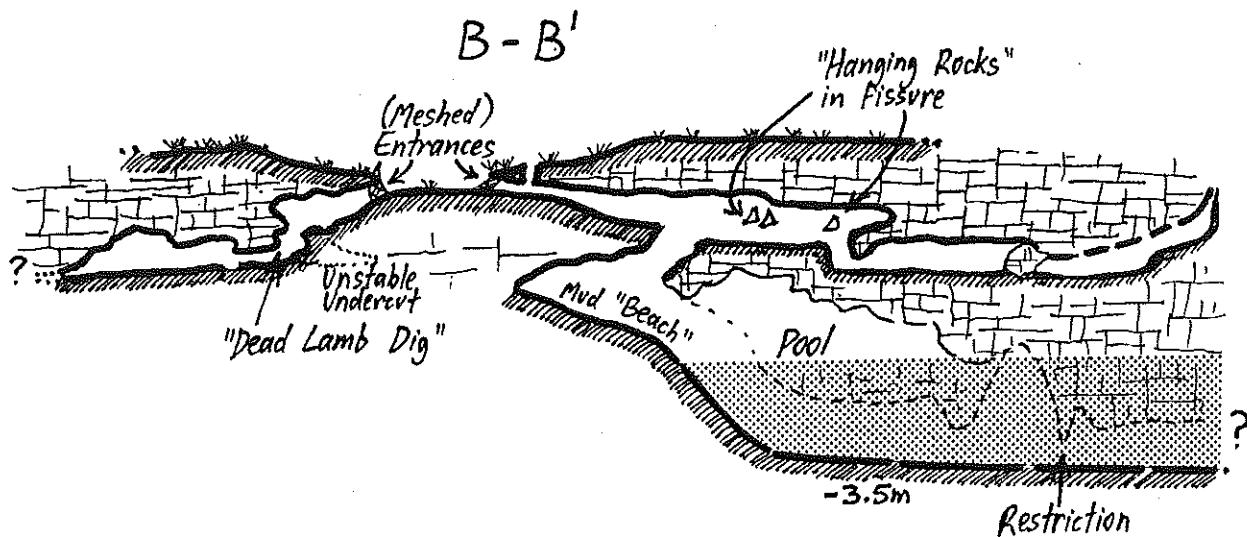
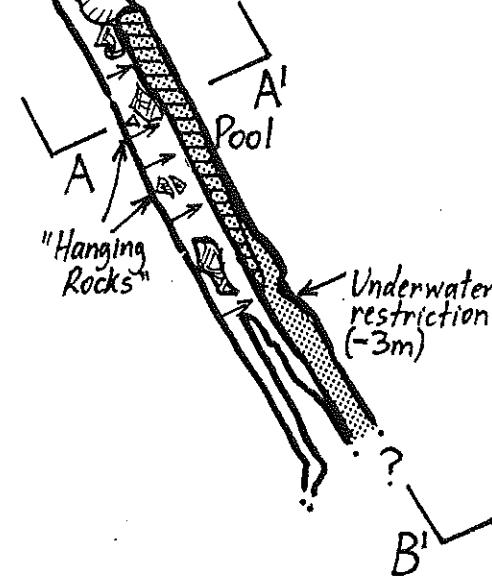
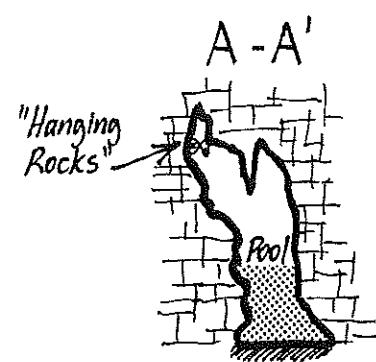
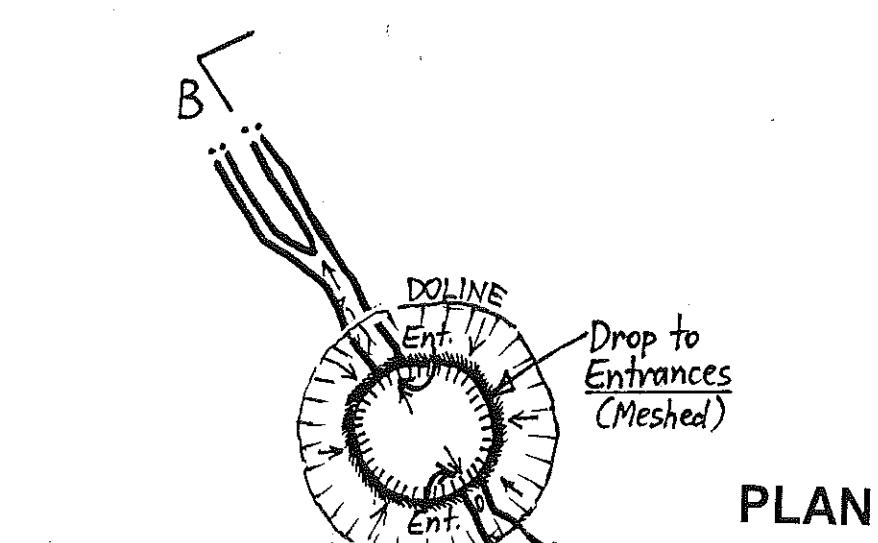
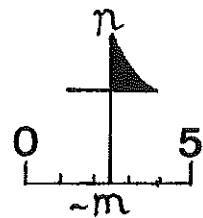
An exploratory dive by the author in July 1985 (with a small hand-held scuba tank) revealed that the underwater region could be readily penetrated for a distance of about 12 metres (to a maximum depth of 3.5 metres) before reaching a very tight restriction. From here, the passage could be seen to continue for another 5 metres or more. The bottom of the "lake" was almost perfectly flat throughout.



The cave was first explored (to the author's knowledge) by Mark Wasley, Geoff Aslin and the author after they removed some rubble and cut through some rabbit mesh on 8th June 1985.

# HANGING ROCK CAVE

5L272



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L273

## (Unnamed Feature)

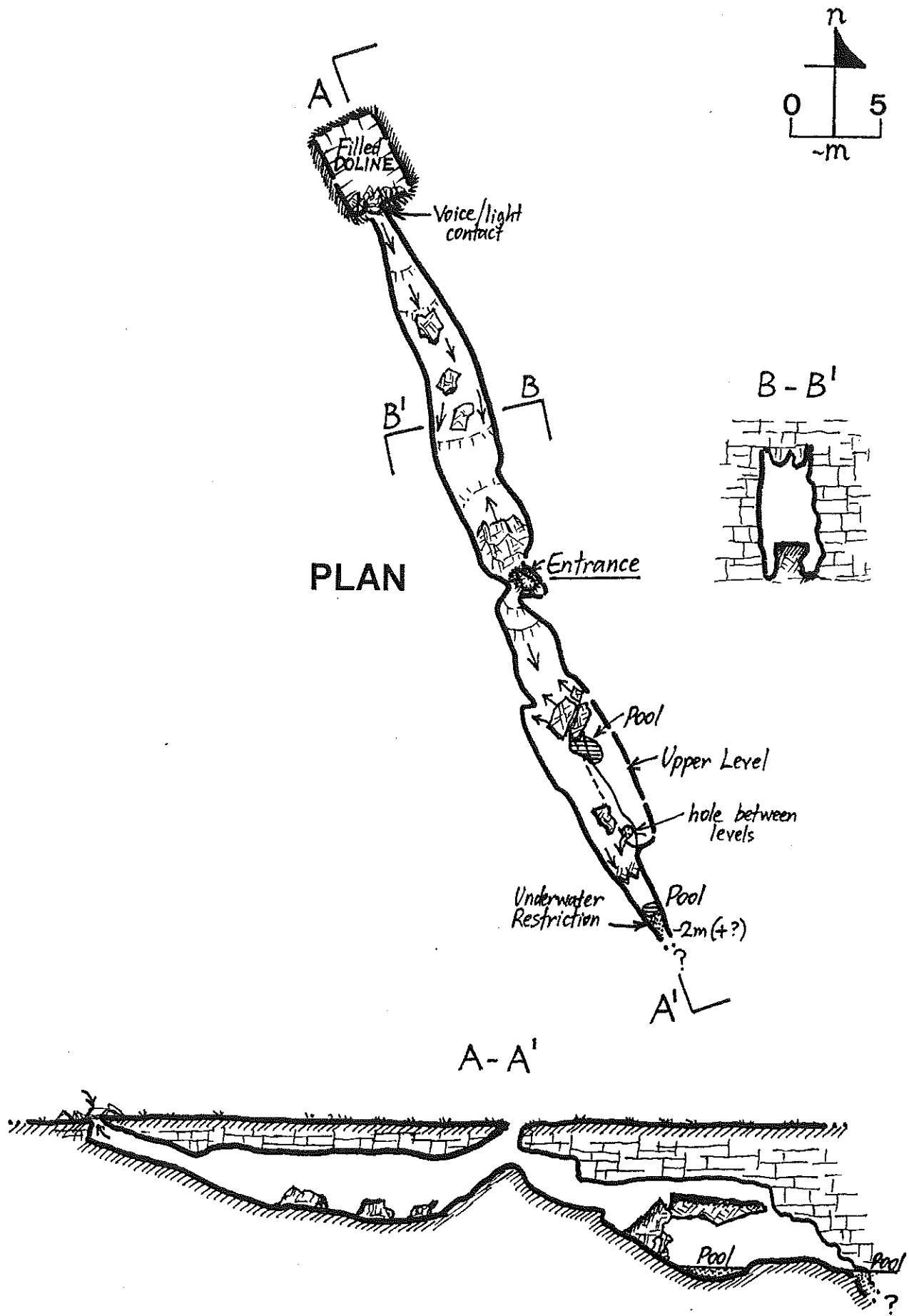
An impressive joint-controlled fissure cave, 5L273 is entered via a 1.3 x 0.9 metre roof window which drops about 3 metres to the top of a small talus mound.

The entrance is located almost halfway along the cave passage, which runs basically north-west to south-east; again, like so many of the joint caves in the region. The north-western extension is about 26 metres long and terminates at the edge of a 4 x 3m filled doline, while the 2 metre high south-eastern extension leads to an upper-level crawlway and a lower level walkway with several water-table pools. The pool at the very end of the passage is quite deep and potentially divable, but a major restriction about 2 metres beneath the surface would currently prohibit cave diving access.

The cave is evidently associated with several depressions and a large waterfilled sinkhole which lie on the same line. There is also a little decoration in the cave.



5L273



[Map ASF Grade 33,  
P.Horne & A.Cox, 1990]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L274

## SHAVERS REVENGE.

Named by the author in January 1985 to indicate the agony "larger" cavers must endure if they want to explore this horrible, sharp and painful cave, Shavers Revenge is a single 20-odd metre north-west to south-east joint-controlled fissure cave with a considerable amount of unusual phreatic development.

When cleared of obstructing paddock rubble, the entrance can only be negotiated by skinny people who are adept at sliding down ... and being hauled UP! ... sharp-edged limestone holes which are only about  $0.2 \times 0.25$  metres across! After a 4-5 metre skin-scraping drop, nervous visitors find themselves squatting on the top of a small dirt mound which slopes to the south-east for about 5 metres before entering an inaccessible fissure, and to the north-west into the main portion of the cave.

This section varies from between one and 7 metres in width and is between one and 2 metres high, and several water-table pools fill some floor holes to a depth of about 2 metres in places (with no apparent underwater extensions). The limestone takes the form of very hard and sharp "skeletal" forms and large, finely-balanced "plates", making the cave a bit painful to explore with unprotected hands (or heads)!

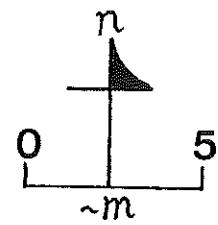
Further immediate penetration is halted by the narrowing walls at the north-western end of the fissure; however, in view of the cave's close proximity to "Tank Cave" (5L230) which lies only a couple of hundred metres to the west, more persistent efforts might prove to be worthwhile.

The entrance was found to have been completely buried under many large limestone rocks and was surrounded by a fence when it was re-visited in early 1992.

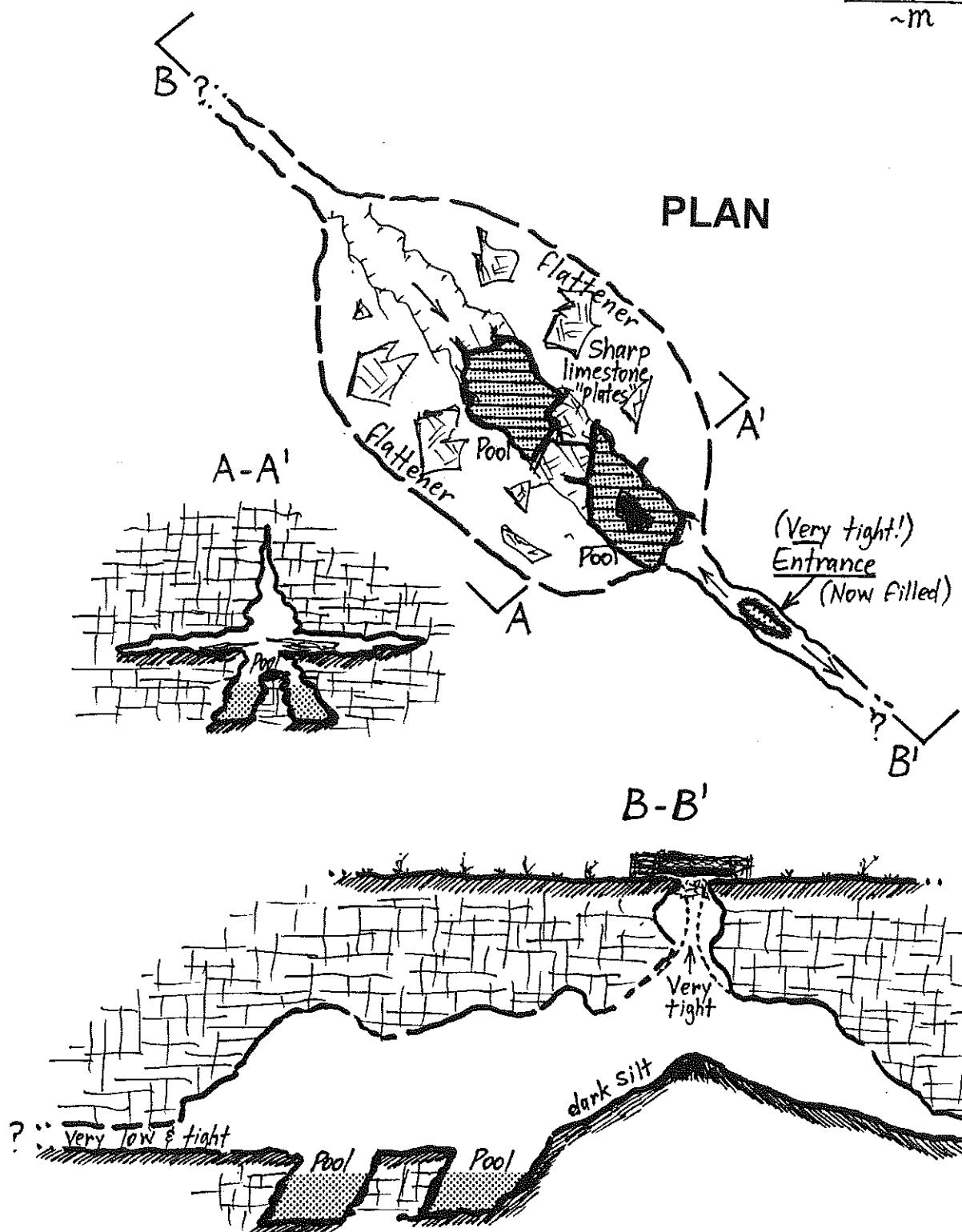


# SHAVERS REVENGE

5L274



## PLAN



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L275

(Unnamed Feature).

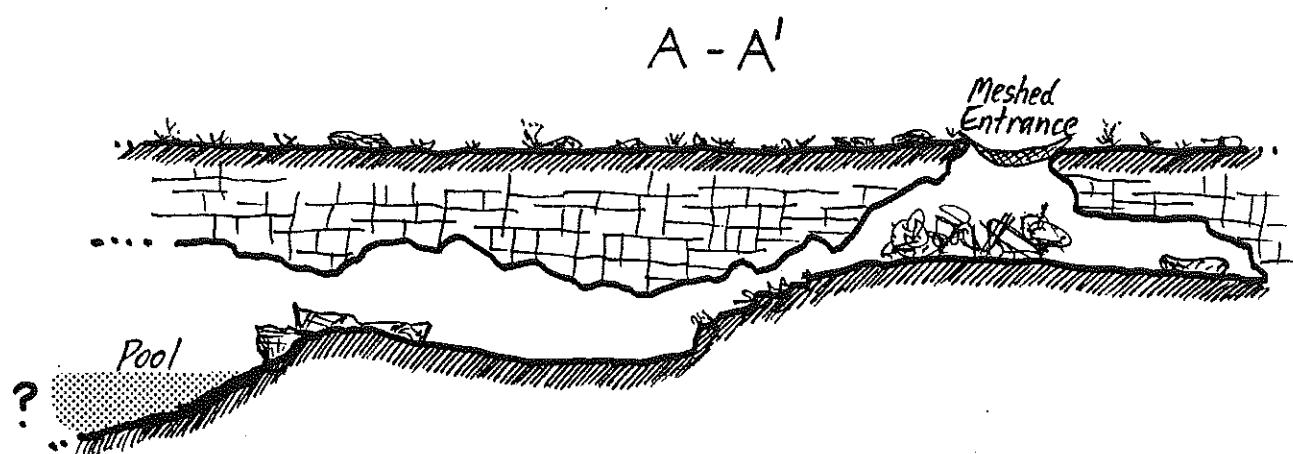
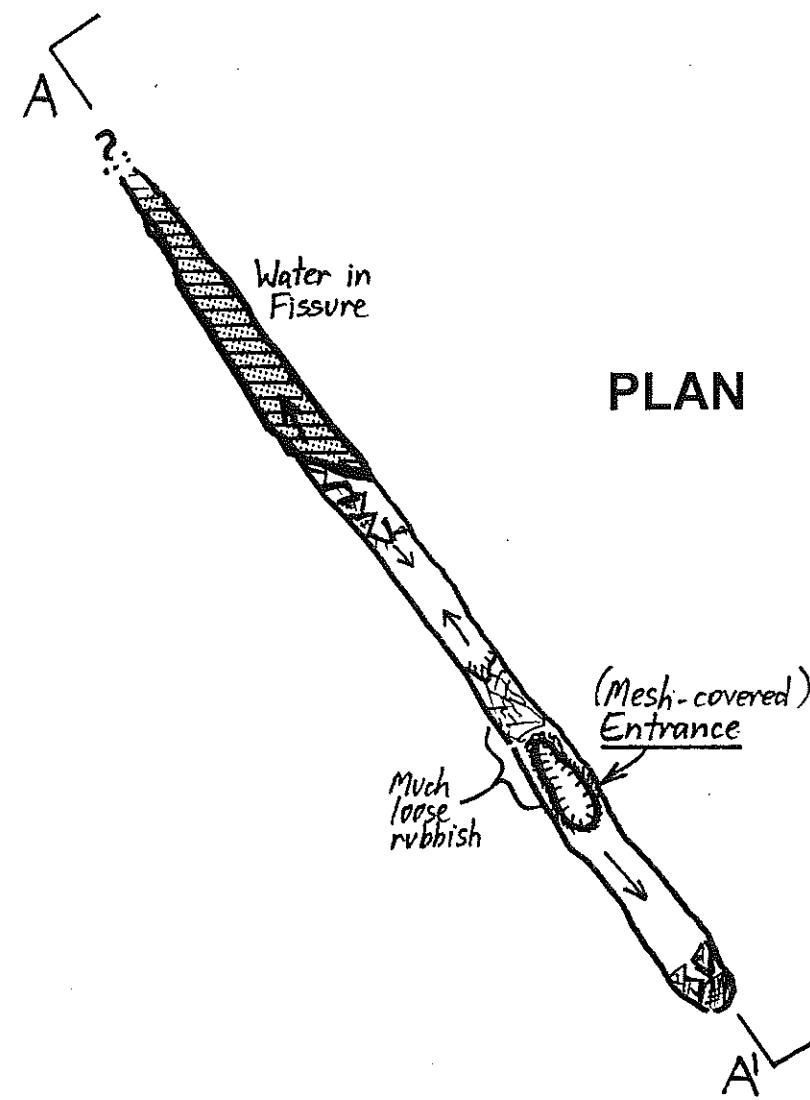
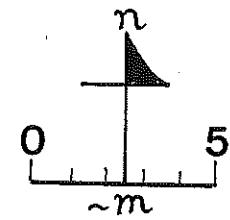
This joint-controlled fissure consists of a (meshed) 2.5 x 1 metre wide, 2m deep drop-in entrance hole with rubbish, a low 6 metre long passage to the south-east and a 20 metre long passage to the north-west. The water-table is intersected in the form of a 2-3m deep pool in an inaccessible fissure about 6-7 metres below ground level.

The cave is one of several karst features which lie in a line in a bare karst paddock, and it was mapped and formally numbered by the author after a cave paddock-search (in the company of Andrew Cox, Rino Dell'Antonio, Leonie (Lee) Dixon [now Nielsen], Peter Girdler and Geoff Aslin) in July 1985.



P. Horne

5L275



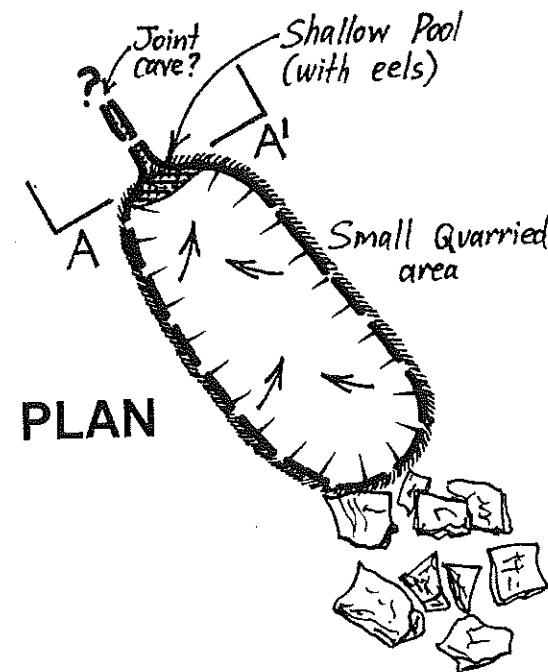
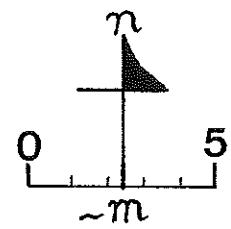
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L276

### (Unnamed Feature).

This simple karst feature consists of a simple narrow fissure about 0.8 x 0.5 metres wide at the north-western end of a small quarry-like cutting. The fissure has intersected the water-table and surprisingly contained an eel when it was visited by the author and locals Ian Ploenges and Peter Blackmore in September 1987.

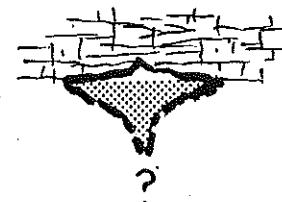
Exploration of the underwater region of the fissure was not attempted at that time due to the presence of run-off contamination of an oil-like consistency.

5L276



PLAN

A - A'



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, P.Horne, 1987]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L277

## DEAD FOX CAVE.

Hidden in a peaceful area of old pine forest, Dead Fox Cave got its name when the author and fellow cave diver Maurice Parry (who pointed out the feature) discovered the remains of said beast during their exploration of September 1987.

The entrance takes the form of a low slide-down under a 2 metre high limestone ledge at the southern edge of an indistinct degraded doline, and it quickly opens up into a small muddy chamber about a metre high, a few metres wide and 12 metres long.

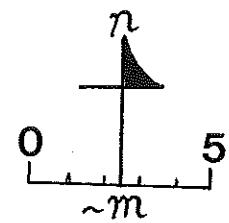
The water-table barely intersects the cave, flooding the flat floor during the September visit and completely drying out during a subsequent visit some 4 months later, at the height of the local summer season.



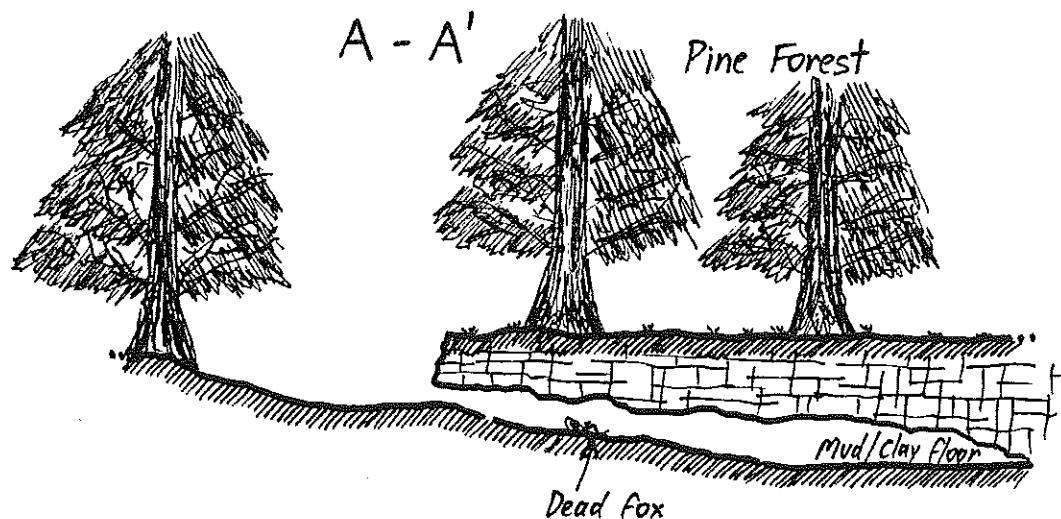
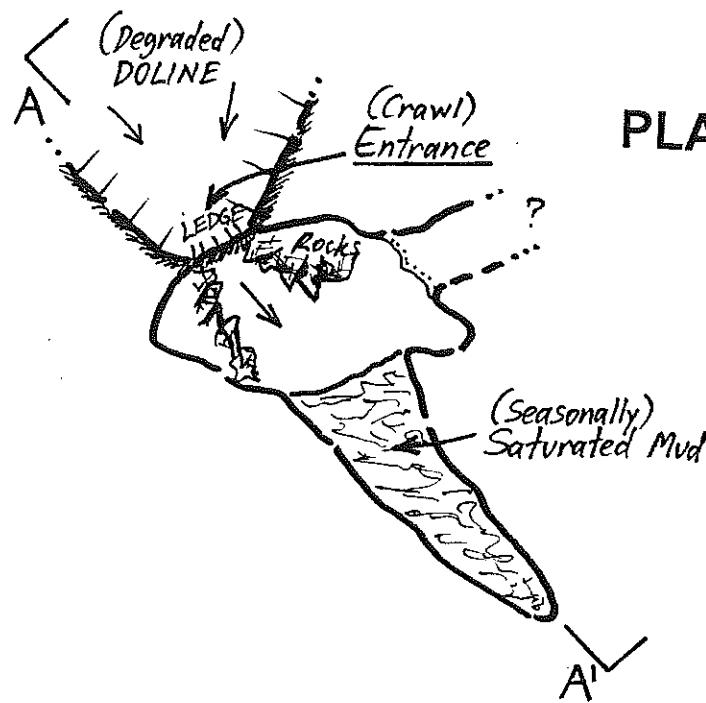
K. Grimes

# DEAD FOX CAVE

5L277



## PLAN



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L278

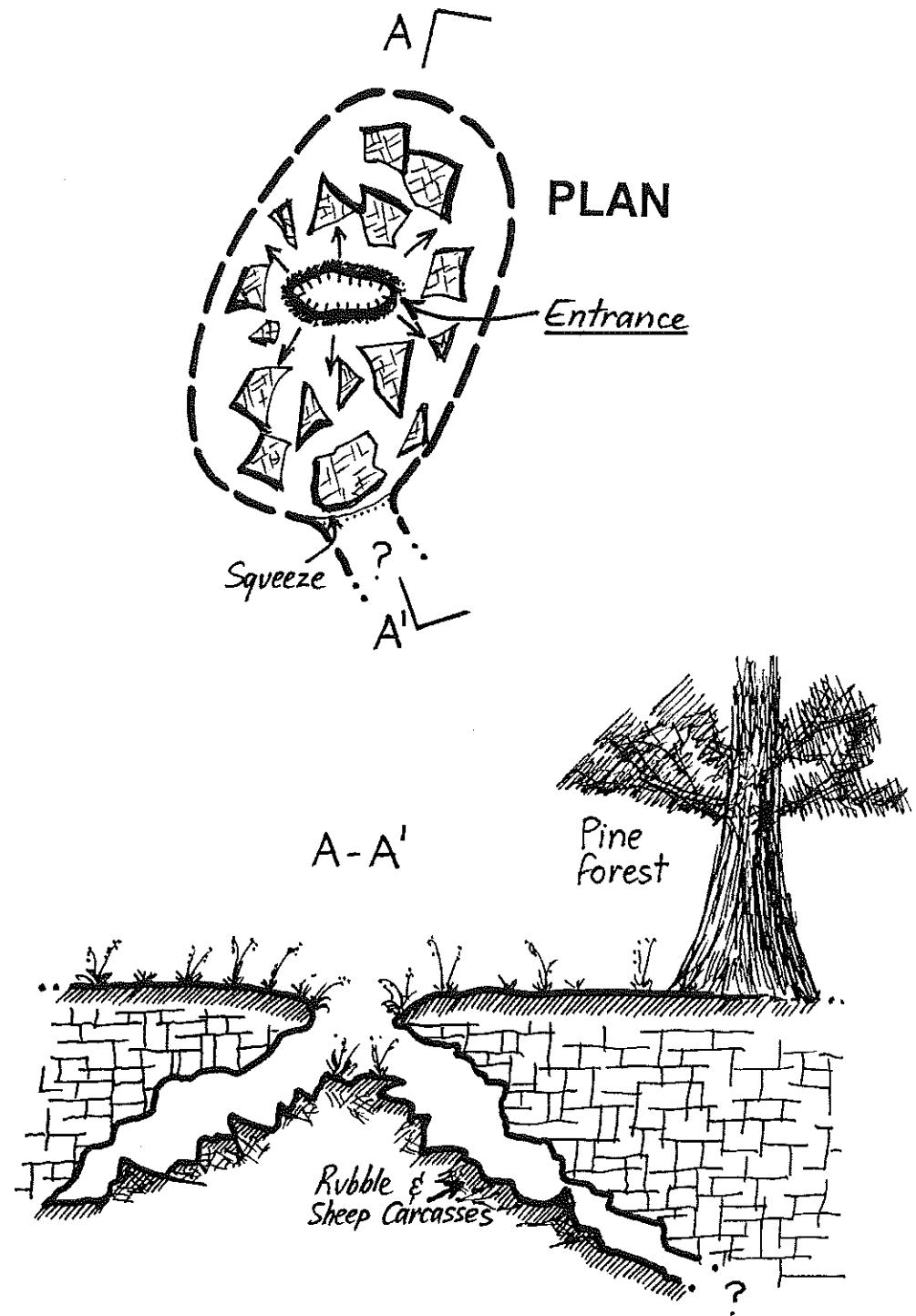
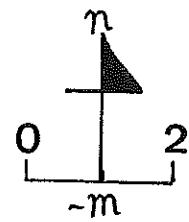
### (Unnamed Feature).

This unnamed cave is another "hidden pine forest" feature. It appears as a 1.5 by 0.8 metre roof collapse which drops a metre or so onto a talus mound.

The cave as such is very low and little more than a jumble of sharp-edged slabs in a 6 metre wide chamber. Some dead sheep were found in the rubble during a visit by the author and Maurice Parry in September 1987 (another of Maurice's leads!).

Further extensions might possibly be found with some persistent "gardening"!

5L278



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L279

## (Unnamed Feature).

This unnamed quarry cave is unique in that the quarry cutting has chopped right through the heart of a large fissure-cave, effectively dissecting it and creating two passages!

The north-western extension is the smallest, being about 10 metres long by a metre wide and up to 3m high, intersecting the water-table in the form of a shallow pool with no extensions. By contrast, the south-eastern passage is at least 15 metres long and up to 4m in height, and it appears to continue underwater.

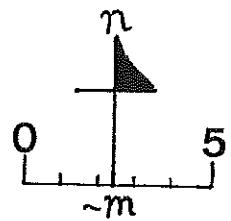
The water in this part of the cave is utilized by the landowner via a pipe, and it appears to be at least 3 or more metres deep. However, bearing in mind the structure of the vast majority of similar joint-controlled caves in this reason, it is felt that there is little chance of this feature continues underwater for any significant distance.

Further exploration is certainly warranted.



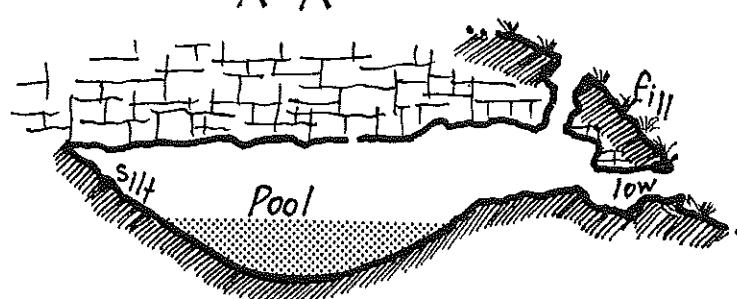
P. Horne

5L279

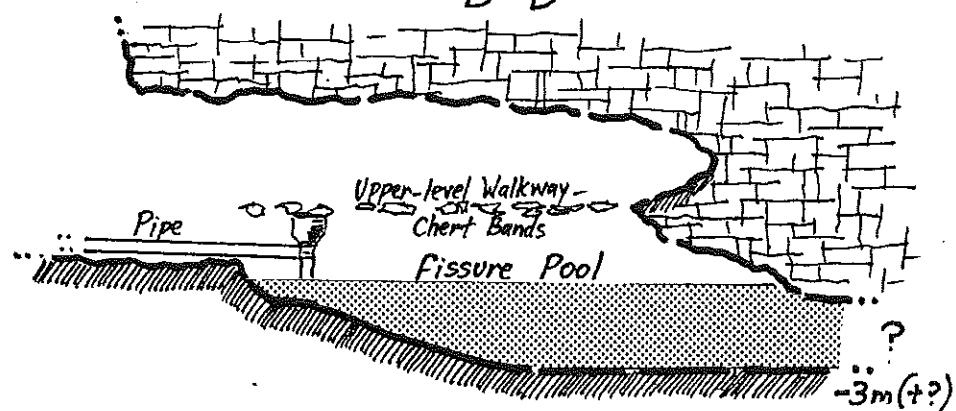


PLAN

A-A'



B-B'



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L280**

### **ROCK TOP CAVE.**

Not to be confused with "Stonecap Cave" (5L131), 5L280 was rather unimaginatively named by the author during a flying "Mount Gambier Cave-Hunting Spree" in January 1988 when he had run out of enthusiasm after having already located about a dozen similar new features on that trip!

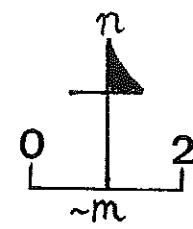
Rock Top Cave was covered with a large limestone boulder when it was first pointed out by the landowner. The entrance consists of a 1 x 0.6 metre roof hole which drops 2 metres to the top of a silt/wall chockstone in a very narrow fissure.

The floor immediately drops away again for 6-7m to the north-western side of the entrance, hitting the water-table and continuing along for about 10 metres.

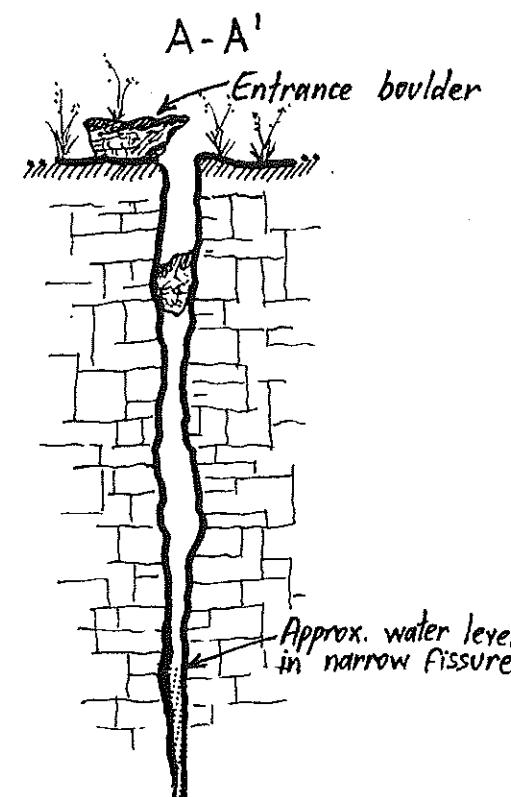
The cave has no obvious potential for further exploration.

# ROCK-TOP CAVE

5L280



**PLAN**



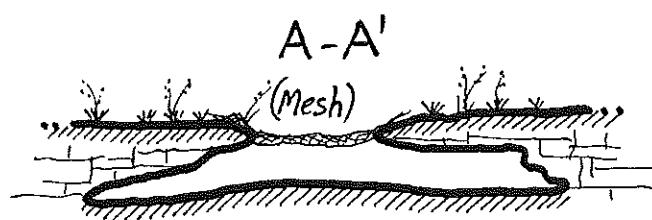
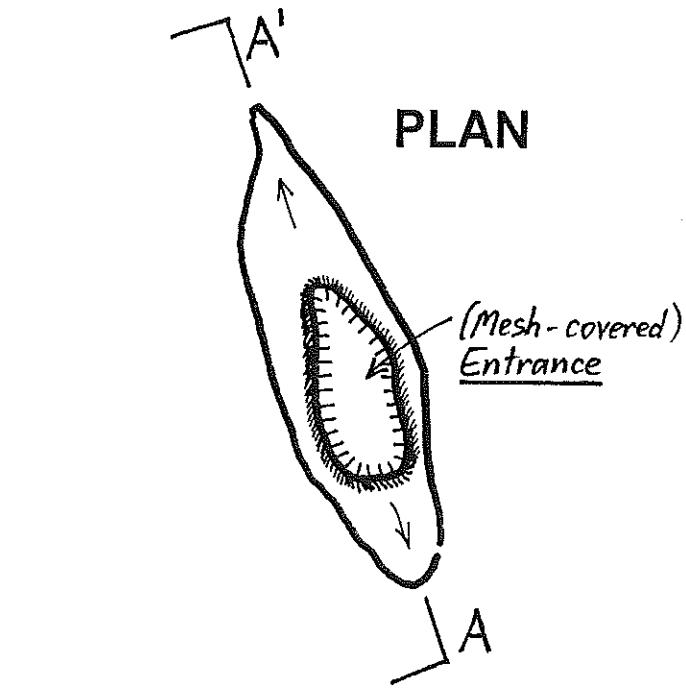
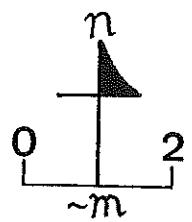
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: **5L281**

(Unnamed Feature).

Another relatively insignificant cave in a large karst field, 5L281 consists of a 3 x 1.5 metre entrance collapse which drops one metre through wire into a small cave running 3 metres to the north-west and a couple of metres to the south-east.

There are no apparent extensions and it is really not worth visiting!

5L281



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L282

### SPRINGVALE SPRING.

Readily visible from Highway One, Springvale Spring is a large shallow doline-like feature with interesting hydrological characteristics.

The feature is roughly circular and about 15 x 18 metres in size, and at the time of visitation by the author and his companion, Lee Dixon (Nielsen) in January 1988, the doline contained a shallow lake about 0.2 metres deep which had a "floor" of fairly deep mud.

The edges of the broad doline are completely degraded in small steps all around, except for the north-eastern side where a 2 metre high limestone face is exposed. A one metre wide, half-metre high flattener passage extends for several metres in a north-easterly direction from the base of this wall, serving as the main conduit for the water which pours out of the ground and fills the doline from this location.

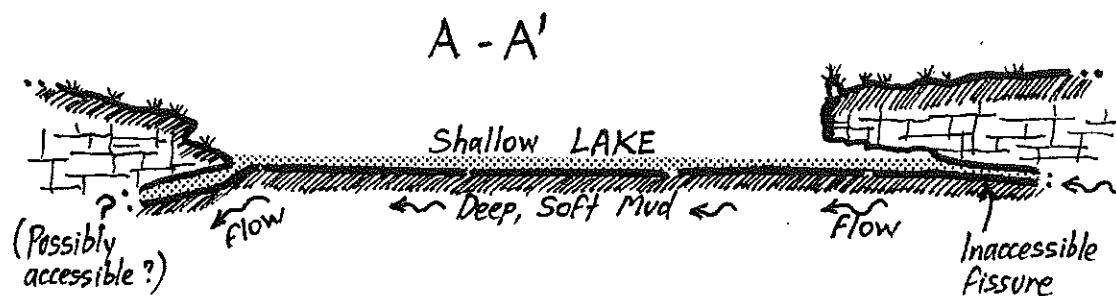
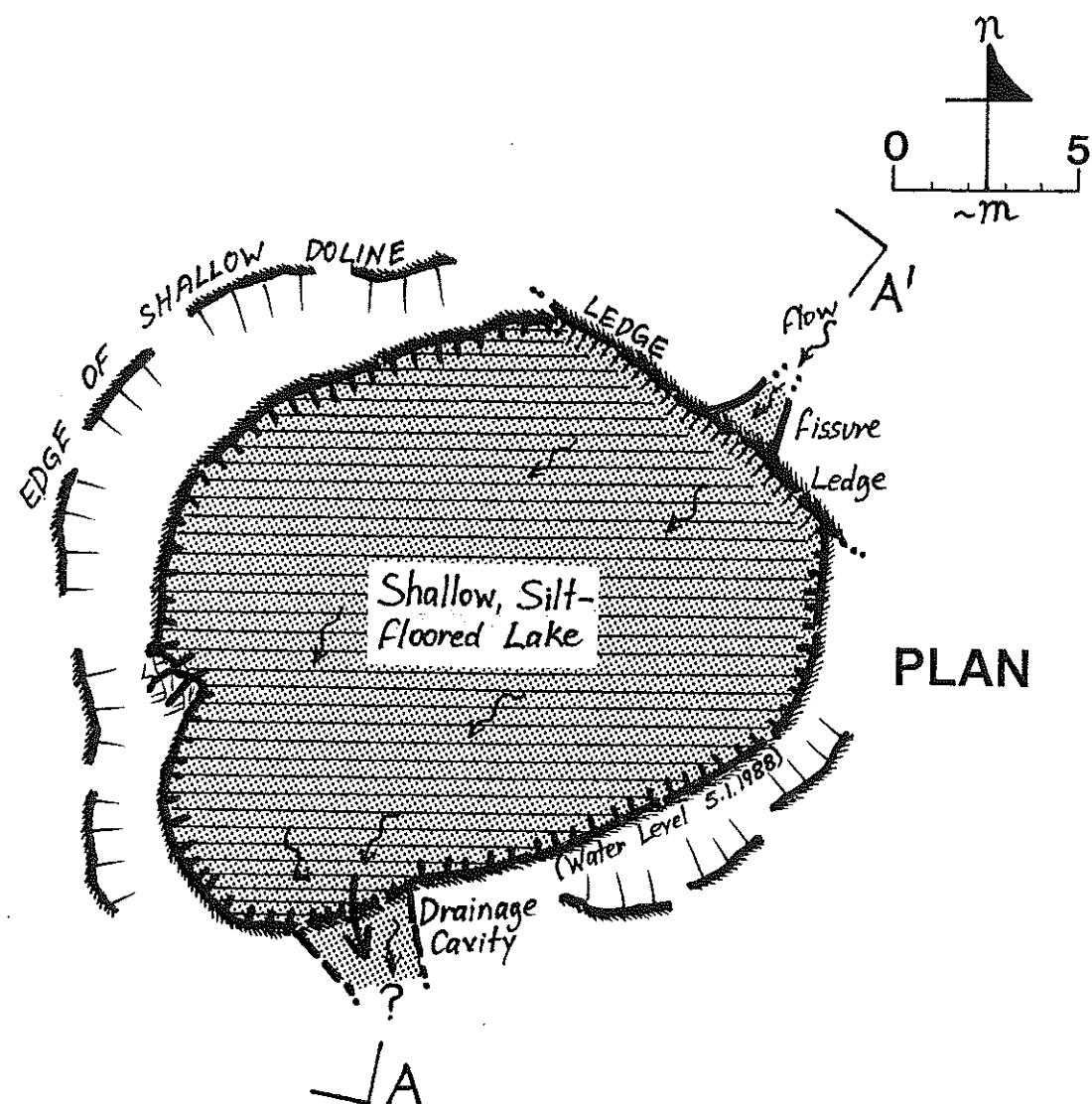


Instead of just soaking into the surrounding limestone, however, the water moves across the doline's floor and drains into a 2 metre wide, half metre high flattener passage on the southern side of the pond. This area might very well harbor accessible cave passage, if the brief look by the author using a small hand-torch and facemask is anything to go by! The feature can therefore be broadly classed as an unusual "karst window" collapse which has broken into a shallow subsurface stream.

The whole surrounding valley is flooded to a depth of many metres at times.

# SPRINGVALE SPRING

5L282



## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L283

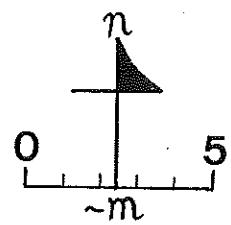
### (Unnamed Feature).

Hard to find in the middle of a bracken fern-infested pine forest, this feature is accessed via a 4 by 1.5 metre vertical roof collapse which leads down and around in an anticlockwise direction to a 45-degree slope with numerous boulders.

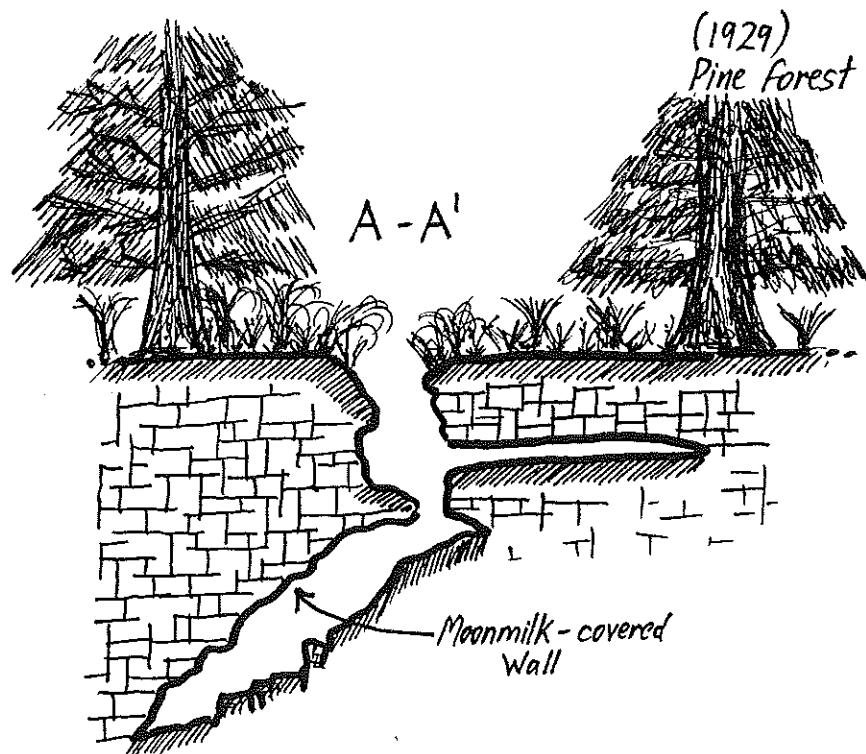
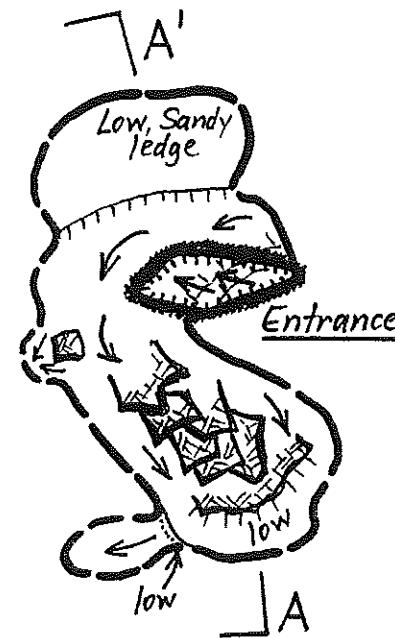
The cavern extends to the south of the entrance chamber for about 10m or so and has quite a lot of moonmilk on the ceiling in places.

Several low flatteners were also observed but not pushed during the initial visit by the author (with Maurice Parry and Greg Bulling) in May 1988, and these might be worth exploring further. The cave was pointed out by Woods and Forests personnel at that time.

5L283



## PLAN



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory sketch,  
P.Horne, M.Parry & G.Bulling, 1988]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L284

### (Unnamed Feature).

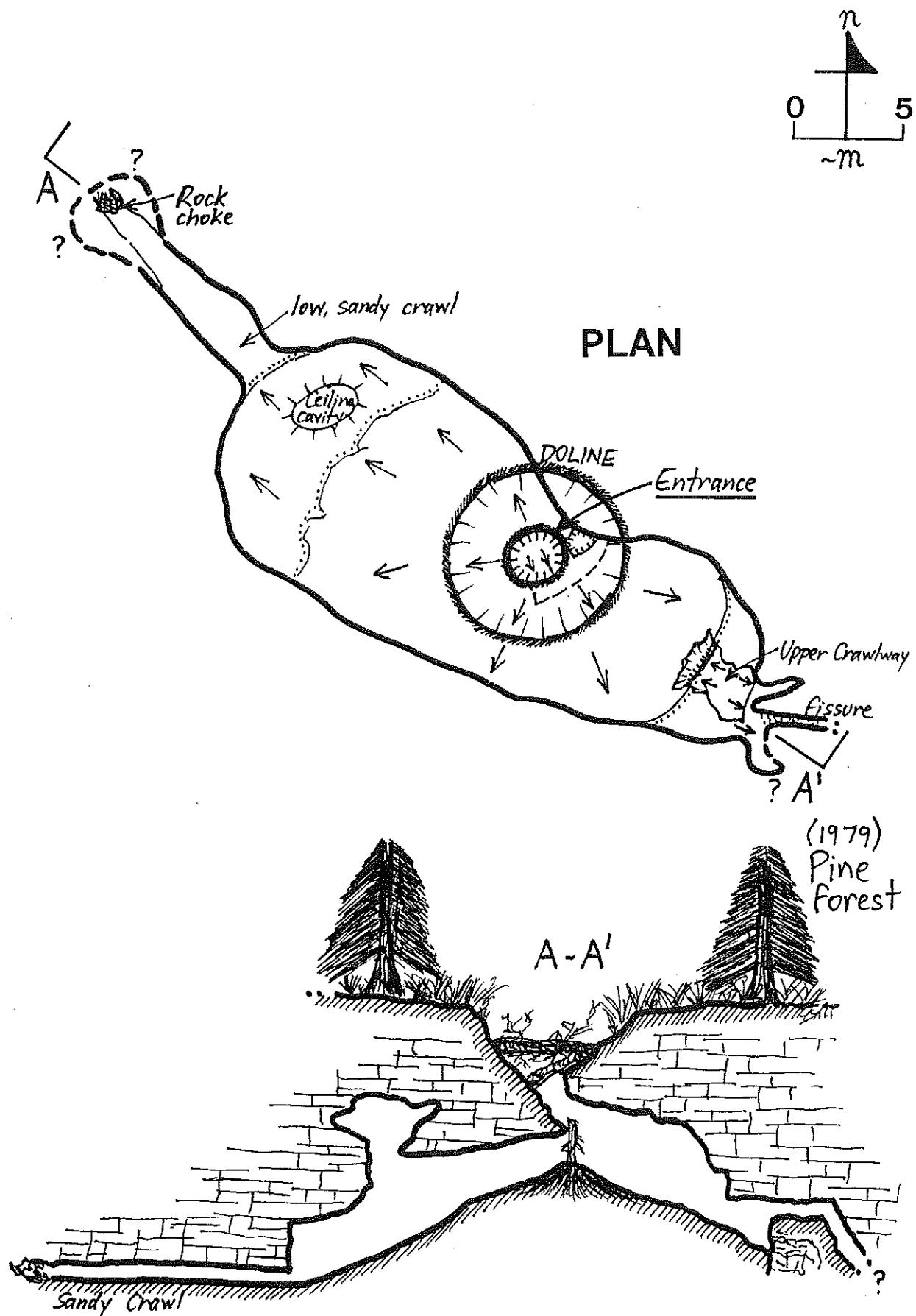
Located close to 5L283 in an adjacent block of pines (and very high masses of bracken fern), this cave consists of a 2 metre diameter solution tube-like chimney entrance in the bottom of a 7 metre diameter doline and a large elongated chamber which is oriented roughly north-west to south-east.

The top of the talus mound is only about 2 metres from the bottom of the tube and some 6 metres below ground level, and several large logs have been dropped down to aid access. The main cavern runs about 10 metres to the south-east and ends in an awkward fissure, and the main north-western aspect terminates about 13 metres from the entrance at the start of a 2 x 0.7m high crawlway which goes in for a further 10 metres or so.

The cave has little of significance to offer to cavers, and like 5L283, it was first(?) explored by the author, Maurice Parry and Greg Bulling in May 1988 after they learnt of it from Woods and Forests Department workers.



K. Grimes



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L285**

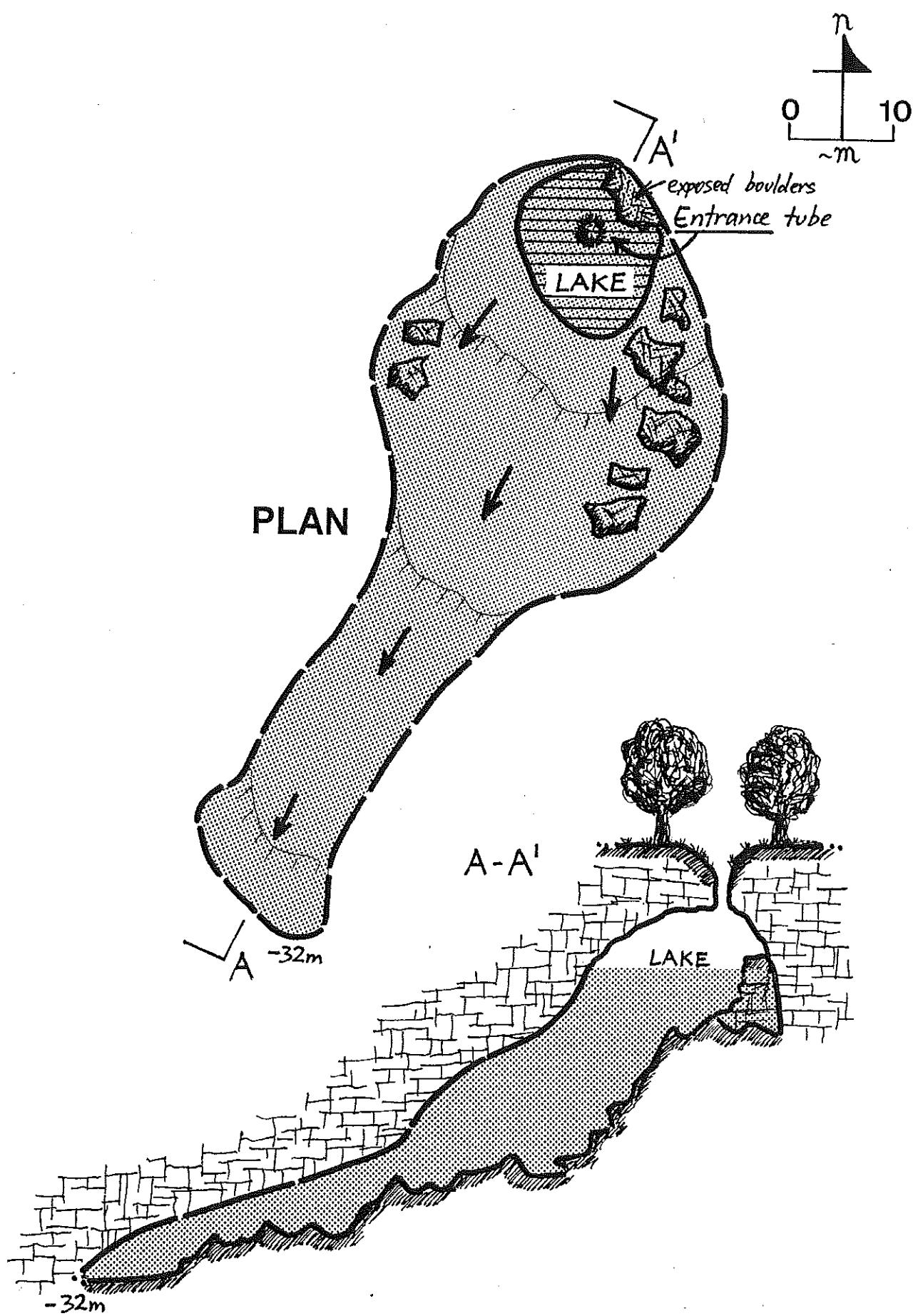
### **(Unnamed Feature).**

Not a lot is currently known about this karst feature. Information to hand at the time of this writing indicates that this cave is a single south-west to north-east trending waterfilled passage about 60 metres long and more than 30 metres deep, with a restriction between boulders at 23 metres. Access is made via a 2 metre diameter solution-tube chimney (with rubbish) which drops about 12m into a 10 metre diameter lake chamber with a small rocky 'island' on its north-eastern side.

The accuracy of the above information and accompanying map is unknown, but most likely quite high.

Access is currently prohibited.

5L285



[Map ASF Grade 3?, R.Garrad,  
J.Hiscock & P.Prust, c. 1980]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L286

## FIRE-ESCAPE CAVE.

One of the very few true "karst window" features in the entire Lower South East, Fire-Escape Cave apparently gained its name (according to Mr. Brian Vauser of Allendale East in October 1986) as a result of its life-saving properties some years ago, when a couple of local lads escaped a paddock-fire by jumping into this waterfilled "puddle".

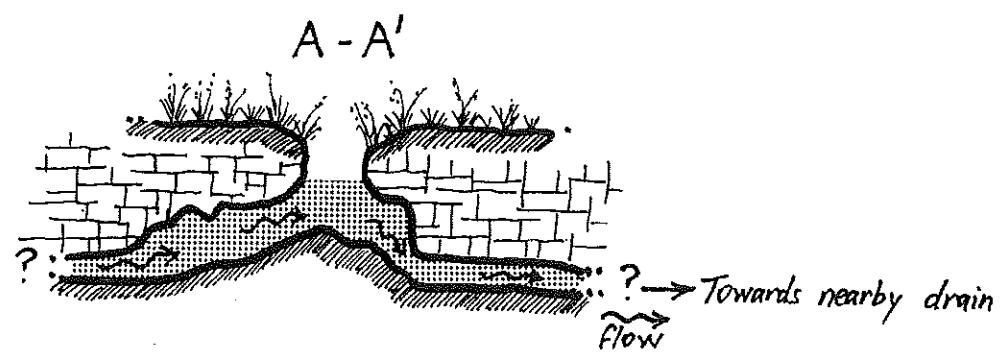
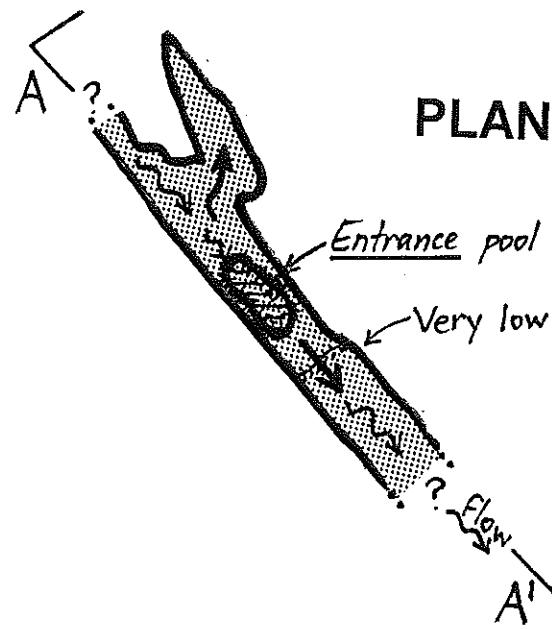
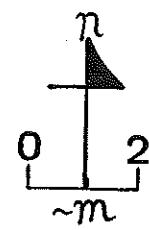
The feature takes the form of a simple 1 x 0.7 metre collapse window which drops directly into clean, calm (flowing) water about a metre down, and bottoms out another 1.5m deeper. The underground area runs off for several metres both to the north-west and south-east; the former aspect reaches a depth of 2.5m and pinches off in a low, tight squeeze and serves as the inflow region, and the water passes across the entrance tube and heads under a 0.3m high ledge under the south-eastern side of the entrance, running off in a low, silt-floored passage about 1.5m across and 2 metres deep, out of sight. The speed of the flow (based on timing a bit of moving weed) was in the order of 0.4m/second – quite strong for this region, in the author's experience!

The water seems to be flowing directly to a nearby drain, but this was dry so obviously the conduit system continues in some form under the drain and might be worthy of some "gardening".

A surprisingly large number of aquatic animals, including yabbies, spiny crayfish, native trout and two other fish species, were also observed here by the author in October 1986, and eels have also been sighted here on occasion. It is a strange feature which warrants further investigation.

# FIRE-ESCAPE CAVE

5L286



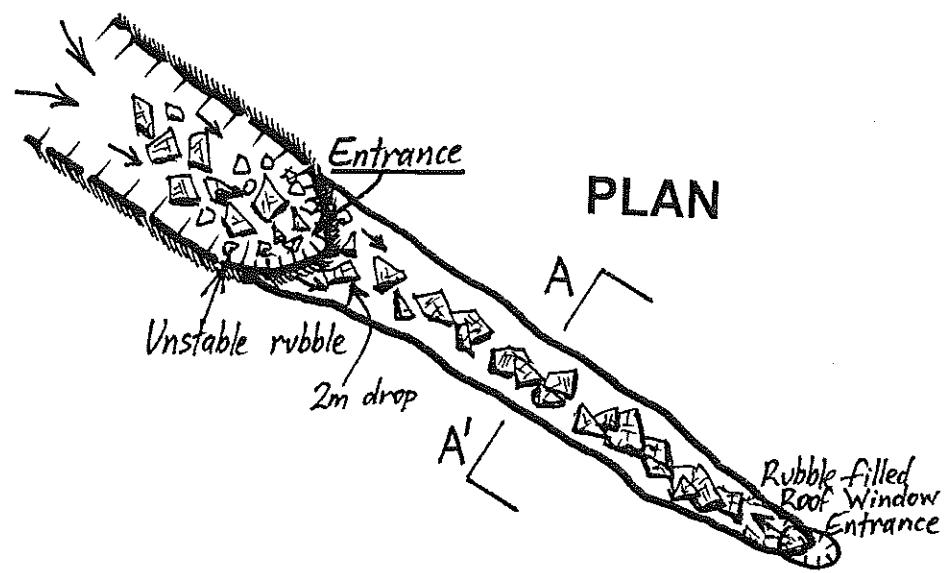
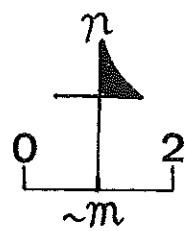
## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L287**

### **(Unnamed Feature).**

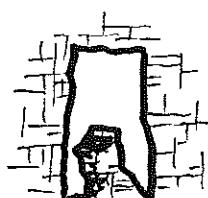
Discovered by the author (in the company of his friends, Lee Dixon (Nielsen) and Vien Bach) after he pulled out a pile of rubble on January 5th, 1989, this feature is a simple south-east-trending rocky-floored passage about 1.5 metres high, 2m wide and 8.7 metres long. The unstable crawl-in entrance lies under an overhang at the south-eastern end of a rubble-filled trough, and the passage terminates under a sealed roof window which would have originally been about a metre across.

The cave is the largest of several similar karst features which lie in the same line less than 100 metres apart.

5L287



A - A'



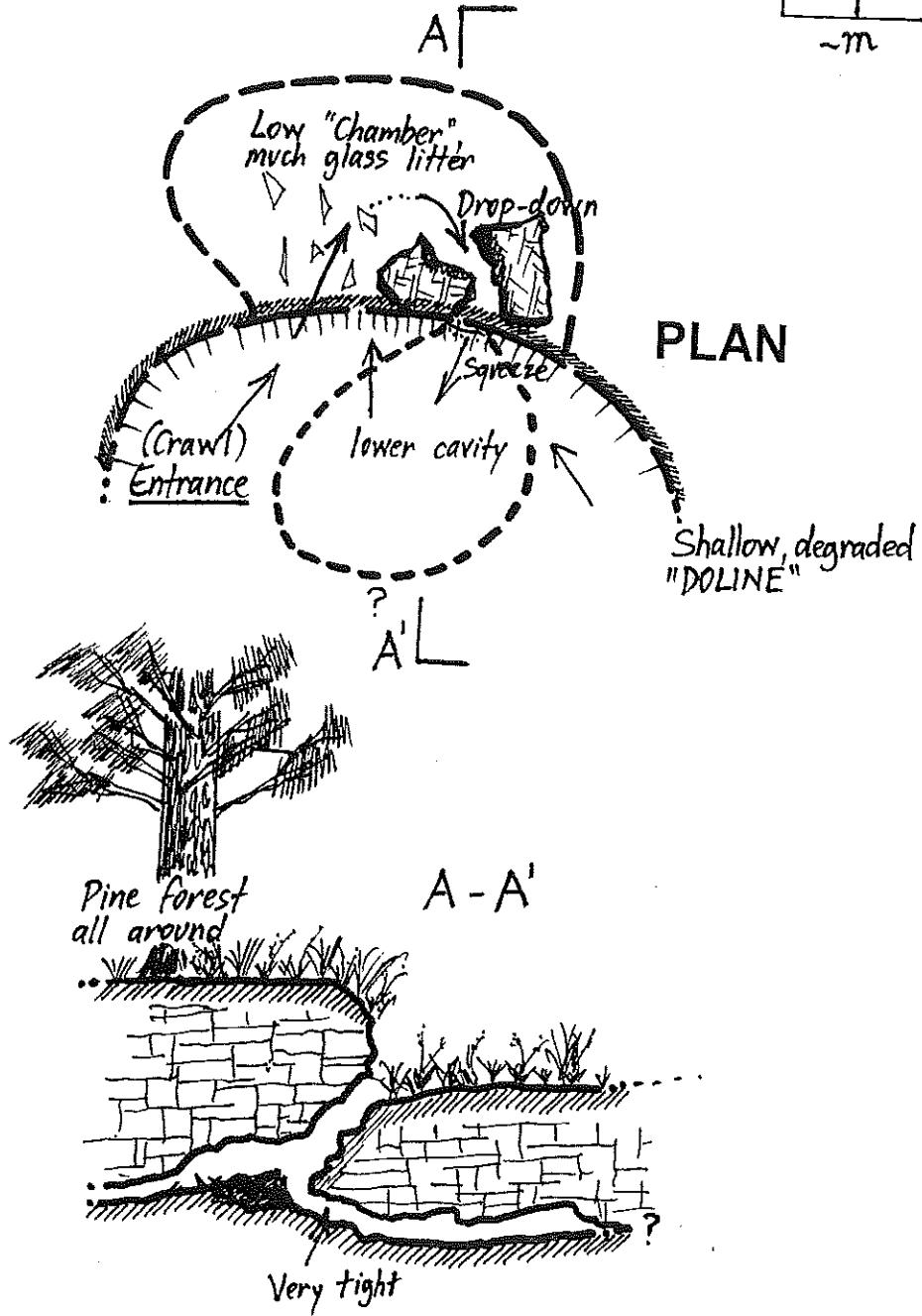
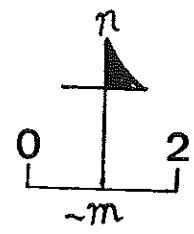
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L288

(Unnamed Feature).

Horrible and crawlly, this feature is another forest-hidden karst collapse consisting of a 3 x 0.6 metre high "cavern" under the northern wall of a doline-like feature (which is actually a quarried hole which was used to produce material for a nearby lime-kiln). By crawling through shards of glass and other rubbish, "intrepid" (and thin!) cave explorers might be able to turn to the right and squeeze into a 0.3 metre high cavity about 3 metres long which doubles back under the floor of the main surface doline.

This feature has been numbered more for scientific and historical recording reasons than for recreational purposes!

5L288



[Map ASF Grades  
1-2, P.Horne, 1983]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L289

(Unnamed Feature).

And if you thought that 5L288 was bad!...

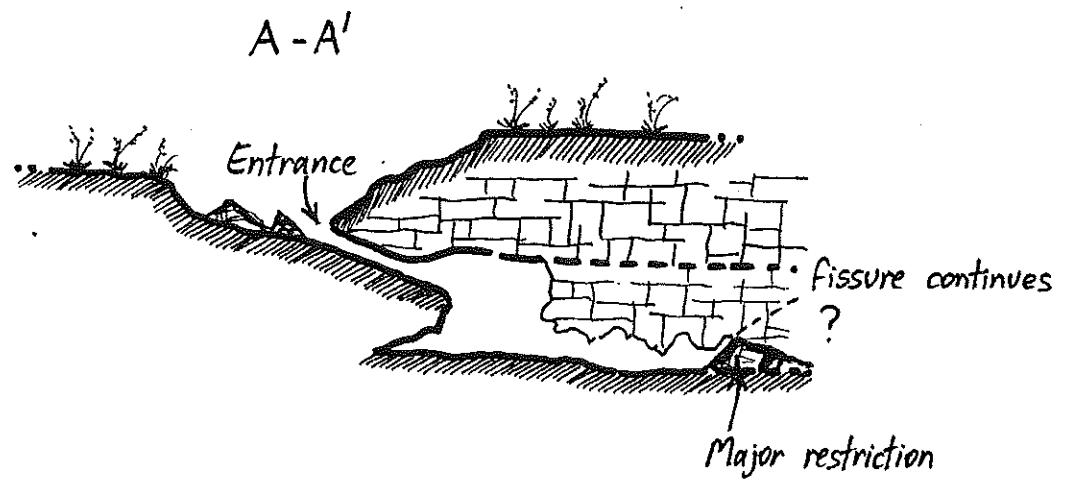
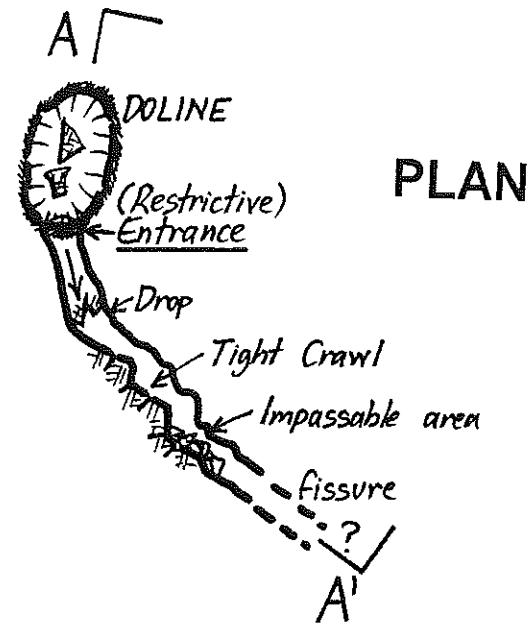
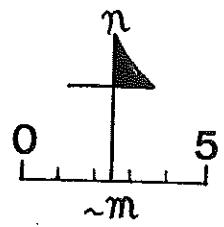
This shin-scraping cavity was first reported by an adjacent property manager in June 1989, when a small dark hole could be seen dropping into darkness on the southern end of a 4 x 2 metre collapse doline in rugged exposed karst country.

A visit by the author in August 1989 revealed that, after squeezing down a 0.25m high flattener passage for 2.5 metres or so, the floor drops away for about 2 metres to a very low squeeze which terminates in an inaccessible pinch about 8 metres from the entrance.

The cave obviously continues beyond this point, but it would need a lot of work to make access possible, and it would appear to be largely a waste of time and energy.



5L289



# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L290

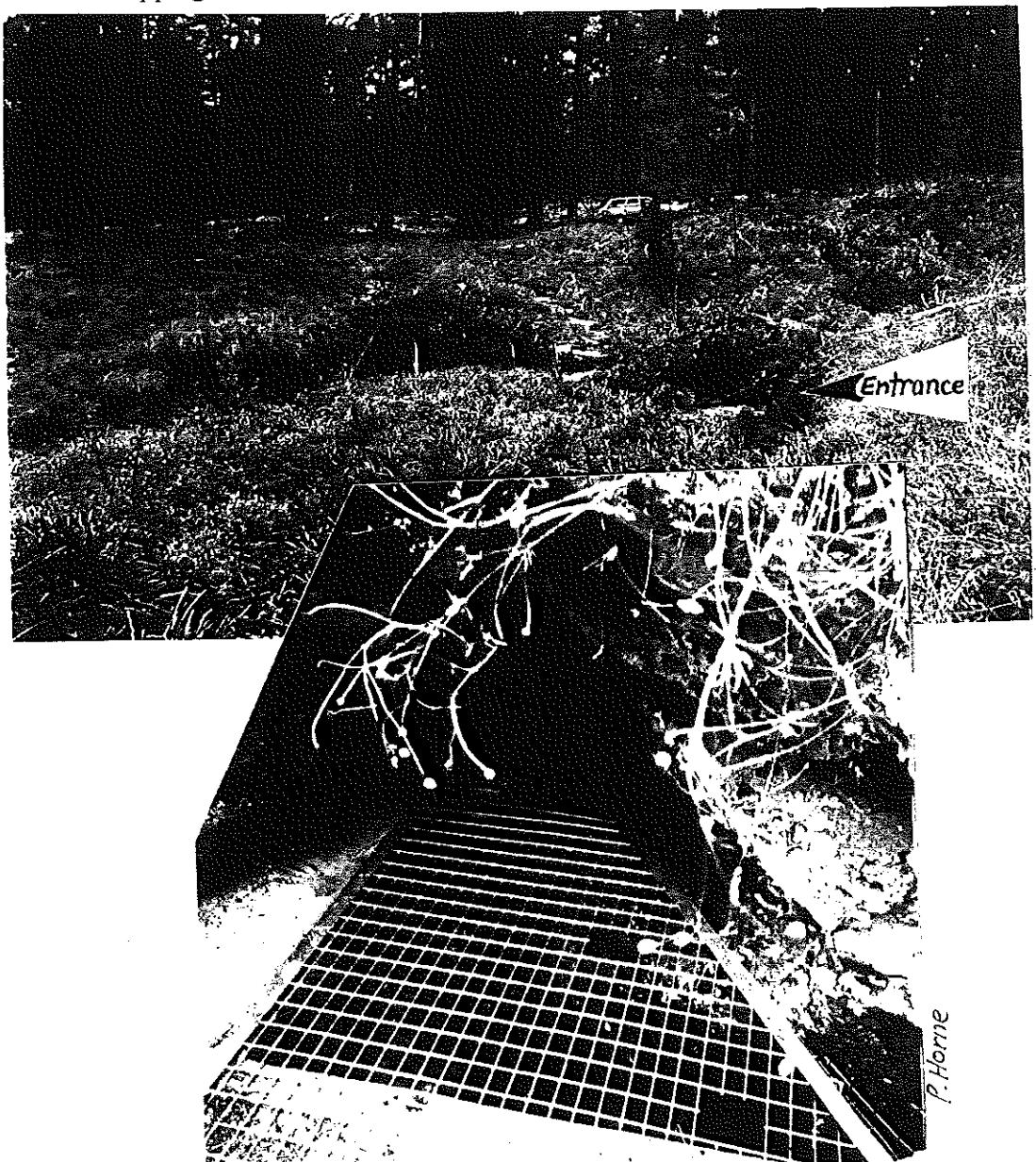
## NETTLE-BED CAVE.

Nettle-Bed Cave was named by cave diver Grant Pearce, after he and his diving partner, Chris Murphy, discovered it on 27 January 1990 after labouring to remove dozens of limestone boulders which choked the south-eastern end of the popular diving doline known as 5L97 (Mud Hole).

Grant and Chris' efforts revealed the presence of a body-sized lake which dropped to an unknown depth under the wall, and their early dives found them exploring two large, virgin submerged chambers which extended for a distance of almost 80 metres from the entrance.

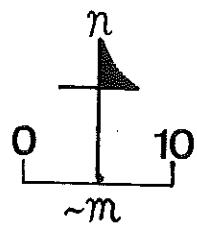
The upper sections of the main entry passage were found to harbor unusual wall scratchings to a depth of around 7 metres underwater, and these have subsequently been tentatively identified as being prehistoric megafaunal markings (and perhaps including human petroglyphs) which require urgent protection and further detailed archaeological investigation.

Further mapping and research dives were still taking place at this site at the time of this writing.

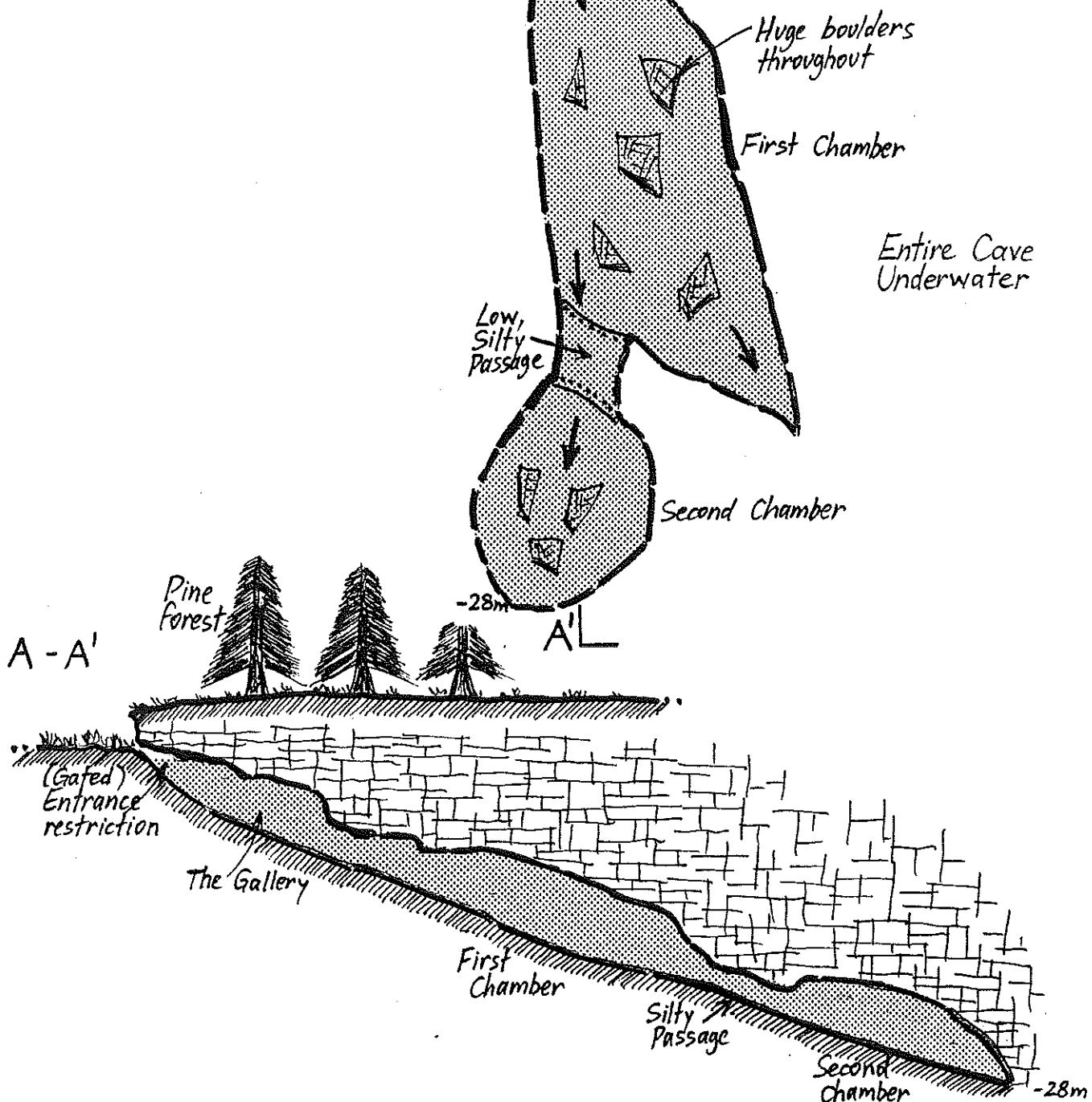


# NETTLE-BED CAVE

5L290



## PLAN



[Map ASF Grade 32, G.Pearce,  
C.Murphy & P.Horne. 1991-93+]

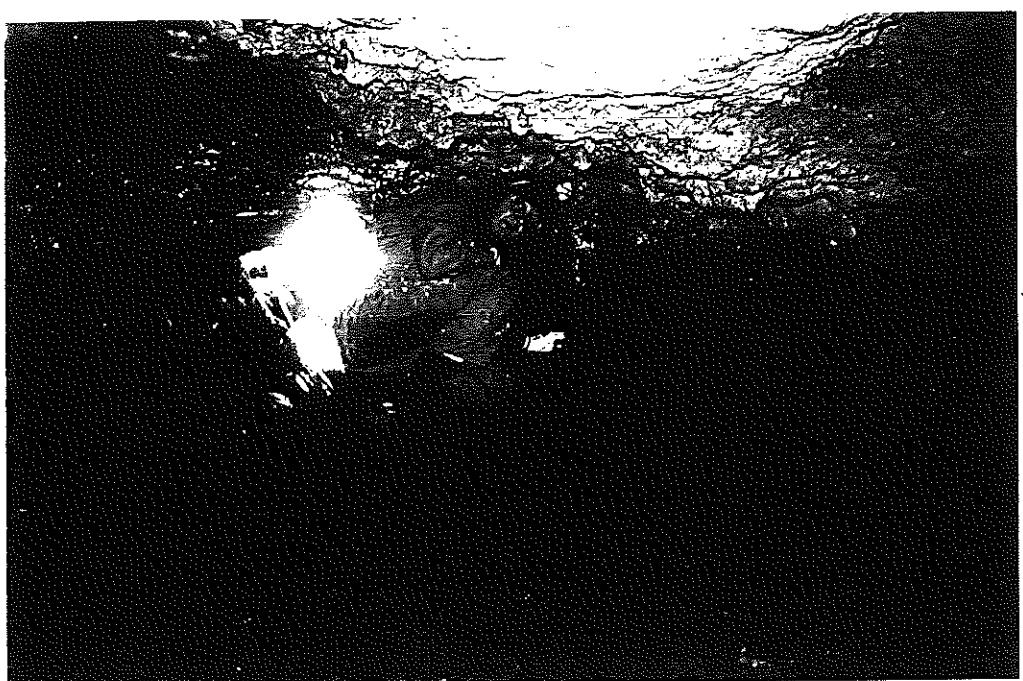
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L291

(Unnamed Feature).

This cave is entered from the edge a rubbish-filled doline, reaching the water-table in the form of some pools about 2 metres deep.

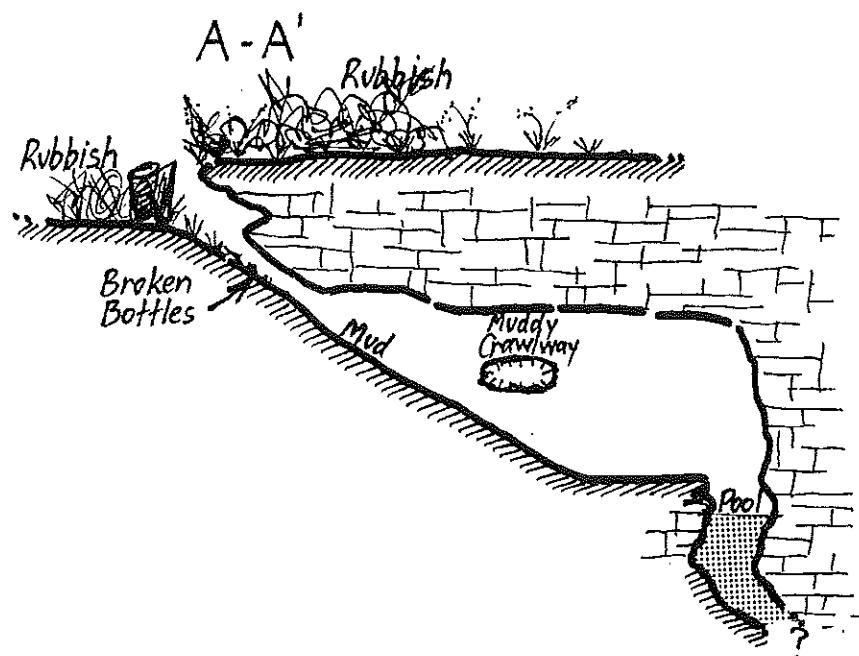
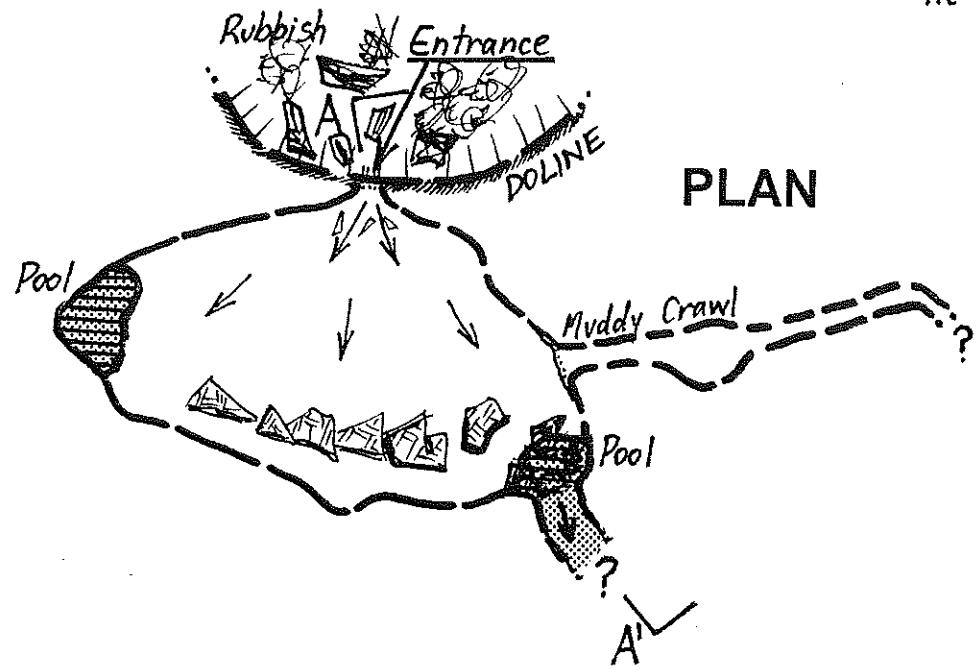
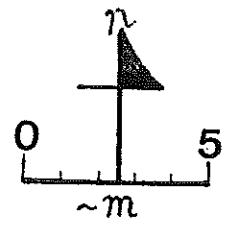
There are several muddy crawls in the 3m high chamber, but visitors need to be extremely careful of broken bottles around the low slide-in entrance.

5L291 was first recorded by Grant Pearce and Lynne Pearce on 24 August 1990.



G. & L. Pearce

5L291



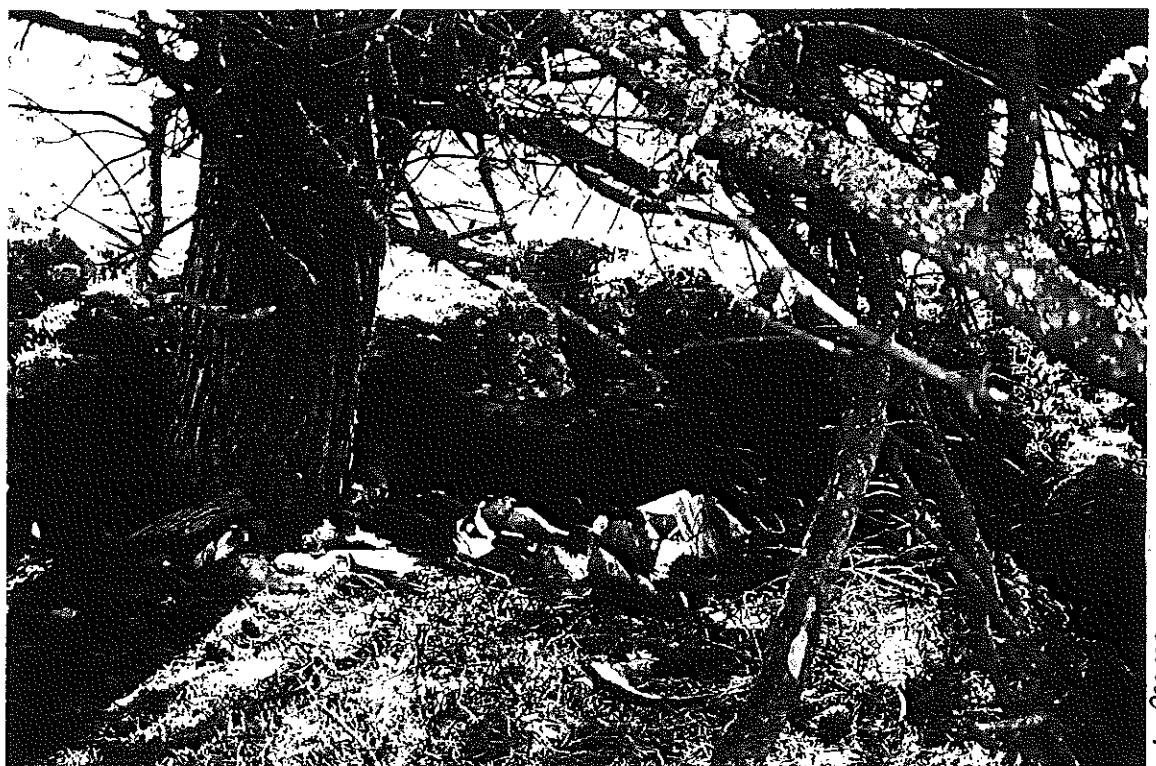
[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, G.&L.Pearce, 1990]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L292

### PINE-TREE CAVE.

Named by Grant and Lynne Pearce after the tree located close to the entrance, Pine-Tree Cave consists of a rubbish-filled doline and a 0.4 metre high, muddy access passage which leads to a cavern and water-table pools (one with some diving potential – still being assessed).

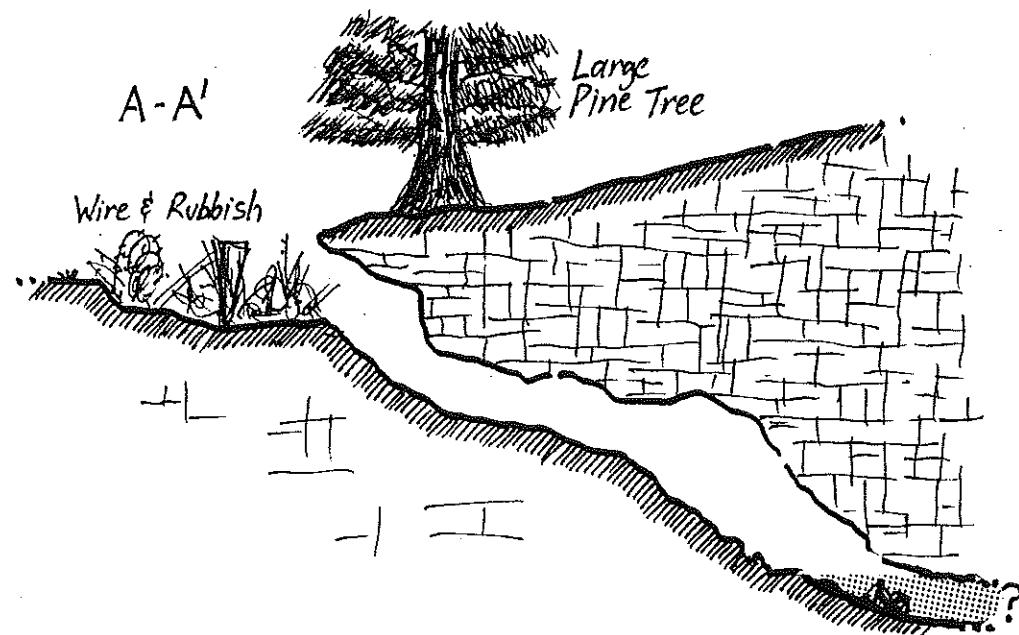
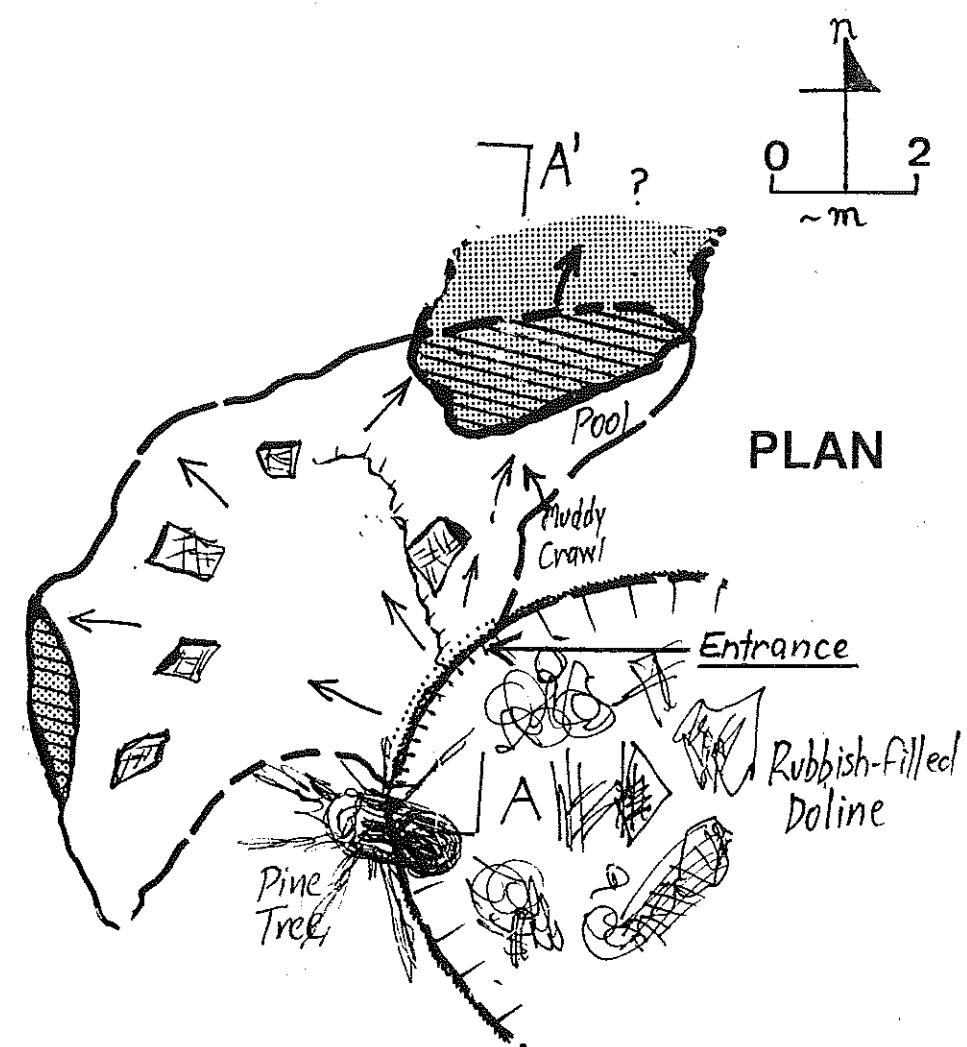
Pine-Tree Cave is located adjacent to 5L291 and was first recorded by Grant and Lynne on 24 August 1990.



L. Pearce

# PINE-TREE CAVE

5L292



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, G.&L.Pearce, 1990]

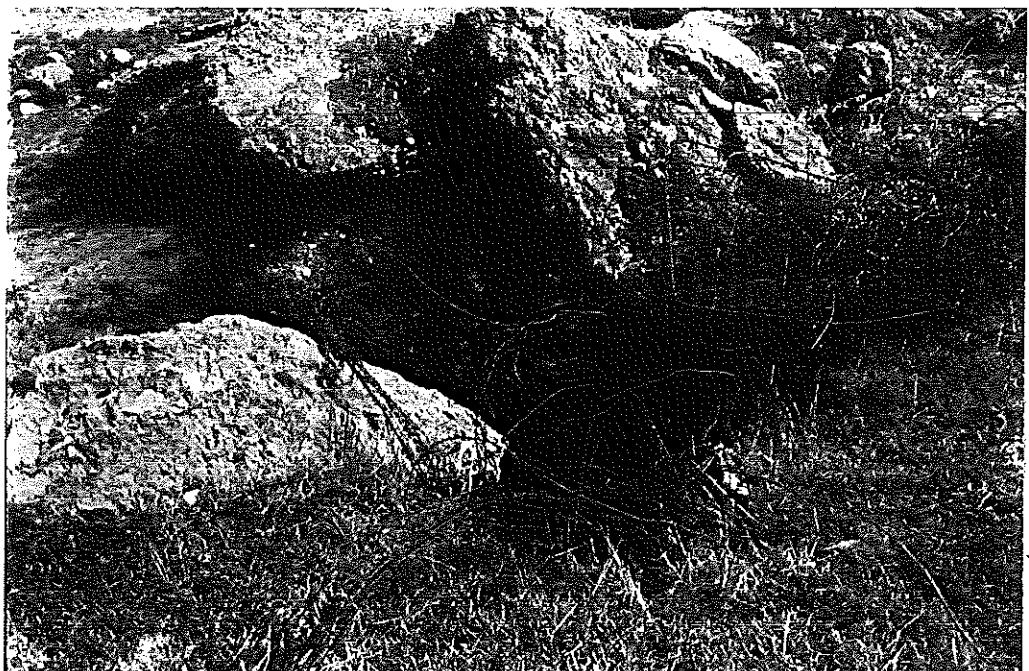
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L293

(Unnamed Feature).

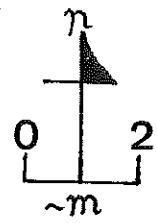
This cavern has two solution-tube entrances which drop several metres to the top of a silt and boulder slope. The chamber is oriented roughly north to south in a fan-shape and is of the order of 14 metres long, 7m wide and 1.5m high.

A small lake is located at the southern end of the cavern, and this requires further assessment.

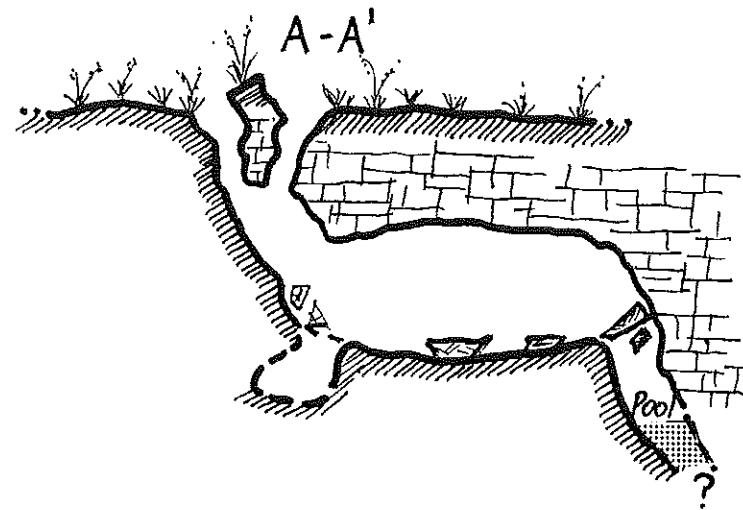
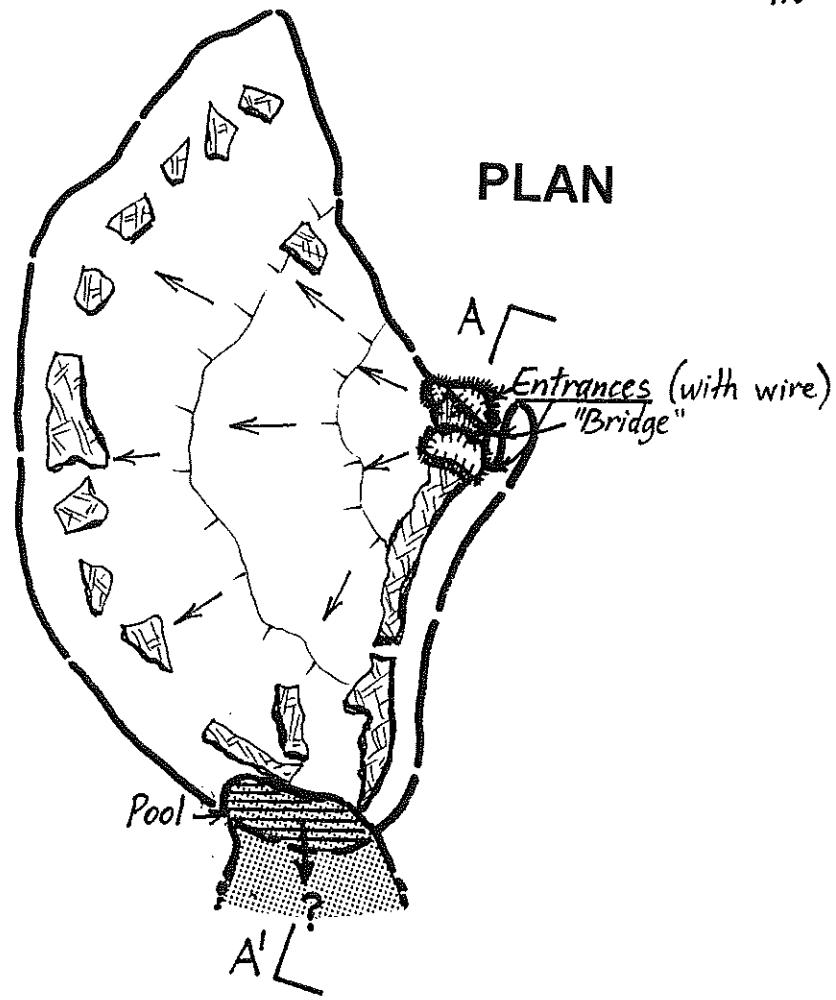
5L293 is located adjacent to 5L291 and 5L292 and was first recorded by Grant and Lynne Pearce on 24 August 1990.



5L293



## PLAN



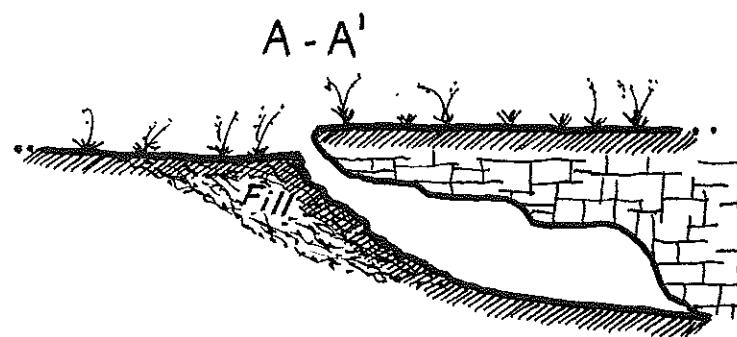
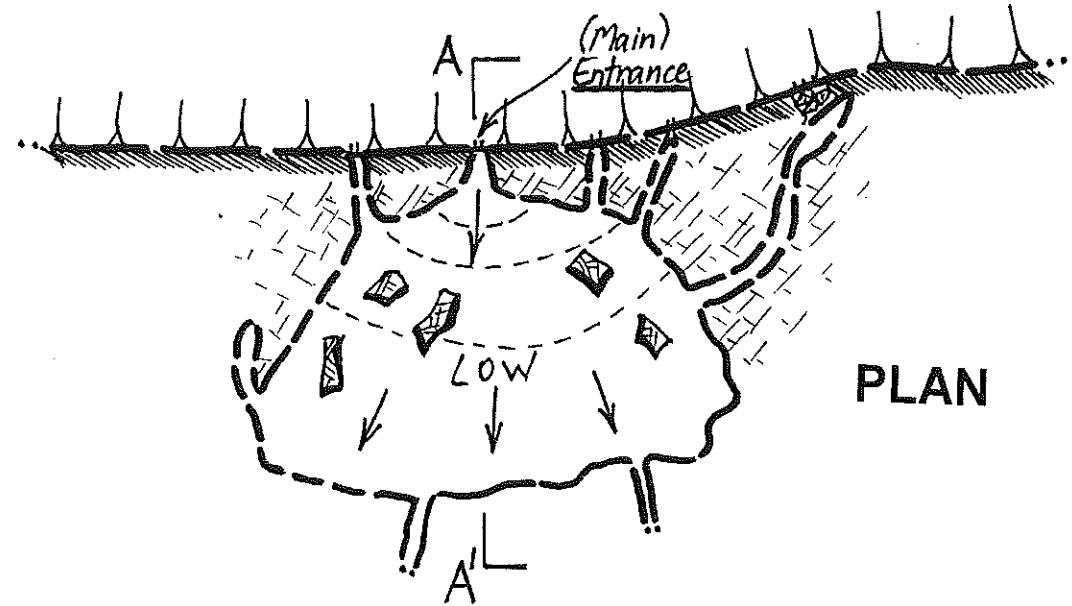
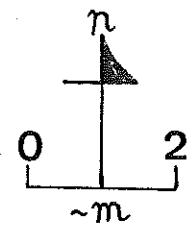
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L294

### (Unnamed Feature).

5L294 is a fairly small karst feature ... located in a small doline and measuring about 6.3 x 4 metres and around 1.4m high, it has no special features and is accessible only with considerable effort via a low crawlway.

5L294 is located adjacent to 5L291 – 5L293 and was first recorded by Grant and Lynne Pearce on 24 August 1990.

5L294



[Map ASF Grade 2,  
G.&L.Pearce, 1990]

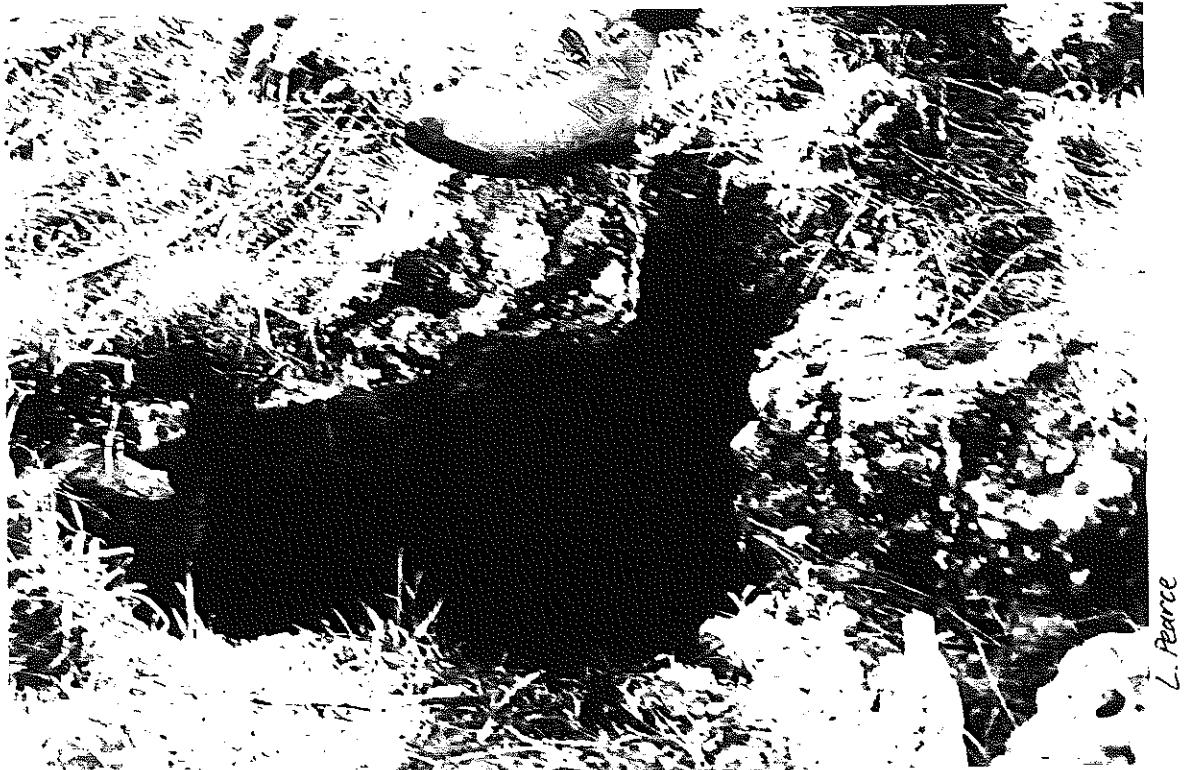
# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L295

## (Unnamed Feature).

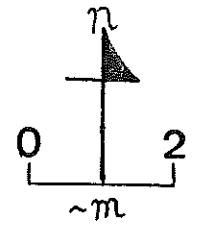
Lying adjacent to 5L291 – 5L294, this unnamed cave consists of a low, broad and very muddy chamber which ends in a shallow pool about 0.2m deep.

The cave has several entrances but only one is accessible; this is about 0.5 x 0.3 metres in size and drops several metres into the cave.

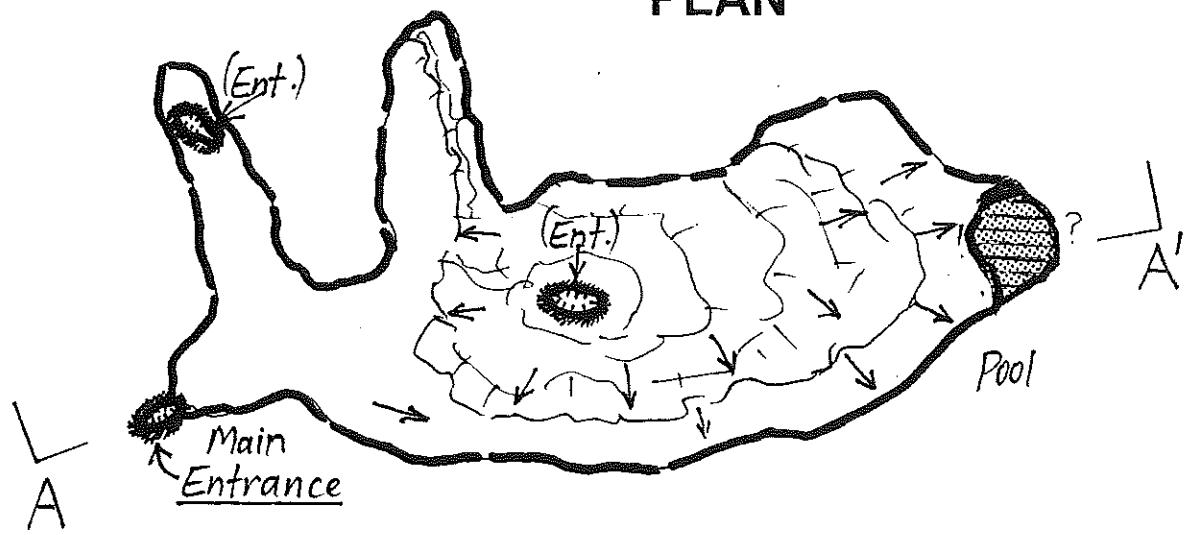
5L295 was first recorded by Grant and Lynne Pearce on 24 August 1990.



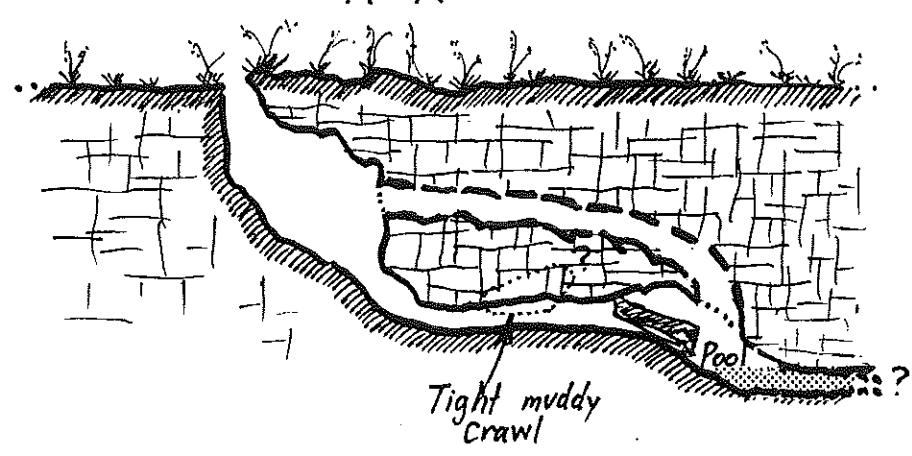
5L295



PLAN



A - A'



## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L296**

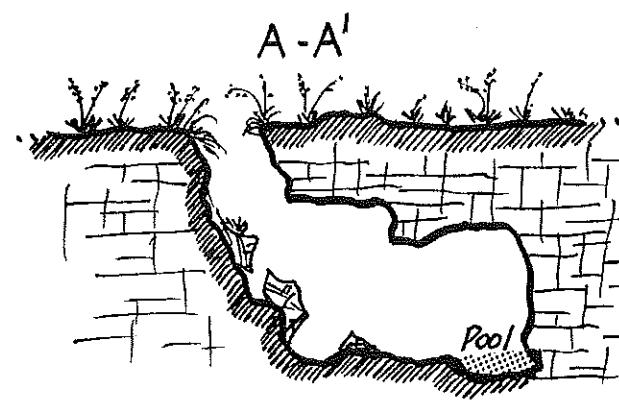
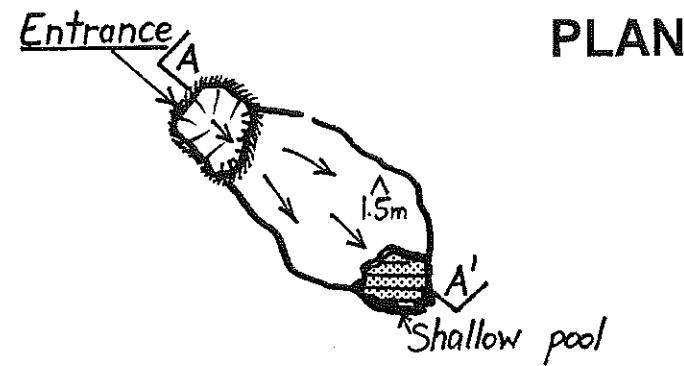
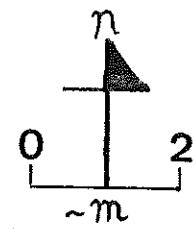
### **(Unnamed Feature).**

Little more than a simple cavity, 5L296 is entered via a small roof window which drops a couple of metres into the 2 metre diameter, 1.5m high "chamber".

The cave just manages to intersect the water-table in the form of a shallow pool.

5L296 lies adjacent to 5L291 – 5L295 and was first recorded by Grant and Lynne Pearce on 24 August 1990.

5L296



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, G.&L.Pearce, 1990]

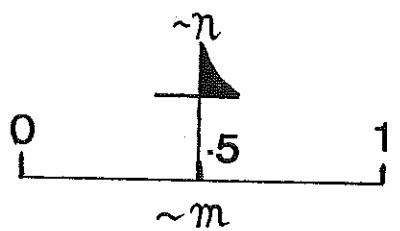
## **CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L297**

**(Unnamed Feature).**

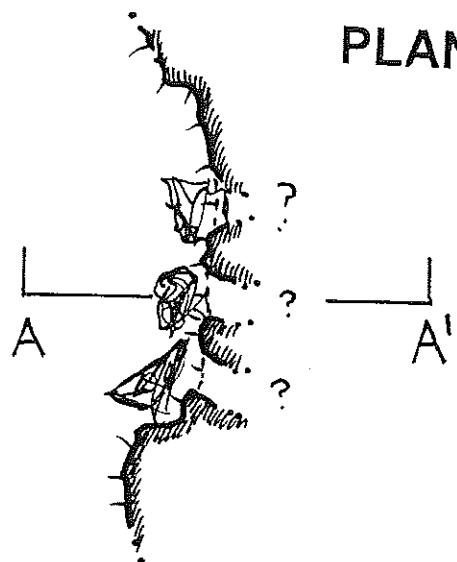
This doline is a shallow dry collapse with three possible leads. It is located adjacent to 5L291 – 5L296 and is still awaiting final assessment.

It was first recorded by Grant and Lynne Pearce on 24 August 1990.

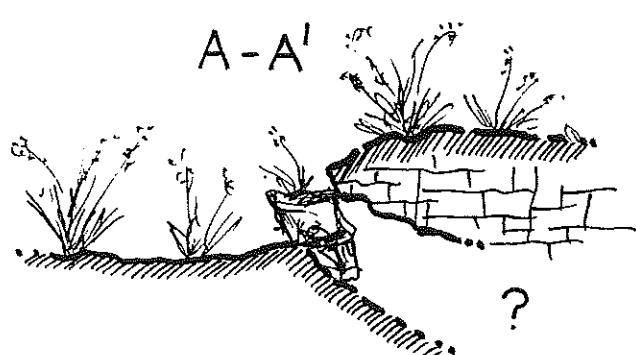
5L297



PLAN



A-A'



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, G.&L.Pearce, 1990]

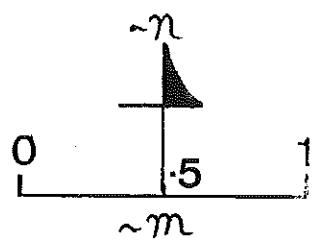
## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L298

### (Unnamed Feature).

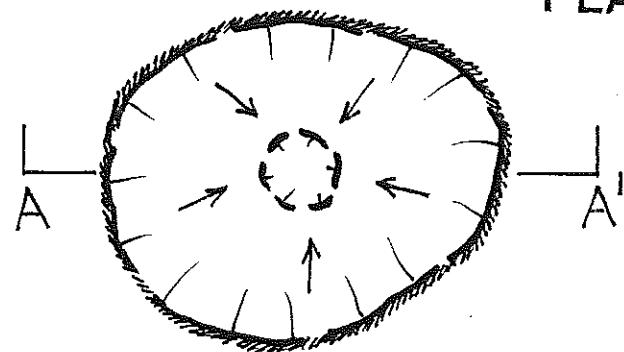
This unnamed doline is a simple feature filled with rocks. However, it appears to have at least one possible lead. It is located adjacent to 5L291 – 5L297 and is still awaiting final assessment.

It was first recorded by Grant and Lynne Pearce on 24 August 1990.

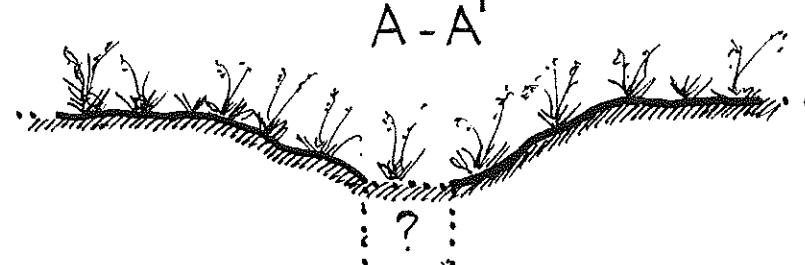
5L298



PLAN



A - A'



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory  
sketch, G.&L.Pearce, 1993]

## CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L299

### GEARBOX CAVE.

Originally plugged with an old car's differential (which was mistaken for a gearbox by whoever named it!), Gearbox Cave lies beside a small cut trench and appears to be little more than a very narrow solution-tube which drops into a small waterfilled cavity.

The feature was explored by the author in 1982 and formally numbered in 1991, but it was actually placed in CEGSA's Records way back in 1971 by cavers Ian D. Lewis and Fred W. Aslin, although it wasn't given a formal number at that time for some reason. In their Trip Report, written after their initial visit of 4th August 1971, they said:-

"...the cave entrance is located about 30 feet south-west of the fence intersection, on the north-east side of a large "trench" dug by the owner.

"(The feature had) never been visited by CEGSA before. The owner's son had entered it to water and gone into what I understand to be a small subsidiary chamber. He became almost trapped by rising water and had to duck through a siphon to get back to the entrance shaft. This occurred because, having dug the "trench" next to the cave entrance, the owner drives his tractor into it to hitch the drive shaft to a pump, as a result of which the local body of water immediately around (including that of the cave) all drops a few feet (2-3 feet reportedly) when irrigating is in full swing.

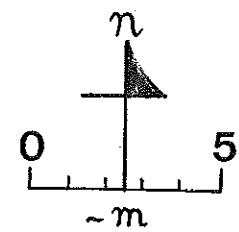
"The pumping then has to stop to allow the water region to refill, and it was at this stage that (the son) had to make his exit."

They described the entrance chimney as a "corkscrew near-vertical shaft approximately 18 inches in diameter", which was estimated to be 6 metres deep.

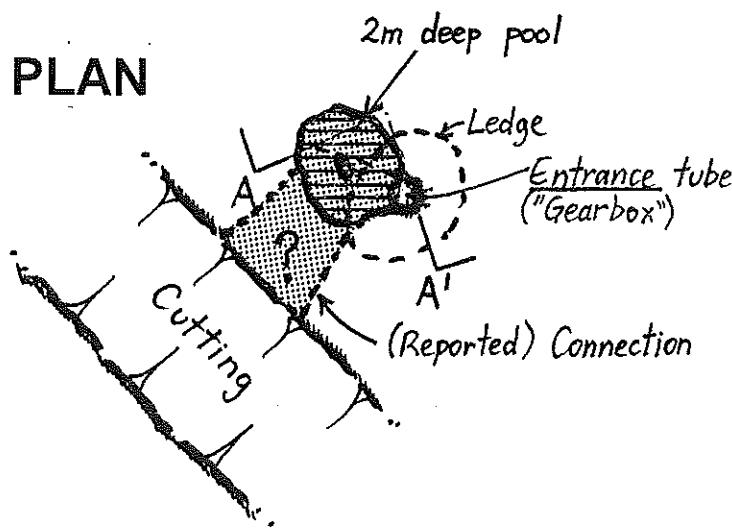
It would appear that a closer look at this hard-to-enter feature might be worthwhile ... for a very skinny caver assisted by a surface team with a safety rope and wire cable ladder (and strong arms)!

# GEARBOX CAVE

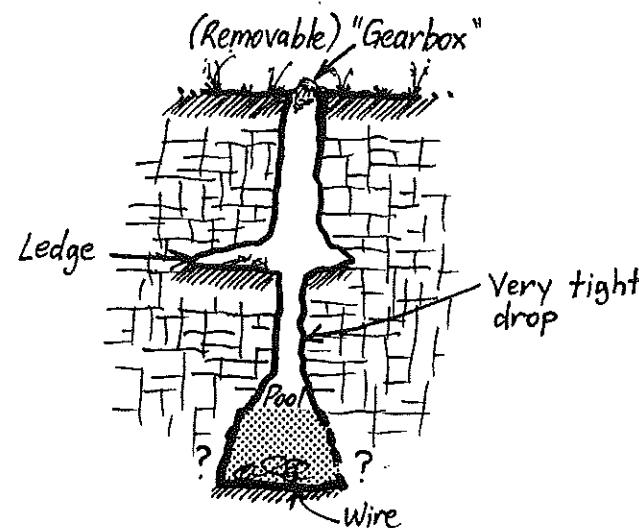
5L299



## PLAN



A - A'



[Rough ASF Grade 1 memory sketch, P.Horne, 1982]

# CAVE/KARST FEATURE NUMBER: 5L300

## BREATHING TUBE CAVE.

Discovered and named by the author (in the company of Andrew Cox and Vien Bach) on 16 April 1990, after he finally got around to following-up a Woods and Forests Department worker (Bill Peacock's) tip from the late 1970s, Breathing Tube Cave is entered via a very sandy, sloping and rather narrow chimney-like solution tube in a pine forest. The tube is less than half a metre in diameter and 8 metres deep, and it was found to enter the main cavern near a small floor-hole through which a substantial breeze was passing.

The cave is a north-west to south-east trending joint-controlled feature and blocks off in an area of narrowing walls about 8 metres from the entrance tube. Many bones – both "old" and recent – were seen throughout the cave (including in some inaccessible areas) and some were cemented on the walls in places.

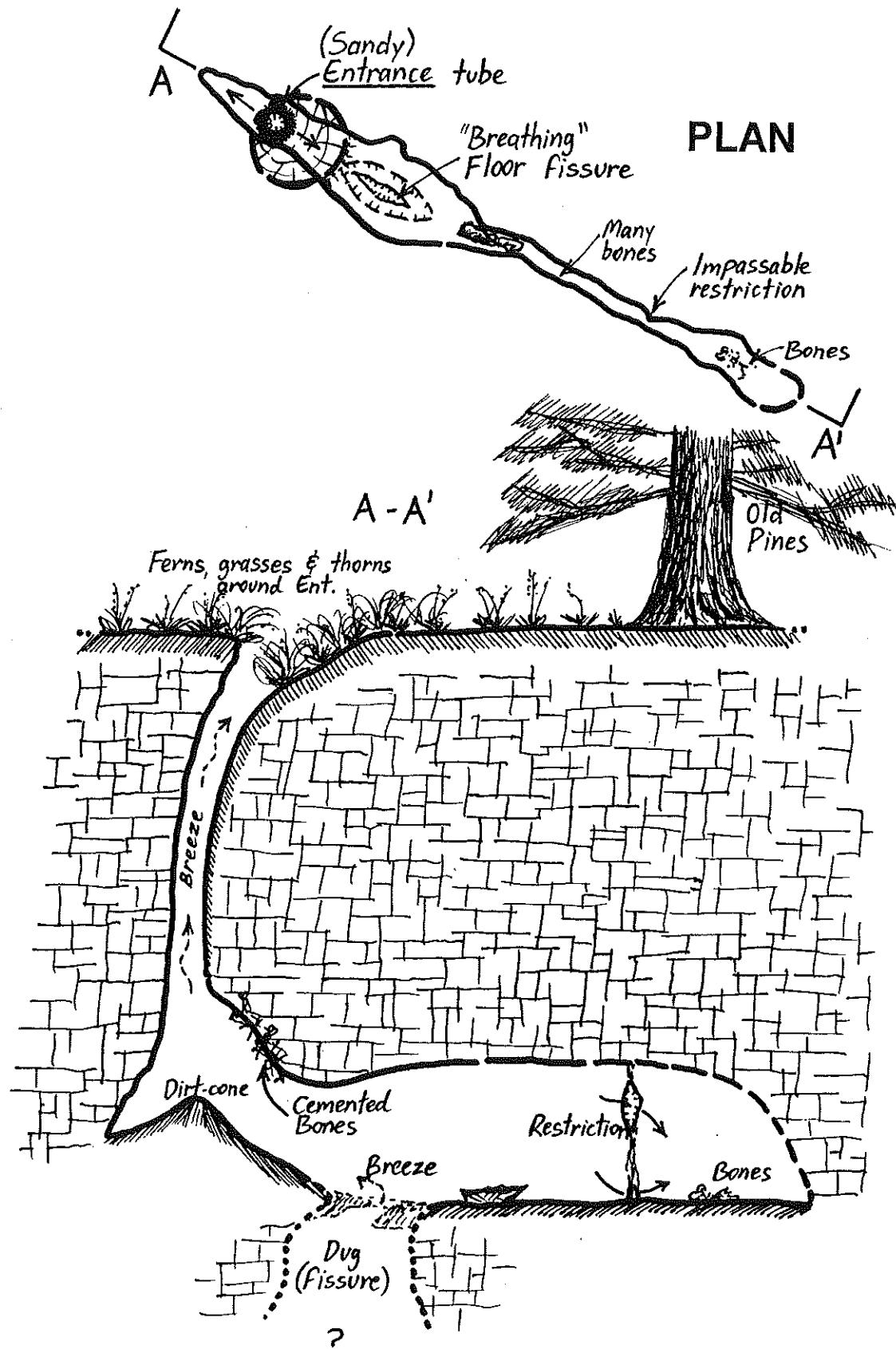
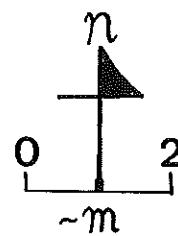
A subsequent digging trip by Grant Pearce and Chris Murphy resulted in the successful opening up of the floorhole, enabling Grant to manoeuvre about 5 metres further down a very tight fissure before progress was again halted by narrowing walls. The source of this large volume of moving air therefore remains a mystery!

No further extensions appear to exist at this time.



# BREATHING-TUBE CAVE

5L300



[Map ASF Grade 23,  
P.Horne, V.Bach & A.Cox, 1990]

**SAUSS - South Australian Underwater Speleological Society Inc., C/- 12 Addison Road,  
Hove, South Australia, 5048 -**

*Formed in October 1986 by Peter Horne with a dedicated team of supportive cave diving researchers and scientific consultants, the Society's primary aim is to encourage research involving the waterfilled caves of South Australia. SAUSS publishes an Annual Report and occasional Project Reports.*

**Suggested Reading - SAUSS Project Report No. 1 - Fossil Cave (5L81) Underwater**

*Palaeontological and Surveying Project - Peter Horne/SAUSS Inc. (1988),  
ISBN 0 9587507 0 X.*

**SAUSS Project Report No. 2 - Gouldens Hole (5L8) Mapping Project -**  
*Peter Horne/SAUSS Inc. (1988), ISBN 0 958707 1 8.*

**SAUSS Project Report No. 3 - Preliminary Exploratory Study of Recently-  
Discovered ("Idlebiddy") Cave 5L250, 1988-90 - Peter Horne/SAUSS  
(1990), ISBN 0 9587507 6 9.**

**SAUSS Project Report No. 5 - "Ten-Eighty Sinkhole" Mapping Project  
1989-91 - Peter Horne/SAUSS Inc. (1991), ISBN 0 9587507 7 7.**

**ASF - Australian Speleological Federation Inc., P.O. Box 388, Broadway, New South  
Wales, 2007 -**

*Recognised as Australia's national caving organisation, the ASF has numerous sub-committees dealing with a number of important issues and was responsible for the production of the comprehensive "Australian Karst Index" in 1985. It periodically produces "Australian Caver".*

**Suggested Reading - Australian Karst Index -1985, Peter Matthews (1985), ISBN 0 9588857 0 2.**

**Cave Survey and Map Standards - Australian Speleological Federation  
(1987).**

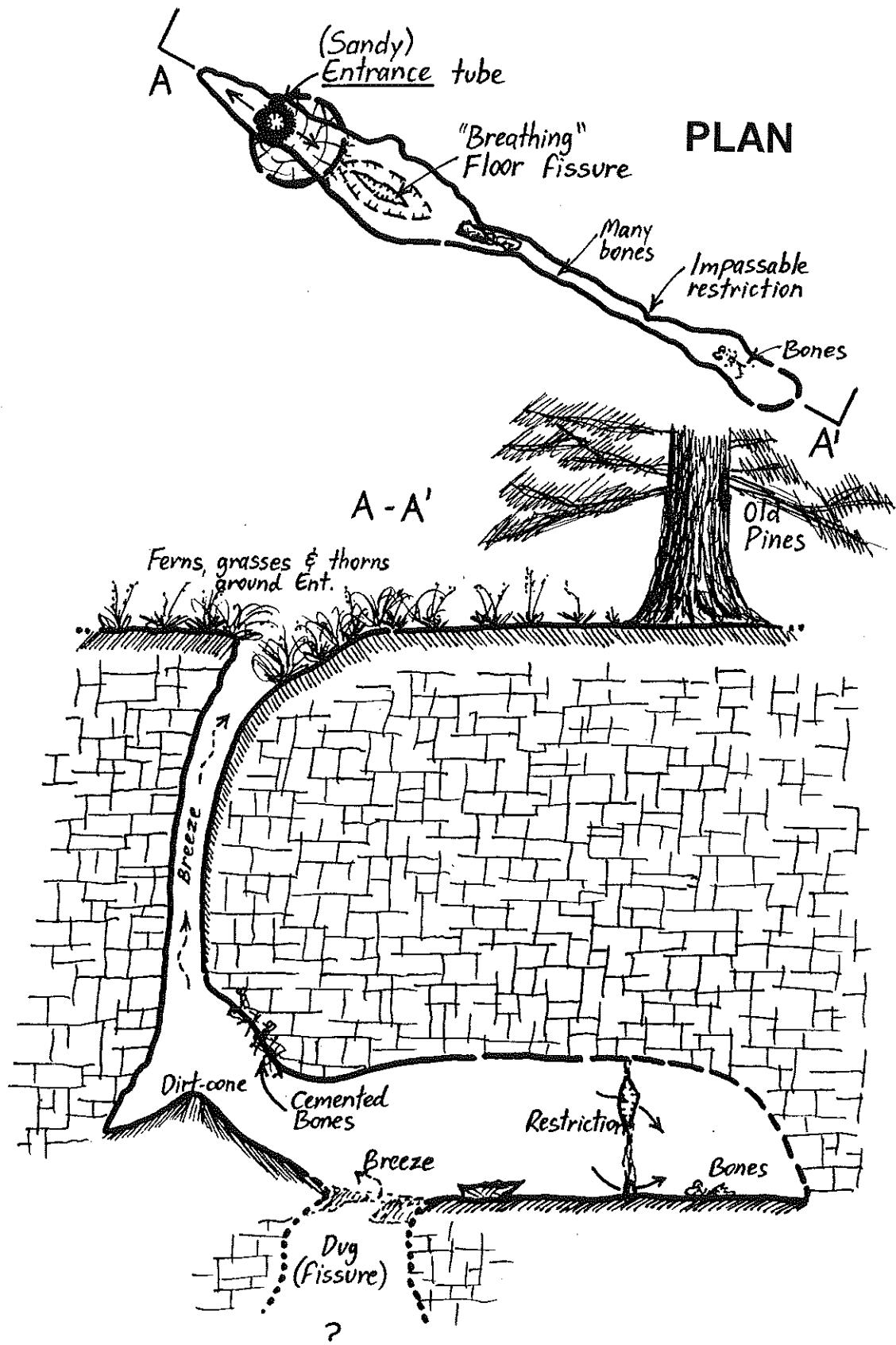
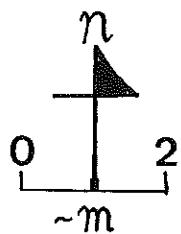
**AURA - The Australian Rock Art Research Association - C/- P.O. Box 216, Caulfield South,  
Victoria, 3162 -**

*Established by Robert G. Bednarik in October 1983, AURA's principle objectives are to provide a forum for disseminating research findings in the fields of rock art, palaeoart studies and cognitive archaeology; to promote Aboriginal custodianship of sites externalising indigenous Australian culture; to co-ordinate studies concerning the significance, distribution and conservation of rock art, both nationally and with individuals and organisations abroad; and to generally promote awareness and appreciation of Australia's indigenous cultural heritage.*

*AURA produces two periodicals, the international "Rock Art Research" and the "AURA Newsletter", and the association also produces a series of Occasional AURA Publications. Enquiries concerning membership, subscriptions and other relevant matters can be addressed to The Editor at the postal address shown above.*

# BREATHING-TUBE CAVE

5L300



[Map ASF Grade 23,  
P.Horne, V.Bach & A.Cox, 1990]

# **APPENDIX A - UPDATED LISTING OF CAVES -**

## **5L301 TO 5L320**

(With special thanks to Kevin Mott, CEGSA)

**5L301** - Unnamed Cave: Tube 1m diameter drops 8m to a chamber 9 x 6 x 1.5m high; pools.

**5L302** - ROBE BAT CAVE: 3 chambers in cliff - East 12 x 6 x 4m; 12 x 9 x 6m; & 16 x 5 x 3m.

**5L303** - Unnamed Cave: Tapering joint in wall of Blue Lake; 12m long, 1-2m wide and 7m high.

**5L304** - Unnamed Cave: Series of low, joint-controlled passages with 3 entrances; est. length 250m; some decoration. Evidence of recent streamway.

**5L305** - Unnamed Cave: 1.5 x 1m entrance drops 1.5m to a low cave 6m long. Filled?

**5L306** - CAT CAVE: Overhang cave at interface of limestone and volcanic ash in wall of Blue Lake; named from giant cat footprints seen in dirt (not to be confused with the Blue Lake Monster!).

**5L307** - Unnamed Cave: 1.7 x 0.8m ent. drops 2m to 10 x 5 x 3m high chamber with crawls for 6m.

**5L308** - Unnamed Cave: 0.6m diam. hole drops 3m to narrow joint cave 20m long; water at SE end.

**5L309** - Unnamed Cave: 1m diameter hole drops 5.7m to small entrance at bottom.

**5L310** - Unnamed Cave: Now buried; uncovered during laying of gas main. About 2m below surface; drop of slope towards the west; crawl leads down to east and arcs around to SW.

**5L311** - Unnamed Cave: Roof of cave 0.6m high and just 1.5m below surface; joint 1.2m wide, extended 1m from trench.

**5L312** - Unnamed Cave: Small feature - no details available.

**5L313** - Unnamed Cave: Doline 3m diameter by 2.5m deep on SW side; cave leads off S side; found around 1965 but entrance now blocked.

**5L314** - Unnamed Cave: 1 x 0.7m entrance drops 4m to a single chamber, 12 x 5 x 2.5m high.

**5L315** - Unnamed Tube: Tube 1.4m diameter constricts to 0.8m about 4m down.

**5L316** - Unnamed Cave: Depression 13 x 15m across leads down through collapse to 6m long cave.

**5L317** - Unnamed Cave: 1.2 x 1m entrance drops into small cave about 9m long.

**5L318** - Unnamed Feature: Doline 3.2m across and 3.8m deep - no known cave.

**5L319** - Unnamed Feature: Doline 5.3m across and 5m deep - no known cave.

**5L320** - Unnamed Cave: Tube ent. 1.5 x 1.7m across; cave 250m (+) long; Still being explored!

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