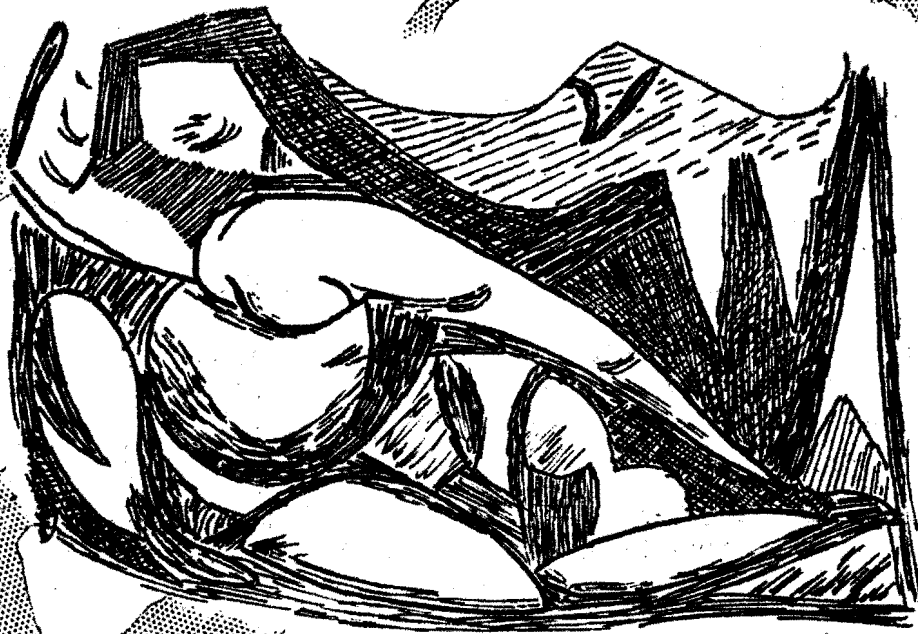


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UNSWSS	University of N.S.W. Speleological Society, The Union,	University of N.S.W.,	KENSINGTON 2033

QUEENSLAND

UQSS	University of Queensland Speleological Society, The Union,	University of Queensland,	ST. LUCIA 4067
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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Editorial

IF FULL-TIME DEVOTION TO THE DISCIPLINE IS ANY CRITERION THERE IS NOT A SINGLE PROFESSIONAL SPELEOLOGIST IN THIS COUNTRY. THERE ARE NOT MORE THAN A HALF-DOZEN PART-TIME ACADEMIC WORKERS IN THE FIELD. THERE ARE NO FOUNDATIONS OR POKER MACHINES TO FUND SPELEOLOGICAL ENDEAVOUR AND NO PAYING SPECTATORS. TO MY KNOWLEDGE ONLY TWO CLUBS RECEIVE OCCASIONAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND THEN ONLY AS SMALL RECOMPENSE FOR DISCOVERING POTENTIAL TOURIST CAVES, AND ONE OR TWO UNIVERSITY CLUBS OBTAIN SPORTS UNION HANDOUTS. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THIS, A FEW CLUBS AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN MYOPIC AND INTROSPECTIVE, OBSCURING SOME QUITE RESPECTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS. AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGY IS HELD IN DESERVEDLY HIGH REPUTE ABROAD, FOR WHICH WE MAY THANK SUCH CONSISTENT WORKERS AS J.N. JENNINGS AND E. HAMILTON-SMITH. AUSTRALIA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST SUPPORTERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SPELEOLOGY AND HAS BEEN WELL REPRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.

BUT ALL THIS IS A COMMONPLACE. WHAT IS REMARKABLE IS THAT SO MUCH HAS BEEN DONE BY ORGANIZED AMATEURISM. PARADOXICALLY, WE TEND TO OVERLOOK MANY ACHIEVEMENTS BECAUSE OF THEIR VERY INSTITUTIONAL EXISTENCE. THE A.S.F. FOR EXAMPLE. BRITAIN WOULD ENVY SUCH A FEDERATION OF THE HUNDREDS OF CLUBS THERE. OR CAVE NUMBERING SCHEMES, SAFETY STANDARDS AND CONSISTENTLY GOOD CLUB PUBLICATIONS. THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS MEETING IN STUTTGART FEATURED SECTIONS ON TOURIST CAVES, CAVE RESCUE, TECHNICAL CAVING AIDS AND EVEN ON DOCUMENTING THE LONGEST AND DEEPEST CAVES IN THE WORLD, AS WELL AS ON KARST MORPHOLOGY AND BIOSPELEOLOGY. IT IS HEARTENING, TOO, TO REALIZE THAT ALMOST ALL SPELEOLOGY IN WESTERN EUROPE IS NON-PROFESSIONAL AND NON-FUNDED, AND THAT SCOUTS, VANDALS AND IRRESPONSIBLES ARE RATHER UBIQUITOUS A PROBLEM THERE AS WELL.

NOTICES

A.S.F. COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting of the Australian Speleological Federation will be held in Melbourne on 24 - 25 January, 1970, the Victorian Speleological Association being host.

EIGHTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The Eighth Biennial Conference of the A.S.F. will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, in late December 1970. Details will be available shortly.

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

by John Dunkley,
A.S.F. Delegate

The Fifth International Congress of Speleology was held in Stuttgart, West Germany, from 22 to 26 September, 1969. Australia was well represented by Bernie Joyce (Melbourne), Tom Wigley (CEGSA, presently working in UK) and John Dunkley. Bud Frank (Texas) and Paul Williams (U.K.), who were recently working in Australia with Mr J.N. Jennings, helped swell the numbers. Papers on aspects of Australian speleology included work on karst morphology in New Guinea (Williams), on Nullarbor cave breathing (Wigley) and on excavations in sandstone caves at Mt Moffatt, Qld. (Joyce). These were very well attended and received and are indicative both of interest abroad in Australian speleology and the high repute in which it is held. Field trips followed to the karst areas of the Swabian Jura, Switzerland and Austria.

Plenary sessions of the International Union of Speleology were held concurrently with the Congress, 24 countries sending delegates from as far afield as New Zealand and Venezuela. Activities of the I.U.S. have expanded since its inauguration in 1965, and an International Newsletter is now planned, together with a central information bureau. To finance these and other activities, a levy of US\$30 per member country will be made from 1970 on.

Tom Wigley attended meetings of the IUS Commissions on Karst Denudation and on Speleochronology, and out of curiosity the writer went to the inaugural meeting of the Commission on Tourist Caves. Australia has been asked to nominate representatives for some of the Commissions and in particular for information on our longest and deepest caves and on tourist caves. A full report on this aspect will be presented for the Committee Meeting in January 1970 in Melbourne.

At the final meeting of the International Union, it was decided to hold the next Congress in September 1973 in Olomouc, Czechoslovakia. Professor Bernard Geze was re-elected President on the Union, while Dr Hubert Trimmel of Vienna became the new Secretary-General.

Personal Postscript

The writer was flattered and most gratified by the camaraderie of the European and American cavers with whom he spoke, and by the genuine interest exhibited in Australia. The New Zealand delegate, Les Kermode and I were overwhelmed by offers to show us round the caves of one country or another. Les finally took off to see caves in Yugoslavia, Greece and Lebanon, while I accepted an invitation to Czechoslovakia from the Director of Tourist Caves, Dr L. Blaha, who arranged visits to most of the tourist caves there and enabled me to see the unique speleological museum at Liptovsky Mikulas. On the way there and back I was able to see many caves in Austria, Hungary and Yugoslavia and I am most grateful for the assistance received.

CAVE NAMING AND NUMBERING IN TASMANIA

Preliminary report abstracted from material
in "Speleo Spiel" by Albert Goede.

The Nomenclature Board of Tasmania has appointed a Cave Nomenclature Sub-Committee comprising Ian Jennings (Convenor), Ken Newham and Albert Goede, to consider cave names approved by clubs and published in the A.S.F. Handbook.

A cave numbering system has been instituted at Loongana and Ida Bay using 2" x 5" aluminium tags. The following area prefixes have been suggested for the comment of the Tasmanian clubs :

B - Bubs Hill	J - Jane River	MC - Mole Creek
CC - Cape Barren Island	JF - Junee-Florentine	N - Nelson River
F - Flowery Gully	K - Kelly Basin	PB - Precipitous Bluff
G - Lower Gordon	L - Lorinna	RA - Ranga (Flinders Is.)
GF - Upper Gordon-Franklin		S - St Mary's
GP - Gunns Plains		T - Trowutta
H - Hastings	MA - Mt Anne	TS - Tim Shea
I - Ida Bay	MC - Mt Ronald Cross	R - Redpa
	W - Weld River	

ABSTRACT

Dwyer, P.D., Population Ranges of *Miniopterus schreibersii* (Chiroptera) in South-eastern Australia. Aust. J. Zool. 17, 4 : 665 - 686.

The paper analyzes 2,083 movements of *M. schreibersii*. Biologically and geographically separate populations exist in north-east N.S.W., south-east N.S.W., south-west Victoria and south-east South Australia. Most bat movements take place within but not between these regions. This observation is not explicable solely in terms of distance. It may be due to real differences in population characteristics, but could be due merely to concentrations of banding activity.

CONSERVATION ACTION

QUEENSLAND

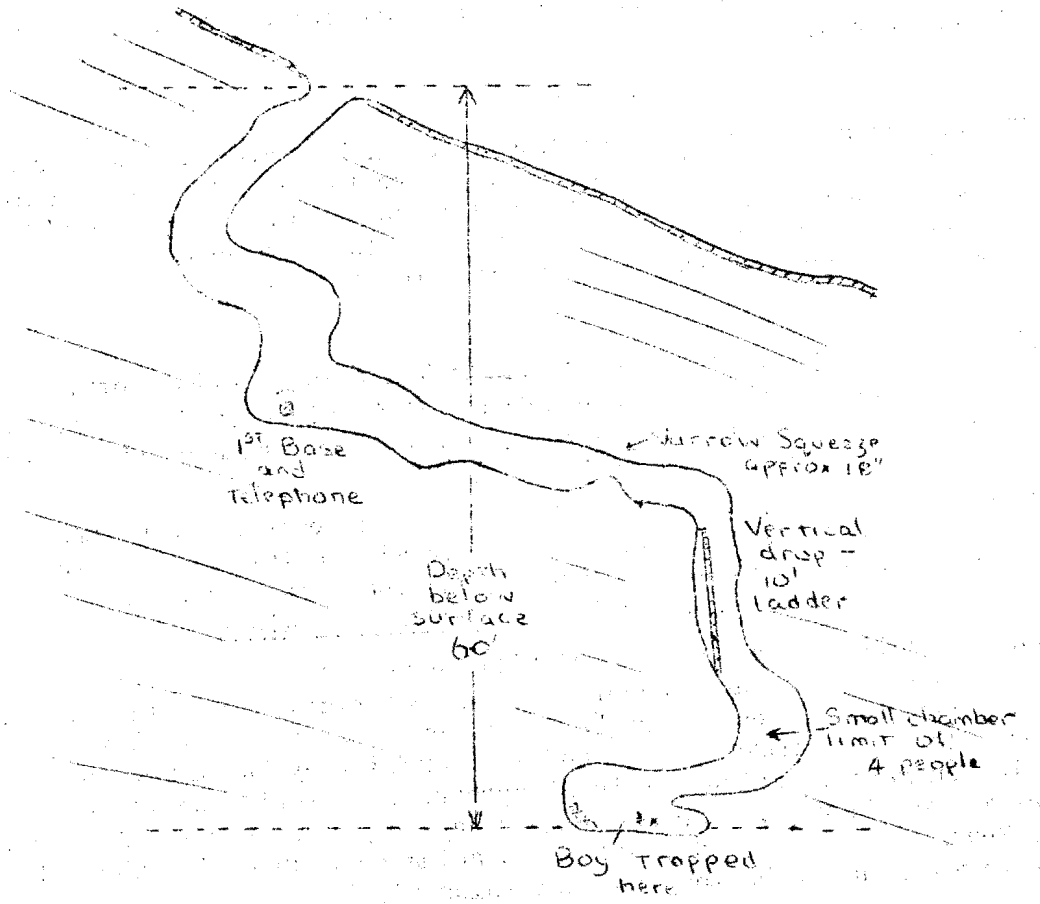
Extensive correspondence has been maintained by UQSS with the Australian Conservation Foundation, the cement company, the Mines Department, and the local shire council. A 7,000 word report on the desirability of making Limestone Ridge into a National Park was prepared and submitted to the Lands Department. On 18 November a party including a local councillor inspected damage to Main, Commando and Winding Staircase Caves due to quarrying. The National Parks Association has submitted to the Government a plan for a 130,000 acre National Park for the Einasleigh - Mt Surprise lava area. The region includes 34 miles of collapsed lava tunnels and numerous scoria cones and craters. As the country is valuable grazing land the prospects at this stage do not look especially bright. (cont. p. 8)

Sunday night By 8pm shoring of the cave walls was complete and Tim had been uncovered of loose material again. The Mainland cavers went to work with a large Porto-Power jack and freed Tim at 10.30pm, 32 hours after the collapse. He was quickly brought to the surface where Dr Huygins treated him for possible kidney damage. At 11.15 he was placed in the ambulance and sent to hospital. A number of rescuers camped at the site too exhausted to walk down to their cars at base camp.

Monday Experts from the Mines Department exploded the cave entrance on Monday morning and it is now completely sealed.

POSTSCRIPT Injuries suffered by the boys were:

Tim Walter - leg injuries requiring calipers for a short time.
 Robert Morgan (16) - broken arm. Peter Fisher (15) - 11 stitches forehead
 Michael Walter (18), Doug Hall (15), William Fell (14) - cuts and bruises.
 Caverneers working inside the cave were Peter Brabon (TCC), Michael Cole, Robert Cockerill and Eddie Guinan (all SCS) and Bob Woolhouse (TCCNB). Two cavers from VSA including Graeme Wilson also assisted. In addition, there was the small army of other cavers, HEC men, Salvation Army volunteers and others whose efforts outside the cave were invaluable. Peter Brabon has recently been advised that he has been awarded the Silver Medal of the Royal Humane Society for his part in the rsscue and it is believed that other members of the team will be similarly honoured.



 DOWN UNDER ALL OVER

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

At the A.G.M. Bart Dasborough was elected President, while his predecessor Grant Gartrell is taking on the Newsletter. The CEGSA Constitution was changed recently to provide for a place on the Committee for a representative of the South Australian Government Tourist Bureau. Mr E. Maddock was later appointed to this position, one unique in Australian speleology which illustrates the Group's excellent public relations. Other events included a successful field day in Belair National Park, and the 'CEGSA Occasional Dinner No. 1'. The latter unexpectedly was cut short when 3' high flames sputtered out the bottom of Tom Wigley's newly resurrected Giant Carbide Lamp. The pub was saved.

Curramulka

Digging in the ever present sand has revealed yet another new section in the formidable Corrells Cave, with some respectable decoration - gypsum needles, helictites and botryoidal stalactites. TCC ex-President Albert Goede was conducted through Corrells and was heard to suggest that it might be worth visiting again. Needless to say, a few more hundred feet was found en passant. A gate has recently been installed on the cave to keep out some of the locals.

TASMANIA

The Tasmanian Caverneering Club & the unaffiliated Southern Caving Society have agreed to act as joint hosts for Eighth Biennial A.S.F. Conference in Hobart in December 1970. TCC Northern branch at Launceston will assist on Mole Creek field trips and hopes to entice some mainland cave divers to some promising siphons.

Ida Bay

Scrub bashing on the north side of Marble Hill is paying off. On April 19, indefatigable Exit explorer Brian Collin discovered an active pot down which rocks fell for four seconds, giving an estimated sheer drop of 250' - 300'. They named it Hobbit Hole:

"... Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort..."

(J.R.R. Tolkien: Lord of the Rings)

Two subsequent parties staggered up the hill laden with all the club's worldly possessions of rope and ladders. The pot fizzled out at -200'. Fortunately, they didn't lose heart but continued surface exploration. Behind a muddy log was a muddy rift, and all agreed they had never seen a less promising entrance. Brian Collin disappeared, muttering until out of earshot that it wouldn't go. Anyway, next day they got vertically 350'. It's called Revelation Cave and you'll be hearing more about it when the diggers get to work on the bottom sand and talus block.

VICTORIA

 The June issue of "Nargun" containing the second annual report
 VSA of the Victorian Speleological Association reflects the great
 increase in caving activity in that state. Several new maps
 have been prepared, cave numbering has continued at Buchan and Murrindal,
 and there is an impressive list of projects under way. Several trips have
 been run specifically run for beginners. The Victorian Cave Search and
 Rescue Organization has been re-organized and suitable equipment is being
 obtained. There have not been any rescues in Victoria, but members were
 involved in the Gardeners Gut rescue in New Zealand and in the Mt Faulkner
 episode in Tasmania (see report this issue of Newsletter).

Buchan

The Back Creek area of Buchan turned up several new caves,
 including a 58' shaft leading a further 60' to a dig. A new "first" in
 August was a through trip from Wet Cave EB30 to Wombat Walk EB3. Intensive
 efforts to enter Scrubby Creek from the Mines area above were abortive.

Western Districts

The volcanic plains of western Victoria are not often visited now,
 though many lava caves are known. On this trip exploration was carried out
 at Warrion Hill (near Colac) which looks promising, also the western side
 of Mt Porndon, Panmure, Mt Eccles, Byaduk and Mt Hamilton. The only disc-
 overy was a maze of lava tunnels at Byaduk. A 135' cenote in Warrnambool
 limestone was abseiled to an impressive cave, another entrance to which
 overlooked the sea from 60' up.

North-east Victoria

A new gravel road is available from Benambra via Limestone Creek to
 Black Mountain on the Buchan-Suggan Buggan Road. The limestone at Marble
 Creek was examined. The creek flows underground for about 100 yards and
 there are several small dolines. There is very little cave development and
 nothing accessible to anyone larger than a wombat. The southern section of
 the limestone is generally covered with soil and gravel from the hill above
 and the doline was completely closed except for a very small wombathole.

QUEENSLAND

 Reconnaissance trips went to Ulidgee Creek (S. Qld) and to the
 UQSS Drake-Tabulam area (N.S.W.) but only rock shelters were found.
 The major trip was to Camooweal in December. Aerial photo-
 graphs were used to pinpoint possible cave locations. Of the 12 prospects,
 3 caves were found and 9 proved devoid. Surveys were made of 5 caves and
 4000' was mapped in Niggle Cave with another 3000' explored but not mapped
 and plenty of possibilities left for the future. The optimists are talking
 of the longest caves in Australia. Certainly there is little doubt that
 some water at least effluxes 70 miles from the sinks.

(cont. from p. 3)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In the May issue of "Nargun", VSA President Nick White describes how the town water supplies of Mt Gambier and Keith in the limestone areas of south-east South Australia are being polluted.

TASMANIA

On 27 March 1969, Pickands Mather and Co. applied for an Exploration License under the Mining Act covering a considerable part of the Mole Creek limestone area. TCC suspects that this is part of a feasibility study of an iron and steel industry for Tasmania. Mole Creek not only has large deposits but is convenient to rail transport. The area in question includes Herberts Pot, Shish Kebab, Wet Cave, Honeycomb Caves and several others. SCS and TCC have alerted local farmers to potential pollution of water supplies and notified the government of the possible effects of quarrying on nearby tourist caves. The next step should be to prepare large scale maps showing cave locations.

REVIEW

WILLIAMS, P.W. & J.N. JENNINGS, Contributions to the Study of Karst. Research School of Pacific Studies, Department of Geography Publication G / 5 (1968). Australian National University, Canberra, 1968. x + 110 pp., 14 figs., 17 plates, semi-hard cover.

These two papers offer contrasting approaches to the study of karst features, the one traditionally observation, description and deduction, the other leaning more towards modern quantitative analysis, which nevertheless manages to avoid the statistical manipulations which characterize and sometimes confound modern geomorphology.

Using more than 400 water samples from 38 locations, P.W. Williams studied limestone solution in the Fergus River Basin, western Ireland. A significant relationship was found between limestone corrosion rates and stream discharge rates. 80% of total observed solution occurred in the top 8 metres of limestone. Corrosion seemed more significant in the centre of the limestone outcrop, where streams are saturated with limestone.

J.N. Jennings describes the karst morphology of the dune limestones of the southern and western coasts of Australia. To a certain degree karst processes have gone on concurrently with consolidation of calcareous sand shell into aeolian calcarenite i.e. the karst is partly "syngenetic".

Publication was clearly restricted by finance. Reproduction is by photo-offset and photographs suffer accordingly. The material has been typed and is not justified. In places footnotes in the same large type-face as the text take up a disproportionate amount of room. Nevertheless this is an important high quality addition to the karst literature which should be of interest to serious cavers overseas as well as in Australia.