



FUSSI

Newsletter

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Front Cover Photo Credit: Tri Phuong.
Front Cover Photo: Kirsty Kitto negotiating the waterfall in Lynds Cave Mole Ck. Tasmania

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Hey guys,

The Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) is conducting a survey amongst the members to help improve the organisation. Here's some background about the survey.

“At the 2007 ASF conference in Mt Gambier a motion was passed at the council meeting to establish a committee to look at the organisational identity of the ASF and fund raising opportunities. As part of the operation of this committee it seeks to undertake a survey of members to establish members perceptions of the ASF, services it offers, efficiency of the organisation and members ideas for ways of improving the way the ASF supports its members.” (taken from the survey introductory page)

It's just a series of some really simple questions and would probably only take about half an hour. Also, this survey is a way of helping ASF to help you (or us), so make sure you submit one!

It would be **very** much appreciated if you could fill in the survey on the following few pages and submit them to Bronya at: alexander.bronya@saugov.sa.gov.au by **25th August 2007**. Every feedback h

You can copy and paste them onto Microsoft Word, fill them up and send them to Bronya as an attachment. Alternatively, you can email me (ehon86@gmail.com) and I can send you a soft copy (Microsoft Word) of the survey. Otherwise, just type out your answer and send them to Bronya.

Even if it's just “I don't know”s, we (or rather, they) still need your feedbacks so please do so!

If you have any question(s), feel free to email Clare at clare.buswell@flinders.edu.au or Ross Anderson at rossjay@iinet.net.au.

Cheers,
Ehon

ASF SURVEY

Club Name: Flinders University Speleological Society Incorporated

What is the ASF? – Image and Services

What does the ASF mean to you? Please list points
What are the most important things the ASF currently provides it's members? Please identify the 3 most important points.
What do you think the ASF should provide to its members? Please identify the 3 most important points.
What do you currently value or appreciate by being a part of the ASF? Please list points

Do you have a positive perception of the ASF? Comments:	Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____
--	---------------------------------

	1	Dislike	2	3	4	5 Love it
How do you feel about the current ASF logo? See cover page for logo. Comments:						

ASF SURVEY

Please rate the following services provided by the ASF on the scale below:

	Excellent	Good	Undecided	Below expectations	Poor
Networking					
Insurance					
Access to caves and trips					
Knowledge					
Lobby support on conservation issues					
Ability to communicate with office bearers and executive					
Caves Australia					
ASF codes and Guidelines					
Annual Council Meeting (only ask members that have attended to comment)					
Conference					
Karst Index Database					

Members perceptions of value

With the following Y/N questions please indicate the number of members responding as yes or no. ie: 15 voted yes, 5 voted no...

Do you feel you are receiving value from your ASF membership with regards to services/ benefits?

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

Do you feel you are receiving value from your ASF membership with regards to cost of membership?

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

If you were able to gain the same benefits/ service through another organization at a similar cost, would you still become a member of the ASF?

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

What can you suggest to improve ASFs services to members?
Please prioritise suggestions by numbering.

ASF SURVEY

As an member of the ASF, please rate your feelings towards the following statements:

	1Low	2	3	4	5 High
Your perceived level of involvement					
How valued/ recognized do you feel?					
Feeling of belonging to the ASF nationally					

	Almost always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Almost never
Please indicate number members voting for each position on scale.					
Are you satisfied with the ASF organisation as a whole?					

Please list 3 reasons or issues affecting your satisfaction regarding the ASF:

Caves Australia

Please rate this publication on the following scale :

	1 Low	2	3	4	5 High
Timeliness					
Content					
Number per year					

Please list the three top changes you would like to see with the CA publication:

Do you have some solutions to these suggestions? ie volunteers willing to assist by submitting articles, methods of money raising to introduce colour printing. See end of survey for places to record volunteers.

In its current form do you feel that CA mag is of value to ASF and its members?

Comment:

Number of votes:Y ____ :N ____

ASF SURVEY

ASF website

	Ext Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Awesome
Relevance of content to you					
Ability to understand content					
Graphic user interface, navigability, ease of finding things?					

Please comment on any potential improvements to the ASF website in the space below:

Email list:

Is the ASF email list useful to you?

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

Would you like to see programmed discussions through the email list

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

General Communications and Publications

With regard to Caves Australia, please indicate what you want to see and how much.

This question will assist in identifying readers general interest and assist in the targeted production of articles, there is no need to get highly specific in the answer...

Scientific _____
Recreational _____
Technical/ Rescue _____
Social/Cultural/ Spiritual _____
New cavers _____
Conservation _____
100%

If the ASF produced a regular E-bulletin that contained club based information do you feel that this would be useful to you? Eg where clubs could advertise trips, projects and activities that may be of interest to other ASF clubs:

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

Do you think a membership pack for new members would be of benefit?

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

Would you like a national diary? Content could include winning images, projects that clubs are undertaking club meeting dates and significant speleo dates at a national and local level. Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

Would you support the sales of either a diary or calendar in retail outlets? As a means of raising funds, and membership for clubs.

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

ASF SURVEY

Would you buy ASF products?

Calender _____

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

Sticker

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

Pen _____

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

Mug,

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

T-shirt _____

Number of votes: Y ____ :N ____

Comment:

Please ask your assembled group the following and record names and contact details.

Would you consider supporting ASF in any particular area? Please specify what area where you can help. Give examples: Insurance, Membership, Committees, Commissions, CA mag articles, club snippets etc

Name	Area able to assist	Phone/ Email (inc area code)

Appendix A:

ASF Aims and Objectives

The aims of the Federation are:

(a) to safeguard and protect the natural environment, specifically the cave and karst environment of Australia;

(b) to gather and disseminate information, develop and promote policies, foster and publish research, and provide education and advice to the Australian community on conserving Australia's karst resources;

(c) to bring together and represent persons interested in caves and karst in Australia and the attainment of the Federation's aims; and

(d) to foster speleology in all of its aspects.

2.1

To establish and maintain a public fund to be called "The Australian Speleological Federation Gift Fund" for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objectives/purposes of the Federation. The Fund is established to receive all gifts of money or property for this purpose and any money received because of such gifts must be credited to its bank account. The Fund must not receive any other money or property into its account and it must comply with subdivision 30-E of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bronya Alexander

Date : 17th May 2007, Thursday
Venue : Kelly Morris Room, Flinders University Union Building
Present :
Chris Wood Clare Buswell Siam Mooi Lee
Jan Schmorte Heiko Maurer Paul Wacławic
Bronya Alexander Debbie Callison Brendan White
Michael Meynell-James Eli Phelan Ehon Chan
Jiamin Xu

Statement of Acknowledgement (suggested and read out by Michael)

I would like to acknowledge this land that we meet upon today is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people, and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kaurna peoples as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

Executive reports

From President, Secretary, Treasurer, Gear officer, Safety officer and Library officer.
(NB: Reports can be found in FUSSI Vol.19.1. 2007.)

Points to note

Treasurer (Jan): That fundraising is a key issue now that funding grants are not provided.

Gear (Clare):

- We have a problem with gear storage now that the compactus is not appropriate for us to use.
- We need to look at replacing Cap Lamps – useful to make up using parts (much cheaper). We could possibly have a group construction day to make them? Parts often come from miners.
- From now on, we should attempt to wash gear as a group at the end of each trip, so that one person doesn't have to wash everything. This was agreed on by all.

Safety (Clare): Made the point that it would be preferable if every member had attended a first aid course, but the onus is on us to do this.

Constitution

Some changes have been made to the FUSSI Constitution. A copy was passed around and discussed. Besides some minor spelling errors, the new Constitution was agreed on by all members present.

Election Of Executive

President : Michael Meynell-James
Treasurer : Jan Schmorte (re-elected)
Secretary : Bronya Alexander (re-elected)
Gear Officer : Clare Buswell (re-elected)
Safety Officer : Clare Buswell (re-elected)
Library Officer : Jiamin Xu
Newsletter editor : Ehon Chan

Website

Brendan has set up the FUSSI website on his domain, with the convenient address of www.fussi.org.au. He will email the executive committee the website password so that we can update the contents.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Stickers

Out of a number of sticker slogans, we voted on which we liked the most. The top two, in preferential order, are:

1. Get down, get dirty, go caving!
2. We're FUSSI about caving!

Bronya to organise and get quotes for these. Best to get outside car stickers.

Next trip

- June long weekend (9-11th) to the Flinders Ranges – Wilkawillina Gorge. This will include at least one cave but will also involve a fair bit of walking. To be organised by Michael.
- Aug 4/5: Hamilton, Victoria?
- Sep 8/9: Lower Flinders?
- End of year: Bungonia NSW? Or Tasi? Note: If this trip runs into January of 08, then all members must financial members for 2008 so they can still be covered by insurance.
- Possible SRT practice and Bridge Jumping later this year.

Fundraising/Club awareness

- Applying for grants are still a good idea.
- We can't do car washing as has been done in the past.
- Possible BBQ outside a shop/supermarket?
- Mooi suggested a fun run – target schools.
- Advertise to biology/geology students within the uni.

Training

Clare would like to run some training possibly in September, involving search and rescue techniques (seminar and weekend) and SRT & knots practise.

Caving Gear. See FUSSI Vol. 19. No.1. 2007

Clare gave a good demonstration and discussion of important gear for caving.

- Bumbag
- Gloves
- Boots with good tread
- Overalls
- Caving tape (at least 5m)
- Piss bag
- 3 light sources
- Spare bulbs
- First Aid kit

Demonstration on making a tape harness.

Clare showed us all how to construct a basic harness out of tape, and we practiced making them ourselves with the tape that Clare brought along. This was a wonderful and very useful way to end the AGM for 2007!

3D/2N AT WILKAWILLINA GORGE, FLINDERS RANGES

Ehon Chan

Present: Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer, Siam Mooi Lee, Le Yi Ng, Le Qing Ng, Michael Meynell-James, Ehon Chan, Bronya Alexander

After some last minute arrangements, we finally got on our way. I was in a car with Mooi, Le Qing and Le Yi and we took off at around 6.40am. We met Bronya and Michael on the way and followed behind them. We reached Wilkawillina Gorge at almost 1.00pm and Heiko was already waiting for us.



Michael showing us where the Eyrie Cave F11 is.

We drove in around 4km and walked around 2km before reaching the first cave, Eyrie Cave F11. There were some stalactites forming, and some formations that looked like broccoli, so we shall call it broccoli. Like every other cave in Flinders Ranges, it's filled with dust.

We camped at the western end of Wilkawillina Gorge. Sleep has never been this good—after the long walk!

The next day was spent walking, walking and walking. We walked through the gorge and checked out some caves found by FUSSI members in 2000: Sisyphean Slip F188, the Purple Zinc Cave F189 and Paul's Rift F190. F189 is almost completely blocked by creek debris and it will require some serious digging to get into it!



We're getting there!



F11 entrance

The 'broccoli'

3D/2N AT WILKAWILLINA GORGE, FLINDERS RANGES



Me getting out of F188



Bronya in F188



On the way through the gorge.

Michael, Heiko and I being on the adventurous side, walked our way back to the campsite through the gorge, whilst the others walked to the cars and drove back to the campsite. Other than the roasting sun, it was a pretty easy walk. I am not too sure how long we took but it was about 11km if my memory serves me right. We saw some emus, kangaroos, wallabies and goats along the way, which was interesting, especially for me since I'm an international student and this was my first time in the Australian bush!

We just sat back and enjoyed the beautiful night. Michael entertained us with his didgeridoo. I also saw some shooting stars!

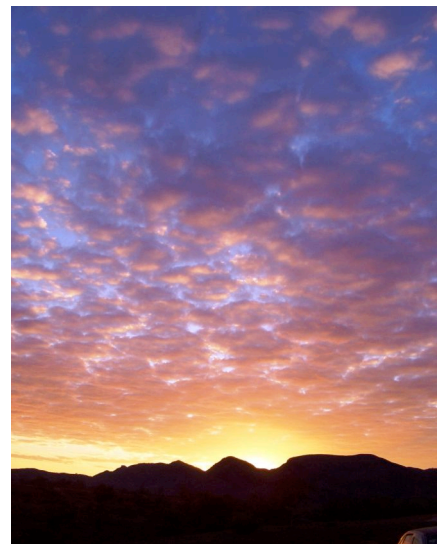
The final day was spent packing and cleaning before we all headed home. Home sweet home it was!



Paul's Rift F190



Mooi and Clare.



Beautiful sunrise on the third day.

SKULL ROCK. FLINDERS RANGES.

Heiko Maurer

June 11, 2007

Members on the trip: Clare Buswell and Heiko Maurer.

On the way home from the June Long Weekend trip to Wilkawillina, Clare and I decided that we just had enough time to try to visit Skull Rock on the way back to Adelaide. Skull Rock is famous in the annals of FUSSI (and possibly VSA) because the last attempt to visit it at Easter 1999 (see FUSSI Vol 11, No. 2), resulted in four (4 – count ‘em!) flat tyres to the same car and much ‘joyous dancing’ in an effort to break tyre/rim seal. So, this time we were keen to try to get there.

Skull Rock is sometimes referred to simply as “The Skull” or as “Skull Cave”. The owner of the property, and direction signs use the name “Skull Rock”. The turn-off to Skull Rock is about 500m north-east past the Blinman turn-off on the Wilpena-Wirrealpa road, just by a green shed (and old miner’s dugout if you look closely). It is not signposted. The road is reasonably rough, heading east over flat to undulating country into the foothills of the Bunkers, crossing several gullies where recent heavy rain had partially eroded the road. It meanders into the Bunkers and reaches a car park bulldozed by the owner near the head of a valley. The last 200m of the 10.3km distance is covered on foot.



Skull Rock from the viewing area

The strikingly light grey limestone outcrop contrasts sharply with the red of the surrounds appearing to ‘flow’ from a gap in the cliff and has some openings giving the rough appearance of a skull (see above), hence its name. The way down to the rock was blocked with flagging tape and signs saying danger, keep out. It is not clear from this area how big the outcrop is. The land on which Skull Rock is located is now under a 99 year lease to the Yellow Foot Rock Wallaby Preservation Association. They have closed access to the site.

We decided to re-trace the road back, which was comfortably handled by the Subaru Forester with five numberplate scapes and four floorpan rock rolls all told. No flat tyres at all.

LOST AND FOUND AT MOLE CREEK.

Clare Buswell

Execution Pot. Mole Creek. MC 4. Also known and mis-numbered as MC138.

June 23/24, 2007.

Members on the trip: Ivan Riley, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney (Southern Tasmanian Caverneers STC.) and Clare Buswell.

Friday, June 22. Three hours before the plane left.

Check weight restrictions on luggage: ... 20kg. Weigh pack, umm ... 22kg. Check hand luggage weight: 7kg ... weigh hand luggage ... 5kg. I looked around the kitchen floor to see what I had missed and if I could wear it. Boots, yes. Red caving suit. (What, you want to look like something from Baxter!) Yellow spelean bag, no. Haighs chocolates, half a kg. Well, I could eat those before I go, but it sort of defeats the purpose.

Way back in January 2004, Heiko, Ivan and I went looking for Execution Pot at Mole Creek, as it looked like a good cave to get some SRT practice in before we headed south to go into Mini Martin. The mud map we saw of Execution Pot showed two good pitches of 30 odd metres each with some climbdowns around a stream. We spent a long afternoon searching the area where it was supposed to be, but found nothing. We put this down to the very loose locational intelligence that we had, after which we promptly forgot about the cave and went onto other things ...

Sometime this year Janine and Ric had nothing better to do than go hunting in the same area, but they had a grid reference! Find it they did, way further down the hill and not in the creek where we had been looking. Ivan emailed and asked, do you want to go on a trip in Execution Pot? Well, given the smell of the chase, I thought why not. So there I was trying to stuff all the usual SRT caving gear, warm clothes etc in a pack and get on a plane.

Eight on Saturday morning, at the Mole Ck Caravan park, showed itself to be a perfect frost. Everything crunched, including the milk I as poured it onto my cereal! Ivan made coffee and I tried the 'hold the cereal bowl over the steaming coffee cup' trick in an effort to unfreeze the milk, but was to no avail. So in an effort save the coffee from freeze drying itself, I drank it within seconds of its short life.

Around nine we did the car thingy and drove half way to the Mersey River, turning off to a fire track, dumping Ivan's Mazda and going on in R and J's flat-topped 4x4 for the two km of bush bashing. In 2004 we took the Subaru Liberty along the same road, getting into trouble on the top of the spur. (We got the wheels stuck in a rut and mostly rode the exhaust system for 70 metres rather than the tyres.) No such issues this time.

Janine and Ric had taped a route (orange flagging tape) down to the cave and this we followed, putting us at the entrance half an hour or so later. Much discussion as to the best way to rig the first pitch of 31m: - 'why not use the bloody, great, big, live tree half way up the hill, or from this side, with a rebelay wire trace on that tree over there?' All were tried, rejected, re-tried and one or two options finally settled on. Half way down the first 31metre pitch you end up on a pile of debris. We decided that we needed to put in a bolt so as to continue down this pitch, so Janine and Ric did the bolt fairy thing, tied in a second rebelay and we were on our way.

At the bottom of the first pitch is a small crawl from which the next pitch head is negotiated. The rigging details from the only trip report that could be found, state that the pitch was rigged from a rotting log before the crawl. We looked for the rotting log, any log in fact. None was found. Bolt fairy time again and two bolts were placed at the top of the second pitch. You clip on whilst in the crawl, after which it is a free hang all the way to the bottom. Well it would have been, if we had not used too

LOST AND FOUND AT MOLE CREEK

much rope rigging to a backup around some rocks in the crawl way. Ric, descended first, got most of the way down, discovered that the rope was 4 metres too short, changed over and came back up. We re-rigged, and this time all was tickety-boo. This 35 metre pitch is clean, pretty much cylindrical, with flow stone on the walls and is a good reward for all the mucking around at its top.



Janine and Ric at the top of the second pitch, Execution Pot

Once down the bottom there is a 4m climb down to where the cave splits into two. The right hand side follows a long narrow rift. The left hand side has a number of climbs up to some waterfalls. The climbs are muddy and deep with debris washed in by a stream that seems to periodically flood this section. Under the 4 metre climb down is a further 9m climb that takes one to a sump. Ivan climbed some of the way down this whilst Janine and I clambered around the rift and the muddy climbs up to the water falls. This section of the cave is wet, muddy and noisy compared to the quietness of the two shafts. There also has to be a stream sinking into the cave somewhere further down the creek line given the wash and debris that is deposited here.

The exit process began with Janine leading, whilst I followed her up the bottom pitch. We left the guys to it, and continuing our way past the two rebelayes of the first pitch and exited the cave in the late afternoon daylight. Once we were all out, we packed up and headed back up the hill to the car. It was a great day of caving: bolting, good clean pitches and mud at the bottom. My thanks go to Janine and Ric for putting on the trip and for Ivan for letting me know it was on.

Note: near Execution Pot is Long Drop, MC 139. This has a 25 metre pitch from a small entrance in cliff. Pool at the bottom. Reference: Speleo Speil. No. 205. May 1985. p. 4.

Rigging details.

You will need to bring your own hangers. Bolts are 8mm X 90mm stainless steel through-bolts and are marked by plastic bolt markers making them easy to locate.

NOTE: Pitch lengths are estimates.

LOST AND FOUND AT MOLE CREEK

Pitch one. 31metres. Use a 50m rope.

Rig main line from large gum tree, which is 5-7 meters from the edge. Rig a separate rebelay from other trees using a 4 metre wire trace hanging from a 10 metre rope over the lip..

Rebelay from bolt 15 metres down on the left hand side, which is in a constriction and easily accessible from the debris covered ledge.

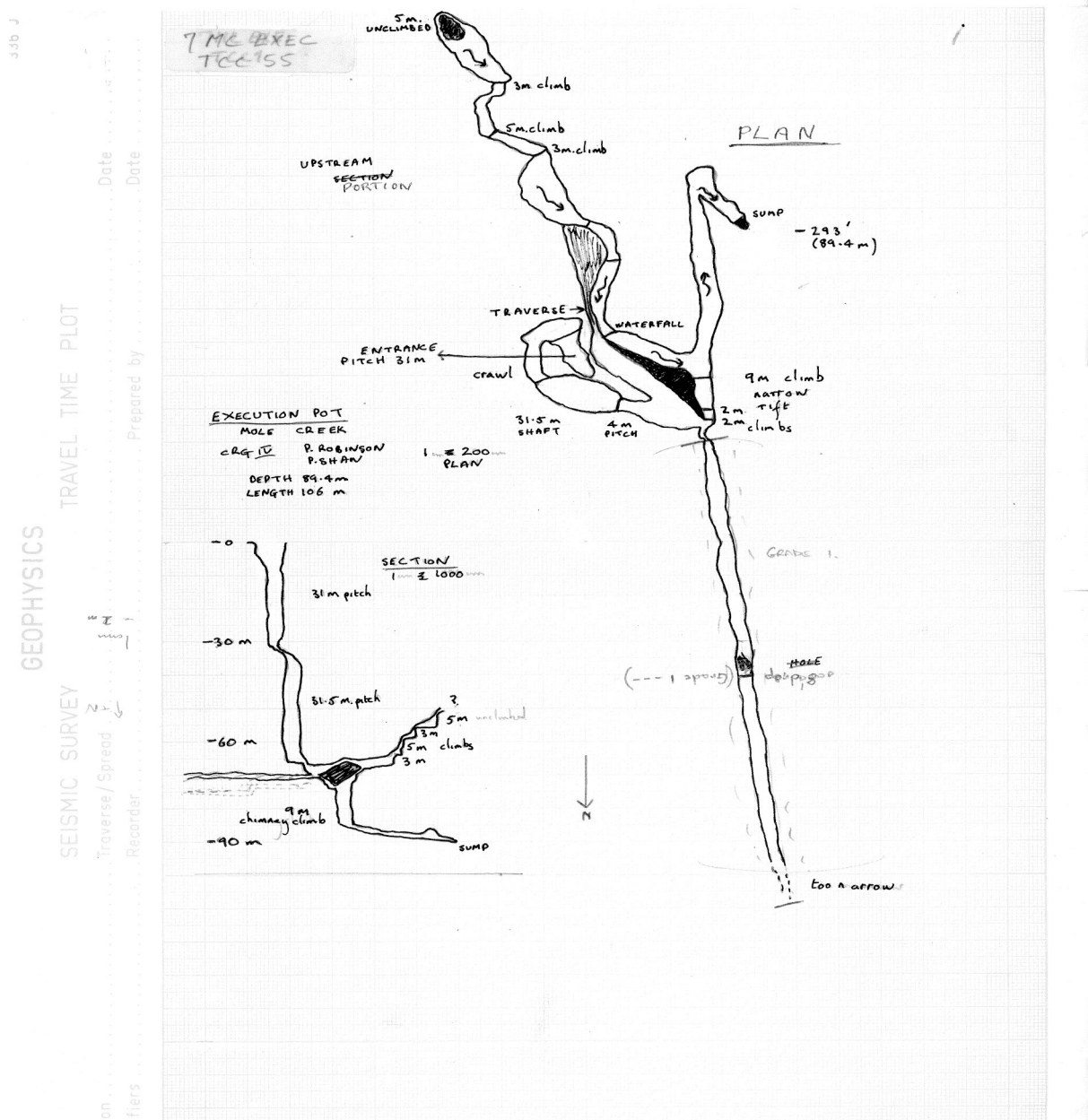
Pitch Two. 35 metres. Use 40m rope.

Rig a back up to rocks on the floor before the crawl way. 4 m tape should do the trick.

Rig rope from two bolts at top of pitch head on right hand side, near the bottom of the crawl.

Take a hand line or rope of ten metres for the 9m climb down to access the final climb at the bottom.

Map of Execution Pot



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Coming Up!

Weekend of the 8th September - Lower South East.
New members welcome!

Weekend of the 20th October - Lower Flinders Ranges.
Emphasis on Vertical Techniques

For those interested, please let Bronya know: alexander.bronya@saugov.sa.gov.au

Week long interstate trip: date and location to be announced
Bungonia / Jenolan / Buchan
The committee is co-ordinating this one.