Vol. 10. No.3 July 1973.

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SPELEOGRAFFITI.

Newsletter of the

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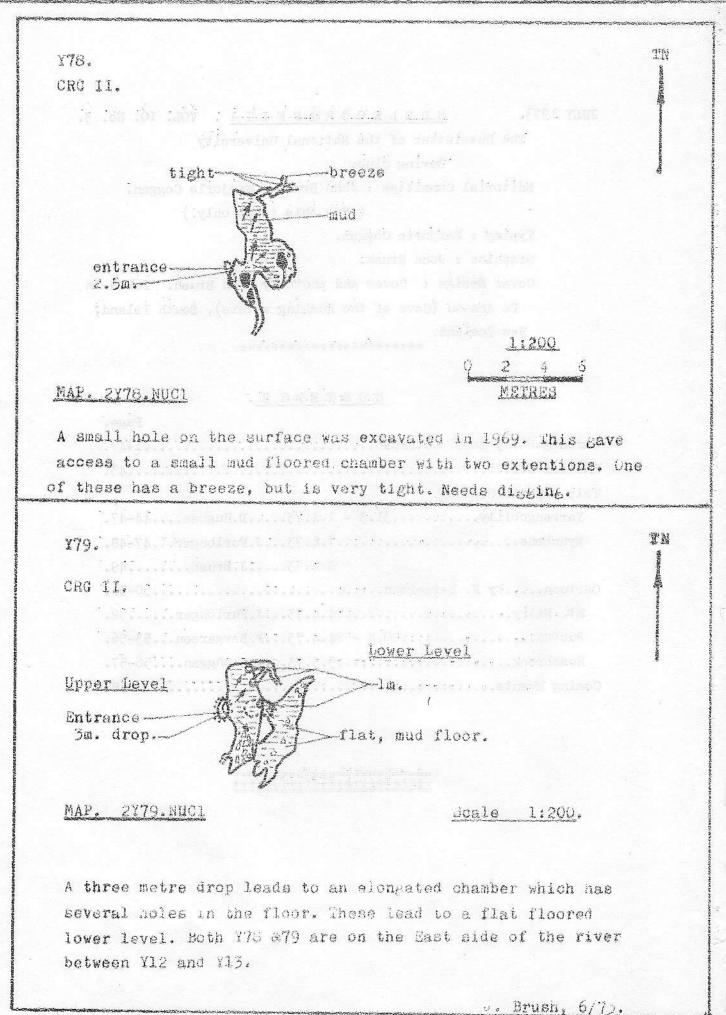
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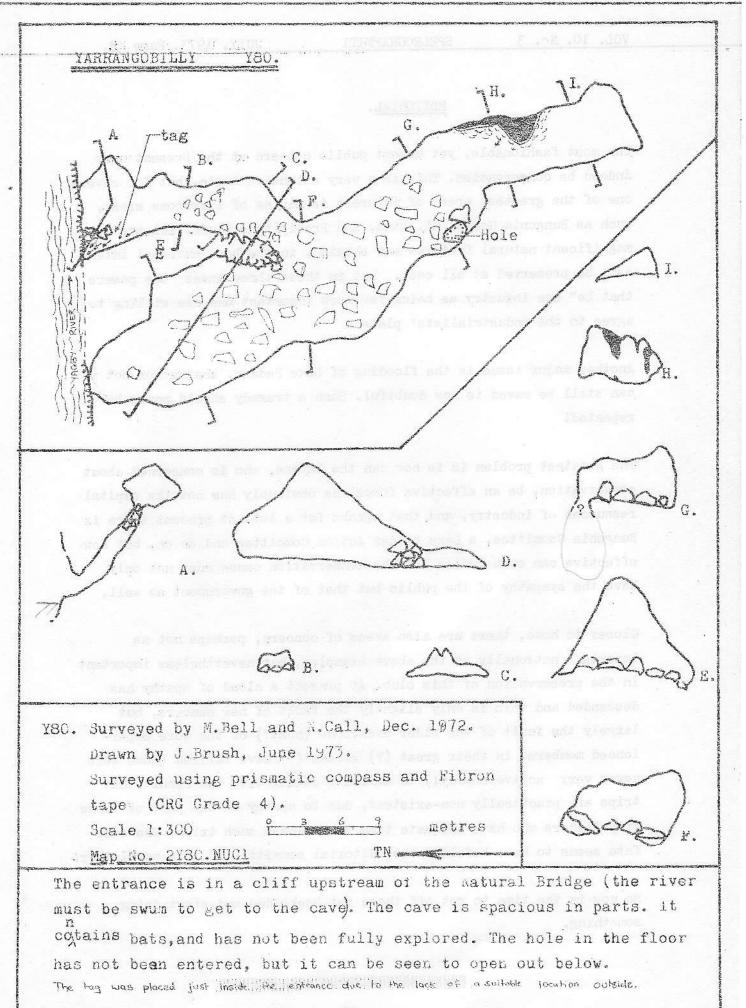
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JULY 1973.SPELEOGRAFFITI. VOL. 10. No. 3.The Newsletter of the National University
Caving Club.Editorial Committee : John Brush & Marjorie Coggan.
(For this issue only.)Typing : Marjorie Coggan.
(For this issue only.)Typing : Marjorie Coggan.
Graphics : John Brush.Cover and phote by John Brush. Taken in
Te Ana-au (Cave of the Rushing waters), South Island,
New Zealand.

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EDITORIAL.

The most fashionable, yet urgent public concern at the present must indeed be conservation. This is a very extensive topic, but for cavers one of the greatest areas of interest is mining of limestone areas, such as Bungonia Gorge, Mt. Etna, and Precipitous Bluff. All are magnificent natural features and should , in the best national interest, be preserved at all cost. But in these three cases "the powers that be" see industry as being far more important and are willing to agree to the industrialists' pleas.

Another major issue is the flooding of Lake Pedder. Whether or not it can still be saved is now doubtful. Such a tragedy should never be repeated!

The greatest problem is is how can the layman, who is concerned about conservation, be an effective force? He obviously has not the capital resources of industry, and that speaks for a lot. At present there is Bungonia Committee, a Lake Pedder Action Committee and so on, but how effective can such bodies be? The conservation cause must not only have the sympathy of the public but that of the government as well.

Closer to home, there are also areas of concern, perhaps not as important nationally as the above examples, but nevertheless important in the preservation of this club. At present a cloud of apathy has descended and this is only slightly the fault of new members, but largely the fault of the older ones.Some (most?) of the more experienced members, in their great (?) wisdom (?) have retired (some were never very active anyway!) to armchair caving with the result that trips are practically non-existent, due to apathy on the part of those trip leaders who have adequate time to organise such trips. The same fate seems to have befallen the editorial committee of this newsletter!

So now is the time to get off those fat backsides and start doing something.

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TRIPS REPORTS SECTION.

YARRANGOBILLY

31 - 3 - 73 - 1 - 4 - 73.

Party: D. Hughes, J. Brush, M. Coggan, D. Shaw, C. Collins, S. Horn, D. Loveband,
T. Dwyer, D. Bowden, L. Irving, D. Horner, J. Furlonger, S. Rigden,
D. Horvath, N. Call, M. Brouwer, T. & D. Berman, G. Murphy.

The first group arrived early on the Saturday morning and after setting up camp at the bottom of the hill, the group led by Glen Murphy went into Y50. The rest arrived about lunchtime and after food and refreshment, John Brush took the two parties into North Deep Creek Cave. After helping take the gear into North Deep Creek Cave, my party came out and ran a quick trip through Y58, as it was getting rather cool with the evening. The Y50 returned to camp first, having just missed the late arrivals, were in bed, but thankfully had a fire going when the others returned. Next morning it was Glen's group which was first to set out again. Glen led his group once more towards East Deep Creek Cave, and when the rest of the party became active, John Furlonger led a small party into Coppermine, strictly a tourist trip, Noel led a small party down the gorge, while the remainder sat in the sun and worked on a dig above Coppermine. This dig unfortunately led nowhere. Some people had rather a wait, but eventually everyone returned to camp and the gear was carried back up the hill. We were all on our way back to Canberra by about 5.00 pm.

Dave Hughes.

Saturday. David Horner, Trica & Dave Berman, Glen Murphy.

We went underground fairly early on Staurday morning. The first cave on our agenda was East Deep Creek Cave. On this trip we went straight downwards towards the stream passage although the going was pretty slow as this was only Trica's first trip and Dave's second. Many good formations were encounted in the passage before the stream passage. When the stream passage was reached David H. went ahead and investigated while the rest of us waited to see if it was worthwhile continuing.

None of us could remember what was at the end of the passage, so when David reported that there was a lake half way along the passage it was decided to turn back. Before doing so, the crumpled remains of a chocolate were consumed. The return trip was fairly uneventful.

- Lincovary patrix 122 parter

Once out we decided to try to find Restoration (Y50) and do it before lunch. In the process of looking for it we stumbled across an entrance directly above East Deep Creek Cave and David and I decided we would have a look at it on Sunday. We continued our search for Restoration, but again our search was disrupted - this time by three wild sows and their piglets. Whe ended up in a pig hunt for a for an hour; completely unsucessful. Aft r a few other incidents, e.g. David trying to descend a Wombat hole, wholly certain that it led to a cave system; we finally found and entered Restoration. Unfortunately, we decided to explore to the left of the cave once we enteredit instead of going to the right. After about half an hour Bave andTrica decided it was about time they started back to their car. It was a pity because a few minutes after they left David and I found the section where the good formations were. After about another hour locking over this cave, our stomaches started to tell us that it was time we headed out for lunch.

I can honestly say that the gate to the entrance to Restoration has heard every combination of swear words possible. The only way to get at the lock is to virtually stand on one's head. After 30 minutes of unsucessful attempts 6 million swear words, cramps in the stomache and legs, and finally dropping my spare tore! back in the cave when I nearly had the entrance closed off. I finally climbed out and 'kindly asked David to try it. It took him about 10 minutes and a liberal dosing of checice words to get the gate closed. We then headed back to camp with the thought in mind that that would be the last time we would go near Restoration.

Sunday. David Horner, Melinder Brouwer, Steve Horn, Dora Horvath, Glen Murphy.

Once more we headed off towards East Deep Creek Cave. We first headed to entrance above East Deep Creek; seen by some of us on Saturday. It seemed to be just a lot of collapsed boulders from the roof. There were no very good formations so after an hour of general exploring we decided to head back to East Deep Creek Cave. On this occasion we turned left once inside the cave instead of heading towards the stream passage as on the previous day. After about an hour of just heading down the obvious tunnels, we finally came to a small pocket of crystals tucked away in a corner. They were very clean with a pool of water at the bottom of the crystals.

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The time came to turn around. Although they spoilt the appearance of the cave, I was rather glad that someone had left a pathway of arrows to follow out, since none of us had been too attentive on the way down. (I think there is a lesson to be learnt here somewhere - Ed.) In a few cases the arrows saved us a bit of time looking for the right way out. We emerged and then faced the problem of carrying all the gear from camp up the hill to the cars.

"Wet Party". John Brush, David Loveband, David Bowden, Lawrence Irving, Noel Call.

We thanked the gear carrying party for their help and then wondered how we

would carry 6 bits of scaling pole, 3 ladders, 4 bags of gear and a through the duck-unders. This was eventually achieved, but took quite some time. Soon after we changed the pole was erected and scaled.

Several promising passages looked at on the last trip were looked at, but all proved rather disappointing - i.e. they all pinched out rather quickly, less than 10m. The well formated part (at the top of the pole), not entered last time was still not entered, but a careful study from the edge revealed that the only likely passage leading off, headed towards the main passage anyway. (Much of the new exrension is rather unstable, so extreme care should be excercised.) The stream passage at the end was not pushed - due to its rather tight and damp nature.

On the way out it was decided to take all the gear out, and back to camp what a job. It required a bucket brigade affair the whole way up, very slow and time consuming. We emerged after $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours underground and promptly got lost. "I don't know how, but we did it". The side of the hill looked right but 'the grass was different'. The shock came when we happened across a fence! We were heading north instead of south-east. We then headed SE - SSE and came across a valley, crossed it and found a doline - it was Y58. Problem: how do you leave NDC on SE side, circle around it and come back on it from the NW side without having crossed its upper end. We eventually reached camp about 1 hour later!

John Brush.

At this point one of the DHEMES party mode the suggestion that, rather than have no rig our ledder at Anderson's sail. they would leave theirs with us and take ours out with them. The result of 211 this was that Sunday. Marjorie Coggan, John Brush, Noel Call.

This excursion was basically a walk down to the Natural Bridge area for the purpose of tagging Y80. This cave is located on the wrong side of the river, in winter anyway, for it can only be reached by swimming the Yagby River, and it was <u>cold</u>. The cave, called Dead Sheep Cave, for obvious reasons, was found by Noel Call and Maurice Bell in December last year.

Besides tagging Y80 we looked at the Natural Bridge, funnel pot (Y57) and the efflux (Y46). This is quite an interesting area that not many people seem to visit and it could pay to have another look here in the future.

John Brush.

Wyanbene Lake Trip.

and quite anna often dime.

7 - 4 - 73.

Party. John Furlonger, David Horner, Sally Rigden and Richard Thwaites.

We left Canberra at about 9a.m. after a fruitless 10 minutes spent trying to get Glen Murphy out of bed, (he had been to the Forestry Graduation Ball the night before). When we arrived at Wyanbene we found the unoccupied tent of John B. Brush ($\overline{\underline{V}}$) and also Greg Hurst et al. (from UNSWSS) about to enter the cave in search of the elusive Frustration Lake. They departed after we had exchanged pleasantries and we then had lunch, trogged up ourselves and improvised two belts for lead-acids.

Our aim on this trip was to get to the lake as mone of the party besides myself had been there before. To achieve this we had to move reasonably quickly so we did not stop off at any of the usual places on the way (eg. Gunbarrel, Cleopatra's). We made use of an UNSWSS ladder on the short descent after Diarrhoea Pit and another at Anderson's Wall. The UNSWSS party was met just after this and we managed to persuade them to leave their ladder at Diarrhoea Pit for us to use on the way out.

At this point one of the UNSWSS party made the suggestion that, rather than have us rig our ladder at Anderson's Wall, they would leave theirs with us and take ours out with them. The result of all this was that The NUCC party had two UNSWSS ladders (dirty) and UNSWSS had one NUCC ladder (clean). I'm still not sure who got the better of the deal.

Just before we arrived at Frustration Lake, Sally slipped in the mud and was lucky not to have suffered a nasty injury as she slid down some ten feet before coming to an abrupt across a rock. At Frustration Lake we drank a little of the water and pondered what might be beyond it and then turned around and headed back towards the surface.

We arrived at the entrance feeling rather tired to discover that it was raining and there was a cold wind blowing . We gathered around the UNSWSS fire to warm up brfore changing and then spent 15 minutes searching the scrub for Sally's purse, which she lost while changing. We did not find it and eventually gave up.

The weather not being the best for passing the time of day, we exchanged ladders, comments on the weather and good-byes and, after a short excursiong into a hole, where the track should have been, we headed for home. We arrived back about 10.30 p.m.

John Furlonger.

BUNGONIA WEEKEND.

25th. - 26th. August , 1973.

This is a weekend set aside for the inspection of Bungonia Gorge and the Bungonia Caves Reserve.

Mining is at present cutting into the northern side of the gorge. It is hoped that an open inspection will bring . to the notice of the public the unwarranted destruction of this breathtaking gorge.

There will be camping facilities available if you wish to make it a weekend. Also available will be information on the gorge and its history, displays and maps, guided walks through the gorge and around the reserve, guided tours through several of the caves and a film and a film evening and folk concert on Sat. night.

REMEMBER: Bungonia Gorge needs YOU, and you have only to

see it to agree.

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Wyanbene Lake Trip.

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John Brush, Marjorie Coggan, Jim Atkinson, David Shaw, Party. Lawrence Irving, John Holland and Lyndal Lee.

The party except for J.B., who was out there already, arrived about 10.00 a.m. in rather wet conditions. Some 3 of an hour later saw us all underground and heading for the lake. A belay had been conveniently rigged at the blowhole for those who needed it, but the belayer got rather tangled in rope - it appears that 36m. is too much rope for a 7m. pitch. Further, it was noted that the atmosphere was rather polluted: It was that rescue group again; smoking.

At the base of Rockfall John H. and Lyndal separated from the rest of the party, they were going to Gunbarrel and other nearby points of interest and then returning to the surface. The rest then pushed on through Rockfall, Nicholls speeze, into Caesars and then into Diarrhoea pit. A 15m. ladder was used here and was found to be much quicker than either (a) free climbing or (b) a rope. What's more is that it is just the right length, coming to within a few cms. of the floor. Ladders (9m) were also used on the other side of Diarrhoea pit and on Andersons Wall, both ladders could then be turned around and used to climb down the other side. After only a short stop at the lake, the return journey was started. A slight delay, about 15minutes, was experienced in Far Caesars where the party noted that the mud slides were becoming rather slippery.

Time for the whole round trip was $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours and was the fastest time for the (3) lake trips that weekend.

John Brush.

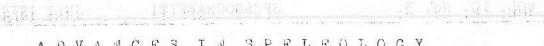
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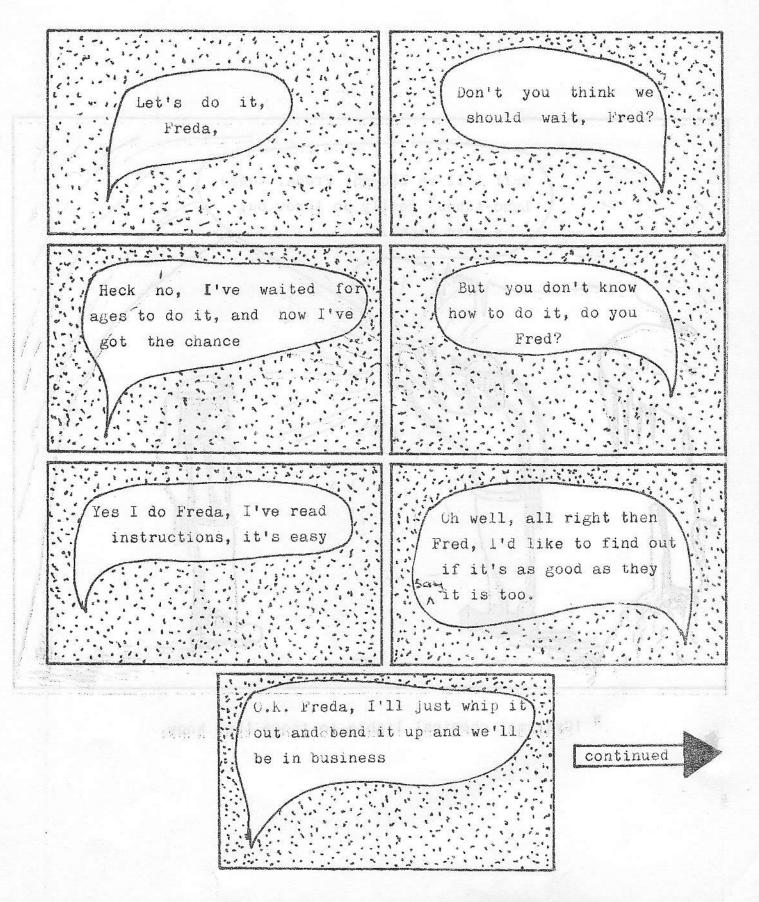
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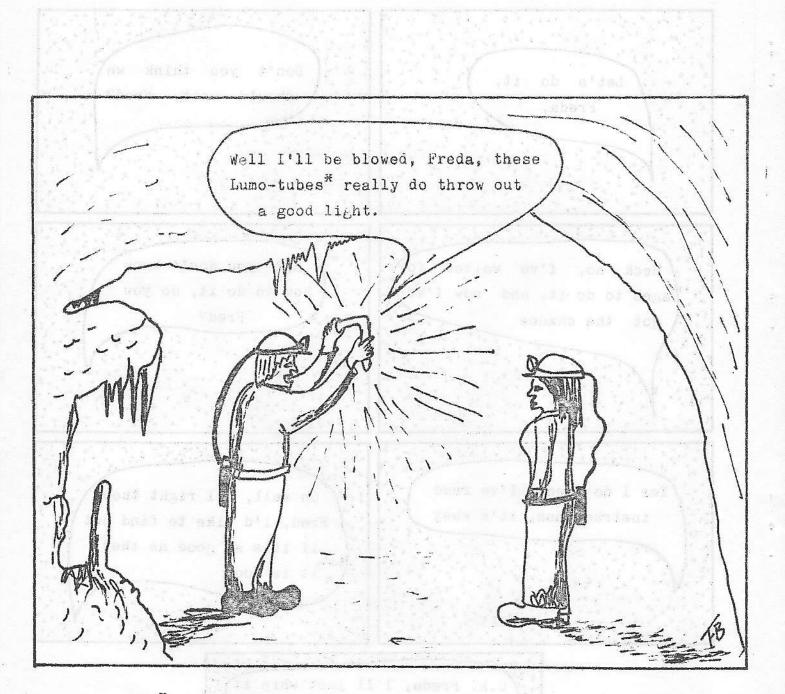
ADVANCES IN SPELEOLOGY number 105.

by Rank Frank.



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* 'Cyalume' chemical lights to those that know.

Mount Fairy.

14 - 4 - 73.

Party. John Furlonger, David Hughes.

We left Canberra at 10.30 a.m. after shopping for lunch, and arrived at Mount Fairy about half an hour later. The area on the immediate south-west of the outcrop, containing the main cave, was examined first. Two small caves (MF6 and MF7) were mapped and tagged in this area before we (I) managed to break the only usable drill bit we had with us. This put a stop to any further tagging for the day.

Rigden, John Furloager, John Brush, Marjeris Cogers, Terry Deven.

MF8 was then mapped and numbers MF9 - MF12 allocated to other small caves in the area. (Watch for a report on the Mt. Fairy area in the next issue of 'Speleograffiti'.)

We decided then that the time for lunch was upon us, so we returned to the car for a thoroughly decadent lunch of barbequed chicken, asparagus and bread and butter, washed down by a bottle of claret. Feeling thus disinclined towards further caving, we substituted a walk over the hill to east of the main entrance to examine the small effuxes reported by Ken Palmer on a previous trip to the area. These were small, but might reward an energetic digging party.

We finished the day off by returning home via the Royal in Bungendore where we were told by a very drunk elderly gentleman that he did not like long-haired or bearded people. We agreed with him.

John Furlonger.

NULLARBOR CAVE DIVING EXPEDITION : January 1974.

Divers are not needed but there are vacances onthis expedition for 'dry' cavers. These people are required to assist the divers but will also have the chance to explore and survey some of the very extensive Nullarbor caves. A little more information is available from me. If you are seriously interested then write to:

Ian Lewis,

12 M^CLachan Ave.,

Glenelg North, S.A. 5045

If you intend writing to Ian he would like some idea of your caving experience.

Marjorie Coggan.

Buchan.

Fri. 20th. - Tues. 24th. April.

<u>Party</u>. Pat Mooney, Dave Hughes, Jenny Clark, Chris Collins, Sally Rigden, John Furlonger, John Brush, Marjorie Coggan, Terry Dwyer, David Bowden, Jim Atkinson, Dave Loveband, Ken Palmer, Frank Bergerson.

The bunch left Canberra early Friday morning in four cars and travelled down to Buchab via the Cann River highway. For the third year in a row the Buchan Bakery was sold put of hot-cross buns, a disappointment to

all who intended to purchase 5 score or more. Fred (J.F.) mumbled something to the effect that "they can keep their Buchan buns". Undaunted however we headed for the Murrindal camp site and set up camp, transforming the immediate vicinity into a clean, hospitable, thoroughly liveable area. D.H. managed to arrive sufficiently late to miss all this excerise with K.P. hot on his heels from Melbourne. It was decided to take a quick look at our dig done two years ago in the time remaining before nightfall, so those interested headed for the Murrindal potholes area. The dig was undisturbed and not wishing to continue it nor having the equipment to do so, we did a quick surface search of the area to work up an appetite for tea. The traditional cheery campfire was inaugirated that night and plans for the next day's caving were discussed.

Staurday saw the whole bunch heading off to East Buchan for an assault on Trog Dip and the other caves in the area. After asking the farmers permission to cave on his land and winning one of his cohorts (Dave by name) to join our band of cavers, the group split up into those not wanting to do Trog Dip (D.H., J.C., D.L., T.D.) and those who didn't mind getting wet. D.H.'s group occupied themselves in Hope's Cave and Didgeridoo Cave whilst the other 11 did Trog Dip. The aim of the exercise in Trog Dip was to reach the third sump (which is usually closed) and if possible negotiate it to the Trog Vaults. Unfortunately the party proved too keen to wait for all the members to assemble at the entrance of the cave, rushing ahead and splitting the party into two, which resulted in a delay of about half an hour and the expending of much unnecessary effort whilst myself and the three others tried in vain to find our way through the rockfall (which I had negotiated only once before,

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more than 12 months ago). I take the opportunity now to stress the importance of waiting for the whole party to assemble before entering the cave. If this is not done and the group is not kept together throughout the cave, there is a good chance that people will become lost, time will be wasted, not to mention the more serious implications which such a situation can instigate.

Fortunately someone from the faster party came back to check our whereabouts and showed us the way through the rockfall. Once the party was reunited at the first sump we moved through the icy aperture and congregated at the other side where the way on to the vaults leads off to the right from the passage leading to the Sewers section. From the description of the way to the Vaults it was going to prove to be slow hard going, so in order to minimise delay 3 members of the party headed off down into he Sewers section for a look-see whilst the rest moved on to the second sump. The same three bods caught up with the rest of the party at the second sump whilst Fred was overcoming the problems of a broken lead-acid belt, broken glasses and adjusting his cross-your-heart bra, all whilst a number of bods were lying in the water muttering the odd curse. Fred soon overcame his problems and all moved through the "hip-crusher" (aptly named) and on to gravel grovel (not aptly named if I have analysed where we were correctly) which is about 5 feet wide with a roof height of some 12-15 inches and a floor of very greasy mud. At the end of this section we came upon what must have been the third sump. The water here was about 2 feet deep and the entry air space formed an equilateral triangle to the water with about 12 inch sides. Half the party decided that they had had enough at this point, however Fred was undaunted and championed the way, followed by yours truly and the rest followed. Through the airspace we passed into a cavern about 10' in diameter with a 12" airspace. Moving out of this we went about 8', down a slippery slope into a similar chamber; the airspace reduced to about 6" at the bottom of this . Once out of this the Knee-bender was negotiated, after which a lot of frogs were encounted, then up through a small hole into another puddle of water on the other side of which there was a very uncomfortable piece of gravel floorfor about 10 feet in the passage, which was tight and which only Fred and Chris negotiated. This section proved a stopper to our efforts, it too had water, was tight and difficult to negotiate,

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and Fred finally gave up at a particularly nasty squeeze. The rest ofus who were waiting for the verdict were by this time very cold and I myself was very tired (he means absolutely buggered -Ed.), mainly as a result of my efforts to find the way through the rockfall chamber earlier. For these reasons we turned around with little reluctance, moving through the familiar water quickly and reaching the entrance with minimum delay. As is necessary with this cave we did the old "walk out of the cave into the river trick", where we washed off the adhering, saturating mud. The weary walk back up the llng hill to the car completed the days exertion, after which we drove back into Buchan and replenished our energies to some extent. A weary bunch slumbered and sprawled around the campfire that night, a drop of grog hardly being touched.

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Sunday saw our first and only rainfall, the angels turning off the taps at 9 o'clock and a pretty lethargic mob eventually agreed upon a photographic tourist type extravaganza to Lilly Pilly Cave, a former tourist cave which is now gated but to which we were fortunate enough to be given the key by the custodian. After visting the pretties in the cave, six of us went to Anticline Cave whilst the remaining bods went into town for supplies and engaged in pursuits unknown. A rowdy singsong was indulged in by several inspired members around the campfire that night while the rest looked on in amusement, amazement or indifference.

On Monday morning D.H. and three passengers returned to Canberra via Jindabyne, leaving 11 bods who split into 2 groups for the days activities. Half the bods left to commence a dig in the Potholes area while the rest drove over to the Pyramids to look at the cave in Dalleys sinkhoke. The entrance of the cave is in a highly unstable rockfall which has collapsed twice in the pastlo years and has been re-excavated. The entrance is still very hairy with a triangular keystone holding the whole mess above it by what seems to be a little less than a wing and a prayer. Any bods entering the cave should take great care to put their feet only on the walls to the left of the hole and to the front wall, not on the rock that juts out underneath. Despite the disturbing entrance the cave is a good one, having a fairly large river (a section of the Murrindal River which disappears into the gravel bed

at the base of the Pyramids hill). Some time was spent grovelling around, the river section boing of particular interest. After leaving the cave we looked at the sink at the top of the Pyramids and then returned to camp to converse with the diggers who had commenced two digs, both of which require more work, bods and equipment before anything could really be achieved. J.F. left for Canberrea that afternoon with 2 bods via the Bonang Highway. The remaining 7 managed to squash ourselves into the Atkinson mobile for a social trip to Buchan pub that night, however finding it packed with people we purchased our requirements and headed back to the more couth surroundings of our campfire,

Tuesday morning saw K.P. heading back to the bright lights of Melbourne J.A. returning to Canberra via Jindabyne and your truly via the Bomang highway.

> Frank Bergersen. (Buchan beauty/ Super T.L.)

P.S. It was learned that some tints who determined the N.U.C.C. dig to be unsafe had blocked the dig with the rocks which we had hauled out with considerable effort 2 years earlier.

Rosebrook. <u>5-5-73.</u>

Party. John Brush, David Bowden & Marjorie Coggan.

It was a keen group which set out fairly early on Saturday morning for Rosebrook. After the necessary formalities with the property owner we moved off to the limestone outcrop and David did an excellent job of reducing the walking distance to the caves.

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It was only a short sprint (more like a stroll) across the limestone to Rl. With the aid of a ladder at the top we quickly negotiated the series of rather incredible ladders to the main chamber at the bottom. We pushed on and soon reached the end with the task ahead of mapping the cave on the way out. This proved rather more painful and troublesome than it at first appeared. The distance between chambers

was not great, but there were so many passages, often crawls or squeezes over coral, that the successful traverse of each section was indeed a feat. It took rather longer than anticipated to get back to the main chamber and somehow, once we were in sight of it David managed to get lost. We could see him but he couldn't find his way out. Eventually this predicament was solved and the survey was completed. Although rather sore and tired on reaching the surface we moved on to tackle another cave. This was R2 which had been looked at on a previous occasion, but due to lack of equipment on the earlier trip, had not been entered. David was elected to go down and it proved to be a fairly straight climb down for about 80 feet, with a muddy hole at the bottom. John also went down then both surfaced, satisfied that the cave had been fully explored.

Fealing that we had accomplished our task for the day, we headed home to Canberra.

Marjorie Coggan.

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GREAT NEWS - ITS ON AGAIN.

Another fabulous WINE & CHEESE. If you missed the last one you probably haven't forgiven yourself yet, but due to our great generosity you will have a chance to redeem yourself. With the Nullarbor trip on there will be wine straight from the winyards of S.A. If it makes it all the way back that is. If you don't like wine (heaven help you) the reare the cheeses and as all hardy NUCC wine& cheese supporters know there is nothing to compare with the extravaganza of famous cheeses available on such an occasion. It is probably safer not to expound upon the entertainment provided but just to let you come along and see.

WHEN : Friday, #th. Sept. WHERE : Garran Hall Senior Common Room. TIME : After 8p.m. WHY : Because you can't afford to migs it.

HOW MUCH : You can afford to go, Just 30 cents for all you can eat and drink.

*** COMING TRIPS, ***

- 11th. August 1st. Sept. <u>NULLARBOR</u>. If you can make a quick decision there is still room for you to go. If you are interested contact David Hughes immediately on 733311 (work).
- Sun. 9th. Sept. <u>TAEMAS</u>. The areą will be reached by boat, assuming - that we can get one. This is quite an extensive area which as yet has not been fully examined (by any means). Contact Marjorie Coggan - Garran Hall or 494537 (work)
- 15th. 16th. Sept. <u>BUNGONIA</u>. This is a very important area at the moment. This is to mainly a caving trip but there will time to look at the gorge as well. If you wish to go contact Frank Bergersen, (861694 - H), (462013-Wk).
- Sat. 23rd. Sept. MOUNT FAIRY. An area on our door-step which is just waiting for us. This will be a new area for most of our members, so don't miss out. Contact Jim Atkinson, (497352 - H)

Weekend, 29th.- 30th. Sept. <u>YARRANGOBILLY</u>. A wide range of activits are available. There is plenty to be done in the line of surveying and exploration, but if you just want a more tourist type caving, come along too. Contact David Hughes, 733311 (Work).

OTHER NEWS.

- Tues. 4th. Sept. <u>GENERAL MEETING</u>. Physics lecture Room 8, at 8 p.m. Don't forget your <u>mug</u>. We should have a guest speaker after the meeting.
- Weekend 20th. 21st. Oct. <u>SEMINARS ON YARRANGOBILLY</u>. Further information will follow, but if you are interested in coming, either to speak or just to listen please let us know.

<u>REMEMBER</u> - contact trip leade rs fairly early before a trip, especially the Yarrangobilly trip, where numbers are limited.

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