

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

The Newsletter of the National University Caving Club.

Volume 5, Number 3.

April, 1968

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for 1968 was held on Tuesday, 19 March in the Physics Room 8, with about 30 present.

Election of Officer Bearers for 1968 was carried out quickly, after which people settled down to look at slides. Those elected were:

President	Michael Webb
Vice- President	Norman Stokes
Secretary	Ian Raine
Treasurer	David Moore
Equipment Officer	Peter Aitcheson
Committee Members	Sue Nicholls
	Savid Christie
	David Fenn
	Kenn Palmer

Ian Nankivell then showed us some excellent slides of both the recently explored sections of Murray's Cave at Cooleman, and of the famed Easter Cave in West Australia, to which a total of three trips per year only are allowed.

Michael Webb also showed some slide of Bunyan - a pothole near Cooma - and Dip Cave at Wee Jasper.

Although plagued with an underpowered projector most of the slides were fairly visible.

Supper was eaten between the two series of slides, having been generously made available by Mrs. Raine.

The meeting ended at 10.30p.m.

Letter to the Editor.

This was received at a recent Committee meetin which Sue Nicholls was unable to attend.

"I'm very sorry I couldn't be here in person tonight as I have a number of things to say. However I hope this will be sufficient to register my remarks, at least for the moment.

Firstly.

I must strongly object to the way most of the trips I have been on have been rushed. Naturally the trip leader knows the cave and the route fairly well. Familiarity breeds contempt, and consequently everyone else is hustled along at a rate of knots, which prevents anyone who wants to from having a good look at whatever's to be seen.

I don't want to cast aspersions on Peter Aitcheson's trip leading abilities for which I have the very highest regard, but the walk to the cave on the recent Cooleman trip was exhausting, and it struck me as a bit idiotic having to sit down to catch my breath before even entering the cave, to say nothing of missing most of the magnificent scenery on the way. We had the whole weekend to play around with, and yet we got to that cave as if it was going to vanish forever at any moment.

I realise that the number of people on the trip was unusually high, but the fact remains that it could have been taken a little slower with no serious inconvenience to anyone.

Secondly.

If the numbers of people going on trips remains high, more bash hats should be provided by the club.

Thirdly.

More co-operation between the Bushwalkers, the Mountaineers, and the Caving Club would prove highly advantageous in the way of rainproof equipment, haversacks etc.

Finally

Having the honour of being the only female Committee Member, I should like to plead for a little consideration on the part of the trusty, stalwart male majority for the (presumably) gentler sex.... I don't mean to say that we are all poor miserable weaklings without any physical strength whatever, nor that a great deal of patience hasn't already been shown to us by the gallant men of the Club... but, with reference to the aforesaid hustle, even when one has seen the scenery, one doesn't like tearing along through brush and boulder after fleet warriors who take tall mountains at a single bound.

Perhaps I should add that on the whole there is nothing grievously wrong with the organisation of trips, and in general they are managed magnificently. But the points I have mentioned - the rushing of the enthusiastic leaders, the present shortage of helmets and wet weather equipment, and the regrettable lack of male energy in the female members - are all points worth mentioning."

Susan Nicholls.

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subscriptions for 1968 are now due. If you have not paid up this is the last issue you will receive. A cross appearing below indicates that you are considered a dangerous reactionary radical, and you are urged to repent and confess your sins to Treasurer David Moore forthwith. Forgiveness will cost v. fifty cents.

LOST AND FOUND.

Found after A.G.M. - a pale blue glasses case.

Missing after Wee Jasper trip - Stubai "pineapple" karabiner. If you have found it please see Miachael Webb. He also has the case for the glasses.

SELEOGRAFFITI - May issue.

Articles are required for the next issue of Speleograffiti. Anything to do with caves, caving or cavers published, appropriate or not. Closing date Wednesday April 24th.

Outstanding Trip reports.

David Fenn	Wee Jasper	March 2
Dick Price	Wee Jasper	March 2-3
Peter Aitcheson	Wyanbene	March 9
Byron Deveson	Wyanbene	March 9

Letter to the Editor.

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE FORMATION OF THE BIG HOLE.

Dear sir,

Last year you printed an article (Vol.4 No6) in which it was postulated that the Big Hole was formed by nuclear fusion testing carried out by the Australo-Pithecus forerunner of present so-called civilisation.

Let us consider some of the consequences of this assumption, particularly that of what became of the material that filled it.

Assuming the hole to have approximate dimensions 60 metres long, 30 metres wide and 90 metres deep, it is apparent that the mass of displaced rock amounts to 3.4×10^8 Kilogrammes, (about 340,000 tons). We can therefore calculate the energy required to totally vaporise the rock.

Given that the latent heat of fusion, $L(f)$ is 135 cal/gm, that of vaporisation, $L(v)$, is 104 cal/gm, and that the specific heat of sandstone is 0.3 cal/gm, degree (S), we find that the total heat required is:

$$\text{Mass (ST - } L(f) \cdot L(v) \text{)}$$

i.e. 26×10^{14} joules.

The energy emitted by one tone of T.N.T. is 5×10^9 joules, so $\frac{1}{2}$ megaton of T.N.T. would, in exploding, vaporise sufficient material as to leave the Big Hole.

So far so good.

Now let us calculate the energy required to sent the material into Earth orbit.

The velocity imparted to 1 ton of material by the explosion in the immediate vicinity of 1 tone of T.N.T. is given by :

$$E = \frac{1}{2} Mv^2$$

So viis approximately 2 miles per sec.

This is well within an order of magnitude of escape velocity.

In other words this hypothetical test could be responsible for placing up to 400,000 tons of rubble into space with a velocity spectrum ranging from 0.1 times escape to escape velocity, assuming the standard Gaussian distribution of velocity!

What is more, this mass is approximately the total amount of matter that has been removed from the Big Hole. This is obviously no coincidence, but is certainly indication that the ancients knew the secrets of advanced nuclear physics, and had a well developed engineering technology.

If this material is sprayed out of the hole at angles of elevation between 10° and 90° with a velocity spectrum of 1 Km/s and 11K/s, we find there is an envelope of infinte height and of ground radius 10,000 Kilometre within which matter will fall. Now the rock will be considerably cross-fractured in coming through the upper atmosphere, due to uneven frictional heating, and consequently will ground along a broad swathe along its line of flight.

Could it possibly be that Mr. Webb has at last satisfactory explained the origin of tektites? That it should have been left to a mere physicist to do this is the crowning insult of the age. Geologists arise! Save yourselves! the physicists are taking over!

Ho hum, back to my cave.

I sign myself, respectfully yours, (unless you are a physicist), your fellow troglodyte,

URSUS SPELAEUS.

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CLUB RECORDS.

Believe it or not, the club has amassed a fair supply of publications and papers from other societies. In particular, we have copies of "The Very Latest" (CSS), "Stone Dress" (SSS), a few copies of the A.S.P. Journal, and a few "SSS Journals".

R.P.F. work in caves, and notes on most of the caves we have visited and many more besides.

These are available for loan to members of the club on application to Michael Webb, who can usually be found either in the Physics Library or Laboratories, or sometimes at home, 1/74 Ainslie Avenue, Reid. Phone 4290.

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April General Meeting,

Wednesday April 3, 1968 in Physics Dept. Room 8 at 8p.m. There will be a guest speaker, and supper will be served.

May General Meeting.

Wednesday May 1, 1968 in Physics Dept., Room 8, at 8p.m. Supper will be served. Slides and films.

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TRIP REPORTS.

Wyanbene.

February 17, 1968

Out to take pictures in the main caves. Found MSS doing a meteorological survey at the blowhole. So, after I had taken my pictures I gave them a hand for a while.

Over a 12 hour period (0400-1600) wind velocity varied from 169 feet/minute at 4a.m. to over 1300ft/m at 3p.m. Temperatures and humidity varied as below while I was assisting taking measurements.

Time	Dry Bulb	Wet bulb	%Humidity
1400-1530	57°	57°	100
1530 1545	57°	56.8°	99
1545 1600	57°	56.5°	98
1600 1615	57°	56°	94

Over my last hour, barometric pressure fell slightly from 29.99" it had maintained most of the day to 29.80". All told I spent 8½ hours underground.

Michael Webb.

Straight through to Rockfall Chamber where surveying was begun at the top of the pitch between Rockfall and Caesar's Hall. Survey continued to Lake Chamber. Caesar's Hall - Lake section of cave consists of a single high fissure blocked at various levels by mud and rock. Except at the Lake end the river cannot be followed for any distance. The only formation in the section is large bushes of coral overlooking the lake from the downstream end and some helictites.

Ian Raine.

Part's of Michael Webb's trip report for his cave hunting trip to Ravine were published uner "Recent Activities" in the March issue.

FRESHER TRIPS.

Wee Jasper.

March 2 1968

Ian raine led a large party into Dip 2 from the Rubbish Tip entrance, thence up ladder set by him into Dips 3,4,5. Returning by abseiling down the 30' window pitch into Dip 2.

David Fenn led the party into 4th extension, then took some people into Dip 4 by the 60' a seil pitch, then came out via Dips 3,2, and through the Rubbish Tip.

Took a party of 8 for a quick trip through Dip 2 and Dip 3, then out for lunch. After lunch, into 4th Extension, where many pictures were taken (A total of 4½ hours) After the freshers went home, I went into Dog leg for a glance at the Sand Trap, having been told that it had been filled up by High School kids. It Had. (1 hour)

Sunday spent teaching at an impromptu Field Day for Boy Scouts, talking to Phil Crook (Gundagai Tourist Association) and playing around in the top of Punchbowl.

Michael Webb

Wyanbene.

March 9, 1968

All told 29 people went on this trip, so we split into 4 parties. Ian Raine, Peter Aitcheson and Byron Deveson led sections of the tip.

Led my party plus Byron Daveson's into Mud Chamber, where we looked around while Peter's group passed us on the way to the Gunbarrel.

We then went up to Helictite, where Byron and David Brown settled down to take pictures while the rest of us went through the wet stretch into Rockfall, meeting firstly half a dozen bods from SSS at sump 2, then Peter Aitcheson's party in Rockfall (Wyanben was somewhat crowded!). Then all but three of us went through Nicholl's Squeeze into Caesar's, whose sheer size was most impressive to the freshers.

We then went out, bringing gear with us as we were the last still in, and surfacing at about 6.15 p.m. (6½ hours)

Michael Webb.

Ian Raine's party went into Mud Chamber, then up to the stream passage to Helictite, then out again, after 4 hours underground.

Wyanbene

March 13, 1968

Direct to chamber on tributary passage to Rockfall Chamber. (This small chamber now to be known as Barking Dog Chamber.) P.A. led up edge of upstream fissure, half in and half out of crack, belayed by I.R. from mud and rock choke 15' above the floor, this pitch 20' to comfortable meander bench. It was possible to follow this low (2'x 10') passage upstream for about 30', whence a tight squeeze to the left, 15', allowed access to a small aven 25' high with attendant high level meanders, muddy and with much loose rock. A further 20' along the main level was achieved before loose rock made the passage unsafe.

Roof of Barking Dog Chamber (so-called because of the startling sound of dripping water is large chockstone 20' across, separating off an upper chamber 15' high. Muddy and rotten meander passages extend about 15' higher. Thus the total height of the fissure is about 60'; the fissure was followed upstream about 65' from B.D.C.

Wyanbene, (cont)

March 13 1968

Return via Gunbarrel to collect representative rock samples from the floor material.

In dry by-pass to the water crawl P.A. attempted difficult climb up solution fluted wall next to squeeze, but overhang fissure was too tight. After this abortive effort, a squeeze near exit to by-pass was attempted. This led to sloping tunnel with red flowstone cascade falling from large fissure parallel to stream passage. Cave coral abundant in this section, which should certainly be further investigated.

Ian Raine.

Wyanbene.

March 23, 1968

Searching caves up the alternate valley. Found many small holes and so beautiful scenery. A cave half way up a 40' cliff about 150' this side of the Deua watershed may repay investigation. Owing to an ankle ruined in a traffic accident a few days previous I did not go in, and nor did Kath, but Byron and David Brown reported several small offshoots and strong draughts in its 40' add length.

We went into Wyanbene for half an hour or so after lunch, but did nowt of note, then up to Big Hole. When it started to hail we came home.

Michael Webb.

Coolenan Plains.

March 23, 1968

Those present: Peter Aitcheson, Jim Atkinson, Noel and Pat Call, Phil Carter, Jim Coulton, Korrine Else-Mitchell, Owen Evans, John Furlonger, Nadine Hood, Isobel Gavin, Sue Lowes, Virginia Higgins, David Moore, David and Sue Nicholls, Paul O'Donnell, Pat O'Keefe, Ken Palmer, Ian Raine, Norm Stokes, Karen Weatherstone, a total of 21, and six vehicles were taken.

The party left Burton Hall at about 7.30 a.m. after some delays and arrived at Coolenan plain about 10.30 a.m. Camp was set up at Blue Waterholes where Cave Creek resurges and which is a magnificent camp site. The party very quickly left for Murray Cave, except for one person, who preferred to eat his lunch, and all went to the end, admiring the formation along the way. Jim Coulton and Dave Moore went to explore a side passage of the cave, and found that the sump which had previously blocked progress on this side passage was open and so we were able to explore the passage further. However the passage eventually divided and became too tight for further progress, destroying hopes that it would lead to the cave through which the river flows. The main party in the meantime explored the main passage a little more thoroughly but being devoid (almost) of side passages, they eventually congregated at the end. The whole cave including the three sumps was dry. At the end there is a big rock fall through which is flowing a very strong draught, suggesting that there is a big cavern beyond the known limits of Murray Cave.

Four of the party: Ian Raine, Noel Call, David Nicholls, Norm Stokes, had valiant efforts to penetrate this rock fall but only succeeded in gaining about 20'. Most of the party soon left to explore Coolenan Cave and Barber's Cave led by Jim Atkinson and John Furlonger who had visited the area before. A "cave monster" was found in Coolenan Cave "all white and furry" and was tentatively identified as a wombat, though it was deep in the cave in a place of permanent blackness.

Unfortunately, towards the end of the afternoon it began to rain, as always seems to happen at Coolenan. Norm Stokes left just at the start of the rain with a party of one-day cavers and eventually arrived home safely. However at Blue Waterholes the rain became heavier and it was decided to try to take the cars up the hill toward Tantangara

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before the road became too slippery, all hope having already been abandoned of returning via Brindabella. The track was found impassable to the Holdens after only a short period of rain, but luckily Jim Coulton had some tyre chains which were used to get one of the Holdens up the hill. At this time matters were further complicated when the child of Paul Williams and wife, who happened to be camping there also, was taken ill, with suspected malaria, having recently returned from New Guinea. Therefore, the chains were lent to him and he escorted as far as Tantangara by the Land Rover, the other cars being left at the bottom of the hill until next day. It was still raining on Sunday so hopes of further going were dashed and attention was turned to just getting out which was accomplished without further difficulty. Canberra was reached about 4p.m. after a stop in Adaminaby for food. Others also stopped in Bredbo for other reasons.

P.W. Aitcheson.

COMING TRIPS.

BUNGONIA April 6 1968 Leader DAVID MOORE

The Drum, one of Australia's deepest caves (390')

BENDEATHERA. Easter, April 13th, 1968. Leader IAN RAINE.

Supposed to be many caves, if you can find them.

RAVINE Easter, April 13th 1968 Leader MICHAEL WEBB

7 square miles and more of unexplored limestone. Great possibilities for large caves. Beautiful scenery.

CHELTMORE April 20, 1968 Leader MICHAEL WEBB.

FIELD DAY April 27, 1968 Organiser PETER AITCHESON.

Contact the trip lead or a member of the Committee by 9.30p.m. on the Wednesday previous to the trip if you wish to go. Their names and addresses are below:

PRESIDENT. Michael WEBB, 1/74 Ainslie Ave. Reid 42970
or Physics Library or Laboratories.

VICE PRESIDENT. Norman STOKES, 12 Roberts St, Macquarie
or Mt. Stromlo Observatory, 706511 (WH)

SECRETARY Ian RAINE, 2 Berrigan Cres, O'Connor 498839

TREASURER David MOORE, 21 Gawler Cres, Deakin 71578

EQUIPMENT OFFICER Peter AITCHESON 493752 (WH)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
David CHRISTIE Federal Highway Sutton
David FENN Gorman House, Braddon.
Sue NICHOLLS 17 Hobbs St O'Connor 42271
Ken PALMER 30 Earle St, Lyneham

I. NANKIVELL
1 HARDING ST
WATSON
A.C.T.

