

Vol 15. No.1

March 1979

SPELEOGRAFFITI.



The Newsletter of the

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAVING CLUB

* * TABLE OF CONTENTS * *

| | <u>Page</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Editorial | 1 |
| President's Report | 2 |
| Equipment Officer's Report | 2-3 |
| The N.U.C.C. Library | 4 |
| The Archivist | 4 |
| Trip Reports | 5-9 |
| Club Contacts | 10 |
| Coming Trips | 10 |

* * * * *

CREDITS

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| <u>Editorial Committee</u> | - John Briggs, Gordon Taylor, Peter Hart |
| <u>Typing</u> | - Bernice Burrows, C/- Sports Union, A.N.U. |
| <u>Cover</u> | - From an original photo by Gordon Taylor showing Peter Cover about to descend a pitch in Khazad-dûm. |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Editorial | 1 |
| President's Report | 3 |
| Department Director's Report | 5-7 |
| The F.B.I. Manpower | 8 |
| The Inspector | 9 |
| Trip Reports | 10 |
| Club Contacts | 11 |
| Going Trips | 12 |

CREDIT

John Briggs, Gordon Taylor, Peter Hart

Editorial Committee

Bertie Wright, A.M.

Editor

from an original photo by Gordon Taylor showing Peter Hart about to descend a flight in March 1949

Cover

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.

I would encourage you to take an active role in the club, in the committee if possible, as here you learn most about what is going on and get the most out of being a member. Invite your friends along to one of our meetings; they will be very welcome and refreshments are provided.

Let me also take this opportunity to ask for

A R T I C L E S.

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

Yours in caving,

PETER HART
(for the editorial committee)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1978/79

The past year has been an excellent one for NUCC. Trip frequency was the highest for many years with an average of two every three weeks during term.

This consistently high activity is largely due to a nucleus of keen cavers built up over the last two years.

Membership was 30 but quite a few new enthusiastic persons caved with us later in the year when it was too late to get their money's worth from joining.

Things of speleological interest which occurred during the year included extension of Y45, surveying of Y7 duckunders at Yarrangobilly, discovery of a new cave (WY9, Compass Pot); rediscovery of Watt's Cave at Wyanbene and upper levels in Wyanbene main cave.

I wish to thank the committee for its help during the year and hope that the new one has a successful year.

I will not be standing for President this year as I feel that after two years in the job there is need for a change.

Peter Hart

PRESIDENT
N.U.C.C. 1978/79

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

This year finally saw us move our gear into the Sports Union. This has proved most satisfactory and hopefully will remain a permanent depository for the gear. The latter half of the year saw a severe deterioration in the club lights with many of the lights failing. To rectify this situation a gear maintenance day was held in February 1979 at which the acid in all the batteries was renewed and topped up to the correct level. The batteries are all now in an acceptable state.

The Suunto compass and clino were araldited to make them waterproof. Also acquired this year were several rope protectors (canvas), rope pads and a heavy duty hose which has also been cut into rope protectors. This protection is a must in SRT caving, and so it was imperative these be acquired.

Gear lost this year included:

- 1 kra's
- 1 belt

Gear in need of repair includes:

- First Aid Kit
- Carbide lamps
- 2 ladders

The following is a list of the gear currently held by the Club.

- 8 x 30' ladders (one in Nth Deep Ck)
- 4 x 50' ladders
- 1 x 49' ladder (damaged end)
- 1 x 17' ladder
- 300' Bluewater rope
- 2 x 150' Bluewater rope
- 6 x 1/4" Nylon ropes
- 14 x complete lead acid lights
- 2 x lead acid (bases only)
- 2 x chargers
- 11 x carbide lamps (8 complete)
- 2 x First Aid Kits
- 26 x Bash hats
- 16 x Karabiners
- 2 pr. Jumars
- 1 pr. Wieblers
- 3 x clogs
- 1 x 36' Scaling Pole
- 1 x Inflatable Boat
- 11 x belts
- 2 x Bags
- 4 x Rappel racks
- 4 x Hofrings
- 3 x pitons
- 1 pr. Suuntos
- 3 x jerry rope protectors
- 2 x rope pads
- Numerous hose rope protectors

+ copper nails, star drill, G pick, brace-n-bit, metal tape, fibreglass tape, compass and tripod, rowl bolts, 2 flags, 1 sign, copious quantities of carbide, flourescein, assorted spare parts.

G. TAYLOR
EQUIPMENT OFFICER 1978

THE N.U.C.C. LIBRARY

by GORDON TAYLOR

Does N.U.C.C. 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 A.S.F. societies newsletters.

It contains literature which 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.

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

The National Library has a good range of speleological material, including extensive sets of some club newsletters, ours included. Also of note is a complete set of Norbert Castereau books in the direct access ANSTEL section.

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

With some perserverance 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.

* * * * *

THE ARCHIVIST

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

For 1978/79 there are records of ²⁷official 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 (22.2%) followed by Bungonia (18.5%), Wee Jasper (14.8%, Narrengullen (8.4%) and Yagby, Cooleman, Buchan, Colong, London Bridge, Rosebrook, Cotter, Big Hole, Marble Arch & Mt. Fairy each receiving 3.7% of the trips.

TRIP REPORTS SECTION

BUNGONIA

2.6.78

Present: John Briggs (L), Stephen Bartos, Peter Hart, David Easdown, Allan Floyd, Kim Sawyer.

At the not so early time of 8.00 a.m. on Sunday morning the above gathered at the front of Bruce Hall for a slack walking trip with no caving involved. We actually managed to leave by 8.05 in P.H.'s and K.S.'s cars. The only incident on the way was K.S. taking a wrong turning and going to the lockdown instead of Adam's Point Lookout due to my faulty navigation. After we had all finally arrived at Adam's Point Lookout we rapidly proceeded down into the gorge via numerous scree slopes. It was here that D.E. showed us his method of descending the scree slopes. It involved running downhill faster than the rocks he dislodged. After a few close encounters we managed to reach the bottom.

We then proceeded towards the gorge proper along the river with a few detours around difficult parts. We were stopped at the beginning of the narrow section of the gorge by lack of dry ground on our side of the river and so had to cross. After all getting wet nearly to our waists we managed to get across. This process had to be repeated several times but it was well worth it as the view from the bottom was just as spectacular as that from the top.

When we reached the other end of the gorge we stopped for lunch. We then started the long climb out up the rather steep slope, finally coming out very near the lockdown. After a short walk back to the cars we proceeded back to Canberra with a stop for refreshments at Goulburn. We arrived back at about 5.30 p.m. after an enjoyable

JOHN BRIGGS.

BUNGONIA TRIP REPORT

15-16 July 1978

We know who went, and we know what we did, so to all others bad luck. If I feel so inclined I will write a more extended report.

STEVEN RALSER.

After some prolonged torture, Steven saw how unreasonable he was being and here follows a translation of the scrawled document that he wrote, being a more extensive trip report.

BUNGONIA TRIP REPORT

Version 2

15-16 July 1978

PARTY : Steven Ralser (Leader), Peter Fisk, Chris Bradley, Ron Levy, Helen McLagen, John Briggs, and the (in)famous car bogger, Peter Hart.

I have now felt (or been made to feel so) inclined to write an extended trip report. We arrived at Bungonia at about 8.30 a.m. to the good news that Peter Hart did not get bogged. We made camp in the official camping area. We went to the caves and Ron Levy, Peter Fisk and Chris Bradley went down Acoustic Pot (B22), and got right to the end. I, as usual, had trouble with my light, as the screw undid itself and is now situated below the steep climb (2nd one). The other group went to do Drum (B13). Here Peter Hart and Helen piked and did B.A. for a long time while John Briggs and Ron Levy

Bungonia Trip Report (Version 2 (contd.))

did a trip to the sump. In the meantime S.R., P.F. and C.B. returned from B22 to see P.H. lying in the sun. We then went out to Adam's Lookout, to see the Gorge. Afterwards we went for a quick trip down to the Efflux, to see what it was like. When we returned we found that R.L. and J.B. had ascended.

Now S.R., P.F., C.B., P.H., H.Mc. went to Drum. We all abseiled except for H.Mc. who climbed down the ladder. From here we went to the sump with H. Mc. stopping above the 60 ft. pitch. The 60 ft. pitch was free climbed by both parties, as we only had one 30 ft. ladder. At the sump, I am pleased to announce that we were attacked by a bunch of man-eating cannibals (what other cannibals can there be?). Fortunately we were able to hold them off, with the sacrifice of P.H. (may he RIP, and be eaten in peace). We then returned to the surface. S.R. used S.R.T., H.Mc was pulled and the others climbed the ladder. We returned to the campsite to find a miserable fire.

On the Sunday we planned to do Acoustic, but there were 3 cars parked next to it, so we decided to give it a miss. We then visited Putrid Pit (B1) and found foul air at the bottom of the 2nd pitch. It was decided to leave this grotty hole. Finally we went down Grille Cave. P.H., C.B., and R.L. found foul air (match would not light) about halfway down. We then returned to the surface, meeting 2 groups of yabbos with 1 light between 4. We decided to let them rot. We then packed up and returned to Canberra. All in all it was a good weekend's caving with P.H. not getting bogged at all.

STEVEN RALSER.

* * * * *

22nd July, 1978

Jill Ianfield, Stephen Bartos, John Briggs, Peter Hart (L)
Tony Hillard, Ron Levy, Dennis Nettle, Pamela Panceck,
Stephen Ralser, Julie Richards.

This was an introductory caving trip for interested persons, the purpose of the visit being to examine the main cave. Upon reaching the cave, we split into two groups and spent about 2 hours fossicking around.

Dennis, myself and some others also had a look at the effluxes on the other side of the hill, before returning home.

PETER HART.

* * * * *

NARRENGULLEN

9th July 1978

Party : Peter Hart (L), Stephen Bartos, John Briggs, Matthew Webber, Dennis Clancy.

On a somewhat rainy day we headed out to Yass and then to Good Hope for the boat journey to Narrengullen. After about 1 hour of boating we reached it and started examining the lower end of the cave. The cave stream was found to be up considerably on what it had been a few months previously. Eventually we went over the hill to the other entrance and found the stream sink quite active.

When we all had had enough we returned to the boat and thence to Canberra.

PETER HART.

COLONG TRIP REPORT

12-13 August 1978

Party : Peter Hart (L), John Briggs, Steven Ralser, Gordon Taylor

Two vehicles left Canberra early on Saturday morning, one carrying J.B. and myself, the other carrying G.T. (rally champ) and S.R. This was the first trip to Colong by NUCC for a number of years and we were relying on S.R. to show us around the place.

We arrived at the Colong camping ground at approximately 9 a.m. and set up our tents. After a brief rest we headed down the track to the main cave and reached it by about midday.

After resting briefly near the efflux, we headed up to the upper entrance and proceeded into King's Cross. We found our way through in due course and proceeded along the passage for a long, enjoyable time. Woof's cavern was eventually reached and many photographs were taken, all of us being impressed by the chambers in this area.

We eventually headed out and back to the camp at night.

On the following day we had a friendly talk with the newly appointed ranger to the Kanangra-Boyd area, and shortly afterwards headed out.

It is worth mentioning that our rally champ bogged the Jaguar quite well on the way out. All attempts to free the car failed until a V8 four wheel drive turned up. Hence I can safely say I'm not the only one who gets bogged!

PETER HART.

* * * * *

BUNGONIA TRIP REPORT

3 September 1978

Party : Peter Hart (L), Dennis Nettle, Mark Osborne, Matthew Webber

We all headed out to Bungonia in my car early in the morning, arriving at the Grille car park around 10 a.m. After quickly tugging up we headed into Grille Cave (B44) and towards the left hand sump.

The air was very stuffy and progress was quite tiresome to say the least. The sump was eventually reached and after a brief look we returned to the surface.

Despite the tiring nature of this trip all enjoyed it very much. An uneventful trip to Canberra was made after enjoying the view from the look down.

PETER HART.

* * * * *

LONDON BRIDGE

8 October 1978

Party : Peter Hart (L), Helen McLagan, John Briggs.

This was a brief tourist visit to an area near Canberra which none of us had visited before. After some wandering North of the bridge we eventually followed the lake south and found it.

Quite a pleasant area which we enjoyed exploring for an hour or so before heading back to the cars along a road near the bridge.

Please take note that before entering this area, permission must be obtained from Mr. Douglas, the owner of the property on which the bridge is located.

PETER HART.

WYANBENE TRIP REPORT

9-10 December 1976

Present: John Briggs (Leader), Stephen Coppins, Gordon Taylor
(arrived later)

Stephen and I drove to the Wyanbene ford where he parked his car and we proceeded to walk into the caves area. We then went into the main cave, through the tourist section and entered the slightly difficult corkscrew chamber. This is relatively unspoilt and clean section of cave and is worth having a look at although it is difficult to get to.

We then went through the blowhole and had a brief look at a collapsed section with a very small stream issuing from among the rocks. We then exited, rested and then went up the hill to look at a cave S.C. had found a few weeks earlier when walking around on the ridge. This cave was small and light with limited formation.

I also showed S.C. some of the other caves on the ridge. The next morning after we got up G.T. turned up in the kombi, but he came in vain because we decided to leave without entering another cave. The trip back to Canberra was uneventful.

JOHN BRIGGS

* * * * *

BUNGONIA

16 December 1976

Present : John Briggs (Leader), Stephen Coppins, Stephen Bartos (in absentia)!

I was picked up by S.C. on time at 08.00 and we proceeded out to the street S.B. lives in. I had stupidly forgotten to write down the house number where S.B. lived. After nearly an hour of driving up and down and sounding the car horn and asking all people who were up, we gave up trying to find him and we set off for Bungonia finally arriving at about 10.30.

Firstly we partook of the views from the two lookouts. Then we walked down to the efflux and had a good look around. The trench at the efflux was partly blocked by collapsed rock and the pipes for the siphon partly removed.

I then showed S.C. the top of the main pitch in Drum. We then proceeded into Grill Cave where we went into the left hand branch but were stopped by bad air. We then returned to Canberra.

JOHN BRIGGS.

* * * * *

WYANBENE

6-7 January (The Peter Hart 1979
Disaster Trip)

Present : Peter Hart, John Briggs.

This trip was a continuous, unmitigated, disaster from start to end. I was picked up by P.H. on time at 6.30 a.m., this being the only thing that went right. We had just gone through the first gate on the Wyanbene road when the car pulled hard to the left. We stopped and got out to have a look at the wheel and found it extremely hot. After dismantling the wheel and I had accidentally released some brake fluid we decided it was probably the diaphragm. Peter then went on a long walk to the nearest farmhouse returning 2½ hours later after ringing the NRMA. We then sat in the car (there was no other shade) while the temperature went over 40°C in the shade. Finally the NRMA arrived more than 8 hours after we broke down and took about ½ an hour to fix the car.

Wyanbene Trip (6-7 January) (contd.)

We then drove into the caves without further mishap (amazing for Peter who normally always bogs his car in the smallest of puddles). The purpose of this trip was to tag the caves at Wyanbene but walking to the first cave (200 yards) P.H. lost the drill bit but we fortunately found it again after some searching. We then drilled the first hole only to find P.H. had stupidly bought nails that were too small.

That night we were eaten by insects and the next morning we had a look at Corkscrew Chamber. Then the next thing went wrong just as we were about to leave. Peter had locked his only set of keys in the boot. It took more than half an hour after removing the back seat to finally get the keys out of the boot with BBQ tongs.

We then drove out only to have a puncture near Captains Flat. Overall a disastrous trip and I was glad to get back.

JOHN BRIGGS.

* * * * *

WEE JASPER

11 February 1979

Party : John Briggs, Peter Hart (L)

The purpose of this trip was to examine the sand trap in Dog Leg Cave to see how the hot dry weather was affecting it.

We arrived at Wee Jasper around 9.30 a.m. and quickly trogged up and went into Dog Leg (WJ13).

After much crawling we reached the sand trap and dug out a reasonable quantity of sand before striking water. I estimate that another 1-2 months of dry weather should remove this 1.5 metres or so of water and allow access to the Opera House wall.

We both headed out through the WJ10 entrance and after an enjoyable lunch, returned to Canberra.

PETER HART.

CLUB CONTACTS

Phone

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gordon Taylor | Room A2, Corin Dam Huts | 493905 (H) |
| Peter Hart | 39 Bavin Street, CURTIN | 813317 (H) 896540 (W) |
| John Briggs | Room A1, Corin Dam Huts | 493905 (H) 469365 (W) |

* * * * *

28-29th APRIL - BUNGONIA - Contact GORDON TAYLOR

* * * * *

COMING TRIPS

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 4th MARCH | - Fresher trip to Wee Jasper. Contact Gordon Taylor. |
| 10-11th MARCH | - N.S.W. Cave Rescue Group Cave Rescue Practice at Bungonia. |
| 12th MARCH | - CANBERRA DAY TRIP to WYANBENE. Contact Peter Hart. |
| 24-25th MARCH | - YARRANGOBILLY. Continue Survey of Y7, continue exploration of Y45. Contact Gordon Taylor. |
| 7-8th APRIL | - Cooleman. River Cave Contact Gordon Taylor. |
| EASTER - 13-17th APRIL | - New Guinea Ridge, Snowy River, Victoria. Contact Gordon Taylor. |
| 25th APRIL | - ANZAC DAY BAR-B-CUE at Cotter with CSS and CTCG. Cotter Caves will also be looked at. Contact Peter Hart. |