

Vol. 14 No. 1

March 1978

SPELEOGRAFFITI



The Newsletter of the

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB

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Credits

Cover: From an original photograph by Gordon Taylor,
showing Peter Hart in the 'Wet Stretch',
Wyanbene main cave.

Editor: Peter Hart

Typing: Bernice Burrows, C/- A.N.U. Sports Union.

E D I T O R I A L

Firstly, I would like to welcome all newcomers to the club who may be reading this, and wish you a long and active caving career.

It is important to have a certain influx of new members in any caving club, as this creates enthusiasm and new ideas within the club structure. This is especially true of NUCC, as our very existence depends on gaining a certain number of new members each academic year.

Invite your friends along to one of our meetings; they will be very welcome and refreshment is provided.

Let me also take this opportunity to ask for
ARTICLES.

I will gratefully accept anything (within reason); jokes, cartoons, poems, adages, letters, cave maps, cave descriptions and many more.

If you have one or more of the above to contribute, leave the relevant article in the Caving Club pigeon hole at the Sports Union.

Just before I sign off, remember that NUCC's Annual General Meeting is being held on :

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8th, at 8.00 P.M.

in

CHEMISTRY LECTURE THEATRE.

John Dunkley, a noted Australian speleologist, is the guest speaker and is sure to entertain all present.

For the wires there will be red wine and savoury biscuits.

See you there

PETER HART
(President, Acting Editor)

THE NUCC LIBRARY

Does NUCC have a library????

Yes!!! The club has a most extensive library which fully occupies a large 4 drawer filing cabinet. By means of exchange or subscription the club receives copies of all other ASF societies' newsletters.

It contains literature that has accumulated over a period of 14 years.

The library displays a variety of material, ranging from caving as a science, to caving as a sport or recreational activity. Numerous articles on methods and techniques are available along with other club newsletters, information and reports on caving areas, maps and books.

One important feature of the library is its folio collection. Each folio contains information on a particular area of interest, including maps, air photos, reports, etc.

Material may be readily borrowed from the library. If, however, the publication you desire was printed before 1964 or is not held by our library, do not give up!

ASF has a most extensive library from which any ASF member may borrow. Another avenue open to you is the other local club's library (CSS), which although disorganised, is comprehensive.

While on the subject of libraries it is as well to mention public library services in Canberra.

Both the main libraries on campus have a limited coverage of caving. Entries in the subject catalogue are made under 'Caves and Speleology' as in most libraries.

As most members will only have borrowing privileges at Chifley, below is a list of caving books appearing in that library.

CAVES

- G
QL117
.M62
- Mohr, Charles Edward, 1907 -
The life of the cave (by) C.E. Mohr and T.L. Poulson.
N.Z., McGraw-Hill, (1966).
bibl. illus
(Our living world of nature.)

CAVES + CAVES - Bibl.

- G
QL117
.W6
- Wolf, Benno, 1871 -
Animalium Cavernarum Catalogus
Hrsg. von der Gesellschaft für
Höhlen forschung und Höhlenkunde zu Berlin.
W. Junk 1934-38
3v. in 2 bibl.

CAVES - AUSTRALIA. NULLARBOR PLAIN

Dunkley, J.R., ed.

to
fp GB608.97
.D8

Caves of the Nullarbor : a review of speleological investigations in the Nullarbor Plain, Southern Australia. Eds.: J.R. Dunkley and T.M.L. Wigley; foreward by G.H. Dury. Syd., Speleological Research Council, 1967.
illus., Maps (part fold)
Produced by Sydney University Speleological Society and Cave Exploration Group (South Australia).

CAVES - CRETE

G
fGN784.1.C7
.F3

Fonctions des cavernes crétoises. Paris,
E. de Boccard, 1964
bibl., fold, maps, pls
(Ecole française d'Athènes. Travaux et mémoires,
fasc. 14)

CAVES - ENGLAND

G
DA975
.M37

Martel, Edouard Alfred, 1859 - 1938
Irlande et cavernes anglaises. Paris, Ch.
Delagraue, 1897
bibl, illus, maps.

CAVES - GREAT BRITAIN

G.
GB608.43
.C8

British Caving : an introduction to speleology.
(2nd ed., rev. London),
Routledge and K. Paul, (1964)
bibls., Illus., maps.

Anyone is permitted to go and read material in the Menzies Library although not always is one allowed to borrow. This library contains a large selection of material, especially from in the periodicals section. Nevertheless much of it is scientifically oriented and a bit heavy for us lesser mortals.

The National Library is limited on speleological publications although it does have extensive sets of some club newsletters, ours included.

Also of note is a complete set of Norbert Castereau books in the direct access ASAT section.

The Canberra Public Library Service has a limited selection of caving books although it does have several general caving handbooks.

If you persevere enough, you can order A. Walthom's excellent pictorial books on caves.

With some perseverance therefore, a quite large and diverse selection of caving books may be read by you.

I hope to see the NUCC library well patronised this year!

Gordon Taylor.

S p a c e

F i l l e r

Just think how great an

A R T I C L E of

Y O U R S

would look here!!!!

THE ARCHIVIST

We found the club archivist and dusted him (it?) off this morning. When we had cleared some of the spiders from his files, he produced the following facts.

For 1977/78 there are records of 18 official trips, with an average attendance of 4.8 persons, 4.3 being male and 0.5 female.

An average of 3.2 watches recorded an average underground time of 4 hours 36 minutes and 16 seconds.

The most popular area for crawling around in the dark was Wyanbene (38.9%) followed by Yarrangobilly (27.7%), Mt. Fairy, Nullarbor, Mcpherson's Swamp Creek, Coleman, Wee Jasper and Buchan each received 5.5% of the total number of trips.

March and June take out joint honours as the most popular months for caving, each supporting 16.7%.

There were no trips recorded for July (Shame!, Shame!), no doubt due to the Semester break.

For those residents of the University reading this, how about staying in Canberra during your holidays, and doing something useful; namely, caving.

REPORT ON ASF COMMITTEE MEETING
- WOLLONGONG

This was held at Mt. Keira scout camp on 28-29 January 1978. The meeting was well attended by many clubs, even WASG (Western Australia) being represented.

The most time consuming business was on conservation and the code of ethics.

Brian Lefoe (ASF librarian) has foreshadowed his resignation, and it is quite likely that the library will be kept in the National Library in the near future.

Ken Lance reported that arrangements for the 12th ASF conference (WACCON) were proceeding well and it is to be held on January 1-5 (1979) inclusive at the Nedlands College of Advanced Education, Western Australia.

Other dates decided for committee meetings were :

January 1980 - Committee Meeting at Buchan, Victoria.

January 1981 - 13th Conference, Victoria

January 1983 - 14th Conference, South Australia.

January 1985 - 15th Conference, Tasmania.

Two new associates were added to ASF (note, not associate members)
: East Metropolitan Area Caving Team.

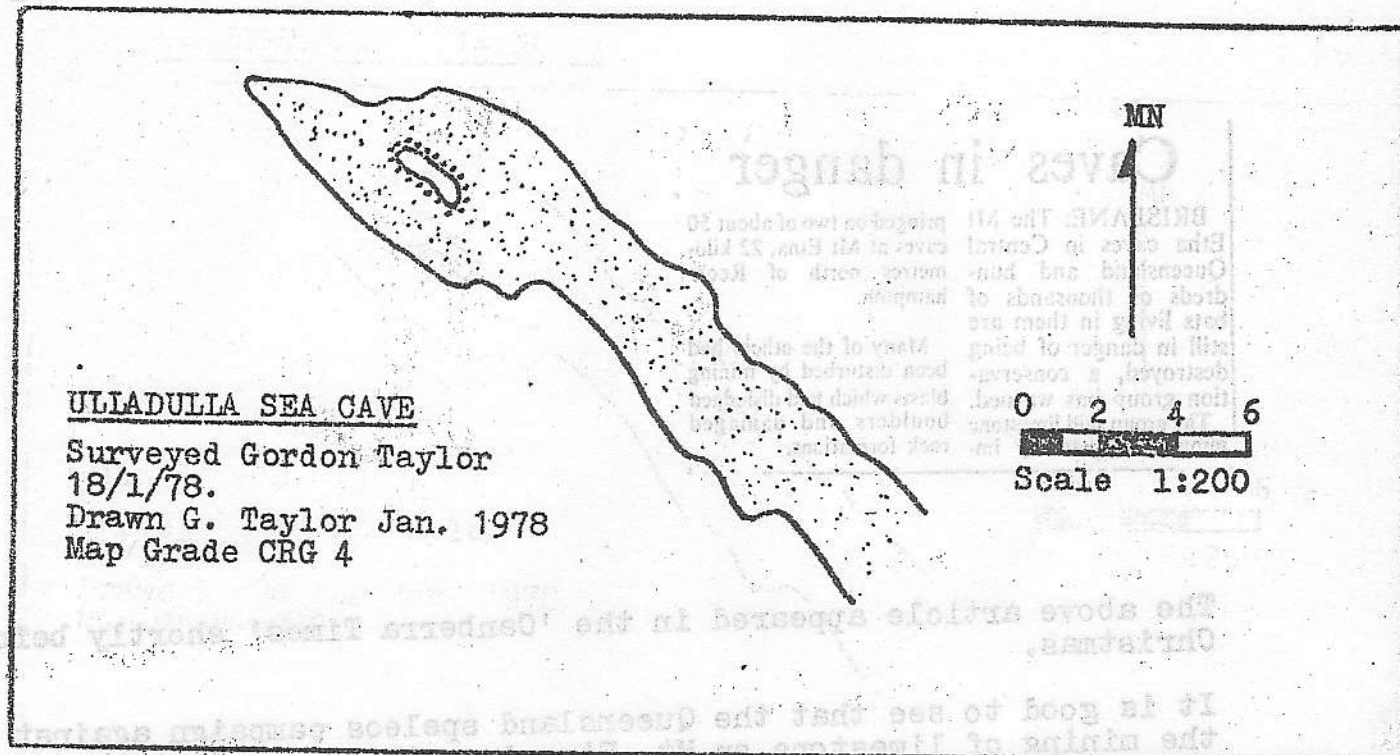
Cave Diving Association of Australia.

The application by the Capital Territory Caving Group for full membership of ASF was rejected.

The non-N.S.W. representatives demonstrated a clear objection to the proliferation of clubs in N.S.W., and felt that it should be stopped.

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* A revised ASF code of ethics should be printed in the next ASF newsletter.



ULLADULLA SEA CAVE

The above sea cave is located just south of the Ulladulla lighthouse in a small headland on Racecourse Beach. The cave is approximately 20m. in length and a light is preferable to see the far end. The floor is sand and the cave is filled by water at high tide. Access is best gained from the lighthouse road and then walking south along the beach. In accordance with the numbering system in use on the south coast by Bermagui Speleological Association. I have provisionally allocated the cave the number I6M39.

Gordon Taylor.

References:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|--|
| <u>Bermagui Caver</u> | Vol. 2 No. 4 | November 1974, | P8-10. |
| <u>Bermagui Caver</u> | Vol. 3 No. 3 | March 1976, | P6. |
| <u>Bermagui Caver</u> | Vol. 4 No. 1 | April 1977, | Malcolm Warnock,
Map Records Officers Report, P6-8. |

BRISBANE: The Mt Etna caves in Central Queensland and hundreds of thousands of bats living in them are still in danger of being destroyed, a conservation group has warned. The group said limestone mining had already im-

The above article appeared in the 'Canberra Times' shortly before Christmas.

It is good to see that the Queensland speleos campaign against the mining of limestone on Mt. Etna is getting coverage this far south.

This campaign is now in its 17th year!

According to the UQSS representative at the ASF meeting, the mine has now shifted to a new position and is being operated by about 6 men.

With the new cement works opening at Gladstone, Queensland, it is to be hoped that the Mt. Etna mine will finally cease operations.

Peter Hart.

Vol. 2 No. 4 November 1974, pp. 1-10.
Vol. 2 No. 3 March 1975, pp. 1-10.
Vol. 2 No. 2 April 1975, pp. 1-10.
Vol. 2 No. 1 April 1975, pp. 1-10.
Vol. 2 No. 0 April 1975, pp. 1-10.

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TRIP REPORTS SECTION

WYANBENE 11/12/13.6.77

PARTY: Peter Hart (L), Brian Sherwood, Jill Turvey.

Brian and myself left Canberra at about 2 p.m. on Saturday, 11th and proceeded to the Wyanbene turnoff on the Krawaree road, where we had arranged to meet Jill.

From here, we proceeded to the campsite, without anything particularly eventful occurring. Amazingly, we were the only group out there for the whole weekend.

The remainder of Saturday was spent setting up camp and just plain slacking.

The next day, after an early breakfast, we proceeded towards the main cave entrance, but continued walking up the hill until the top was reached.

The ridge was now followed Eastwards to the limestone outcrop and we commenced looking for Ridge Mine Pot (WY3). The remainder of the afternoon was spent in vain, looking for this cave. The nearest we came to a cave was the old copper mineshafts on the northern side of the ridge.

After Sunday's disappointing effort, we decided to enter the main cave rather than look for WY3 again.

The stream passage was followed up to the bypass, whence the avens area was visited. Brian and Jill put a ladder down the main fissure and had a muddy descent to the bottom, while I traversed the fissure and had a brief look around.

Unfortunately our lights were now beginning to dim, so we all headed back out.

Upon reaching the surface, we quickly changed and headed home, but not before I got bogged.

Jill had gone ahead to wait at the ford, but when I had not turned up after $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, she returned and helped my car out of the bog.

A rather disappointing weekend, but certainly not lacking in excitement.

Peter Hart.

MACPHERSON'S SWAMP CREEK

7.8.77

PARTY: Peter Hart (L), Des Blackwell, John Briggs, James Rhodes, Brian Sherwood.

We all set off at about 7 a.m. and arrived at Wee Jasper around 9 a.m. where Jim Rhodes was waiting at the shop.

The road was followed towards Tumut until the turnoff to "Hilltop" property was reached, approximately 20km. out of Wee Jasper.

Macpherson's Swamp Creek (contd.)

This road can be followed in for about 10 km, whence permission must be obtained from the owner of "Hilltop".

A car can be used for about another 2-3 km. in an easterly direction, at which point one starts to walk.

There is an old tungsten mine here which is quite interesting to inspect, but one proceeds Eastwards down the ridge for about 3 km. to reach the limestone outcrop.

There is only one hole here which I would give the name "cave" to, and there are two springs in the area which are quite interesting.

Everyone agreed that this area is great for a pleasant bushwalk but of little challenge as far as caving goes.

Peter Hart.

* * * * *

WYANBENE

23-26.8.77

PARTY: Peter Hart (L), Alan Bradbury, Ian Gerahty, James Gordon, Michael Horne, Michael McKenzie, Philip ?

Michael H., Michael M. and myself left Canberra at about 8.30 a.m. and reached the Wyanbene campsite at approximately 10.30 a.m.

While we were waiting for Ian and James, we walked to the foot of the limestone outcrop and had a browse around.

We soon heard a car horn, so we returned to the campsite and found that infamous Ian and "the flash" (J.G.) had arrived.

After setting up camp, Ian and James proceeded into the main cave with the aim of rigging ladders for a later party. M.H., M.M. and myself proceeded up the ridge in search of the legendary Ridge Mine Pot (WY3) but returned after about 4-5 hours without success. We did, however, find Bat cave, a small cave which is rarely visited, which is located on the S-SE corner of the limestone outcrop.

Ian and James had returned, having made it only as far as Rockfall, Ian's knowledge of the cave preventing further progress.

The following day, M.H., M.M., and myself entered the main cave and rigged the cave all the way to the lake.

Upon our return to the surface, the rest of the party had arrived and we prepared an evening meal.

After this I led the new arrivals plus Ian and James through the main cave to Frustration Lake.

Everyone was very impressed with the size of Caesar's Hall and Gunbarrel aven.

We emerged from the cave to a much colder surface at about 3 a.m. A fire was hurriedly started and some hot food prepared before we retired for the night (morning?).

The next morning was rather slack and it was decided to travel a few miles south to look at Big Hole.

We arrived at the hole at about 11 a.m. and M.H. and M.M. both descended it.

The rest of us helped get the NRMA to fix Alan's car, which was suffering from water trouble.

M.H. and M.M. were ready by about 3 p.m. so I decided to show them the way to Marble Arch.

After the detour we returned to Canberra. The rest of the group returned the following day.

Everyone agreed that it was a most enjoyable trip and vowed to return at some future date.

Peter Hart.

* * * * *

WYANBENE

1.9.1977

PARTY: Peter Hart (L), Philip Allen, Michael McKenzie, David Reith, Gordon Taylor.

Leaving Canberra at about 7 a.m. two carloads of bods headed to Wyanbene in rather wet road conditions. Fortunately, the Shoalhaven ford was passable, so we proceeded in. After we had proceeded about 1 km. we met another bod and his kids, who had collectively managed to bog their car in the usual spot.

A total of about 2 hours was spent in placing chains on Dave's car's wheels and freeing the bogged vehicle. My car was conveniently left at the farmhouse, and its passengers walked from here.

Finally, I may mention the purpose of our pilgrimage to this place; namely to try once more to find the legendary Ridgemine Pot (WY3).

The limestone ridge was ascended and the Southern face of the outcrop searched. Owing to the inclement weather, a perpetual mist obscured the top of the hill and the Deua Valley.

After about an hour's search Mike shouted out with glee at the sight of the WY3 entrance. We quickly joined him and were likewise joyful. It was realised by those who had previously looked for WY3 on earlier trips that they had passed within 3-4 metres of the entrance. One has to practically walk into the hole to find it!

The next 2-3 hours were spent descending the 27 metre pitch and exploring the caverns at the bottom. We entered our names in the visitor's book and noted that we were the first group to visit the cave for 8 months.

Everyone agreed that although the cave is not greatly impressive, it is well worth visiting.

Peter Hart.

BUCHAN

30.9.77 - 3.10.77

PARTY: Peter Hart (L), Patrick Brown, Michael Horne, Michael Mckenzie, Brian Sherwood.

Two carloads of Bruces left Canberra on the Friday about 1.30 p.m. My group proceeded to Bombala and via the Cann River Valley route. Mike M. proceeded via Delegate, taking about the same time to reach Buchan, namely 6 hours.

With the help of some local VSA people at "Homeleigh", we managed to take up residence in the VSA hut.

On Saturday morning we proceeded to Whale Cave and spent 3-4 hours inspecting this interesting hole.

Upon emerging from this cave we headed back to the hut and had lunch, after which we headed North of Buchan to the Potholes area.

Honeycomb cave was found easily and investigated for about 4 hours. The name is a good one, as the cave is a mass of fissures with many passages to explore, as well as a 25m. pitch within the cave.

On Sunday, it was decided to visit Dalley's Sinkhole. To reach this, one proceeds Northwards from Buchan until Murrindal is reached. From here a track crosses the river (permission must be obtained from the farmer here) and proceeds for about 6-8 kms. South, ending in a grassy field. One now walks across the river and Southwards until the large collapse entrance of Dalley's is seen.

The entrance rockpile is unstable and the utmost care must be taken when entering, so as to prevent force being applied to a boulder vertically below.

The way on from here is fairly obvious and eventually a stream passage is reached. When we were there, this had a strong flow and was able to be followed both upstream and downstream for a few hundred metres.

Apparently it extends much more than this, so I presume we missed a turn somewhere.

Upon our return to the hut we ate lunch and slacked around for quite a while.

Late in the afternoon it was decided to look for Oolite cave in the potholes area.

This, we proceeded to do without success. We did however, find a tight fissure which appears to go for some way. Unfortunately it was too tight to enter with a trog suit on, and we did not feel like disrobing.

Monday was fairly slack, and we proceeded back to Canberra at about 10 a.m., Mike going via Eden and Brown Mountain, while I went via Cann River again.

Peter Hart.

WYANBENE

27.11.1977

PARTY: Peter Hart (L), Patrick Brown, Michael McKenzie, Gordon Taylor.

On this trip we managed to investigate some sections of the cave we had been meaning to for some time.

We proceeded straight to the Aitcheson's Avens area and investigated most of it in an attempt to find the high aven found by John Furlonger in 1970.*

Although we were unsuccessful, it is now known in which part the fissure is, and a subsequent trip will be planned to survey it.

Next stop was Barking Dog Chamber and the upper level mentioned in the early trip reports.

This was found and entered and a search commenced for the aven mentioned in the early report.

The only feature resembling the description given was a tight fissure with its base about a metre above ground level, which leads to another upper level.

This fissure is located to the left of the top of the climb leading to the first upper level at the upstream end of Barking Dog Chamber.

This high upper level shows very few signs of having been entered and extends for a considerable distance in the upstream direction on 3 levels.

This area will also be surveyed in the near future.

Peter Hart.

* SPELEOGRAFFITI, Vol. 7 No. 1

+ SPELEOGRAFFITI, Vol. 2 No. 1; Vol. 5, No. 3.

WYANBENE

10-11.12.1977

PARTY: Peter Hart (L), Dennis Clancy (UQSS), Gordon Taylor.

This trip was organised as a follow up trip to the visit on 27.11.77.

We arrived at the campsite at about 9.30 a.m. and after pitching tents headed straight in to Barking Dog Chamber.

Unfortunately, D.C.'s lanky nature slowed us down considerably and it took 3 hours to reach BDC!

We hurriedly prepared for surveying using the club's newly acquired Suunto compass and Clinometer.

Owing to lack of time only the section from the downstream end of the upper level to the upstream end was surveyed.

Another trip will have to be made to survey the high upper level and some passage in a small rockpile.

Sunday was spent on the surface commencing a dig. A considerable amount of dirt was removed from the fissure and it appears quite promising.

The dig is located at the base of the largest limestone cliff visible when walking up the ridge, and is 2/3 of the way up the hill.

Peter Hart.

YARRANGOBILLY

14-15.1.1978

PARTY: Gordon Taylor, Peter Hart (L).

At the refreshing hour of 4.30 a.m., or thereabouts, I proceeded to Tim Rudman's place and found not a creature stirring (Those CSS people are slack!), so I proceeded to Gordon's and loaded all the necessary gear into my car.

On the way from here to Tim's place my limousine developed a most annoying shuddering, which upon Tim's gear being loaded, became so extreme, that Gordon offered the use of his father's Kombey.

So, back to Gordon's (I was beginning to lose count of the number of cross Canberra treks!), where all the gear was loaded into the Kombey.

Finally, at the slack hour of 6.30 a.m. we actually headed out of Canberra and to Yarrangobilly, via Cooma, arriving at 9.30 a.m.

After a quick chat to the Rangers, we obtained the Y7 key, and headed to Cotterill's where the CSS party was staying.

11 a.m. saw the CSS group head for Y45 and 'caverns measureless to man', while Gordon and I waited for John Furlonger and Richard Baldock to arrive (which was quite a wait, so they never came).

When the CSS people returned, we tried in vain to persuade any of them to join us in a leisurely survey of Y7, beyond and in the duckunders.

So much for Saturday!

Yarrangobilly (contd.)

Y

Sunday saw John Brush, Marj Coggan of CSS, Greg and Liz Hurst of UNSWSS, Gordon, Jim and myself head for Y45 (You guessed it; a cave at last!).

Gordon, Jim and myself explored, while the others surveyed from the gravel sump.

A small stream sinks in the Y45 doline and runs through a fairly unstable looking rockpile, before emerging into bedrock canyon and almost immediately sumping.

To the left of this sump, I found a very tight muddy squeeze which I could follow in about 1.5 metres.

From this position I could see that the squeeze opened out into a chamber almost certainly beyond the sump.

Unfortunately, seeing is all I could do, and the squeeze will need to be dug to be negotiated.

This must certainly be looked at on the next Yarrangobilly trip, which will be at Easter.

Peter Hart.

MEETINGS AGENDA FOR 1978

Annual General Meeting.	WEDNESDAY, 28th MARCH
Monthly Meeting, Guest Speaker, wine, biscuits, etc.	WEDNESDAY, 25th APRIL
Monthly meeting as above.	WEDNESDAY, 3rd MAY
" " " "	WEDNESDAY, 7th JUNE
" " " "	WEDNESDAY, 19th JULY
" " " "	WEDNESDAY, 16th AUGUST
" " " "	WEDNESDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER
" " " "	WEDNESDAY, 4th OCTOBER
" " " "	WEDNESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER

CLUB CONTACTS

PRESIDENT:

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40 Getting Crescent,
CAMPBELL 2601 A.C.T.

PHONE: 47-6384 (Home)

MEETINGS AGENDA FOR 1978

WEDNESDAY, 8th MARCH	-	Annual General Meeting. Be sure you're there!
WEDNESDAY, 5th APRIL	-	Monthly Meeting, Guest Speaker, wine, biscuits, etc.
WEDNESDAY, 3rd MAY	-	Monthly meeting as above.
WEDNESDAY, 7th JUNE	-	" " " "
WEDNESDAY, 19th JULY	-	" " " "
WEDNESDAY, 16th AUGUST	-	" " " "
WEDNESDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER	-	" " " "
WEDNESDAY, 4th OCTOBER	-	" " " "
WEDNESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER	-	" " " "

PLANNED TRIPS

- 5 MARCH - Fresher trip to Wee Jasper. Contact Peter Hart.
- 11-12 MARCH - Cave Rescue Practice at Bungonia. Contact Peter Hart.
- EASTER - Yarrangobilly. Continue Survey of Y7, dig in
24-27 MARCH Y45.
Y6 may be looked at. Contact Peter Hart.
- 1-2 APRIL - Sea Caves on South Coast. Contact Gordon Taylor.
- 8-9 APRIL - Cooleman. Surveying Devil's influx.
Looking at Glop Pot, Keith's Faint Hole.
Contact Peter Hart.
- 16 APRIL - Narrengullen. Contact Gordon Taylor.
- 25 APRIL - Anzac Day barbecue at Cotter with CSS and HCG.
Cotter caves will also be looked at.
Contact Peter Hart.
- 6-7 MAY - Wyanbene - Surveying of Upper BDC, Aven's area
and Prickle Palace. Contact Peter Hart.
- 20-21 MAY - Cooleman. Contact Peter Hart.
- 27-28 MAY - Bungonia. Contact Gordon Taylor.
- 10-11 JUNE - Wee Jasper. Contact Peter Hart.

*** Remember that impromptu trips are run fairly regularly, so keep an eye to the notice boards and come along to monthly meetings.

PLANNED TRIPS

5 MARCH	-	Frederick trip to Wee Jasper. Contact Peter Hart.
11-12 MARCH	-	Cave Rescue Practice at Bungonia. Contact Peter Hart.
EASTER 24-27 MARCH	-	Yarrangobilly. Continue Survey of YV, dig in Y45. Y6 may be looked at. Contact Peter Hart.
1-2 APRIL	-	See Caves on South Coast. Contact Gordon Taylor.
8-9 APRIL	-	Geoloman. Surveying Devil's Inlet. Looking at Glop Pot, Ketch's Paint Hole. Contact Peter Hart.
16 APRIL	-	Narrungallen. Contact Gordon Taylor.
25 APRIL	-	Anzac Day barbecue at Gutter with GCS and HCG. Gutter caves will also be looked at. Contact Peter Hart.
6-7 MAY	-	Wyndham - Surveying of Upper BDC, Aven's area and Puckle Palace. Contact Peter Hart.
20-21 MAY	-	Geoloman. Contact Peter Hart.
27-28 MAY	-	Bungonia. Contact Gordon Taylor.
10-11 JUNE	-	Wee Jasper. Contact Peter Hart.

*** Remember that impromptu trips are run fairly regularly, so keep an eye to the notice boards and come along to monthly meetings.