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contents

A Cave Numbering System For N.S.W.; Some Observations and Proposals.

R.Ellis and G.Middleton. p.2

A Report From the Past: compiled by Ken Palmer. p.8

For Those Who Like Figures; John Furlonger and Ken Palmer. p.7

This Month's Cutout. p.10

A Leaf From the 'Book According to Noel': Bruce Bedford. p.11

Coming Trips, Events etc. p.12

The Colong Shareholders Club. . , Save Colong Page.

save colong

Please note that for this months issue there has been an incredible lack of material for publishing. Please rectify this situation by the next issue.

Ed.

...oooOooo...

SECURITY

is a safe
foothold



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A CAVE NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR N.S.W.:

SOME OBSERVATIONS AND PROPOSALS.

by R.Ellis and G. Middleton.

INTRODUCTION.

The first cave numbering system in Australia was begun by CEG(SA) on the Mullabor Plain ('N' series) sometime before the first ASF Conference in 1956.

Cave numbering was first carried out in N.S.W. at Yarrangobilly Caves ('Y' series) (Lane and Nurse, 1961). During the Easter weekend of 1957, Ben Nurse inscribed the symbols 'Y1' and 'Y2' at the entrances of West and East Eagles Nest Cave, respectively. At the time he was accused of an unnecessary and vandalistic action but the value of such a numbering system was soon recognised. The Tourist Bureau later sanctioned the numbering scheme (Bonwick, 1964) and quite a few other areas have been numbered.

A 'cave number' consists of a letter prefix followed by a number- "an alpha-numeric reference symbol" (Hill, 1967). The letter prefix refers to the particular area but numbers are allocated arbitrarily within each area.

Doubtless the motivation to use numbers for cave entrances came from a desire for brevity and precision and to make it easier to physically label caves, which in turn has great value in search and rescue and further exploration. The practice is now firmly established in N.S.W. and is in use to varying degrees in all other states on the mainland; only Tasmania remains resolutely opposed to it (Goede, 1968). An indication of the measure of acceptance which cave numbering has achieved in N.S.W. can be gained from the fact that it has been approved by the two major governmental bodies which control caves in this State: the Department of Tourism (Jenolan and Wombeyan) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Yarrangobilly and Cooleman). SSS also has permission from the Bungonia Caves Trust to 'tag' cave entrances in the Bungonia Reserve.

Though now well established, the cave numbering system has developed with very little co-ordination and virtually no planning. Prefix letters were chosen as someone decided they were necessary for various areas and their uniqueness depended more on the broad knowledge of the assigner than on any national, state or local system. A national system would probably have been best, though it may have been difficult to devise brief, unique prefixes for each cave area throughout Australia. The stage has been reached, due to existing different systems and duplications of prefixes, where such a national system is no longer possible, even if it were ever practicable. It is our desire to see a system adopted formally at state level in N.S.W. before even that is too late.

ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE.

An attempt has been made to introduce a measure of uniformity into cave nomenclature by the establishment of a Committee on Cave Nomenclature within the Australian Speleological Federation. This Committee's report (Hamilton-Smith, 1967) contains the following useful guiding principles for a numbering system:

- "1. Each number should consist of a code letter denoting a specific and clearly defined area followed by a number (applied as one of a consecutive series for the area) denoting the cave entrance concerned.

(The same code letter should not be repeated within a state. The defining of areas should be on a rational basis and not subject to arbitrary line-drawing.)

- "2. Numbers should be applied to cave entrances, rather than cave systems; thus a multi-entrance system will have several numbers.
(This is far less likely to lead to confusion, as apparently separate caves are often found after continued exploration, to be connected with other known caves.)
- "3. Numbers should not be allocated until the location of a cave is recorded as accurately as possible, together with the results of exploration to the date of numbering.
- "4. As soon as possible after allocation, the number should be permanently but inconspicuously marked at the entrance to the cave.

This report was adopted by the Federation in January, 1968 and, although not formally ratified by member societies, should be regarded as a framework for further development.

Our main concern here is with the subject of the first of these principles, the prefix letters or area codes. ASF's Speleo Handbook lists 82 cave areas in N.S.W. and A.C.T. Of these, 26 are given area codes (one area code, KL is given without an area name) and, while having reservations about some of these, as they are now accepted we do not propose to alter any of them. The following are the existing N.S.W. area codes and the areas which they represent as shown in Speleo Handbook (pp. 129-180):

B Bungonia	J Jenolan	KSb Sebastopol
BC Billy's Creek	Ja Jaunter	KT Temagog
Bd Bendithera	KC Comboyne	KTC Mt. Pleasant
BH Biddy Harbour	KG Gowings Mtn	KW Willi Willi
C Crawney Pass	KK Kunderang	KY Yessebah
Ch Cheitmore	KL (not named)	Wa Walli
Cl Cliefden	KM Moparrabah	WJ Wee Jasper
CP Cooleman Plain	KO Big Hill	Wy Wyanbene
IC Isaacs Creek	KS Windy Gap	Y Yarrangobilly

In general it has been the practice to allot the minimum necessary prefix, though two letters are generally used where the name has two parts (Crawney Pass, 'C', is an exception). If the initial letter of a name has already been applied another (significant) letter from the name is added. In such cases in the above and subsequent lists we have taken the liberty of using the lower case for these second letters, though has not been done consistently in the past, (i.e. 'BD', Bendithera but 'Wa', Walli). While it is realised that it will generally not be possible to use the lower case on actual tags placed at cave entrances (due to the fact that most sets of metal letter stamps are upper case only), it is felt that use of the lower case in print is more in accord with accepted rules of abbreviation and will make the area codes more easily recognisable when written. Nevertheless, we do not propose that area codes differing only in the case of the second letter (e.g. AB and Ab) should be adopted.

The codes assigned by the KSS in the Kempsey area differ from all others in N.S.W. in that they are prefixed by the letter 'K', ostensibly "to avoid confusion with numbers in other areas of N.S.W." (Matthews, 1968). However, it is difficult to see any insurmountable problems in incorporating these areas into the state system without any special prefix. We do not propose to move for the dropping of the 'K' prefix at this stage but we would sincerely like to suggest to FSS that they reconsider the necessity of this additional prefix. The area code 'KO' for Big Hill seems somewhat anomalous - perhaps KSS could enlighten us of the significance of the 'O'.

PROPOSED NEW AREA CODES.

The following 51 new codes are proposed for the remaining areas listed in Speleo Handbook, with the exception of:

- (1) Avalon Beach and Kincumber, which it is proposed be included in a new area or category (see below).
- (2) Big Hole, which it is also proposed be included in a new grouping.
- (3) Colong, we regard as a term which more correctly applies to all the caves in the Colong Caves Reserve (i.e. those at Church Creek, Billys Creek and Lannigans Creek). In 1899, Trickett, who named the caves wrote: "Caves occur at intervals throughout the whole length of the limestone. I beg to suggest that they be called the Colong Caves after Mt. Colong". (Trickett, 1899). It is proposed that what have more recently become known as 'Colong' caves be designated 'Lannigans Creek' Caves and that 'Colong' be regarded as a general name covering all caves in the Reserve.
- (4) Etrima, we suggest is a general term including Ettrema Gorge and Jones Creek areas.

A	Abercrombie	Cm	Canomodine	M	Michelago
As	Ashford	Co	Coco Creek	MA	Marble Arch
At	Attunga	Cu	Cudgegong	MC	Moore Creek
ATF	Apple Tree Flat	D	Dripstone	MF	Mount Fairy
Ea	Earrington	DR	Delegate River	MLC	Murruin Lst. Ck.
EB	Burran Burran	E	Ebor	Mc	Molong
Bk	Buckaroo	EG	Ettrema Gorge &	Mu	Mudgee
Bn	Boreore		Jones Creek	N	Narrengullen
Bo	Boduldura	G	Geuri	PR	Paddys River (Cotter)
BP	Bowan Park	Gl	Gloucester	QP	Queens Pinch
BR	Blue Rock	Gr	Grafton	R	Rosebrook
BS	Bakers Swamp	IR	Isis River (Timor)	S	Sulcor
By	Barry	Je	Jerrara	ST	Stuart Town
Ca	Canowindra	*KKF	Kangaroo Flat	T	Tuglow
CaC	Cave Creek	Ky	Kybean	W	Wombeyan
CC	Church Creek	L	Limekilns	We	Wellington
CF	Cave Flat	LB	London Bridge	WR	White Rocks
		LB	Lobs Hole		

* While we don't agree with the extra K prefix, we have included it to be consistent with the Kempsey system.

PROPOSED NEW AREAS AND CODES.

The following areas are not listed (at least, as such) in Speleo Handbook but seem to warrant inclusion in the system:

HR	Hollanders River	LC	Lannigans Creek	LWC	Little Wombeyan Creek
		MUC	Murruin Creek		

SPECIAL PREFIX LETTERS.

There are a number of important caves and speleological features which cannot be included in any of the above area codes. For the sake of completeness, it is suggested that all such odd caves be preceded with an 'X', and that they be grouped in the following three categories:

1. XS - Sea Caves (Avalon Beach and Kincumber)
2. XA - Natural Arches (excluding those in coded areas)
3. XM - Miscellaneous caves (including Aboriginal art caves (Red Hand cave), Cave in the Royal National Park, Big Hole, etc.)

WRITTEN FORM OF THE ALPHA-NUMERIC SYMBOL.

A number of variations have occurred, in different publications and at various time intervals, in the way in which cave numbers are written: i.e., e.g. AA1, AA 1, AA.1, AA-1, A.A.1. This is only a very minor point, perhaps, but one which could be straightened out at the same time as the rest of the system is under review. Speleo Handbook uses the form 'AA-1' (to its credit, very consistently). However, because of the use of multiple numbers (e.g. Fossil Cave - Hogans Hole at Bungonia and Askin Cave at Church Creek) we wish to propose that the form 'AA.1' be adopted, giving, e.g. B.4-5 and CC.1-2-3, rather than B-4-5 and CC-1-2-3.

APPLICATION AND ALLOCATION OF 'CAVE' NUMBERS.

This may be suitable time to direct attention to Hamilton-Smith's second principle: "Numbers should be applied to cave entrances, rather than cave systems" (Hamilton-Smith, 1967), as it appears that some members are under the misapprehension that each number refers to a cave. Strictly, each number refers to an entrance but it may be (loosely) used to refer to a cave where the cave has only one known or commonly used entrance. In the case of multi-entrance caves it is possible to refer to the cave by giving two or more entrance numbers, e.g. Wa.2-5-6-29-30, the Stovepipe-Box-Oolite Cave.

It is not possible to allocate numbers in any sort of set geographical pattern. The only ordered system which would seem to be both workable and desirable would be to allocate numbers in accordance with the chronological order in which the caves of an area were discovered or, at least, recorded. We recommend this be done wherever possible.

The question sometimes arises as to how far one should go in allocating numbers if a cave has very many entrances. Ideally, every hole leading into a cave should be numbered but this could lead to ridiculous situations at, for example, Chillagoe, where a cave may have upwards of fifteen daylight holes - should every one of these be numbered?

INSTALLATION OF CAVE NUMBERS.

Cave numbers were originally chipped into the rock face near the entrance (Rose, 1964) and in some instances painted in yellow paint. These methods have now been replaced by the use of metal tags (stainless steel, brass or aluminium). Technical details of one method were given by Halbert (1968).

It would seem advisable to have a standard set of guidelines for the location of number tags. This would facilitate both the task of the person installing the tags and, more importantly, subsequent efforts by others to find them. Any such guidelines will, of course, have some inadequacies in practice but should cover most cases.

The following guidelines are tentatively proposed for the placing of numbered tags at cave entrances. Tags should be placed:

- (1) Where the entrance is in a vertical face, preferably
 - (a) in the centre at the top or, if this is out of reach or for some other reason is unsuitable
 - (b) on the right hand side, no further than five feet above the floor or, if this is not practicable
 - (c) on the left hand side, no further than five feet above the floor or, if this is also impracticable
 - (d) in the 'most suitable place'.

- (2) Where the entrance is in a horizontal surface,
 - (a) if the hole has an easiest or most obvious entrance side
 - (i) at a point in the centre of the opposite side or, if that is not suitable
 - (ii) at a point immediately to the right of the most obvious entry point or, if unsuitable
 - (iii) at a point immediately to the left of the most obvious entry point.
 - (b) if there is no 'easiest or most obvious entry side',
 - (i) at a point on the northern side of the hole, or, failing this,
 - (ii) at a point on the eastern side of the hole, or, failing this,
 - (iii) at a point on the western side of the hole, or, failing even this,
 - (iv) at a point on the southern side of the hole.
- (3) Where the entrance is in a face which is neither vertical nor horizontal, or for some other reason cannot be placed in any of the above categories, in a place where it should be evident to any person looking for it.
- (4) At the true entrance, i.e. the point where the hole breaks the outer line of the rock face or rubble pile and in no case beyond the normal reach of daylight. The tag should be visible to a person standing outside the cave

The above is merely a proposal at this stage; some people may consider it totally unnecessary, some may not like the way we have tried to categorise entrances, some may not like the sites we have chosen or the priority which we given them, etc. The matter is open for discussion and the authors would be pleased to hear from any person having any comments or suggestions - but please put them in writing.

IMPLEMENTATION.

In order that this matter be formally discussed, the authors propose to have the above (with such amendments as may be thought desirable in the meantime) submitted to a future meeting of the ASFNSW Co-ordination Committee.

So that our submissions may represent as wide a cross-section of opinion as possible we would be pleased to hear from any persons (especially members of other societies) who have special knowledge of any of the areas involved or omitted or have ideas on any of the problems raised or have any other suggestions regarding the system or any part of it.

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For Those Who Like Figures

No! I mean numbers you clot!

It was reported in May 1967 that there was evidence that the Provetina Cave, near Mt. Astraka in NW. Greece is 4500' deep. On June 23rd. 1968 a team from the British Parachute Regt. descended 1,300' to the bottom of the first vertical pitch, the longest in the world.

The deepest cave penetration yet made is 3,779' in Gouffre de la St. Martin in the Pyrenees in August 1966. However, on the 21st. August 1967, Ken Pearce (UK) when 3,736' down in Gouffre Berger sighted a further pitch which he estimated at least 50' deep, thus making the cave at least 3,786' deep.

The largest underground chamber is the Big Room of the Carlsbad Caverns (1,320' deep) in New Mexico, US of A. 4270' long, 328' high, 656' wide.

Mammoth Cave, Kentucky USA has 42 miles of mapped passageway. If linked with the Flint Ridge system (only a few hundred feet away) there may eventually prove to be about 150 miles of passage! The worlds longest surveyed cave is Holloch in Switzerland with a measured length of 48.7 miles.

The worlds largest ice cave is the Eisriesenwelt, Austria it has a length of 24.8 miles

The longest known free hanging stalactite is in Poll an Ionain Cave, Ireland, and is 38' long.

The worlds tallest stalagmite is in the Aven Armand Cave in France, it is 98' high.

The worlds shortest numbered cave is the Giant's Tooth at Wee Jasper, total length of surveyed passage is 3.52'. This cave is also the worlds shallowest.*

All above records were obtained from the Guinness Book of Records 1969 Edition except for the one marked *

The Editor and staff of the NUCC publication Speleograffiti were surprised and saddened to learn that fellow member Big Jim Coitus (known in concentric circles as Jay Cee) has seen fit to replace his well known A60 with another reliable product of British know-how and advanced technology, that ubiquitous Miniature Miner. Never again will that chain wire fence grille and that steelwool and oilcan muffler and that tincan heater grace University Avenue. Jim we salute you, and wish you many weeks of trouble free motoring. who the hell did you get rid of the A60. to? Did they actually pay money for it?

Report from the past, compiled by K. Palmer.

In the year 1902, prominent Yass citizen and amateur scientist Mr. A. J. Shearsby, conducted a trip to the Wee Jasper caves. The party visited what is now known as Carey's Cave, and also others to the north of the township. They then continued to the south and examined what is now the Punchbowl - Signature cave system. The report is quite extensive and was published over a series of weeks in the local paper, the now defunct Yass Tribune. It is my intention to present the report in Speleograffiti as a continuing series spread over several issues, this will allow readers to see what caving was like at the turn of the century. The report proper begins with the arrival of the party at the Wee Jasper bridge:

"The road crosses the river at the foot of the hill by a very substantial bridge, and continues on it's way to Tumut. We now leave the main road as the caves we intend to visit are lower down the valley. Turning to our right, we pass the Police Barracks and follow the track which runs through a rich looking flat, on which many cattle are to be seen peacefully grazing. Through sundry gates, into rougher country where blocks of limestone scored with grikes, are to be found jutting up in all directions. All around us in this part, are to be seen the effects of the bush fires which swept through last summer. In many places the hard limestone was subjected to such intense heat that it has been turned to lime. The country here seems to be honeycombed with caves, which would no doubt open out well if properly investigated. When about three miles from the bridge the track turns to the left and it is time we had our torches or candles ready to light us into the dark places of the earth. On the side of a little rise consisting of a regular jumble (sic) of limestone masses, an opening is found, roughly speaking four or five feet in diameter - not too inviting to the beginner, as all is dark and quiet beyond. Into it we must go, however

for after our long journey we want to see the sights. Lighting our candles, a start is made by crawling through an awkward hole which takes us down below into a cave, which, when well lighted up, especially with a magnesium lamp, in itself almost repays the visitors for the trouble of the journey. Hanging from the roof are some exquisite stalactites which sparkle in the rays of light thrown on them, while directly in front is a very large stalagmite which has struggled for many years to reach the roof of the cave. In fact thousands of years would not be going too far in estimating the age of it, when comparing it with examples of the rate of growth quoted in the last notes, (previous article) for this stalagmite is about eight feet high and three feet in diameter, and carved and sculptured as only nature can design and execute such work. Behind it hangs a large stalactite, and adjoining it is what might be termed a petrified waterfall.

Leaving this chamber are several passages, each of which leads to fresh wonders. At times we enter large and lofty places reminding one of Aladdin's jewel cave, and often we find ourselves crawling along low narrow tunnels all of which were once the channels of the underground rivers. Hour after hour can be spent in walking about in these caves, enjoying the variety of natural decorations.

In one chamber, festoons of shawl like drapery hang in artistic folds, and when the magnesium light is thrown on, they sparkle as though covered with diamonds. Many of these shawls are ribbed with different colours similar to an artificial shawl, and some of them - the thin ones - show the coloured stripes very strongly, when a light is placed behind them. These shawls are caused by the water charged with limestone, evaporating as it runs or trickles down the sloping roof of the cave, and depositing the material along its route. At times the water besides taking up carbonate of lime, will also be charged with iron or some other mineral, so that the deposits of lime will be stained, hence the

regular bands of various colours. Turning from the snawls we find in another chamber, a large formation which cannot be compared to anything but a petrified waterfall. Much larger than the one noticed near the entrance, it falls from a good height in gracefull falls of a dazzling whiteness. Here is the result of a large stream of mineral water, which flowing through some crevice, has been compelled to form a lasting monument of its past activity.

(To be continued and

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and continued

CUTOUT CUTOUT CUTOUT CUTOUT CUTOUT CUTUOT DCTUOT TUTUOC KFTWOU

Following last issue's highly successful cut out squeeze we present for the very first time in the Southern Hemisphere your very own and also free cutout FORMATION! Yes it's true just turn the page for (1) Giant straw, yes almost 30" long.

(2) Funny looking stalactites.

(3) Run o'the mill Helectite.

(4) Adjustable length, cracked, column.

(5) Incredible, dried out rimstone pool.

(6) Huge, jumbo size, Dogtooth Spar xtal.

All you require to complete your FORMATION are some sizzers, paste crayons and intelligence.

A Few Handy Hints; If you require your formation to look realistic, the suggested colour scheme should be followed.

Soaking the FORMATION in water adds that special "fresh from the cave" look, with luck it may drip.

For that ultra-realistic effect, which will really turn your friends green with envy (who's she) break some of the FORMATION and even sign your name on it.

A LEAF FROM THE 'BOOK ACCORDING TO NOEL'

Reprint from the CHELSEA SPELEO SOCIETY Newsletter, Vol. 11, No. 3.

"To that inevitable question '...But how do you see down there?' the weary answer comes immediately 'We have lights you know'. And to the less frequent question, 'What if they fail?', we shrug and reply, 'Well we carry spares...'.
 ...

All very neat, but is it strictly honest? In many cases in our own club - and nearly every other, as far as I can see - it is far from the truth. Sure, we all carry our own Nife cells or carbide lamps, but those spares now....

All cavers start their chosen sport in a sometimes fairly long spurt of ultra-enthusiasm as far as equipment is concerned. We fall dull-mouthed out of our bunks on Saturday morning, we the old hands, and gaze open-mouthed at the all new positively sparkling oujee and his equipment. Boots, pristine black, a glorious sheen on their midnight hour - Mars oiled leather sides; helmet polished and adjusted to a thou' or two around the strap; carbide lamp (we don't tell them about Nifes until we consider them 'in' do we?) trimmed, pricked, polished, caulked, insured and god knows what else.

We look, smile wryly and nod approvingly as we clamber into our rotten gear, glue helmet, boots, socks, and kick our lights into working order. Then the Oujee, watching those about him in awe, and wondering whether he is just conspicuous or bloody conspicuous - furtively slips a packet out of his rucsac. He slips it quickly into his boiler suit pocket.

'Grub/fags?' you enquire, depending on your subterranean appetite.

'Er, spare lighting actually, er...' he murmurs.

Then it clicks in your mind, your stomach churns uneasily as you remember that old phrase 'spare lighting'. You remember your own early days when you would rather have caved minus a leg than without spare lighting. You remember the successful trip after trip after trip after trip after trip when you didn't need spare lighting. In all likelihood you remember every damned trip and you didn't need spare lighting. You remember the gradual easing off; the forgetting it, remembering it twelve yards along the tram-road, the deciding to leave it. The getting away with it.

Then there are the few; the unlucky ones. The ones fate kicked in the teeth by de-lighting them, not in the early days when you bristle with candles, carbides, torches and matches, but when you are hard and experienced and know taht your light never gives out. Just at that awkward moment - always.

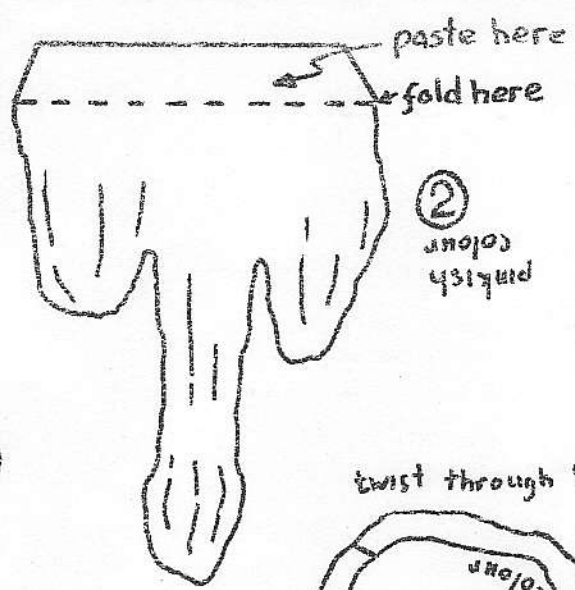
Sure you get round it. You twist and turn to share your light equally between you feet and the delighted blokes in front. In a moderate cave, not much sweat. But find yourself without a spare light in a tough pot, and your nervous question to your mates being met with blank looks. They'd all just love to lend you their own main light, but let's wait until we've climbed all the awkward pitches eh?

But then maybe you find ultra appeal in the prospect of a 150' ladder pitch, the lifeline gaily threading through the ladder at 120', and the step off being the worst b~~egg~~er in Yorkshire - all without a light.

We streamline ourselves these days; we polish our wet suits to cut down air resistance, carve our fibreglass helmets into aerodynamically perfect shapes. All great stuff, but we still need a fair whack of that shining white stuff when it comes to the problems. Light - it's habit forming, and unhealthy to be without for long periods underground.

Bruce L. Bedford. (C.S.S.)

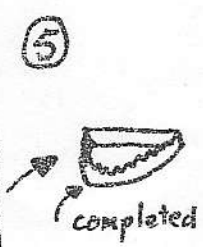
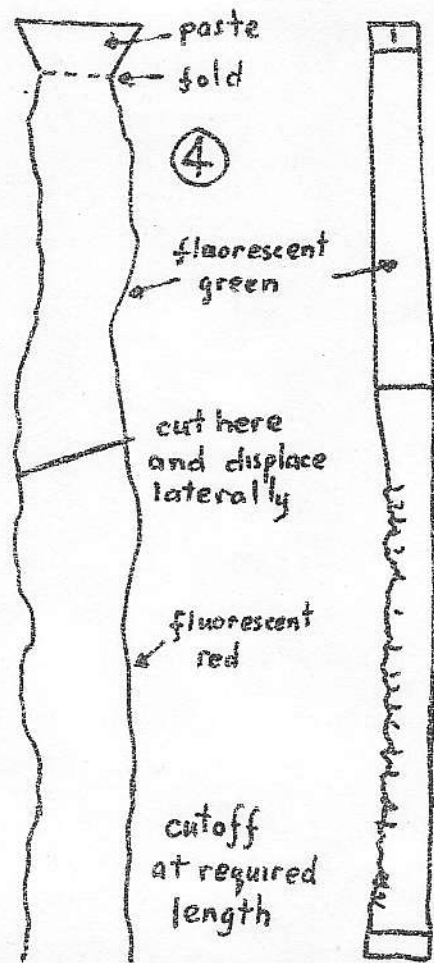
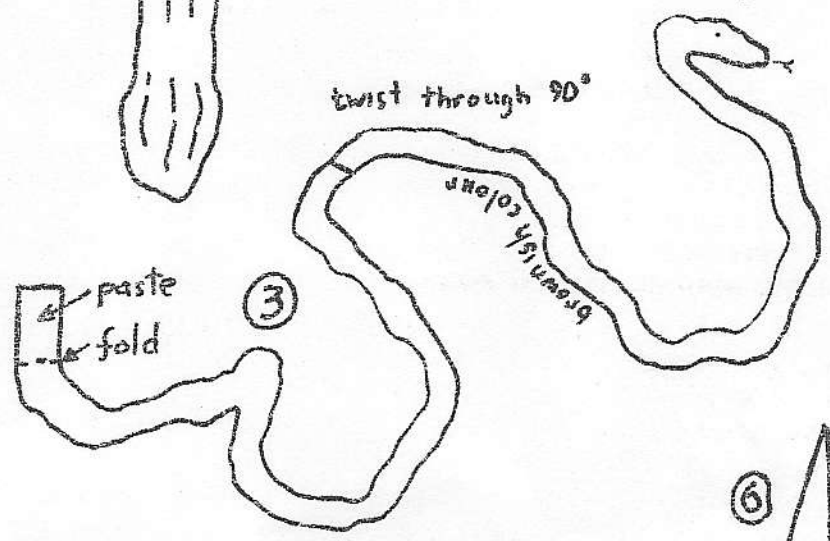
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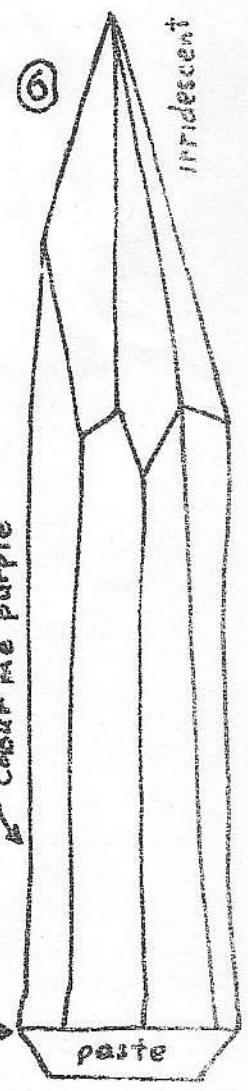
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FREE CUTOUT FORMATION

Follow instructions carefully.



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JOIN THE COLONG SHAREHOLDERS CLUB.

The strength of shareholder power will continue to grow. Next year our goal will be at least 1000 Colong Shareholders in Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Australia) Limited.

If you are a shareholder encourage your friends to obtain one through the Colong Committee.

If you belong to a club or society, put the attached form in the club or society newsletter. Everyone who knows about Colong must be given the opportunity to become a shareholder.

If you aren't a shareholder yet, now is the time to become one.

Fill out the form below and send the Colong Committee three dollars (\$3.00). We will then send you a share transfer form, they will be transferred from David Eden who holds a parcel of shares on behalf of the Colong Committee, you must sign the transfer sign and return it in order to receive a share.

BENEFITS.

The benefits of becoming a shareholder in one of Sydney's unpopular companies are many. You will make 6 cents per year on your investment, consisting of two 3 cent cheques per year. You will receive a one-share Share Certificate, which will probably become a collectors item in the future. You will be invited to the shareholders' meeting every year - this is an enlightening experience for all. You will receive a free subscription to the Colong Bulletin and continue to be informed of the latest happenings. And most of all you will be participating in a form of conservation protest unprecedented in Australia.

ORDER FORM.

For a three dollar (\$3.00) donation to the Colong Committee I will receive ONE free share in ASSOCIATED PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURERS (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED plus a free subscription to the Colong Bulletin. (N.B. APCM. shares are listed on the Sydney Stock Exchange).

FULL SURNAME

For registration purposes.....

FULL CHRISTIAN NAMES.....

PERMANENT ADDRESS.....

I have enclosed a cheque for _____ dollars in order to obtain _____ share(s) in A.P.C. (A).

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE COLONG COMMITTEE.

SEND TO; The Colong Committee, c/o Mrs. M. Eden,

22 Fairmount St.,

DULWICH HILL, N.S.W., 2203.

