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NEWSLETTER OF

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The National University Caving Club

EDITORIAL:

The club has been very active during first term, regarding both caving and obtaining of equipment: consequently this newsletter is rather large.

With regret we learned of the death of a Highland Caving Group member in the Drum at Bungonia - we have not learned the details, but it seems that a knot in a new kind of rope slipped under the sudden strain of his fall.

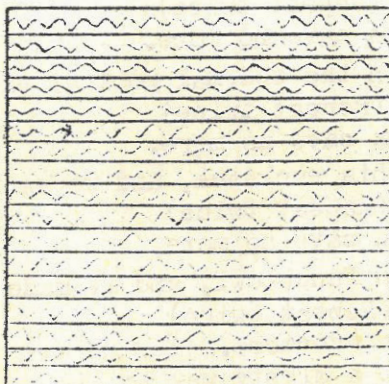
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: This was held on the night of Monday, April 12th., in the Union's Meetings Room. Attendance was heartening - about 30. After presentation of the Presidential and Financial reports for 1964, election of office bearers for 1965 took place. Persons elected were:

Michael Henry	:	President
Grahame Chapman	:	Vice-President
Geoff Marchant	:	Secretary
Neville King	:	Treasurer
David Fern	:	Equipment Officer
Joanne Fisher	:) Committee Members
John Foster	:	
Ian Raine	:	

After discussion on equipment, future trips, and sundry other matters, an assortment of slides was shown. The remnants of the meeting then adjourned upstairs for coffee (?) and biscuits.

TREASURER'S REPORT for 1964-65:

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Subscriptions	£6. 0. 0	Stationery	£ 1.10. 8
Donations	£7. 7. 6	Ladders	£ 7.19. 3
	£13.17. 6	Rope	£ 2. 3. 0
Less Expenditure	£11.12.11		£11.12.11
Balance	£ 1.14. 7		



"But I thought you said you were bringing the carbide."

EQUIPMENT: At a committee meeting soon after the A.G.M. it was decided to ask the Sports Union for the following equipment: 2 fifty-foot ladders (materials for construction), 2 nylon climbing ropes (120' each), 12 carbide lamps, 12 helmets, 6 karabiners, 1 cwt. carbide.

The Sports Union supplied funds for the wire ladders, nylon ropes, 6 carbide lamps, 6 helmets, and 6 karabiners. These have been bought. Work is proceeding on the ladders; meanwhile 1 cwt. of finely crushed carbide has been purchased. The ladder started last year, and donated to the club by members of the 1964 committee, has yet to be finished, but a method of securing the rungs has been worked out.

On 10.3.65 a trip was made to Kingston by Grahame Chapman and Neville King, to buy equipment offering at an auction.

"A lot consisting of four floodlamp reflectors, with tripods, and other miscellaneous items, was purchased for £8.10.0. With the sale of the miscellaneous items it is hoped the cost of the floodlamps will be about £4.0.0. Neville purchased 300' of 2" hose (reinforced, in sections), to put into Dog Leg to siphon out No. 3 water trap into Andy's Hole. He has kindly donated this to N.U.C.C. - thank you Neville.

G.V.C."

Adventures of A Tyro

To be accompanied by a harp(ie).

- 1) One day we got a tyro and he wanted to go below, (Repeat twice)
But he ain't gonna cave no more.

CHORUS: Gory, gory, what a helluva way to die,
Gory, gory, what a helluva way to die,
Gory, gory, what a helluva way to die,
No, he ain't gonna cave no more.

- 2) We dropped him down the Glory Hole, and watched him hit the ground,
(Repeat twice)
No, he ain't gonna cave no more.
- 3) We got him up a thousand feet and then the ladder broke,
(Repeat twice)
No, he ain't gonna cave no more.
- 4) He smashed himself to jelly on the stalagmites below, (Repeat twice)
No, he ain't gonna cave no more.
- 5) We scraped him off the floor like a blob of raspberry jam,
(Repeat twice)
No, he ain't gonna cave no more.
- 6) We immersed him in the thermal pool at ninety-five below,
(Repeat twice)
No, he ain't gonna cave no more.
- 7) We packed him in his rucksack, and we sent him home to mum,
(Repeat twice)
No, he ain't gonna cave no more.
- 8) We took him out to Punchbowl, and it made a mighty tomb,
(Repeat twice)
So, he'll be there evermore.
- 9) Glory, glory, what a mighty way to lie, (Repeat twice)
Cos he'll be there evermore,
So, he don't need to cave no more,
No, he don't need to cave no more.

TRIP REPORTS:

BENDEThERA - On Easter weekend, a party of bushwalkers and cavers attempted to reach Bendethera by crossing the divide between the Upper Shoalhaven, and Deua, Rivers. Three cavers, Lorraine Frearson, Geoff Marchant and Chris Rawlinson became separated from the original party and met up with another group of bushwalkers from the A.N.U. and Sydney, who guided them down Con Ridge, apparently the easiest way down into the valley, apart from falling in. This group, after a long search in the dense vegetation, managed to find a large and impressive cave.

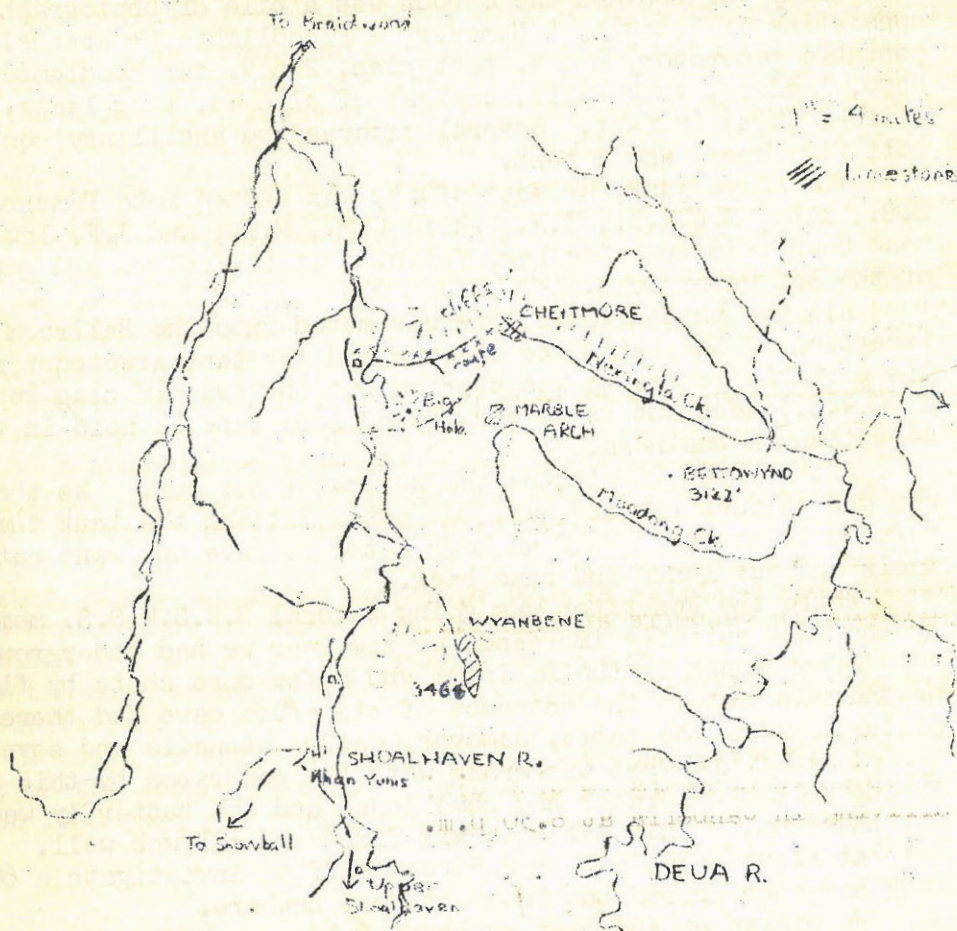
Meanwhile the other Canberrans wandered around in the bush on top of the divide, admiring the view. This party camped on the Shoalhaven for two nights in a most pleasant spot, with a cliff for rock-climbing practice.

On the Monday all returned to the cars without incident.

CHEITMORE - Sunday, 4th April.

Peter Swan, Ian Raine and Michael Henry set off at 8 a.m. to find the Cheitmore limestone and caves.

70' high cliffs can be seen from the Big Hole northeast of this phenomenon. These are about 3 miles directly East of a point approximately 8 miles south of the T-junction where the road from Captains Flat meets that between Braidwood and Krawarree (see map). The sandstone cliffs extended in an L-shaped ridge for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile N-S. At the end of the small valley east of the cliffs is a small stream, whose bed curves to the east. Limestone outcrops here, and the caves are at the creek level. One entrance only was explored. It was 4' high, and two passages leading off in different directions were observed.



CHEITMORE: On Saturday, 8th May, a small party set off for Cheitmore to explore caves already found and search for more. After the 4 mile walk to the caves, lunch was first eaten amid mist and a slight drizzle. A dry cave on the side of the creek was first entered. This, as far as was explored, was small, but contained a few bats and a small stream. About 20 yards downstream is an efflux on the northern side of the creek, the latter being almost dry above this point. This efflux was in the form of a low passage leading directly into the hill. The passage was most likely be too narrow to squeeze along, even were it dry. After a short search for other entrances along a creek joining the above northern creek downstream from the efflux, the party set off for home.

COLONG: 15th - 16th May. A group of cavers and bushwalkers, led by Neville King made this trip, the last miles over a road in a bad state of being repaired. After a short walk from Batsch Camp (3 miles) and lunch the party entered Lannigan's Cave, thence through King Solomon's Temple to King's Cross where the party divided into groups. Each of these passed through one or more of High Tunnel, Low Tunnel, Terraces and Landslide, and some emerged via Onslow Cave. Some side passages not marked on the map were entered. Formation was dead and uninspiring except for some secluded nooks. In all, 4 hours were spent exploring, and about 10 hours sleeping in the cave.

WEE JASPER

Photographic trip.

The party left Bruce Hall in two cars (G.V.C. & B.S.) at 8.45 am and picked up Joanne and Ian on the way, and arrived at Wee Jasper at 10.45.

In my car besides the 4 bods was a pile of photographic equipment consisting of 1 table, 1 Samovar, 2 Floodlights (+ stands), 1 300 watt portable generator, 2 6 V. batteries, 2 6 V. car headlamps, miscellaneous rope, ladders, trog suits, changes of clothes, trog lamps, food etc. - several items in fact. Several cameras and ancilliary equipment, 1 soft roll fire hose, and 1 tent.

The above junk, or most of it, was carted into Punchbowl by G.V.C., B.S., A.D., N.L.R.K., I.R., while G.M., M.H., and J.F. lowered the fire hose down B 16 into Dog Leg, followed it themselves and got it to the top of the 1st water trap.

All the photographic junk was moved into the Ballroom with the exception of the table and samovar and the tent erected for shooting. The portable generator was started but the two pin plug kept popping out. I (G.V.C.) went out to my car, found some tape to hold in the plug and we were then in business.

After about 20 minutes the generator cut out. We thought that this was due to fuel running out, but after fitting the tank the gene still refused to start. Half an hour later we gave up, went out and got some tools and our lunch and came back.

While the generator was going several U.N.S.W.S.S. members passed by and were suitably impressed at the gear we had underground with us.

After lunch in the Ballroom and a few more shots by flash we packed up and went out to the entrance of signature cave and there took some more pictures using the table, samovar, eating utensils and several bods as props.

I had found what was wrong with the generator by this time - a hair spring on the generator had come loose and the butterfly was fully closed all the time. This was soon ~~xxx~~ fixed and all was well.

At about 4.30, G.M. & J.F. went off to investigate a 60' deep hole they had come across but found it went nowhere.

We packed up and left at about 6.50.

B.S. went home through Yass and I returned via Salmon's Creek Road.

Dog Leg. Several trips have been made. On the first the sand trap was dug out. Water was flowing down Andy's Hole from the 3rd water trap. The second water trap contained water but had been prevented from filling by a mud dam just below Andy's Hole.

On the next trip a little climbing was done between the second and third water traps, without success, while the other half of the party by a heroic effort made a hole nearly deep enough for the first rock bolt in the Opera House.

On the third trip an unsuccessful attempt was made to start siphoning from the third water trap down Andy's hole. Water was still flowing from the water trap.

4th Extension. 27th June. While most members of the party traversed 4th extension, Neville King, Mike Henry and Ian Raine managed to haul a rock out of the hole previously labelled as "NUCC ONE". M.H. descended into a small chamber about 50' below the surface.

Wyanbene. Saturday, March 27th, 1965.

About 11 a.m. a party of seven entered the cave and made their way along the gruelling stream passage. A month previously, two club members had discovered a remarkably large and interesting chamber. The purposes of this expedition were to see if the exploration could be extended further and to photograph some of the exceptional formation in this chamber. Several possible exits were investigated, but it was not until late in the day that the cascade of rimstone pools was traced back to the entrance to another stream passage. It was obvious that the narrow passage had not previously been entered, so it was with great enthusiasm that the discoverers forged ahead. Soon the passage opened up into a big chamber with a smooth sandy floor. The passage led off to one side but ended shortly in a vertical shaft, apparently leading to an upper level. About 30' above the floor of this chamber an opening to another stream passage was in evidence. However, all attempts to climb up to this entrance failed through the lack of suitable equipment. This climb is by no means beyond the club's capabilities.

In all, about 7 hours were spent in the cave on this occasion.

A return trip to Wyanbene in the near future is a must for it is seldom that such a promising opportunity to break new ground presents itself.

Geoff. Marchant.

9th - 10th April, 1965.

Special features of this trip were that members spent a longer continuous period underground (16 hrs.) than on any previous club trip and that sleeping underground proved a unique experience.

After descending at 11 p.m. on Friday, a camp was made at the foot of the second iron ladder (under the blow hole). Having arisen early the next morning, members pushed on to the main chamber and to the far chamber, these two being connected by a dry winding river passage. Some exploration of minor side passages in this region revealed no new portions of the cave. Ian pushed on through the formation-packed passage near the main chamber, but found it ended in a siphon a few yards beyond the white stalactite.

A rough traverse was carried out from the white stalactite to the foot of the second ladder. The distance between these two stations was about 1200' and the stream passage lay approx. N-S throughout its length.

N.L.R.K.