

VOL- 8 NO. 3

SOUTHERN CAVER

PRICE 50 CENTS



UNIVERSITY
SPELLOLO

"SOUTHERN CAVER"

Published Quarterly by the
Southern Caving Society.

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 121 Moonah, Tas. 7009

PRESIDENT: MICHAEL COLE

Club Room:
132 Davey Street Hobart.

SECRETARY: MARGARET RUSSELL

Editors: Dave Elliott, Ron Mann

TREASURER: RON MANN

Magazine Committee:
Mike Cole, Graeme Watt,
Stephen Harris.

Covers: By courtesy of Graeme Watt.

Registered for posting as a periodical - Category C

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 3

JANUARY 1977

CONTENTS:

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---------|
| The Herberts Pot Survey and a History of Exploration..... | By R.Mann & D.Elliott..... | Page 2 |
| An Extended Stay in Herberts Pot..... | By G.Bailey..... | Page 8 |
| A Brief Visit to Cheddar..... | By G.Watt..... | Page 11 |
| Police Search & Rescue Chief Retires..... | By M.Cole..... | Page 13 |
| Area Reports..... | By R.Mann..... | Page 14 |

.....

.....

.....

THE HERBERTS POT SURVEY AND
A HISTORY OF EXPLORATION

article compiled by R. Mann &
D. Elliott

The survey that accompanies this article is the culmination of more than twelve years of exploration in Herberts Pot by members of the Southern Caving Society. The majority of the cave was surveyed between May and October 1974 but the survey now published, and only recently photo-reduced by Fred Koolhof from the original 7' x 4' map, incorporates nearly all discoveries to date.

Early exploration of Herberts Pot had been halted in the talus chamber below the 25M ladder pitch until the route to the main stream passage was found by a Southern Caving Society party in 1964. The next expedition to the cave was at Christmas 1965 and this party reported that a "____ large water passage was followed for approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile upstream and STILL GOING".

Steve Harris (Southern Caver Vol. 2 No. 1) provided the following account of early upstream exploration____. This expedition was the first to venture upstream and their further progress at the time was probably discouraged by the many deep pools which must be negotiated rather delicately.

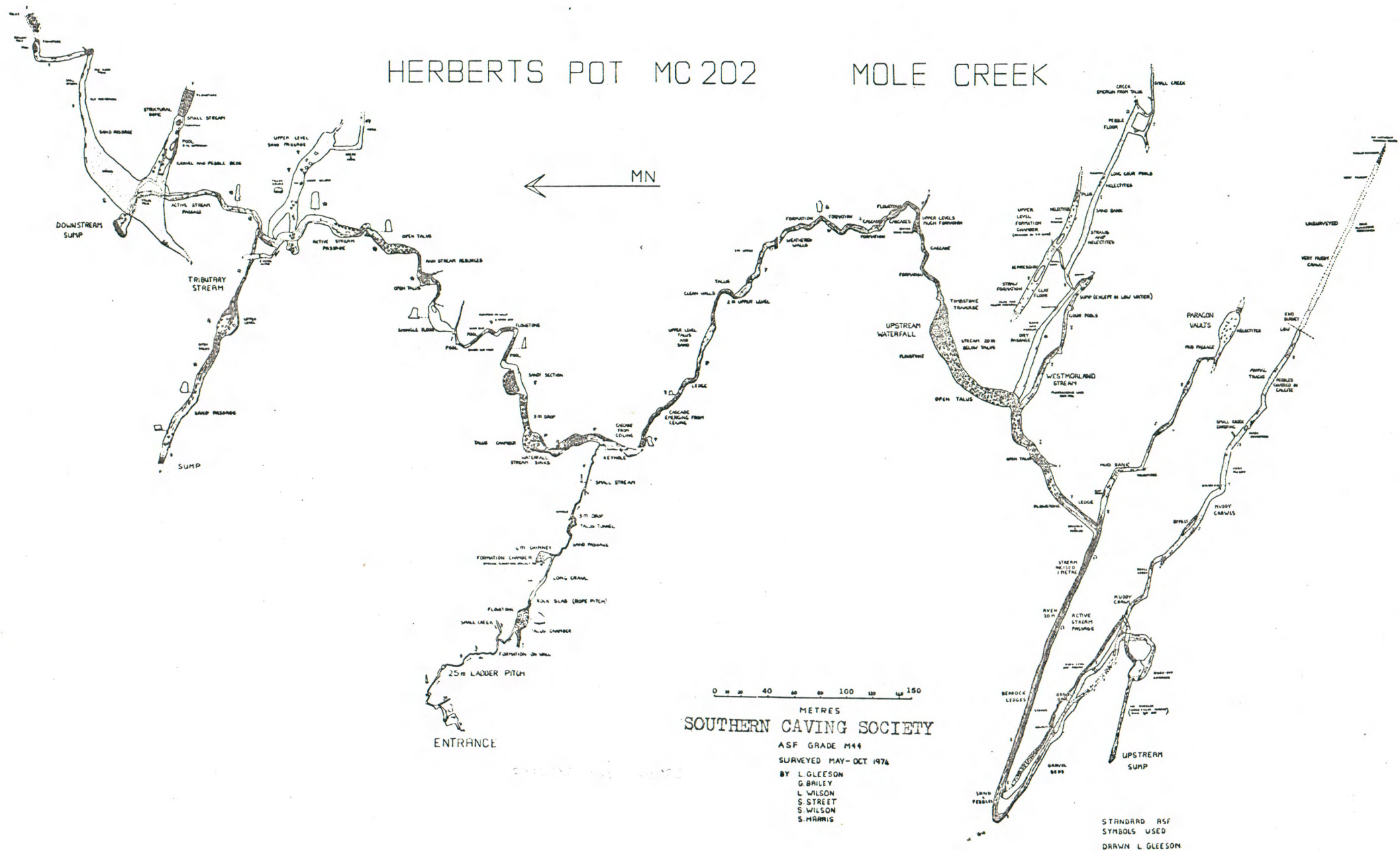
On the 5th of February 1966 a large party from the Club "explored upstream for approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to end at a vertical face with a waterfall coming from 25 feet up the wall". To elucidate on this, the party had followed the stream to a roughly circular chamber whose sheer walls fell into a deep pool on the opposite side of which was the waterfall. Directly above all this it was noted what looked like an upper level (about 70ft above), but this was not to be attempted until April 1967.

On the last weekend in April 1967 an expedition proceeded upstream exploring some of the upper levels some sections of which proved to be very pretty with all types of formation in abundance. When the party reached the waterfall, several attempts were made to negotiate side walls but none was very successful; so upper levels in this area were then explored. A loose talus block was nearly the downfall of two members but as luck had it only a minor injury occurred, (this section of the cave is now known as "Tombstone Traverse").

In May 1967 a party of eight comprised an exploration team into the upstream section of Herberts Pot. The party split, one group exploring the upper levels of the stream passage (nothing of great interest was discovered) the second group explored above the

HERBERTS POT MC 202

MOLE CREEK



waterfall area and made a breakthrough via Tombstone Traverse and some talus. The creek was again picked up above the waterfall and was followed through to the end of a very long chamber which entailed some interesting climbing; good displays of formation were also noted. The creek then divides.

The next trip was last January (1970) when both forks of the stream were followed; the fork to the right carrying the more water and being followed along a large passage which continued beyond a sizeable roof collapse; this was followed for several hundred yards and in one place becomes very low but extremely wide. The passage opens out once again into a chamber and progress along the stream at that stage was impeded by a sump or a very low duck. There appeared to be no obvious route beyond this chamber. The left fork was rather interesting. It consisted of pools of water with the roof being very low and ending in a sump. "unning parallel with this branch was a dry passage begining at the last chamber and continuing to a talus heap. In this vicinity were a few low crawls and a 50 foot aven which opens at the top into a passage".

Concurrently, exploration was also taking place downstream as noted in this extract from the Area Reports in Southern Caver Vol. 1 No. 3.

"During the long weekend at the end of January (1968) many new features and sections of this cave were discovered downstream from the waterfall below the junction with the main underground stream. Intensive investigations were made from the large talus chamber below the waterfall to and over the syphon at the end of the stream passage.

At approximately one third of the distance to the syphon a partially collapsed upper section containing good formation was discovered. An offshoot was explored but terminated in a mud choke.

While trying to find a bypass around a deep pool in the stream a mud slope was climbed and a further section of upper level was discovered. Containing some impressive formation the level extends both upstream and downstream. In the upstream section a low passage runs for about forty feet before choking off with mud. Towards the downstream end several lengths of broken column were found. These were between two and three feet in diameter and had been broken for a very long time. The level extends downstream far enough to enable the pool to be avoided but the climb back to the stream passage involves some treacherous ledges.

Below this point a small tributary enters the main stream. Full investigation of this passage was left to a later date.

A chamber previously found on an upper level near the syphon was re-explored without success but further investigation of the level led through a cleft into a very large sand floored extension. Good formation displays were found and an extremely strong draught was found blowing through a small triangular hole between the formation at the end of the chamber. This air movement was strong enough to extinguish candle flames twenty feet from the constriction and could be heard some distance away.

Careful enlargement allowed access to a small chamber of very pretty formation. This chamber opens into a large chamber filled with talus blocks. Although the typical talus made is present, prospects for continuation are quite good.

As the known limits of this cave are becoming increasingly wide, spread the time factor is a problem. An active exploration trip now takes in the order of fifteen underground hours to enable worth-while work to be done. A system of assault and support parties is being developed to facilitate increased efficiency in this system".

In May 1970 a party of four travelled upstream where "_____ the rockfall at the end of the old stream passage adjacent to the duck was investigated.

Ascent of the aven was abandoned 40ft up due to the treacherous nature of the rock. A nearby system of crawls proved interesting when animal tracks were found running up and along a sandbank, and a fissure was scaled for 40ft to a talus choke where soil and dead vegetation were in abundance. The biggest surprise of the trip, however, came when it was found that while the right hand branch of the creek was flowing at its normal rate, the left branch had changed from a mere trickle to by far a larger, providing about 80% of the total flow. Exploration at the top end of this chamber later revealed what appeared from a distance to be a fissure heading in the same direction as the right branch of the stream, which is possibly a continuation of the upper/upper level present on the opposite side of the chamber". (Area reports - Southern Caver Vol. 2 No. 2)

At Easter 1971 a party of six "_____ broke through some talus about a quarter of a mile beyond the upstream waterfall and discovered the Paragon Vaults, some fifteen hundred feet of tributary creek passage containing what is probably the finest display of helectites yet found in any Tasmanian Cave. The decorated section is about a thousand feet long. The helectites are incredibly intricate and parts of the extension are absolutely packed with them. Some are over two feet long, while smaller forms occur in passages of crawling dimensions, and wierd heligmites grow from the dry sandy floors of the larger chambers. Much of the extension consists of a flat elliptical passage with a sandy floor. At the end it is

blocked by a dangerous rockfall which may be pushable but was not attempted on the day. Many photographs were taken.

This most magnificent decoration is very well protected from vandalism with some six hours of difficult cave between it and the entrance.

The same party did lesser things in Herberts as well. A quarter of a mile beyond the entrance to the vaults the sump on the main stream reached early in 1970, was found to have 18" of air space, instead of the former 2". After negotiating one hundred and fifty feet of wide but very wet passage a decorated chamber was entered where a further sump halted progress approximately two hundred and fifty feet beyond the last. This is impenetrable, and so it seems that main stream exploration upstream has at last concluded." (Area Reports - Southern Caver Vol. 3 No. 1).

In the following two years very little work was done in the cave due to an unusually wet summer and winter of 1972 and to the major assaults on Khazad Dum (with T.C.C.) and JF 211 at Maydena.

At Easter 1973 a party of ten cavers entered Herberts Pot at the unusual hour of 12.45 p.m. A party of five led by Steve Harris explored upstream where they found "___ the water level was very high, with the waterfall pool consisting of a boiling cauldron of foaming white fury, huge piles of foam and the whole chamber being filled with mist".

A short passage just before Paragon Vaults was followed into a chamber 80 feet high which dripped water from the roof. The chamber was considered worth climbing but bolts and pitons would be necessary.

Meanwhile the downstream team led by Chris Harris had moved very fast and found sand passages near the siphon. These may have been the same ones found by Fry, Harris and Blake (S.C.S.) several years previously. A tributary passage which was discharging a good deal of water into the main stream was followed up to a siphon which halted further progress.

By early 1974 surveying had begun in earnest and by April the survey upstream had reached Tombstone Traverse. At Easter, surface surveying was commenced between Herberts Pot entrance and Kellys Pot with the object of linking this with the underground survey.

In June a three man team "___ camped in the downstream sand passages and observed for fluorescein dumped in Kellys Pot; however, there was no result from the main stream or the downstream branch.

Surveying above Tombstone Traverse resulted in the discovery of an upper level formation passage. Paragon Vaults was reached on the third day of the trip and after 300m of passage was surveyed a side passage was found which also yielded 300m but the exploration of this was not concluded because of lack of time. Side passages in the downstream section were surveyed on the fourth day but the fifth day was required to haul the gear to the surface." (Area Reports - Southern Caver Vol. 6 No. 1).

(Editors' note: A detailed account of this expedition has been provided by Graham Bailey and follows this article).

An important breakthrough occurred when fluorescein placed in Westmorland Cave was sighted in the upstream tributary just beyond the waterfall chamber in Herberts. The other stream at this point, entering from the west, was therefore thought to be Kellys Pot stream.

A party of three, in December 1974, trogged downstream and attempted to push the talus at the very end of the cave past the "draught hole". Over the years trips have failed to penetrate this barrier and this trip was no exception.

The survey was drawn in December 1974 and at that time 4.4km of passage had been surveyed.

Major breakthrough occurred in the summer of 1975/76 in a series of six trips. In November 1975 several hundred metres of passages were discovered near the junction of the two main upstream watercourses, the main passage being christened "Star and Frog".

Two trips into the cave over the Christmas/New Year period found a new passage containing very good helictites, extended the far upstream end for a short distance and discovered several hundred metres more passage also containing helictites. At the end of January 1976 a party found 200m of passage in the downstream section of the cave. This large dimension passage contains some good formation, particularly straws.

February saw the discovery of Holy Hell Passage and Chris Harris in his article in Southern Caver Vol. 7 No. 4 describes it as follows: "As veterans to Herberts the party was almost blasé about the discovery of a new passage but they were unprepared for what was to meet their eyes. As they wandered in turn along the dry horizontal passage they were gripped by awe. A sight such as this had never been seen by any of them. As one member of the party later remarked this sight was the ultimate experience in his six years of trogging. They were in a passage encrusted almost completely with calcite and gypsum formation.

The floor literally sparkled at their feet and it continued for hundreds of metres. Steve, Chris and Graham filed gingerly through this rich gallery. Its name sprung spontaneously from their lips: "Holy Hell Passage". Apart from the more common calcite helictites there were waterfalls of gypsum fibres curving from the walls. In continuous profusion were exquisite white formations and some of the helictites were a beautiful green."

A photographic party in March explored a lead near the upstream sump and found that the passage doubled back to near the U-bend well downstream from the sump. A water tracing trip in July 1976 placed fluorescein in Kellys Pot and established the link between this cave and the sump in far upstream Herberts. The link between the stream at the entrance to Herberts and the main stream resurgence in the downstream section just below the standing pools was also established.

To conclude we would like to quote Chris Harris' comments in Southern Caver Vol. 7 No. 4.

"The Southern Caving Society considers Herberts Pot as a major underground wilderness area that since its first visitation in 1959, has offered a constant challenge to cavers. Perhaps now is the time to consider the ultimate fate of such remarkable areas as Holy Hell Passage and Paragon Vaults with a view to their ultimate preservation."

AN EXTENDED STAY IN HERBERTS POT

By Graham Bailey

With the idea of underground camping in mind Tasmania's caves were looked at, to find a suitable cave, other than the usual Exit Cave Camping trip.

Amongst others, Herberts Pot was mentioned but due to its severity and the fact that a back pack would be practically useless the idea received little attention. That was until three cavers slightly more than half charged set the wheels in motion for a five day camping trip to Herberts Pot.

The problem of getting food and gear into the cave was tackled by using five salt bags inside which were placed plastic bags to keep out water as the bags had to be dragged through a wet crawl and could easily have been dropped into the main stream.

The main aim of the trip was to finish surveying Herberts, as the known length of passage which was not surveyed prior to this trip would have been well within the scope of the party but due to the amount of new passage discovered and the campsite chosen in relation to the unsurveyed passages, this aim was not realised. Nevertheless a lot of cave was surveyed and all participants were more than pleased that upstream Herberts was still going. This brought home the point that the cave was then and still is definately not a closed book.

In addition the usual challenges of underground camping were enough reason to justify the trip as at the time, the anti underground camping theme was being raised from A.S.F. and from within our own society. A ban on camping in mainland caves might be a positive step for those caves but it has little to do with large, not fully explored Tasmanian Caves.

So it was that about noon on a winter day in 1974, Graham Bailey, Leigh Gleeson and Lindsay Wilson arrived at Mole Creek and carried the bags which contained the next five days supplies and gear to the entrance of Herberts Pot. A last look was had at the outside world and the group then climbed down the entrance and headed into the darkness. The trip itself had begun.

Transporting the bags in the cave was tedious and time consuming as they had to be handed to each other down drops and roped down pitches, so the main stream was a pleasing sight when it was reached. This meant leaving the tight confines from the entrance to the Keyhole for the bigger dimensions of the inner cave. Travelling to the campsite which was located in a sand passage 100m upstream of the main downstream tributary was now more pleasant and better time was made.

The water level in the main stream was low and this gave us confidence for the trip. Upon reaching the campsite the bags were unpacked and a camp established. The sand being on a slope created a minor problem and walking around the camp had to be kept to a minimum to avoid disturbing the surface. Compensations in the way of a large column and a display of brilliantly white straws with a kind of whiteness not even Omo can give, located directly behind the campsite added a decorative touch.

We had our meal while listening to the cassette player that was brought along from past experience and was an excellent way of keeping everyone in good spirits. It was then time to create the first artificial night to be had in Herberts and we soon dozed off.

The next day we set out to survey the rest of the cave, so we proceeded upstream, past the Keyhole and through the many cascades to Tombstone Traverse where surveying had previously stopped. A suitable route through the large talus chamber above the upstream waterfall had to be found. This was done without too much difficulty although surveying proved tedious through the boulders.

Once past the talus it was pleasant going along a sizeable side passage which leads off just before the Westmorland stream. Along this side passage a tiny stream was seen entering the passage and a small opening not much bigger than a crawl was found; this was followed up and after a short distance opened out but a six metre climb confronted us which we pushed with some difficulty.

A long chamber was discovered and large untouched mud floors were found with the sides of the chamber lined with formation. A tremendous discovery which elated us all so time was taken off to marvel at the pretties. But the passage added to the length of cave to be surveyed.

The Westmorland branch was then done. As we were completely soaked in this exercise and time was getting on it was decided to return to camp.

Once at the camp it was delightful to change into some dry clothes and talk of the day's discoveries. Then followed the usual evening ritual, which by now was setting a pattern, before we turned in.

On the third day the task of changing from dry bed clothes to wet, cold and dirty caving gear was most unpleasant and was done in the minimum of time so the slog upstream was easily entered into. We reached our destination and continued surveying to the Paragon Vaults junction and then to the Vaults where we had lunch.

There was a lot of crawling in the Paragon Vaults side passage so a rest was well earned.

It was then back to the main stream and continue on, which had become a treat as the cave was now a big long unobstructed passage and the going was very fast for hundreds of metres. Then the big horse-shoe bend was encountered and the ceiling came down to meet us. Our pleasures were about to end.

A bit further on a side passage was noticed so we decided to survey it. Foot marks went in for a short way and then stopped so it was exploration again. The passage was very muddy and varied from huge avens where the roof could not be seen to muddy crawls which meant lying in slushy mud for extended periods. Time was getting on but the passage refused to end so after 600 very wet feet we reluctantly called it a day with the passage still going.

On the way back through the mud a strange gas was detected. This gas must have been in the mud and produced from rotting vegetation which was released into the air when the mud was stirred up. The main stream was not surveyed right to the sump but with the water level rising this could not have been done anyway.

On returning and changing into dry clothes the camp seemed a welcome place and it was decided to take it easy on the following day.

As planned, the fourth day was spent in more hospitable conditions with some upper levels being looked at but no new passage was found. Nevertheless an enjoyable time was had fooling around and a new cavers dance was invented. We then started to prepare to leave the cave which would be the following morning and we all had our last night in Herberts.

Next morning we packed up and headed for the entrance. Upon reaching the main stream the water level was found to have risen over night which made progress to the Keyhole somewhat tricky. At one spot progress could just be made through the waist deep water as our hands were needed to carry the bags. The Keyhole was reached and then it was the last push to the entrance. This was achieved without any hitch.

The day was fine on the surface but the creeks and rivers were in flood so we were glad to be out after a very rewarding and fruitful trip and also glad for having done such a jaunt.

A return camping trip has not yet gone to Herberts but with the light of discoveries made after this trip an extended stay could be worthwhile if a camp was established above the upstream waterfall. That is if there are cavers around crazy enough.

HERBERTS POT SURVEY:

THE SOCIETY HAS AVAILABLE ENLARGED PHOTO COPIES OF THE

HERBERTS POT SURVEY

SIZE 370 mm. x 630 mm. ($14\frac{1}{2}$ INCHES x 24 INCHES APPROX.)

QUALITY SIMILAR TO THE ONE INCLUDED IN THIS MAGAZINE

PRICE: ~~£~~1.50 EACH POSTED WITHIN AUSTRALIA IN
MAILING TUBE

CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO "SOUTHERN CAVING SOCIETY"

AND FORWARDED TO P.O. BOX 121, MOONAH 7009, TASMANIA.

ADVERTISEMENT:

C A V E S O F N E W C A L E D O N I A

The report of the 1975 Australian Reconnaissance Expedition has at last been produced. Sixty-eight pages of articles, maps and black and white photographs give a good idea of the caves of this French Pacific island and may be obtained for \$3.50 posted within Australia. Included are articles on Anthropology, Conservation, Geomorphology and future caving potential. A copy of this publication would be very helpful and enlightening for any future trips planned to this beautiful island. Every speleologist will want a copy of this interesting report.

ONLY 200 COPIES HAVE BEEN PRINTED

Make remittances payable to Stephen Harris, and forward to:

Stephen Harris,
44 Clydesdale Ave.,
Glenorchy, 7010,
Tasmania.

The Cheddar Gorge is one of England's most popular cave resorts. Situated about twenty miles South East of Bristol it has much to offer all visitors.

Two years ago I stayed with some friends at Bonwell, a small village only a few miles from the Gorge. This area is covered almost entirely with small cottages, rambling gardens, miles of stone walls and volumes of history. The short bus trip to Cheddar winds through narrow streets, past acres of strawberries and rich pasture land. Several hotels and a youth hostel accommodate only a few of the visitors to Cheddar. There are never many vacancies but always many tourists.

As one enters the gorge, the splendour of ancient limestone cliffs, towering almost 150m above the road is suddenly interrupted by dozens of small tourist shops. On both sides of the valley there are kiosks selling postcards and souvenirs.

Three of the caves have been well developed for tourists. They were discovered by Richard Cox Gough, George Cox and Roland Pavey during the years 1830-67.

Gough's Cave is the biggest, it has a small entrance and several large, dry chambers. It is comparable with Newdegate Cave but generally has smaller formations. In 1966 one speleo spent 130 days underground in the boulder chamber near the end of the tourist cave. His solitude was probably disturbed by the constant clatter of tourists above.

The entrance has been profitably designed with a one way exit through the souvenir shop. The bar is decorated with artificial stalactites and thick red carpet.

In many places the cave has been modified by blasting or digging, mainly for comfortable access. Throughout the cave, mud has been carefully removed. The tourists stay clean, but the caver feels a little sterilized. A few small plants have been placed near the entrance, growing under artificial light. In the last chamber lighting has been used well to provide a dawn scene in "King Solomons Temple". There are plenty of broad concrete paths, sturdy handrails and occasionally litter bins for tourists without pockets.

The smallest cave nearby is almost totally artificial. The builder of Waterfall Cavern, Mr. Roland Pavey was jealous of his neighbor's caves. He was so enthusiastic about owning a cave for tourism that he decided to make one if he couldn't find one.

He enlarged an old river passage and blasted out an entrance chamber about 10m high. Most of this was blocked off with stone walls to give the effect of a small entrance to a big cave. Pavey's Cave was open to the public in 1890, but was unpopular because it lacked cave reality.

In 1967 the artificial cave was reborn when the management of Cheddar Caves installed an "authentic" waterfall about 12m high. Included in the re-building programme were several aquariums filled with tropical fish!

Cox's Cave is basically a dry river passage with minor formations. George Cox was able to save many formations by tunnelling paths beneath them. Iron oxide has coloured most of the flowstone. Some patches away from the entrance are covered with algae. The three caves appear to be connected by one stream, but the efflux of Cox's Cave has not yet been discovered.

Roland Pavey tried to attract more tourists to his man made cave by building a Jacobs ladder. The concrete "ladder" has about 400 steps and climbs some 70m to the crest of the Mendip hills providing good views of Exmoor and the Bristol Channel.

The Cheddar museum is well worth a visit. Displays of flints, bones and bronze implements from ancient settlements in the districts represent over 30,000 years of Cheddar history. The main display is the Cheddar Man, a complete skeleton about 10,000 years old, found in Gough's Cave.

The biggest mystery of Cheddar is the legend of the Cheddar Hole. It was described in the 12th century as "... a cavity under the Earth, which though many have often entered and there traversed great spaces of land and rivers, they could never yet come to the end".

References

The Cliffs and Caves of Cheddar by R.C. Gough (published by William Gough, 1937)

Cheddar Caves by W.T. Stanton and L.V. Grinsell (latest edition)

During the quarter the retirement was announced of Inspector Tom Howard from the Tasmania Police.

Inspector Howard, better known as "Tom" to all bushwalkers and cavers was the prime mover in the formation of the State's Police Search and Rescue Squad during the early sixties. As Inspector in charge of the squad Tom led four search and rescues in which the Society participated, together with several field exercises. As a consequence, Tom became a familiar figure to most members.

The most notable rescue was at Mt. Fawknor in December 1968 when six members of the Society were awarded silver and bronze medals by the Royal Humane Society of Australia during an operation that hit the headlines throughout the Commonwealth. A large rescue team spent over thirty hours extricating a fifteen year old boy who was jammed in a cave-in at the bottom of a dolerite fissure eighty feet deep.

The rescue of two people from a rock fall in Rescue Pot in the Florentine Valley was the second successful rescue to involve Society members.

We also participated in the search for John Boyle, the T.C.C. member who disappeared at Mt. Anne, and was unfortunately never found. The other unsuccessful search was for an inmate of the Lachlan Park Psychiatric Hospital who disappeared in the bush behind New Norfolk in an area that abounds with sandstone grottos.

On January 8th, 1977, Mike Cole, Barry James and Bob Cockerill were the Society's representatives at a function held at the Hobart Police Club to farewell Tom. It was also decided, in recognition of the work he had done for bushwalking, climbing and caving clubs over the years to hold a barbeque to send him off in the best tradition. This was held on January 15th, and proved a fitting send off for a man who had won the respect of all cavers.

::

AREA REPORTS

RON MANN

During the period from October 4th, 1976 to January 31st, 1977 there were only five trips to two areas.

MOLE CREEK (3 trips)

Steve Harris, Fred Koolhof and a visitor went to Croesus in October for photography using Fred's new Hasselblad camera and two powerful flash units. Formation was photographed along the length of the stream passage and two exposures were made of the Golden Staircase. While underground the party met Jed and Peter (Northern Caverneers). The Alum Cliffs were visited on Sunday before returning to Hobart.

Ron Mann, Leigh Gleeson, Lin Wilson, Stuart Wilson and a visitor spent a couple of days in late November attempting to clear up several question marks in the Mole Creek System. An area below Kelly's Pot was checked to try to find a stream that has been heard under a lime stone outcrop, but the directions were hazy and nothing was found.

A small amount of fluorescein was put in the stream in Cow Cave and a watch kept in two dolines close by but no dye appeared. This confirms a theory that the streams are separated by a short distance at this point. They obviously merge closer to the Rising.

Pyramid and Spider Cave were visited on Saturday night and some photography was done in Honeycomb on Sunday.

At Christmas only three members, Graham Bailey, Rod Hughes and Steve Street spent the festive period camped at Wet Caves. The party did an extensive investigation of Georgies Hall Cave and also explored Wet Caves.

IDA BAY (2 trips)

In October Kevin Kiernan, Leigh Gleeson, Greg Middleton and a visitor were a keen team who did not let the poor surface weather at Loons Cave prevent them from "grovelling in the mud filled passages of this enjoyable cave" (T/R. L.Gleeson).

On January 31st, the President, Michael Cole, escorted three Japanese zoologists from the National Science Museum in Tokyo to Entrance Cave where they spent three hours collecting specimens of fauna.

