

# SCS NEWS

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## Editorial.

The recent safety inspection of SCS caving gear revealed a high incidence of minor rusting in ladder cables. The galvanized cables showed surface rusting in the area immediately adjacent to the rungs. In common with the other established clubs the SCS ladder stock is compounded of a number of vintages. This appearance of corrosion in different age ladders points, then, not to the time the ladders have been in use but rather to a new method of usage. Very broadly, the recent gear usage has been in the severest conditions to which Tasmanian ladders have ever been exposed; i.e., the Junee-Florentine family of Australia's biggest and deepest caves. (It has been said that TCC gear exposed to the same caving conditions has not shown this deterioration.) This is the situation that faces us now. We must decide whether the corrosion can be attributed to the physical, the failure of material, or the personal, negligence by us who use the gear. If the former is true and galvanized cable can vary in quality and susceptibility to rust, or our design and construction methods render the finished product unsuitable for severe use, the extra expense of stainless steel cable might be justified for all future ladders. But if we ourselves are at fault, perhaps in storing wet, uncleaned gear (the thick, canvas ladder bags might be an added inducement to rusting) or in not attempting to give an extra protection to ladders that have to be used for long periods in wet caves, by oiling the ladders prior to use, then we had better pull our thick, greasy-wool socks up, and do it damn quick. AND CONTINUE OUR REGULAR GEAR INSPECTIONS!

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## Meetings.

Meeting nights in July fall on the 5th and 19th. On the latter date we shall also have an extraordinary AGM for the purpose of selecting our honorary members and electing somebody to the position of assistant treas. And, WAIT FOR IT, some words might be said about the C O N S T I T U T I O N.

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## Personal and Club News.

The club welcomes back Michael (Mike, 'Tich') Cole after his sojourn on the mainland. Perhaps more of us should go away; Tich has been caving every weekend since his return to Tasmania.

Our two most recent recruits also deserve a pat on the back. Leigh Gleeson and John Ward, by their keenness, enthusiasm and caving ability, have inspired more than one of our practicing and incipient armchair cavers to get off their spreading backsides and, at least, to think of caving again. Both Leigh and John have been especially prominent in the exploration of 211 (Sesame 2) and are largely responsible for this cave to become listed as the third (4th???) deepest cave in Australia.

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## Recent Trips.

4th June. Day trip to Maydena. Party leader, Barry James. Members: Bob Cockerill, John McCormack, David Elliott, Leigh Gleeson, John Ward. A surface survey was initiated in the Chrisphs Rd. area, linking caves 201 onwards.

11th June. Day trip to Florentine, Sesame 2 Cave (211). Party leader, John McCormack. Members: Mike Cole, Chris Harris, Leigh Gleeson, John Ward. The party spent seven hours underground, extending the explored depth to 450'



A 15ft drop halted the party; that, and the fact that they had no more gear left.

17-18th June. Weekend trip to Florentine, Sesame 2. Party leader, Chris Harris. Members: Mike Cole (Surface Leader), Leigh Gleeson, John Ward. Visitor, Karen Dedenčuk. The party continued where the previous expedition was stopped and when 15 hours later they emerged on the surface it was with the knowledge that the surveyed depth of 720-odd feet made Sesame 2 the third deepest cave in Australia. The following gear that the cavers had with them was fully used: nine 30ft ladders, five headers, five 120ft ropes and two short, 30ft ropes. But, nevertheless, it was described as a fairly easy, gentlemen cave.

25th June. Sunday trip to Florentine, Chrisphs Rd area. Party Leader, Kevin Kiernan. Members: Mike Cole, David Elliott. A further surface survey which "continued from 211 to the road and back to the survey peg".

1st July. Day trip to Hastings. Party leader, Mike Cole. Members: Kevin Kiernan, Chris Harris, Leigh Gleeson. The trip was reported to have completed the surface survey to Bell Chamber.

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#### Future Trips.

Week-end, 8-9th July. Party leader, Kevin Kiernan. Trip to Exit. Starters to date: John McCormack and three visitors.

Sunday, 9th July. Party leader, Mike Cole. Trip to Exit. Starters: Chris Harris, Leigh Gleeson.

Day trip, 15th or 16th July. Party leader, Aleks Terauds. Underground survey starting with 201 and continuing with all other numbered caves in the series. Starter to date: Leigh Gleeson.

Day trip, 22nd or 23rd July. Party leader, Aleks Terauds. To continue above survey of Chrisphs Rd caves.

Week-end trip, 22-23rd July. Party Leader, Kevin Kiernan. Area, North-West Tasmania. Interested members please contact KK on 278527, 237131 or 34365 (Phone numbers, not postcodes!)

Day trip, 29th or 30th July. Party leader, Aleks Terauds. To continue underground surveys, where left off.

Day trip, 5th August. Exit. Party leader, Kevin Kiernan. Starters to date, Aleks Terauds and two visitors.

Week-end trip, starting 20th August. Jukes-Darwin. Party leader, Kevin Kiernan.

Week-end trip, 27th August. Herbert's Pot, Mole Creek. Party leader, Stephen Harris. Starters to date: Mike Cole, Kevin Kiernan, Graeme Watt, Leigh Gleeson, John Ward, and one visitor (who by then might already be a member).

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#### Omission - June Trip.

18th June. Sunday trip to Florentine. Party leader, Mike Cole. Members: Ron Mann and David Elliott. Mike utilized his surface role at 211 to do a surface survey along Chrisphs Rd caves.

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#### Project 872/73 - Herberts Pot.

There is a cave in Tasmania that by rights should be known throughout the whole world of Australian speleology. Not for the fact that it is Australia's longest, for perhaps it is not. Nor for the fact that it is one of the hardest, for to us who know it well it is not. Nor even for the fact that it has splendid formations, beautiful decorations or breathtaking displays of glow worm -- in none of these attributes can it compare with a dozen other caves in Tasmania. Yet, there is this cave at Mole Creek, known as Herberts Pot, which to the true caver will give everything he may desire. And true caving is what the Southern Caving Society is all about.

Since the first entry into Herberts a number of our ablest cavers have become rather preoccupied with its exploration. Two names that must stand out in any talk on Herberts must be those of Geoff Fry and Stephen Harris, our present treasurer and vice-pres., respectively. Steve must assuredly have spent more time in this cave than any other person in the State but he has an unfair advantage over Geoff who was out of action a fair while following his motorbike accident. Other notable Herbertites are John Morley and Greg Blake.

Even at the moment Herberts could have more passageways than any other cave in Australia. But, let us not kid about but connect Herberts with Kelly's Pot upstream and Shiskabab or Dangerous downstream - we have the cavers for this - and we shall have something to really smile about. So, go to it while we still have active cavers like Steve with us.

Aleks Terauds' typewriter is responsible for all errors in this issue.