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

The Newsletter of the Australian National University Caving Club

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May - June, 1968

IN MEMORIAM

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

An old friend of NUCC has passed on. That well beloved attendee of countless club trips over the last 2½ years will be seen no more. Never again will that well faded and battered countenance spring upon the unwary from behind some stalagmite, or come whistling down on one from high in the roof of some unfrequented cave.

It all started in February 1966, when M.G.W. was bet that he couldn't wear a boiler suit long enough to replace all the original material with patches. Well, he did, and now this old favourite, veteran of Bunyan, Wyanbene, Bungonia, Wee Jasper, Kybean, and many other, with its faded blues (and greys, yellows, browns and green) is no more - he's bought a new one.

We wish this old museum - piece well, and humbly suggest to Michael Webb that he keeps it - to provide patches for his new one.

Viva la Boiler Suit!

The Editor.

P.S. Mrs. W. suggests the incinerator would be preferable

Shame shame!

RECENT ACTIVITIES.

Our motorcycling Vice President certainly gets around. A murmur reached my ear the other day that he has had two trips recently up into the mountains to some place in the Kosciusko State Park called Ravine. Seems that when looking at a map he spotted 7 square miles of limestone hiding amongst the junk, and went to investigate. His first trip at Christmas only gave the lie of the land ("North-south steep, East-west rugged, all densely overgrown"), but the second, about three weeks ago, was more fruitful;-

"I started walking from the machine at about 1.30 p.m., and reached the top of the range about an hour later, finding myself at the top of a fantastic scree run, on a watershed not quite 3'6" wide. The slopes on either side were at least 45° and more probably 55°. The mountain was very densely overgrown, so I walked down the fringe of the scree - more dangerous, but easier, 500' down I found myself at the top of a long series of limestone cliffs of about 150' to 200', which I couldn't descend, since I didn't even have abseil ropes with me."

He then returned back up the hill, and drove down to Ravine, arriving just after dark.

Friday morning was not very useful, but the afternoon was considerably more interesting.

"Of the four main watercourses, only Wallaces was flowing. On walking up, I found that for at least three miles it was bordered on both sides by tiers of cliffs, totalling nearly 500', up which I only saw four routes. The cliffs are packed with entrances, and there should also be some spectacular waterfalls when it's a bit wetter. Above the cliffs I found a definite efflux, which I decided to call RVI. On the SMA's Cabramurra 1 mile sheet its position is 28547,17387. So far as I know, this limestone is virtually unexplored, so good discoveries may be made."

One gathers there will be further trips.

The Fresher Trips were a success, with 25 people on the first, many of whom are now new members. Let us hope that the rest of the year's trips are as good. Dick Price, who took a party of Scouts caving last Sunday, reports that Dog Leg is open still, but that he didn't go to the end.

Apparently John Foster found that Sump 1 in Murray's Cave at Coolman was still open on February 25.

TRIP REPORTS.

Tuglow.

January 6, 1963.

This is the saga of what not to do on a trip.
 Left Canberra at 3 am after a scheduled early start of 6 am, because the leading lights slept in. Stopped at Goulburn for a pie and to grab a few other luxuries. Got lost at 12.30 and wound up at Tuglow weather station. Cracked trip leader's shoulder again, ensuring that he would not be fit to chimney effectively. Found ourselves again at 1, but the last 10 miles took an hour, so that after setting up camp and eating, we didn't get underground before 3.45. Because of the consistent heavy rain over the previous week all attempts at chimneying were fraught with danger without lifelines. The first chimney was laddered with the only piece of ladder taken, and then careful exploration dislodged the top of Fearless Leader's carbide lamp, which bounced off into the bowels of the earth, never to be seen again. Returned to surface to get extra rope and a new carbide. Ruined arm completely on return, so, in order to get things moving, stayed at top of first pitch and threw ladder down to MGW and Graeme Holt. (Ian Raine did not enter cave.) It was to no avail, as neither knew the cave, and so were forced to use the ladder again by the wet chimney. A further chimney was climbed by GH, but he required roping. He managed to get to about 140', but was then forced to return because he ran out of ladder on a long chimney. Returned gloomily at about 6.45 pm.
 Returned at 10 am next day to take a few photographs and emerged at 11 am. (That, at least, went right)
 Took off for home at about 12.00, stopping at the Aberchrombie for lunch.
 To cap the whole thing off nicely, we got a flat outside Reid House at 6 pm.
 Let's hope that future trips go off better than the first trip of the year.
 Fauna: Several Bent-wing bats were noted on both trips, probably between 10 and 20 in number.

DAVID MOORE.

There have also been two climbing trips - one (JGW, DEH) to Mystery Bay on the South Coast, and the other (JIR, DEH, RCP, MGW) to Mount Corree.

Cotter.

February 10, 1963.

Quick trip out to take pictures of the main chamber.

MICHAEL WEBB.

Several people owe me trip reports for various occasions.

COMING TRIPS.

- WYALLENHIRE 9 March, 1968. Leader Michael Webb.
Frocker trip.
- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 March, 1968.
Physics Lecture Theatre number 8.
- COOLEMAN 23 March 1968. Leader Peter Aitchison.
Weekend trip to see if Murray C. vo is still open.
- BUNGONIA 6 April, 1968. Leader David Moore.
The Drum, one of Australia's deepest caves - 390'.
- BANDETHERA 18 April, 1968. Leader Ian Beine.
Easter.
- RAVINE 18 April, 1968. Leader Michael Webb.
See page 2; this edition.
- CHERTON 20 April, 1968. Leader Michael Webb.
- FIREBAY 27 April, 1968. Organisers Peter Aitchison and
Michael Webb.
Probably at Red Rocks, barbecue afterwards.

Contact the trip leader or a Committee Member by 5 pm on the Thursday previous to the trip if you wish to go. Their names and addresses are below.

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- SECRETARY JOHN WILLEY Bruce Hall, A.M.T.
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- COMMITTEE Carlo Van Bril (now left A.M.T.)
- MEMBERS PETER AITCHISON phone 498752 (W.E.)
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