

SCS NEWSY BITS September 1993

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What's all this then???? Well it's been over **4 long years** since the last **SOUTHERN CAVER** (Number 55, March 1989) was published! (not for want of anything to write about though) and it is well and truly time to tell the Speleological world what SCS has been up to over the last four years. Several years ago **NEWSY BITS** appeared on the scene to keep club members informed of local goings on. Indeed this has been useful, however an internal club newsletter isn't effective at broadcasting our doings to the outside world. As a result we have decided to distribute the easy to produce **NEWSY BITS** more widely, as an adjunct (hopefully not as a replacement) to the spasmodically (hopefully more regular in the future) appearances of the **SOUTHERN CAVER**. JB

A NEW VERTICAL CONNECTION INTO EXIT CAVE. In May this year Half Way Hole (IB136) was linked into the Western Passage of Exit. This is the ninth entrance into the ever expanding Exit Cave system, the eight other entrances being the main efflux, Slip In, Drop In, Old Ditch Road, Mini Martin, Skyhook Pot, Valley Entrance and Thun Junction. The surveyed depth of Half Way Hole is 161m and the length 289m. (The drawn up survey will appear in a forthcoming SCS publication.) The cave is largely vertical in nature, with pitches of 5m, 59m, 16m, 7m, 9m and 44m. The 59m pitch is quite exciting with an airy (well bolted) "Y" rebelay 20m down from the top. Between the 7m and 9m pitches there is some tight and wet serpentine passage (this is what deterred the initial SCS exploration last year) which is definitely more fun(?) going down than up. The final pitch pops out in the side of the large (about 60m) aven that many cavers visiting the Western Passage have peered up. The long walk in over Marble Hill makes it a lengthy day trip and has been a bit of an impediment for work in this region.

Threefortyone (JF341) gets longer, BIGGER and more beautiful!
Threefortyone saw a lot of action in about 1989 when the TCC gained access to a large extension. SCS also had many trips to the cave too and completed a low grade survey in order to relate discoveries here to those in nearby Rift Cave (extended by SCS in 1988). Recently Rolan Eberhard and Jeff Butt returned to do some dye tracing for the research project Rolan is working on for the Forestry Commission. Jeff pointed out a lead that Greg Jordan and himself had found in 1989, but had not been able to access. With a bit more determination Rolan and Jeff managed the 3m no-holds grovel and gained access to an ever increasing system. After some of the muddiest passage known a sizeable streamway was reached, excitement galore.

Dye tracing reveals that the stream carries water from both Niagara Pot and Rift Cave. However the stream doesn't account for the volume of water emanating from the Junee resurgence, but the main drain must be close by! The survey shows that the streamway is heading directly towards Junee and places the

limits of the cave about 850m from the actual entrance of Junee, there must not be much between this region and the known end of Junee itself. Progress downstream is easiest via upper levels about 20m above the stream. Some 300m downstream the size of the cave becomes enormous, the 'terminal' chamber approaching the proportions of Xanadu in Kubla Khan!! There is much formation, masses of 4 to 5m straws, flowstone waterfalls and crystal pools. In this region the floor of the cave is littered with masses of pieces of straws about 0.5m long, obviously having been broken from the ends of the straws above. The survey shows that this region lies about 100m directly under the Junee Quarry!! There is good reason for the broken straws! It would worthwhile to photographically document this as evidence of the effect of blasting on nearby caves. (Such information would have been useful when expansion of Benders Quarry looked a possibility.) It is fortunate that the Junee quarry wasn't mooted as an alternative to Benders' Quarry (now being rehabilitated) down south.

Several rockpiles have to be negotiated heading upstream, and again there are dry upper levels, but these seem to be less continuous than they are downstream. The upstream reaches of the cave are within striking distance of Niagara Pot and there are several leads still to be investigated.

Threefortyone (now deserving of a better name) is one of the best decorated (and muddiest!!) caves in the Florentine and is rapidly becoming rather significant in length too. To date the surveyed length is just short of 2km and there is at least another 1km of known passage to be surveyed. The depth has reached 221m. It now takes a solid three hours to get from the entrance to the cutting edge, so the style of trips is going to change to become longer. A new entrance into the system would be handy.

The Society at a Glance.

We've got ten financial members and one or two prospectives, this is better than it has been over the last few years, but still well down from the boom years in the late eighties. We went down the Incorporation track, but since then have deincorporated because of the cost and hassles, everything seems much better now. Our finances are quite solid with about \$900 in the bank, though this could easily be eroded by the need for a new roll of 9mm rope. We've got plenty of gear and it's in good condition. The 13 club lights are performing excellently and have been seeing extensive use (police cadets, venturers etc) over recent times. Meetings are on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8pm. Currently we meet at Lukes place (365 Macquarie Street), though this will have to change next month as Luke (and the Gear Store) have been given a months notice! So, if anyone has any good ideas for a new meeting location and/or Gear Store that'd be great.

Current office bearers (to a close approximation) are:

President-Andrew McNeill	Secretary-Bruce Morley
Vice President-Dean Morgan	Treasurer-Jeff Butt
Equipment Officer-Luke Van Zino	Editor-Phil Jackson
Social Officers-Greg Jordan	Trip reports secretary and
-Jean Jackson	archivist-Andrew McNeill
-Daniel Muskee	

With the AGM long gone, **Annual Subscriptions are now long overdue.** \$25 (\$18 student/unemployed) is not much for the privilege of using many hundreds of \$ worth of equipment, so please cough up.

SCS CONTACT LIST

(an asterisk in front of your name means you are UNFINANCIAL)

	(home)	(work)
Andrew McNeill (240A Churchill Av, Sandy Bay)	252063	207446
Bruce Morley (27 Salvator Rd, North Hobart)	342505	333942
Daniel Muskee (11 Henry St, Sorell)	651036	
Dave Rasch (791 Huon Rd, Ferntree)	391249	323358
Dean Morgan (Taroona)	278488	
Greg Jordan (38A Bath St, Battery Point)	237446	202596
Jean Jackson (38A Bath St, Battery Point)	237446	
Jeff Butt (438 Huon Rd, South Hobart)	238620	325302
Luke Van Zino (365 Macquarie St, South Hobart)		
(*)Mark Doyle (2/11 Hampden Rd, Battery Point)		202788
Phil Jackson (240A Churchill Av, Sandy Bay)	252063	
(*)Russell Fulton (2/11 Hampden Rd, Battery Point)		
(p)Sue Baker (2 Pitt St, North Hobart)	313105	

IB113 revisited. With great fear and loathing (all totally undeserved) a nostalgic trip was made to Bard-a-min'hoff Pot. The number tag was still swinging from the branch it was attached to many years ago, but is now solidly attached to the rock. Maybe the next visitation will actually penetrate beyond the number tag and into this legendary cave?

CLUB LIGHTS AND LIGHT HIRE

As mentioned above the club lights are going very well. The 6V gell cell powered units have required minimal maintenance and only a few batteries have died over the last few years. Hire rates of \$3 for non-members and \$2 for members have been fixed for the last four years. Now as our gell cells are beginning to get a little long in the tooth (all still run on High Beam for in excess of eight hours!) they will probably gradually begin to require replacement so it is probably prudent to consider increasing the hire rates. Something like \$4/\$3 or perhaps \$4/\$2.50 for non-members/members would be appropriate. What do you think is fair??

TROG SUIT MATERIAL, at long last I've managed to track down a supplier of Oxford Nylon of the correct weight (420 Denier) for a sturdy waterproof Trog Suit. There's even a choice of five colours! If there is enough interest I'll do a bulk purchase, please contact Jeff 238620 (H) or 325302 (W) if interested. The cost is about \$23 per meter (the material is 1.6 m wide). You'll need something like 2.5 m for one suit, with the purchase of some velcro and a zip this translates to an outlay of about \$70. I am currently field testing the suit I made, after 10 lengthy trips it is still performing excellently. There is some evidence of abrasion on the outside and some of the proofing (on the inside) is beginning to break down. Despite this there should be at least another 10 trips before any minor patching is required.

A synopsis of SCS Exploration over the past four years.

Ida Bay

- 1992 EMP (Environmental Management Plan) Pot (IB143) found in one of the quarry benches and explored to a depth of 78m, length of about 120m. From the bottom you could hear machinery working!
- 1993 Half Way Hole (IB136) linked into the Western Passage of Exit Cave.
- 1991/2 Little Grunt (IB23) survey and exploration work in conjunction with TCC and TCKRG.

Junee-Florentine

- 1989 Threefortyone (JF341) systematically explored and basic survey. Surface traverses in the region.
- 1993 Threefortyone (JF341) exploration and surveying continues.
- 1989 Burning Down the House (JF402) linked with JF228, comprehensive survey carried out.
- 1989 Sump Pot (JF234) located near JF228 explored and surveyed
- 1989 Troll Hole (JF233) located near Dwarrowdelf explored and surveyed to a depth of about 90m.

Status of surveys (that I know about) yet to be published. (I need to make a pledge to get around to the final drafting and get them published!)

Ida Bay

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|-------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| IB107 | Machete Pot | Surveyed, drawn but not drafted. |
| IB136 | Half Way Hole | Surveyed, drawn but not drafted. |
| IB143 | EMP Pot | Surveyed, drawn but not drafted. |
| IB23 | Little Grunt | Portions surveyed |

Junee-Florentine

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|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| JF34 | Rift Cave | Surveyed, drawn but not drafted. |
| JF233 | Troll Hole | Surveyed, drawn but not drafted. |
| JF234 | Sump Pot | Surveyed, drawn but not drafted. |
| JF402/JF228 | Burning Down the House | Surveyed, drawn but not drafted. |
| JF341 | Threefortyone | Currently being surveyed & drawn. |

Mole Creek

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| MC1/MC29 | Kubla Khan | Surveyed, drawn but not drafted. |
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Mount Weld

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|-----|-------------|-----------|
| MW? | Compostapot | Surveyed. |
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New Technology makes surface surveying easier and confirms the accuracy of old fashioned surveys. Back in 1989 SCS did a fair amount of surface surveying in the region of Rift Cave, Threefortyone and The Chairman (see Southern Caver 55). Recently a GPS (Global Positioning System) unit was made available to Rolan Eberhard for a day and he took a few fixes in the same region. The GPS unit performed well despite the local forest cover. The positions from the GPS fixes and the surface traverse data were found to agree to better than 3%.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE By the way, we've still got a good supply of gear for sale at excellent prices.....SEE THE ADVERTISEMENT ON THE LAST PAGE!

<> SCS WAREHOUSE SALES <>

Did you know that we have the following gear for sale?

By purchasing in bulk we can get good prices and pass them on to members. Currently we have the following available.

- >>>>>5 cm flat tape (ideal for harnesses, rigging, gear bags, battery belts etc)
\$1.40 per m
- >>>>>2.5 cm flat tape (ideal for handlines, rigging, gear bags, battery belts etc)
\$0.80 per m
- >>>>>9 mm Bluewater dynamic rope (ideal for cows tails, safety loop)
\$4.50 per m
- >>>>>CARBIDE NOTE: CARBIDE MUST BE USED RESPONSIBLY!
\$2.50 per kg (or \$2.00 per kg in bulk)
- >>>>>Yuasa 6.7 Gell Cells (6 V, 7 Ahr, weighs 1.3 kg)
\$21.00 each
- >>>>>6Volt bulbs to suit the above Gell Cells
a variety of Wattages (1, 1.5, 2, 3) are available
from \$1.00 to \$2.50 each
- >>>>>Female spade connectors to suit Gell Cell Terminals
\$0.20 each
- >>>>>Metal light brackets for helmets
\$5.00 each
- >>>>>8mm alloy D Maillons, ideal for main harness 'krabs'
\$16.00 each
- >>>>>Methylated spirits, stove fuel! (fill your own containers)
\$2.50 per litre

When you need any of the above please contact Jeff Butt on (002) 325302 (W) or (002) 238620 (H), or write to us: SOUTHERN CAVING SOCIETY, P. O. BOX 121, MOONAH 7009.

<> SCS WAREHOUSE SALES <>