

Vol. 10. No. 1.

March 1973

SPELEOGRAFFITI.

The Newsletter of the

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB.

MARCH 1973.

S P E L E O G R A F F I T I

VOL.10. No.1.

The Newsletter of the National University
Caving Club.

Editor: J.Brush. (temporary).

Typing: Ditto.

Cover Design: From a slide of the 'lake' at the
entrance of South Glory Cave at Yarran-
gobilly. Drawn by J.Brush.

CONTENTS.

A Revised Numbering Scheme For The Upper Burrinjuck Dam Area. (Taemas-Warroo Areas).....J.Brush.....	Page 2.
Book Review: <u>Bungonia Caves</u>J.Brush.....	5.
Michelago Cave Descriptions Parts 2&3.....J.Brush.....	6.
Cartoon.....F.Bergersen.....	12.
Trip Reports Section.	
Yarrangobilly, NIBICON Field Trip.....J.Brush.....	13.
Michelago.....14th. Jan.....J.Brush.....	15.
Wee Jasper, the Dogleg Saga, phase two. Jan. 7th, 14th, 20-21st...A.Harding.....	16.
Michelago.....3rd. Feb.....F.Bergersen.....	17.
Michelago.....17th. Feb.....J.Brush.....	18.
Wombeyan.....18th. Feb.....J.Brush.....	18.
Rosebrook.....24th. Feb.....J.Brush.....	19.
Apology.....Editor.....	16.
Coming Trips.....	20.

A REVISED CAVE NUMBERING SCHEME FOR THE UPPER
BURRINJUCK DAM AREA. (TAEMAS - WARROO AREAS).

J. BRUSH.

Recent interest in the limestone area at the Eastern end of Burrinjuck Dam has shown the present numbering system to be not only unsuitable, but also incomplete. The problem was further aggravated in 1972, when PSG called some of the area, already named, 'Boambolo' (Anon. 1972; Toomer 1972; Welch 1972.).

It was for these reasons that discussions between G. Middleton*, PSG and NUCC were started. The aim being to draw up an acceptable numbering scheme for the area.

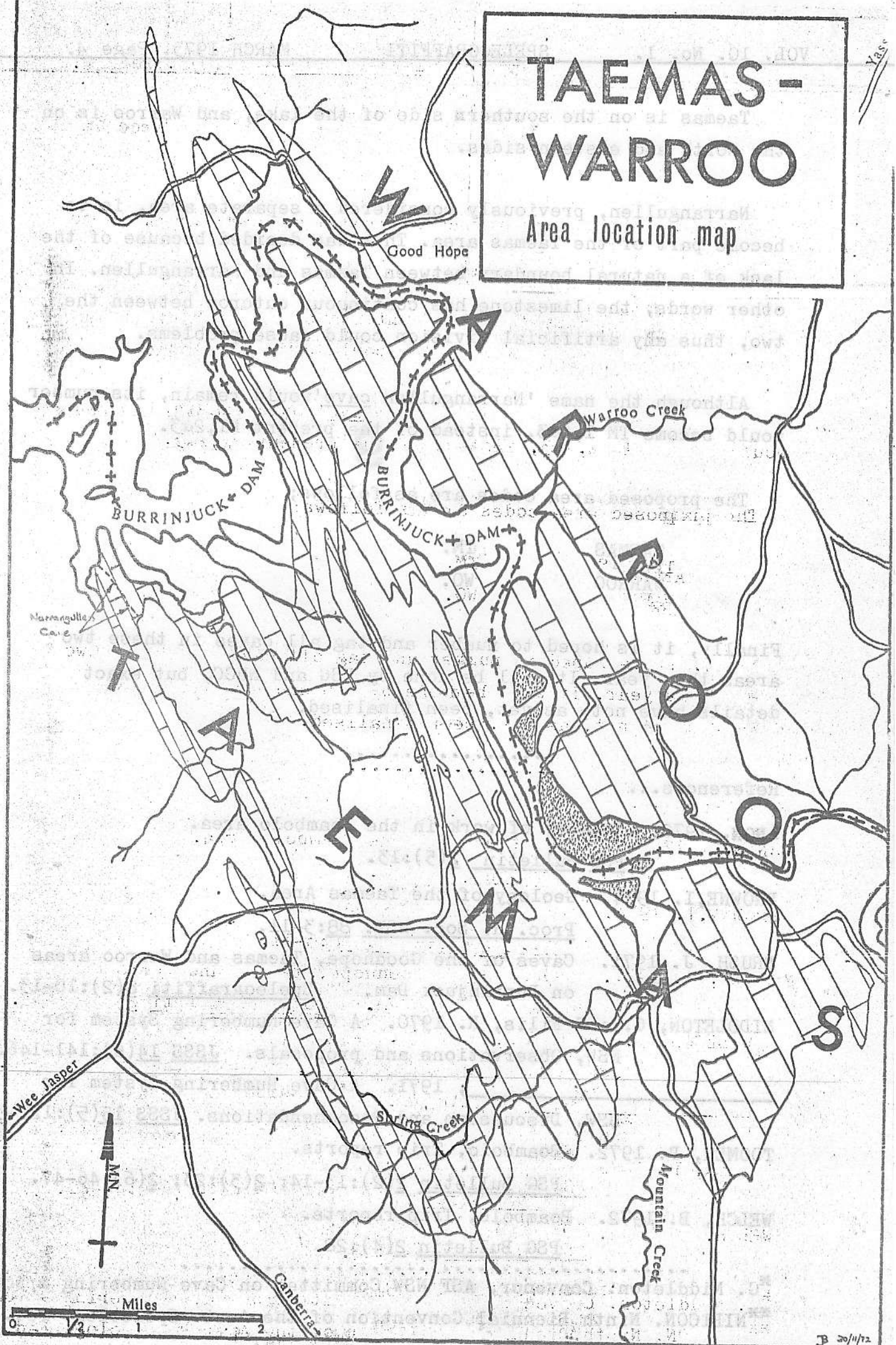
The first start at numbering in the area was in 1970 (Middleton and Ellis 1970), when the area code 'N' was proposed for Narrangullen. In their following article, Middleton and Ellis (1971) included the name Taemas to cover an area on the East side of the dam. This area had been, for many years, called 'Warroo' by NUCC. This area, they believed, was known locally as 'Taemas', and thus proposed that it become the official cave area name for the area. An area across the lake on Taemas station was not included in their definition of the area, but caves had been reported there by Brush (1971).

A map included in the report by Brush (1971), subsequently became the basis on which further area divisions were made (Middleton, personal communication). This map however, was later found to be unsuitable, as it did not show the full extent of the limestone.

A suitable map showing the full extent of the limestone was found (Browne, 1954). The map included in this report was based on Browne's. As can be seen from this map, the limestones have continuous surface outcrop over the whole area. The only substantial boundary (and this is not natural) in the area is the lake. Thus on this basis it was agreed, after discussions at NIBICON** with Greg Middleton, and Phil Toomer and Bruce Welch of PSG, that the area could be effectively divided into two areas: Taemas and Warroo.

TAEMAS - WARROO

Area location map



Taemas is on the southern side of the lake, and Warroo is on the North and eastern sides.

Narrangullen, previously considered a separate area, is to become part of the Taemas area. This was decided because of the lack of a natural boundary between Taemas and Narrangullen. In other words, the limestone has continuous outcrop between the two, thus any artificial division could cause problems.

Although the name 'Narrangullen cave' would remain, its number would become TM 1,2&3, instead of the present N1,2&3.

The proposed area codes are as follows;

TAEMAS	TM.
WARROO	WO.

Finally, it is hoped to number and tag all caves in these two areas this year. It will be done by PSG and NUCC, but exact details have not, as yet, been finalised.

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*G. Middleton. Convenor, ASF NSW Committee on Cave Numbering & Nom.

*NIBICON. Ninth Biennial Convention of the Aust. Speleolog. Fed.

BUNGONIA CAVES : Book Review.

The recently published SSS Occassional Paper No.4. on Bungonia Caves may claim to be the first hard cover caving book to be published in Australia, but it is more than just this. It is the first time in this country where an attempt has been made to collect information on as many aspects of the area as possible, covering both above and below ground subjects. The result is a complete guide to the area.

Topics which are covered in the book include: early settlers of the district, history and discovery of the area, cave descriptions, cave maps, Geomorphology, foul air, palaeontology, invertebrate cave fauna, bats, birds, flora, conservation and mining, and perhaps most controversially, a composite cave/surface location map. It is arguable that this information should be restricted, and not be made available to members of the general public. However, in a work such as this, it would not be complete without it. It is necessary to study this map in order to get some idea of where the caves are in relation to each other, and how the subsurface drainage works.

Production (and presentation) is first class, and much care has obviously gone into its type setting. I only noticed one glaring mistake (not that I was really looking for them). On page 36, in a description of B4-5 ext. it says "a 12-20ft high flattener, $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water, followed by more low passage which increases to walk-through size".

Another point concerns the colour plates. In the copies I have seen, the photos are slightly blurred, due to misalignment of the different colour runs, some also have blue blemishes on them. Perhaps only a small point, but annoying, when considering the copies of the plates in recent JSSS's are perfect in these respects.

Perhaps the main failing of the book regards the units of measurement on the maps. In view of Australia's impending change-over to the metric system, it seems to be slightly short sighted in using the foot-inches system on all maps and in all papers apart from the one by Dr. Joe Jennings, where both scales are used. Even if the maps were originally drawn in feet and inches, surely it

cont. on page 19.

MICHELAGO CAVE DESCRIPTIONS. PART TWO

J. BRUSH.

Northern Outcrop cont.

M16. Tight entrance behind a rock. Small chamber with a fissure leading off. Cave approx 6m. long. Entered by digging in 1970 (see Speleograffiti 7(6):13.). The entrance is on the south side of a dry valley near the northern end of the limestone. Survey : F.Bergersen, Gde 1.

M17. Situated 3m. east of M16. Narrow fissure about 6m. long. Survey : J.Brush.

M18. Old sloping stream passage approx. 12m. long. Gets progressively tighter . Loose,dusty floor. Survey : J.Brush.

M19. Old stream passage approx. 8m. from top of cliff above M7. It has a high, narrow entrance, and a ladder is needed to reach it. It is one of the best decorated caves at Michelago, but is completely dead. It also contains many bat bones. Nearest belay point for ladder is about 30m. back from the cliff edge.

Survey : J.Brush.

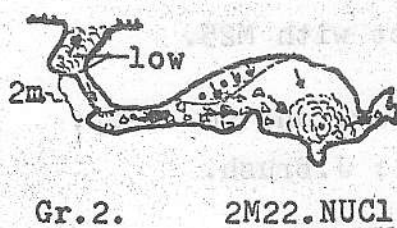
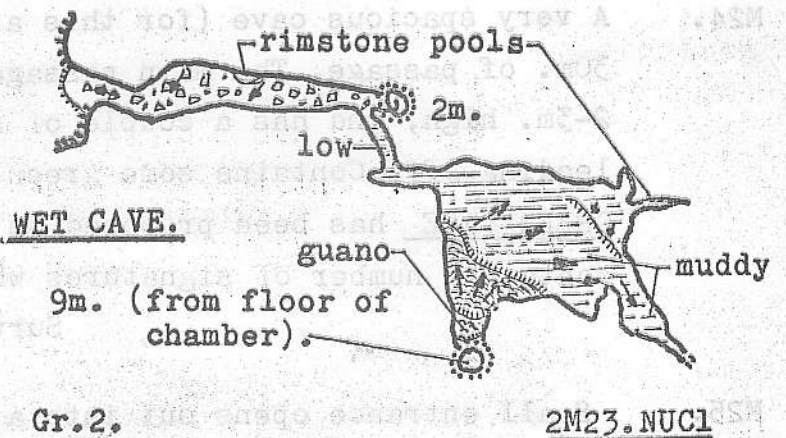
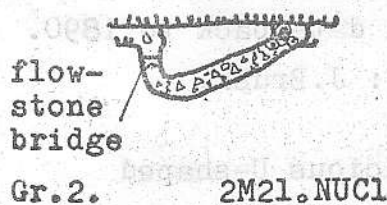
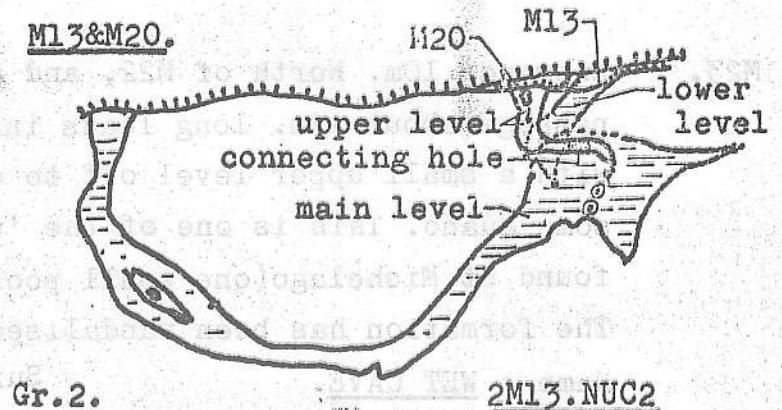
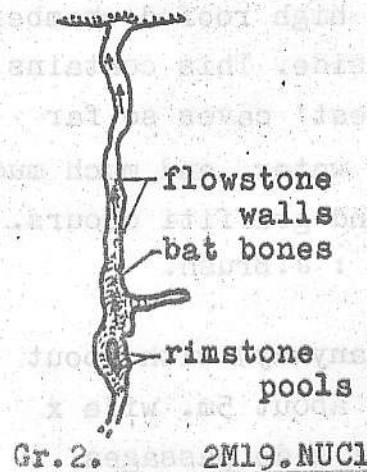
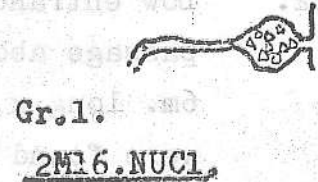
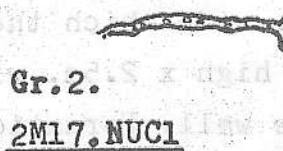
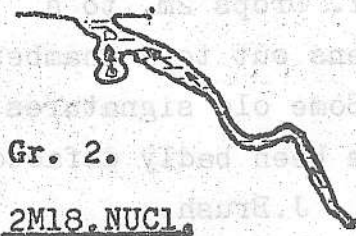
M20. Two entrances side by side, which, by means of a short passage, connect with M13. Access is gained from the top of the cliff via a series of ledges and a 3m. climb. The M13 entrances cannot be reached from above without first entering the M20 entrance.

Survey : J.Brush.

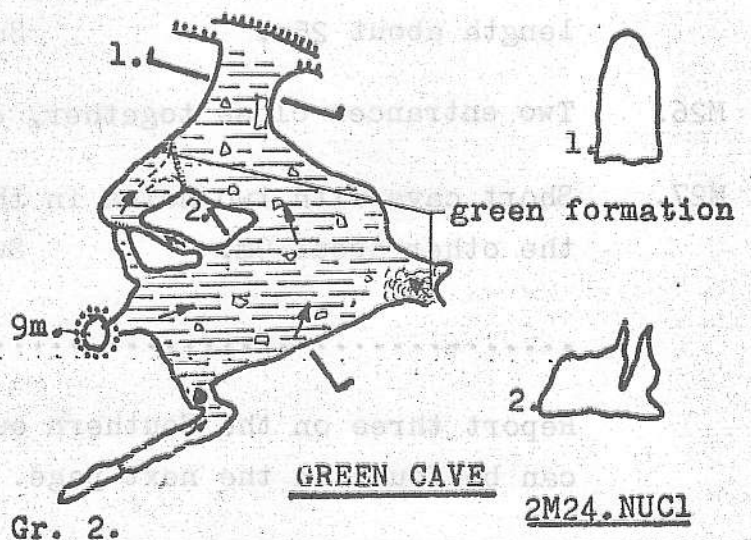
M21. Situated near the top of the cliff south of M11. It is reached via a ledge from above. Remains of a false flowstone floor can be seen near the entrance. There is another small entrance at the other end which has been partly blocked by small columns.

Survey : J.Brush.

MICHELAGO CAVES. REPORT TWO. NORTHERN OUTCROP. Jan. 1973.



Survey; J. Brush,
F. Bergersen,
M. Coggan.
Drawn by J. Brush.
NUCC. Jan. 1973.



metres
0 5 10

R.F. 1:250.

+

TN.

feet
0 5 10 40

Michelago cont.

- M22. Low entrance near the foot of a cliff. Drops 2m. to a passage about 1m. wide which then opens out to a chamber 6m. long x 2.5m. high x 2.5m. wide. Some old signatures were found on the wall. Formation has been badly defaced.

Survey : J.Brush.

- M23. Entrance 10m. North of M22, and at the same level. Low passage about 12m. long leads into a high roofed chamber with a small upper level off to one side. This contains some guano. This is one of the 'wettest' caves so far found at Michelago (one small pool of water, and much mud). The formation has been vandalised, and graffiti occurs.

Name : WET CAVE.

Survey : J.Brush.

- M24. A very spacious cave (for this area anyway) with about 30m. of passage. The main passage is about 5m. wide x 2-3m. high, and has a couple of small side passages leading off. Contains some green coloured formation, thus GREEN CAVE has been proposed as its name. The walls contain a number of signatures which date back to 1890.

Survey : J.Brush.

- M25. Small entrance opens out into a spacious U-shaped chamber about 18m. long x 2.5m. wide and high. Total length about 25m.

Survey : J.Brush.

- M26. Two entrances close together, connect with M25.

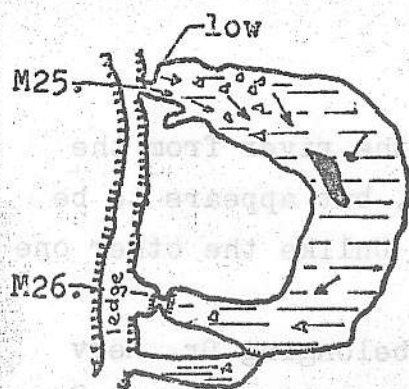
- M27. Short cave with two holes in the floor, one 5m. deep, the other about 9m.

Survey : J.Brush.

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Report three on the Southern outcrop
can be found on the next page.
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MICHELAGO CAVES. REPORT TWO.

NORTHERN OUTCROP. Jan. 1973.



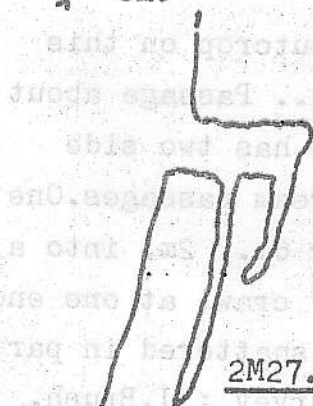
2M25.NUC1

CRG Grade 2. 1:250.



3.5m.

8m.



2M27.NUC1

CRG Grade 2. 1:250.

Most maps CRG Grade 2.
(Fibron Tape, bearings
estimated).



Cliff.



Change in height



Rocks, pebbles.



Flowst., column.



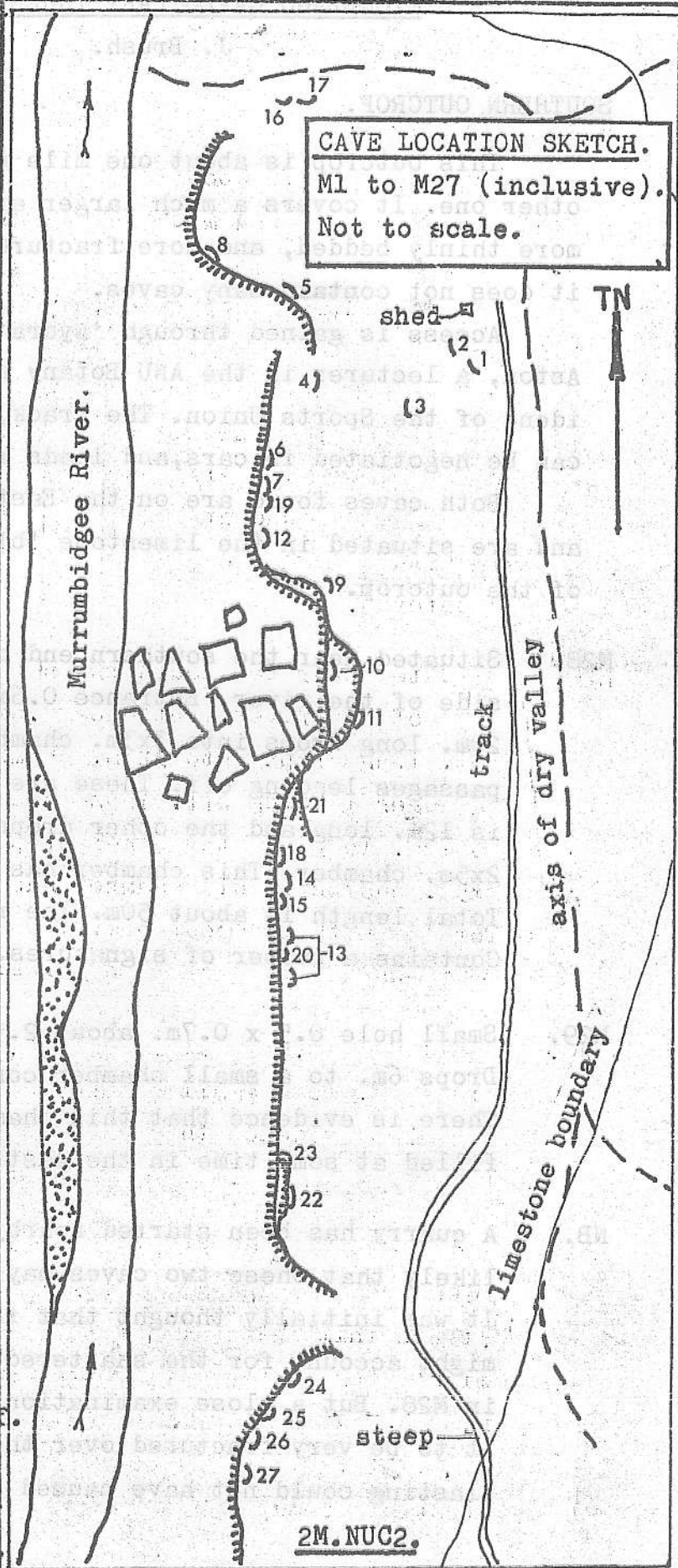
Mud, earth.



Rock, etc to roof.

NUCC. 1973.

Drawn by J.Brush. 1/73



MICHELAGO CAVES. PART THREE.

J. Brush.

SOUTHERN OUTCROP.

This outcrop is about one mile up the river from the other one. It covers a much larger area, but appears to be more thinly bedded, and more fractured. Unlike the other one it does not contain many caves.

Access is gained through 'Nyora', belonging Dr. Merv Aston, a lecturer in the ANU Botany Dept., and a former President of the Sports Union. The track, although steep in parts, can be negotiated in cars, and leads right to the river.

Both caves found are on the Eastern side of the river, and are situated in the limestone 'bluff' that runs along most of the outcrop.

M28. Situated near the southern end of the outcrop on this side of the river. Entrance 0.6m.x 1.2m.. Passage about 20m. long drops into 3x3m. chamber that has two side passages leading off. These are old stream passages. One is 12m. long and the other drops, after 6m., 2m. into a 2x5m. chamber. This chamber has a muddy crawl at one end. Total length is about 50m. The rock is shattered in parts. Contains a number of signatures. Survey : J.Brush.

M29. Small hole 0.5 x 0.7m. about 2.5m. up a small cliff face. Drops 6m. to a small chamber containing many bones. There is evidence that this chamber has been partly water filled at some time in the past. Survey : J.Brush.

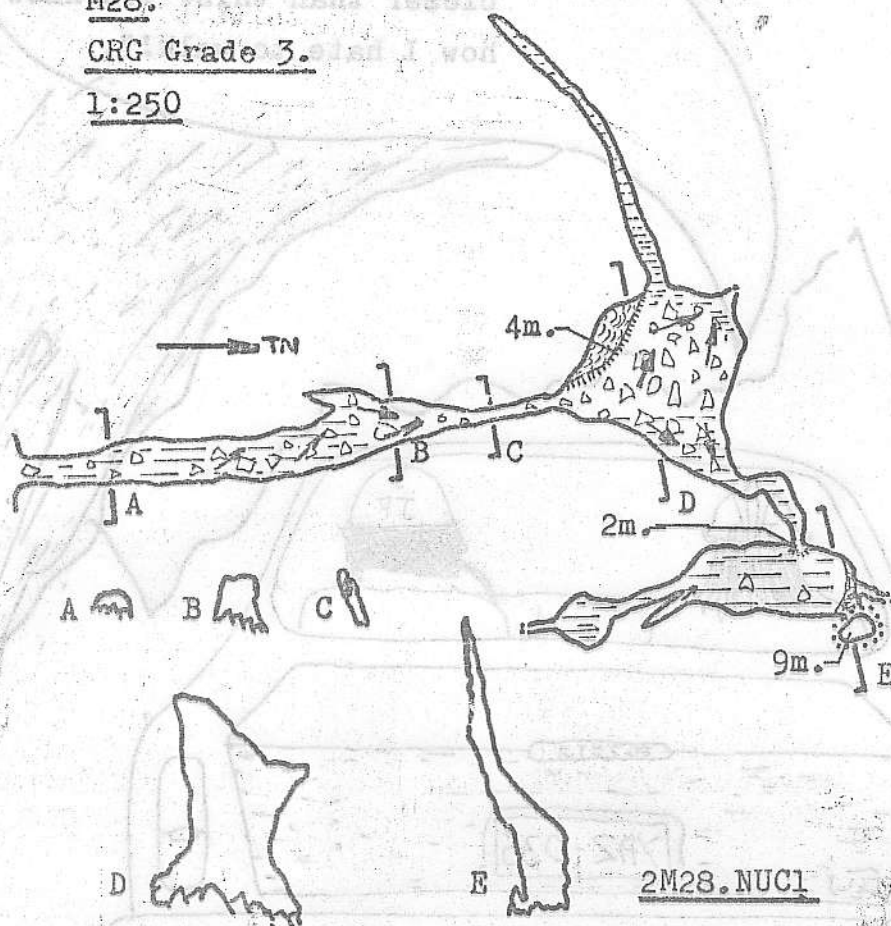
NB. A quarry has been started nearby, and thus it appears likely that these two caves may, in time, disappear. It was initially thought that the associated blasting might account for the shattered nature of the main chamber in M28. But a close examination of the limestone shows it to be very fractured over the whole area, and the blasting could not have caused all that.

Most of the other areas on the other side of the river do not look very promising, and it is unlikely that it will yield any caves.

M28.

CRG Grade 3.

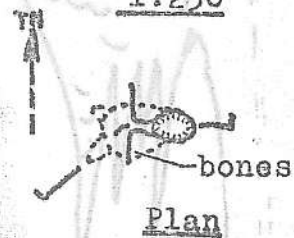
1:250



M29.

CRG Grade 2.

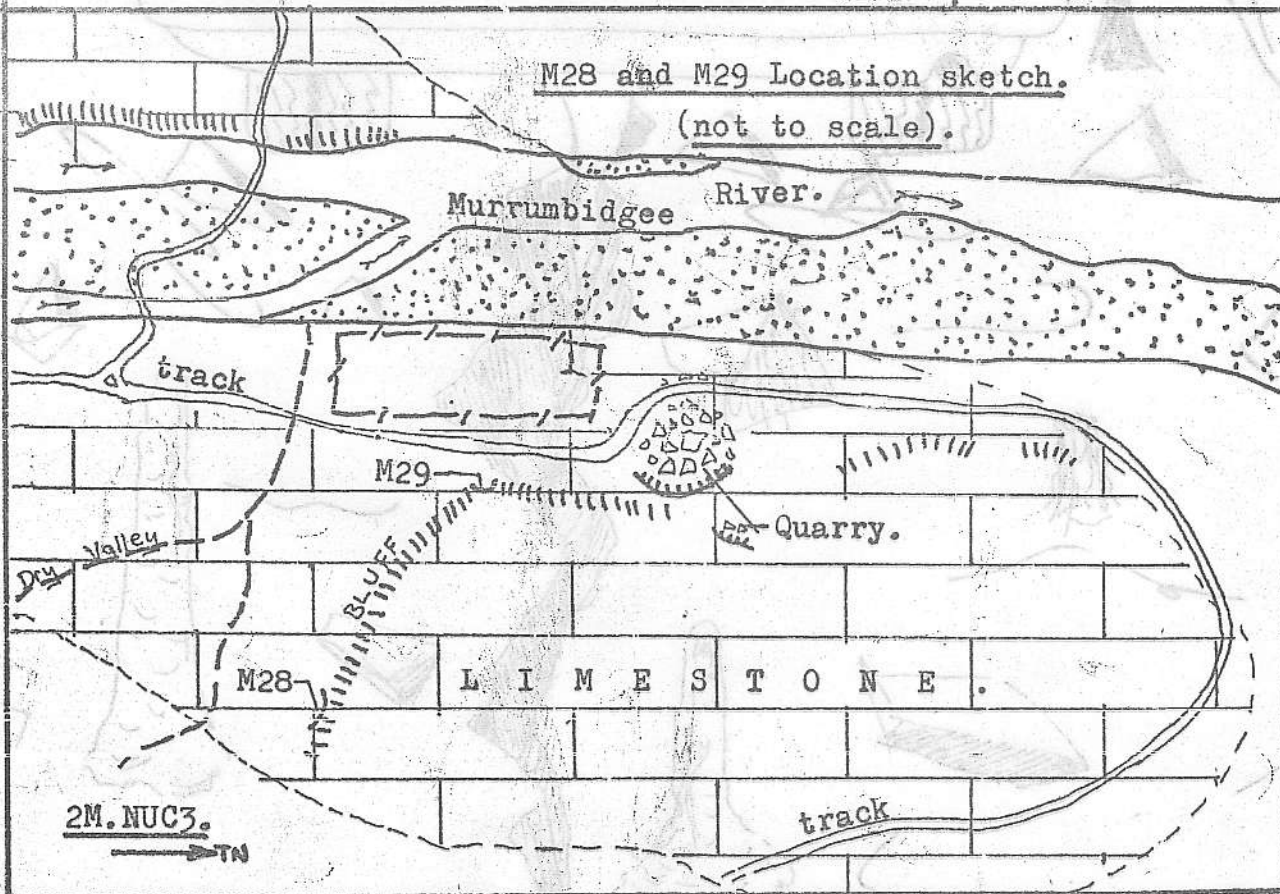
1:250



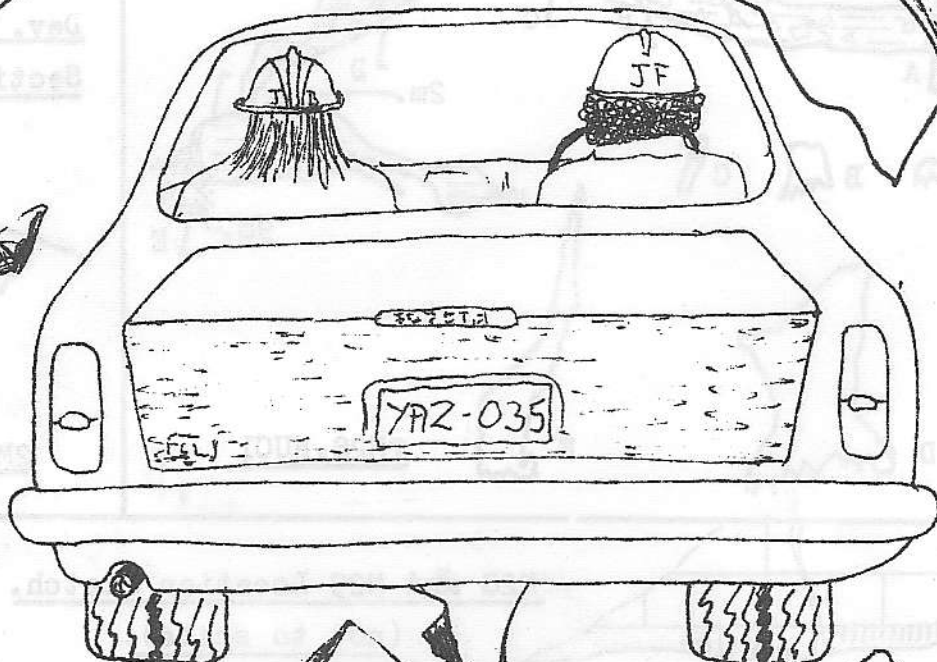
Dev. Long.
Section.

2M29.NUC1

M28 and M29 Location sketch.
(not to scale).



"Come on Fred, you can get closer than this. You know how I hate to walk!"



TRIP REPORTS SECTION.YARRANGOBILLY6-7th Jan.

(NIBICON Field Trip).

Party: NUCC only, John Furlonger, Marj Coggan, John Brush.

We left Canberra at the ungodly hour of 6am and after an uneventful trip arrived at Long Plain Hut at 8.30am to find the place practically deserted. There were only 7 or 8 others there. However people continued to arrive throughout the day, and swelled the ranks to about 20.

The aim of our group was to extend North Deep Creek cave. On our last trip in Dec. it was decided that the only way to go was up a vertical wall of loose rock and gravel. This was too hairy to free climb, thus a scaling pole was needed. The question was then asked 'but how will you fit it through the duckunders?'. Thus it was on this trip that we set out to find if our plan was practical.

The party to go in on the Sat. morning was Bob Mannell (UNSWSS) Andrew Spate (CSS), and JB, JF, MC (NUCC). JB and JF went on ahead with the longest section, while the other three carried the remaining five sections. In addition, they also carried 1 spanner, a pulley, rope, and two ladders.

At the small chamber before the duckunders, a problem arose, who would go through first. At first, this may not seem very hard to decide, but there were problems: 1. JB, 2. JF, 3. It was realised by both present that the first to go through would have to turn around, get back into the water, grab the pole, then go through the next one and do the same. Problem 4. neither wanted to do this. After much arguing and rock tossing (no coins handy), JB won, and being the gentleman that he is, sent Fred in first. The decision was not unanimous, but was eventually carried out. In the end it was found that the pole fitted through the second 'S' shaped duckunder no worries, and no one had to go any further.

Returning to the chamber, we got changed and then went back to help the others. All the gear was eventually dumped in this chamber. We all then returned to the surface.

Yagby cont.

Back at the cars we decided to go to the Coppermine area. Here we had lunch, then the group split up. Andy and Bob went to look at Coppermine (Y12) and Trickett's (Y13), while the other 3 did a dig on the hill between these two caves.

The dig was started by NUCC in 1969, and had not been touched since. The dig was soon pronounced no go, as the tight passage with a draft was too tight to move in, let alone try to dig in. Another hole was looked at about 15m away. These two caves have now been assigned numbers (Y78 & Y79); and full details will be published in the next newsletter.

Back at the hut we had a feed, then headed for Kiandra for a few (?) quiet (?) ales and a spot of pool (and singing). We left about one am with JB being the almost undefeated pool champion ("Bob beat me once!").

Next morning, trouble was had in rounding up volunteers for the NDC trip. It seems that all those in the Pub the night before had a sudden loss of enthusiasm for NDC and decided that Cooleman sounded all together more appealing. Six fools (JB, JF, MC (NUCC), Andrew Pavey, Bob Mannell (UNSWSS) and Rudi Frank (VSA)) were eventually rounded up.

After a quick trip through to the gear, NUCC members stripped, UNSWSS members put on wet suits, and Rudi piled on more clothes for the trip through the water. On the other side we changed, set up the pole, and pushed JB up it. Everything was carefully recorded on film by 'The Cave Photographer'. After cries of "it goes" from above, the others followed.

The passage was largely rock pile, with much silt and mud, much being covered in flowstone, rimstone pools and micro gours. The passage dropped, in a series of small drops into a stream passage containing water (although, if it was flowing, it was doing so at a very slow rate). After a 3m. drop the passage got tighter and too wet for comfort, so a retreat was made. At this point the passage was like that near the ducks, with a water worn gravel floor.

On the way out a rough traverse was done using a compass, biro,

Yagby cont.

and a used chocolate wrapper. The length of the traverse, from the pole to the furthest point reached was about 100m. (excluding all side passages).

As our lights were becoming rather dim, a hasty retreat was made, leaving the pole in the chamber near the ducks, as Andy said he would send a party down to get it later in the week.

Back at the hut, the NUCC contingent packed up and left for Canberra at about 8.30.

John Brush.

NB. A full description of the NDC extension will be included in the next issue.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MICHELAGO

14th. Jan.

Party: Frank Bergersen, Marj Coggan and John Brush.

Left Canberra at 8am in the Bergermobile, this not only got us to Michelago, but got us to the top of the ridge above the river as well. A short walk from here saw us at the limestone busily looking for caves, then tagging and numbering them. M16 and M17 found by Frank and others in 1970^{*}, were first, and these were followed by some in the cliff near those tagged in Dec.

A fter a bite to eat, the work continued, with several large (well large for Michelago anyway) caves being found. The ones with more obvious entrances have been entered before, and contained signatures dating back to the 1890's, most of the names were local.

At 5pm. we called it a day, and walked back up the hill to the car, taking a detour en route to see if we could see the southern outcrop (we couldn't).

To date 24 caves (27 tags) have been found, mapped and tagged. There still appears to be a fair amount of limestone left that has not, as yet, been looked at. Much of the remaining part of the northern outcrop has much more vegetation on it. This could indicate the rock is more cruddy, thus no caves may have formed in it.

John Brush.

John Brush.

* Michelago Trip Report, F. Bergersen. Speleograffiti 7(6):13.

The Dogleg Saga, Phase Two.Jan. 7th, 14th, 20-21st.

Alan Harding.

Again it was decided to dig out the sand trap in Dogleg. This time, breakthrough was achieved in a record two days of digging.

On the 20th we entered the sand trap, enlarged the hole to reduce sand falls. These sand falls are caused by people struggling through the small hole. The Opera House wall was then scaled, and soon after, the third water trap was reached. This was found to have a 3" air space, so we proceeded through.

The right branch was dry right through, as expected, but the left branch was blocked at the double duckunders. This may have been due to a storm on Sat. 13th. Jan. when over 1" of rain fell at Wee Jasper. The storm had no other effects that were apparent.

Approximately five hours were spent in the inner part of the cave. The inner parts were found to be well decorated, with many helictites, shawls, straws and so on.

On the 21st. A survey was commenced where the old CSS survey left off (Between 2nd. and 3rd. water traps). Several hundred feet of passage was mapped, using a miners' dial borrowed from Joe Jennings.

Any recent news on how dogleg has faired since the rains would be appreciated.

NB. At the Fresher trip on Sat. 3rd. March. several people entered the cave and reported that although the sand trap was full of sand (!), a howling gale was blowing through the remaining small hole. This probably indicates that the third water trap is still open (or at least has some sort of air space remaining).

YY

APOLOGY

The editor would like to apologise for the unforgivable error which occurred in the last newsletter Vol9(6). There was no such person as Lindel ? on the trip. There was also another error, the name Lyndal Lee, should be added to the list. I would like to thank all those that pointed this out to me (both of them)

MICHELAGO.Sat. 3rd. Feb.

Party: John Brush, Frank Bergersen (overwhelming response).

This was yet another trip to the Michelago limestone, the purpose being to complete the examination of the Northern outcrop, and to affix tags etc. to any caves found therein.

As per usual the rugged core of cavers left JB's place at the comfortable time of 8am. However, this time, JB had BO (or was it Frank -Ed), so I travelled alone in the car, with JB leading the way on his 250cc Yamaha Trail Bike (Yes folks, it is a new addition to the Brush stables).

At Michelago, the car was left before the rough-as-guts bit and JB provided the transportation from there on. Those Yamaha 'Wild horses' are to be complimented on their sureness of foot. Arriving at the river, we resumed the search for caves from where we had left off on the last trip. After about two minutes of this, it was agreed that due to the extremely high humidity, it was time to return to the bike and sink a few coldies. This was done, and one hour later the search resumed. Much of the limestone, however, proved to be "cruddy", and possibilities of finding any caves is remote. So, the search was abandoned. After another coldie the return trip (somewhat hairy) up the hill to the car was made.

We then made our way to the southern outcrop, not previously visited by the club. This was done via a track from 'Nyora', belonging to Dr. Merv Aston. This track is good enough to drive down in a car. The weather here was still extremely humid, so another couple of coldies had to be consumed. After lunch, a quick inspection of the outcrop revealed two caves (M 28 & 29). One of them (M28) proved to be among the largest caves found in the area. Much of this cave was in a highly shattered condition, possibly due to the blasting at the quarry, only a few metres away.

After a rapid inspection of the outcrop over the river (bike seat caving), the search was abandoned in favour of a swim in the river. Some ugly scenes followed! After this, and the rest of the coldies, we departed for home.

Frank Bergersen.

MICHELAGO.17th. Feb.

Party: David Hughes, Jenny Clark, Frank Bergersen,
Marj Coggan, John Brush.

The aim of this trip was to cover the rest of the southern outcrop, especially the western side, as well as other bits missed on the last trip. Unfortunately, the river had risen considerably, consequently, some got rather wet in crossing it.

Dumping the gear, it was decided to look for caves first, then come back and get any gear needed, later on. This was a wise decision, as the weather was very humid, the hills were steep, the outcrop was long, and perhaps most importantly, there weren't any caves in it. Actually, one cave approx. 1.5m. long was found. It was not numbered, mapped, tagged, or even entered.

On the way back to the gear, Frank climbed onto a ledge on a cliff, and tried his bird-man act. Unfortunately, he had not had enough practice, and only managed to fly about 3m. (vertically) before making a rather unorthodox landing on a scree slope below. He managed to fly (successfully) through several trees in the process, however. Due to a slightly sprained ankle he could (or would) not give a repeat performance for the benefit of the photographer present.

When the excitement had died down, lunch was had, followed by the return river crossing and then the trip home.

We arrived home at about 2.30pm, and Michelago was pronounced "done". At least for quite some time, anyway.

John Brush.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

WOMBEYAN.Sun. 18th. Feb.

J. Brush.

Party: Frank Bergersen, Mrs. D. Brush, Marj Coggan,
John Brush.

This was a strictly Tourist type trip only. Caves visited were Junction Cave and the Figtree - Victoria Arch complex. Both of which had plenty of water flowing around in them. Comment: It's a pity the Dept. Tourism doesn't make some attempt to hide some of the electrical wires like the NPWS has done at Yarrangobilly.

ROSEBROOK (BUNYAN).24th. Feb.

Party: Frank Bergersen, Eugene Collins, Marj
Coggan, John Brush.

We all set off for the limestone after signing our lives away on the little forms provided for that purpose by the land-owner.

At the outcrop we commenced mapping along the limestone boundary, and continued south towards the ridge on which we thought the southern boundary was situated. But, when we got there, the limestone was seen to continue south for about another kilometer. Most of this southern section was devoid of caves, in fact we only found one (R10).

The traverse was then continued up the east side, then back to the car for lunch. After lunch, Eugene and Frank went to have a look at R1, the main cave, while John and Marj tied all cave entrances into the traverse, as well as tagging all those found. A couple of hours later, the other two emerged, and we all continued the traverse. This was finished at about 6pm, by which time we were sunburnt, and an icy wind had sprung up. To relieve our suffering, a hasty retreat was made to the Bredbo Inn. During the day ten caves were tagged.

John Brush.

NB. A full report, together with the surface map and cave maps, will be published in the near future.

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Bungonia Caves. Book Review, cont. (from page 5.).

would have been possible to include a metric scale as well, even if the Representative Fractions (RF) were not the recommended ones.

The book has 240 pages, with 24 plates (8 in full colour) containing 55 photos; 45 pages of cave maps (plus a large fold-out surface map. It is well worth the \$6.50 price tag.

In short, it is highly recommended.

J.Brush.

NB. THE CLUB HAS A COPY FOR BORROWING.

)))))) COMING TRIPS .((((((

If you wish to go on any of the trips, please contact the trip leader concerned as early in the week preceeding the trip as possible. Remember that in the case of Yarrangobilly, there is a limit of twelve, so get in early.

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Sat. 24th. Mar. WEE JASPER. To do Dogleg cave. This is an attractive stream cave that is not normally open, in fact this is the first time it has been open since 1967-68. Contact John Brush, Ph. 956610 (home, 6-7pm is best).

Weekend 31st Mar. 1st. Apr. YARRANGOBILLY. Mainly to attack North Deep creek cave. There is also a dig near Y12 to do. There will also be trips run to some of the more attractive caves in the area, mainly for the benefit of new members. Contact Dave Hughes, Ph. 613157 (work).

Sat. 7th. April. WYANBENE. exploration here and there. A trip to the lake could be organised if there is enough interest. Contact John Brush, Ph. 956610 (home).

Easter 20-25 Apr. BUCHAN. Down in good(?) old Vic. Attractions: Hot cross buns (oven fresh); A quaint old Pub; The Pub. is full of beer; and of course there are also reputed to be caves in the area. In fact there are literally hundreds of them, even tourist caves for those that want to take it easy. Contact Frank Bergersen, Ph. 462013 (W), 861694(H).

Other trips planned, but not yet definite include; Mount Fairy, mapping and tagging. Rosebrook, mapping. Taemas and Warroo, mainly tagging. Yarrangobilly, North Deep Creek, Digging, photography, and just plain looking the area over. Tuglow, general look around.



