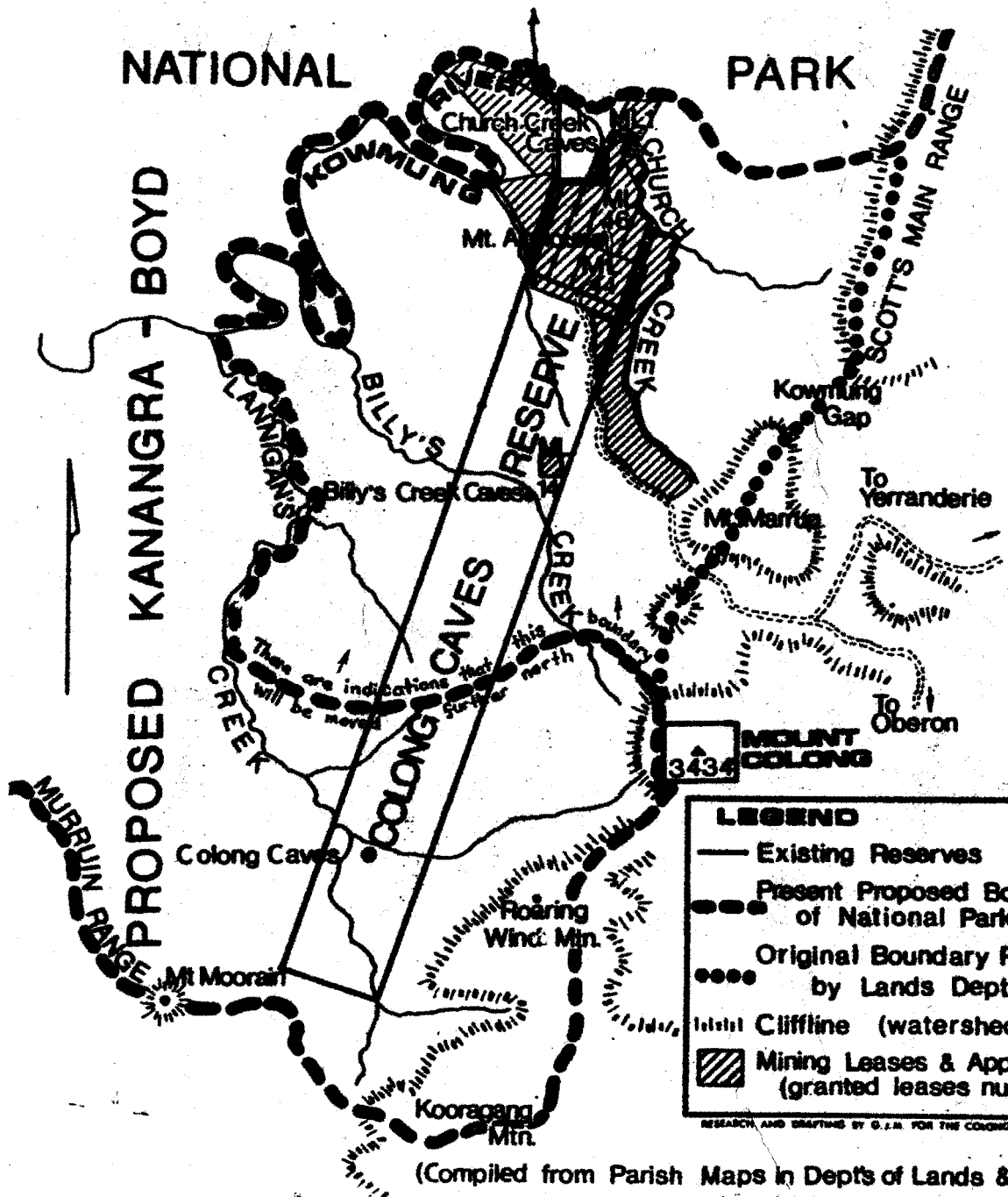


AUSTRALIAN
SPELEOLOGICAL
FEDERATION

ASF

NEWSLETTER



MAP SHOWING
THE GREAT CHURCH CREEK EXCISION
FROM THE PROPOSED
KANANGRA-BOYD NATIONAL PARK



LEGEND

- Existing Reserves
- - - Present Proposed Boundary of National Park
- Original Boundary Proposed by Lands Dept.
- ▤ Cliffline (watershed)
- ▨ Mining Leases & Applications (granted leases numbered)

RESEARCH AND DRAFTING BY G. E. M. FOR THE COLONG COMMITTEE. 25-67

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ASP NEWSLETTER

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AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

EDITOR: IAN D. WOOD
MANAGER: GRAEME WILSON

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

president	Maj. ROLAND WEBB	893 Burke Road, Ingleburn, NSW
vice-president	ANDREW SPATE	2/63 Brougham St., Nth, Melbourne, Vic
secretary	JOHN DUNKLEY	10 Riverview Street, West Ryde, NSW
treasurer	JOHN NOONAN	8/78 Holden Street, North Fitzroy, Vic
librarian	GRAHAM WALLIS	20 Malvern Avenue, Roseville East, NSW
Handbook editor	PETER MATTHEWS	23A Royal Crescent, Camberwell Vic
newsletter editor	IAN WOOD	87 St. Albans Street, Abbotsford Point, NSW
newsletter manager	GRAEME WILSON	45 Westmere Crescent, Coolaroo, Vic

STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

bat research	DAVID PURCHASE	CSIRO Div. of Wildlife, Canberra, ACT
cave safety	LLOYD ROBINSON	66 Cliff Road, Wollongong, NSW
n.s.w. co-ordination	IAN WOOD	87 St. Albans Street, Abbotsford Point, NSW
cave nomenclature	ELERY HAMILTON-SMITH	17 Helwig Avenue, Montmorency, Vic

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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CONTENTS

Number thirty eight - December 1967

EDITORIAL, NOTICES.	1
CONSERVATION ACTION	
Church Creek - Mount Armour N.S.W. and Mount Etna, Qld. . Greg Middleton	2
THE NOMENCLATURE OF AUSTRALIAN CAVES	
Report of the Committee on Cave Nomenclature of the Australian Speleological Federation. E. Hamilton-Smith	3
DOWN UNDER ALL OVER	
News from around the societies.	6

Editorial. , The Turn of the Screw?

WELL, WE ARE BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED THREE YEARS AGO. PRINTING THE NEWSLETTER BY THE DUPLICATING PROCESS. WHERE HAS IT LED US? NOWHERE IS THE ANSWER. WE HAVE TRIED TO BRING IN THE CHANGES ASKED OF US AT THE 1966 COMMITTEE MEETING AND FAILED. WHY? WAS THE OBJECTIVE OF A HIGH STANDARD UNATAINABLE UNDER THE CONDITIONS THAT EXISTED. WAS IT FINANCE? WAS IT ECONOMICS? CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE THE FACT REMAINS IT HAS BECOME IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE TO THE SUBSCRIBERS OF THE NEWSLETTER THE NUMBER OF PAGES AND THE QUALITY OF PRINTING OF PAST ISSUES ON THE SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED. THE NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED ON A "SHOE STRING" BUDGET BY A LOT OF HARD WORK FAVOUR SEEKING, BLUDGING, CAJOLING AND SHEER NERVE.

THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS. THE NEWSLETTER'S PUBLICATION HAS BECOME LATER AND LATER. A LOT OF EFFORT IS BEING MADE AT PRESENT TO BRING ISSUES UP TO DATE. EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO ACHIEVE A MORE STABLE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

THE NEWSLETTER REQUIRES MORE THAN ANYTHING A STABLE RELIABLE SOURCE OF TYPING AND PRINTING.

WHILE THE NEWSLETTER HAS TO ACCEPT WHATEVER FACILITIES AVAILABLE THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE IRREGULAR NO MATTER WHO PREPARES IT OR HOW IT IS PREPARED.

WHILE THE NEWSLETTER REMAINS THE CHEAPEST CAVING JOURNAL, 8.75 cents per issue, IN AUSTRALIA, SUBSCRIBERS WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE REDUCED VOLUME OF MATERIAL.

THE NEWSLETTER JUST CANNOT OPERATE UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. ARE YOU PREPARED TO OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE ASSISTANCE? I DOUBT IT.

NOTICES

ASF COMMITTEE MEETING

The sixth bi-annual Committee Meeting of the Federation will be held on the 27-28-29th. January, 1968, at the Orange Technical College, Orange, N.S.W.

Business will begin at 10 a.m. and should conclude at midday on the 28th. Several films have been obtained and will be screened during the week-end. Field trips to nearby caving areas will be conducted on the final day. These should include Cliefden and Walli caving areas.

ASF HANDBOOK

The Handbook of Australian Caves, the 'SPELEO. HANDBOOK' is reported to be very close to completion. Printing should be completed mid-January and the collation and binding about March 1968. This handbook has continued to grow since its inception and now contains a total of 322 pages.

Major sections of this publication are; ASF Constitution and Codes, Articles on Cave Science, Equipment and Techniques, Listings of about 95% of Australian caves and an appendix of useful information to Australian and overseas cavers.

Because of the increased volume it has now been necessary to increase the proposed cost of this publication. It is now envisaged that the final cost will be \$3.50 per copy to members of the Federation and \$5.00 to recommended non-members.

CONSERVATION ACTION

Edited by Greg, Middleton

NEW SOUTH WALES

CHURCH CREEK - MOUNT ARMOUR

The Caving Area that Might Have Been.

Though never regarded as a very remarkable area speleologically, there can be no doubt that the northern end of the Colong Limestone belt never received the thorough investigation it deserved. Caves were first reported in the area, 20 miles south of Jenolan, by Oliver Trickett in 1899 but even at that time they were overshadowed by the more extensive main Colong System. The area was occasionally visited by bushwalkers in the 1920's and 30's and the one-time Jenolan Caves caretaker, J. C. Widburd was reported to have been impressed with what he saw there. Since the isolation of the area in 1960 by the Warragamba Dam, its inaccessibility has discouraged further serious investigation.

After nearly two years of intense and continued efforts by conservationists to prevent the granting of mining leases, the situation has never looked worse.

There appears to be no legal way left by which this area can be saved from exploitation and it is expected that in the near future Commonwealth Portland Cement will begin erecting plant, damming the Kowmung River and constructing a 40 mile slurry pipeline to their works at Maldon.

Recently, protests have been spearheaded by the State's Nature Conservation Council but efforts to have the company's lease application contested before a Mining Warden's court have failed. Architects have now joined the battle by proposing a boycott on the company's "Union" brand cement. This has so far succeeded in upsetting the company's directors and is a step in the right direction.

The Colong Caves Reserve had been dedicated three times since 1899 and was thought to be amply protected. What guarantee is there that any other caves reserves are safe while we have a State Government which makes grandiose claims about its National Parks Legislature and simultaneously allows the destruction of the best potential wilderness park near Sydney? Small consolation can be taken from the fact that part of the reserve containing the Colong Caves is still included in the proposed Kanagara-Boyde National Park; the northern (Church Ck.) portion which contains the leases having been removed by cabinet direction.

Unfortunately, because little was known about actual caves in the area, there was a general reluctance on the part of the local Speleo's to participate in this conservation action, except when Colong itself was directly threatened. A thorough investigation of Church Creek may have revealed something-nothing could have been lost; as it was nothing was done and nothing was gained.

In N.S.W. only Yarrangobilly Caves in the Kosciusko National Park are covered by legislation which protects them from mining -all other caving areas (with the possible exception of Jenolan) should be considered as potential mining sites. For this reason, in future prompt, concerted and determined action must be taken as soon as any threat to a caving area is discovered. In the long run the very future of caving in N.S.W. will depend on it.

QUEENSLAND

MOUNT ETNA

It seems that Mt. Armour is not the only hill being fought over at the present time. Mt. Etna, near Rockhampton, is still the subject of yet another long battle between conservationists and limestone miners. Mt. Etna has two important assets which Mt. Armour lacks - numerous large caves are known to accomodate large colonies of bats. However, mining has been established in the area for some years and proceeds despite continued efforts to restrict it.

SYDNEY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE society has been extremely active over the past three month with major cave discoveries at Bungonia, Radio Direction Finding and survey work at Yarr ngobilly and a month-long trip to Chillagoe in Northern Queensland.

Walli

Further work in cave communications and resistivity has been carried out. An area 100 feet by 200 feet was pegged out over the Bone Cave and adjacent fissure. Apparent resistivity measurements over this area using the Gossen Geohm instrument indicated resistivity anomalies which it is hoped were due to the underlying cave.

Jenolan

Mapping in the Mammoth Cave has continued. Portion of the left hand branch of the Northern River Section was mapped during a trip which the members of the club camped in the 'Railway Tunnel'.

The primary aim of the camp was to experience the difficulties involved in moving packs and equipment through, even short distances in caves.

A follow-up trip three weeks later into the same cave was thwarted by flood water from local heavy rains.

Yarrangobilly

Work has been carried out for the Kosciusko State Park Trust in the Glory Hole Cave at Yarrangobilly. The society has produced a map of the cave in order to indicate the most suitable position for an access tunnel to link the cave with the surface. Basically, the survey consists of a survey of the surface contours above the Glory Hole Cave; a survey of the inside of the cave and a series of R.D.F. measurements to link the two maps. The final map indicated that a tunnel was feasible and a recommendation was made with regard to the tunnel's direction and angle.

Chillagoe

The society held a trip of one months duration during August. Many new caves were discovered and eight were surveyed. Extensive insect collections were effected. A report of these collections and previous collections over the period 1965-66-67 have been published in STOP PRESS Vol.11, No. 11, Nov. 1967, p162. A full list of caves so far discovered at Chillagoe has also been published in STOP PRESS Vol. 11, No. 12, Dec. 1967, p178.

Bungonia

Activity in this area has been intense, with at least 14 trips being held.

A. The Efflux

After 12½ years of effort the Efflux has at last fallen to the continued efforts of the society. News of the breakthrough spread rapidly throughout Australia, overshadowing discoveries in other states. This memorable event occurred on the 24th. September, 1967.

However, the Efflux Cave is still reluctant to shed its secrets easily as within a short distance of the entrance, a siphon and 17 foot deep pool blocks further progress.

B. The Plateau

B22 was excavated over a period of three week-ends. The resultant cave contains one of the most beautiful 100 foot shafts at Bungonia and has been named Echo Pot. People talking at the bottom of the shaft can be clearly heard by persons sitting at the top of the shaft and away from the edge.

The "Steam Pot" was excavated another week-end and proved to be a shaft of depth 130-140 feet, joining the 'Canberra Sink'.

Hollands Hole was discovered outside the main Caves Reserve. It is a solution cave developed horizontally, rather than the usual vertical shaft type commonly encountered at Bungonia. Decoration is present and there are promising digging prospects.

Further work of a general nature is in progress in the complex of sinkholes containing B15-16, B22, B21 and the B4-5 extensions. A grid has been laid out for resistivity work, similar to the society's work at Walli.

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

As usual, the Tasmanians have been very busy in Exit Cave however, they have found time to visit other areas such as Mole Creek, Florentine and Hastings.

Exit Cave

Exploration in Exit Cave continued with another 2000 feet of passage discovered and a further 3950 feet of passages surveyed. This brought the total length of passages traversed to $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles at the end of October. Another $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles were added during November bringing the total length of cave close to the seven mile mark.

A total of ten trips were conducted during the past three months increasing the knowledge of the cave and its extent a great deal. Exploration continues to bring to light more massive chambers, rock piles, underground creeks and new and interesting formations. Recent discoveries include gypsum needles, "cotton wool" and glow-worms.

Some doubt has been placed on the role of the Mystery Creek in the formation of the cave and the role of other outside creeks in the area. Several trips were conducted to attempt to locate caves on Western Creek and to trace the water flow from this creek into the caves. A trail was blazed from Exit Cave to the Western Creek area and a cave located. On a further trip fluorescein dye was added to the Western Creek. Colouring from the dye was noticed at several locations in the cave indicating that water from Western Creek split up after it went underground.

Mole Creek

One trip in September to explore and photograph Lynd's Cave and Pyramid Cave, followed by walking in the Mersey Valley including Lake Rowallan.

Florentine

A visit to Frankcombe Cave involved some "scrub bashing" to locate the entrance as it was some time since the club had visited the cave. This cave contains a 1000 foot crawl and several water hazards.

Hastings

Several holes in the Newgate area were investigated with little result. A draught from one cave showed promise however entry was not possible after a few feet. Another cave was investigated near the South Lune River road. Two entrances were located, one involving swimming, the other a 90 foot pitch. The cave was estimated to be of a length of approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long with few formations.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL GROUP

At last the drought of information from Western Australia has been broken with the arrival of two Newsletters. Unfortunately, it is still impossible to report on the group's activities as 'THE WESTERN CAVER' doesn't contain any trip reports.

However, the two issues received, Vol. 7, Nos. 5 & 6 contain some interesting reprints from past issues.

6. If aboriginal names are used, these should be dialectically appropriate to the area and suitably meaningful.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN A NUMBERING SYSTEM

Obviously any system which permits two numbers to one cave entrance or which gives the same number to two different entrances is a complete failure and defeats its own purpose. Thus any society undertaking cave numbering must control this tightly.

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 definition 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 cave entrance.
(Obviously, the order of the various steps may vary from one society to another or from one occasion to another. The essential thing is that the numbers be properly allocated, the cave be recorded within the record system being used, and the number marked - omission of any one step can only be considered a breakdown of the system, hence the emphasis upon tight control of such a system.)

* * * * *

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

BUNYAN CAVES, N.S.W.

A note has been received from the National University Caving Club advising the Federation that the property owner, Mr. A. Pfeiffer, has closed the caves to visiting cavers. This action has been necessary due to the serious vandalism which has occurred in the caves over the past three years and the continuing entry onto the property without permission.

DEATH OF EDITH SMITH

One of the most well known cavers in Australia, Edith Smith died of cancer in August this year.

Known throughout Australia as 'Edie' she was a tireless worker in every sphere she undertook. The vigour of her caving activities are evident in the many memorials that have appeared in her honour in Australian caves, Edie's Squeeze and Edie's Grotto being examples.

She was probably best known to members of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club and the Canberra Speleological Society where she was active on committee's. In 1958 she was elected president of the Canberra Speleological Society.

To the time of her death she was still trying to live an active caving life, being most interested in the discoveries taking place in Exit Cave, Tasmania.

CANBERRA SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Trips to Wyanbene, Bungonia and Cooleman.

Wyanbene

One trip in October to the Wyanbene Cave to show off the latest discoveries to visitors from New Zealand and the United States.

Bungonia

Scaling poles were used in the Drum Cave to investigate a hole in the roof near the lower end of the cave. Unfortunately, the pole could not be stabilised sufficiently to allow an ascent into the hole. A further attempt will be made provided the foul air concentration remains at the all time low level being recorded at present.

Cooleman

Excavations were carried out at the water-hole behind the New Hut without success and in Black Range Cave (where noises were heard from outside on a previous trip), also without success.

Exploration work in the Frustration Cave and Easter Cave was carried out with the objective of linking the two caves was halted in the Frustration Cave after 300 feet by a small water-filled passageway. In Easter Cave a second party was able to negotiate approx. 600 feet of passageway before retiring from the cave. Canberra Speleo's consider that there is still a long way to go before the two caves can be linked.

METROPOLITAN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
AND UNIVERSITY OF N.S.W. SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Trips to Wee Jasper, Marble Arch, Wombeyan, Bungonia and

Exams appear to have dampened the students activities somewhat - no reports from the students at all after the October long week-end.

Wee Jasper

A fairly large group spent the October long week-end caving over as much of the Wee Jasper limestone as was possible. Trips were made into the Dip System, the Punchbowl System, The Thermal Cave, Church Cave and many other smaller caves throughout the area.

Wombeyan

This was the first trip MSS made to the Wombeyan Area. Caving centred around the Quarry area, the Bullio Cave and a short tourist trip through the Tourist Caves. Two parties entered the Bullio Cave, one to explore the lower river level with the aid of air beds and another to produce a short 8mm movie film in the upper sections.

Bungonia

A trip was conducted through the Fossil Cave to assist the education of a group of students. Quick visits were also made to the Grill Cvae and the Efflux.

Colong

Also the first trip to an area, the MSS made one trip to the Colong Cave System. The system was penetrated as far as Woolf's Cavern and generally explored to familiarise members with the cave complex.

Report of the Committee on Cave Nomenclature
of the Australian Speleological Federation

INTRODUCTION

A committee to consider the matter of cave nomenclature in Australia was appointed by the Federation meeting held in December, 1966. A document outlining suggested principles and asking some questions was circulated to all member societies and to a number of individuals. This report has been compiled in the light of comments received, and is to be presented to the Committee of the Federation for discussion at the 1968 Committee Meeting.

BACKGROUND NOTES

Perhaps the most fundamental question to be examined is the reason for having names at all, as it has been suggested that a nomenclature system is unnecessary and should be replaced by a uniform numbering system. Obviously, names, like Mt. Everest, are "there" and this in itself should justify our establishment of a systematic scheme for nomenclature.

A further factor exists in that standardised geographical nomenclature is used by government authorities, research workers, and others with whom speleologists must communicate. A responsible speleological policy on cave nomenclature is therefore a vital part of our communications (or public relations).

However, this does not suggest that there should be a name coined for every cave and that a numbering system has no place. An effectively implemented numbering system avoids coining names for relatively insignificant caves and helps to eliminate uncertainty as to the exact identity of a cave. Accordingly, this report includes some suggestions on the planning of numbering schemes.

Most states now have statutory authorities (often called nomenclature boards or committees) responsible for the official recognition of place names. The practice of these authorities varies from state to state, so that while one such authority may expect all cave names used to be registered, others would only be concerned with caves sufficiently major to warrant marking on topographical maps. However, it is obviously desirable that speleologists in each state should act in conformity with the requirements of the authority concerned.

It is desirable that each cave should be known only by one name, and that multiple naming of any cave be avoided; that no two caves in the same or a near area have the same name; and that names be practical ones for everyday usage. General geographical practice is to avoid naming features after living persons, temporary features or incidents, or by the use of offensive terms. History provides a multitude of examples which contravene these practices, but it would seem that we are well-advised to use current than historical practice.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS NOMENCLATURE AND NUMBERING

1. That each society should develop formal procedures for the naming of new caves, and that where a statutory authority for geographical nomenclature exists, names should be in keeping with the principles laid down by such authority. Liason with this authority should be effected so that when appropriate, such names should be officially recognised.

(Traditionally, the person discovering or first exploring a new geographical feature has the right of naming that feature. This should be respected, subject to the society approving the name as being in conformity with general principles. However, the other tradition of exploration which should be equally preserved is that nothing is recognised as having been discovered until its location is accurately recorded.)

2. That each society may develop formal procedures for the numbering of caves. (The establishment of a numbering system facilitates the correct identification of caves and eliminates the need for naming of relatively minor or insignificant caves.)

3. That in any state where more than one society exists, co-operation must be established between the societies in regard to the naming and/or numbering of caves. It is also essential that such co-operation be established for any cave area spanning state borders or in regard to an area explored by a society from another state. (The N.S.W. Co-ordination Committee serves this function; such agreement exists in regard to the Nullarbor Plain between WASG and CEGSA; moves are being made to establish joint machinery in Tasmania.)

4. That the A.S.F. Handbook should be regarded as standard nomenclature, and the numbers and names published therein be adhered to unless formally amended.

(New names will be established, of course, for newly explored caves. These should be published, and it is recommended that societies regularly notify all new numbers or names to the A.S.F. NEWSLETTER. Similarly, it is recommended that any formal recommendation for the alteration of an existing name be published in the Newsletter as a recommendation and that the recommendation be submitted to the Committee of the Federation for approval or rejection.)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN NOMENCLATURE

This section sets out a series of principles for the guidance of societies. Where these may differ from the requirements of a statutory authority, it is clear that we must follow that requirement which is statutory in nature. However, if our own principle does not infringe that of the state, but is more stringent, it might well be observed.

(It has been suggested that we should not be bound by the principles of the statutory authority. It is surely more responsible an approach to accept these principles, but if in disagreement with them to press for their reform.)

1. A name should not be used if it has already been used for another cave in the same or nearby area.

(This would include not only names currently in use but also synonymic names once used but now discarded. Over-used names such as Bat Cave, River Cave, Main Cave or Cathedral Cave should also be avoided.)

2. Wherever possible, the first-used name should have priority.

(If a name has fallen into dis-use and another has become well-established, then it is clearly wise to retain the established name. Equally, re-naming is preferable to perpetuating a duplication of naming.)

3. Names should be sufficiently brief and euphenious to permit of their general use.

4. Names should be independent of each other so the use of adjectives denoting comparative size or points of the compass should be avoided.

5. The naming of caves after living persons, temporary features or offensive terms should be avoided.