
Coleman Easter 2017

Keir Vaughan-Taylor and Rod Obrien

Present: Jason Cockayne, Ian Cooper, Barbara Jimenez-Bailla, Rod Obrien, Eddie Castro, David Rueda Roca, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Tina Wilmore, James Krause (NUCC) and Aidan Lloyd (NUCC)



*TINA AT THE ENTRANCE TO CP185
PHOTO KEIR VAUGHAN-TAYLOR*

Although the weather was glorious, a chill in the air signals approaching winter. Below-zero temperatures come at night evidenced by solidly frozen water containers. There were many horses to be seen this year. At night a few horses would enter the campsite, surround the campfire and dig their hooves into the edges of the coals, presumably getting them warmed up.

Friday 14th of April

We transported gear to Murray Cave and River Cave ready to attempt a connection on the Saturday. Dropping the gear off, we walked to the western contact of the limestone examining various small collapses and holes. Tina found a new small cave containing formation and a small room and called

it Short Course (A swimming term). The cave was fully surveyed and later tagged as CP185.

Saturday 15th of April

Jason and Keir dived the first three sumps in Murray Cave hoping to meet up with Rod and others in River Cave. Trying to avoid distractions along the way Keir and Jason crawled into the Murrays back rockpile following the water flow.

We had arranged to make whistle calls every 15 minutes. Both caving teams were unexpectedly delayed by small hold ups. Is this unexpected? We should know better. Murray Cave is open season for tourists. Families wander into the cave and some venture along the main passage as far as the sump.

On this day there were two divers pfaing about trying to get video lights and cameras to work. Jason and I seemed to spend a lot of time explaining to tourists what the layout of the caves was like. Groups of Chinese visitors thought we were tour guides, I think. We did our best to be polite and informative.

Both caving parties arrived late into the rockpile which didn't matter greatly other than each team thought they had missed the other team. It was a minor problem except that the day was slipping away and a return across the plain in the dark is very cold.

Nevertheless, once Jason and I were nestled into the backmost rockpile we could hear Rod talking with one of the others. Each team moved about in the rock pile trying to get closer but often moving further away. Calls would seem to come to within 6 or 7 meters but would recede as each group would seek alternative routes to try and make distance between the cascade of stones.

At times we could eavesdrop on the other group's conversations as though they were very close although the River Cave team apparently had more difficulty hearing us.



*KEIR IN THE ROCKPILE, MURRAY CAVE
PHOTO JASON COCKAYNE*



*UPSTREAM END OF MURRAY CAVE
PHOTO KEIR VAUGHAN-TAYLOR*

We could never quite get a visual sighting on the other group. There are many nooks and crannies to squeeze into and after seemingly coming so close, Rod's voice disappeared altogether.

Others in his group were getting cold and they elected to turn back. Although it was getting late Jason and I continued to search for way to penetrate further but there is a lot to be examined and it was strenuous work.

Eventually we were too buggered to go on and we had to reverse the process of coming in. On the way back we tried to snap a few pictures along the way. Sadly many potentially great photos are blurred by droplets on the lens that didn't seem to clear well with a perfunctory wipe.

In theory when a connection is made between two caves, convention says that the name of both caves becomes that of the larger cave. The name Murray Cave is likely to have heritage value and should not be dropped but perhaps in the light of "good" humour the name should become "Murray River Cave".

Rod's description of the other side:

River Cave team were Rod, David, Barbara, Eddie and NUCC cavers James Krause and Aidan Lloyd. We fitted all the gear into three cave packs and started off.

One of the team at the back of the line took a wrong turn and became lost for ten minutes before he was relocated. The team then progressed to the first duck-under. The duck-under is fairly straight forward being a body length long and half a metre deep. The team had all gone through when Barbara started feeling ill, so she ducked back through and exited the cave. The second duck-under is more formidable, being 1.5 m deep and 4 m long. James attempted this but found it daunting and decided it wasn't for him. He knew the way out so returned to the surface.

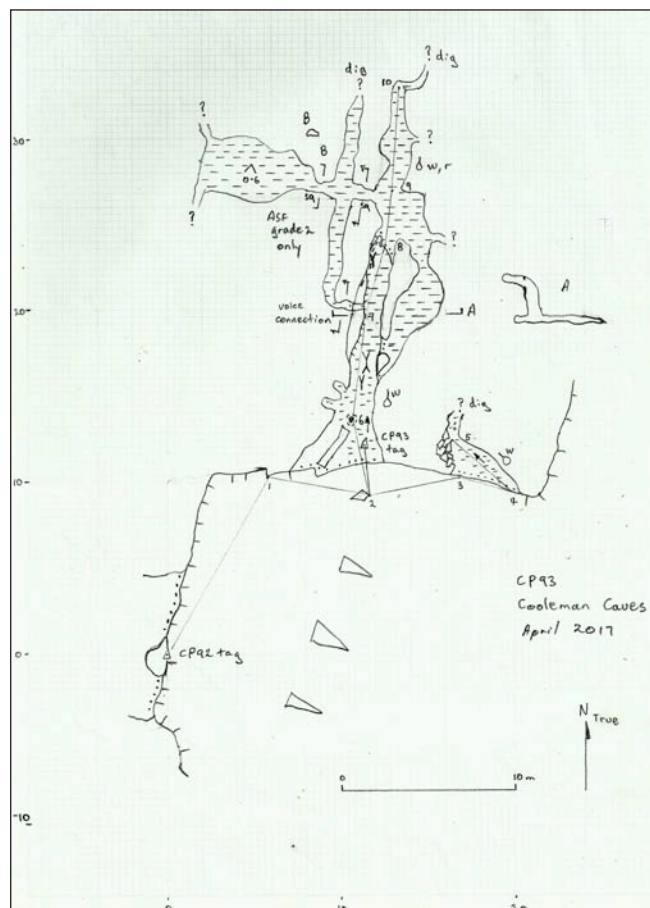
Rod, David, Eddie and Aidan then transported the packs to the back of the cave. We had arranged to signal through the rockpile every 15 minutes between 1 pm and 2 pm. While we were waiting, Aidan found a vertical lead that he climbed. He estimated it went up 20 m, stopping at a small chamber with a clay roof. At 1.40 pm we thought we could hear something so started shouting and whistling. We were greeted with a reply from Keir.

Sunday 16th of April

Rod had planned to dive Altamira with Keir supporting. Keir discovered his shoulder muscles had torn in the squeezing and struggling in the Murry River Rockpile. Not wanting to exacerbate the problem, he decided not to dive. Rod felt there was not enough support persons to get the gear in and

out in a reasonable time so he and Jason set out to get the dive gear out.

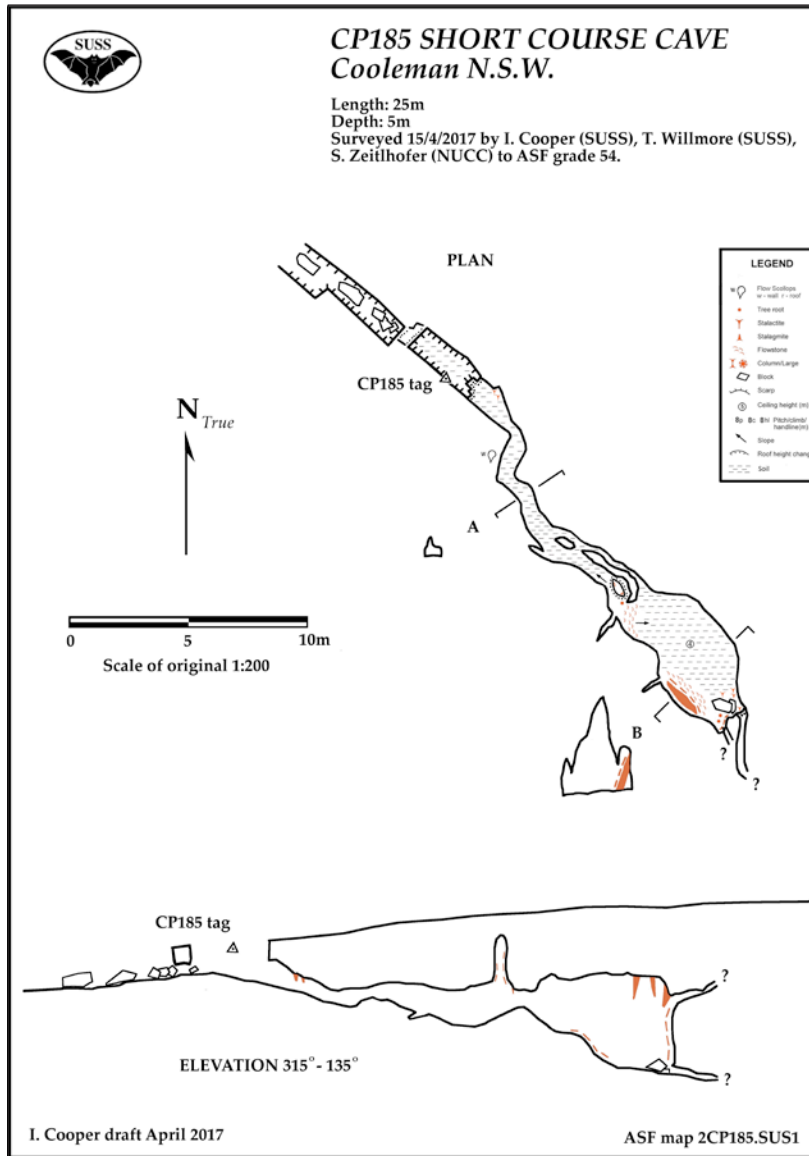
Ian Cooper returned to CP93 to survey more sections. This cave is related to CP92 and is becoming an exciting development in the Easter Cave system. Extra parts of CP93 were found. Ian's survey notes and maps will be drawn up soon.



CP93 DRAFT
NEW SECTION SKETCHED BY IAN COOPER

CP93	Coolman, NSW	Surveyed:	16/4/2017
I. Cooper	T. Willmore	D. Rueda-Roca	Suuntos, tape

From Station	Description	To Station	Description	Tape (m)	Comp.	Clino.
CP92 tag		CP9301	cliff point	12.02	17.0	12.0
CP9301	cliff point	CP9302	0.5m boulder tip	7.18	88.0	-34.0
			outside CP93			
CP9302	outside CP93	CP9303	cliff point	5.40	67.0	-13.0
CP9303	cliff point	CP9304	top lip of small	2.51	98.0	-28.0
			untagged cave			
CP9304		CP9305	tip of rock on left side	4.16	308.0	-22.0
CP9302		CP93 tag		2.91	345.0	13.0
CP9302		CP9306	side of mossy column	4.75	337.0	-6.0
CP9306	side of mossy column	CP9307	15cm stalagmite	6.19	355.0	-19.0
CP9307	15cm stalagmite	CP9308	2cm roof knob	4.49	3.0	-20.5
CP9308	2cm roof knob	CP9309	roof knob at junction	3.21	354.5	-5.0
CP9309	roof knob at junction	CP9310		6.00	352.0	-5.0



CP185 **Short Course** **Coleman, NSW** **Surveyed:** **15/4/2017**
 I. Cooper T. Willmore S. Zeithofer (NUCC) Suuntos, tape

From Station	Description	To Station	Description	Tape (m)	Comp.	Clino.
CP185 tag		CPXX01	marked site on south wall of entrance pit	0.32	300.0	18.0
CPXX01	marked site on south wall of entrance pit	CPXX02	floor of entrance pit	1.16	90.0	-90.0
CPXX02	floor of entrance pit	CPXX03	cave coral on left wall	3.95	113.0	-10.0
CPXX03	cave coral on left wall	CPXX04	floor	2.16	183.0	-11.5
CPXX04	floor	CPXX05	roof	1.36	120.0	25.0
CPXX05	roof	CPXX06	pencilled wall bump	2.12	153.0	-17.0
CPXX06	pencilled wall bump	CPXX07	wall projection	3.28	103.0	3.0
CPXX07	wall projection	CPXX08		1.37	144.0	4.0
CPXX08		CPXX09	flowstone lip	2.61	128.0	-9.0
CPXX09	flowstone lip	CPXX10		4.75	112.0	-30.0
CPXX10		CPXX11	surface point	1.55	120.0	90.0
CPXX11	marked site on south wall of entrance pit	CPXX12	surface point	10.00	120.0	8.0
CPXX12		CPXX13	surface point	10.00	120.0	2.0
CPXX13		CPXX14	surface point	10.00	120.0	3.0