

s.c.s.

"SOUTHERN CAVER"

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Stephen Harris

S.C.S. R. Mann, L. Gleeson, M. Vermeulen, S. Backhouse, D. Backhouse, S. Harris, F. Koolhof, L. Wilson, L. Mulquing, P. McQuillan, K. McQuillan, and A. Terauds.

C.E.G.S.A. J. Cundy, C. Reece, N. Smith, D. Arnott.

V.S.A. R. Walker, J. McLaren, Tony

Once again Mole Creek became a "Mecca" for cavers at Easter. The beautiful campsite at Caveside was host to 19 people; from Tasmania (12), Victoria (3), and South Australia (4). The speleo camaraderie was always evident around an effusive camp-fire.

The weather alternated in favouring us and cursing us - one day brilliant sunshine, the next black, cold and wet. The rain had been somewhat of a stranger to the Mole Creek district for some weeks, a result of which was an unusually dry creekbed next to the campsite. So dry that firewood was collected from the floor of the creekbed. Although inconvenient to walk the several hundred metres into Wet Cave to get water, the absence of flow would be an advantage in any caving done in the Mole Creek system itself.

The period's caving got off to a good active start with trips into Croesus Cave, Honeycomb 2, and a "through" trip from Wet Cave to Georgies. The latter trip was undertaken by Leigh Gleeson and Ron Mann, Ron taking a dip up to his neck in the cold stream.

Honeycomb 2 was the introductory cave for the Easter for Steve Harris, Leigh Gleeson, Lindsay Wilson, Louise, Mieke Vermeulen, Fred Koolhof and the Backhouse sisters. Every possible nook and cranny was "explored", this being an enjoyable novelty for the 2 novices on the trip. About 3 hours was spent underground. The stream in the cave was not flowing.

The C.E.G.S.A. team spent some hours in Croesus Cave where they took many photographs.

Saturday morning saw Fred Koolhof and Steve Harris preparing gear for a lengthy sojourn in Kubla Khan Cave where the object was to get photographs of the Khan Chamber. Entering at 10 a.m. through the back entrance, the two hauled their heavy rucksack through this spectacular cave. Two large flash units with accompanying wet cell batteries and a "2½ square" format camera with attendant accessories comprised much of the equipment. A number of exposures were made in the large chamber and then steps were retraced through the Forbidden City where more shots were taken. An original plan to rendezvous with the C.E.G.S.A. party who, in the meantime had also entered the cave from the other entrance,

was aborted due to foreseen difficulties in manoevering gear from the large chamber to the stream passage.

Fred and Steve left the cave at 10 p.m. making it a 12 hour trip. At the constriction near the entrance above the ladders, the wind rushing out of the cave made a howling noise.

Meanwhile, Ron Mann, Leigh Gleeson and Lindsay Wilson were crawling the low passages of Kellys Pot. They accomplished their objective of surveying the last few score metres at the bottom of the cave. 4½ hours werespent underground, mostly on the stomach!

On Sunday the sun rose in unblemished blue, causing Lindsay to lightheartedly suggest that anyone would be mad to spend such a beautiful day underground when they could for example, be climbing the Western Tiers!

Later that day on the track up the Tiers, Steve, Leigh, Fred, Mieke, Rae Walker, Lindsay, Ron and Louise savoured the invigorating mountain air, appreciated the wet sclerophyll forest, the alpine heath and the panorama of the Middlesex Valley. Medal to Lindsay!

Back to camp for a nosh up around a fiery fire and everyone was still feeling energetic. An evening excursion into Eldorado Chamber and Georgies Hall was a suggestion taken up with enthusiasm. Fred, Rae, Tony, Steve, Leigh, Louise and Lin entered the cave at 8 p.m. Fred, with a little help from his friends, lugged a heavy bag of photographic gear into the cave. In the $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ hours underground the party spent most of the time in El Dorado while Fred shot at the Chamber and the formation.

Meanwhile the C.E.G.S.A. team were spending some wet and challenging hours in downstream Herberts Pot. The team comprised Jim Cundy, Neil Smith, Jeanette McLaren and Tony.

Their achieved destination was the downstream sump although an attempt was made to locate the upper level sand passages. All the party agreed that the cave was an excellent sporting exercise. It was a sordidly bedraggled bunch of cavers that limped and crawled back to the campsite in the small hours of Monday morning. They were not to see the light of day for many hours.

On Monday morning as some were leaving Mole Creek some were also arriving. An excursion to Honeycomb 1 was mounted by Lin, Leigh, Aleks and Ron. The previously elusive cave was located by compass traverse. The amount of water flowing in the stream in this cave was equal to the flow in Wet Cave even though the flow in between, at Honeycomb 1, was nil. The party returned to camp by a through trip of Honeycomb 1.

By Tuesday morning the number of cavers had dwindled to 12.

Pyramid Cave to Spider Cave was a through trip accomplished by some of the party that visited Pyramid Cave. Two of the party, Aleks and Ron found the squeeze linking the two caves just too tight.

The events of the Easter are merely sketched above and intimate detail regarding trips made by the V.S.A. and C.E.G.S.A. teams will no doubt appear in their own journals in due course.

A good feature of the few days at Mole Creek was the opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow cavers from two other States.

A list of caves entered over the Easter is as follows: Kellys Pot, Herberts Pot, Georgies Cave, Croesus Cave, Wet Cave, Honeycomb 1½, Honeycomb 2, Kubla Khan, Spider Cave and Pyramid Cave.

SOME NOTES ON THE REDPA CAVE SURVEYS

by Kevin Kiernan

The Redpa area consists of three small outcrops of Precambrian limestone described in an article in "Southern Caver" Volume 6 No. 1, 1974. The three cave maps in this issue were redrawn by Steve Harris this year. Bird's Nest Cave and Cow Hole are minor caves on the margin of the main outcrop which appear to be resultant from lateral undercutting.

Glue Passage Cave lies between the two at the same level, and is the largest in the area.

Reference

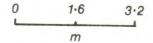
Kiernan, Kevin (1974) Caves of the Repda District; Southern Caver 6 (1): 12-16

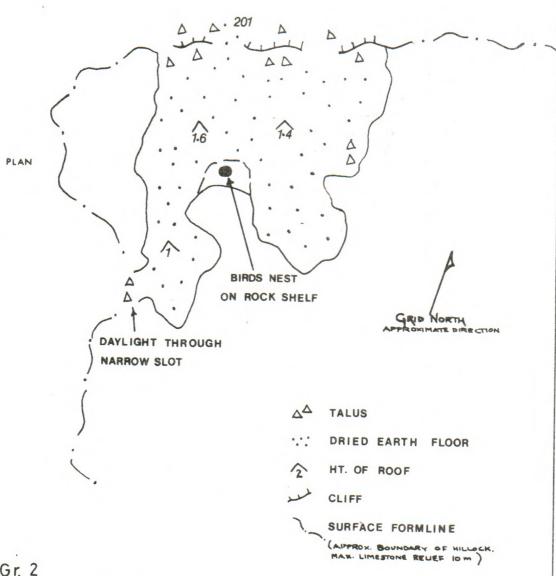
HOLE R 204 - 205 REDPA : NORTH WESTERN TASMANIA Approximate direction Scale of grid north **▼ Vege**table debris Pool with air space Height of passage V Depth of water (m) Direction of floor slope Vertical drop or cliff Flowstone # ∆ ∆ 205 Stalactite Mud Cow manure Takes Formbne (App. boundary of low hillock, max. limestone relief app. 10m) 1 Hoght of passage (m) PLAN CRG Gr. 2

K.W. Kiernan 20 Nov.º72 A.S.F. MAP Na. 7.R204-5. SCS 1

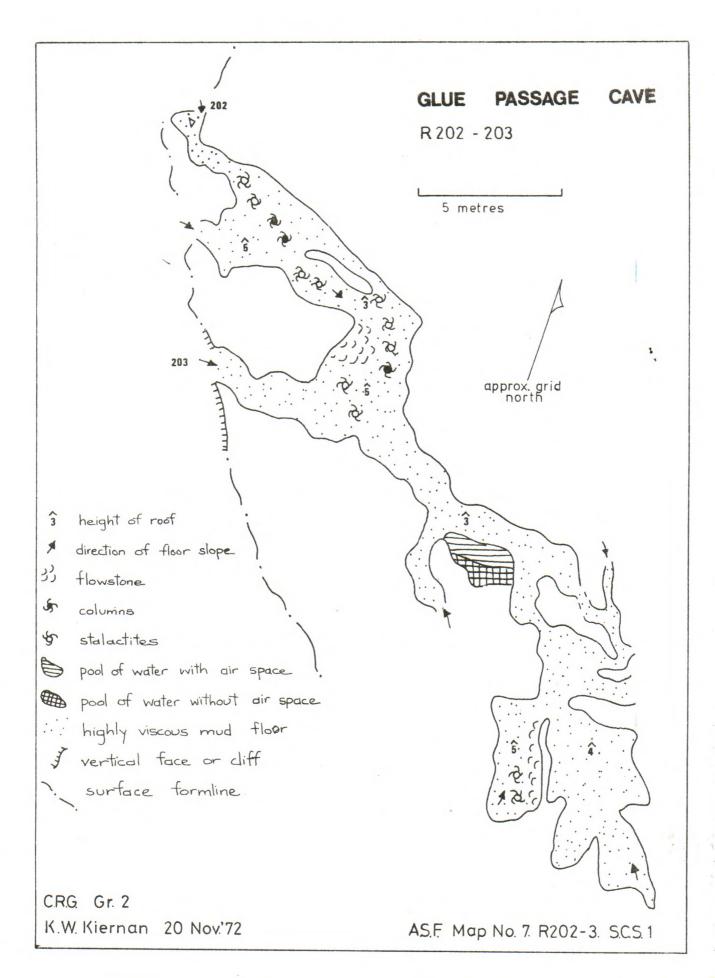
BIRDS NEST CAVE

R 201, REDPA, N.W. TASMANIA





C.R.G. Gr. 2 K.W. Kiernan 20 Nov. 72 A.S.F. MAP No. 7. R201. SCS 1



REPORT ON RECREATIONAL LAND USE STUDY MEETING

A meeting of cavers was convened on February 16th, 1978 at the request of the Division of Recreation, a section of the Education Dept., for a study on Tasmanian Recreational Land Use. The meeting, held at Kirksway House, was chaired by Greg Alomes and attended by representatives of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, the Southern Caving Society and other interested persons.

A list of what were considered the major issues facing people who go caving was compiled after some discussion, and votes were taken on the relative importance of the points raised. The issues chosen for discussion are listed below together with the number of votes each attracted, and the percentage of the votes. The issues were classified under the headings of Conservation/ use, Access, Safety and Education. As might be expected, Conservation and Safety attracted most attention.

MAJOR ISSUES FACING PEOPLE WHO GO CAVING

THOUR IDDOLD THOUSAND THE STATE OF THE STATE	77 1		
	Votes	20	1
Reconciliation of recreational and scientific caving with its impact on the cave environment	29	14.5%	
Incompatible commercial land uses - e.g. H.E.C., mining companies, farming etc.	26	13.0	
Rescues in difficult and remote caves - lack of a number of experienced rescue personnel.	26	13.0	
Damage caused by activities of inexperienced cavers operating outside recognised caving organisations.	25	12.5	
Over use of caves - conflict of cave publicity and information (location) and consequent overuse.	13	6.5	
Variations and lack of co-ordination in control and management of caves	12	6.0	
Lack of adequate gear and support from caving groups.	11	5.5	
Appropriate cave areas reserved with guarantee that they will be undisturbed, i.e. conserved	11	5.5	
Access to cave areas over both private and State land	11	5.5	
Non-appreciation of natural hazards in caves - e.g. riv flows, lack of information	er 9	4.5	
Lack of leadership	8	4.0	
Deliberate vandalism	8.	4.0	
Criticism of self interested 'arm chair' cavers - negative regulations	4	2.0	

Education of public (parents) that caving is not a "dangerous" sport.	3	1 .5
conflict of, the promotion of caying with the need		
for safety precautions and requirements	2	1.0
Lack of communication between caving groups	2	1.0
Problems with maintenance of good public relations		
TOTAL VOTES	200	100.%

Those present were asked why people go caving, and the following reasons were given:

MAJOR REASONS WHY PEOPLE GO CAVING

Challenge
Exploration - Excitement - New Ground
Balanced recreation
Aesthetic appreciation
Enjoyment
Scientific interest
Physical exercise
Companionship - mateship
Team work
Curiosity

Community involvement youth leadership
Photography
Bushwalking
Isolationist activity
Specialisation
Being different

To date nothing further has been heard of this exercise, and indeed at the time no guarantee was given that anything definate would eventuate. However, it is hoped that improved liason between caving clubs and Government departments may result.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Sirs,

I read with interest the latest issue of Southern Caver (vol. 9, no. 2), especially the article by Kevin Kiernan on "Caves at Bubs Hill". I feel that such articles which summarize our knowledge of a particular area are especially useful, but in this particular case I have a couple of comments to make.

I was a little upset to find that caves in the Bubs Hill area were denoted by the letter code BH despite the fact that the list of area letter codes we prepared in 1974 (of which the author was given a copy) has B as the letter code for Bubs Hill.

Fortunately the information on Tasmanian caves which has all been entered on computer forms has not yet been punched up because of delays in preparing the new edition of the ASF Handbook. This will probably happen later this year. Once it has been punched up it will be almost impossible to change the letter code of an area.

In the circumstances, I suggest that we change the letter code for Bubs Hill to BH to avoid confusion, but in future please let us stick to the agreed list. I am including a copy of the up-to-date list. It would be very useful if it could be published in the Southern Caver to make all members familiar with the codes.

Apart from Bubs Hill there are two other changes in the new list (compared with the Sept. 1974 one). Julius River (JR) has been added and the area formerly known as Lake Spicer (LS) in now referred to as Dante Rivulet (DR) - the name of the stream flowing through it. This stream has only recently been named and provides a more appropriate name as the area is some distance from Lake Spicer.

The second comment I have on Bubs Hill is the naming of the small cave in the quarry as Quarry Cave. This probably would have been better left un-named as we already have a Quarry Cave at Mole Creek, known as such for more than 20 years. To avoid confusion we should avoid duplication of names within the state.

Finally I am enclosing a copy of a discussion document on Cave Nomenclature which I prepared for the A.S.F. Committee Meeting in Woollongong in January. I would welcome any comments, suggestions and criticisms on this document from members of S.C.S. Perhaps you would be prepared to reprint the suggested 'guideline rules for naming' in the Southern Caver to give them wider circulation and a

With Best Wishes,
ALBERT GOEDE
A.S.F. STATE CAVE RECORDER.

As requested, we publish a section of Albert's Discussion Document, together with the latest Letter Codes for Tasmanian Caving Areas.

EXTRACT FROM A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT (FIRST DRAFT 7/12/77) PRODUCED FOR THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR NOMENCLATURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION BY ALBERT GOEDE.

".....The following rules for naming of caves and Karst features (Anon, 1968; Wilcock, 1968) are suggested for examination by members of the federation and are intended for general discussion at the committee meeting and at society level during 1978. The federation is urged to adopt a set of guideline rules at the Perth Conference in January 1979.

(1) Names should be approved only if the locality and nature of the feature have been accurately recorded in society records and archives.

Comment: All too often in the past names have been approved without adequate descriptive and locality data. This causes lasting problems if a cave is subsequently 'lost' - a not uncommon happening in the dense Tasmanian bush or the wide expanse of the Nullerbor. When rediscovered years later the identity of such a cave may be almost impossible to establish with certainty.

(2) A name should be concise, euphonious and in good taste and should not be such as to give offence to any person.

Comment: This may rule out some apt and witty names. Names such as Lillians Rift and Devils Earhole (Mole Creek) sail close to the wind and a name such as Sharlands Organ (a formation in Kubla Khan, M.C.) is definitely not acceptable to any nomenclature body — even allowing for a sense of humour.

An example that gave offence was the naming of a small, insignificant cave in the Florentine Valley as Notelddim Cave by a Tasmanian caving society. The club had been criticized by a well known speleologist for its lack of originality in naming and retaliated by using his name in reverse and applying it to a particularly insignificant hole. The person concerned was not amused and at his request the name was withdrawn.

(3) A feature should be named only if it is of sufficient significance to warrant naming.

Comment: If in doubt err on the safe side. It is easier to apply a name at a later stage than to have to withdraw a name applied in haste.

(4) Caves should not be named after living persons unless in very exceptional circumstances. On no account should a cave be named after a living member of a caving society.

Comment: See earlier comments under "Purposes for Naming".

- (5) Where personal names are used the possessive 's' is omitted unless this destroys the euphony or descriptive application of the name. If the possessive 's' has to be used the apostrophe should be omitted, e.g. Scotts Cave not Scott's Cave.
- (6) Hyphens should not be used in new names.
- (7) Names composed of a number of words should be avoided.

Comment: An official nomenclature body would take a dim view of a name such as 'Tower of London Cave' at Chillagoe, Queensland although they might approve it if it were well established. 'The Cave with the Thing that went Thump' at Mt. Etna would definitely not be approved.

- (8) Unnatural combinations of words should not be used.
- (9) Where features are named after persons, names should not involve the use of both Christian and surname or a combination of the two.
- (10) Long and difficult aboriginal, botanic or scientific names should be avoided. If an aboriginal name is used, it should have an appropriate meaning.

- (11) Corrupted or modified names should not be used unless such forms are well established by local usage.
- (12) Names that can be construed as advertising a particular commercial or industrial enterprise are not acceptable.
- (13) If more than one name is available for a cave, the name best established in local usage should be accepted. If local usage does not provide a solution then the name that has been established longest in historical records will normally be favoured.
- (14) Changing an already accepted name should be avoided at all costs unless there are very compelling reasons for doing so. Where an existing name has been used in a scientific description, e.g. to name a geological formation or as the type locality of a new species of cave fauna the name should never be altered nor should the same name be assigned to any other feature.
- (15) The use of different names for parts of the same natural feature should be avoided.

Comments: In the naming of caves a problem often arises in that two or more caves, regarded as distinct and named as such, may subsequently be linked to one another by further exploration. One possible solution would be to assign the name of the longest component cave to the whole of the system unless there are compelling reasons for not doing so, e.g. if one of the smaller components is a type site for geological or biological description.

Another suggestion made by Matthews (1977) is that the names should be combined, e.g. if Jubilee Cave and Royal Cave are interconnected subsequent to being named they could be referred to as the Jubilee-Royal System. This overcomes the problem of name change but can produce some awkward combinations as for example Spider-Pyramid-Cow System at Mole Creek. This is not likely to meet with approval from a nomenclature board as it does not comply with rules (7) and (8).

(16) Ownership of land on which a feature occurs is not considered grounds for the adoption of the personal name of the owner.

Comment: In Australia features that are given personal names are often given the name of the person who was given the original grant of the land on which the feature occurs."

LETTER CODES FOR TASMANIAN CAVING AREAS

LETTER CODE	CAVING AREA	MAP SHEET (1:250,000)		
BH (Sammanalan R)	Bubs Hill	Queenstown		
(formerly B) BR	Butlers Rivulet	Queenstown		
C	Cracroft	Hobart		
CB	Cape Barren Is.	Flinders Island		
DR (Formerly LS)	Dante Rivulet (formerly Lake Spicer)	Queenstown		
E	Eugenana	Burnie		
F	Franklin	Queenstown		
FG	Flowery Gully	Launceston		
FH	Forest Hills	Hobart		
G	Grey	Launceston		
GP	Gunns Plains	Burnie		
GS	Gordon Sprent	Queenstown		
H	Hastings	Hobart		
AH	Harwood	Port Davey		
IB	Ida Bay	Hobart		
J	Jane River	Queenstown		
JD	Jukes Darwin	Queenstown		
JF	Junee Florentine	Oatlands (E. of 146 ^o 30') Queenstown(W.of 146 ^o 30')		
JR (New Entry)	Julius River	Burnie		
L	Loongana	Burnie		
LG	Lower Gordon	Queenstown		
LL	Lake Lea	Burnie		
LO	Lorinna	Burnie		
M	Moina	Burnie		
AM	Mount Anne	Port Davey		
MC	Mole Creek	Burnie		
MI	Maria Island	Oatlands		

Letter Codes for Tasmanian Caving Areas (Cont'd)

LETTER CODE	CAVING AREA	MAP SHEET (1:250,000)
MR	Mt. Ronald Cross	Queenstown
MU	Montagu	Burnie
MY	Mayday	Burnie
N	Nelson River	Queenstown
NR	Nicholls Range	Queenstown
OL	Olga	Queenstown (N. of 42° 45') Port Davey (S. of 42° 45')
PB	Precipitous Bluff	Hobart
R	Redpa	Burnie
RA	Ranga	Flinders Island
SB	Surprise Bay	Hobart
SP	Scotts Peak	Port Davey
T	Trowutta	Burnie
TS	Tim Shea	Queenstown
VF	Vanishing Falls	Hobart
W	Weld River	Port Davey
WE	Mount Wellington	Hobart

(This list replaces the September 1974 list)

With reference to the comments by Albert Goede on the Bubs Hill article, I would make the following points:

- 1. A glance at the cave maps will show they were prepared prior to the 1974 letter codes. Our mistake for not updating them.
- 2. Single letter prefixes seem to me very unwise. For instance, unless someone knew already, should they expect, say F46 to be in the Franklin, Flowery Gully, Forest Hills or where? A second letter is most useful. Moreover, last year alone S.C.S. found four new Karstareas, and it is not impossible others will turn up what if their names were all to start with, say B? Wouldn't it be a lot easier to just use a two letter prefix to prevent any possible confusion? I would therefore suggest the following modifications:

CH	Cheyne Range	MO	Moina
CR	Cracroft	MM	Mt. Weld
EU	Eugenana	NE	Nelson River
FR	Franklin River	RP	Redpa
GY	Grey	TU	Trowutta
HS	Hastings	UL	Upper Loddon
JA	Jane River	ΩM	Upper Weld
LA	Loongana		

- 3. The point regarding the name Quarry Cave is a good one, although this is a matter of cave nomenclature considerably pre-dating the article.
- 4. With respect to the draft nomenclature "rules" I would only say that some aspects would be worthwhile as guidelines, but to have "rules" suggests a degree of bureaucratisation speleology can well do without. I shall not expand on this point as I suspect others far more eloquent will do so in due course.

Ron Mann

This report covers the period from 1st February to 16th April, 1978.

Junee/Florentine (3 trips)

In March, Leigh Gleeson, Alex Terauds and Peter McQuillan (visitor) bottomed Growling Swallet. Low water levels allowed them to get past what is normally a sump and reach the final pool in a long narrow rift.

On Thursday 30th March, Leigh Gleeson took Jeanette McLaren (VSA) and Neil Smith (CEGSA) to Khazad Dum. They bottomed the cave in 12 hours, the low water levels making the trip easier. SRT was used almost exclusively and the small party reduced waiting time at pitches.

Leigh Gleeson, Aleks Terauds, Peter and Cathy McQuillan attempted to find the entrance to JF 14 on 16th April but after several hours they failed to find the cave. The aim of the trip was to find the entrance for a future assault on the cave.

Mole Creek (1 trip)

This trip was held over Easter (23 - 28th March) and a total of 19 people were at the Wet Caves campsite at varying times. A comprehensive report is published elsewhere in this issue.

Maria Island (1 trip)

Kevin Kiernan, Leigh Gleeson and several others looked at the sea caves north of Darlington on Maria Island. Leigh notes that one of the caves is nominally above sea level although it would only be wise to visit it during low tide. He also mentions that "the smell of seaweed is a little overpowering". There are more caves on the north side of the island but these are more difficult to approach and were not visited.

Ida Bay (1 trip)

A party of nine spent a few hours in Exit Cave on 9th April. Water levels were very low. The party split into two, one headed for Camp 1 and the other to look at Hammer passage and other sections.

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WILSON, Lindsay	OUSE7461					
WILSON, Stewart	OUSE7461					

OPERATION WOMGUANO

OPERATION WOMGUANO

OPERATION WOMGUANO

OPERATION WOMGUANO is a one day Search and Rescue exercise involving cavers and members of the Police Search, and Rescue Squad to be held in Beginners Luck Cave at Maydena on the 27 May 1978.

Members are urged to attend and experience the various aspects of cave rescues first hand.

OPERATION WOMGUANO

OPERATION WOMGUANO

OPERATION WOMGUANO

