

SPELEOGRAFFITI 16,3



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Club, nor any of the # # # # #
not represent the official view of the National University Caving
This is the personal view of the editor, Gordon Taylor. It does

EDITOR - Gordon Taylor

TYPING - Sports Union

COVER - A Stalagmite, Colong NSW
by Gordon Taylor

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EDITORIAL

Recently the club received a letter from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Yarrangobilly (as did other clubs), informing us that NUCC could no longer go caving at Yarrangobilly or Cooleman Plains. The stated reason for the ban, was that due to manpower shortages the Service could not properly supervise caving at either of the two areas. It also stated that the situation would not be reviewed until February 1981, with no assurance of access at that time either.

I personally feel angry and betrayed by the decision. Over the years cavers have been encouraged to work with the system, with the intended aim of better protecting our caves. We have had to suffer a laborious bureaucratic system, and have put many hours into documenting caves, and in gating caves, all in the belief that it is in the interests of cave preservation.

One cannot feel anything else but betrayal when the very gates we so painstakingly helped to put in place, are now used to prevent us from going caving. The belief in the speleological community that cavers are capable of self-regulation, appears to have fallen on deaf ears in the service. No-one better knows our caves than cavers. In fact in the past the NPWS has shown an abysmal lack of knowledge of anything speleological.

For too long we have simply gone along with the service, supplying information and manhours, and in return, each year suffering more and more loathsome bureaucracy and control. I for one, am fed up. The time for co-operation and compliance is over. If I wish to go caving at Cooleman or Yagby, I will do so, and challenge the Service to stop me.

Gordon Taylor

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NOTICES and NEWS

Cave Convict is Coming: Cave Convict is the 13th Biennial Conference of ASF, to be held in Melbourne from December 27th to December 31st, 1980. Features of the conference include - papers on every conceivable caving topic.

- speleosports
- photo competition
- a great time

For more info see Gordon.

ATEA 78 Book

The report of the ATEA 78 expedition to P.N.G. is due to be printed over Christmas. The normal retail price will be \$15.00. However by placing a pre-publication order you can obtain the book for \$10. However your \$10 is also needed at the time of ordering. Gordon Taylor will be happy to accept your order.

Brief Review of 'Vertical Caving' by Mike Meredith

This is a pretty compact little paper-back with only 32 leaves, which makes it rather expensive at around \$10. On the plus side it is one of only a very few books written on the subject of vertical caving. It is a well presented book which is logically set out and easy to read with plenty of good diagrams and pictures.

Vertical Caving does not go into as much detail as 'Single Rope Techniques' by N.R. Montgomery although it is a reasonable supplement in some areas. Also as Meredith states in the introduction, the book is a product of his experience which has been in Europe, where conditions are different and techniques used vary in some regards from those practiced in Australia.

This leads to an area of major lack concerning the rigging of pitches where Meredith concentrates almost entirely on bolting techniques, with limited mention of natural anchors. The bolting techniques used also strongly emphasize the correct placing of the rope to insure no subbing. This emphasis is quite reasonable for European conditions with much deeper and demanding caves and also the general use of 9 and 10 mm ropes. In Australia the 11 mm rope is more often used on the longer pitches and more use is made of natural anchors and so considerable care needs to be taken with rope protection on contact points with the rock to insure that the rope is not damaged while SRT'ing, especially prussicking.

Besides the deficiencies expressed above, Vertical Caving does make a good handbook on vertical caving techniques and a useful supplement to 'Single Rope Techniques'.

CAVER'S CONUNDRUM - WINNER AND SOLUTION

by John Briggs

Finally, what you have all been waiting for - the solution to the "Caver's Conundrum" published in Speleograffiti Vol. 15, No. 2, in November 1979. The delay has been caused by the slowness in producing Speleograffiti's, the fact that we promised until 1st April, 1980 for entries for the grand prize (the next 4 issues of Speleograffiti free, wow!) and my slackness.

Firstly the winner of the competition is ex NUCC president and member of CSS, John Brush, who correctly answered all three questions, (in writing and before 1st April).

For all those cavers who have been unable to determine the answers, they are as follows:-

- 1) The caver from Sydney drinks milk.
- 2) The caver from Perth drives the V.W.
- 3) The Sydney caver is the armchair caver.

For all those people who don't believe a solution was possible, the complete and unique (in a mathematical sense) solution is as follows:-

<u>CITY</u>	<u>CAVE TYPE</u>	<u>DRINKS</u>	<u>TRANSPORT</u>	<u>PASTIME</u>	<u>CAVE POSITION</u>
Sydney	Tourist	Milk	Donkey	Armchair	1
Melbourne	Vertical	Red Wine	Bicycle	Crawling	2
Canberra	Muddy	Scotch	Renault	Grovelling	3
Hobart	Small	Beer	Holden	Squeezing	4
Perth	Wet	Water	V.W.	Laddering	5

Now that all has been finally revealed you can all get back to playing with your "RUBIK's" cube.

Book Review - "Bats of Eastern Australia".

The Queensland Museum has published a paperback book entitled "Bats of Eastern Australia" by L.S. Hall and G.C. Richards.

The book has been written to help in the identification of bats in the field using a similar format to the Rigby "A Field Guide to" books.

A key has been added, as well as a morphological diagram of a bat and a comprehensive glossary, to aid in identification. Along with a description of each species, where possible a black and white photo is provided as well as a distribution map and comments on the habitat and social characteristics.

The maps provided, though showing dots at collection sites, their location names have been withheld. It is also pointed out in the book that disturbance of pregnant or young bats in the early to mid summer is undesirable. Also some bats become torpid during winter months which when disturbed may lead to their death.

Though I would not recommend taking the book underground, it is otherwise a very useful reference book of good quality.

Tim Rudman.

TRIP REPORTS:

WEE JASPER 2nd March, 1980

Party: Gordon Taylor (L), Ron Levy, Tim Rudman, Jim Donaldson, Henk Van Wegel, Stephen Elliot and Gordon Keith.

Our President rewrote the record books when he arrived an hour early for our annual fresher trip to Wee Jasper. Unfortunately it was not due to enthusiasm but the end of daylight saving the night before.

We all piled into G.T.'s parents' Kombi and arrived at Dip cave around 11.00 after a stop in Yass to buy our lunches. Half trogged up, it was forcefully brought to G.T.'s attention that he had forgotten to bring any caving belts. With only two belts between us we had to rig the other batteries with odd pieces of cord or day packs.

Our flock was introduced to caving with a trip through Gony extention before lunch. During which, R.L.'s light failed (to be expected).

After lunch Digs was descended with R.L. remaining on the surface. The CSS visitors' book was dutifully signed and the ladder climbed into series 3. A couple of the many grooves worn by the ladders are now about 3cm deep! In series 3 we met a group of students we knew from ANU with whom we had talked before proceeding to see series 4 and 5.

Heading back to Canberra, not far out of Wee Jasper we blew a tyre. (Always fun when it's a borrowed car). The flat, bald tyre was replaced with a semi-flat bald tyre and we continued home to arrive outside Bruce Hall in time to join the opening queue at the dining room.

WEE JASPER, Dogleg. 25th May, 1980.

Party: Gordon Taylor (L), Ron & Tim Levy, John Briggs, Tim Rudman, Michael Horn, Richard ? and Stephen Ralser.

Our 8.00 start was considerably delayed when G.T. failed to turn up with our transport as his parents' car had broken down the day before. However R.L. had his car and S.R. was able to borrow his parents' car. We finally arrived at Dogleg at about 11.00.

Soon after our arrival Alan Harding, who had been conducting a survey beyond the sumps, arrived with his scouts. Descending via the high entrance we were soon at the sandtrap (except G.T. who had headed out to the low entrance).

With minimal digging the sandtrap was cleared, a ladder hung on the opera house wall and our way to the sumps was made with considerable excitement. The third sump of Dogleg has been open on very few occasions in the past for short periods of time. Beyond lies the majority of Dogleg's passage and all of its formation.

The third sump was almost completely dry, the water level was a good 3m lower than at the same time last year, leaving only a thick glutinous mud to crawl through. Beyond we followed a narrow high stream passage with considerable awe. There were beautiful and delicate formations every step of the way. Helictites, stalagmites and flowstone all in pristine condition.

This passage runs for about 150m to where it forks. We took the left hand branch down a low wet passage. Numerous holes in the roof and side passages hold promise of further cave. About 100m down this branch the double duckunders were met. Beyond is mostly crawling in a mud which must surely send hippos rolling in ecstasy. Crawling up to our armpits in this mud, with the consistency of molten chocolate, S.R. had the idiocy to take out his camera for photographs.

Finally the terminal sump, a fairly small but deep pool is reached. No obvious diving possibilities were found. Returning to the fork in the passage A.H.'s group was met coming out of the right hand branch. We ventured up a hundred meters or so and it proved to be a mostly dry, low passage. We decided to leave the long crawl for a return trip and headed back to the entrance.

Four hours after entering we emerged, wet and covered in a sandy mud, feeling very triumphant at having been beyond the 3rd sump of Dogleg. We all agreed the previously disregarded Dogleg was one of N.S.W.'s best caves. Beautiful and sporting.

Tim Rudman.

BUNGONIA 16th November, 1980

Party: John Briggs, Gordon Taylor and Tim Rudman

After many notes, missed rendezvous and phone calls mere minutes after leaving our homes we somehow managed to get our act sufficiently together to arrange a time, a car and some gear for the next morning.

We decided to do a through trip in B4-5. After reading the Bungonia Caves book and with the help of G.T.'s (highly questionable) memory we rigged and descended B5.

BUNGONIA (cont.)

The turn off to B4 was found without any trouble, but we didn't realize it. We decided to first look further up the fissure which was when we found the hairy traverse. Remembering a reference to the traverse in the book and Gordon's failed memory, we pushed on forgetting about the more obvious route back at floor level. After attempting to find our way out of a blind oven thinking we were near the B4 entrance, Gordon followed a tunnel down to the right to find, to our amazement, our ladder hanging down the first pitch below him. We climbed down to the car for lunch where our folly was revealed to us along with a 1.5m goanna which we scared up a tree.

Gordon and John after lunch returned for a through trip, this time entering B4, while Tim went for a walk half way down the gorge looking for the efflux (he got off the track taking photos). This time the through trip was made successfully.

Tim Rudman.

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OTHER TRIPS IN 1980

May	Numerous Dogleg Trips W.J. lead by J. Stone Ainslie Quarry abseiling practice
June	W.J. - T. Batt
July	W.J. - P. Meaney
August	W.J. - P. Fisk
September	Narrengullen - J. Briggs
October	Bungonia - G. Taylor Wyanbene - T. Rudman W.J. - P. Meaney Bungonia - T. Batt
November	Marble Arch - P. Hart Narrengullen - J. Briggs

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