

The Newsletter of the National University Caving Club.

Volume 4, Number 7.

September, 1967.

EDITORIAL.

When I was given the job of editing "Speleo-G" - I didn't ask for it - I promised myself that I would do the job as best I could, and make this newsletter at least readable, if not interesting. I decided to try to produce at least six pages each time of events of the last month within the club and the views of club members. Shortly however, I realised that very few members had views that they didn't mind airing in public. This didn't surprise me, although I was a trifle disappointed. After all, a paper is only as good as its contributors, and this one only has about five.

You will notice that this version is rather thin. That is due probably to the pressure of work preventing subjects for Trip Reports, and, in my case certainly, creating a vast shortage of time even for assigned work, let alone for writing newsletters as well. However, with a bit of help from club members, we ought to be able to do better next time. How about it?

EDITOR.

FAREWELL.

to Ruth Tilsley, who is at present in transit for Durban, South Africa, where she "is going to try to catch histoplasmosis". Although kept above ground for most of the year she became a keen "Speleo-Nut", and is going to have a go at South African caves for eighteen months or so.

A good way of waterproofing matches is to dip them in nail varnish or aircraft dope for a while, then dry them. Mine survived a long cold trip through bene, and still struck afterwards. I kept them in a 35mm film cassette, which wasn't waterproof.

Michael Webb.

CAVING WITH N.U.C.C.

On arriving in this fair city two foreigners decided that the bright lights of such a thriving metropolis were too much for their gentle natures. So they quietly indulged in underground activities. Little did they know what lay ahead ... muddy tunnels, threatening drops, bats with fleas, warm (?) water tunnels etc., etc. The N.U.C.C. discarded many of their fears and since then the two lost souls have donned the guise of enlightened glow worms.

The experiences left definite marks in their lives. They remember (with glee) the early morning trips in a warm Land-Rover along the smoothest of highways. First there was Wee Jasper. This is recalled with vivid pictures of prickles, friendly corms, and scouts. Bungonia was the most enthralling of all trips. Who could ask for more than abundance of CO₂ and mud. The view

of the gorge left them gasping ... (actually I think that was because of the high CO₂ content.) This excursion left them in raptures. The best was yet to come. In Wyanbene the formations were fascinating; but even better was the squeezing, ladder climbing and chimneying. The highlight of the trip came when certain trip-leaders taught them to swim underwater in true Holt fashion. They even learnt how to save on haircuts by using a carbide lamp. They also found there was nothing more enjoyable than waiting for an hour in wet clothes on a limestone ridge, while someone climbed a goulie. They never got lost of course!

Many other trips had their highlights. They were converted to tea and claret; they learnt to sleep in, and sew on patches. They also found out that coews are strictly vegetarians. All joking aside they enjoyed their year with N.U.C.C. One of them is off to South Africa where she is more than likely to catch Histoplasmosis, the other has decided to "see the light" as far as work is concerned.

Ruth Tilsley.

TRIP REPORT - COTTER.

Leader : Hiram Q.Pleb.

After a quick trip out, (only 3 hours) in DMC's Prefect we bought some hot water at the kiosk and in the tradition of our ancestors (or something) stewed the inevitable brew over the flame from the exhaust pipe.

Headed roughly south-east to a likely limestone outcrop and found a couple of likely (if somewhat perilous) looking pots. After having thrown in a couple of rocks and the 120' nylon (by mistake), we estimated from the intensity of the resultant screams that the pot was at least 400' deep.

In his wisdom HQP at this stage insisted on the use of a safety line and tied his waist loop and an abseil sling around a convenient beer can which happened to be wedged between a rock and a tree root. HQP then investigated the opening and deemed that a fifty foot ladder should be used. This was consequently done, and HQP started off on the perilous descent. Upon reaching the bottom, HQP found 47'6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " of ladder in a crumpled heap, and thereby determined that his original estimate of 4' had in actual fact been a wee bit ambitious.

Lesser members of the party (by this time obviously suffering from mild indigestion) were then permitted to descend and did so uneventfully except for one member who clumsily caught his toe in the coil of a ladder, tripped and bruised his shin. Forging ahead, HQP discovered a tunnel leading to a small chamber. In this chamber the party made camp and made some delightful inevitable brew (best HQP had ever tasted) over a carbide flame. HQP and two others then proceeded to sketch the cavern using a 3H Goldfaber pencil on 10 x 8 "Spiro" catridge paper by the light of two carbides and an Everready model 370 torch with two National 1.5 volt batteries. At this stage, HQP noticed that "you know who's" bruise had swollen somewhat. Diagnosing mild to moderate Anaemia with the possibility of Septiciemia developing within 36 hours and possible death if he was a Haemophilic, HQP decided that further assault was

impossible. The return to surface was effected within 15 minutes, the climb up the first, and only, pitch being made hazardous by a group of Boy Scouts who were throwing rocks down the opposite cliff. Owing to the fact that you-know-who now appeared to be limping (actually he had a stone in his shoe) a safety line with a double reverse cross over bowline was used at the direction of HQP.

After a further inevitable brew* (best HQP had ever tasted) we repaired to Canberra.

Suggestions.

1. As all members of the party (except HQP) suffered from indigestion soon after entering cave, on all future Cotter trips each member must carry an Alka-Seltzer or a packet of Quick-Eze.

2. All members prone to Anaemia must take one Myadec tablet or eat 1/2 lb. lamb's fry on the night before the trip.

This is a serious matter. If you-know-who had been another 36 hours without a Band-Aid anything could have happened. Furthermore, all other members (except HQP) were suffering from mild scratches, and one was even known to have a small cut, possibly with associated bruising.

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Afterthought.

HQP with some help from other erudite club members has calculated that the amount of water needed to dissolve out Cotter Cave would have been sufficient to irrigate enough fruit trees and grape vines to provide the ingredients for enough scroggin to supply NUCC for fifty years!

Could it be that the Australian Aborigine eats scroggin?

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* a mixture of tar and treacle - some sort of cute trog custom.

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IMC

DAVID CHRISTIE.

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

On overnight trips - Everuthing gets easier with practice - except getting up in the morning.

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TRIP REPORTS.

Wee Jasper.

9 September, 1967.

Continued numbering, adding 13 caves to the list; numbers 344, 345, 348, 351-355, 361-365.

Briefly examined 304 but it gets too narrow at 10' for further exploration without digging. 365 was entered at 8.15 p.m. after much persuasion on JIR. It descends a noble 23' of ladder before a mud floor with abundant rotting vegetation is reached. Exited at 8.30 p.m. Could all those who explore caves in this group try at least to submit memory sketches if at all possible?

D.H.MOORE.

BOULDER CAVE

WIRE TRIPPER, ALA

MS 131

1/7/77

10'

rock ledge

ROCK LEDGE

dead stream
passage

very good
formation

Wee Jasper.

9 September, 1967.

Explored WJ305, which is 43' deep with a rubble floor and a very dead wallaby, and then WJ343, which is very similar, but without the wallaby. We then went up to Punchbowl again for the rest of the day.

MICHAEL WEBB.

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TRIP LEADERS.

These captions don't fit where they are - they might if you juggle them around and use your imagination.!

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ian Raine        | If you want to come out alive ...? |
| Byron Deveson    | A fast crawler!                    |
| P eter Aitcheson | Bed or cave?                       |
| Michael Webb     | A means of transport?              |
| David Nicholls   | A cave owl?                        |
| David Moore      | Food is a must!                    |
| Norman Stokes    | A means of prusiking!              |

Signed: Two Zombies.

(depending on the trip leader!)

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COMING TRIPS.

TUGLOW. 25-26 November.

Leader: David Moore.

End of term celebration trip. Long chimney, followed by about 3/4 mile of tunnel and chambers. Good formation.

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Contact the Leader or a Committee Member by 5 p.m. on the Thursday previous if you wish to go on a trip. Although unlikely, it is possible that impromptu trips will occur, so keep an ear to the ground.

|                    |                                                                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT:         | Ian Raine, 2 Berrigan Cres. O'CONNOR. tel:498839                              |
| VICE-PRESIDENT:    | Michael Webb, Flat 19, Hackett Court, or try Physics Library or Laboratories. |
| SECRETARY :        | John Tilley, Bruce Hall..                                                     |
| TREASURER :        | David Nicholls, 17 Hobbs St. O'CONNOR. tel.42271.                             |
| EQUIPMENT OFFICER: | David Moore, 21 Gawler Cres. DEAKIN. tel.71578                                |
| COMMITTEE          | Carla Van Driel, Room 130, Burton Hall.                                       |
| MEMBERS :          | Norm Stokes, Mt. Stromlo Observatory. tel.706258(ah)<br>or 706511(w.h.)       |
|                    | Peter Aitcheson, Maths Bldg., R.S.P.S. tel.493752(w.h)                        |

Explained WJ45, which is 45' deep with a rubble floor and a very dead  
 welling, and then WJ45, which is very similar, but without the welling.  
 We then went up to Lumberton again for the rest of the day.  
 MICHAEL WEBB

TRIP MEMBERS

These questions don't fit where they are - they might fit you judge them  
 around and use your imagination!  
 If you want to come out alive...?  
 A fast answer!  
 I don't know!  
 A means of transport?  
 I don't know!  
 Food is a must!  
 A means of protection!  
 Stated: Two Bombs!  
 (depending on the trip leader!)

TRIP MEMBERS

End of trip information: last, last, last, followed by about 5/4 mile of  
 tunnel and chambers. Good location.  
 Contact the leader or a Committee member by 5 pm on the Thursday previous  
 if you wish to go on a trip. Although unlikely, it is possible that  
 important trips will occur, so keep an eye to the ground.  
 Ian Harris, 2 Harrison Green, O'CONNOR, tel: 498833  
 Michael Webb, Flat 15, Hackett Court, or try Pivates  
 Library or Laboratories.  
 John Tiller, Green Hall.  
 David Moore, 100, 100, 100, tel: 498833  
 Gaila Van Hout, Room 150, Green Hall.  
 Home Stoker, Mt. St. Michael's Observatory, tel: 498833 (an)  
 or 498833 (w.h.)  
 Peter Atkinson, 100, 100, 100, tel: 498833 (w.h.)