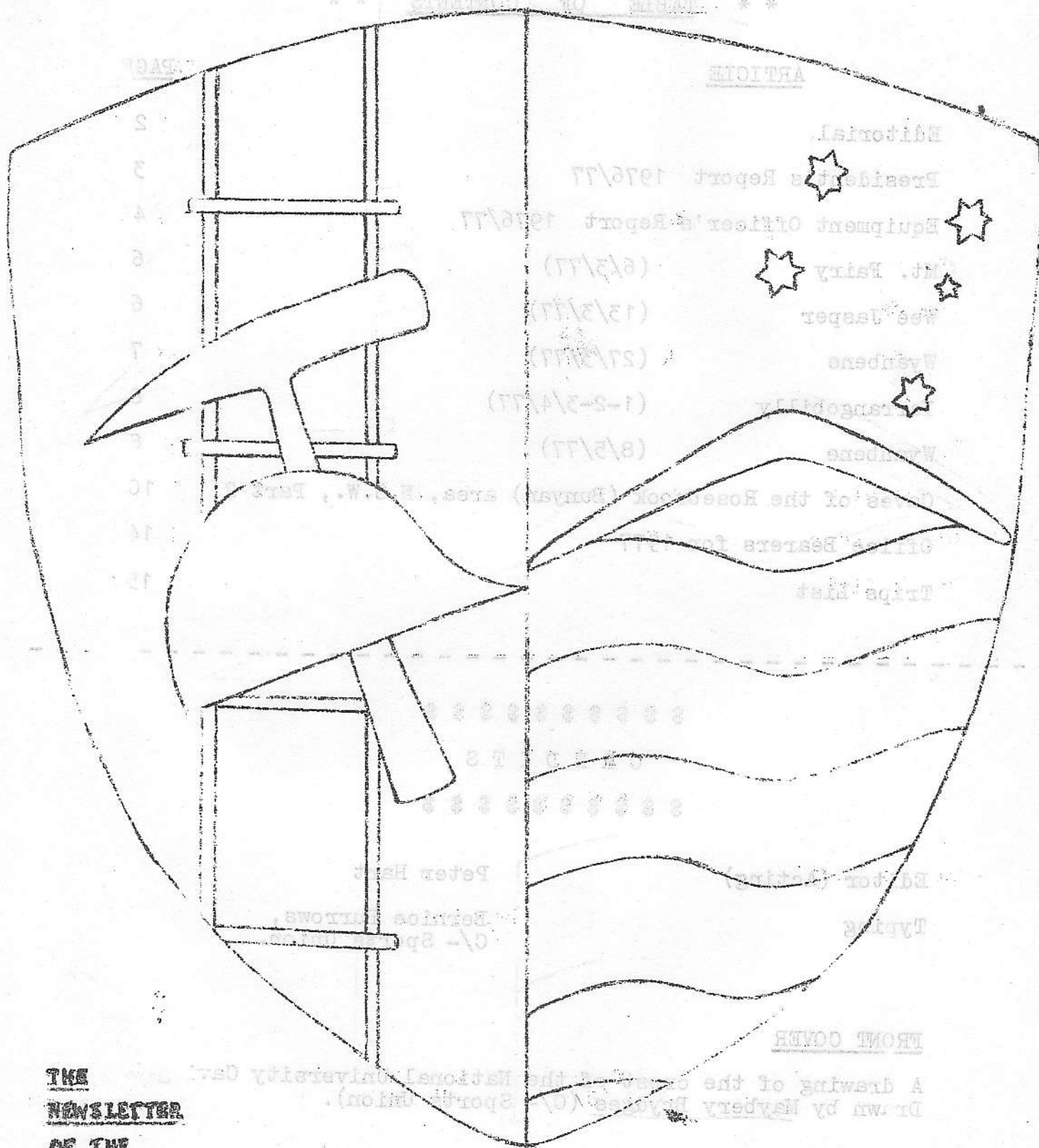


# SPELEOGRAFFITI.

VOL. 13 No. 2

APRIL 1977



THE  
NEWSLETTER  
OF THE

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB

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C R E D I T S

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Editor (Acting)

Peter Hart

Typing

Bernice Burrows,  
C/- Sports Union.

FRONT COVER

A drawing of the crest of the National University Caving Club  
Drawn by Maybery Brydges (C/- Sports Union).

EDITORIAL

Well, folks, another issue of "Speleo-G" is now in your hands after some predictable delays, mainly due to my failure to write up trip reports promptly.

The first few months of term has seen a considerable increase in UCC's activities and some experienced people from other societies and from Great Britain have become members.

Although it is desirable to maintain a high level of club activity, it is not easy if there is but one person prepared to lead. It would be very pleasing to see some other names on the trip lists.

Monthly meetings, so far this year, have been much more formal than for quite some time. I am sure no-one would dispute that some sort of record of the meetings should be kept, but I personally feel, as little formality as possible should occur. Experience shows that people dislike a load of externally defined procedures being foisted upon them at meetings.

Here, I suggest that the committee do as much of club business as possible, and the monthly meetings be relatively informal and friendly.

Yours in Caving,

PETER HART

(President, Publicity Officer, Acting Editor)

N.U.C.C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1976/77

This year has been very fruitful in two main branches; club vitality and CAVCONACT.

Even though the number of trips didn't go much beyond one trip every three weeks they were fairly constant throughout the year, visiting the major known areas surrounding Canberra including Buchan, Yarrangobilly and Jenolan. There was a small core of interested members, about nine, who attended trips with any regularity.

The presence of guests, especially from other clubs, seemed to be more of a regular event this year and is to be commended. We in Canberra could do with a lot more inter-club contact.

CAVCONACT two years ago presented itself as a good opportunity to foster better inter-club relationships. The conference, mainly as a result of hard and long planning by NUCC and CSS was an outstanding success. The fact that NUCC through two successive executives and changed membership structure could still be active in a previously committed task shows much for the club's stability.

This coming year can only improve on the past year with what one short year ago were enthusiastic inexperienced cavers are now enthusiastic experienced cavers, willing to work a lot to again have NUCC name on the bottom of map sheets and trip reports consisting of new finds and records of continuing projects.

Thanks to the Sports Union for its help with the club's survival and during the running and planning for CAVCONACT. Also thanks to the outgoing executive committee and all those associated with keeping the club alive.

PRESIDENT,  
J. MASAIA  
1976/77

\* \* \* \* \*

N.U.C.C. EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

1976/77

During 1976 there was an increase in the number of trips run and consequently an increased demand on the gear. Most of the more commonly used gear is still in good to fair condition. Costs of repairing damaged and worn gear will be low this year. An addition to the club's surveying gear is required - a miner's dial - to supplement the club's present equipment, which presently is below standard for acceptable map production.

DAMAGES:

Most of this year's damages have resulted from equipment fatigue, the largest victim has been the electric miner's lamp, seven (7) are now inoperative due to minor problems, the cost of repairs will be low but time consuming. The 90' hauling line was partially destroyed - of little consequence - most existing belts are acid damaged beyond use.

LOST:

Three karabiners were lost during CAVCONACT but it seems they were substituted by three similar ones. Two old steel karabiners were lost at some stage of the year.

\* \* \* \* \*

EQUIPMENT LIST : Current at the eighth of March 1977

LADDERS:	1 x 17'
	6 x 30'
	4 x 50'
	1 x 49'
ROPE NYLON:	3 x 300'
	3 x 150'
	2 x 120'
MANILA ROPE:	1 x 120' tow rope
	1 x 100'
LEAD ACIDS:	9 with spares
CHARGERS:	2 (complete)
CARBIDE LAMPS:	11 (unspecified condition)
FIRST AID KITS:	2
BASH HATS:	20
KARABINERS:	19
PRUSSIKERS:	2 pairs of Jumars
	1 pair of Hiblers
	3 Clogs
SCALING POLES:	6 x 6' sections

Equipment List (contd.)

MISCELLANEOUS: 1 x G-Pick  
 1 x Star Drill  
 Expansion Bolts, Pitons  
 Brace & Bit  
 Quantity of Fluoroscien  
 Compass & Tripod  
 3 x 100' Tape Measures  
 1 Inflatable Raft & Oars  
 Equipment Outflow Book  
 4 Soft Packs  
 60 Pounds of Carbide

DONATED 1 x 30' Ladder (new)

J. MASALA,  
 EQUIPMENT OFFICER NUCC  
 1976-1977

S. Excuse non-metric measurements.

\*\*\*\*\*

EQUIPMENT LIST : Current as the night of March 1977

LADDERS: 1 x 17'

6 x 30'

4 x 30'

1 x 49'

ROPE: 3 x 300'

3 x 150'

2 x 150'

MANILA ROPE: 1 x 150' tow rope

1 x 100'

LEAD ACID: 9 with spares

CHARGERS: 2 (complete)

CARBIDE LAMPS: 21 (unspecified condition)

FIRST AID KITS: 2

BATH BATS: 20

WASH BATHS: 12

FRYSKINNERS: 2 pairs of trousers

1 pair of Hilde's

3 Goggles

SCALING BOLTS: 6 x 6' sections

MT. FAIRY TRIP REPORT 6/3/1977

Party - Peter Hart (L), John Masala, Reg ? , Vivian Masala, Anne McConnell, Michael Smith, Madic Datalr, Frank Kingma.

After assembling outside Bruce Hall at 8.00 a.m., we headed out to Bungendore and thence to the Mt. Fairy area. The road leading to the railway line had been greatly improved sometime during the previous 3 months.

After some holdups in a bog, the mine track was reached, and followed to the fence which prevented our driving further on the previous trip to this area.

However, a little detouring soon revealed that this fence was merely part of a rectangular enclosure constructed on the track. Hence, we were able to bypass it and drive right into the mine area.

We proceeded straight to MF4 (main cave adit entrance) and marvelled at an efflux on the way. (No doubt flowing due to heavy rain in the preceeding days.)

Much fun was had in a grotty hole about 15 metres in a fissure off to the right, with its thick muddy slides.

Many freshers and some older members (no names mentioned) had difficulty in getting back up out of this chamber.

Lunch was now enjoyed at the adit entrance, and afterwards, it was again entered and the rest of the cave explored.

Owing to heavy rain in the preceding days, a good stream was flowing into the streambed entrance, and some tried to follow this into the rest of the cave, without success.

Others had a brief look at the rockpile entrance and accompanying passages. Afterwards we all headed home, all agreeing that the area is most enjoyable caving wise.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*  
PETER HART.

WEE JASPER TRIP REPORT - 13/3/77

Party - John Briggs, Noel Call, Sandra Cochrane, Madic Datalr, Peter Flore, Nick Green, Peter Hart (L), Frank Kingma, Vivien Masala, Brian Sherwood, Brian Springell, Michael Smith, Gordon Taylor, Matthew Webber, Louise Worthington.

As is usual for NUCC fresher trips, we assembled outside Bruce Hall at 8.00 a.m. and after arranging transport for those present, we proceeded to Wee Jasper, all but myself going via Yass.

After meeting at the Wee Jasper shop, we proceeded to the Dip Cave (WJ1). Upon equipping ourselves it was decided that it would be best to split into two groups.

Gordon Taylor led one group through Gong (WJ23, No. 4 extension of Dip) while I led through Dip.

In Dip, about 4 hours were spent in series 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and Gordon's group were ready to enter Dip as we were exiting.

Wee Jasper Trip - 13/3/77 (contd.)

My group then had a late lunch and returned to Canberra shortly after Gordon's group returned to the surface.

PETER HART

\* \* \* \* \*

WYANBENE TRIP REPORT - 27/3/77

Party Peter Hart (L), Richard Baldock, John Briggs, Ian Geraghty.

This trip was originally intended to be done on the 21st March but owing to heavy rain on that weekend, it was decided to shift it to the 27th.

Unfortunately, John Masala's VW had suspension problems and this meant that we were unable to take scaling poles. Hence it was decided that this should be a Wyanbene familiarisation trip.

As usual, we proceeded along the stream passage, and decided to investigate the chamber following the triangle squeeze.

Richard and myself chimneyed up a fissure here, for about 10-20 metres until it levelled off into an upper level, running parallel to the stream. A ladder was then put down for J.B. and I.G. and we explored the downstream end. The passage was mainly loose mud and rock and showed little or no evidence of being previously entered. Despite all our attempts to push it, the passage dimensions decreased and ended in a mud choke, which may be worth digging.

The upstream end was much more hairy than the other end, owing to massive boulders wedged in the fissure, forming the floor, with deep holes between.

After ascending back to the stream, we pushed on to Caesar's Hall and examined the aven at the top of the descent to Diarrhoea Pit. Next we climbed back up Caesar's, and Richard and myself investigated the very top of Caesar's.

This area is a very complex rockpile, which is easy to get disorientated in. However, we finally found the old stream fissure in the top and Prickle Palace, a small but well decorated chamber. The fissure was searched further and a number of pitches and entrances to Rockfall Chamber were found, some of which should be further investigated.

Afterwards we headed back to the surface and returned to Canberra after most rewarding trip.

PETER HART.

YARRANGOBILLY TRIP REPORT - 1/2/3/-4-77

PAGE 8.

Party - Peter Hart (L), Richard Baldock, Sandra Cochrane, John Furlonger, Michael Horne, Michael McKenzie, Louise Worthington.

Our party arrived at Yarrangobilly between the hours of 5 p.m. and 1 a.m. on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd respectively.

On the 2nd we headed along the East Deep Creek track and proceeded to North Deep Creek Cave (Y7), after some lengthy delays.

These delays emanated from my leaving the Y7 key in my car's glove box and the subsequent revelation that my car key had been lost. Consequently Fred (JF) and myself returned to the hut and eventually found the key; delay approximately 1 hour.

Upon entering Y7, we all descended the rockpile until the stream pitch was encountered. A ladder was rigged here and Richard, Fred and myself commenced surveying back to the entrance, while the rest of the party headed for the double duckunders and associated pleasures.

The survey proceeded with only a couple of problems and by the time we had reached the entrance, the rest of the party had returned after negotiating but one duckunder (except Mike H., he did both)!

The following day, Richard, Mike H, and myself returned to Y7 and proceeded to and beyond the ducks. The trip beyond the ducks is well worth it, as some chambers here are well decorated; one formation being a pair of parallel white straws 2-3 metres in length.

On the return to the surface, we removed the equipment left the previous day and headed back to Cottril's hut and thence homeward.

All that remains to be done in the survey now, is the Y58 connection and a section beyond the duckunders.

John Brush and HCG are doing the Y58 connection on the June long weekend and the survey should be completed within the next few months.

PETER HART

\* \* \* \* \*

WYANBENE TRIP REPORT - 8/5/77

Party - Peter Hart (L), Richard Baldock, Leo Berzins, Noel Call, Jeff Diamond, Michael Horne, Terry McHugh, Michael McKenzie.

Well, at last NUCC managed to round up enough masochists, to transport a scaling pole into the depths of Wyanbene.

We assembled at the Wyanbene turnoff on the Krawaree road at 7 a.m. and shortly afterwards arrived at the cave entrance.

Noel arrived shortly after the first group had entered the cave, and so we equipped ourselves, took the remaining section of the scaling pole and headed in.

The journey to Caesar's Hall was about 3-4 hours and many groans were heard as it was announced that the sections would not fit through the first exit to Aitcheson's bypass.

Once we had reached far Caesar's Hall it was decided that the scaling pole was too short to be safely used in the aven here, and so we proceeded to Anderson's Wall.

Mike M. free climbed the Wall, while Noel, Richard and myself started assembling the pole. Shortly, it was long enough for Mike M., to attach a ladder to it, and the rest of us used (tested?) it to get to the top of Anderson's Wall.

This being accomplished, Leo, Jeff and myself hauled the pole up and spent about 10 minutes trying to turn it around into the upper level above the Wall. I climbed the ladder several times, but it was deemed to be unsafe each time to actually reach the top.

Hence, another 2 sections were added and the pole shifted to a new position, hopefully more stable, as people below were getting tired of a shower of loose mud. This enabled Mike M. to climb into the level and have a look around. He found a small passage leading off to a chamber 3 metres square and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  metres high with a hole leading straight back down to the stream.

Meanwhile the rest of the group had free climbed the other side of the wall and gone to the lake. Richard, who is a cave diver from the University of Bristol Speleological Society (Great Britain), swam to the end of the lake and found an air space. He considers that the lake is well worth diving, and intends to do it when he obtains his equipment.

On their return journey they experienced some difficulty in climbing back up the wall, but eventually succeeded.

The scaling pole was then used to descend Anderson's Wall and the long journey back to the surface began, M.H., M.M. and myself seeing Gunbarrel on the way out.

We reached the surface after a total of 8 hours underground and headed back to Canberra after a very interesting though somewhat disappointing trip.

PETER HART.

CAVES OF THE ROSEBROOK (BUNYAN) AREA, N.S.W., PART 2

J. BRUSH

At last, here they are, the maps of R1 (Rosebrook, Bunyan or Cloyne Cave) and R2, as promised in Speleograffiti in April 1973 (Brush 1973). On a further trip to the area in May 1973 (Coggan 1973) these two caves were surveyed and the maps have now been drawn.

As with RB3-10, the caves are on "Cloyne" near Bunyan N.S.W. and permission to enter the area must be obtained from the property owner, Mr. Pfeiffer.

R1 is the "main" cave at Rosebrook. It is a complex cave developed on two levels, with the floor of the main level some 28 metres below the surface. Despite its depth and the near vertical entrance pitch, only a 9 m ladder is needed. This is for the first section of the pitch from the surface. The rest of the narrow spiralling tube has ladders permanently installed. Quite a variety of materials has been used in the construction of these ladders and the long steam-pipe one at the bottom should be treated with due respect.

The lofty main chamber, at the base of the entrance pitch, is the largest in the cave. It contains some patches of what must have once been quite attractive decoration, though they are now rather grubby and have been vandalised.

From the northern end of this chamber a climb up a rubble slope takes one up towards the upper level. Most passages in this area are less than 2 m wide and high and as many are interconnected this level is a virtual maze. The passages are largely in bed-rock (but with a muddy floor) and are almost devoid of decoration.

By climbing down holes in the floor one can drop down into the inner end of the main level. This area varies in height from one to 3 metres and contains areas of magnificent cave-coral decoration. Unfortunately, the decoration has been damaged to some extent by muddying and breakage.

The northern end of the Rosebrook limestone has now been searched for cave entrances reasonably thoroughly. The area is that shown on Page 30 of Speleo-G 10(2).

Several years ago CSS looked at the southern end of the belt (south of the Numeralla Road), though no caves were found. The remaining central section of the belt has not to my knowledge been closely looked at for caves. CSS attempted to visit this area when it looked at the southern section, but could not get permission to do so. This was at the height of the cave drowning season in the Mount Gambier area of South Australia, and the owner of "Tolbar" feared that we too would surely drown in any caves we might find on his property. No amount of arguing could convince him that we were not going cave diving and that in any case, it was unlikely that the caves on his property (if any!) would contain water.

References:

- Brush, J. 1973; Caves of the Rosebrook (Bunyan) Area, NSW, Part One. Speleograffiti 10(2): 29-31
- Coggan, M. 1973, Rosebrook trip report, 5 May 1973. Speleograffiti 10(3): 56-57.

CAVES OF THE ROSEBROOK (BURTON) AREA, N.S.W. PART 2

1. FISH

At last, here they are, the maps of RI (Rosebrook, Burton on Clarence Caves) and R2, as promised in Speleological in April 1975 (Burton 1975). On a further trip to the area in May 1975 (Cogan 1975) these two caves were surveyed and the maps have now been drawn.

As with R1-R2, the caves are on "Gipps" near Burton N.S.W. and permission to enter the area must be obtained from the property owner, Mr. Miller.

RI is the "main" cave at Rosebrook. It is a complex cave developed on two levels, with the floor of the main level some 20 metres below the surface. Despite its depth and the near vertical entrance ditch, only a 9 m ladder is needed. This is for the first section of the ditch from the surface. The rest of the narrow spiralling tube has ladders permanently installed. Quite a variety of materials has been used in the construction of these ladders and the long steam-pipe one at the bottom should be fitted with one respect.

The lofty main chamber, at the base of the entrance ditch, is the largest in the cave. It contains some patches of what must have once been quite attractive decoration, though they are now rather grubby and have been vandalised.

From the northern end of this chamber a climb up a rubble slope takes one up towards the upper level. Most passages in this area are less than 2 m wide and high and as many are interconnected. This level is a virtual maze. The passages are largely in bed-rock (but with a muddy floor) and are almost devoid of decoration.

By climbing down holes in the floor one can drop down into the inner end of the main level. This area varies in height from one to 3 metres and contains areas of magnificent cave-corall decoration. Unfortunately, the decoration has been damaged to some extent by muddying and pressure.

The northern end of the Rosebrook limestone has now been searched for cave entrances reasonably thoroughly. The area is that shown on page 50 of Burrows 1975.

Several years ago GSS looked at the southern end of the belt (south of the Humeville Road), though no caves were found. The remaining central section of the belt has not to my knowledge been closely looked at for caves. GSS attempted to visit this area when it looked at the southern section, but could not get permission to do so. This was at the height of the cave farming season in the Mount Gambier area of South Australia, and the owner of "Tolbar" feared that we too would surely grow as any caves we might find on his property. No amount of arguing could convince him that we were not going cave diving and that in any case, it was unlikely that the caves on his property (if any) would contain water.

References:

- Burrows, J. 1975: Caves of the Rosebrook (Burton) Area, NSW, Part 1. Speleological 10(2): 29-31.  
Cogan, W. 1975: Rosebrook trip report, 5 May 1975. Speleological 10(3): 55-57.

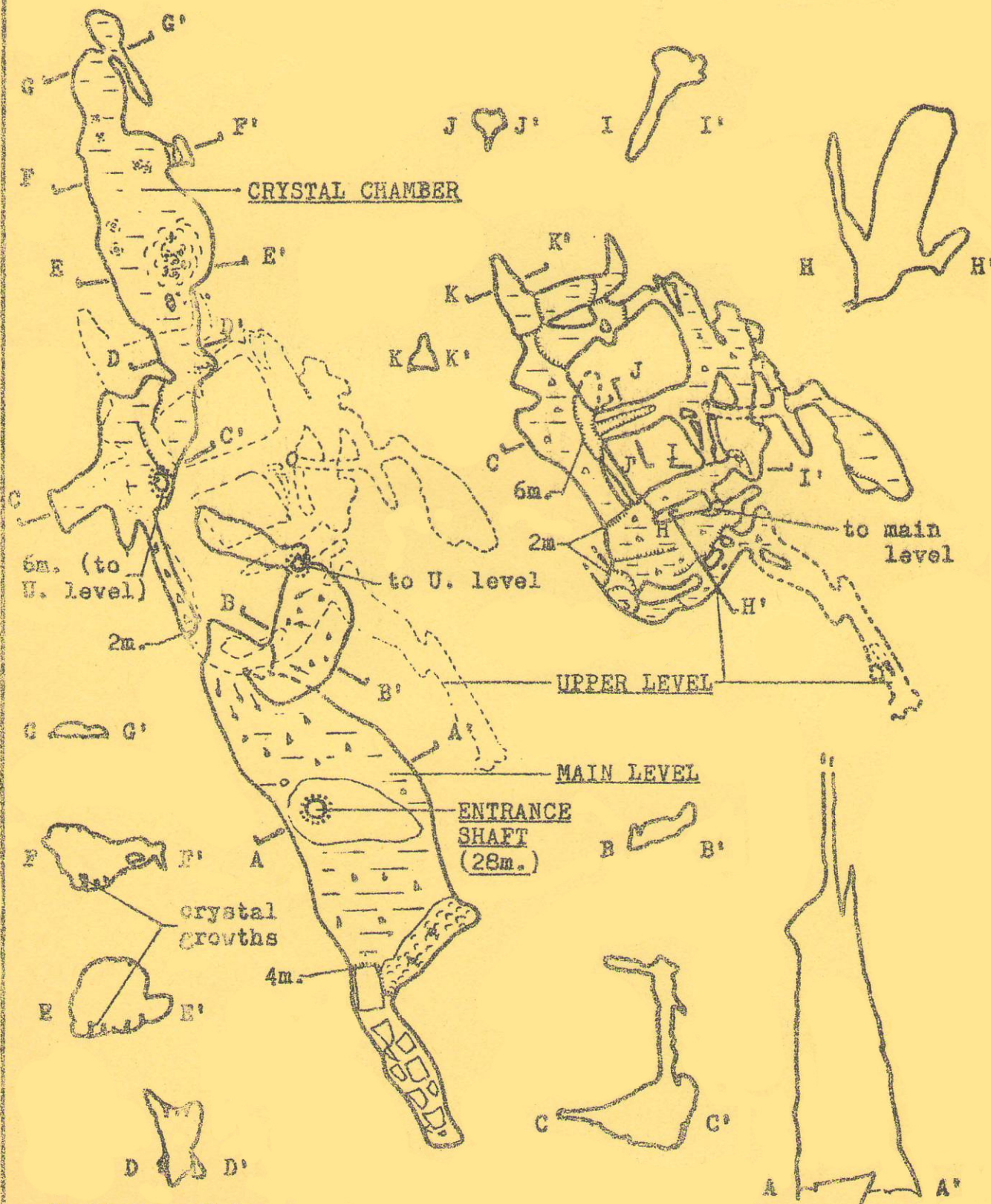
ROSEBROOK CAVE (R1)

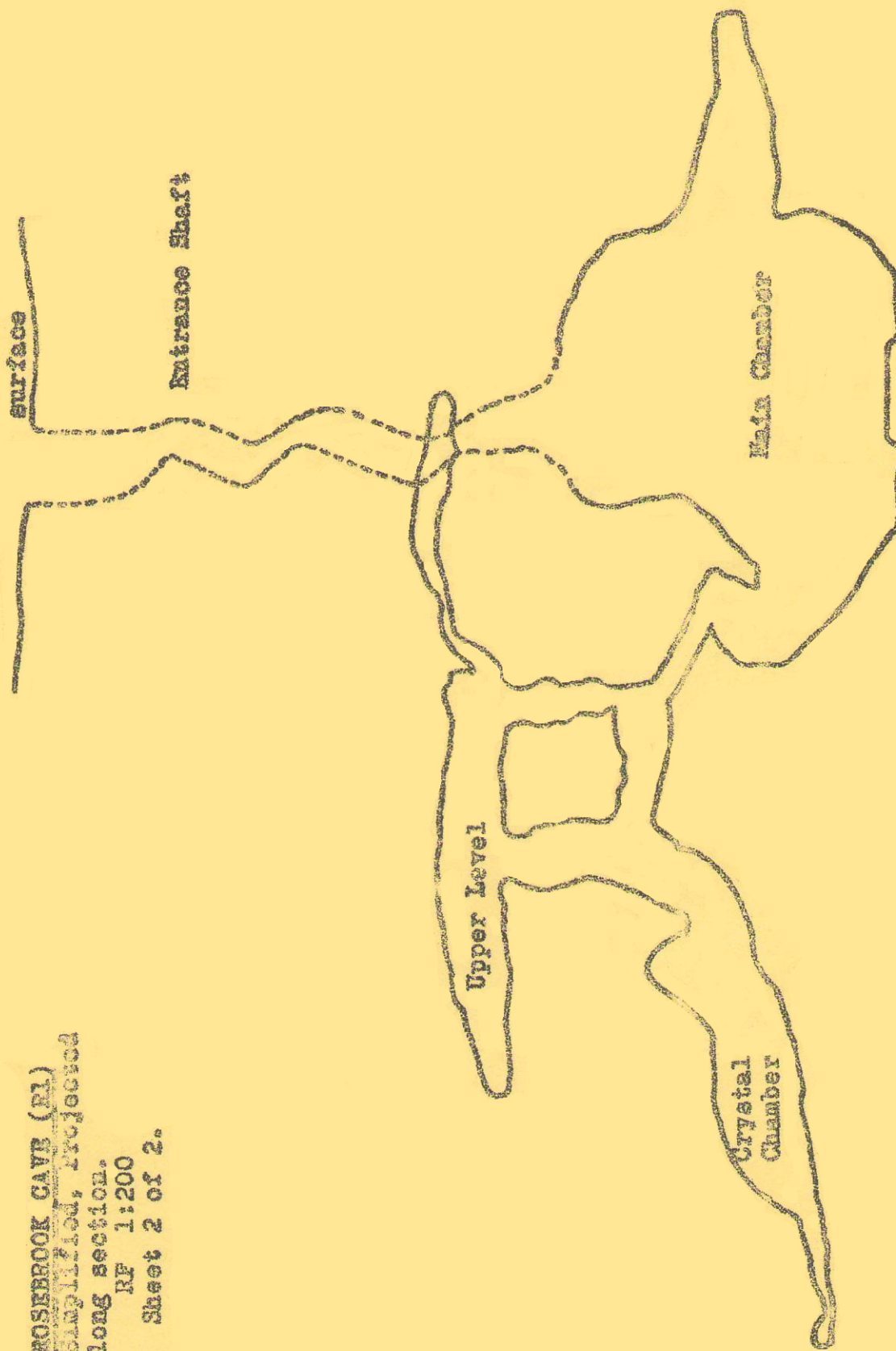
Rosebrook, NSW

Surveyed 5 May 1973 by John Brush, Marj Coggan and David Bowden using Miner's Dial and Fibreglass tape. Final draft by John Brush February 1977.

ASF Map No. 2R1.NUC1

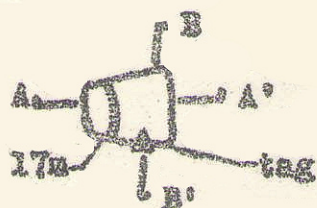
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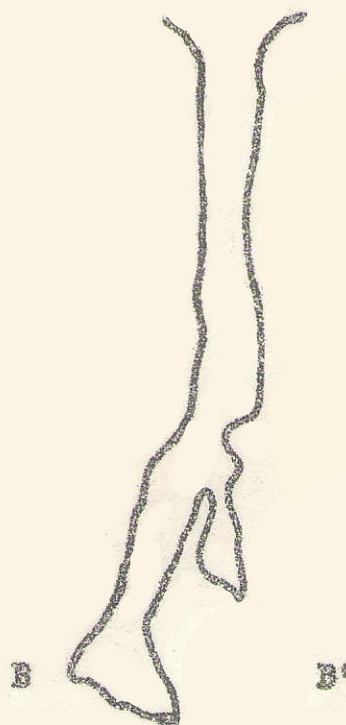
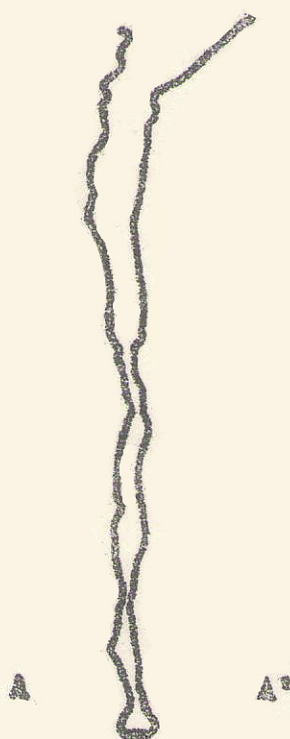
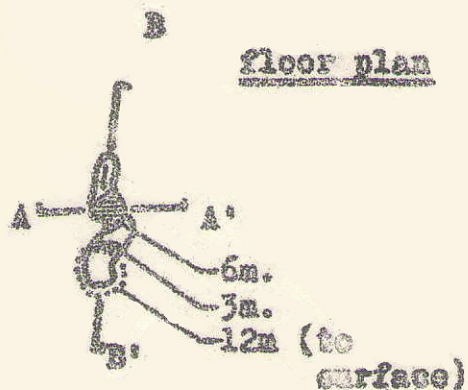


ROSEBROOK CAVE (RI)  
 Simplified, projected  
 long section.  
 RF 1:200  
 Sheet 2 of 2.

entrance plan



floor plan



R2. Rosebrook, NSW

Surveyed 5 May 1973 by John Brush, Marj Coggan and David Bowden using compass and tape. Drawn by John Brush Feb. 1977.

ASF Map No. 2R2.NUC1

metres 1:200  
0 2 4 6 8

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COMING TRIPS

11/12/13 JUNE LONG WEEKEND

Wyanbene - Further investigation of upper level found; also Aitcheson's Avens, Barking Dog Chamber will be visited.  
Surface search also likely.

Contact: Peter Hart PH: 81-3317(H)

---

? JUNE

Narrengullen

Possibly Contact: Gordon Taylor PH: 47-6384

---

? JUNE

McPherson's Swamp Creek

Near Wee Jasper. Exploration.

Contact: Peter Hart PH: 81-3317 (H)

---

? JUNE - JULY

Tumut, Quidong, Buchan.

Contact: John Masala PH: 95-9442(H),  
63-3305(W)

---

\* \* \* \* \*

\* REMEMBER \*

\* NUCS MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE ON THE FIRST \*

\* TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT 8.00 P.M. IN \*

\* CHEMISTRY LECTURE THEATRE No. 2 (NEXT \*

\* TO MAIN CHEMISTRY THEATRE). \*

\* JUNE 7th, JULY 5th, AUGUST 9th. \*

\* \* \* \* \*



