

# SOUTHERN CAVER

Number 50

August 1982

We, the undersigned pre-historians and archaeologists, urge upon the Governments of Australia and Tasmania the need to preserve for posterity and for its scientific importance, an area which is acknowledged as a part of the world's cultural heritage: The Franklin and Gordon River area of South West Tasmania.

In our opinion, Fraser Cave and other archaeological sites are of the greatest international significance. They symbolise the spirit and adaptability of humankind during its colonisation of the globe, in that they constitute the southernmost limits of the last Ice Age settlement. The potential of these sites for scientific research into the Stone Age places them in the forefront of interest to the international scientific community.

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Co-ordinated by John Mulvaney, Professor of Prehistory, Australian National University, Canberra, and Rhys Jones, Senior Fellow, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra.

Presented as a matter of national importance by The Australian Conservation Foundation.

For further information on how you can help write to The Director, Australian Conservation Foundation, 672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Vic. 3122.

**Save the Franklin.**



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## SOUTHERN CAVER

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This 1981-82 year was a fairly average one for the Society with the most exciting and promising prospects being the discovery of nearly one hundred new holes in the Marble Hill Area. Members became aware of these holes while assisting in constructing the new Exit Cave track. These caves are currently under exploration and although nothing very arousing has been found yet we still have a long way to go and there is a strong chance some may lead into Exit Cave.

There have been trips by several members to the Weld Valley. Although these trips have mainly been of a reconnaissance nature several small caves have been found. Prospects for this area are extremely high and there should be many trips to this area in the future.

Some members have been involved with the Tasmanian Caverneering Club and their work in the two new Florentine Caves, Serendipity (-260 metres) and the Ice Tube (-200 metres and still going strong). Both of these caves are fine additions to Tassie's list of hard caves and are a credit to the Eberhard brothers who provided most of the energy behind their exploration.

The Society recently purchased 100 metres of new rope and the prospects of 200 metres in the near future should see an upsurge in the S.R.T. field of caving.

During the year we gained only a few new members but those few make up for several by their eagerness for tackling the underground world.

With the prospect of several new members in 1982-83 and trips such as Forest Hills Depression, Mt. Ronald Cross, Macintosh River, Weld River and Mt. Anne planned, the Society should see an active and exciting year ahead.

As a final note I would like to extend my appreciation along with the rest of the members to the people who worked to keep the Society running as efficiently as possible on the limited re-

sources available, and the Search and Rescue officers for their part in the successful 1981 Cave S.A.R. exercise.

Happy caving.

Phil Jackson

PRESIDENT 1981-82



# NULLABORING

8th - 18th April 1982

Phil Jackson

## Participants

Terry and Merredith Reardon (organisers, cavers and divers), Dave Warnes (diver), David Hein (diver), Karel and Barb Lengs (divers), Mike Burn (diver), Julia Whittler (caver), Mike Snoswell (caver), John MacCormack (caver), Chris & Karen? (cavers), Peter Morriss (caver), John Healy (caver), Susan Sweetman (caver), Melina Healy (caver), Rick Hutchings and Vap? (sorry Vap) (cavers), and Phil Jackson (caver S.C.S.).

Despite what the above title suggests, this little jaunt was one of the most enjoyable and relaxing trips I have been fortunate enough to participate in.

The major difference between caving on the Nullabor and in Tasmania is about the same as the difference between heat exhaustion and hypothermia. With temperatures in the fifties in summer and still nearing the forties in April, the air temperature is such that a caver can work up a sweat with just shorts and T-shirt which is vastly more pleasant than nearly freezing while climbing a waterfall pitch in the Florentine Valley while wearing three or four sets of wool clothes.

Usually the only water found in the caves is in the form of lakes and submerged tunnels found at the water table level. This makes the area a cave divers paradise.

Following is a brief chronicle of events and then a more detailed account of the more notable events.

Thurs. 8th	6.00 p.m.	departed Adelaide
Friday 9th	Midday	arrived at Eucla, 13 km west of W.A./S.A. Border and set up camp at Weebubbie Cave.
	3.00 p.m.	Did Weebubbie Cave

Friday 9th	3.45 p.m.	Saw hideous monster in cave
	8.00 p.m.	Tea and many stubbies (hereafter assumed to occur every night).
Sat. 10th	10.00 a.m.	Some went to Abrakurrie Cave. Divers and others returned to Weebubbie.
	2.00 p.m.	Mike Burn carries twin diving tanks up 25ft fixed steel ladder at 40°C (PHEW!).
	3.00 p.m.	Divers and rest went in search of Abrakurrie Cave.
	3.05 p.m.	Divers and rest geographically embarrassed while in search of Abrakurrie.
	8.05 p.m.	After five hours miraculously found way back to campsite.
Sunday 11th	A.M.	Cavers packed up camp and headed for Mundrabilla Water Tanks while divers headed for Warbler Cave.
	P.M.	Cavers did Snake pit, Webbs Cave and Witches Cave.
	10.00 p.m.	Encounter drunken arrogant truck driver at Mundrabilla Roadhouse.
Monday 12th	2.30 a.m.	Two drops of rain caused tents to be set up.
	8.00 a.m.	Awake to find two exhausted divers in camp.
	8.30 a.m.	Terry sees weather balloon.
	11.00 a.m.	Drop Meredith, Julia, John and Peter at Mundrabilla for return trip to Adelaide.
	P.M.	Rick and Vap catch up with us on way to Mullahmullang and campsite. Spend a few hours in Mullahmullang.
Tues. 13th	A.M.	Headed for Cocklebidy and Murra-El-Elevyn campsite
	P.M.	Did Murra-El-Elevyn cave.



Wed. 14th	A.M.	Did Cocklebiddy cave.
	P.M.	Shifted camp from Murra-El-Elevyn to Tommy Graham's Cave. Did Tommy Grahams.
Thurs. 15th	A.M.	Some head for Adelaide, some head for Perth.
	P.M.	Rest returned to Weebubbie campsite.
Friday 16th	A.M.	More return to Adelaide, rest go in search of Abrakurrie and find it this time.
Sat. 17th	P.M.	Return to Adelaide via Cactus Beach,
Sun 18th		Alligator Gorge National Park and Clare Valley

### Details

Our departure from Adelaide appeared to be a smooth operation despite having witnessed the organisers in a state of near panic for the two days prior to the trip. We managed to leave only half an hour after the expected time, which is bloody superb by Southern Caving Society standards.

After twenty hours on the road in a VW Kombi with four other people and food, water, and caving gear for five and diving gear for one, we arrived at what we were told was Weebubbie, a small hole, about 0.5 metres wide and a strong breeze issuing forth providing pleasant relief from the heat. After excessive grumblings concerning getting oneself and diving gear down this hole, Terry finally relented with his little joke and informed us that was not Weebubbie but a blowhole, a common karst feature of the Nullabor, consisting of a short narrow shaft and a dendritic network of unnegotiable passages at the bottom.

### Weebubbie

Some five hundred metres beyond, was a doline somewhere between 40 and 60 metres in diameter and 15 metres deep, with an entrance at one end about 3 by 5 metres. This was the real Weebubbie.

Access to the bottom of the doline is via a 7 metre fixed steel ladder then a talus slope down to the actual entrance. The vegetation in the doline was a lush green ivy type, as opposed to the barren earth, claypans and sparse stunted eucalypts of the surface terrain. At the entrance, one's sense of smell is strongly stimulated by the musky stench of bat guano, a problem never yet encountered in Tasmanian caves, thank god.

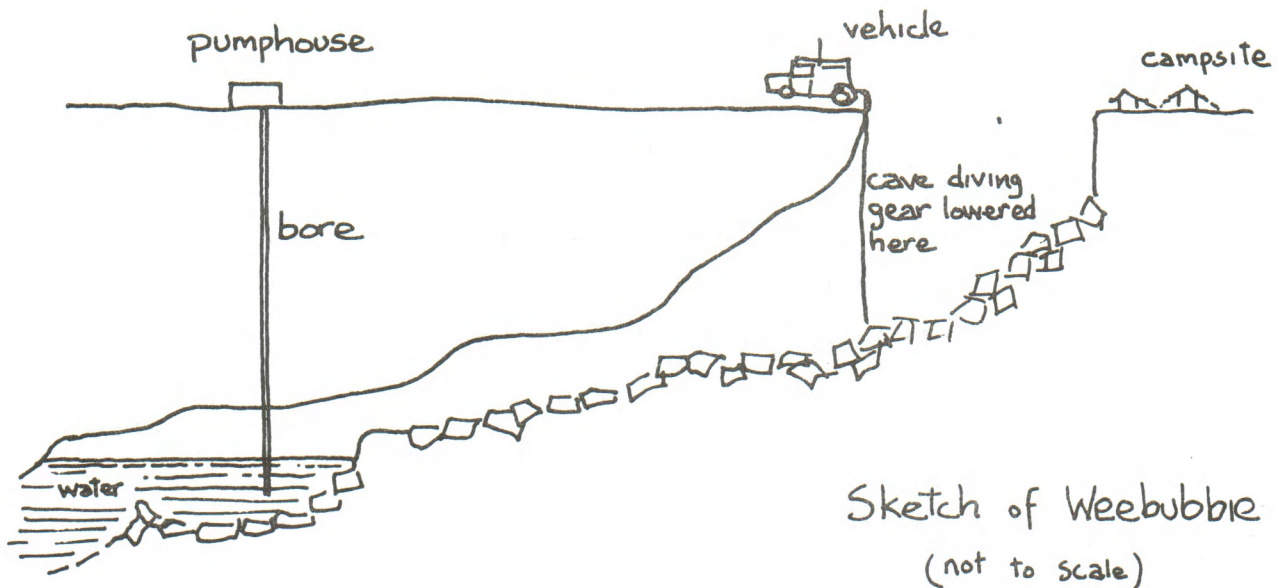
The cave is a gentle talus slope, of a couple of hundred metres in length, down to the lake, where ones ears are assailed by the clanking and whining of a monstrous nature. The monster being a bore driver down through the limestone to the lake, from which the water is pumped to the nearby Eucla Roadhouse, for domestic use. The water must be treated to remove the salts otherwise it can cause extremely unpleasant bowel disorders, which is a rather unfortunate situation. Its supply would be almost unceasing and water in this dry inhospitable country is a most valuable commodity.

For those not aspiring to be cave divers, a snorkel along the 80 or so metres of lake, is not only pleasantly refreshing, but an excitingly eerie experience (so much so that I made rash statements about taking up cave diving, fortunately the idea faded into oblivion along with the many others I'd never quite been brave enough to pursue any further than just talk about).

The lake has an aqua hue to it and varies from about one to five metres deep with a visibility of 20-30 metres. The walls and floor are covered in a white silt that gently floats up to cloud the visibility when disturbed.

In summary a most exciting and highly recommended thing to do on the Nullabor.





The cave diving gear was lowered and hauled up from an overhanging point of the doline. A vehicle was parked at the edge to provide a suitable anchor point, a trick often used in the area but most unsuitable for Tasmanian conditions.

#### The Geographically Embarrassed Incident (GEI)

The G.E.I. was due to several factors such as incorrect maps, unfamiliarity with the area and continually changing tracks caused by rabbitters (?) and other transients. Anyway someone had to cop the blame and Terry seemed to be the most obvious.

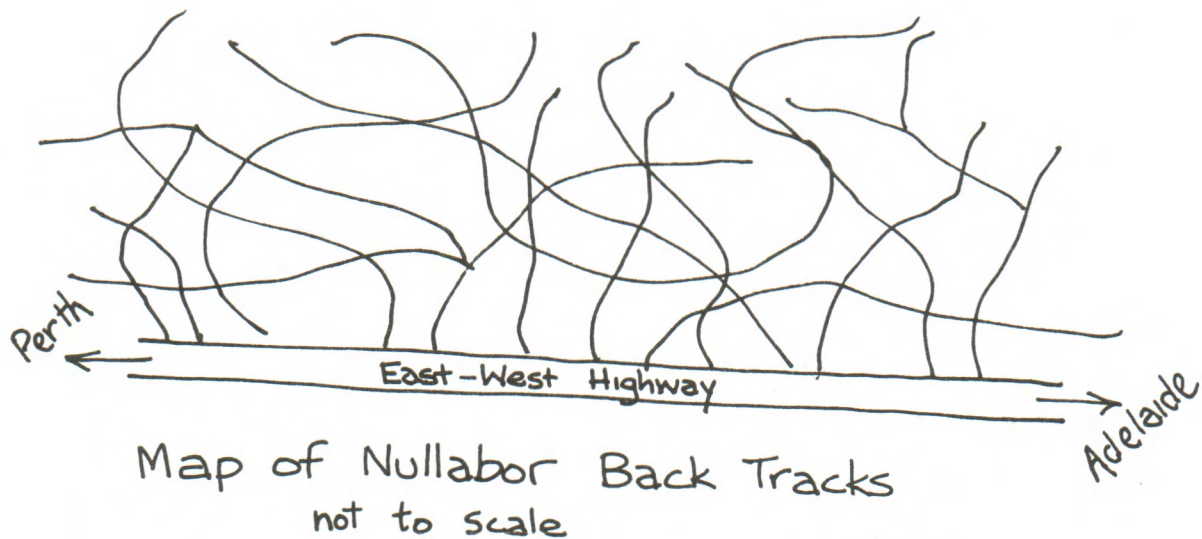
After losing the way to the cave and then the route back to camp the following conversation evolved:-

Mike Burn "This must be the right road back, I remember seeing that empty stubby".

A few minutes delay -

Dave Warnes "Yeh, it must be, I remember that saltbush .... and that rabbit, I've seen him before.... I think when we get back if we get back, that is, we should take Reardon to the pub (Eucla Roadhouse) and rubbish the shit out of him".

Anyway we eventually, through some miracle, found our way back to camp, which please me immensely because I didn't relish the thought of drinking radiator water for 3 or 4 days and then die of thirst.



### Snake Pit

An eight foot pitch leads to the main entrance chamber which is literally carpeted in the bones of small animals, presumably bats and small reptiles. Further inside the cave is a small claypan with an almost perfectly mummified cat, alone, in the centre, serving as a stark reminder of what might happen to bad little cavers who don't take their prescribed three light sources underground. The cave has some interesting speleothems, all of which with one exception, were dead. The exception was a small straw with a very slow drip rate. This was the only live formation seen on the whole trip.

### Webbs Cave

This cave has some good gypsum formation and is well worth a visit as are all caves. No rigging required.

### Witches Cave

An interesting maze of chambers linked by short passages. This cave has the best formation of any I had seen on the Nullabor with the exception of Mullamullong. It consisted mainly of a high concentration of straws and stals, ranging in colour from a pristine white through browns and reds to black.

No rigging is required and a visit to this cave is highly recommended.



### The Drunken Truckie Incident (D.T.I.)

After our enjoyable days caving we went to Mundrabilla Roadhouse for drinks and to leave notice of our whereabouts for the cave divers. As we were about to leave we were confronted by an extremely inebriated "Truckin International", two brain celled, you beaut, trans-continental truck driver, who promptly informed the ladies in our group that they were welcome to help themselves to any of the variety of liquid refreshment in the cooler in his, you beut, "Truckin International" Mack or Kenworth or whatever. Upon the most polite refusal of his generous offer he became offensive and showed us his legs, the ones he "scratched" running across saltbush plains to get the yabbies before us, cavers got them. When sympathy was offered he took offence and promptly threatened that if he saw us on the road he would place his rather large "Truckin International" bullbar up our "ginger". After these harrowing few words we managed to give the arrogant bastard the slip and returned to the campsite unscathed.

### Terry's Weather Balloon

When Terry was seen, all smug in his sleeping bag everyone converged on him to enquire of the Warbler diving epic. After a time Terry became bored with the conversation and casually pointed to a weather balloon in the sky and to his expectations everybody peered skywards and then back at Terry in time to see an empty sleeping bag and a glimpse of a white homosapiens posterior disappearing around the corner of the kombi-van.

### Mullamullang Cave

This is without doubt the most spectacular cave in the area, with its massive passages, superb halite formations, the Coffee and Cream, The Dune, and the Southerly Buster.

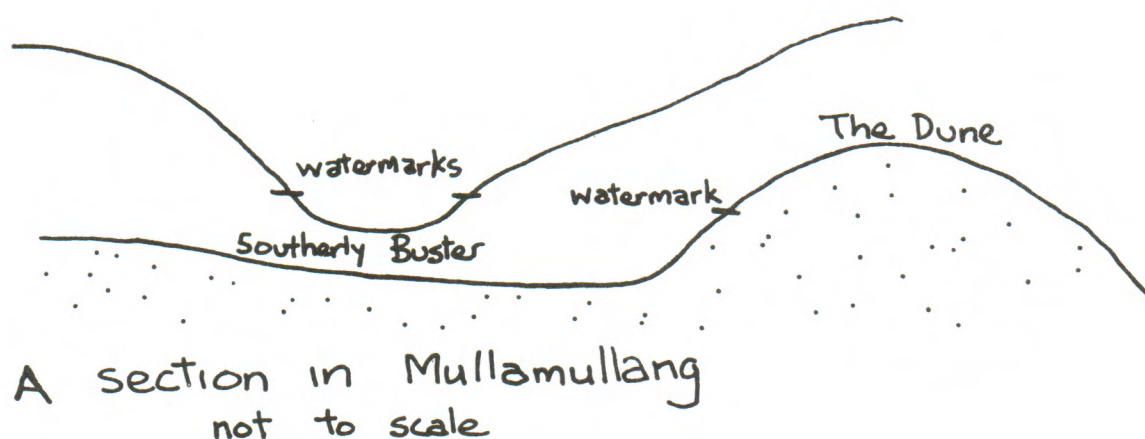
The system is similar to Exit Cave at Ida Bay in length and volume. The major difference between the two is that Exit has a considerable permanent stream and Mullamullang has none, although we witnessed evidence of recent flooding in the Southerly Buster and on The Dune.

The Southerly Buster is a narrower section of the cave of dimensions, approximately one metre high and three metres wide and located 20 minutes from the entrance. The considerable airflow present in the cave is amplified through this constriction causing a howling gale, capable of shifting small sticks and stones and is also the nearest thing to causing hypothermia to be found on the Nullabor.

The Dune is further in the cave from the Southerly Buster and is a perfectly formed sand dune of massive dimensions. Although uncertain I'd say it was built up from wind deposited sand.

The "Coffee and Cream" is an interesting feature consisting of a flowing white powder (presumably calcite) with similar brown powder streaks through it, giving an appearance not unlike coffee with cream. It is unfortunate, however, that some "thoughtful" souls, having seen it themselves, decided that it didn't matter a stuff if their fucking great paw prints were neatly placed in it, for generations of cavers in the future to see.

The halite (salt) formations are magnificent specimens that take on forms similar to helictites and gypsum formations. The air in these areas is very parching and a portable water supply is advisable in this cave on trips of considerable time.



After the recent flooding the Southerly Buster would have been a sump for about one metre, and the Dune had a water mark about three metres up.



### Murra-el-Elevyn

A fairly typical Nullabor cave, a collapsed doline with a talus climb down to the water table.

### Cocklebidy Cave

A massive degraded doline with a vastly contrasting plant habitat to the surroundings saltbush plains. Many of the plants in the doline are extremely colourful and survive because of the marginally cooler, more moist micro-climate of the doline.

The doline leads into a cavern of immense proportions, and a mucky lake that was the site of the longest successful cave dive in the World exceeding 11,000 metres of continuous diving.

### Tommy Graham's Cave

A cave similar in structure to Murra-el-Elevyn with one major difference being the water temperature of the lake. At 24°C the resulting heat rises up through the cave makes it hot work even just heading for the bottom of the cave, let alone climbing out loaded down with diving gear. A swim in the lake is an essential after suffering the bottoming trip.

### Abtrakurrie Cave

The long search for this cave proved to be most rewarding, just to see what a South Australian means when they say huge. The passage is several hundred metres of underground, railway station dimensions, up to 50 metres wide, The floor of sand is almost completely flat and the walls and ceiling are each shaped of smooth (almost soapy) limestone.

### The Return Trip

Was spread over two days via various non karst features such as Cactus Beach and Alligator Gorge National Park.

### Recommendations

I can thoroughly recommend the entire Nullabor area as a venue

for any caving trip but some of the highlights were:-

1. Snorkelling in Weebubbie
2. Witches Cave - the formation
3. Mullamullang - a must
4. Cocklebidy - an interesting area
5. Tommy Graham's Cave - a swim in the lake
6. Abrakurrie Cave
7. Wirrabarra Bakery in the Clare Valley - best bread and goodies.



## TASMANIA'S DEEPEST CAVES

Stefan Eberhard

1.	Ice Tube	345m	
2.	Khazad Dum	323m	
3.	Cauldron Pot	263m	
4.	Serendipity	250m	
5.	Owl Pot	244m	
6.	Tassy Pot	241m	
7.	Sesame II	229m	
8.	Mini Martin	219m	
9.	Midnight Hole	203m	
10.	Big Tree Pot	200m	
11.	Chairman	197m	(maybe 210-215m)
12.	JF147	186m	

Some of the depths are based on estimates only, such as Serendipity and Big Tree Pot. These caves require an accurate survey to verify the depth (but who the hell is going to survey Serendipity!). The estimated depths are those of: Serendipity, Big Tree Pot and JF147. JF147, also known as "Two Straws Cave" and "Peanut Brittle Pot", has only been partially surveyed, the remainder of the depth is based on estimates of pitch lengths.

Tassy Pot has been surveyed to the squeeze at the end of the Morocol Passage (231m) however a downstream extension has since been discovered, giving an estimated extra 10m depth. This requires verification by survey.

The Chairman has since been pushed further to a terminal sump and so is probably slightly deeper than the surveyed depth.

Silly things to do: dive the sump in Cauldron Pot; or, add 4-5m depth to Khazad Dum by connecting JF 40 to Khazad Dum. JF 40 is a narrow scungy hole close to K.D. The survey indicates the possibility of a connection between the two. Previously, JF 40 ended in a gravel choke. However in 1981 several trips managed to dig through this blockage

and gain a few more metres before being halted by a large rock blocking the narrow passage. This would require either a few sticks of "Jelly" or a dwarf on a stick to shift.

A dig through the bottom of Big Tree Pot into Exit Cave could yield a 220m deep hole.

Serendipity is still going (!) but please don't tell any mainlanders this! (i.e. it is officially bottomed).

Exploration of Ice Tube was halted when the stream went into a gravel choke. A muddy passage continues on but got too tight after a few metres. This could probably be negotiated by a naked skinny caver, but one is not usually tempted to remove ones clothing in such a cold inhospitable place.



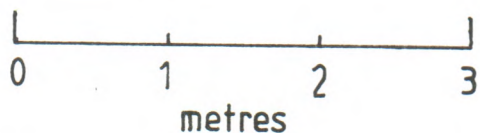
## NOTES AND SURVEYS OF SOME CAVES AT IDA BAY

Phil Jackson

- IB 211 was discovered by track cutters working on the new track to Exit Cave. It was first explored by Trevor Wailes and Andrew Briggs of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club and later surveyed by Phil Jackson and Russell Fulton of the Southern Caving Society. After consultation with Trevor the tight squeeze shown at the bottom of the survey as an unknown quantity, was explained to be a small muddy chamber with no possible leads except by digging. The main chamber contains a good display of straws and stalactites.
- IB 212 has a similar history to IB 211 and as can be ascertained by the survey, does not inspire much interest.
- IB 213 was found by Russell Fulton and later explored and surveyed by Russell and Phil Jackson to a depth of 31 metres. The entrance is an impressive rift that leads through 3 short pitches, the longest being 7 metres, to the bottom where it is choked with mud and gravel. Off to one side and just short of the bottom is a dangerous talus filled rift heading up, which was not explored due to its unstable nature.
- IB 224 was discovered and explored by Trevor and Andrew of the T.C.C. and subsequently surveyed by Phil Jackson and Lindsay Wilson to a depth of 22 metres. The cave has one 16 metre pitch and a squeeze at the bottom that could only be passed by a very small caver. Nearby the entrance is a log that is home to a 1 metre tiger snake giving rise to the suggestion of Hissing Sid Hole as a name for the cave.

# IB 211 MARBLE HILL

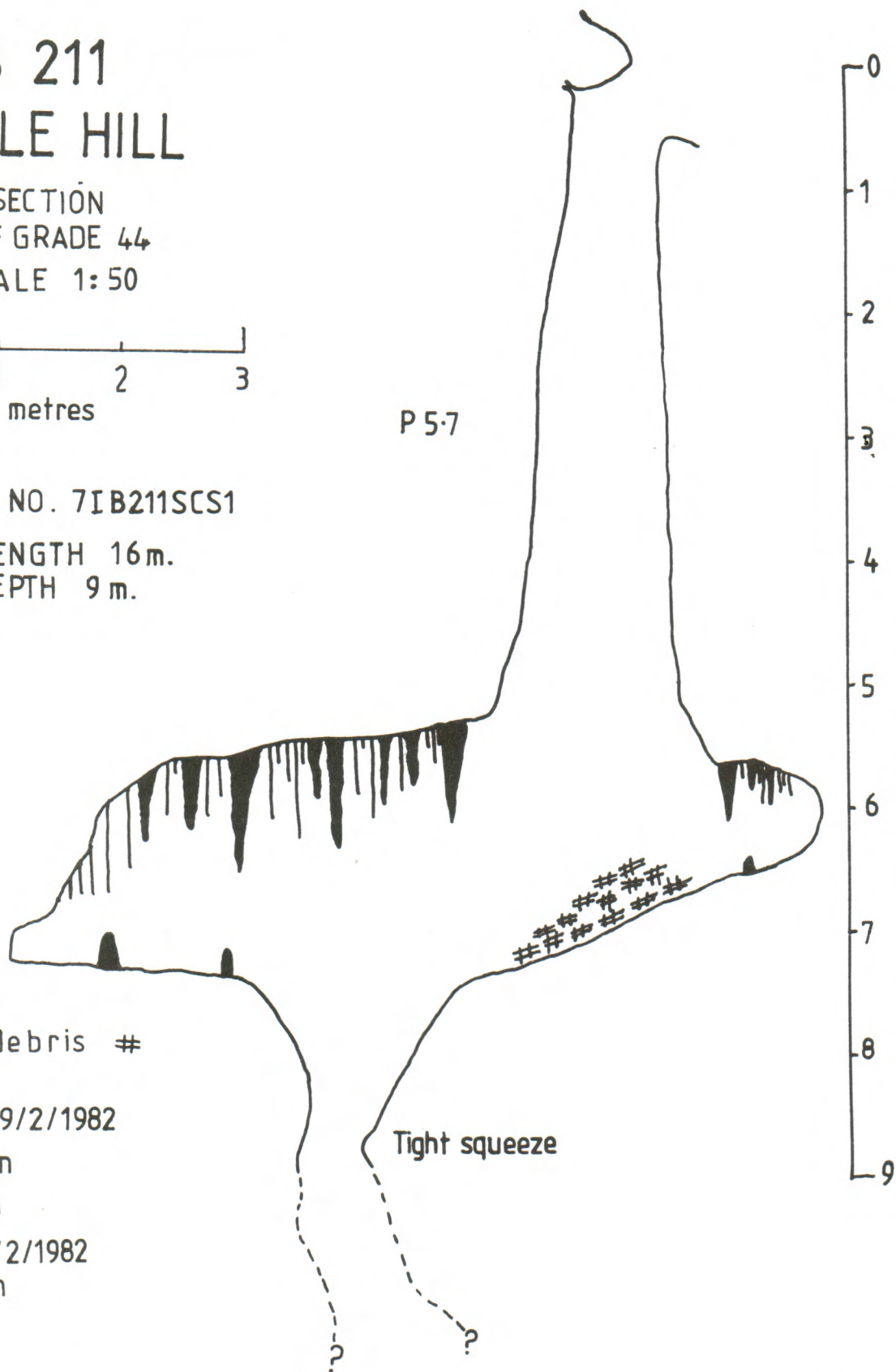
SECTION  
ASF GRADE 44  
SCALE 1:50



P 5.7

ASF MAP NO. 7IB211SCS1

LENGTH 16m.  
DEPTH 9m.



Organic debris #

Surveyed 9/2/1982

by P. Jackson

R. Fulton

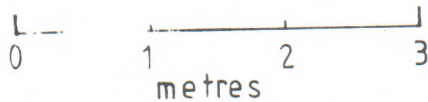
Drawn 19/2/1982

by P. Jackson



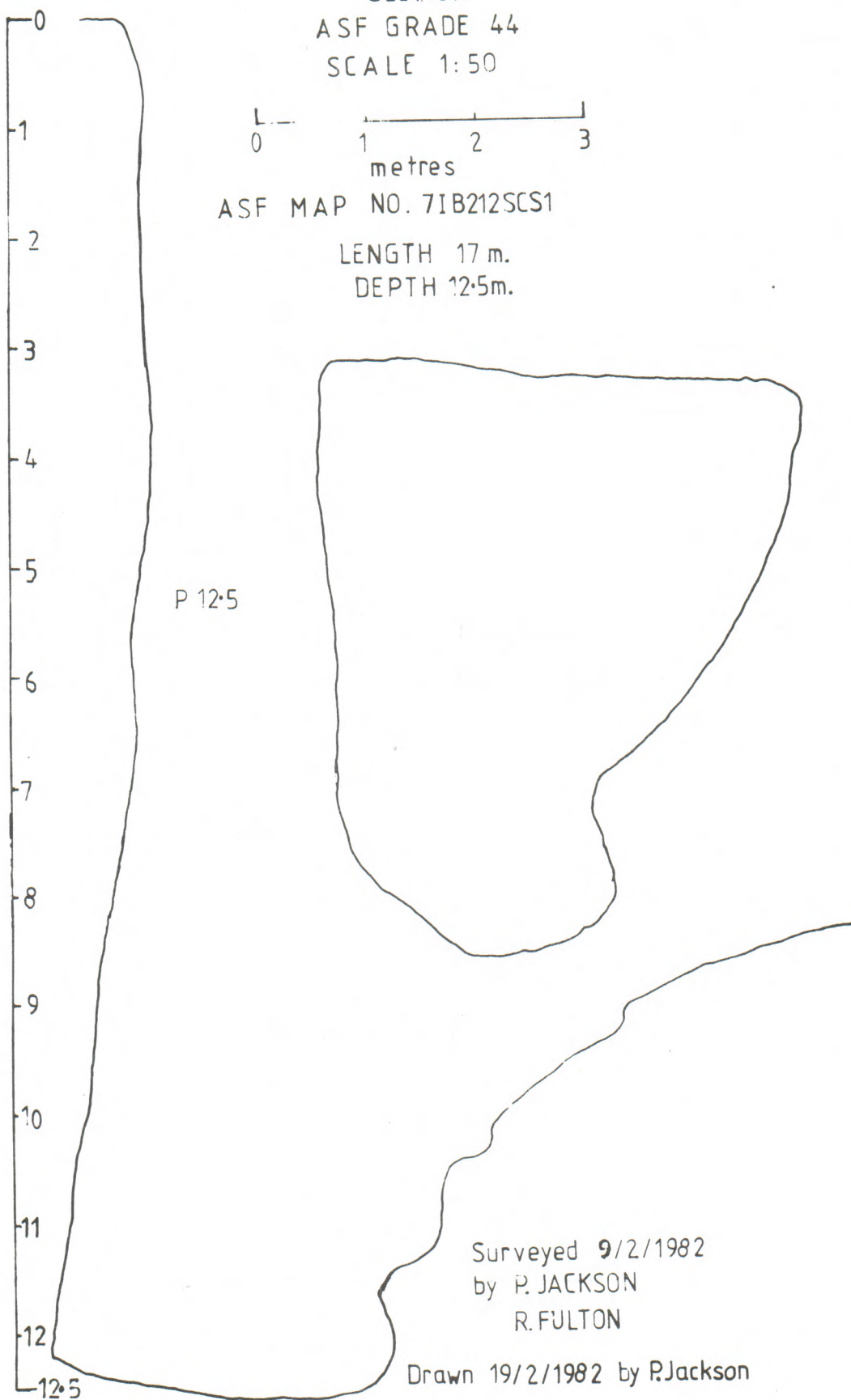
# IB 212 MARBLE HILL

SECTION  
ASF GRADE 44  
SCALE 1:50



ASF MAP NO. 7IB212SCS1

LENGTH 17 m.  
DEPTH 12.5m.

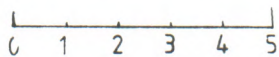


Surveyed 9/2/1982  
by P. JACKSON  
R. FULTON

Drawn 19/2/1982 by P. Jackson

# IB 213 MARBLE HILL

SECTION  
ASF GRADE 44  
SCALE 1:100



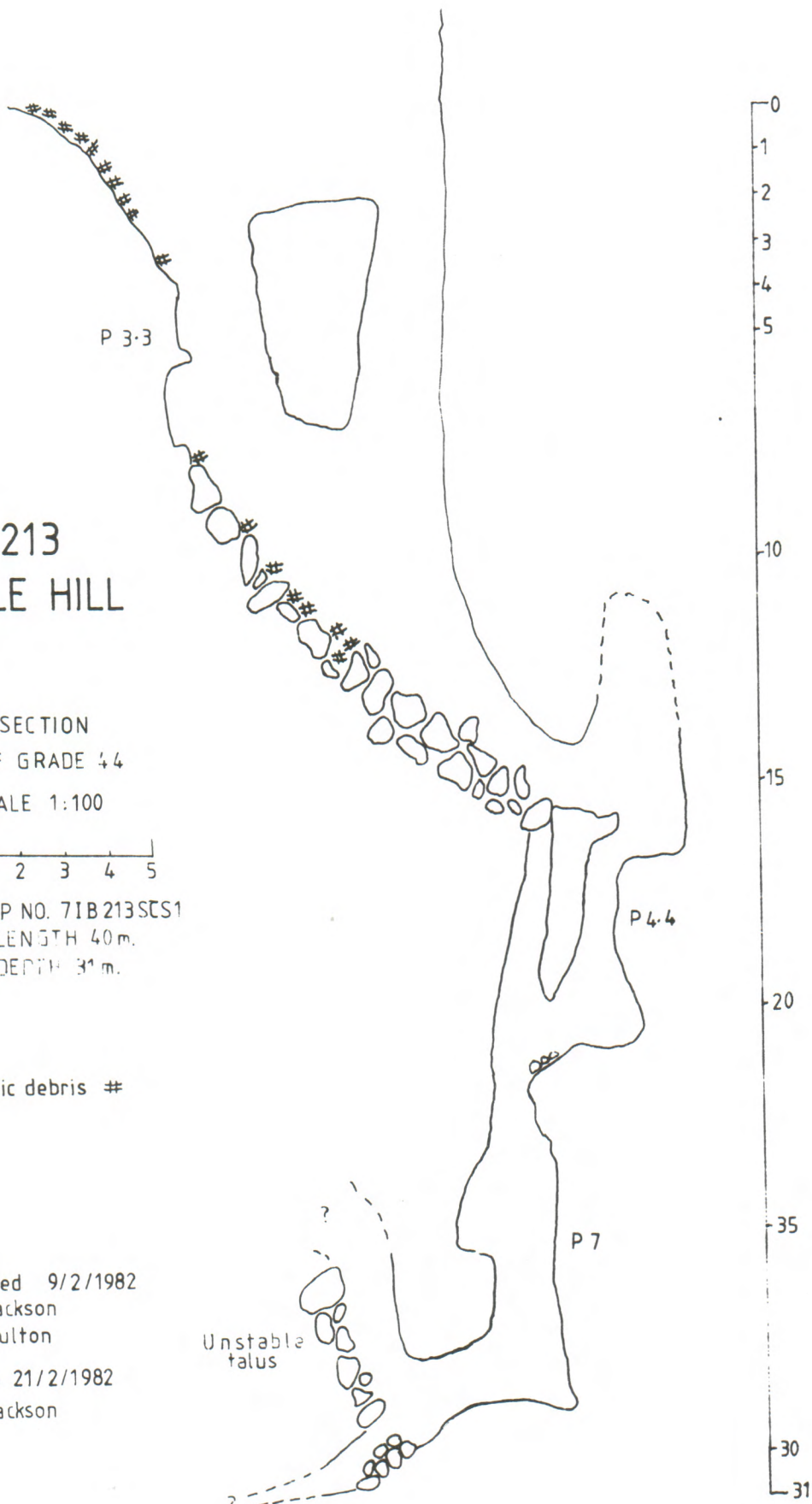
ASF MAP NO. 7IB213SCS1  
LENGTH 40 m.  
DEPTH 31 m.

Organic debris #

Surveyed 9/2/1982  
by P.Jackson  
R.Fulton

Drawn 21/2/1982  
by P.Jackson

Unstable  
talus





# HISSING SID HOLE IB 224 MARBLE HILL

ASF MAP NO 7IB224SCS1

SURVEYED 28/2/82  
BY P. Jackson  
L. Wilson

DRAWN 2/3/82  
BY P. Jackson

ASF GRADE 44

SCALE 1:100

SECTION



P 20-5

UNSAFE SQUEEZE

TOO  
NARROW

P 20-5

PLAN

Phil Jackson

Junee Florentine 18 trips

Early in March Rolan Eberhard led a combined S.C.S./T.C.C. trip to Three Falls Cave to explore the extension he had found on an earlier trip. This extension added another 80 metres of depth to the system including a 20 metre and a 50 metre pitch.

Rolan also accompanied several members of the T.C.C. on the Ice Tube trips which led to that cave becoming the deepest in Australia.

Phil Jackson led three trips to Rift Cave in which all obvious extensions were pushed to the limit, with the only possibility left being digging at the lowest point. A survey and description of this cave appears in the next issue.

Other trips to the area included commencing surveys in Welcome Stranger and Rescue Pot, surface surveying in the Cave Hill area, and visits to Bone Pit (2), Sesame Two (2), JF202, Voltera, JF206, and JF208.

Rolan Eberhard and Nick Hume (T.C.C.) have also been pushing the sump in the Junee Efflux with diving gear.

Ida Bay 9 trips

Lindsay and Louise Wilson took John Murphy (visitor from Queensland) through the rarely visited Loons Cave (all had a good time).

Phil Jackson led two introductory trips to Mystery Creek Cave.

Steve Harris led a visit to Exit Cave with South Australian visitors Meredith Reardon and Peter Morris. The walk into the cave took forty minutes longer than usual because of a detour cut by the Mines Department.



Russell Fulton and Phil Jackson spent two weekends assisting National Parks and Wildlife Service personnel with work on the new Exit Cave track which is now completed and cuts twenty minutes off the old route.

The remaining trips were spent scrub-bashing, and exploring the new caves that were found. As a result of this over one hundred new entrances have been found and notes and surveys of a few of these appear elsewhere in this issue.

#### Mole Creek      7 trips

Graham Bailey, Phil Jackson and countless visitors spent up to 10 days at Mole Creek and caved in most of the caves of the Mole Creek system and Lynds. They also escorted members of the Royal Australian Navy Caving Association. They also attend R.A.N.C.A.'s New Years Eve party which was a memorable experience.

Phil Jackson led three Photography trips into Kubla Khan, with each successive trip uncovering a need for more photographic gear. Each trip noted evidence that morons were trampling over flowstone with muddy boots. The most affected piece was the Pleasure Dome, so please take your boots off these and stay on the already trodden tracks through the rest of the cave.

Steve Harris led an exploratory trip to the upstream waterfall area of Herberts Pot, however no new passage was found, but all had a good time.

In November 1981 the Society participated in a successful search and rescue exercise along with Police, Ambulance, and the Northern Caverneers.

Phil Jackson, Russel Fulton and one visitor surveyed Ghengis Khan which will appear in the next issue.

The remaining trips were spent working on a complete surface and underground survey of the Mole Creek System.

Hastings        4 trips

Phil Jackson led a small party of R.A.N.C.A. cavers into wolf-hole and the Binney Tunnel where good mudfighting was to be had and one R.A.N.C.A. caver (I won't mention Peter Passmore's name) even swam the width of Lake Pluto in the Wolfhole. He emerged on the other side, with even his beard a slightly icy blue colour.

The other three trips were introductory trips to the Binney Tunnel, where the best mudfights can be had.

Rocky Tom        1 trip

One climbing and introductory S.R.T. trip was made to these diminutive but accessible cliffs.

Miena

The society had a tree pruning expedition to this area in order to raise \$150 towards the purchase of a new 200 metre roll of Bluewater II.



1982 Mt. Ronald Cross Expedition  
Reconnaissance of the Western Foothills  
16th - 24th October

Phil Jackson

Mt. Ronald Cross has the deepest known karst potential in Australia with a possible 740 metres depth. The area to the north and eastern sides of the Mountain have been briefly looked at and has revealed several caves, some with large streams sinks. All tended to be blocked by talus debris from the dolerite cap above the dolomite. However, the foothills to the west are not capped by the offending rock and there has been very little recorded speleo-activity in this area.

It is the intention of this expedition to walk down the Jane River track then climb into the Everlasting Hills and work north along these western slopes checking on potential cave sites as deduced from aerial photographs and the earlier brief reports of the area.

The bush in the area is expected to be very thick (possibly Horizontal Scrub) and the caves may possibly be of the type requiring much gear (only ropes will be used), so hopefuls will need to be fit and able to carry heavy packs if they wish to do any caving of the vertical type.

The party will be leaving Hobart on the morning of the 16th and returning on the afternoon of the 24th. Those interested should contact -

(S.C.S.) Phil Jackson - 83 Montagu St., New Town Tas. 7009.  
(T.C.C.) George Albion - 83 Montague St., New Town Tas. 7009  
Southern Caving Society, P.O. Box 121, Moonah, Tas. 7009  
Tas. Caverneering Club, P.O. Box 416, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005





129 Bathurst St.  
Hobart Tas 7000.  
Phone 34 9366.

### PEACEFUL DIRECT ACTION

The State Government seems determined to proceed with the Gordon below Franklin power scheme - despite the economic and environmental arguments against it - despite the crescendo of opposition from Tasmania, the mainland and overseas.

Bulldozers are already on the Kelly Basin Road. Parts of the Wild Rivers National Park have been revoked. Road survey teams are cutting 300 Km of tracks, much of this where a road would be visible from the tourist boats on the Gordon River.

It seems that sooner or later the dam works will stop for economic reasons, but in the meantime permanent damage to the wilderness is about to occur. In early August the Tasmanian Wilderness Society announced that it was preparing to meet this challenge with PEACEFUL DIRECT ACTION.

It is important that participants are committed to a philosophy of non-violence. To ensure that we have confidence in our ability to remain non-violent and make sensible decisions under pressure, a series of Non-Violent Action Workshops are being run in Hobart, New Norfolk, Launceston and Deloraine. Further workshops could be arranged elsewhere, if there is enough demand - say about 10 people.

Workshops cover NVA theory, consensus decision making, and meeting procedure and give practice in handling provocative or potentially explosive situations in a peaceful manner. We urge you to come to an NVA workshop if you intend joining the peaceful blockade.

All concerned individuals are invited to join in. This action will be a significant and legitimate environmental protest. It will focus national attention on the widespread resolve that the Franklin should be saved; work on the Franklin scheme will be slowed down and, hopefully, the Tasmanian Government's violence towards our heritage will be halted permanently.

### NON VIOLENT ACTION TRAINING

#### Hobart

Every Wednesday evening, 7.30 pm at the Environment Centre, Bathurst Street.

#### New Norfolk, Launceston, Deloraine

2-day weekend workshops will be held from now onwards. Please phone the TWS (002-349336) to find out when and where the next one is.

#### Elsewhere

If you and your friends would like some NVA training and are prepared to help TWS organise a weekend workshop in your town, please give a ring (002-349336).

If you can't join us in person we ask you to join us in spirit and show your support for the action by writing to the press and the Government, and/or by helping us financially.



# Do people overseas care more about preserving Australia's treasures than our own Government?

We, the undersigned pre-historians and archaeologists, urge upon the Governments of Australia and Tasmania the need to preserve for posterity and for its scientific importance, an area which is acknowledged as a part of the world's cultural heritage: The Franklin and Gordon River area of South West Tasmania.

In our opinion, Fraser Cave and other archaeological sites are of the greatest international significance. They symbolise the spirit and adaptability of humankind during its colonisation of the globe, in that they constitute the southernmost limits of the last Ice Age settlement. The potential of these sites for scientific research into the Stone Age places them in the forefront of interest to the international scientific community.

Dr. Harry Allen.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Professor Joseph Birdsell.

Emeritus Professor of Biological Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.A.

Professor Keith Branigan.

Chairman of the British Universities Archaeology Committee, London, U.K.

Professor Karl Butzer.

Department of Geography, University of Chicago, U.S.A.

Professor Grahame Clark.

Emeritus Professor, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge; and former Master of Peterhouse College.

Dr. W. W. Howells.

Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Peabody Museum, Harvard University, U.S.A.

Dr. Knud Fladmark.

Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, Canada; and Director of the Council for Canadian Archaeology.

Professor Richard Green.

Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, N.Z.

Professor Richard Gould.

Professor of Anthropology, Brown University, Providence U.S.A.; and Chairman Anthropology Section, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. David Harris.

Professor of Human Environment, Institute of Archaeology, University of London, U.K.

Dr. Charles Higham.

Professor of Anthropology, University of Otago, N.Z.

Dr. Henry Lewis.

Professor of Anthropology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

Dr. David Lubell.

Associate Professor, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

Dr. Paul S. Martin.

Professor of Geosciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, U.S.A.

Dr. Robert M. May.

Fellow of the Royal Society, Professor of Zoology, Princeton University, U.S.A.

Dr. Paul Mellars.

Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Cambridge, U.K.

Professor Merrick Posnansky.

Department of History, University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.A.

Dr. Norman Tindale.

Palo Alto, U.S.A.

Dr. Patricia Phillips.

Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, University of Sheffield, U.K.

Dr. Colin Renfrew.

Disney Professor of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, U.K.

Dr. Derek Roe.

Director of the Baden-Powell Quaternary Research Centre, University of Oxford, U.K.

Professor W. G. Solheim.

Professor of Archaeology, University of Hawaii.

Dr. Douglas Sutton.

Lecturer in Prehistory, Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, N.Z.

Dr. J. A. Tuck.

Department of Anthropology, Memorial University, St John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

Dr. J. V. Wright.

Archaeological Survey of Canada, National Museum of Man, Ottawa, Canada; and Director The Council for Canadian Archaeology.

Co-ordinated by John Mulvaney, Professor of Prehistory, Australian National University, Canberra, and Rhys Jones, Senior Fellow, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra.

Presented as a matter of national importance by The Australian Conservation Foundation.

For further information on how you can help write to The Director, Australian Conservation Foundation, 672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Vic. 3122.

**Save the Franklin.**