

TEMPURONG RIVER CAVE.

A previous visit to this cave was brought to a halt at a shallow pool having an archway on the far side. On our latest visit to the cave Norma and I found no water, and beyond the arch there was a dry lake, crossed at one point by a stalagmite bridge. It appeared that this bridge crossed a lake which was full earlier in the year, the small pool discovered on the first trip being filled by its overflow. The lake when full would be about 8 feet deep, 15 feet wide and 100 feet long. Beyond the lake was a gentle slope which ended in a 'Lip' approximately 5 feet high, at the edge of a great drop which a party of R.A.F. cavers said was 180 feet deep. Although at first it seemed that this point would be the limit of our exploration of this cave, Norma discovered a balcony which ran along the top of the enormous passage. We followed the ledge for about 400 feet and could just discern a floor beneath, and hear the stream chattering away. At one place there appeared to be a way down, but on investigation we found that after only about 50 feet we were at the edge of a precipice. We also found some very slender stalagmites, similar to the ones in the U.K., and I was about to photograph them when I discovered my camera had no exposures left! A further passage with a strong draught was discovered on our return trip, and we hope to return there later with some wood struts to enable us to climb up to it.

Malcom Cotter.