



YEAR BOOK
'75

LAUNCESTON SPELLEO CLUB

YEAR BOOK 75

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well here I am again at the end of another year. It has been a good year too, and though there has not been many trips, we have spread our activities further afield.

The trips we have had have been varied, well-attended, and very interesting.

Training trips have been poorly attended. Members who have concentrated on the training and caveneering trips have become very proficient cavers. I am sure if we could all participate more in these training sessions, we would become more efficient, better cavers, and save a lot of time during lifelining and ladder week.

During the next year we have plans for caving expeditions into the more remote areas of the State. We also intend to have more intensive training trips.

A great deal has been said concerning pollution and damage to our caves. We, as new members in the caving fraternity, have seen a good deal of this and have inherited this from a few outsiders and other caveneering groups.

As you all know this side to caving has been constantly stressed in our club, and I am pleased to say, carried out by our members.

However, we must continue to practice what we preach, and in this respect other clubs should also put their own house in order.

Social Activities :

I feel club members should take more interest in this side of the club's activities, as the social members play a great part in raising funds which pay for new equipment. ,

Thank you all for the help and assistance given to me during the year. Your interests are my interest.

I wish you all good caving in the new year.

George Bamford,
President.

ABOUT THE LAUNCESTON SPELEO CLUB

JULY 1973:

The Launceston Speleo Club was formed and consisted of eleven active members and nine associate members. Officers of the Club are President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tackle Master, Trip Organiser, Photographer, Geologist and Journal Editor.

MAY, 1974

Suitable premises as a Club House were found at 107 Balfour Street.

27th. APRIL, 1974

A social evening was organised and held at the Franklin Village Hall, proving very successful and \$244.00 was raised and spent on new ladders and rope for club use.

3rd. AUGUST, 1974

Our first Annual Dinner was held at the Centennial Hotel and proved a great success.

7th. DECEMBER, 1974

A Christmas Dinner was held at the Centennial Hotel.

26th. JULY 1975

Will be our 2nd. Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the Club House at 7.30 p.m. Our 2nd. Annual Dinner will follow in August. All General Meetings are held on the last Saturday of every month, with exceptions of Public Holidays. These are either put back or forward one week.

Wednesday nights the Club House is open to all members for General discussion. We welcome visitors from other clubs. Anyone wishing to know more about our club, or wishing to join, we offer a special welcome to come and see us on the above times.

14-5-1975

THE LAUNCESTON SPELEO CLUB

A social evening was held at Buffalo Hall, Newstead and \$314.71 was raised, proving another successfully organised event and credit must go to the organisers for their fine effort.

The money we have made from trip fees, raffles and the social evening, will be put to good use in purchasing new equipment for the use of Club Members.

An electric duplicator machine has already been bought and will be used for club publications, i.e. Bi-monthly newsletter, a year book and club advertisements.

Since the formation of the Launceston Speleo Club about a hundred trips have been attended but not until recently have trip reports been handed in.

Several new caves have been found and although these are only medium to small systems they contain some very fine stalagmite formations and bone deposits.

Our activities are centered around the Mole Creek and Gunn's Plains area, but have extended as far as Exit Cave in the south (which is the longest cave in Australia, consisting of some 10 miles of passages and wonderful glow worm displays), to Flinders Island in the North East and to Kubla Khan near Mole Creek, which is the finest decorated cave in Australia.

Plans for the coming year are for trips to the more remote areas in the South West, West and North West, as well as our usual trips closer to home.

More and better social outings will be arranged as the social members of our club are a great asset to us and we appreciate their help.

An exhibition of photographs and equipment is to be held at the Northern Regional Library, Launceston, from the 6th. to the 16th. of August, 1975.

ANNUAL REPORT

26- July, 1975

In the last twelve months the club has had 20 to 25 caving trips.

Four members spent a long weekend in Kubla Khan, taking photographs and having a good look around. This was a most enjoyable weekend and should be done more often.

Last Easter was spent at Loongana with T.C.C. and L.C. members. Including families, about 40 people attended this trip. Two weeks later this area was visited again and another cave was discovered. These caves have been named and numbered "Puzzle One" and "Puzzle Two". A further trip is required to survey them.

In June this year a social evening was held and this was very successful. Many thanks to the associate members who supplied the supper and did a great job of the hall, and thanks to all members who supplied prizes for the Chocolate Wheel. Without this support, the evening would not have been so successful.

The past meetings have been successful and attendance has been good.

Recently, a letter was sent to Mr. Max Jeffries, President of the Maydena Branch of the T.C.C., congratulating him and their members on the formation of this branch, and wishing them the best of luck.

An Annual Dinner has been arranged for Saturday, 30th. August and all members should now have a dinner notice.

Dinner notices have been sent to the following :-

Max Jefferies - T.C.C.

Tony Culberg - T.C.C.

R. Schmidt - L.C.

It would be nice to see all L.S.C. members at this dinner this year.

Ray Kearnes,
Trip Organiser.

LIST OF EQUIPMENT

The following list is of equipment owned by the Launceston Speleo Club :-

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Detail</u>
Four	Caving Ladders (30 foot lengths)
One	200 foot climbing rope
One	60 foot nylon rope
One	120 foot rope (Polly Prop)
One	30 foot nylon rope
Four	Headers wire
One	First Aid Kit
Two	Small Ladder bags
One	Silver Compass
One	60 meter Glass Tape
Two	Miners Cap Lamps and Batteries
Two	Water Bottles
One	Machette
Two	Rope Slings
One	Helmet
One	Duplicator
	Mop- Bucket

George Bamford,
Tackle Master

SOCIAL NEWS

On the 14th. June, 1975, a social evening was held at the Buffalo Hall, Newstead and proved to be very successful as 80 people attended.

The evening went off well with plenty of supper, beer and good dance music.

Raffle tickets were sold throughout the evening with 3 good prizes and another small raffle was held at the hall for a hamper of groceries.

A chocolate wheel was spun 5 times throughout the evening with good prizes and bringing in good results.

The organisers wish to thank all members, social and active, for their support in making this evening a success.

A special thanks to 4 non-members who sold raffle books and door tickets to the value of \$77.50.

Expenses for the evening were \$248.18 and after all expenses were paid, the club made a profit of \$314.71.

R. Kearnes,
Trip & Social Organiser.

THE LAUNCESTON SPELEO CLUB

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the club will be The Launceston Speleo Club here in after designated "The Speleos".

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the club shall be the furtherence of cave exploration, conservation and research.

3. OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

The business of the club will be conducted by a council comprising the officers of the club who shall be elected at each A.G.M. The officers of the club will be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tackle Master, Journal, Editor and Photographer.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the club shall be open to all persons and institutions in the conservation and study of caves.

5. CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Full	-	\$5.00 per annum.
Entrance Fee	-	\$2.00
Associate	-	\$2.00 per annum.
Family	-	\$2.00 per annum.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

May be awarded to persons who have rendered special service to the club or its objects - \$Nil. Institutional Membership \$ _____ per annum. Available to caving clubs, natural history societies, museums, libraries, etc. Subscriptions shall fall due annually on the last Saturday in July.

MEETINGS

An A.G.M. will be held at 107 Balfour Street, Launceston.

21 days notice will be given to members of the A.G.M.

6. FINANCE

The Treasurer shall keep proper books of account and prior to each A.G.M. shall prepare an income and expenditure account for the past year and draw up a balance sheet for presentation to members at the A.G.M. The accounts shall be audited by two other members of the club.

7. PROPERTY AND FUNDS

Should the club, through any reason, disband properties will be sold and all money will be given to a charitable organisation ; i.e. Deaf & Blind.

8. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

All social activities will be for the provision of extra funds for the club.

9. RESPONSIBILITY

The club and its officers will not be held responsible for safeguarding the persons and for property of members.

CLUB RULES

All active members and persons intending to be Active Members will pay 50¢ trip fees for each outing which goes towards buying tackle for the club.

Persons wishing to become Active Members must have at least three trips with two qualified active members of the club.

Safety Precautions must be taken at all times.

THE LAUNCESTON SPELEO CLUB

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>
Balance 1974 A.G.M.		228.47
Trip Fees		37.00
Subscriptions		177.00
Raffles		19.90
Donations		3.27
Social		148.40
Interest		8.25
Equipment Sold		<u>75.00</u>
Credit Amount 1975		697.29
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Photographs	49.90	
Printing	9.45	
Power Bills	11.42	
Rates	32.70	
Equipment	206.00	
Dues to Clubs	11.00	
Hall Hire	<u>42.60</u>	
Total Debits	<u>363.07</u>	<u>363.07 -</u>
<u>A.G.M. 1975 BALANCE</u>		\$ <u>334.22</u>

THE FORMATION OF LIMESTONE AND THE FORMATION OF
CAVES IN THE MOLE CREEK & GUNN'S PLAINS AREA.

This limestone was formed during the Ordovician period of the Palaeozoic Era of the Earth about 500, 000, 000 years ago. This Gordon Limestone is formed of the countless millions of tons of dead marine shells which formed in shell banks in warm shallow seas ; these deposits and the globigerina ooze of the deep sea floor. All of these go to make Limestone. Life as a builder of organic sediments, is a geological agent of the first importance.

Limestone is scarcely affected by pure water but when CO_2 is also present the CaCO_3 of limestone is slowly dissolved and removed as Calcium bicarbonate $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2$. Limestone platforms like those around the Mole Creek and Gunn's Plains areas clearly show the effects of solution in their deeply grooved and furrowed surfaces. The joints are opened into 'grikes' with intervening ribs or 'clints' of harsh bare rock. The surfaces are barren except where some wind blown soil has collected, or where Tertiary or Quaternary deposits of younger periods cover it. Gordon Limestone is widely spread in Tasmania and because it is readily dissolved, broad river valleys form on it. The Leven River at Gunn's Plains is up to one kilometre wide and at the south end there are up to sixty metre high cliffs capped by a protective capping of basalt. At Mole Creek, Sensation Gorge, is cut through an Anticline of Moina Sandstone and the gorge carries water only after periods of heavy rain. Usually the water plunges underground down a doline upstream from the gorge. On steep slopes of exposed limestone, where water run-off occurs, a special type of 'grike' called a lapce occurs. These are like hemi-cylindrical pipes that follow the jointing in the stone. In limestone districts water works its way down through the joints and along the bedding planes, until

it reaches an impervious layer, which may be in the limestone formation or beneath it. The water then follows natural drainage directions until it finds an exit, perhaps many miles away from the intake. Once a through drainage is established and not until then, can dissolved material be carried away and fresh supplies of water coming in from above continue the work of solution mainly along the joints and bedding planes, until a labyrinth of interlacing channels and caves is actually dissolved out of the limestone.

Surface openings become enlarged where good flows of water are; as caves are only shallow to the surface the joints and bedding planes further dissolved until the roof falls creating swallow holes or sink holes are developed. By continued solution beneath these and the falling in of joint blocks the holes may be enlarged into roughly cylindrical shafts or chasms, communicating with great vaulted chambers, perhaps many metres deep. Example of this is in France, where in the Northern Pyrenees, a limestone area in 1950 a party of speleologists depth a sheer drop of 1155 feet and in 1953, a party descended to a level of 2395 feet below the surface. This underground river is a source of hydro-electricity and again in the French Alps where underground waterfalls and rivers have been mapped and explored to depths of more than one kilometre from the surface.

In addition to streams which flow through the underground networks of passages, there is a general slow seepage of lime-charged water from innumerable joints and crevices in the roofs and walls of caves. Calcite (CaCO_3) is deposited when a hanging drop of water begins to evaporate or lose part of its CO_2 . When the drop falls on the dry floor of a deserted channel the remaining CaCO_3 is deposited. So long straws and icicle like pendants called Stalactites grow down from the roof and the thicker columns called Stalagmites grow up from the floors.

In time Stalactites and Stalagmites often unite into pillars and these cluster together in forms resembling organ pipes or other fantastic shapes.

Where water trickles out, more or less, continuously along a roof joint, a fluted curtain or wavy shawl may grow down on the angle of the bedding or joint.

When the water comes through bedding of the walls and across floors it forms encrustations which look like frozen cascades. The draughts and temperature help to create fantastic eccentricities which defy gravity. These caves at Mole Creek and Gunn's Plains are not deep by world standards. The colours are produced by very minute quantities of Iron (Fe). The internal decoration and varied structures in profusion produces an underground scenery of unique and fascinating beauty.

Ron Williamson.

TRIP REPORTS 1974 - 5

May 12th. 1974

CAVES : "Little Trimmer", Lynds Cave and Tailender.

PARTY : Ray Kearnes, David Rigby, Ron Williamson, Barry Jacobson and Wayne Stevens.

An attempt to locate "Little Trimmer" was made, but owing to being given a wrong grid reference, "Little Trimmer" was not found.

The party then split up, with Ray and Barry going to find Tailender, and the others going on to Lynds Cave.

After exploring "Lynds" the lads returned to the cars, where after a while, Ray and Barry came back saying they had found "Tailender" but could only progress for about fifty feet into the cave owing to high water.

David Rigby.

May 19th. 1974

CAVE : "Little Trimmer"

PARTY : George Bamford, Ray Kearnes, David Rigby, Peter Cutcliffe, Barry Jacobson, Rose Jacobson and Wayne Stevens.

Thanks to the correct grid reference "Little Trimmer" was easily located.

The cave proved to be very interesting. Being an outflow cave, formations were varied and there was some very fine Straws and Helictites, plenty of cave crickets and large spiders.

I am sure the cave will be visited often and that it will produce some good photographs.

George Bamford

June 9th., 1974

CAVE : "My Cave", Quarry Cave.

PARTY : Ray Kearnes, David Rigby, Barry Jacobson, Peter Cutcliffe and Wayne Stevens.

"My Cave" was entered and explored and a few small holes in the area were also investigated. Quarry Cave was visited too. No further information.

Ray Kearnes

June 16 - 17th, 1974

CAVE : "Kubla Khan"

PARTY : George Bamford, Ray Kearnes, David (Buck) Rigby, Peter Cutcliffe, Wayne Stevens, Barry and Rose Jacobson.

The trip was to obtain photographic slides, and the party intended sleeping at some suitable place, somewhere in the cave.

On arriving at the top hole, the first pitch was quickly rigged and all equipment was lowered to Ray. The second pitch was then descended and the party moved on into the Forbidden City and camp was set up.

After Wayne had dropped his sleeping bag down a hole into nice cold water, we decided to have a feed and then take some photographs.

We continued on into "Xanadu Chamber", with the intentions of going on to the "Pleasure Dome", but couldn't find the way in. We then decided to head back to camp and turn in.

The next morning every-one was up by 6.00 a.m. and on having a good breakfast, packed our bags and cleaned up the camp site.

The return trip was made in about half the time it took us when we came in, and we were all out with our equipment by about 11.30 a.m., where we met Barry, who with Rose, had camped near the cars.

Twenty-two hours had been spent underground.

George Bamford

June 30th. 1974

CAVE : Genghis Khan, Maryins 1 & 2 and First Outing.

PARTY : George Bamford, Ray Kearnes, Peter Cutcliffe,
Wayne Stevens, Robert Haakmester, Edward Mallison,
Ros and Andrew Skinner.

No time was wasted in entering Genghis. The cave contains some really lovely formations and proved to be very clean and with very little damage.

On arriving back at the cars we had a meal and moved off to visit Martins 1 and 2 and First Outing.

George Bamford

July 2nd. 1974

CAVE : Small caves on the northern side of Kubla Hill.

PARTY : Wayne Stevens, Miss Toni Ried, Jim Ellenberger and Ed. Mallinson.

The caves were only very small and not really worth the effort, and had obviously been explored by someone else, so we wnt off and had a swim in the Mersey River.

Wayne Stevens

September 2nd. 1974.

CAVE : Unknown (Now known as Training Cave)

PARTY : Ray Kearnes, Barry & Rose Jacobson.

Started digging at the entrance at 12.30 a.m. and about 1.30 a.m. a hole was made large enough to enter.

A short chimney down into a small chamber, then a 30 ft. ladder pitch to reach another small chamber, was proceeded by a narrow passage ending in a 12-15 foot hole in the floor. Having no further equipment

I climbed up to a small chamber and could see about 70 feet away another chamber. We then returned to the surface.

Ray Kearnes

October 5th. 1974

CAVE : Training Cave

PARTY : Ray Kearnes, George Bamford, Ron Williamson and Rose Jacobson.

After descending the entrance pitch using a land line and ladder we came to the place where I was halted on our last trip. (September 2nd.) We then proceeded down two small ladder pitches approximately 12 - 15 ft. into a nice chamber with a few Stalagmite formations and rimstone pools.

On exploring the chambers we saw a few marks indicating that some one had been in there some time before. On finding no other way on we proceeded back to the surface.

After lunch we had a look at a small pot hole nearby and on entering we found the floor had fallen in, extending the hole another 30 ft.

On descending to the bottom Ray began inspecting some old bottles which had been dumped into the hole. Then all of a sudden he began choking and requested he be allowed out as soon as possible.

When I finally came out after Ray I found he had almost collapsed due to inhaling a lot of bad air.

Ray Kearnes

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CAVE : Khazad-Dum

NO INFORMATION

February 22, 23 and 24th. 1975

CAVE : "Exit Cave"

PARTY : Andrew Skinner, Ros Skinner, George Bamford, Phil Wild, Toni and Wayne Stevens, Russel Spencer and David Cameron.

Tourist trip. We camped underground for a while and areas visited were the "Western Passage", The Pendulum, Grand Fissure and Dribble System. A few photographs were taken and we enjoyed the trip very much.

George Bamford

March 27, 28, 29 and 30, 1975

CAVE : Gunn's Plains Cave

PARTY : Andrew Skinner, Ros Skinner, George Bamford, Ray Kearnes, Buck Rigby, Ian, Chris, and Russel Spencer and Ron Williamson.

The trip to Loongana was quite enjoyable, but the weather was terrible. Three caves were surveyed.

Mostyn Hardy was visited and so was Swallownest Cave. A party also went to Gunn's Plains Cave and a lilo race was held from Ulstergreen Bridge at Loongana, to the Loogana Road Bridge, between Buck

. Andrew

Owing to a bad start by Andrew, he lost the race to Buck.

George Bamford

June 23rd., 1975

CAVE : Genghis Khan

PARTY : George Bamford, Buck Rigby, Ray Kearnes, Russel Spencer, Barry & Rose Jacobson, Andrew Skinner and Debbie Kearnes.

A photographic trip to obtain good slides and prints for our exhibition to be held in the Public Library on August 6th. to 16th.

Andrew and party arrived just as we were coming out of Genghis Khan. We visited a new cave discovered by L.S.C. members.

Quite an exciting day for Andrew. What with the caving and his cave numbering activities, even putting numbers on holes that probably no-one will get into or don't go anywhere.

George Bamford

July 5th, 1975.

CAVE : Kubla Khan

PARTY : George Bamford, Buck Rigby, Ray Kearnes and Russel Spencer.

On arriving at the new entrance - (Top Hole) I found the lock had not been locked by the last people to use this entrance.

This was another photographic trip and no time was wasted in going on into "Xanadu Chamber", where quite a few photographs were taken. We then gradually made our way back via the "Forbidden City", taking a few more photographs and made our way out.

George Bamford





