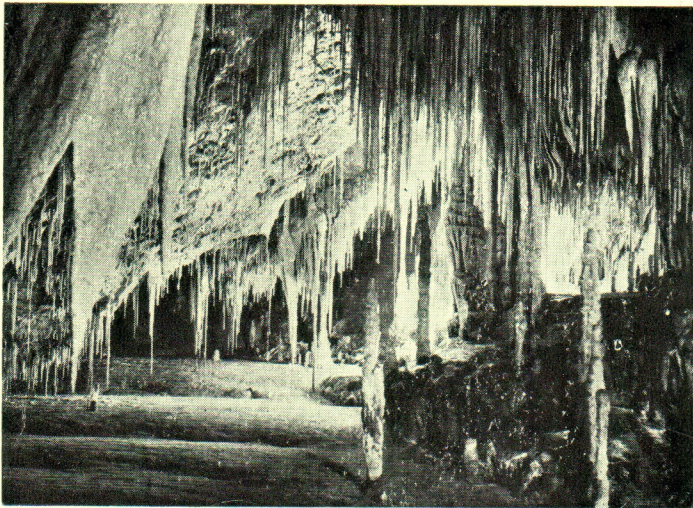


SOUTHERN



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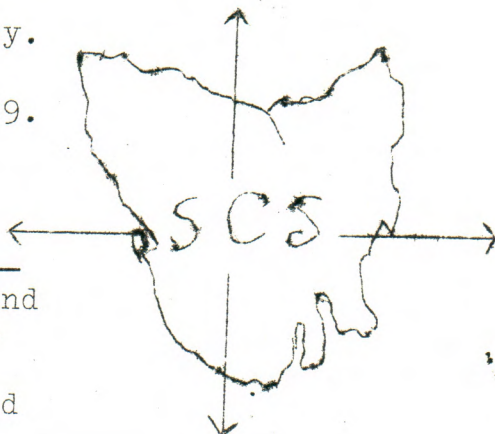
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Dave Elliott and
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EDITORIAL

TO THE youth of today the word conservation has the same connotation and emotional appeal as moratoria and student revolt had to the youth of yesterday: an indiscriminatory, uncaring for what is right or wrong, unhesitating acceptance of the idea without any understanding of its meaning. And, as with the long hair and beards, many not so young have joined in 'in conservation', to be with it, and chant in unison with the innocent and the immature that all change is bad, all progress leads to destruction and all advancement to the eventual death of mankind.

'Non-conservation', like 'Vietnam', has come to be a 'bad thing'. Many of the advocates of conservation, like those of 'stop the war in Vietnam' will embrace without hesitation the proclamations of their leaders, whether they be architects talking about plants, geologists about insects or biologists about electricity -- after all, they are professionals and know what they are talking about. All dissenting experts in their fields are biased and their statements can be ignored.

As cavers our prime consideration in conservation should be caves, caving areas and activities which are or could be detrimental to these; as citizens of a geographical region our duty is to safeguard the progress and advancement of our State and country and to support those actions of our elected government that must improve our standard of living. And as adult, mature men and women, parents of a new generation, we must tread wisely a path between conservation and development to ensure that the world of our children and children's children is a fit place for them as Citizens of the World.

Aleks Terauds.

Precipitous Bluff Must Not Be Destroyed

by Aleks Terauds

In Vol.4.No.2. of the 'Southern Caver' we ran an article by Kevin Kiernan on the mining--conservation controversy in the Precipitous Bluff area. Mineral Holdings was applying for a mining licence at P.B. This application was heard at a Mining Warden's Court on the 4th December, 1972. The licence was not granted. In refusing to grant the licence the North West Warden of Mines, Mr. J. Temple-Smith said, in part: "In the circumstances I find that as alleged by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust mining activity is not compatible with the recreational and aesthetic uses of this area".

Mineral Holdings appealed against the decision, basing their appeal partly on a point of law, namely that the 'defendants', e.g., The Tasmanian Conservation Trust, evidence should not have been recognized by the Mining Warden since this group had no 'interest' in the area. The appeal was disallowed.

To evaluate fully the caving potential of the P.B. area a S.C.S. organized, A.S.F. supported expedition was launched into the area on 12th January, 1973. Members from the following caving clubs took part: Southern Caving Society, Tasmanian Caverneering Club, New Zealand Speleological Society, West Australian Speleological Group, Sydney Speleological Society, Sydney University Speleological Society and University of New South Wales Speleological Society.

Cavers used two modes of transport to reach P.B.,
Southern Caver (3) April, 1973

their feet and amphibious aircraft. The first set of walkers was delivered at Cockle Creek on the night of January 11; they camped there, leaving the next morning. By nightfall they had reached the South Cape Range, by the next night the mouth of the New River Lagoon and the camp site at P.B. on the 15th. The flyers-in (two parties from Hobart, one from Southport) arrived at P.B. on the 15th, too.

The exploration of P.B. started in earnest on January 16. One party went to Damper Cave (PB 1); they discovered several extensions and explored the cave for about a quarter of a mile of new passages. The other party marked out a route 2000 ft above the camp site to the approximate upper limit of the limestone outcrop and discovered PB 201. On the following day, the 17th, they again divided into two groups, one exploring Limestone Creek area while the other explored and mapped PB 201 and the surrounding area, in the course of which the caves PB 202 and PB 203 were discovered.

On January 18 one party of cavers explored the limestone cliffs west of the button grass plains near PB 3 (named Quetzalcoatl Conduit), discovering caves PB 204, 205, 206 and 207. A second party climbed P.B. itself and on the way discovered caves PB 208 and 209.

Three parties took to the field on January 19; one explored PB 3, another visited the New River Lagoon mouth and beach while the third mapped PB 1. Mapping was also the main item on the agenda for the next day when PB 3 came under the experts' scrutiny. Those who wished to have an easier day explored the lagoon by

rowboat and walked on the sands at the western end of the lagoon.

21 st January saw the commencement of the break-up of the P.B. exploration group with the first walkers starting back to Hobart. The amphibian departed on the 22nd. The walkers visited Surprise Bay on the 23rd, were at Cockle Creek on the 24th and hitch-hiked to Hobart. The tales, tall and true were told arround a barrel on the 25th January at the S.C.S. clubroom.

The Precipitous Bluff expedition gathered a lot of important data, the very bones of which are given here. The information gathered warrants and will be given a full descriptive treatment. However, the mining company inerested in the P.B. limestone is appealing against the decision which prevented its entry into the area. The appeal is to be made to the Supreme Court at a hearing schedullled for May 15. Hence this brief article.

Every member of the P.B. expedition returned with the strong conviction that mining would be detrimental to the area. Aside from the aesthetic spoilage of the region, mining would, without any shaddow of doubt, destroy or damage caves, and make conditions for survival of the arthropod fauna therein rather difficult.

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AGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGM

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the Southern Caving
sSociety will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 1973 at the
clubroom, 132 Davey Street, Hobart. The starting time
is 8 p.m. Members unable to attend are requested to
lodge proxy votes with the Society's President before
the meeting.

To date the following nominations have been re-
ceived for the various positions (nominations will,
also, be accepted during the meeting):

President : John McCormack
Vice-President: Bob Cockerill
Secretary: Mike Cole
Treasurer: Mike Cole., Ron Mann
Editors: Aleks Terauds and Dave Elliott
S. & R. Officer: Bob Cockerill
Social Committee: Delia Maloney and Margaret
Russell
Records Officer: Leigh Gleeson
Archivist: Judy Sprent

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AGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGMAGM

A Word from the Magazine Committee

S--*&/?*-t!!!

Seriously, though....

The Editors and the Magazine Committee wish to thank all contributors whose articles helped to make up the four issues of Volume 4 of the 'Southern Caver'. At the same time we will go on record to say that we were disappointed with the support we received; it was a case of the few of the many writing much. This is very obvious when one examines the authors' names in the contents pages. Some names recur; yet the list of these authors compares unfavourably with the list of the members in the Society.

Overall we are happy with the year's work and results. The magazine committee has worked together well, each member having found a duty to his liking and performing it creditably.

In closing, we would like to wish well the next Magazine Committee. Last, but not least we must thank two S.C.S. members, not on the committee, Graeme Watt and Tich Cole, for very valuable assistance.

The Continuing Saga of Richmond Well

by Dave Elliott

In the January issue of the 'Southern Caver' we reported briefly on a well cleaning operation at Richmond on a property owned by Mr. R. Baker of Hobart. Mr. Baker had contacted us about the problem of a convict built well going dry after serving his farm with plentiful water for many years.

We are pleased to report that we cleaned out the well and on the completion of the project Mr. Baker generously donated \$ 100 to the Society, together with a similar amount for the replacement of equipment damaged at the site.

The first exploration of the well took place on November 26, 1972 when a descent was made, measurements taken and an assessment made of the work that would be required. This included removal of rotting wooden shawling, digging out of the well head and boxing of the same for subsequent concreting.

With the completion of this work the few feet of water therein were pumped from the well. As luck would have it we encountered a brief wet spell necessitating a postponement of the digging and a repeat performance of the pumping.

The final step involved the removal of something to the order of eight cubic yards of mud and debris. Two members worked at the bottom of the shaft filling a six gallon bucket that was hauled to the surface with the
(see p.12 for the conclusion)

AREA REPORTS

by Ron Mann

Information for the compilation of the Area Reports has been obtained from the official Trip Report forms and the Trip Record book held in the Society's library. Members who fail to see their trips reported have only their own laziness to blame.

The main caving by members of the Southern Caving Society in the last quarter (February 1 to April 30) involved trips to Hastings (seven trips, 34 participants), Junee-Florentine (four trips, 18 bods), Mole Creek (four trips, about 30 cavers) and Ida Bay (three trips, 14 participants). A party of three visited also Francis-town.

The trips may be summarized as follows:

HASTINGS

Photography at Newdegate; scrub bashing along N side of creek; cave upstream from Hot Springs Creek explored: 60 ft pit to T-junction, one extension towards Newdegate but becomes tight although could be pushed, other junction, the one towards the creek is about 150 ft deep, being about 110 ft below dry creek bed; bottoming only possible in dry weather. This cave named Aqua Mire. Other caving at Hastings included exploration of Wolf Hole by a large party of nine cavers and a survey at Newdegate.

JUNEE-FLORENTINE

Trips to Welcome Stranger and the entrance of Khazad-Dum, exploration of some new holes which could be pushed to 100-120 ft; participation in a S. & R. film which included the Police Force and Civil Defence units;

a new limestone ridge discovered and found to contain caves, one entrance found to extend into a system of mud crawls and squeezes which eventually linked with another two entrances noted previously to form a small system of about 400ft of passages.

MOLE CREEK

Cave near Pyramid explored through talus to a small creek; visits to Kellys Pot which in flood, to Croesus, Lynds, Honeycomb 1-1/2, Shishkabab, Baldocks, Pyramid and Cow Cave; a party went to Herberts Pot as far as Paragon Vaults while another revisited Wet Caves; a limestone outcrop near Devils Gullet examined for caves, unsuccessfully. The Easter trip was well attended by members of V.S.A. and S.C.S. (Mike Cole has threatened the magazine committee with a five page dossier of these activities, this may be placed in the next 'Caver' so participants better watch out).

IDA BAY

Mostly Exit, including a party stranded for a few days at Easter by high waters, path marking and removal of pollutants from the cave; a visit to Bradley Chestermans Cave and refinding and numbering ASF Pot.

FRANCISTOWN

Small cave formed by collapsed sandstone blocks found, no potential.

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SOCIETY NOTES:

by D.ELLIOTT

Members were delighted to welcome the arrival of the Society's youngest member - Daniel Terauds, newly arrived second son of Aleks and Joanne. Congratulations from us all. Rumour has it that a spectacular celebration is planned by the proud father.

Our best wishes for the future to Steve and Marilyn Harris who were married during the quarter.

Not to be outdone in the matrimonial stakes, Neil James has announced his engagement to Sue Shore.

WELCOME ABOARD;

The Society was pleased to welcome new members Delia Maloney, Margaret Russell and Graham Bailey early in the quarter.

A welcome also to prospective member Terry Corcoran late of Blue Mountains Spelio Club, New South Wales.

STOP PRESS; Members are invited to be present on Saturday afternoon to join the Editor (Aleks) in a celebration

A Story of a Well

(continued from p.8.)

assistance of a farm tractor. The mud was loaded onto a trailer and taken several hundred yards away to be dumped in a gully. The work was carried out during weekends and the whole project took seven days to complete; it involved at various stages most members of the Society.

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