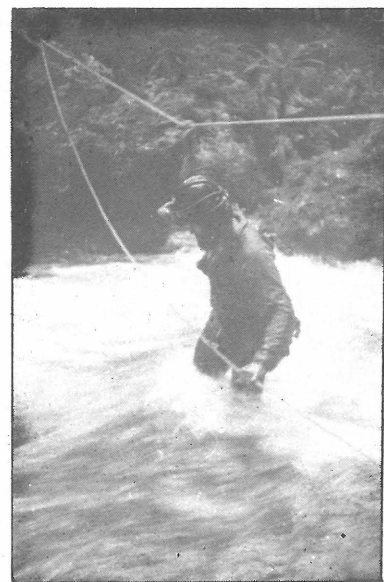


NIUGINI CAVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP

Volume 2 Number 1

January 1974



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Niugini Caver is the newsletter of the Papua New Guinea Cave Exploration Group. The PNGCEG is an informal association of persons engaged in speleology in Papua New Guinea.

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Editor and Producer R. Michael Bourke, D.A.S.F., Keravat, East New Britain, Papua New Guinea.

Typist Jean Bourke

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Cover Photographs. Left. Ora River disappearing into the "downstream section" of Ora cave, New Britain. The entrance is about 15 m high. This is at the bottom of an enormous doline 268 m deep, 900 m long, and 560 m wide.

Right. Lex Brown fords the river just above the section of river in the left hand photo. Water flow was measured at 5.7 m³/sec (200 ft³/sec) by the U.Q.S.S. expedition in December, 1972.

Photos by Hal Gallasch.

* * *

SOME BURIAL CAVES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

H. Gallasch *

In many areas of Papua New Guinea caves and rock shelters have been used as burial sites or repositories for human remains. Some groups of Niuginians have continued using these sites until the recent advent of missionary influence. Mission teaching forbade the various cultural adaptations of disposing of the dead and allowed only the so-called 'Christian burial' in the ground. The following notes have been made on sites in three different areas that I have visited.

CAPE RODNEY - KUPIANO, CENTRAL DISTRICT

The area has only been opened up and made accessible by timber getting operations over the last six years. Heavy rain forest covers the coastal plains and limestone foothills which extend in to the Owen Stanley Range. Several small caves were discovered in the limestone hills by logging operators in 1970.

Site 1. A walk of about 30 minutes through the bush, from a point half way along the Cape Rodney - Kupiano road, in the direction of the sea, brought us to an isolated limestone hill. Near the summit of this was a cave entrance 2.5 m high opening on to a small chamber, partially lit by daylight. The entrance overlooked the surrounding rain forest. It is not known whether the cave provided permanent shelter or was only used during times of warfare but large portions of the ceiling had been blackened by fires and thick deposits of mollusc shells and fire ash covered the floor. In and around the main fire site 4 m in from the entrance, a collection of human bones was found, together with large pottery shards. Much of the pottery was ornately decorated and of a kind not previously found in Papua. A rock-fall 7 m from the entrance partly blocked a small extension passage. The rubble in this passage was littered with crumbling human bones and some small beads.

Site 2. A short way past the turnoff to the timber mill, a logging track branches into the foothills. A steep gully separates the track from a limestone cliff on the face of a hill. A cave entrance was seen in the cliff, some 20 m up, but this could not be reached. An exhaustive search around this hill revealed a number of small caves, several of which were 20 - 30 m long and opened into narrow chambers housing bats. None, however, connected with the cave on the cliff face. In some of these caves human bones and skulls were found mixed with pottery shards in the rubble and floor litter.

* D.A.S.F., Keravat, East New Britain, P.N.G.

A small cave 5 m up the cliff face was followed a short distance until it became too constricted. As with the others this had also been used as a burial chamber and fragments of bones were found amongst numerous pottery shards. These shards were later identified by the University of Papua New Guinea as belonging to several distinct styles. Some pottery from this site was carbon dated and reported to be around 1000 years old. Allen and Littlewood (1974) have described in detail pottery collected from burial sites in this area.

BUANG MOUNTAINS, MOROBE DISTRICT

On a tributary of the Snake River, near Sagaiyo Village, there are a series of burial 'caves' on the cliff face of a gorge. In the hillside opposite these 'caves' is the Afaruru Cave (Gallasch, 1973). All the burial sites visited comprised ledges and niches beneath overhangs of the limestone cliff. Higher up the cliff there were reported to be actual caves which had also been used as burial sites.

Those ledges visited contained a vast assemblage of human remains: dust, bones and complete skeletons. The skeleton of one young person, still containing hair and parched skin, indicated the method of 'burial'. The body had been placed in a sitting position with the limbs bent to bring the knees and hands up under the chin. Although this skeleton looked of fairly recent origin, this was also said, apparently about the same remains, by a visitor 20 years previously (Maahs, 1951). Lying with the bones were several broken 'kundu' drums.

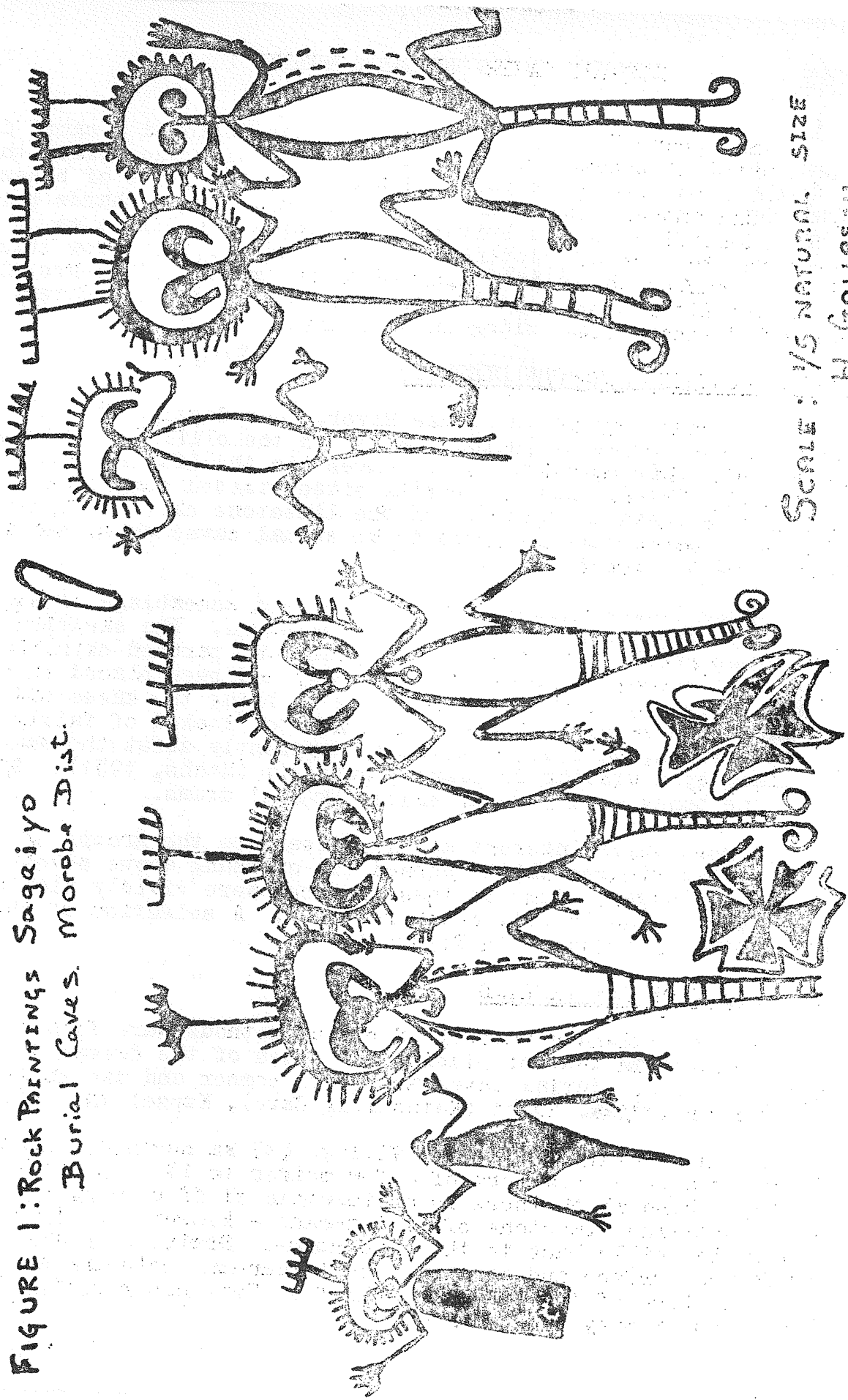
Of particular interest at this site were the groups of painted red figures which adorned the overhang above several of the small ledges. Some of these figures were vividly distinct while others had largely weathered away. A selection of these figures are reproduced in Figure 1.

EAST COAST OF NEW IRELAND

On New Ireland a variety of burial methods were formerly used, including that of placing the bones of the deceased in special caves. Burial caves are quite common and are known to occur near Medina, Ramat (Katasalong Cave), Kapsel and Lokoba.

In the vicinity of Loloba Village (37 km north of Namatanai) there is a beach platform of a few metres to 100 m or more in width, behind which there is a limestone cliff of varying height. This coralline limestone of Pleistocene - Recent age stretches in undulating hills back to the main range. Drainage of the area is sometimes surface and sometimes subterranean, entering the sea near the base of the limestone cliffs. This has resulted in the formation of many small caves.

FIGURE 1: Rock Paintings Sageiyo
Burial Caves, Morobe Dist.



SCALE: 1/5 NATURAL SIZE
H. GALLASON.

Komebe Cave. This small cave is situated about 40 m from the beach. It goes straight into a low cliff for about 30 m and is no higher than 1 m. The cave was reported to be deeper when bodies were deposited there but it has since partially filled with rubble. No bones were found.

Banamai Cave. This cave, situated several hundred metres north-west of Komebe, along the coast towards Loloba, emerges on the beach at high tide level. It consists of several small, low, connecting chambers. Fragments of human bones were found mixed with the rubble and sand.

Loloba Cave. Behind Loloba Village where the limestone cliffs are some 30 m high there are several impressive cave entrances. These entrances, which look out towards the sea, are adorned with large stalactites, covered with moss and algae. There are two large caverns connected by a squeeze beneath a mass of fallen boulders. Some 27 m from the entrance, amongst the boulders and stalagmites, were the remains of human skeletons. A number of the bones had already been encased in calcium carbonate deposits. It has been many years since these caves were used for burials and it is believed that mission influence has resulted in reburial of most of the bones they formerly contained.

REFERENCES

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- Gallasch, H. (1973). Afaruru Cave, Snake River Area, Morobe District. Niugini Caver 1(2): 23-25.
- Maahs, Arnold M. (1951). Bones of the Buangs. Walkabout. 1st Dec. 1951. pp. 14-18.

* * *

PORT MORESBY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

Custody of the PMSS library has recently passed from Gordon Bain in Port Moresby to Michael Bourke. Unpublished cave descriptions and maps will be published in Niugini Caver, particularly from Chuave, Javarere and also from poorly known areas like Cape Rodney and Baiyer River.

The contents of the library will also be published later.

* * *

SOME CAVES IN THE ERAVE, KAGUA AND LAKE KUTUBU AREAS OF THE
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS AND GULF DISTRICTS

Neil Ryan *

Listed below are caves according to areas known personally to me during my time in the Southern Highlands.

ERAVE

Beside the old road to the Erave River from the station, about 600 m from the quarry is a small cave which tapers to an impossible squeeze, but appears to extend beyond this.

On the range to the south of Erave during a heavy rainstorm in 1969 I noted an incredible volume of water disappearing underground through numerous sinks, but have not since returned to investigate under good conditions.

Another promising area lies three days to the south-east of Erave patrol post in extremely rugged terrain. The caves lie mostly in the vicinity of Waraga, Wopasili, Pupitau, Boro and Sirigi villages.

I have abseiled into several sinkholes in other parts of the Erave area, but found them to be generally choked by logs and branches. These it would take considerable effort and time to remove.

On the old Erave - Tiribi track about one hour from the river are several entrances to what appear to be sizable vertical systems, but each time I was there I was loath to investigate on my own.

The map shows locations where I have seen caves. It was first published in Spar 6(2): 20-22.

KAGUA

Iaro River. Near Pulpupare (also Poruberi) the Iaro River flows underground for about 1.5 km, emerging through a cavern about 40 m high by 25 m wide. Access is by a steep track from Pulpupare which is in turn accessible by road from Kagua. Parts of the track consist of ladders tied to the rock and the route is a natural crossing point of the Iaro for the Kagua and Pangia peoples. (See Erave map)

After opening up initially, the cavern tapers as one proceeds upstream. The normal flow of water is quite staggering - 45 km

* P.O. Box 27, Mt. Hagen, P.N.G.

upstream the river is about 60 m wide and 5 m deep with rapids all the way to Pulupare. After emerging from underground the river races through a gorge about 10 m wide, tapering to about 3 m where it squirts (literally) through a chasm in the limestone to become a broad racing river again.

Logs were found jammed about 10 m above river level, giving an indication of the rate of flow during flood.

Sumbura. About 1 km north of Sumbura and about 100 m from the road lies a small dry cave, which is only of interest for it was once used as a 'haus tambaran' by the local people, but now is abandoned.

Within the cave is a small altar-like structure of sticks over two upright black stones. Nearby on the cave floor lay a human skull and the remains of a 'kundu', a portion of which powdered when touched. Here too were the remains of a fire with limestone deposits forming on top of the ashes, which gives some idea of the time of abandonment.

Enquiries amongst the village people failed completely to elucidate the actual use to which the cave had been put.

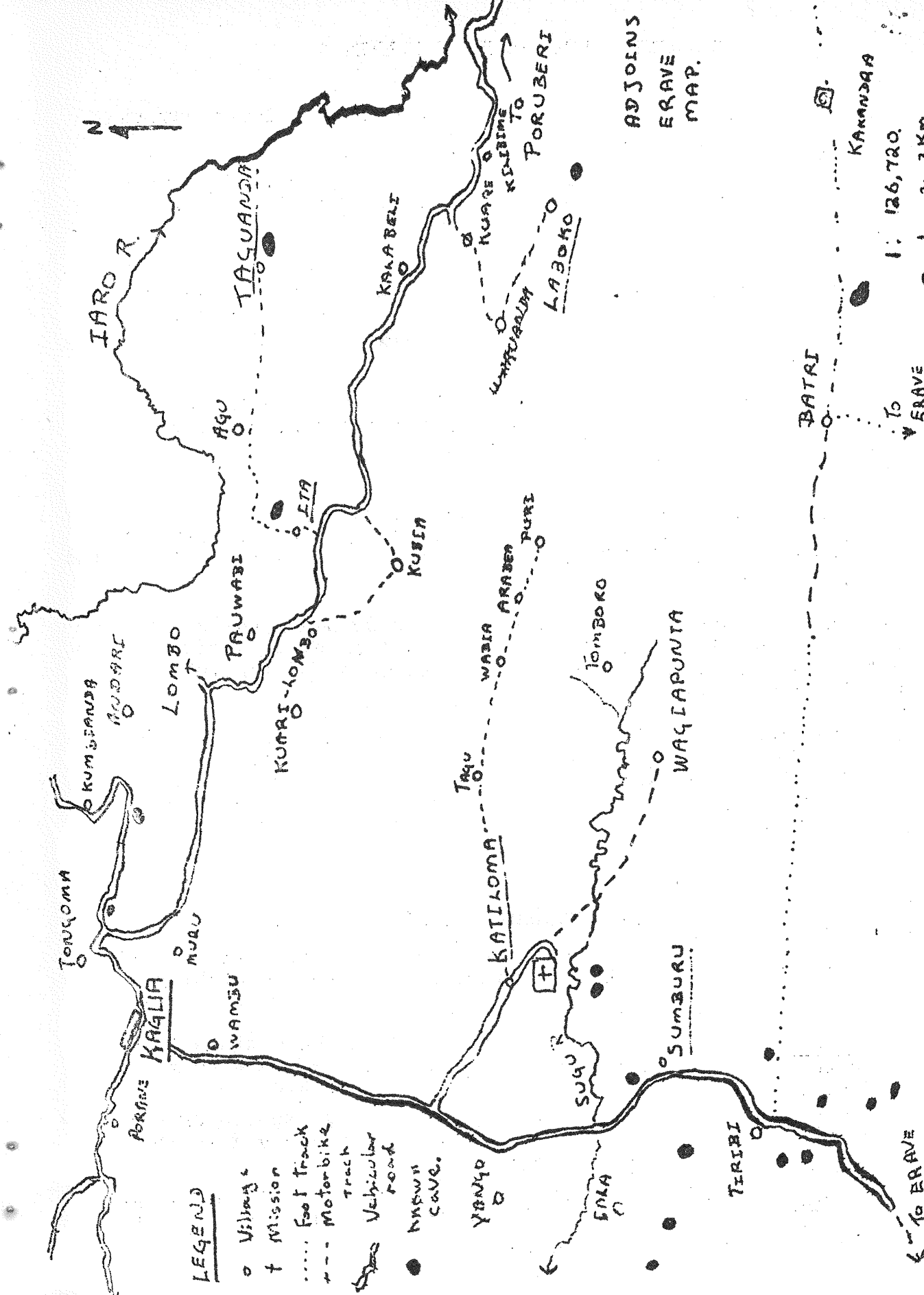
Katiloma. About 2 km from the Evangelical Wesleyan Mission at Katiloma, on the south side of the Sugu River are at least two cave systems.

The one I entered in 1970 was a stream passage reached through a dry entrance and extending about 300 m upstream where the roof tapered down to where the stream emerged from amongst a rock fall.

The passage was only explored on the downstream side for about 20 m where deep rimpools were encountered. Very little formation was encountered and the cave was found to be extremely wet.

There is supposed to be another large cave nearby, said to contain a large number of bats. However, the villagers refused to show it to me as a few weeks previously a missionary had been in there with a shotgun, creating bedlam amongst the bats, much to the chagrin of the locals.

Taguanda and Ita. Near Taguanda is a limestone hill said to contain an extensive system, explored initially in 1969 by two kiaps - Noel Cavanagh and Neville Spence. The same two entered a cave about 300 m north of Ita village in the same year. This information was obtained from village books and no details are available.



LEGEND

- Villages
- ✕ Mission
- Foot track
- - - Motorbike track
- Vehicular road
- ANSUN CAVE.

ADJOINS
ERAVE
MAP.

1: 126,720.
0 1 2 3 Km
0 1 2 miles
Neil Ryan, 1971

38 M, PLS 26

Laboko. Near this village is supposed to be a large cavern containing numerous bats.

Ebabini. There are several caves south of here. They are not marked on the map, but are between Laboko and Poruberi.

LAKE KUTUBU

Despite rumours to the contrary I was unable to locate any actual caves along the shores of the lake. There are however two burial sites beneath limestone overhangs, with symbols painted on the rock.

About 500 m downstream from the Kaipu landing on the Soro River (which drains the lake) is a small horizontal cave, about 80 m long, situated beneath a bluff on the right bank of the river.

At the entrance are several skulls and paddles, quite old, supposedly of people killed by sorcery. The interior, although not extensive is quite well decorated and was found to be inhabited by one large toad.

The Lake Kutubu area seemed to impress Dr Denes Balázs when he visited the area in August/September 1972 collecting water samples from the Fasu area, thirty-odd kilometres south of the lake where extremely large springs occur.

As with many other P.N.G. cavers I have found the main limiting factor in cave exploration being the availability of keen dependable bods with whom to go caving. Such being the case, little of the potential of the above areas has been fully realised by the writer.

* * *

THE NEW CONTRIBUTORS

Quentin Anthony was a patrol officer at the time the report in this issue was written. He returned to Australia eight years ago.

Jim Gemmell came to P.N.G. in 1954 and was an assistant patrol officer when he visited the Dabora cave. This was his only caving experience. He is now the Valuer General for P.N.G.

Neil Ryan was caving with the Uni. of N.S.W. Speleological Soc. before he came to P.N.G. five years ago. He has caved in the Southern Highlands and in the Chimbu.

Michael Underdown did a bit of 'potholing' in old mines in South Australia some years ago. He is now at the Central Asian Institute, University of Bonn, West Germany.

* * *

THE CAVING SCENE

Things have been pretty quiet over Christmas with lots of speleos on leave.

However, on Bougainville, Hans Meier and co. have been active. They ran another trip to Boromai with people from Mainoki village. There was no trouble from the local village this time. Only an hour was spent in the cave, then a couple checked on the sump at the top end of the Nenduma system. They found it possible to push through. This was the first time they were able to negotiate this sump as it had been blocked since mid-'71 by the floods caused by cyclone Ida.

British Speleological Expedition. Two Australian expeditions, a Japanese one, and a joint Australian-New Zealand expedition to P.N.G. have failed to find the deepest hole in the world here. Now the British are about to try. Derek Crossland is the organizer with Kev Wilde helping from this end. The target area is the Hindenburg Wall or the Muller Range and 1975 is the date.

Eastern Highlands. Kev Wilde recently visited Aibura cave in the Kainantu sub-district, looking at cave art there. This cave is well described by anthropologists because of its art, by the way.

So that's all for this number. Caving news is always appreciated, so drop a note if you've been active lately.

* * *

THE 1974 AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION CONFERENCE

Every second year the A.S.F. holds a conference between Christmas and New Year. Hordes of speleos attend, presenting papers, talking, getting drunk and even listening. They're good fun. The Tenth Conference will be held in Queensland - for the first time.

The venue is the University of Queensland, Brisbane, from the 27th to 30th December 1974. Field trips of varying duration follow the Conference. A call for papers has been made in the following areas:

- Tropical karst
- Geology, geomorphology, hydrology, palaeontology
- Surface and subsurface fauna and flora of limestone areas
- Anthropology
- Expedition reports - overseas and local
- Conservation
- Pseudo-karst and Lava tunnels
- Techniques - photography, surveying, caving, rescue

* * *

EXAMINATION AND SURVEY OF DABORA CAVES, MILNE BAY DISTRICT

Q. P. Anthony *
and J. T. E. Gemmell +

.....

This report forms an appendix to Patrol Report No. 3 - 1955/56, Baniara, Milne Bay District. The patrol was conducted by Anthony and Gemmell in January - February, 1956.

The cave described here is the "Tapitapipi Caves" described by L. J. Brass (Niugini Caver 1(4): 134-134). Dabora is near Baniara on the northern side of Goodenough Bay.

.....

Whilst at Dabora village, the patrol was informed of the existence of extensive underground caves about 3 km north-east of Dabora village. Accordingly, a party set out to explore and examine the caves with the possibility in mind that sufficient quantities of bat guano might exist to make a commercial enterprise worthwhile.

The party walked for 45 minutes through dense forest and up the slopes of a heavily-timbered ridge until the entrances were reached. There were two of these situated 60 m apart at the base of small limestone cliffs. The larger one was rendered inaccessible by the presence of a huge fissure in the ground at the base of the cliff. The smaller one barely permitted access of a man's body, and after some squeezing, the two officers and eleven natives went through the opening. Hurricane and pressure lamps were lit and the party found itself in a large tunnel which sloped downwards into the dark.

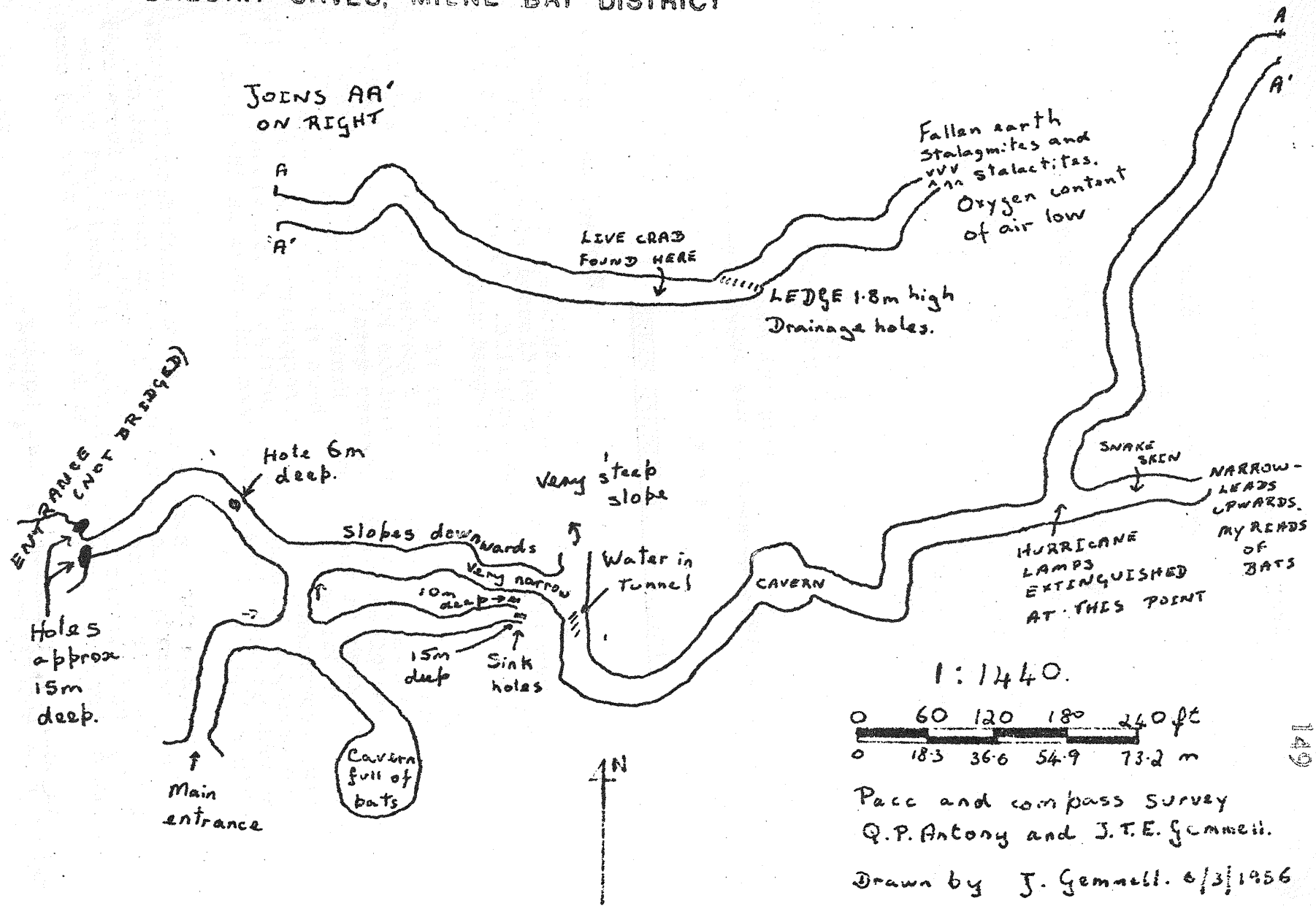
A pace and compass traverse was commenced by the light of the lamps and the party moved down the slope. A notable feature was the presence of literally millions of small black bats. After following up several tunnels which proved to be dead-ends, the passage opened out into a large cavern in which the ceiling was estimated to be 18 m high. The numerous bats in the caverns and galleries gave off a particularly unpleasant foetid smell and the heat became rather oppressive.

Shortly the party encountered several pools of slow flowing water, some of which were waist deep and had to be waded. Continuing, a point was reached where the hurricane lamps extinguished themselves, possibly due to low oxygen content in the air. However,

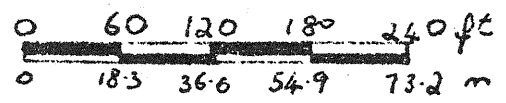
* Present address unknown

+ P.O. Box 6145, Boroko, P.N.G.

DABORA CAVES, MILNE BAY DISTRICT



1:1440.



Pace and compass survey
Q.P. Antony and J.T.E. Gemmill.

Drawn by J. Gemmill. 6/3/1956
GRADE 3.

30 CVI.PC 427

the presence of the bats proved that at least the air was breathable, so we continued, rather unwillingly on the part of the superstitious native members of the group.

Eventually we reached a point where breathing was an effort, the air was extremely hot and a dense whirring mass of bats made further progress inadvisable.

On the return trip it was possible to note that the geological formations consisted of reddish-brown clay and limestone rock from which water dripped incessantly. Numbers of rather dirty stalactites and stalacmites were seen, and underfoot the thick deposits of bat guano made walking slippery.

Nine hundred and forty metres (940 m) of tunnels were surveyed and a point five hundred metres in a straight line from the entrance was reached during the four hours spent underground.

It would be impossible to estimate the amount of guano deposit in the caves, but I would imagine it was considerable.

* * *

"POTHOLING" IN DISUSED MINES

Michael Underdown *

In the absence of suitable caves or potholes, it is perhaps worth considering turning to the numerous disused mines which are to be found in Papua New Guinea and Australia. There may even be certain advantages in "potholing" in disused mines.

The locations of mines and the owners of the properties on which they are located are known to the Department of Lands, Surveys and Mines in Port Moresby and to the various State Mines' Departments, and these can often supply further details from old mines reports. Some research in the relevant Mines Department library or in the Papua and New Guinea Archives, where the relevant records group is Mining Department - General Correspondence (ca. 1910-1930), may also prove useful. In many cases, surveys of individual mines, together with underground plans, have been published in the journals of the Mines Departments.

Mines are abandoned for a number of reasons, including flooding, falls, etc. These hazards also occur of course in caves, and one of the advantages of "potholing" in a mine is that one is forewarned through studying the relevant mines reports. It should not necessarily be assumed, however, that, armed with a map of a mine and some

* 5205 St. Augustin 1, Ulmenweg 5, West Germany.

knowledge of its history, "potholing" there will be a simple matter. The state of a disused mine may have deteriorated due to a number of causes since the last available report. The same degree of caution is called for as in any other caving expedition. Progress is, however, likely to be somewhat easier due to foreknowledge of the extent of the underground workings and to the presence of the original ladders and shoring. For these reasons, mines may perhaps provide a good introduction to potholing for the beginner.

.....

Editor's Note. Exploring disused mines is popular in England, but it is almost unknown in Papua New Guinea and Australia. This branch of caving seems to occur where there are not enough natural caves to go around - hardly the situation in P.N.G. As the author points out exploring abandoned mines can be hazardous. It needs to be emphasised that they are susceptible to flooding and also to collapse as timber supports rot.

* * *

SPELEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FROM AUSTRALIA

BOOKS AND OCCASIONAL PAPERS

** Sydney Speleological Society Occasional Paper No. 1. (1965) 50c from Lyndsey Hawkins, 77 Woodfield Boulevard, Caringbah, N.S.W. 2229. Papers on radio direction finding in caves; New Caledonia cave exploration and fauna; Magnetometer pothole.

** Hill, A. L. (1966). Mullahullang Cave Expeditions 1966. CEGSA Occasional Paper No. 4. Available from The Secretary, C.E.G.S.A., c/o S.A. Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, for \$1.50 per copy (incl. postage).

Mullahullang is the second longest cave in Australia. The book covers the caving, technical and speleological aspects of the expeditions.

** S.S.S. (1969). S.S.S. Occasional Paper No. 3. Chillagoe. \$1 from Lyndsey Hawkins (address above).

Chillagoe is in North Queensland and the area is noted for its karst forms as well as caves.

** A.S.F. (1969). Transcript of Proceedings 7th Biennial Conference. Aust. Speleological Federation. \$1.35 from Cave Exploration Group South Australia (address above).

Numerous interesting papers including one on the 1965 Australia Star Mountains Expedition to P.N.G.

** Sprent, J. K. (1970). Mt. Etna Caves. University of Queensland Speleological Society. Available from The Secretary, U.Q.S.S., c/o The Union, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Q. 4067. for \$2.75 plus 30c postage.

This comprehensive publication deals with the Mt. Etna and Limestone Ridge Caves north of Rockhampton. The book covers geological, biological aspects as well as history and conservation.

** Jennings, J. N. (1971). Karst. An Introduction to Systematic Geomorphology. Volume 7. A.N.U. Press, Canberra.

An invaluable text book for speleologists in the Australasian region.

** A.S.F. (1972). Proceedings of the Eighth Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation. Hobart. 1970. \$3 from the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, G.P.O. Box 641G, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001. (Make cheque payable to 'A.S.F. Convention 1970').

** Dunkley, John R. and Anderson, Edward G. (1971). The Exploration and Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan. Speleological Research Council Ltd. \$2.75 post free from G. S. Hunt, 23 Hipwood Street, North Sydney, N.S.W. 2060.

This book gives a historical outline of exploration and a geographical description of the largest cave in N.S.W. The feature of this book is undoubtedly the isometric diagram of the cave by Ted Anderson.

** S.S.S. (1972). Tugonia Caves. Sydney Speleo. Soc. Occasional Paper No. 4. Available from Lyndsey Hawkins (address above), for \$6.50.

This hardcover book covers all aspects of these caves (located near Sydney). Expensive, but well worth the price.

** Pavey, Andrew (1972). An Index to Cave Maps in N.S.W. Aust. Speleo. Fed.

Still available? Try Andrew Pavey, 1/2 Grace Campbell Cres., Hillsdale, N.S.W. 2036.

** Kahrau, Wolfgang (1972). Australian Caves and Caving. Periwinkle, Melbourne. \$1.50.

Not very accurate in places and rather unbalanced, but a good enough introduction to caving.

** S.S.S. (1972). Australasian Speleo Map Index No. 1. Sydney Speleo. Soc. Occasional Paper No. 1. Available from Lyndsey Hawkin for \$4. More an index of maps in publications in the S.S.S. library, but still useful.

** A.S.F. Conservation of Mullamullang Cave, Western Australia. An 8-page booklet prepared as a submission to the W.A. Government. 50c from Keith Oliver, 44 King Street, St. Mary's, N.S.W. 2760.

** Queensland Conservation Council and Uni. of Qld. Speleo Soc. (1973). The Case Against the Pike Creek Dam. \$1.30 from the University of Queensland Speleological Society, c/o The Union, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Qld. 4067.

The Pike Creek Dam will flood the only significant cave system in Southern Queensland, and UQSS have been fighting the dam since 1968.

** U.Q.S.S. (1973). A Criticism of the Environment Impact Study Report on the Pike Creek Dam. 58c from University of Queensland Speleological Society (address above). This publication criticises a Government Impact Study.

JOURNALS/NEWSLETTERS

** Helictite. Journal of Australasian Cave Research. \$2.60 from John Dunkley, 22/53 Alice Street, Wiley Park, N.S.W. 2095.

This publication is essential for the serious speleologist in Australasia.

** Australian Speleo Abstracts. \$1.50 from Lyndsey Hawkins (address above). Abstracts of Australian caving literature.

** A.S.F. Newsletter. \$1.50 for non-members of the Australian Speleological Federation from The Sales Manager, Keith Oliver, 44 King Street, St. Mary's, N.S.W. 2760.

Most caving societies in Australia put out a newsletter. The best of these are the Journal of the Sydney Speleological Society (\$4.80 from S.S.S., P.O. Box 198, Broadway, N.S.W. 2007); Spar, newsletter of the University of N.S.W. Speleo. Soc. (\$2 from U.N.S.W.S.S., Box 17, The Union, U.N.S.W., P.O. Box 1, Kensington, N.S.W. 2033); and Down Under (\$1.50 from Uni. Qld. Spel. Soc., c/o The Union, Uni. of Qld., St. Lucia, Qld. 4067).

R.M.B.

* * *

SUBJECT INDEX TO NIUGINI CAVER, VOLUME 1

Only article titles have been included in this index, not items that appear in the text of articles.

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PAGINATION VOLUME 2

Pagination of Volume 2 continues from that of Volume 1.

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"OLD CAVE", JAVARERE, CENTRAL DISTRICT

Remember the Vincents' map of one of the Javarere caves (Niugini Caver 1(3): 89-91) and Mike Noone's trip report to the cave (Niugini Caver 1(4): 135). Well, Kev Read has confirmed that the cave is indeed "Old Cave" as it was known by members of the Port Moresby Speleological Society. Kev says that the wet stream passage shown at the top of p. 91 (Niugini Caver 1(3)) continues a fair way further on.

* * *

TOKTOK BILONG EDITA

Funny place for an editorial, did I hear? Somehow, we ended up with a page left over, so plans to save space by not doing one went astray.

This issue is leaner than the last few. However, this is not because of lack of copy but rather because of the cost and effort involved in doing a large issue. Last year this publication cost me \$65 more than what was received from subscriptions, although stocks of material are worth almost that amount. To cut down on production effort, it is hoped to have the newsletter printed commercially, but this depends on obtaining advertising and more subscriptions.

You may have noticed how different numbers were devoted to different regions last year. New Britain was covered by the first two issues, number three was "Focus on the Southern Highlands" and number four "Focus on the Chimbu". I have attempted to bring together a number of articles on the one area, including review papers and a bibliography. Papers are on hand for a "Focus on New Ireland" issue and also on the Central District. Whether one issue can be devoted to the one area will depend on how much other material is on hand. At the moment, sitting on my desk is a pile of articles with more promised.

I hope you, the subscribers, are satisfied with Niugini Caver. At least some people are, judging from the number of complimentary letters I received last year. Suggestions are always welcome, as are new subscriptions, articles and news of caving activity around P.N.G.

Niugini Caver in its first year has reported on caves from many areas in P.N.G. Indeed for most areas few or no caving reports have been published previously. A good descriptive standard has been set by caving newsletter standards. This standard should continue with articles dealing with art, mythology and cave fauna being included as well.

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