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Any UFOs down there?

A Dunedin researcher is seeking information on a series of tubular caves he believes are in Nelson. According to his theories, they might have been created by UFOs.

Dr Jan Pajak says information about such caves might help him in a quest to build a magnetically-propelled spacecraft, which he calls a "magnocraft".

He claims other civilisations have already developed such magnocrafts and used them on Earth, giving rise to UFO sightings.

"When the magnocraft is finally built on Earth it will display a number of unusual capabilities. For example, it will be able to fly not only in free air, space and water, but also underground, where it will produce (evaporate) long, glassy and technological looking tunnels," he said.

"UFOs are able to fly through solid matter. During such flights they evaporate a unique type of glassy tunnel, identical to the tunnels described in the news item I am inquiring about."

Mr Arthur Freeman, of the Nelson Speleological Group, said cavers had recently been investigating a series of caves which fitted the description offered by Dr Pajak.

The tubular caves in the Ellis Karste field at Mt Arthur had smooth but not glassy walls, Mr Freeman said.

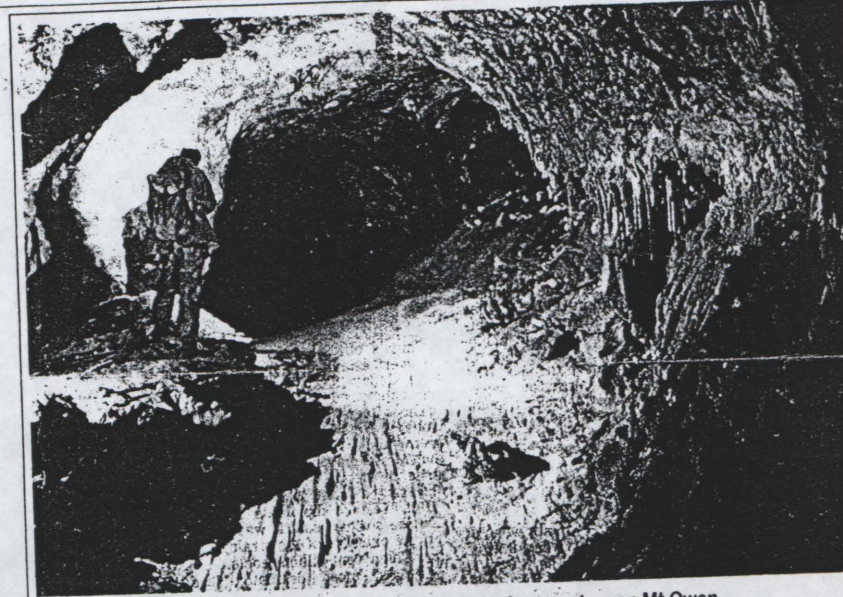
He thought the phreatic tubes, known as the Tomo Thyme Caves, were formed by water pressure under the water table.

The caves were apparently first discovered 15 years ago, but local climbers began re-investigating them 18 months ago.

Dr Pajak has been collecting information on UFOs for some years and has been looking for evidence of tubular tunnels since his arrival in New Zealand in 1982.

"The purpose of collecting this evidence is to complete our magnocraft faster and easier than it would take without having a ready operational model to copy from," he said.

*Nelson Evening Mail
20 May 1989*



A caver in a phreatic tube in the Bulmer Cave system on Mt Owen.

UFO theory queried

By David Chowdhury

UFO pilots must have been active if their spacecraft are to account for all the tubular tunnels found in New Zealand underground cave systems, says a Nelson geologist and caver.

Mr Paul Wopereis said such tunnels, commonly known as phreatic tubes, were common throughout New Zealand.

He was responding to UFO buff Dr Jan Pajak, an Otago University computer studies lecturer, who believes magnetically propelled spacecraft may have been responsible for the formation of tunnels in the Nelson area.

Mr Wopereis said phreatic tubes were formed below the water table by water action on soluble limestone.

Beneath the water table there is no bias toward gravity and water dissolved lime evenly, resulting in a tube he said.

During periods of land uplift, the tubes were raised above the water table and exposed. Continuing water action over millions of years further dissolved the tubes forming great rifts.

"Most active systems below the water table would have phreatics underneath all the areas in Nelson including Mt Owen, Mt Arthur and the Tablelands."

Dr Pajak says the magnocraft visiting Earth from other civilisations in the past were able to fly through solid matter producing "long, glassy and technological tunnels" by evaporating the rock.

He has been searching for evidence of tunnels since arriving in

New Zealand in 1982. He recently heard that 8km of tunnels had been found in the Nelson area and was evidence of the existence of magnocraft.

In January, cavers found 8km of new tunnels in the 26km Bulmer Cave under Mt Owen.

Dr Pajak wants to build a magnocraft and is seeking evidence so that it can be made "faster and easier than it would take without having an operational model to copy".

He also believed the existence of the tunnels could make them a tourist attraction for Nelson.

Mr Wopereis said Dr Pajak's assertions "added some character to the scene".

"He's obviously an intelligent guy. If that's what he believes, it's fair enough."