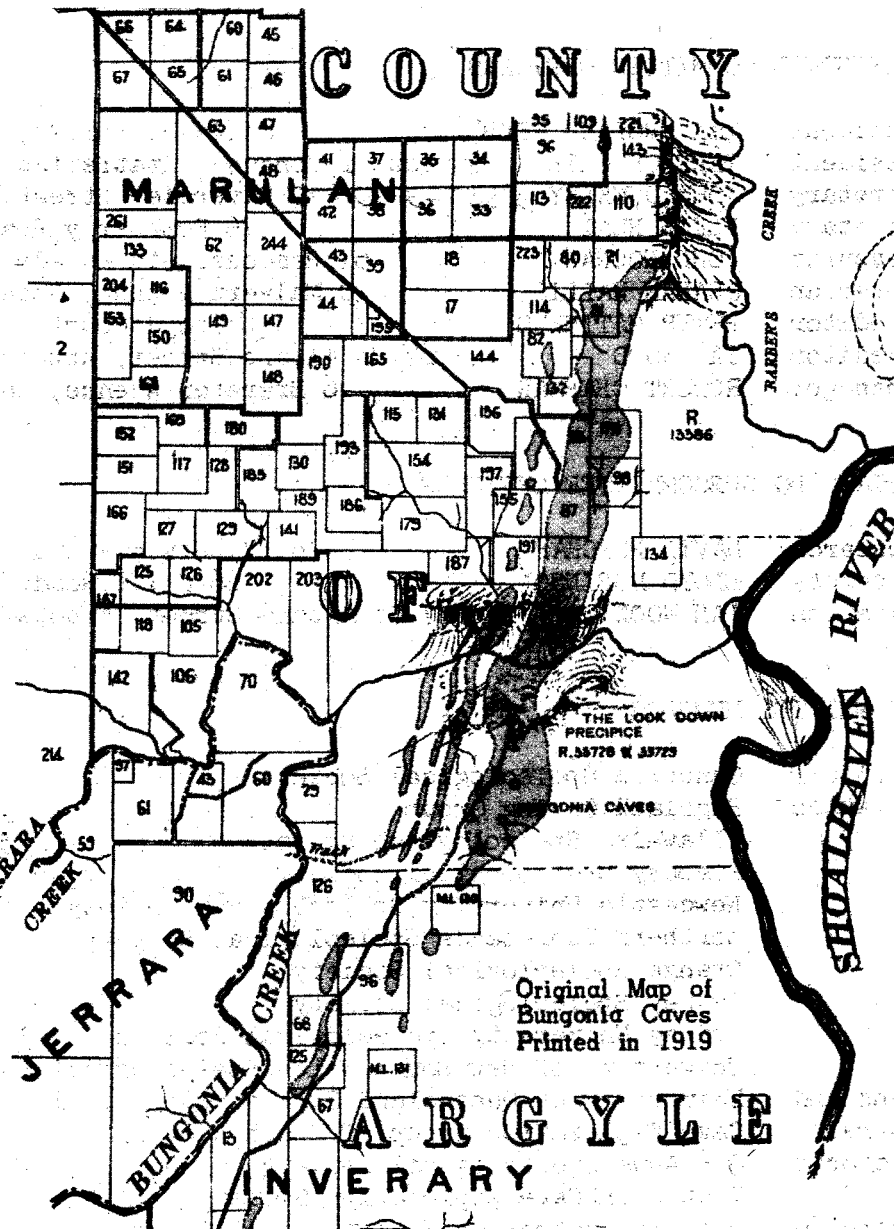


**ASF**

**AUSTRALIAN  
SPELEOLOGICAL  
FEDERATION**

**NUMBER 32  
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# NEWSLETTER



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# ASF NEWSLETTER

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# AS F      N E W S L E T T E R

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THE APRIL ISSUE OF A SOCIETIES NEWSLETTER CONTAINED AN ATTACK UPON ANOTHER SOCIETY.

WHILST THIS SAME SOCIETY HAS IN THE PAST, RECEIVED CRITICISM FOR SIMILAR ACTIVITIES, THIS ATTACK HAS BEEN PROVEN TO BE GENERALLY UNWARRANTED AND OVERSTATED.

THE NEED TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE, UNBIASED PROOF BEFORE ISSUING SUCH A DENUNCIATION IS OBVIOUS, HOWEVER THE FAULT MOST LIKELY DOES NOT LIE WITH THE EDITOR OF THE PUBLICATION BUT WITH HIS INFORMANTS WHO NO DOUBT ALLOWED THEIR STATEMENTS TO BE COLOURED BY THEIR INDIGNATION.

LET US NOT DWELL UPON THE ACTUAL EDITORIAL ITSELF, BUT UPON THE METHOD OF PRESENTATION. USE OF THE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VEHICLE TO BROADCAST TO THE SPELEOLOGICAL WORLD THE APPARENT WAYWARDNESS OF THEIR FELLOW SPELEOS IS SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE ANALYSIS. IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO READ INTO AN EDITORIAL OF THIS NATURE MOTIVES QUITE CONTRARY TO THOSE STATED. CONSEQUENTLY SUCH INDIGNANT OUTBURSTS ARE LEFT OPEN TO COUNTER ATTACK.

TWO STANDARD PROCEDURES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE INSTIGATORS OF SUCH STATEMENTS AS HAVE BEEN MADE. THE FIRST CHOICE IS A DIRECT APPROACH TO THE RELEVANT SOCIETY'S COMMITTEE. SHOULD SATISFACTION NOT BE ACHIEVED THEN A FURTHER AVENUE EXISTS: AN APPROACH TO THE FEDERATION'S CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE.

THIS FAILURE TO ADOPT EITHER OF THESE APPROACHES LEAVES THEIR EDITORIAL DENUNCIATION OPEN TO CRITICISM AND ALLOWS AN AIR OF SENSATIONALISM TO SURROUND WHAT WAS MOST LIKELY A GENUINE FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY.

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#### NOTICES

##### A.S.F. CONFERENCE 1966-67

Preliminary details are to hand on the 1966-67 conference. The Conference will be held at Mirboo North, in the mountains of Central Gippsland about 25 miles north of Yallourn, Victoria.

Two field trips will be associated with the conference. The first for one weeks duration in an almost completely unexplored region of limestone near the headwater of the Murray River in N.S.W. The second will be held at Buchan Caves, Victoria, and will continue for two weeks duration.

Full details are available in the supplement to this Newsletter.

##### A.S.F. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

An application to rejoin the Federation has been received from the Tasmanian Caverneering Club and will be discussed at the next Conference.

A Christmas expedition is being organised by T.C.C. to the West Coast of Tasmania and an invitation has been extended to A.S.F. members.

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

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## N.S.W. CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the N.S.W. Co - ordination Standing Committee was held at Bondi, N.S.W. on Saturday, 2nd April 1966.

The convener, Ian Wood, opened the meeting at 10.50 a.m. Societies represented were H.C.G.; I.S.S.; S.S.S.; S.U.S.S. and U.N.S.W.S.S. Voting procedure had been received from O.S.S. Observers were present from I.S.S.; S.S.S. and S.U.S.S.

Items on the agenda.

The I.S.S. delegate spoke of his society's plans regarding the projected Search and Rescue Weekend at Bungonia. Considerable discussion ensued, the advantages and otherwise of inviting Sgt. Tyson of the Police Rescue Squad, and of co-operation with the police department in general being argued at length.

Discussion then took place as to whether a gate might not be better, or should at least be tried, on the Signature - Punchbowl Caves connection at Wee Jasper. As delegates had obviously strict instructions from their societies, a vote was taken. A 3/2 majority voted in favour of the complete blockage.

More rigid terms of reference for the operation of the co - ordination committee were then discussed. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the problem of dissemination of knowledge and the co - ordination of activities between societies. A motion was carried that the editor of the A.S.F. Newsletter be requested to publish a resume of past and present caving programmes of N.S.W. Societies. This should take the form of a separate sheet in the Newsletter.

Discussion continued on whether the meeting should attempt to draw up terms of reference for the Co - ordinating Committee. It was agreed that inter - society relations at the moment were such that many of the problems which were designed to be solved by the S.U.S.S. proposals are now being worked out by liaison between members of the various societies. If each society had one such person for each major caving area it visited, who could at least be fully conversant with the work of that society in that area, and if possible work of other societies as well, there should be considerably less duplication of effort.

A member of H.C.G. had apparently been refused permission to visit Jenolan on S.S.S. and S.U.S.S. areas. The facts appeared to be a little confused and distorted. The problem of increasing pressures on the Tourist Bureau was then brought up. It was pointed out that when joining A.S.F., H.C.G. had agreed not to ask for permits to visit Jenolan and similar areas. H.C.G. affirmed that at this stage it did not have any such plans in mind, but mentioned that one of the advantages which the Blue Mountains S.S. saw to amalgamating with H.C.G. was that they could then visit Jenolan legally, and there was the possibility of a form of blackmail being used if B.M.S.S. agreed to amalgamate with H.C.G. The problem was unresolved but as H.C.G. have no immediate plans to visit areas such as Jenolan, there was no real cause for alarm at this stage.

The convener closed the meeting at 6.00 p.m.

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CONSERVATION ACTION

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## NEW SOUTH WALES

## Wyanbene.

Canberra Speleological Society dismantled two ladders in the cave, one at the entrance and one well into the cave. Two weeks later both had been re-erected, even though the innermost ladder had been sawn in two. Canberra now propose to cut the ladders into easily handled lengths and remove them from the cave entirely. It is to be noted that considerable vandalism took place during this short period, names being placed on the walls with candle soot and considerable clothing dumped. (See Canberra S.S. reports)

## Wee Jasper.

At the April meeting of the N.S.W. Co-ordination Committee, delegated confirmed the opinion that the Signature - Punchbowl Cave connection should be sealed with concrete. An appeal had been lodged by U.N.S.W.S.S. suggesting that gating be tried before a permanent seal be used.

## Wombeyan.

Peter Weaire of Lidcombe did not appear in Goulburn Court of Petty Sessions yesterday to answer a charge of having defaced Wombeyan Caves by writing on the walls.

It was stated that two sets of initials had been scratched on the walls, which were permanently defaced.

The defendant was described as a young man dressed in "yellow shirt, black trousers, with long hair." A \$10. fine was imposed.

Mr. R. J. Wingett, S.M., was on the bench.

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

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## A REQUEST

Mr. Reg. Watt of Wyanbene Station has died recently. He is well remembered by many Speleologists and Cavers who have visited the Wyanbene Cave over a period of years.

Relatives of Mr. Watt have inquired whether any member of the Federation possesses a photograph of Mr. Watt.

Any member with such a photograph could contact the Editor so that reproduction arrangements could be made.

## BUNGONIA CAVES, N.S.W.

### Early History of the Bungonia Caves.

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From the Goulburn Evening Post  
May 11, 1966

Bungonia Caves, N.S.W. are situated 22 miles from the town of Goulburn and once were opened as Tourist Caves. They were closed early in the Century.

### HISTORY

According to an eight-page illustrated booklet prepared by C. Trickett, L.S., M.S., published in 1906: "The Bungonia Caves appear to have been discovered many years ago, for there is a tradition that an early French settler named Huon was lost in them.

They occur on the south side of the Bungonia Creek, about a mile west of its junction with the Shoalhaven River, in a limestone plateau, having an elevation nearly equal to that of Marulan (2,000 feet).

"The limestone reaches a width of a mile, and extends from a point four miles south-east of the Marulan railway station for eight miles in a southerly direction.

The surface of the limestone plateau is drained by a series of short watercourses, terminating in sink-holes, which here and there form perpendicular shafts of considerable depth, and in other cases open out into caves.

The drainage waters ultimately find their way through limestone over 1,000 feet thick to the Shoalhaven River, but before long, foul air is met and prevents the caves from being followed for more than a limited distance.

Owing to the large area covered by the limestone, and its great thickness, it is not unlikely that important caves may be found in the future. At present, only two are known which have any special interest. They are the Bungonia and Drum Caves.

### EARLY ACCOUNT

Soon after William Shelley discovered the caves a Sydney newspaper gave an account of his experience.

The report read: "In Argyle, 120 miles from Sydney and three or four from the Shoalhaven, there is a curious cavern of unknown depth and abounding with icicle petrifications.

Although it has long excited the curiosity of people travelling in that quarter, no person had undertaken the laborious task of exploring it until Mr. William Shelley, the eldest son of Mrs. Shelley, of Parramatta, lately ventured to pry into its 'depth profound'.

He went down about 120 feet and would have gone further had the rope by which he descended been long enough to admit it.

He describes the appearances as gloomy and awful in the extreme, abounding with stupendous crags from which the petrified icicles descended into a thousand romantic forms.

When he entered its mouth, the cold was so intense that the ground was covered with hoar frost, and at the deepest point he reached, the heat was scarcely supportable.

From a depth of 140 feet, he brought up several petrifications ... The least reward he is entitled to is that the place should be named "Shelley's Cavern."

#### OPENING

Although Shelley discovered the caves in 1829, they were not opened as a tourist attraction until 1839.

During that time, however, periodic expeditions were made into the caves.

A second account was given of Shelley's descent twenty years after by the Rev. James Hassall who was Rector of Bungonia in the fifties.

In his story, Mr. Hassall said Shelley made the descent with his brother and several settlers whose homesteads were within several miles.

They apparently made the exploration on a Sunday and on return, spoke of nothing but fear.

It read: "When they entered the cave and descended a considerable distance, they found themselves on a narrow ledge, with a perpendicular rock on one side and an abyss on the other.

"Then the bats, always numerous in such cases, put out their candles.

"The man who carried the flint and steel tried to strike a light but - being nervous, no doubt as he might very well be - dropped the steel.

"After groping for it, one after another, in vain, the party came to the conclusion that it had dropped over the edge into the depths, and as the string, too, had slipped over some rocks and was gone, their position was a serious one.

"It would hardly be possible for them to find their way back to the entrance, and they dare not go on.

"No one knew where they had gone. It might be long before their horses were found outside the cave.

"Even then, who would suppose that they had entered a small hole not more than two or three feet in diameter."



## PRAYERS

One of them said that judgment had fallen on them for their Sabbath breaking. Others began praying for their deliverance.

"It may be that their prayers were answered, for in a further search, the previous steel was found, an inch from the edge of the precipice; they struck a light and got out safely, never to return again."

## MARBLE

In 1833, a specimen of marble from the caves was taken to Sydney and it was said that it "bid fair to supersede the necessity of importing this article in future from the mother country."

Apparently limestone and marble from the area was taken to Sydney for building.

According to the Royal Australian Historical Society's records the discovery of "extensive caves near a place known as the Look Down, Bungonia," did the caves become known again.

The society's report stated: "The existence of the caves had been suspected: a party went to look for them, and went in for a distance of 150 feet."

W. Anderson, of the Department of Mines and Agriculture, as it was known then, was requested by the Government to make a report on them.

## PUBLIC INSPECTIONS

He did so and recommended that the Government should make the necessary improvements to enable the public to inspect them "and to make a charge for the privilege."

The necessary improvements were made and a caretaker appointed.

The caretaker, a Mr. Louis Guymer, made several important cave discoveries during his term there.

The Government published a booklet "The Bungonia Caves", and advertised the magnificent scenery from several vantage points, "splendid shooting in Marulan and Bungonia district, and near the caves, and the Bungonia Natural Mineral Spring.

## CHARGES

Charges for inspection were 2/6 for one visitor conducted on inspection, 1/3 each for three visitors, 8d each for four visitors and 6d each for five and over.

Candles were 6d. per day or 3d. per inspection for each person. Times for inspection were between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Features of the Bungonia Cave were the "Crystal Palace", "The Dwarf's Temple and "The Hermit's Cave".

The booklet describes it: "The entrance to this cave is at the bottom of a somewhat extensive depression. From thence, the descent is rapid in a southerly direction.

"The passage then turns sharply to the right, and may be followed north-erly for a very long distance, lateral cavities exist which contain some beautiful diminutive white stalactites".

The other main cave, the "Drum Cave", received its name because a stal-actite in it sounded like a drum when struck.

In this cave, there was said to be a pit 150 feet deep which was never explored owing to its great depth.

The two main features of the "Drum Cave" are the Cyprus and Chalk caves.

The Bungonia Natural Mineral Spring was an added attraction in the area.

The booklet says: "A natural spring of mineral water is situated at Bungonia Creek about one and a half miles west of the township, the water having an agreeable taste, and being charged with carbonic acid gas.

"It promotes the appetite and assists digestion."

"As an aerated table-water, the Bungonia spring is excellent".

#### ATTENDANCES

An old Department of Mines report listed the attendance figures for some of the years.

In 1889, the first year of the caves as a tourist attraction, 248 people visited the caves.

The worst year was in 1892 when 95 tourists visited the area.

The years 1900 and 1903 were the most profitable, 656 and 397 tourists, respectively, inspecting the caves.

The lookouts in the area - Look Down, Cardinal View, Rocky Point and Coo-eeing Point - are still open to tourists, many of whom visit there each year.

Appreciation goes to Mr. Frank Lowe of Goulburn who provided much of the material used in this article.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE

BUNGONIA N.S.W.

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by L. Robinson  
Illawarra Speleological Society.

The New South Wales Search and Rescue Committee held its second practice at Bungonia Caves over the weekend 30th April-1st May 1966, this being the same place as its initial practice as described in A.S.F. Newsletter No. 29 September 1965.

Some 40 members of six societies were present; there being C.S.S, H.C.G, I.S.S., M.S.S\*, S.S.S, U.N.S.W.S.S. and Illawarra Speleological Society was the organising society.

## DETAILS

The information presented to the searchers was that a party of two men and a woman, prospective members of I.S.S., had been reported missing by their parents. They had been on an official I.S.S. trip and had become tired of the projects in the Grill, Drum and B 31 caves. Having an extra day's holiday more than the rest of the party, they decided to explore caves on their own. One member of the lost party had with him some lengths of cable ladder and a rope. When the party failed to arrive home by Tuesday morning the Trip Leader was contacted. Immediately I.S.S. members went to Bungonia and subsequently called on other Societies to assist in the search. For the purpose of this exercise it was assumed that the lost party were in a cave on the South side of Bungonia Creek; the main caving area. The Search Coordinators had no idea where the "lost" party was hidden.

## The SEARCH

By 9.00 a.m. Saturday enough people had arrived to set the search under way. One of Sydney Speleological Society's topographical maps showing most of the known caves and dolines was used to mark off the caves as they were searched. Parties of 5 to 8 under a trip Leader were delegated 2 or 3 caves to search. Records were kept of all searchers and of the caves the various parties were delegated. As no radio equipment was available till the afternoon each party up till the arrival of same had to return to base on completion of searching their allotted caves to receive further instructions.

Control base was set up at the Eastern end of the known caves and the search commenced from there. Later base was moved to the Adam's Lookout turnoff. Some confusion occurred in the B 4 - 5 complex, mainly due to searchers not being familiar with this cave system. By dusk the whole area had been covered including caves such as the Mass, Chalk, Efflux and caves West of the Reserve gate without the missing group being found.

A quick meal was taken between 7 and 8 p.m. Two parties set out to search sections of caves they thought might have been overlooked. Due to

\* M.S.S. Metropolitan Speleological Society.

the relatively small number of searchers, the search area was reduced. A number of searchers formed a line abreast moving through the area and examining all caves found. The lost party was finally located in a cave approximately 1/4 mile West of the Reserve gate near Newbolts quarry.

It was discovered that the female member of the "lost" party was a life size dummy, weighing 10 stone and suffering from a broken leg and internal injuries. No time was lost in making up a stretcher out of materials available on the site, tested, then taken in to where the injured person lay. With the use of a number of belts and ropes the "patient" was strapped to the stretcher and amid the popping of the infernal press flashbulbs the ascent began. This involved some difficulties as there are three 12 to 15 foot pitches in this cave, as well as rough going both inside and outside the cave. In all it took 50 minutes from the time of discovery to recover the "patient" and return to camp.

#### Points of Interest

The difficulty involved in keeping contact between searching parties and co-ordinator before the arrival of the two way radios.

The need for one person in each party to be familiar with the area to avoid the trouble one party had in locating its allotted caves.

One party passed close by the cave the lost party was in without finding it. The sink of this cave is about the size of the Grill Cave sink and could easily be mistaken for a gully leading to the Bungonia Creek.

There was a very poor response from 25 or more cavers when first aid was called for. Only one came forward, a prospective at that!

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#### ABSTRACTS AND REVIEWS

Mulvaney, D.J. and Joyce, E.B. (1965) Archeological and geomorphological investigations on Mt. Moffat Station, Queensland, Australia. Proc. Prehist. Soc., 31 : 147-212. Pls. XX11-XXX1.

A detailed description of work in several caves where aboriginal artifacts have been recovered from cave fill spanning a period of 16,000 years. The major speleological interest lies in the cave descriptions themselves, the Kenniff Cave comprises 300 feet of passage, excavated in sandstone by a quartzite capping. Other caves described are smaller, but again due to a similar pattern of erosion. These are the most extensive examples pseudo-karst described in Australia.

Ollier, C.D. Brown, M.C. (1965) Lava Caves of Victoria. Bulletin Volcanologique, 28 : 1-15, pls. I-IV.

This paper describes in detail the features of a number of Victorian Lava Caves, and postulates a two-stage theory to explain the origin of such caves.

## RECENT CAVE DISCOVERIES ON THE NULLARBOR:

## ON THE NULLARBOR PLAIN:--

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by D.C. Lowry. M.Sc.  
Geological Survey of W.A.

In the A.S.F. Newsletter, No.29 September 1965, Mr. B. T. Pratt recorded a new deep cave near Cocklebidy and identified it as the doline plotted with co-ordinates C21.5/3.75 by Mr. J. N. Jennings. (Research School of Pacific Studies A.N.U. ) This identification is incorrect; the entrance to this cave ( Grid Reference Burnabbie 419039. ) lies about 400 yards to the north-northwest of the doline plotted by Jennings. Mr. John Carlisle, who guided B. T. Pratt and R. Chapman to the cave, later informed D. C. Lowry that the plain surrounding the cave was known as Pannikin Plain. Hence the name "Pannikin Plain Cave" is proposed and the number N49 has been allotted. A simple survey of the cave has been carried out by Miss J. Hos and D. C. Lowry.

Mr. J. Carlisle also informed Messrs. Crowle and Lowry of a deep cave with a small entrance  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Cocklebidy Cave. The cave (N50) reached a depth of about 250 feet below the surface.

Another recently examined deep cave lies north of the Trans Continental Railway. It was first descended in 1962, and was explored and surveyed by Crowle and Lowry in December 1965. The cave has not been plotted on any previous map - the nearby dolines shown by Jennings and the 1:250,000 National Mapping Sheet are all shallow. The deep cave has an inconspicuous doline at Grid Reference Loongana 440195. It has a 100 foot entrance pitch and reaches a depth of approximately 285 feet below the surface. Although Nurina is the nearest siding, the cave is generally referred to as " The Haig Cave " and is designated N55.

A cave 4 miles west of Moonera Tanks ( plotted by J. Jennings as Madura 8/5107 A1.0/0.0 ) has been explored by Crowle who reached a lake at a depth of about 200 feet. The shallow depth of the lake beneath the surface, its low salinity ( 4,800 ppm. ), and its small size suggest it is likely to be perched about the water table. The number N53 has been allotted.

Several other dolines plotted by Jennings on the Madura Sheet were investigated by Crowle and Lowry in December 1965. They are at 5/5259 B0.03/3.07, 5/5261 A1.28/1.03, 6/5752 A3.4/3.9 and C1.35/1.17, 6/5750 C2.25/1.08, 7/5063 D0.12/0.57, and 8/5107 A1.08/0.16.

## ERRATA:

Line 3 above to read "Co-ordinates 1/5420 C 2.15/3.75

## WATER TRACING AT

## YARRANGOBILLY. N.S.W.

---

by J. N. Jennings and N. Anderson  
Canberra Speleological Society

A group of watersinks at the northern end of the Limestone plateau at Yarrangobilly has long been thought to feed Coppermine Cave ( Y12 ), an active outflow cave near Yan's Crossing at Yarrangobilly River. Paul Rose has given published expression to this view ( Cave Science 5 ( 1964 ) . 203-216 ), but was careful to point out that the geology permitted other connections and suggested that tests should be carried out to verify the inferred underground links.

## ORGANISATION

A winter trip of a week's length planned by Canberra Speleological Society offered a favourable occasion for such a test and the creek flowing into the Bathhouse ( Y3 ) was selected for deliberate reasons. Of the group of sinks involved it is the most southerly with a reliable flow. If Y3 were proven to supply Coppermine, it could be reasonably inferred that all sinks to its north fed Coppermine also, whereas if a more northerly inflow were chosen, the same inference could not be made so strongly of supposed Coppermine feeders lying south of it.

## FLUORESCEIN

The party consisted of N. Anderson, G. Bryant, J.N. Jennings and P. Scott of C. S. S. and K. Fitchett of the Australian National University. Five pounds of fluorescein were placed in the stream outside Y3 entrance at 6 p.m. on 15 May, 1966. Flow was very small ( less than 0.1 cusec but no determination of discharge was made ). Colour was still going into the cave as late as 4.15 p.m. on 19 May, with a flow of much the same amount despite light rain on the following night and the water going in was no longer green by 7.20 a.m. on 20th, when the flow was somewhat larger.

## SURFACE INVESTIGATIONS

On the 16th some of the party walked up the Yarrangobilly River from the southern end to Coppermine, meeting no colour at all but finding a spring new to Canberra Speleological Society in the eastern bank, one quarter of a mile south of the junction of Deep Creek dry valley with the Yarrangobilly gorge. Subsequently Coppermine was visited about midday on the 17th, in the mornings and evenings of the 18th and 19th, all with negative results.

In view of this prolonged failure of colour to appear in Coppermine, it was thought advisable to revisit the new spring. Although the high ridge projecting into the limestone plateau from the highway north of Traverse Creek is of igneous rock and the Yarrangobilly to the west is running over the shales, which overlie the limestone, there is a continuous, if narrow, belt of limestone linking the northern area of limestone with the Deep Creek area. Moreover the north-south strike could lead Y8 water southwards along bedding planes to emerge at the spring. However when it was examined at 10.15 a.m. on the 20th, the spring was quite clear. But at 11.50 a.m. the same day, Coppermine Cave water remained uncoloured also.

Fortunately on the final visit possible on this trip, strongly coloured water was seen issuing from Coppermine Cave at noon on the 22nd. This positive result gives a time somewhere between 4 days 17 hours 50 minutes and 6 days 18 hours for the underground flow between Y8 entrance and Y12 outlet, 1,430 yards apart in a straight line and 360 feet vertically. This slow travel is due partly to the small volume of the stream and partly to percolation through one gravel choke for certain (at the bottom end of Y8) and probably several more.

#### CONCLUSION

Apart from providing this connection between Y3 and Y12, the test strengthens the inference that water flowing into Y9, Y10, Y40, Y36 and Y37 also resurges at Y12. Y17 to the south of Y8 has different relationships but there is also greater probability now that water entering intermittently there goes to Y12 also.

Nevertheless there is no certainty about the destination of the water entering these neighbouring sinks. In limestone such as that at Yarrangobilly, in which the permeability is not primary but along enlarged planes of weakness in the rock, underground watercourses can cross one another at different levels and neighbouring sinks can lead water in very different directions. Sooner or later these other sinks must be tested for themselves. Clearly smaller amounts of fluorescein can be employed than was done on this occasion, for all the streams involved are of similar small discharge in normal stage. The advantage of using the large amount on this trip was that by ensuring a long period of outflow of coloured water it increased the permissible interval between examinations of the outflow points and allowed the party to carry out other work more effectively during the period of the test. Of course, other methods, such as the use of activated charcoal or Rhodamine B and cotton detectors, would also permit this. There is advantage, however, in knowing within certain limits how long the underground flow has taken.

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#### SAFETY NOTES

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A report from the Highland Cave Group indicates that movement is occurring in the entrance chamber of the Grill Cave at Bungonia, N.S.W.

Over a period of six weeks a change in level of two inches has been recorded between the floor and ceiling, both of which appear to be in motion. Societies entering this cave should bear this situation in mind.

## C.E.G. (S.A.) EASTER

## NULLARBOR EXPEDITION

by T. Wigley  
for CEGSA Nullarbor Subcommittee

Ten C.E.G. (S.A.) members led by Alan Hill set out for a follow up trip to Mullahullang, Easter 1966. Four of the ten days were spent travelling, and the rest of the time was spent at Mullahullang. The party left with a number of projects in mind some of which had been commenced during the Christmas trip.

## PROJECTS

Surveying was the most important of these projects. A traverse was run from the surface (Plain level) to the first water (Oasis Valley) with emphasis on vertical control in order to determine the depth below the Plain of the water level. In conjunction with this an Aneroid traverse was made to the coast and back to estimate the height of the Plain level around Mullahullang's entrance above sea level. The water table was found to be approximately 390 feet below the Plain, confirming the figure given by Anderson ( 'Helictite', July 1964 ), and the Plain was about 410 feet above SEA LEVEL.

A number of other surface and underground surveying projects were also completed, including pin-pointing the position of the Camp One Blowhole. Credit for the exploration of this blowhole must be given to W.A.S.G. who were first to bottom it at 53 feet. There is no connection with the main system.

## DISCOVERIES

The highlight of the trip was the discovery and surveying of over a mile of new side passages comprising four new extensions. These were by no means fully explored. On the first day underground a small team went into the 'J.B. Maze' near Oasis Valley (this had been discovered on the last day of the Christmas trip). Some 700 feet of this section was mapped before the party left the section for lunch by a previously unnoticed wall hole north of Oasis Valley. A large hole was noticed in the opposite wall so the party decided to leave further exploration of the J. B. Maze and follow this apparently more promising lead. During the next few hours they penetrated this section ( the 'Easter Extension' ) for over 1,000 feet before turning back.

Over the following days about 4,300 feet of the Easter extension was surveyed. The section branched into two main tunnels of which the left hand branch appeared the more promising. This led to a maze section similar to the Ezam, but on a larger scale - average roof height about four feet.

Errata: Line 8 para. "Projects" should read 410 feet above sea level.



to five feet and tunnel width about ten feet. On the last day, after following the map drawn during the previous days to the furthestmost point of penetration, a three man team recommenced surveying and exploration. Of the many available passages, the first they tried opened into a large tunnel similar, but on a smaller scale, to the main tunnel of Mulla-mullang. Its width averaged 30 to 60 feet with roof heights up to 20 feet. This was explored for about 1,000 feet, in one direction only, before time ran out. The discovery of a beautiful lake at the limit of exploration was a fitting climax. The possibility in many parts of the Easter extension are tremendous as numerous side passages were left unexplored. However a map would be almost essential in order to find the new large tunnel.

Two other side passages were found, one before Smoko Junction and the other off the side of the Smoko Junction bypass. These are both similar, but smaller, to the Easter extension. They are both extremely promising, however.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

These sections were discovered by chance while the party was acting in and filming underground movies. Our photographer from the Christmas trip, Tony Dillon, took some ten minutes of film underground using two Magnesium and compressed air flare guns as light sources. This footage will be used to complete the documentary of the Christmas expedition. The results were excellent.

#### SIDELIGHT

An interesting sidelight to the trip was the adoption of one of the entrance doline blowholes in the South - West corner, as a refrigerator. This was found to be most useful for cooling essential food by the adaption of the Coolgardie safe principle.

#### SUMMARY

In summary, the success of the trip far exceeded expectations. Future possibilities seem to become greater as the known length of the cave increases, and keeping up with what is already known and where the most promising leads are, is becoming a difficult task. It is fortunate that up to date exploration summary and map of Mulla-mullang will soon be available.

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DOWN UNDER ALL OVER

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## CANBERRA SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

March appeared to be a busy month for C.S.S. Their Newsletter "The Very Latest" has received a face lift and now appears in quarto format.

Several trips are reported, one to Wyanbene and three to Cooleman, Neil Anderson, the secretary, leading the majority.

Wyanbene.

Evidence of previous visitors was collected ; towels, overalls and cigarette packets etc. Flashbulbs floated in the rimstone pools. After erasing additional names added to the walls the party left the cave.

Cooleman.

Several feet of new passage were excavated in "Z" Cave, but apart from a wetting no great extension was made. The H.C.G. Cave also received attention, mainly in efforts to determine an easier entrance, Crest Pot was also descended.

The Fish Cave has received the greater amount of attention and a new stream independent of that which flows into the entrance has been discovered.

This has only been achieved by consistent hard work by several members.

## HIGHLAND CAVING GROUP

Bungonia.

Further investigations of the Junior Cave had to be abandoned when foul air was encountered only fifteen feet into the cave. Surveying was carried out in the Grill Cave and some surface exploration west of the reserve has located some promising limestone.

Cooleman.

The Easter long week - end extended the River Cave by 400 feet to a rock fall. A new cave, the Easter Cave, was discovered by the cave divers in a long upstream dive from an efflux.

All members of the society participated in a genuine search and rescue operation.

## KEMPSEY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

K.S.S. and N.U.S.S. have been combining regularly at Willi Willi caves. They report their first contact with foul air in newly opened hole and a "best yet" cave.

Considerable time has been given trying to establish a jeep track into the Stockyard Gully area, so far to no avail.

## METROPOLITAN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Trips to Bungonia, Tuglow, Wee Jasper, Wyanbene and Cooleman have been successfully undertaken and future trips are planned for Tuglow, Wee Jasper and Cooleman.

M.S.S. also reports that their discovery outside the reserve at Bungonia has been explored and a dig is in progress. Tunnelling is underway to bypass an obstruction met with in the first attempt.

A successful film evening held in April was well attended, several members of other societies being present.

## SYDNEY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Wombeyan.

Two trips in April were basically concerned with surface exploration, one in the vicinity of the Gorge on Mares Forest Creek and the other in the vicinity of the Glass Cave and associated valley.

The Gorge exploration consisted of three parties, one on each side of the gorge and one wading and swimming in the gorge itself. Several holes were investigated. Unfortunately no extensive caves were found.

Hydrological tests were begun by placing fluorescein in a hole downstream from the Glass Cave and activated charcoal in an afflux in the Gorge some 3/8 mile away.

The surface exploration of the Glass Cave area proved fruitless in major system discoveries however many holes were investigated.

Bungonia.

Work progresses on the efflux in the Gorge. The use of a petrol driven drill and gelignite has facilitated the work generally and the bed of the efflux creek has been lowered approximately 4 feet and carried 12 feet toward the bluff. Consolidation of gains is now being effected. The walls of the trench are being strengthened and the surroundings modified to facilitate easier removal of material.

Jenolan.

Trips to the Mammoth, Glass and J41 Caves.

Two English members of the society appear to revel in the joys of J41, however, the majority of the society appears reluctant to enter the cave.

Kempsey.

21 members visited caves at Carrai, Haydonville and Kunderang. Several small caves were discovered, insects collected and a skull found has been identified as that of a Koala, Phascolarctos cinereus. Age is estimated to be in the vicinity of 10,000 years.

## Wyanbene.

A joint trip was conducted with C. S. S., the major purpose being a descent of the Big Hole for the T.V. public. The 230 foot deep hole was wired for telephone and three people made the descent. The total operation lasted 5 hours.

## Jaunter.

Two groups were formed on this trip, one concentrating on surface exploration and the other on an attempt to force a passage through the natural bridge.

Several likely "digs" were located and a "tombstone" area investigated. The digging failed to force a connection by only 18 feet.

## Rockley.

15 persons spent a mixed weekend which included prospecting for gold and sapphires, some surface exploration at Abercrombie and a tourist inspection of the Abercrombie Arch. The Limekiln Cave and quarries were also visited.

## SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In Mammoth Cave the new scaling pole has been deployed in two locations. Trouble was experienced with the connectors but the Oolite east wall extension proved barren of further extension.

Work has continued in Wiburd's Lake Cave with U.Q.S.S. The cave is now over 2,000 feet long. Some attractive formation has been found.

A survey was made of Serpentine Cave to examine the applicability of the geometry of stream meander channelling to the subterranean environment. Promising results are indicated but the work is as yet incomplete.

## Cooleman.

A new cave, named Rebellion Cave, was discovered at Easter and a Search and Rescue indulged in, fortunately for a non-caver.

## Yarrangobilly. (Easter)

Considerable extensions were found in Y18 Pot, a strongly dip - oriented cave reported by Rose and never really explored before. A survey to Grade IV-1, dropping to 1-11 at the end, shows the cave to be 333' deep including three ladder drops. Unlike most deep caves at Yag'by, Y18 has no large masses of house - sized rocks, there is no running water either. The cave however, is very wet and muddy.

Trips to Timor, Tuglow and Bungonia were also conducted.

With the acquisition by the Society of 300' of ladder and a scaling pole, the tempo of trips has increased markedly, there having been 16 trips

so far this year. A Watts theodolite has been purchased by the Speleological Research Council primarily for S.U.S.S. and trips are to be held to Wombeyan to begin survey of Fig Tree Cave, and later to Jenolan for Wiburd's Lake Cave. Another trip to Mulla-mullang on the Nullarbor is to be held with C.E.G.S.A. in late August.

Wombeyan.

Trips were made to the Fig Tree and Bullio Caves. The greater portion of the Bullio Cave was found to be dry and only one section upstream required complete water immersion. Progress ceased upstream at a low siphon. Downstream a water level drop of fifteen feet was noticed, unfortunately still insufficiently low to allow access to further cave. Several bats were observed and one dead Miniopterus schreibersii collected.

#### UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Surveying continues at Tuglow and wall and floor details have been carried upstream as far as the Waterfall.

The visitors book in the cave continues to fill rapidly. A comment made during the last visit was that the cave felt like "Pitt Street" (A main street in Sydney).

Reported also is an incident involving a group of Bushwalkers in the cave, one of which dismantled a carbide lamp in order to investigate a malfunction. He used another carbide lamp to illuminate the operation and promptly removed his eyebrows with the resultant explosion.

#### UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The University of Queensland Speleological Society has confirmed the fact that they still exist. They offer their thanks to societies who have continued to forward Newsletters and request their indulgence. A.U.Q.S.S. Newsletter is in production at present and the Society hopes to be able to report their activities more fully in the future.

The Society has started the year most actively working consistently on areas at Texas and Rockhampton, especially Rockhampton. Activity is concentrated on the location of new caving areas and they report that the results are sufficiently encouraging to stimulate considerable interest in this phase of caving activity. Several areas within week-end distance of Brisbane have been located and prospects of more are high. Future trips are well planned with a January 1967 trip to Chillagoe projected.

**SUPPLEMENT TO A.S.F. NEWSLETTER NUMBER 32 JUNE 1966**

**N.S.W. CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**

**SELECTION OF CAVING TRIPS AVAILABLE WITH N.S.W. SOCIETIES**

**Highland Cave Group**

**Meetings:** Last Sunday in the month, 7-30 p.m.

**Trips:**

<b>June:</b>	4-5	Tuclow	Cave diving
	11-12-13	Bungonia	Surveying and exploration
	18-19	Bungonia	" "

**Sydney Speleological Society**

**Meetings:** Last Thursday in the month, 7-45 p.m.

**Trips:**

<b>June:</b>	11-12-13	Bungonia	Excavation of efflux
		Jenolan	Excavation in J41
	25-26	Bungonia	Excavation in B31
<b>July:</b>	2-3	Timor	General exploration
		Wombeyan	Diving in efflux
	9-10	Cheitmore	General exploration
	23-24	Colong	Surveying and exploration
	30-31	Bungonia	Exploration of George walls
			Excavation of efflux
<b>August:</b>	6-7	Little Wombeyan	General exploration
		Chillagoe, Qld.	Expedition

**Sydney University Speleological Society**

**Meetings:** Thursdays at 7-30 p.m. date set by committee

**Trips:**

<b>June:</b>	1-3	Jenolan	
	11-13	Wombeyan	Surveying in Fig Tree cave
	18-19	Clietden or Timor	General exploration
	25-26	Wombeyan	Surveying

**University of N.S.W. Speleological Society**

**Meetings:** 1st Tuesday in month 6-00 p.m.

**Trips:**

<b>June:</b>	4-5	Tuglow	Surveying
	25-26	Wyanbene	General exploration
<b>July:</b>	23-24	Tuglow	Surveying

## SUPPLEMENT TO A.S.F. NEWSLETTER NUMBER 32, JUNE 1966

### It's The Greatest ! ! ! !

#### What Is ?

The Sixth Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation, which will be held at the Gippsland Educational Tours Hostel, Mirboo North Victoria. Opening of Conference will be at 2.00 p.m., 27th. Dec., 1966, and it will close on the morning of the 31st. Dec. Field trips to both Buchan and Limestone Creek will then follow.

The Conference Programme will include not only the committee meeting of the A.S.F., but papers and slide showings on various aspects of caving and the usual Caveman's dinner. Conference fee will include all costs payable - accommodation, all meals, including the caveman's dinner, and trip fees. The hostel provides excellent accommodation at a very comfortable level, with real beds (but bug-bags are permissible if you can't bear to be parted from yours); twin-bedded rooms; and full catering (i.e., you don't have to do the washing-up). Inclusive cost has been assessed at \$18.00 per head.

Buchan - everyone knows about Buchan - there are about 150 known caves plus many others yet to be investigated. The trip here will be organized for a fortnight, but you can leave early or stay longer. Trips will be arranged through most of the bigger and well-known systems, while we have a long list of projects requiring explorers, diggers, surveyors, etc. Camping gear will be needed. Shopping and other facilities are available.

Limestone Creek is a little-known area on the Vict.-N.S.W. border. One camp will be established at Limestone Creek, which is accessible by car, but most of the best caves seem to be on the Indi and this will mean establishing a second camp on the Indi - 10 miles walking. Camping and walking is excellent, but all comers must be fully equipped and provisioned, as well as being able and willing to cart all gear for the 10 miles down to Indi. A particularly interesting area for fringe interests like rock-hunting, bird watching (feathered ones), photography, etc. Caves not much investigated - we know of about 20 in the area, only about 10 of which have been entered, but the Indi outcrops just not been looked over apart from a quick examination of one end. We anticipate a week's trip in the area, followed by moving to Buchan for those who wish to do so.

Brochures and application forms will be available to all in late August.