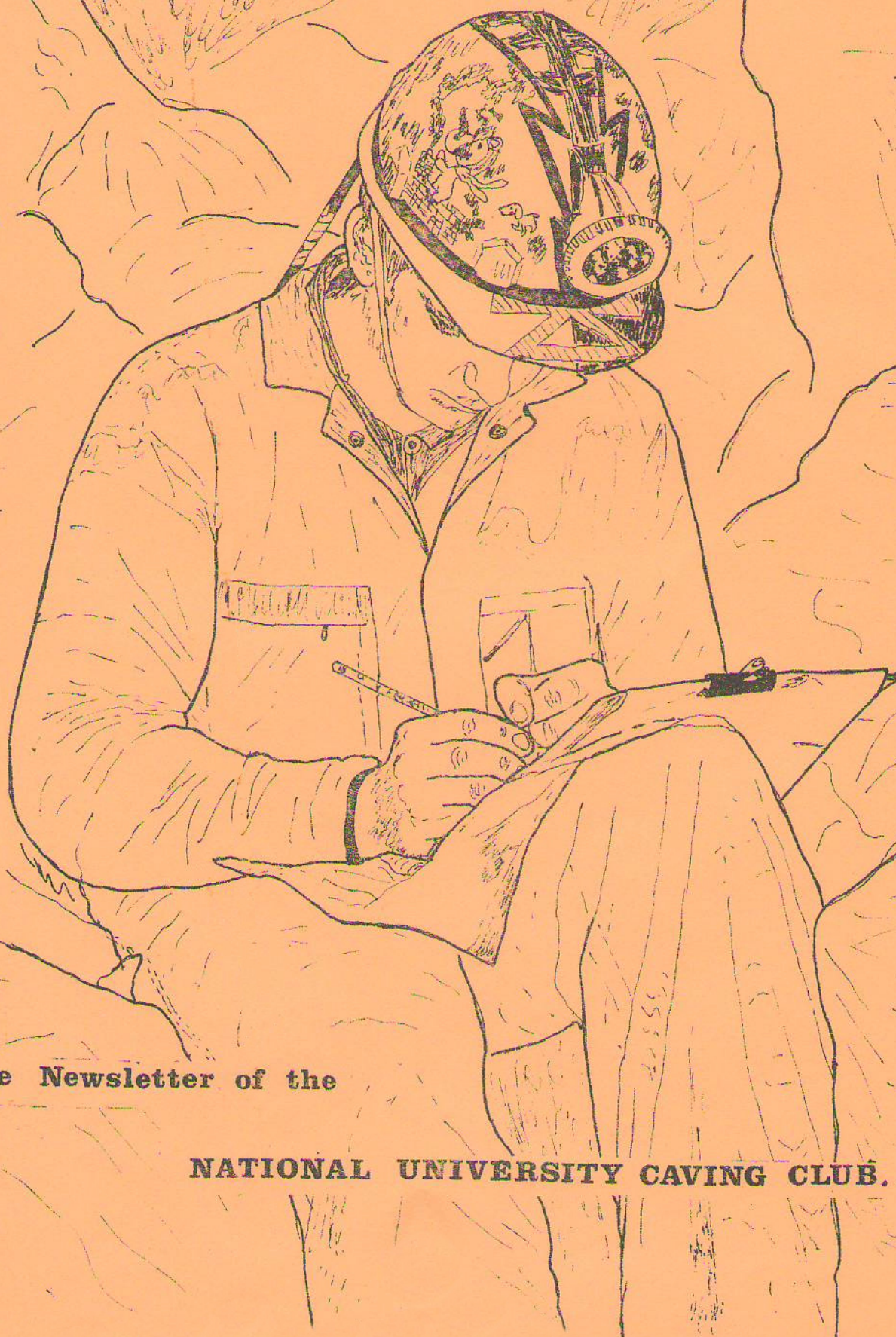


Vol. 10. No. 2.

April 1973.

# SPELEOGRAFFITI.



The Newsletter of the

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB.

JF.



APRIL 1973.

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

VOL. 10. No. 2.

The Newsletter of the National University  
Caving Club.

Editor in chief: Mick Ellis.

Editorial Committee: John Furlonger.

Peter Nicholson.

Rosemary Nicholson.

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Graphics: John Brush & John Furlonger.

Cover Design: From a slide showing Maurice Bell "scribbling"  
in the Lake Chamber at Wyanbene. Photo and  
cover by John Furlonger.

.....  
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EDITORIAL.

The 1973 caving year seems to have got off the ground, under the ground, well so far, as indicated by the number of people turning up for trips. This eagerness also permeated another successful Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 20th March, at which some forty eager people guzzled supper and gawked at slides. Photography seems to be an important and interesting club pastime to quite a few members of the club, as the quality of most slides shown at the meeting suggested. Club activities certainly provide suitable material to be photographed - Big Hole being a good example. After a few trips to the area, some really good shots have been taken, as most people saw on the evening.

The first fresher trips of the year were most successful (Wee Jasper and Wyanbene) despite some transport squeezes. It is pleasing to see so many interested bods turning up. Because of this interest people will probably have to organise two trips a weekend as large numbers (10-12 say) touring one cave can cause bottlenecks at ladder pitches and squeezes, thus making the cave somewhat tiresome to those eager people who are kept waiting.

Safety is a good point to finish on. Remember - keep your caving equipment in good condition, footwear and lights especially. Don't be in a hurry to tie belay knots and you can look forward to a year's safe caving.

P.S. Buy a waist loop.

Ed. ...

\*\*\*\*\*!!\*\*\*\*\*!!\*\*\*\*\*!!\*\*\*\*\*!!\*\*\*\*\*!!\*\*\*\*\*!!\*\*\*\*\*!!\*\*\*\*\*

NUCC. LIBRARY.

The club has a comprehensive library governing all aspects of caving and speleology, including: BIOLOGY, CONSERVATION, EQUIPMENT & TECHNIQUES, CAVE AREA INFORMATION & MAPS, NEWSLETTERS AND JOURNALS FROM ALL OVER AUSTRALIA, BOOKS, REPRINTS etc.

The library has been card indexed, so the helpful (?) librarian, should be able to find anything in a matter of seconds. You can find him (Eugene Collins) in Room A238, John XXIII.

~~~~~

## NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1972.

After a fairly non-descript start to the year, things began to pick up during first term. Overall, we had a fairly successful year, with 35 trips to 13 different areas. The number of trips was up 50% on the 1971 figure, though average attendance fell from 12 to 7. Total membership was well down on 1971, but active membership remained steady at about 25.

The last twelve months have seen the completion of the Wyانبene map. This was the largest project ever undertaken by members of the club. Six thousand feet of passage were mapped, making it equal third longest cave in New South Wales.

Another major project was the mapping of Mount Fairy Cave. This has also been completed, with over 1,000 feet of passage being mapped. Other projects started during the year were the mapping and tagging of all caves at Michelago ; the mapping and tagging of the caves at Bunyan; and the extension of North Deep Creek Cave at Yarrangobilly.

Production of Speleograffiti, the club newsletter, returned to normal after a period of dormancy during 1971. Six newsletters were produced, each with about twenty pages. A number of small improvements were made last year, and I hope the new editor will continue to make improvements, wherever possible.

During the year the club library was expanded, and a card index file started so information could be extracted easily and quickly.

Thankfully, we had an accident free year, apart from one small incident where a member fell down a small cliff, sustaining a slightly sprained ankle.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee, and also all the members who helped make 1972 another successful year for the club.

JOHN B. BRUSH.

President, NUCC, 1972-1973.

Statement of Income and Expenditure for 1972.

INCOME

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Affiliation fees @ \$1.00..... | \$31.00         |
| Supper supplies.....           | \$19.17         |
| Sports Union refund.....       | \$39.00         |
| Hire of equipment.....         | \$ 6.00         |
| Sale of equipment.....         | \$43.00         |
| Sale of stickers.....          | \$ 5.00         |
| Miscellaneous.....             | \$ .55          |
|                                | <u>\$144.32</u> |

EXPENDITURE

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Affiliation fees.....        | \$39.00         |
| Payment to Sports Union..... | \$63.14         |
| Book purchases.....          | \$26.20         |
| Supper supplies.....         | \$33.27         |
| Equipment purchases.....     | \$28.89         |
| Miscellaneous.....           | \$ 1.76         |
|                              | <u>\$192.26</u> |

(Total income + balance at 12.12.72) - (Total expenditure)

(\$144.32 + \$64.06) - (\$192.26) = \$16.12

Bank balance at 12.12.72.....

\$13.85

Petty cash at 12.12.72.....

\$ 2.28

\$16.13



N.U.C.C. EQUIPMENT REPORT as at 20.3.73.

The previous year has been marked by the introduction<sup>of</sup> lead-acid mining lamps into the club's equipment list. The committee aims to have lead-acids as everybodys primary light source, with the attendant advantages. We have obtained 2 lead-acid lamps, a battery charger and distribution box. We also obtained from our grant:-

- 1x 150' No. 4 nylon rope
- 1x 30' Bonwick ladder
- 3 "T" section Stubai karabiners
- 1 pr. Hihler prussikers
- 2 school cases for the First Aid Kits

and some spares for the carbide lamps.

Three other lead-acid lamps have been donated to the club by ex-members.

The club at present possesses the following equipment:-

|            | <u>No.</u> | <u>Item</u>                                    |
|------------|------------|------------------------------------------------|
| LADDERS:-  | 1          | 27' Bonwick 1966 cut from 50'                  |
|            | 1          | 17' Bonwick 1966 cut from 50'                  |
|            | 6          | 30' Bonwick 1966, '67, '69, '70, '71, '72.     |
|            | 4          | 50' Bonwick 1969, '70, 2x '71.                 |
| ROPES:-    | 1          | 300' No. 4 nylon                               |
|            | 3          | 150' No. 4 nylon                               |
|            | 2          | 120' No. 4 nylon                               |
|            | 1          | 90' No. 4 nylon (written off, digs only)       |
|            | 1          | 120' No. 4 Manilla (work and tow)              |
| LIGHTING:- | 5          | Lead-acid batteries and cap lamps              |
|            | 1          | Battery charger                                |
|            | 1          | Distribution box and associated leads          |
|            | 10         | Carbide lamps (battered but working well)      |
|            | 1          | Box of carbide lamp spares                     |
| OTHERS:-   | 2          | Tins of carbide                                |
|            | 2          | First Aid Kits with set of air splints in each |
|            | 23         | Bash hats                                      |
|            | 13         | Karabiners                                     |
|            | 2          | Heibler prussikers                             |
|            | 1          | Clog prussiker                                 |
|            | 3          | Soft packs (battered)                          |

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Item</u>                         |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1          | "G" pick                            |
| 1          | 100' tape measure (to be discarded) |
| 3          | Crow bars                           |
| 1          | Tin of bolts, pitons & copper nails |
| 1          | Tin of yellow paint                 |
| 7          | Bottles of Fluorescein              |
| 1          | Tripod                              |
| 1          | Compass                             |

This equipment brings most caving exploits within the club's range as a recent series of trips down Big Hole demonstrated. It also makes it possible to run a couple of trips at the same time, increasing the possibility of having a more active club with more trip leaders gaining experience.

If at the end of a trip you know of any equipment that has been damaged or does not work, please inform the equipment officer so that as happened, the equipment officer doesn't have to load and light seven carbide lamps to find the one with the blocked jet.

The equipment is yours, please use and care for it.

DAVID HUGHES.

Equipment Officer, NUCC, 1972-73.

\*\*\*\*\*!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!\*\*\*\*\*

#### A PLEA!

In recent weeks some people have been disappointed because they have not been able to come on trips due to lack of transport. Others have been turned away after arriving at the Burton Hall car park, for the same reason.

Thus could all those wishing to come on trips please phone the trip leader concerned early in the week preceeding the trip. Friday night is certainly too late. Thursday is not very suitable either. So please make it Wednesday night at the latest.

It is no good just arriving at the car park and hoping for the best, because not all trips leave from there. This is particularly true of the smaller trips and the weekend ones.

Your friendly, but frustrated, trip leader.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.Jan. 1972 - March 1973.

| <u>AREA</u>   | <u>TRIPS</u> | <u>TOTAL NO. PRESENT</u> | <u>AVERAGE</u> |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Big Hole      | 2            | 24                       | 12             |
| Buchan        | 1            | 3                        | 3              |
| Coolemon      | 1            | 4                        | 4              |
| Goodradigbee  | 1            | 3                        | 3              |
| Jemolan       | 1            | 8                        | 8              |
| Michelago     | 4            | 15                       | 4              |
| Mount Fairy   | 1            | 5                        | 5              |
| Red Rocks     | 1            | 24                       | 24             |
| Rosebrook     | 2            | 10                       | 5              |
| Wee Jasper    | 8            | 71                       | 9              |
| Wombeyan      | 1            | 4                        | 4              |
| Wyanbene      | 9            | 71                       | 8              |
| Yarrabgobilly | 3            | 32                       | 10             |
| TOTALS:.....  | 35 (22)..... | 274 (273).....           | 8 (12).        |

1972 totals in brackets.

BIG HOLE: Eleven people made the 300' descent in the 2 trips.

BUCHAN: A hunt for caves was made near Hopes Cave, but those present were distracted by the blackberries, thus the hunt was called off. Trogdip was entered for the first time by the club.

GOODRADIGBEE: A fruitless search for caves in limestone on the western side of the upper Goodradigbee valley.

MICHELAGO: In four trips 29 entrances were found, numbered, tagged, and maps drawn of all caves. Location sketches were also drawn. The area was covered fairly thoroughly, though a few more small caves may turn up.

MOUNT FAIRY: Survey of the main cave was undertaken. It has been drawn up and copies are available to members who want them.

ROSEBROOK: This was the first time in a number of years that the area was visited by the club. Some caves were mapped and a surface map showing all entrances was produced.

WEE JASPER: Main interest was centered around a dig and the person behind it; Alan Harding. The sand trap in Dogleg was opened in July giving access to parts of the cave closed since 1967-68. Late winter rains however, soon closed off the cave again, and also filled the trap with sand again. In January 1973, the dig was started again and the third water trap, (not entered in July), had a small air space, thus allowing passage through most of the cave.



WYANBENE :- This was the site of the club's largest ever project; the mapping of the cave. The survey was started in 1970, with three surveying trips. In 1972 a further seven trips were required to finish the map, which has now been drawn up on four large sheets. Previously, estimates put the total length at 3000', but the total length mapped by the club was 6000', making it equal 3rd. longest cave in N.S.W. A photographic trip was also lead to the Frustration Lake.

YARRANGOBILLY:- Main interest here was in North Deep Creek Cave, where a large new extension was found by the club during the summer vacation. A scaling pole is needed to get to this section, which has not yet been fully explored. This is the most significant discovery in the area since 1969, when the club entered Y58, among the best decorated caves in the state.

Another new cave was found in the gorge, it is not extremely large, but the presence of a large number of bats could make it an important one for zoologists. It has been numbered Y80. Two other small caves, Y78 and Y79, were also found.

John B. Brush.

WAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAWAW

WINE AND CHEESE EVENING.

The second annual NUCC wine and cheese evening will be held soon (hopefully on Thursday 3rd. May). Venue will be announced when it is known.

Even if you don't like rough red, there will be white, if you like neither there will be fruit juice and water. (Some uncultured slobs, no names, even want beer!) There will be a wide selection of cheeses and biscuits, to put the cheese on, if you are that way inclined.

Shpeleo-gee Shoshial Editor.

#####

Two members have taken up parachuting. Rumour has it that they are going to try to parachute out of Big Hole!

#####

## CAVES OF THE ROSEBROOK (BUNYAN) AREA, NSW.

## PART ONE. J. BRUSH.

The limestone area to the East of Bunyan Township, a few miles North of Cooma, is about four square miles in area. To date, only the northern end of the belt has been looked at by NUCC. This section is separated, on the surface, by a Tertiary basalt flow.

To date ten caves have been found and tagged using the prefix 'R'. Previously someone had numbered all of these caves by chipping the numbers into the rock. Here, the 'Bu' prefix was used (unofficially). These old numbers were obliterated when the aluminium tags with the correct prefix were affixed.

Eight of the caves tagged (the smallest ones) were mapped, and a surface map locating the ten entrances ~~was~~ also done. These are reproduced below.

.....

R3. Small hole 3m deep.

R4. DANGLER'S HOLE. Solution shaft, blocked by rock at 3m.

R5. Solution shaft 12m deep. Another entrance connects via a side passage about a third of the way down.

R6. Small hole in a depression. Blocked by earth and rock.

R7. Shaft 5m deep. At least in part artificially dug.

R8. Fissure type cave about 12m deep.

R9. Fissure about 12m deep. Entrance shaft has been enlarged by excavation (blasting?).

R10. Fissure about 4m deep. Has a small 'chamber' at the end.

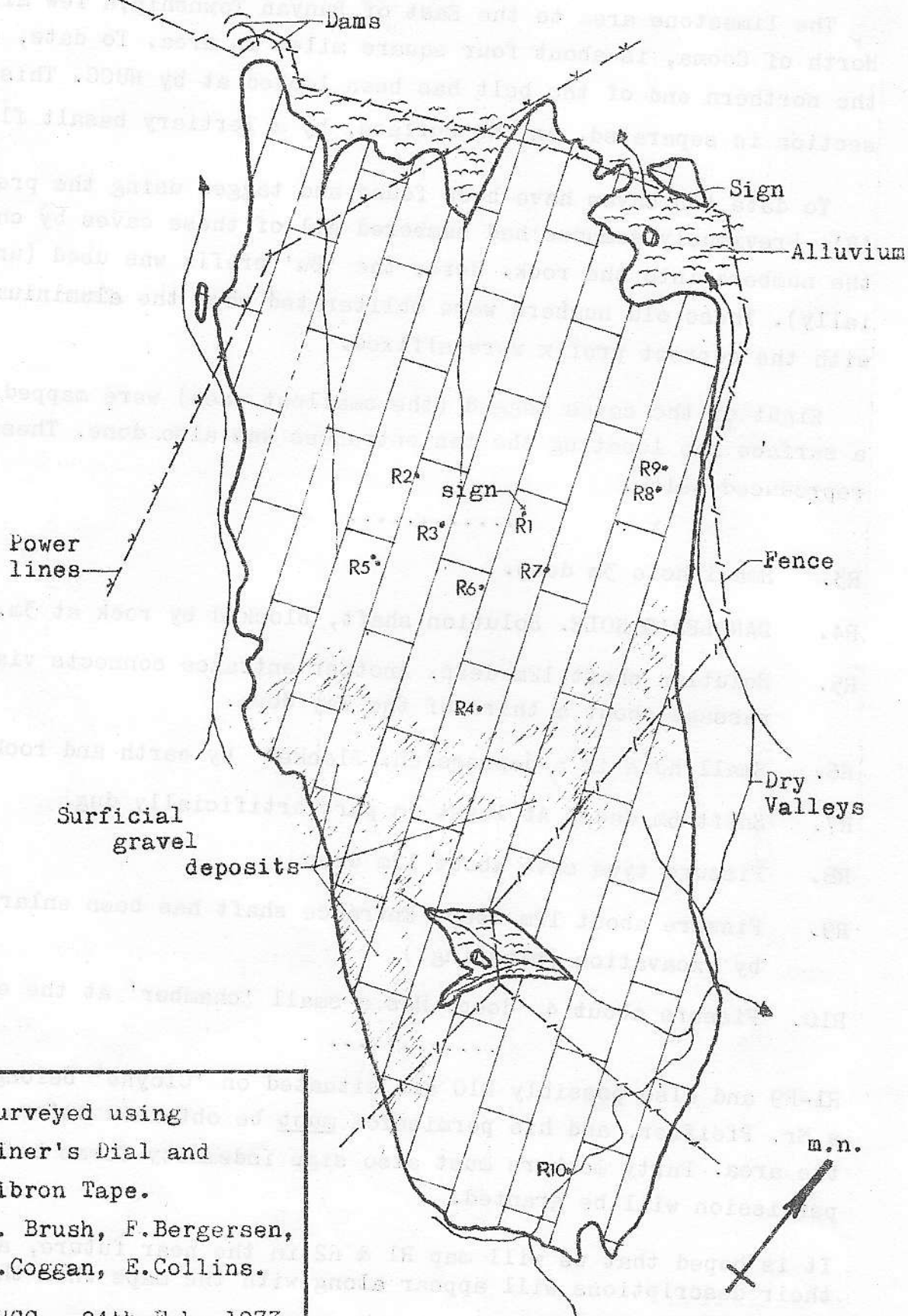
.....

R1-R9 and also possibly R10 are situated on 'Cloyne' belonging to a Mr. Pfeiffer, and his permission must be obtained before entering the area. Party members must also sign indemnity forms before permission will be granted.

It is hoped that we will map R1 & R2 in the near future, and their descriptions will appear along with the maps when they are done.

## ROSEBROOK (BUNYAN). SURFACE LOCATION MAP.

Feb. 1973.



Surveyed using  
Miner's Dial and  
Fibron Tape.

J. Brush, F. Bergersen,  
M. Coggan, E. Collins.

NUCC. 24th Feb. 1973.

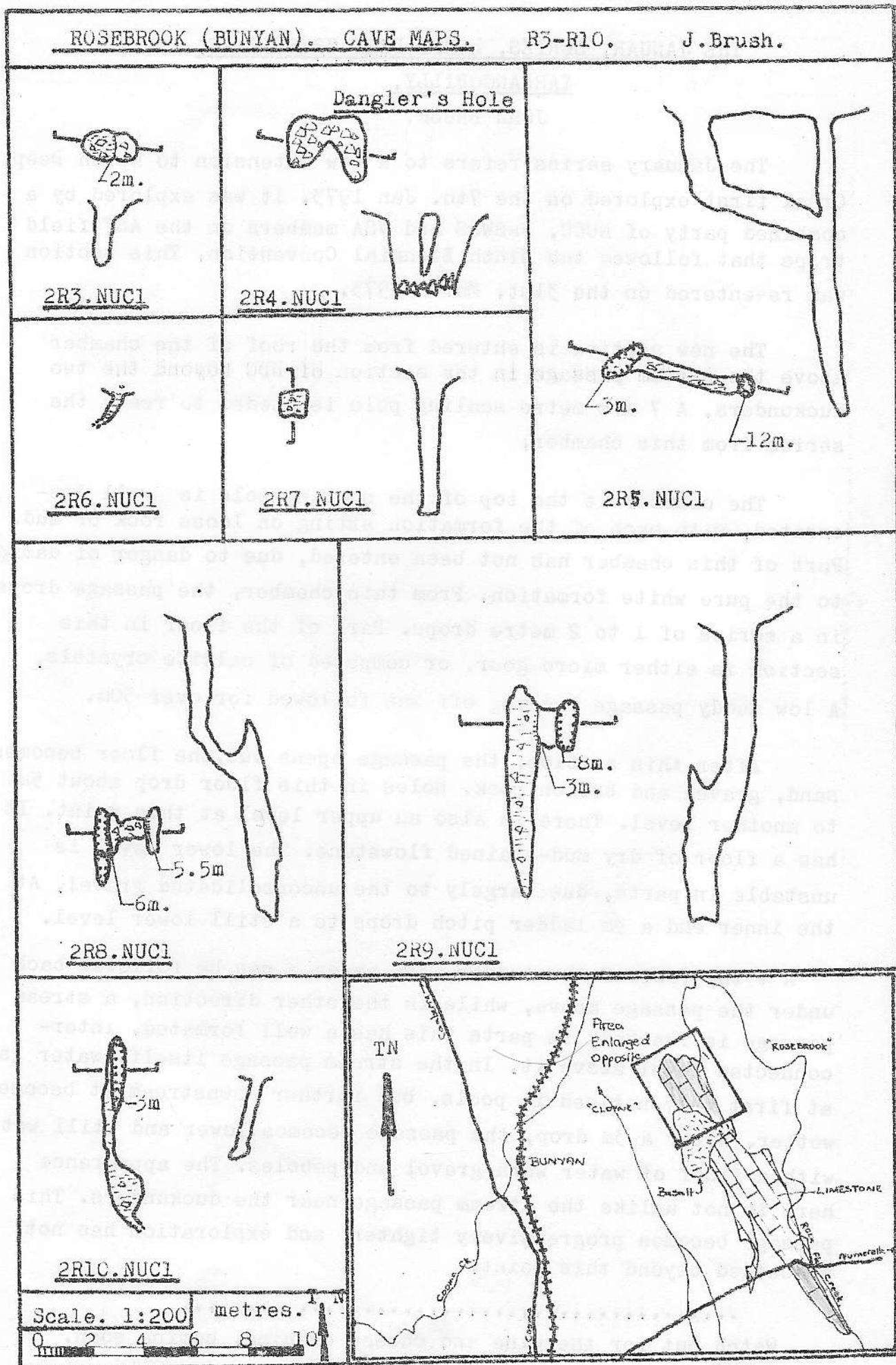
Drawn by J. Brush.

2R.NUC1

100 0 miles 300 600

R.F. 1:10,000.





THE JANUARY SERIES, NORTH DEEP CREEK CAVE,  
YARRANGOBILLY.

JOHN BRUSH.

The January series refers to a new extension to North Deep Creek first explored on the 7th. Jan 1973. It was explored by a combined party of NUCC, UNSWSS and VSA members on the ASF field trips that followed the Ninth Biennial Convention. This section was re-entered on the 31st. March 1973.

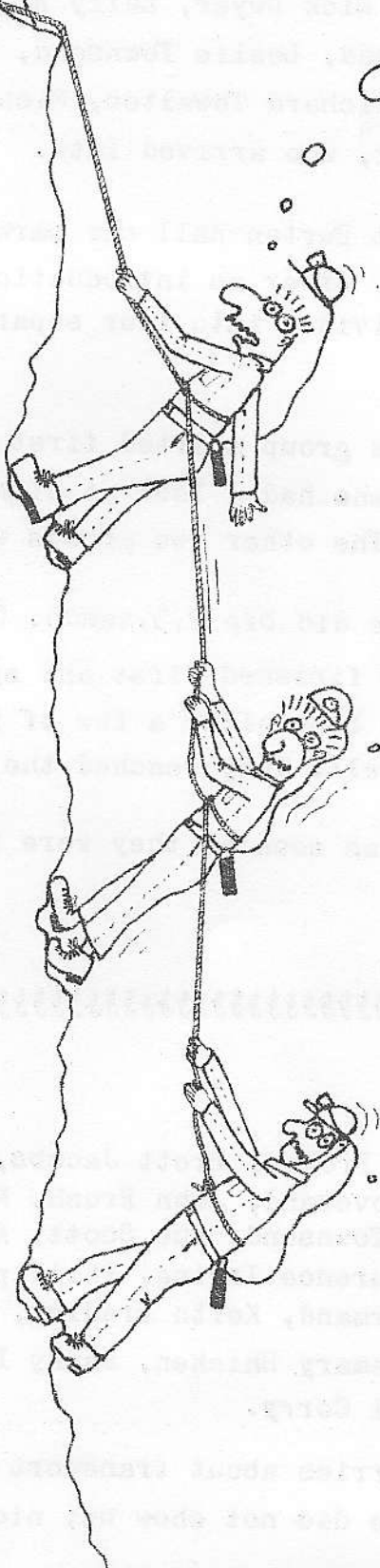
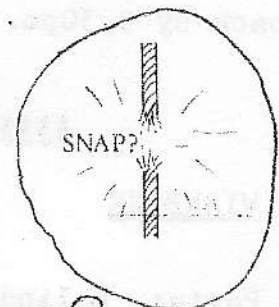
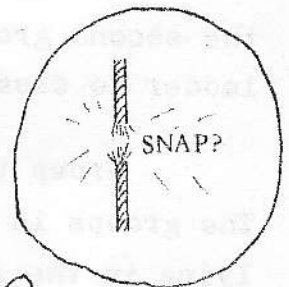
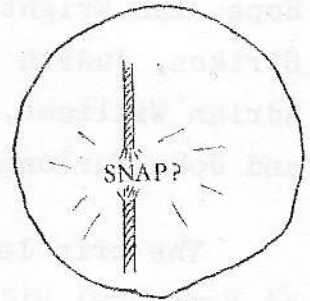
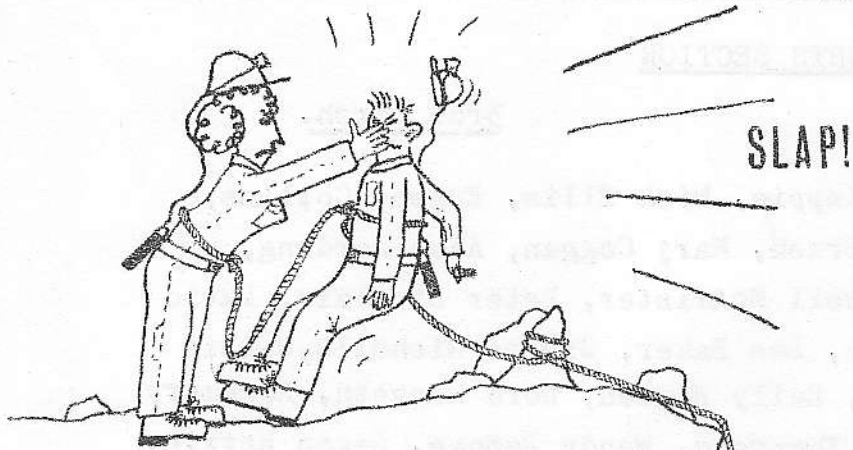
The new section is entered from the roof of the chamber above the stream passage in the section of NDC beyond the two duckunders. A 7 - 8 metre scaling pole is needed to reach the series from this chamber.

The chamber at the top of the scaling pole is well decorated, with much of the formation sitting on loose rock or mud. Part of this chamber has not been entered, due to danger of damage to the pure white formation. From this chamber, the passage drops in a series of 1 to 2 metre drops. Part of the floor in this section is either micro gour, or composed of calcite crystals. A low muddy passage leading off was followed for over 30m.

After this section, the passage opens out, the floor becomes sand, gravel and broken rock. Holes in this floor drop about 5m to another level. There is also an upper level at this point. It has a floor of dry mud-stained flowstone. The lower level is unstable in parts, due largely to the unconsolidated gravel. At the inner end a 9m ladder pitch drops to a still lower level.

At the foot of the ladder, one passage can be followed back under the passage above, while in the other direction, a stream passage is reached. In parts this has a well formed, interconnected level above it. In the stream passage itself, water is at first only noticed in pools, but further downstream it becomes wetter. After a 3m drop, the passage becomes lower and still wetter, with a floor of water worn gravel and pebbles. The appearance here is not unlike the stream passage near the duckunders. This passage becomes progressively tighter, and exploration has not proceeded beyond this point.

.....  
Watch out for the wine and cheese evening, coming soon.  
.....







Wyanbene cont.

At the Shoalhaven, the river was found to be up, but was still crossable. The track in was rather slippery in parts, but there were no casualties.

At the entrance we divided into three groups, lead by Glen Murphy, Eugene Collins and John Brush. Glen's group went into Mud Chamber, Corkscrew chamber, returned to the blowhole, and then went up the stream passage as far as the wet stretch.

Eugene's group went straight up the stream passage as far as Caesar's Hall, while JB's group went into mud chamber, then followed Eugene up the stream as far as Rockfall. Here they turned around and then went into Gunbarrel.

On the way out there was a considerable hold up at the blowhole. This was caused by having to belay nearly everyone up the ladder. Everyone was out by 6pm, some having been underground for as much as six hours.

The cave was found to be much wetter than when last visited, in Oct. 1972, with the mud being much wetter, the stream flowing faster, and there was some indication that water had been trickling down Aitcheson's By-pass from the inner end towards the holes in the floor near the other end.

Some boy Scouts have also placed a visitors book at the start of the wet stretch; rather useless, as it is not wrapped in plastic, and no writing implement is provided.

John Brush.

=====

#### BUNGONIA

17-18th March.

Party: Sally Rigden, Leslie Townsend, David Bowden, David Lovebond, David Hughes, Adrian Williams, Terry Dwyer.

We left Canberra before 9am on Saturday and eventually all made it to the caves reserve. After a quick lunch we decided to do Grill, this took only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour, due to high  $\text{CO}_2$  from the mud slide down. We then had a look at the Serpentine area, and rapid succession, visited B32, B37, B38, B39, B109, B34 and B35 (Holland's Hole). We then had a look at B50 and the dig at the end,

Bungonia cont.

then surfaced and drove into Goulburn so various members could supplement their rations. At this point Leslie and Adrian left for Canberra.

The evening was spent in a few hands of cards and assorted cooking techniques. Sally managed to get us all up by 8.30am on Sunday and by 9.45am we were rigging the first pitch in B16. We met a mob of Sydney scouts at the bottom of the pitch from B51, and with the resulting congestion we returned to the B16 pitches. Back on the surface we had lunch.

We had proposed to take a trip down to the efflux, but due to lack of time, this was not done.

David Hughes.

[illegible]

WEE JASPER, DOGLEG CAVE.

24th. March.

Party: Laurence Irving, Danny Llewelyn, Marj Coggan, David Loveband, Eugene Collins, Mick Ellis, Patrick Mooney, Debbie Hope, John Furlonger, Leslie Townsend, David Bowden, David Hughes, John Brush.

Due to the large number present, we divided into two groups. The second group waited a few minutes while the first one climbed down the WJ16 entrance and went on to the Railway Tunnel. The sand trap was found to be open, but very tight, and had to be dug out after every second person passed through.

The third water trap was found to be "soupy", with about 40cm. of very sloppy mud in the bottom. Further in we met Alan Harding etc. who were taking a break from surveying, and having lunch.

At the junction group two went on up the Right Hand Branch, and the other one went up the Left Hand Branch. Later on both groups returned to the junction and swapped branches.

Along the LHB water was found, wet water no less! Five or six people crawled through the 'duckunders' and got into a low, muddy stream passage that ended in a lake about 6x4m and 2m plus deep. The question is did we go through the double duckunders, or



Dogleg cont.

did we only just get to them? The latter is most probably the case. An upper level above the water was also found. Part had only been entered by very few people. It was an old stream fissure with a crystal floor. The passage opened out into a small chamber which had straws about 2m. long extending from ceiling to floor.

At the end of the RHB a dig was undertaken. Several large rocks and some mud were removed, and gave access to several metres of new passage.

All made it out safely by about 4pm.. The return trip home was made via the Royal in Yass.

John Brush.

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#### ABOUT THE FIELD DAY.

NUCC holds field days about once a year. The aim of these is to enable members to become more familiar with the equipment, as well as becoming more proficient in technique.

There are various places within easy reach of Canberra which are ideal sites for such events. Marble Arch is further away than the others, but it has the added advantage of having some caves for those who wish to go caving. The area a few miles north of Wyanbene has a narrow gorge about 100' deep but only a few (very few) feet wide. At the upper end of the gorge is a large arch way. There are two main caves (one wet, one dry) and some smaller ones.

Besides ladder practice and belaying, members will be able to learn to abseil and prussik, learn to tie a couple more useful knots, and improve their chimneying technique. (Chimneying is a very useful technique for caving, especially for those with short legs, arms, slippery feet, etc.)

ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO TRY AND ATTEND.

A WORTHWHILE DAY IS GUARANTEED.

All those who want to go should contact Mick Ellis, Room A239

John XXIII.

## THE COMMITTEE PAGE....

PRESIDENT. John Brush. 149 Mugga Way,  
Redhill. 2603. Ph. 956610 (H).

VICE-PRESIDENT. Mick Ellis. John XXIII College.  
Room 239.

SECRETARY. Marjorie Coggan. Garran Hall.  
Room 301.

TREASURER. Garth Keppie. Garran Hall.  
Room 370.

EQUIPMENT OFFICER. Dave Hughes. 225 Beasley St.  
Mawson. 2607. Ph. 862942.(H).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

|                  |                                   |                  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Sally Rigden     | Garran Hall. (Room 378).          |                  |
| John Furlonger   | 11 Dumaresq St.<br>Dickson. 2602. | Ph. 497238. (H). |
| Frank Bergersen. | 24 Aurora Close,<br>Mawson. 2607. | Ph. 861694.(H).  |

\*\*\*\*\*

RECORDS OFFICER (LIBRARIAN).  
Eugene Collins. John XXIII College.  
Room 238.

PUBLICITY. David Bowden. 34 Legge St.  
Downer. 2602.

\*\*\*\*\*

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN YOUR AUGUST VACATION?

YOU COULD BE GOING TO THE NULLABOR.

If you are interested in having three or even four weeks of caving, sight-seeing or just tripping around then you could be in luck. One of our members, John Furlonger, is certainly keen to go so if you are at all interested please contact him as soon as possible.

Many people don't realise the caving potential of the Nullabor, but such a trip is a must for any keen Speleo. I know you will find plenty to keep you occupied once there, and there are plenty of wineries between here and there (also scenery for those interested) to make the trip there and back anything but boring.

SO KEEP IT IN MIND, YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO !!!!

(Contact John Furlonger if you are interested)



\*\*\*C O M I N G   T R I P S\*\*\*

Please remember, contact trip leaders early in the week preceeding the trip, and preferably earlier than that if possible. This is especially important for limited-number trips.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sat. 14th. April. Mount Fairy. This will be a limited-number trip to have a quick look at the main cave, but mainly to fully cover the area to examine and tag any other caves found in the area. Contact J.Furlonger, (497238)  
(Home)

Fri. 20th.-25th. April. Buchan. An Easter extravaganza to the Victorian cavers' playground. Delicious Hot-cross buns, a cosy pub and if you feel so inclined, LOTS of holes. So get away from it all at Easter by calling Frank Bergersen, (861694- evenings).  
(462013- work).

Sat. 5th. May. Rosebrook. Since our last trip there we have found out that we covered only a section of the area. So not to be defeated we are going back. It is hoped to cover the rest of the area, but also to map the main cave and any other hole we drop across. Contact John Brush, (956610- home).

Sat. 12th.-16th. May. Yarrangobilly. Some members never seem to learn! North Deep Creek Cave has been left behind but those concerned are now moving on to tackle the wet section of East Deep Creek Cave. For those interested in more humane caving there will probably be some water tracing in the Deep Creek system plus examination of some slightly drier caves. Contact John Brush, (956619-home). (Limited)

Sat. 26th. May. Cotter Caves. For those who have never seen them these caves should provide a stimulating day's caving. There is also some tagging to be done. Contact John Brush, (956610).

Sat. 9th. June. Field Day at Marble Arch. A must for everyone. Learn the techniques of caving, abseiling and you can then try out your new-found skills in the caves and down the gorge under the eye of the more experienced members. Contact Mick Ellis, RoomA239,  
John XXIII.



