

C.S.S.

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# S P E L E O G R A F F I T I

The Newsletter of the National University Caving Club.

Volume 4, Number 3.

May, 1967.

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## EDITORIAL.

As everybody in this Club was told - both by letter from the Secretary, John Tilley, and, in many cases, by verbal reminder from one or another of the Committee - there was a Special General Meeting of the N.U.C.C. on Wednesday, May 3, 1967. This was called to discuss a motion that the Club should apply for affiliation to the Australian Speleological Federation. This motion, if passed, could have had far-reaching consequences for the N.U.C.C. I say 'could have had ...' because, in most cases, you were too b. apathetic to show up! Out of a membership of 24, 12 people bothered to show up or send apologies. The rest of you : if you are not interested in the affairs of the Club or in keeping a decent, efficient cave group, why the heck did you join? More money than sense? It's always the same faces I see at meetings. Hang it all, we know how they'll vote, we've known most of them for years! It's the opinion of the rest of the Club that we're interested in. I doubt if you have read the Constitution, but it says (Section 2, paragraph 9), that 50% of the club members must attend the S.G.M. to pass any motion altering the Constitution. In other words, with the present apathetic attitude, we can't even make a quorum to change the Constitution to make it easier for the Committee to run things properly!

So, what about taking part in the Club this term? I don't expect to see 24 members at the next meeting, that would be too good to be true, but 20 would be much better than 12, wouldn't it?

EDITOR.

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## CONSTITUTIONAL NOTES.

### VOTING BY PROXY.

If you are unable to attend a general meeting of the Club at which voting is to take place, but want to register your vote, as well as help make a quorum, it is usually possible to register a vote by proxy.

The acceptance of proxy votes in the N.U.C.C. depends upon Presidential Ruling, but it is usually allowed, or, more correctly, has never been refused so far.

To make a formal vote by proxy, the voter must write a letter of apology, stating that he is unable to attend (and why), and stating how he will vote on each statement or motion before the meeting. The letter must reach the

Chairman of the meeting (usually the President of the Club, Ian Raine) before the meeting opens. The best way to ensure this is to give the letter to a member of the Committee (a list of their names and addresses appears below), or otherwise to a club member who definitely will attend.

It is not sufficient in this Club to appoint a trustworthy friend to act for you. Your votes MUST be stated in the letter. This has come up now because most proxies until this time, although allowed previously, were informal. Informal votes will no longer be accepted now this note has been published.

MICHAEL G.WEBB  
VICE-PRESIDENT.

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Since complaints have been heard that Committee Members are usually unavailable when required, a list of members and their usual haunts is given below :

PRESIDENT :	Ian Raine, 2 Berrigan Cres. O'Connor	498839
	Geology Dept. S.G.S.	
VICE-PRESIDENT	Michael Webb, Flat 19, Hackett Court, Hackett.	
	Physics Dept. (somewhere)	
SECRETARY	John Tilley, W6, Bruce Hall	
TREASURER	David Nicholls, 17 Hobbs St. O'Connor.	42271
	Physics Dept.	
EQUIPMENT OFFICER	David Moore, 21 Gawler Cres. Deakin.	
	Library (somewhere)	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Carla Van Driel, Room 130, Burton Hall	
	Norm Stokes, Mount Stromlo Obs.,	706258
	Peter Aitcheson, Flat 3, 12 Masson St. Turner.	
	Maths Bldg., Res.Sch.of Phys.Sc.	

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ON WRITING FOR SPELEOGRAFFITI.

"How about writing an article for Speleog.?"

"You must be joking! I'm a write-off at anything more original than lecture notes."

"No, seriously, you must be able to write something. Anything. Please?"

You know the sort of rot you go on with. That gremlin mind says "Rubbish him to death, and then profess ignorance." Maybe you can even convince yourself that you can't write.

But the thought, evil thing, sticks in your mind, and sooner or later you start thinking about a topic, just to pass the time away. After all, you've been caving solidly now for three years. There must be something you can write on.

I know. "My first trip". The ideal thing! But where did that idea come from? The last Speleograffiti? Or the one before? Perhaps the one before that? Horrors, maybe all three? Besides which, it only retells the fumbling of a scared fool who swore he'd never go caving again. (How many years caving did you say you'd

done?) Cave Safety! Just what we need! The mind leaps into action again. You, the safest bloke in the Club. When was the last time you put three ropes through a karabiner? Last week? When did you last go into a cave so tired you could barely stand? Same time; but it really was a tremendous effort the night before, and you only drove the last thirty miles back home without remembering a single thing. The trip before we nearly ran out of light. Three carbides out of four fouled up, and no candles or matches. And prickers? Well, I mean to say, they do cost two cents each! Perhaps I could title the article "Procedures to be carried out before Cave Rescue" and sign it "A recent sufferer from Rigor Mortis". How about "A Short History of the Wee Jasper Caves"? But where would you get all that information, and when would you read it all? That may be okay for Geology essays, but really, for that miserable newsheet? Hardly..

In desperation you turn to that last small straw, the cave you know and love best. "My favourite Cave" you see emblazoned for posterity above two pages (well, would you believe half a page?) of turgid rubbish on Dog Leg, or Colong, or Signature.

Perhaps Mike will forget about me. I didn't say I'd do one. Anyway, I've got too many essays now. And I promised to go out with Margaret on Friday. And I can't miss going caving next weekend. You never know, I may do something exciting then. I could write a superb piece, a veritable literary masterpiece after that.

"Hey Joe! Do you want a game of table-tennis now? Did you hear about Fred at the turn last weekend? He was so paralytic he had to be carried out the front door....."

DAVID MOORE.

#### RADIO SURVEYING.

This method of surveying has been experimented with, and shows great promise. Two AKAI 100 mw AM transceivers, operating on 27 MHz, were used in the experiment. Generally, reception from a point 800' inside the cave, and 200' to 250' down was good, providing the transceivers are approximately in a vertical line. Background noise is high, but this is to be expected. Background noise could be improved by the use of higher powered (1 watt) FM transceivers with squelch control. Direction of transmission can be accurately determined but angle of dip cannot be ascertained. This is due to the design of the antenna circuit. These transceivers transmit a parabolic radiation pattern which, although giving excellent directional properties, did not allow dip to be ascertained with any accuracy. A spherical radiation pattern would probably allow determination of dip.

In use, one transceiver is held with its antenna vertical. The receiver has its antenna in the horizontal plane, and is rotated slowly until the incoming



signal is attenuated to a minimum. This direction is read with a compass. Readings of transmissions from several points will give the position of the receiver, or vice versa. It was found that attenuation was easier when using a transceiver in the cave as a direction finder. This is probably a physiologicak effect, being due to the very quiet conditions present. Use of headphones would enable the surface transceiver to be used just as well.

In the experiment performed, the transceiver in the cave was used as a direction finder on transmissions along a survey line on the surface. Directions were ascertained with a hand compass. It was found that 4 points on the surface gave directional lines that crossed within a circle 2' in radius.

Factors influencing the validity of this method of survey could be :

1. preferential transmission along a fault or crack in the rock, which would give incorrect directions,
2. reflections off a denser region of rock would also give confused readings.

Provided several readings are taken on one point, statistically speaking, these faults will be able to be eliminated. It is surprising though, that transmission through 250' of solid rock, with a low power transmitter of high frequency is feasible.

M.D.FENN.

#### ON THE OUTSIDE, LOOKING IN.

Hearing an editoriabl murmur - "There don't seem to be many pages in this issue" - an onlooker wondered if it might be possible to fill the gap.

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a member of a caver's family? Well, I'll tell you!

There's a trip planned, starting off at 7.00 a.m. Having packed most of the gear the previous night, the caver gets up at the crack of dawn.(ugh!) eats a hearty breakfast, says "Cheerio, I'll be back sometime tonight." Tonight comes, but does the caver? Yes, but well after the rest of the family are asleep.

The next day, one surveys the equipment (especially after Dog Leg), and wonders if it will ever come clean. But, of course, it does, all ready to get filthy again next week.

And so it goes on, and on, and on.

But the cavers wouldn't have it otherwise, and neither would I.

SW.

The next newsletter will comprise the events of June. Articles are still required for newsletters, in spite of this month's effort, and should reach the editor by 30th June, for the next issue.

The newsletter will be published as soon as possible after the end of the month.

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#### LATE NEWS.

On Saturday, June 3, 1967, by invitation of the Committee of C.S.S., 3 members of N.U.C.C. attended a most interesting lecture by Brother Nicholas, ex-President of the National Speleological Society of the United States. Brother Nicholas spoke about the caves forming the subterranean passage of the Rio Quomoy in Puerto Rico. The stream passage has been surveyed for a distance of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles to date, but the efflux has not yet been discovered. The first mile is to be developed by the Government as a tourist attraction. The tunnel is up to 300' high, and 24 new species of insects were found along its length. Access is by 300' sink-holes.

Brother Nicholas was asked a total of 241 questions by the enthusiastic audience of C.S.S. and N.U.C.C. members.

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#### TRIP REPORTS.

##### LONDON BRIDGE 15/4/67.

5 members of N.U.C.C. visited the area, and eventually found the bridge. We spent about 15 minutes exploring the 'main' cave and sundry other holes. No formation, and the road in is bad.

JOHN TILLEY.

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##### WEE JASPER 15-16/4/67.

Saturday afternoon, had a small look at the Dip System, sections 1-5. All went in except L.Curtis and Miss G.Durham, who arrived on Sunday at 4. A.M. (!) We were in for 4 hours. After tea, went into Dog Leg; to see if the water-trap was open, and to see if we could approximately locate it on the surface. Came out at 10.30 p.m.

Sunday. In morning, went into Dog Lega again (some people never learn) taking all except Ian Raine, who departed for Canberra on Saturday night. L.Curtis led most people back from the Lake Chamber, but D.M., R.M., D.C. and R.C. went beyond the Opera House into the Meander Pattern where we collected some crystals which turned out to be twinned crystals of Gypsum. We spent  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours below.

DAVID MOORE.

Colong. 21-23 April.

Left Canberra about 8.30, and then got bailed up at Goulburn for hiding escaped prisoners and offensive behaviour, etc. Entered cave at about 11 a.m. on the 22nd, after walking down the previous night in the last of the moonlight and camping in the Grand Arch. After little trouble got to Grill. Fearless (?) leader fought with the thing for 3/4 hour, trying to shut the gate. It was a precursor for a later struggle where Fearless Leader, Noble President and Honourable Fresher, (if there is one), fought for 2 1/2 hours, trying to shut the wretched gate, eventually to give up and go home for the night.

Back to caving. We trogged on to Woof's Cavern, and then split into groups, P.S. and D.M. looking at the far end of Woof's, and the rest looking at the first part of it. Due to bad liaison, the 1st party went back to the Grill, and then back to Woof's to find the latter crew. P.S., T.V., P.O'D. and D.H.M. then looked at the river passage (the wrong end, I feel), to try to get out along it. Then followed the epic of the Grill. We got out at about 9.45 (10 3/4 hours caving) and after flaking out for the night, P.S. and Fearless Leader went back in, and got lost in the Maze for an hour or so, then locked the gate in less than 5 minutes. We then joined the rest of the bods at Batch Camp, and went home.

DAVID MOORE.

Dog Leg. 20 May 1967.

A combined trip with C.S.S. Ian Raine reports that '4-wheel drive is useful'. They spent 10 hours underground. The water-trap has 12" of air above the water. This is the first time the cave has been open since 1964 Ian and David Moore from this club, and Neil Anderson discovered a new chamber which they called the "IDN Chamber" (It's 'idn' at the back of the 'ill). They fixed a yphon in the water-trap to try and speed up the emptying next time, and laid another 200' of phone wire along the left hand branch.

Cheitmore. 22 April, 1967.

A trip made at the invitation of the Trip Leader of the SSS trip that weekend.

We found 2 caves at Cheitmore proper, both about 300' long. Neither is very prmising, although both were well populated with bats and insects.

The main cave at Marble Arch is situated about 80' down from the top of the gorge. It contains about 4000' Bent-wing bats, and 2 rivers, flowing through lofty but narrow (!) fissures, which, to put it mildly, were uncomfortable. The cave is about 400' odd long.

MICHAEL WEBB.



Bunyan. 29 April, 1967.

Lawrence Ingram and self went down at 9 p.m. to collect some mud samples and plants, both of which we spent the next  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours looking for. We then went home.

On Sunday, I did some digging in the hole at the bottom of BU2, and lowered it by some 6". Then David Hammill dissipated 300 foot-pounds of energy on my left elbow. He didn't quite break it, but I didn't give him another go - we came out.

MICHAEL WEBB.

COMING TRIPS.

Cheitmore.	11-12 June.	Michael Webb.
Punbhbowl.	24 June.	Ian Raine.
Kybean	8 July	Byron Deveson.
Bunyan	22 July.	Michael Webb.

Persons wishing to go on trips should contact the Trip Leader or a member of the Committee by 5 p.m. on the Thursday previous to the trip. This gives the leader 24 hours to organise transport and necessary equipment. On at least one occasion this year, a Trip Leader has been contacted less than 1 hour before the departure time by someone interested in going. This sort of thing plays havoc with the arrangements, so, please, show some courtesy to the poor bloke, he works hard enough as it is, without any extra troubles being added.

FOUND.

1. After Wyanbene trip, (8.4.67) 1 green anorak. See Ian Raine.
2. After Dog Leg Trip. (2.6.67) Some bits of cutlery. See David Moore.

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