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# **SPELEOGRAFFITI.**



**The Newsletter of the**

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB.**



DECEMBER, 1973

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

VOL. 10. No. 4-6

The Newsletter of the National  
University Caving Club.

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HISTOPLASMOSIS - A Recent Outbreak from one cave.

J.Isbister, M.Elliott and S.Nogrady, Thoracic unit, Royal North  
Shore Hospital, Sydney, N.S.W.

(Reprinted from Australian and New Zealand Journal of Medicine, 3(5)  
p. 538 (Sept. 1973). (Abstracts).

There have been seven previously reported cases of Histoplasma capsulatum Infection in the Australian literature. The purpose of this paper is to report an outbreak of Histoplasmosis amongst a group of six Spelaeologists (sic). Three of these young men presented separately complaining of a dry cough, dyspnoea on exertion, pleuritic chest pain as well as night sweats, fever malaise, headache and generalised myalgia. These symptoms had appeared two weeks following a visit to the Church Cave (Wee Jasper, New South Wales) by their group of six. The symptoms lasted from one to six weeks after onset. The remaining three members of the group were sought out and gave similar histories. Examination was normal apart from lymphadenopathy in one case and 2cm hepatomegaly in another.

Chest X-Ray revealed a fine miliary mottling uniformly through both lung fields in the three original cases with hilar lymphadenopathy in one. The other three had normal chest X-rays.

Spirometry was normal in all cases and sputum culture failed to isolate the organism. Histoplasmin skin testing was positive in five of six cases and the rapid slide Latex Agglutination Test for Histoplasmosis was also positive in five. Two cases had weakly positive serology for Coccidiomycosis.

Mediastinal lymph node biopsy was performed on one patient prior to diagnosis to exclude sarcoidosis, and this showed a nonspecific granulomatous reaction without caseation.

An attempt to isolate H. capsulatum from the soil of the floor of the cave was unsuccessful. ....

Since the original group was investigated , ten further cases have been studied all of whom had entered the same cave. Chest X-ray changes were seen in seven, serology by rapid slide Latex Agglutination was positive in three, and Histoplasmin skin testing was positive in four of five tests performed,

The clinical features of Histoplasmosis and relationship to bat ecology will be discussed.

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.....and now, for all you medical heavies here's more of the same:

## GEOGRAPHICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HISTOPLASMOSIS IN AUSTRALIA.

A.J.Proust, Tuberculosis Division, Commonwealth Department  
of health, Canberra, A.C.T.

In 1969, the Second National Conference on Histoplasmosis was held in Atlanta, Georgia, under the sponsorship of the U.S. Public Health Service Centre for Disease Control. In a paper entitled "Histoplasmosis

## Geographical Epidemiology etc cont.

Sensitivity Patterns Around the World", endemic areas were identified as most of Central and South America, the whole of the Central United States with sporadic foci in Italy, Australia was shown as an uninvestigated area blank.

In February 1971, on a routine chest X-ray examination in the Canberra Chest Clinic, a well calcified nodule was found in the left lower zone of a symptomless 56-year-old Australian man. The mantoux test using both mammalian and avian tuberculins was negative. The histoplasmin skin test was strongly positive (14mm of induration). He had been in New Guinea in 1941-42 where he had suffered an attack of meningitis; he had also had varicella in 1956.

Following reports of six cases of pulmonary histoplasmosis in a group of Sydney men who had explored Church Cave in the Wee Jasper Cave system 15 miles (sic) from Canberra, 17 asymptomatic cavers who had explored this area were tested for histoplasmin skin sensitivity and serologically for precipitin antibodies. Seven had explored Church Cave on at least one occasion; five had strongly positive skin tests (10-14mm of induration), one showed 4mm induration and one who had explored this cave on over 30 occasions over two years had a negative skin test. Ten had entered the cave system but not Church Cave; nine showed negative skin tests and one a 10mm positive reaction. All 17 had negative serology for precipitin antibodies. All 17 had normal chest X-rays.

The geographical epidemiology of histoplasmosis in Australia is summarised based on 14 reported clinical cases and 43 recorded positive histoplasmin skin tests.

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 TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT

A POME GLEANED FROM THE LITERATURE BY FRANK BERGERSEN.

THE CAVERN

by Charles Tomlinson.

Obliterate  
 mythology as you unwind  
 this mountain interior  
 into the negative-dark mind,  
 as there  
 the gypsum's snow  
 the limestone stair  
 and boneyard landscape grow  
 onto the identity of flesh.

Pulse of the water-drop,  
 veils and scales, fins  
 and flakes of the forming  
 leprous rock,  
 how should these  
 inhuman, turn  
 human with such chill affinities.

.....continued over.

Hard to the hand,  
 these mosses not of moss,  
 but nostrils, pits  
 of eyes, faces  
 in flight and prints  
 of feet where no feet ever were,  
 elude the mind's  
 hollow that would contain  
 this canyon within a mountain.

Not far  
 enough from the familiar,  
 press  
 in under a deeper dark until  
 the curtained sex  
 the arch the streaming buttress  
 have become  
 the self's unnameable and shaping home.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

#### JOINT ANALYSIS IN WYANBENE CAVE

J.Brush.

The accompanying map and diagram were originally drawn in 1972 by Ken Palmer, but when completed he could not think of anything to say about them. However as a result of recent geological mapping in the nearby Cheatmore-Marble Arch area, I feel the following comments can be made.

The rose diagram was compiled by measuring azimuths of straight sections of wall in the Barking Dog Chamber-Meanders section of Wyanbene cave.

The major direction (approx. North) corresponds with the strike of the nearby Cheatmore and Marble Arch limestones which are thought to be geologically related to the body at Wyanbene. The other two directions similarly correspond to a conjugate set of joints (the result of tectonic folding of the rocks) at Cheatmore and Marble Arch, thus we can reasonably assume the same at Wyanbene.

Since the diagram was drawn the Wyanbene survey has been completed, and while no actual measurements have been made, it appears that most of the cave has preferentially developed in these three directions.

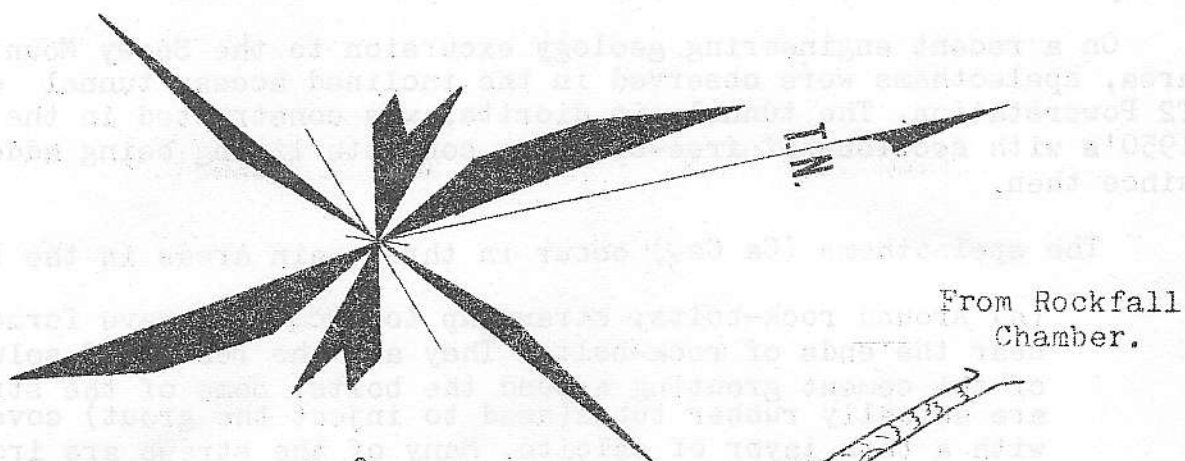
oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

S P A C E F I L L E R



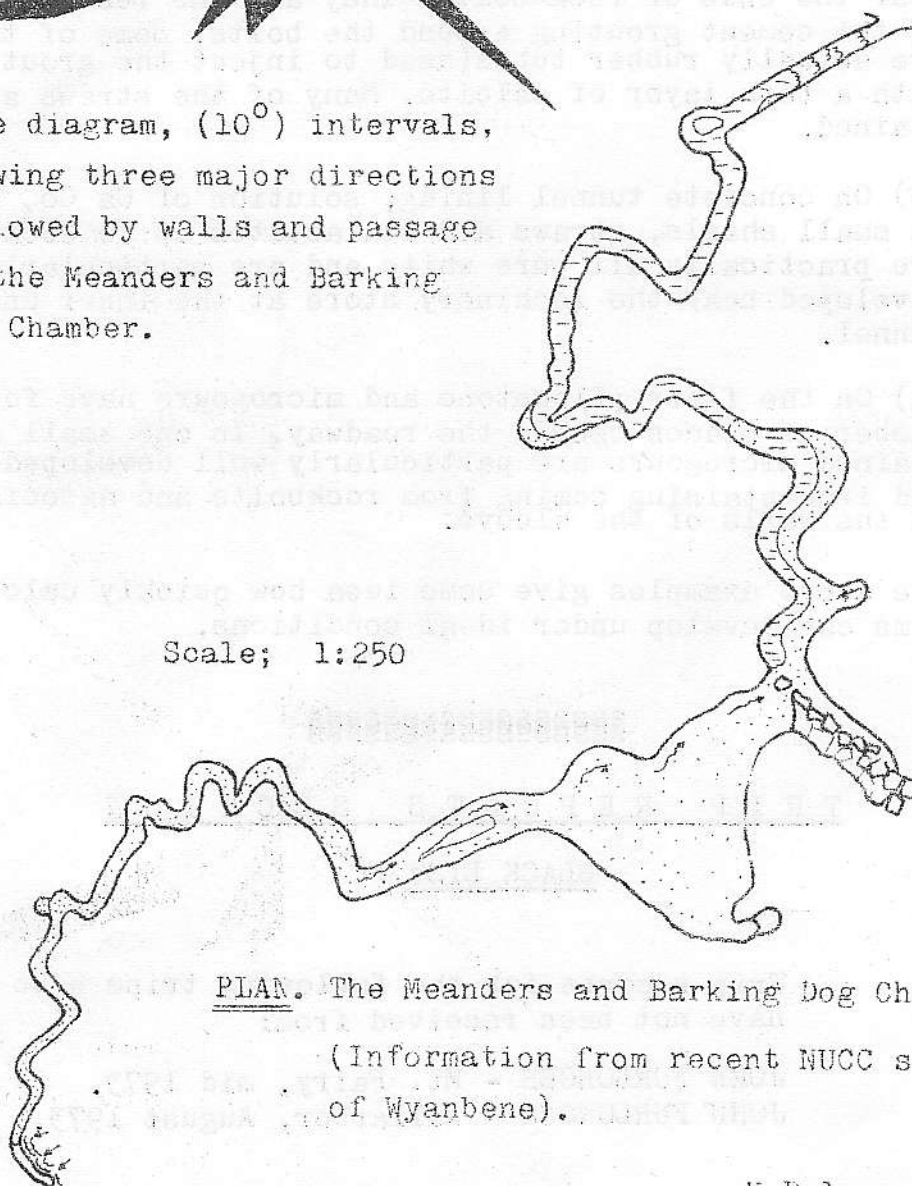
DIRECTION ANALYSIS - MEANDERS AND BARKING DOG

CHAMBER, WYANBENE CAVE WYL, NEW SOUTH WALES.



Rose diagram, ( $10^{\circ}$ ) intervals,  
showing three major directions  
followed by walls and passage  
in the Meanders and Barking  
Dog Chamber.

Scale; 1:250



PLAN. The Meanders and Barking Dog Chamber.

(Information from recent NUCC survey  
of Wyanbene).

...K. Palmer

J. Brush.

[illegible]

JOHN FURLONGER - Mt. Fairy, mid 1973.  
JOHN FURLONGER - Nullarbor, August 1973.



TRIP REPORTS Cont.MARBLE ARCH (Field Day).9 June

Party: David Hughes, David Bowden and Marj Coggan.

It was a disappointingly small group that turned up on a rather dull-looking day. It was a fairly slow trip out there, due to several stops, but as the weather did not improve we did not object to the slow progress.

We made our way down the hill accompanied by the first group of tourists we saw that day. The small number was ideal for instruction purposes and we were soon well informed (But who did the informing -Ed.) of the methods of rigging ladders belays and abseil ropes. We began with a bit of ladder and belaying practice with the added intension of checking the face for the best abseil position.

Once we had a site picked out and had had enough of ladder practice we began abseiling. About this time the rest of the tourists arrived. This made abseiling difficult as there were a few loose rocks at the top which they insisted on dislodging. Activities were brought to a sudden halt by rain-the tourists fled - and we quickly packed up the ropes and ladders and headed back up the hill.

Marj Coggan.

.....

TAEMAS

Semester break, July.

Party: Peter Bindon, Jim Atkinson, John Brush, Pat Mooney, Clive Woolstencroft and friend.

Recent rains in the area forced us to leave the cars behind and walk the last 1 km or so to Narrangullen Cave. In doing so a number of aboriginal artifacts were found: a scraper and numerous microliths.

The downstream end of the cave was entered first and as expected, was rather wet. However, undaunted we pushed on to the first duckunder. Not being able to go any further, we returned to the surface and walked around to the other end. Here, JB, JA, PB met the others. A quick trip through to the end was run for the benefit of those who had not been there before.

Caving was only half the purpose of this trip; looking for evidence of natives was the other. Pat and Clive had found an aboriginal "corroboree" site and wished to show it to Peter who is interested in such things. It was found after some searching on the side of Narrangullen mountain. It consists of about 40 rock piles on a large, bare area of rock.

We became so rapped up in the discovery, time was forgotten, or it was until the last rays of sun vanished in the west. Some difficulty was experienced in blundering our way through the bush back to the cars.

John Brush.

WYANBENE7 Sept.

Party: John Brush, John Furlonger, Marj Coggan.

A meeting had been arranged with an officer of the NSW Lands Dept. to inspect the site for a gate in Wyl. We met a Mr Jack D'arcy at Gundillion and proceeded to the entrance.

The idea was to enter the cave and inspect the site, however a misunderstanding resulted in Mr D'arcy coming unprepared for the wet cave. Thus a discussion took place over the map. He was amenable to the idea of a gate and suggested we prepare a submission to present to his superiors.

NB. Recent attempts to get photos for the submission have been thwarted on two occasions; high water levels in the Shoalhaven have prevented access (even by swimming and walking).

John Brush.

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BUNGONIA16 September

Party: Noel, Paulette, Amanda and Danielle Call, the Call pooch (or was it a friendly bush rat), Jim Atkinson, David Hughes, Jenny Clark, Frank Bergersen (TL) and two USA visitors - Richards Baker and Holmes.

Having picked up our two American friends at the ungodly hour of 6.30am, I pointed my vehicle towards JA's where I expected to find JA and Fred (JF) waiting (as agreed at the NUCC wine and cheese). It appears however that what Fred says when he has a few grogs in him is not to be trusted, as 20 minutes after his deadline an envoy (Dave and Jenny) arrived with the news (?) that Fred had decided to remain in bed instead.

We arrived at the lookdown at 9am, and then waited half an hour for another bod who didn't show. We then decided to walk down into the gorge via the Mount Anne spur. Paulette, the kids and dog were left to guard the cars. The more intelligent members of the party carried adequate supplies of food and drink, others (names deleted to protect the innocent - Ed.) however only brought "cookies and wawrder", or carefully brought deep frozen (and it remained that way) food. Apparently frozen lettuce that snaps and crunches between your teeth is not to be recommended.

After lunch we headed upstream towards the waterfalls. When reached, the first waterfall was admired, photographed and then scaled. At the second one Richard took to the waters to cool off. Strange sounds emitting from his throat indicated that he did indeed cool off.

Retracing our steps, we returned to the efflux track and from there, back to the cars, eventually.

Frank Bergersen.



## Bungonia postscript

It might be recalled by those who read their Newsletters (many months ago) that the above trip was scheduled as two day trip, with some solid caving planned for the Saturday, and a gorge walk on Sunday. I would like to believe that it was the wine and cheese the night before the trip that dissuaded persons from going caving. However, to have a feeling that it was an outbreak of that dreaded disease - Lethargiosis slackarsemimerosis - which as you all know has the effect of turning healthy cavers into dull, introverted armchair types.

- F.B.

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YARRANGOBILLY ( YRG TRIP)

" 27-28 November.

Party: Marj Coggan, John Brush, Bob Nicol (CSS), Bob Dunn and others from CSS.

The party arrived at Yarrangobilly in time for the hungry to consume an early lunch. This being completed, a party lead by Bob Nicol entered Y12 to look for the 'Stromatolites' observed previously by Bob. However since the last trip, Bob's good living had rendered the squeeze impenetrable for him, so the rest of the party continued on without him. The trouble was Bob was the only one who knew where the 'stromatolites' were. His description "in a mud bank" did not help very much and thus the search proved fruitless.

Leaving Coppermine, the party split up, some heading for the Thermal Pool, and others entering Y36, an inlet on Wombat Creek. A CRG 6 survey of the cave was conducted.

The next day saw the CSS contingent heading off in other directions while JB and MC accompanied Greg and Liz Hurst<sup>2</sup> in to the end of Coppermine to begin a survey. The end is very muddy and involves a lot of crawling which tended to dampen the enthusiasm. JB and MC headed out by mid-afternoon, leaving Greg and Liz to survey a while longer.

\*both of UNSWSS.

Marj Coggan.

廣東省立第一中學

YARRANGOBILLY (YRG TRIP)

8-9 DECEMBER

Party: John Brush, Marj Coggan, Alan Harding, Mike Owen, Bob  
Banens, Doone Wyborn.

The aim of this trip was to map Yl8. Some difficulty was experienced in locating the entrance - even though some thought they knew where it was, and some others had 'easy-to-follow' directions. An hour's search found us in the very shallow depression with the entrance.

A 30' ladder climb drops to a steeply sloping fossil stream fissure



fissure. This opens out into a small chamber with boulders on the floor. The way on is down through these. The next section drops very steeply (almost vertically) and opens out into a high, narrow chamber. Here the cave branches - straight ahead (gets progressively tighter and ends in a squeeze through which can be seen the final large chamber) and to the left, where another passage leads off. At the upper end this has a high aven, at the other it drops steeply (down dip) for a while, flattens out, turns ~~to the~~ <sup>90°</sup> bend to the right and drops about 30' (but a much longer ladder needed due to lack of suitable anchoring points) to the main chamber, long and narrow with a sloping rockpile floor. The upper end can be climbed to a level above the top of the ladder used to enter the chamber. From here, the squeeze mentioned above can be seen.

At the bottom of the chamber a squeeze leads to the final section of the cave - small passages between large flowstone and mud covered boulders. A hole in the floor drops about 6m to a tight fissure which is the lowest point of the cave.

Total depth according to the Speleo-Handbook is about 300' and there are supposedly 5 ladder pitches. On my estimations, the cave is certainly no deeper than this, and I don't know what happened to the other three ladder pitches.

Anyway, back to the survey. We made our way to the bottom, did some exploration and then commenced surveying on the Sunday. The lower half was surveyed before calling it quits.

Y35 was located (and entered) during the search for Y18. It is a small, uninteresting, dirt floored fissure with a 25' entrance pitch.

)))john brush(((

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TAEMAS

15 DECEMBER

W Party: Frank Bergersen, John Brush, Marj Coggan.

We hired our boat and set out from Goodhope with the intention of finding thousands of caves which probably don't exist in the area. The boat hire was rather expensive, so to get our money's worth, most exploration was done from the boat.

To reduce our chances of finding anything, the search was con

To reduce our chances of finding anything new, our search was confined to those areas already looked at before. On the Western side of the lake, the area between the Shark's mouth and Goodhope was covered. Nothing new was found, but two holes, previously noted (Brush, 1971), were looked at. The area previously reported as having "numerous small holes in the cliff" was of particular interest as nothing of note was found.

The vessel was then pointed down the lake towards Narrangullen Cave where we thought we had a good chance of not finding anything new. This proved to be correct, as we only found the one cave. As this was rather wet not very far in, not much time was spent underground.



