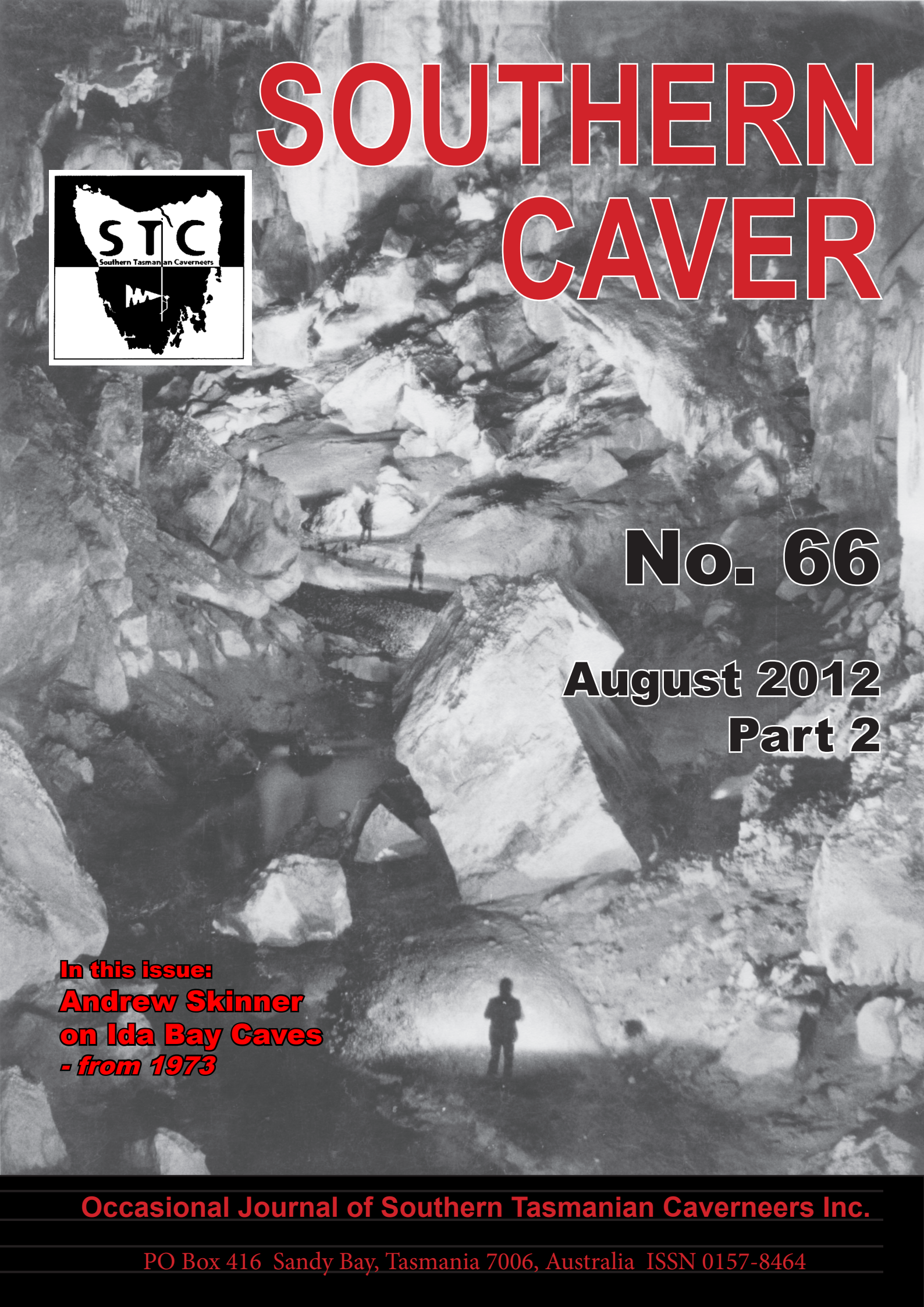

SOUTHERN CAVER

STC
Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

No. 66

August 2012
Part 2

In this issue:
Andrew Skinner on Ida Bay Caves
- from 1973

Occasional Journal of Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc.

PO Box 416 Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7006, Australia ISSN 0157-8464

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Issue No. 66, August 2012
In 2 parts: Part 2

Cover photo: Exit Cave: Large chamber, looking towards the talus section. The Hammer Passage is reached by climbing the slope on the left. The chamber is approximately 30 metres high.

Photo: Andrew Skinner (early 1970s)

Mass Recreation at Ida Bay, The Development of Exit Cave

by A.D. Skinner T.C.A.E. 1973

CONTENTS

Part 1

Part 2

Appendices

APPENDIX J
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD – IDA BAY CAVE

Photos 99-110 were taken with an Asahi Pentax SP 500 camera. Photos 99-101 were taken using Kodak Tri-X Pan black white film (400 ASA). Photos 102-110 were taken with Kodak Ektachrome film (64 ASA), using a Rollei E19BC electronic flash.

Photo 99. On the track to Ida Bay Cave.

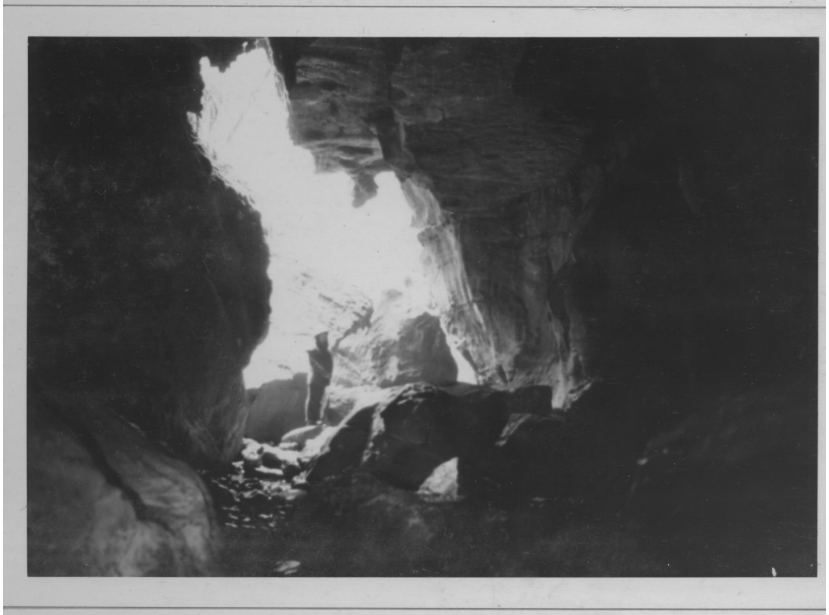


Photo 100. The entrance chamber, Ida Bay Cave (Mystery Ck Cave)

Photo 101. Glow-worm threads, Ida Bay Cave.

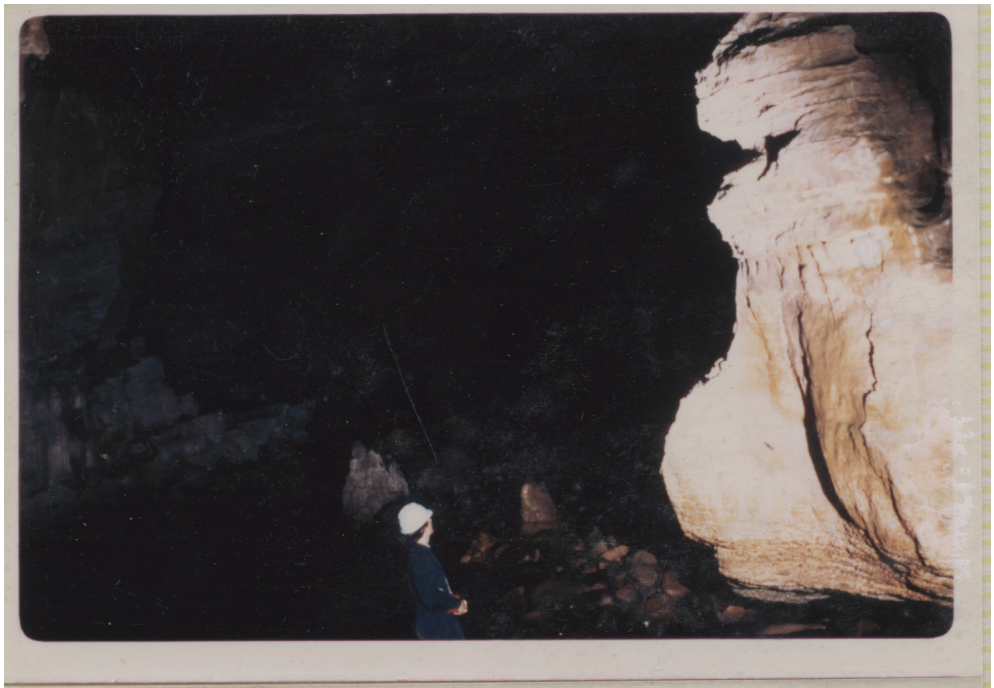


Photo 102. Chamber near the entrance; the blue dots on the ceiling are glow-worms.

Photos 103, 104 Ida Bay Cave offers easy climbs

Photos 106, 106. Caving party in Ida Bay Cave.

Photo 107. Caver emerging from a squeeze.

Photo 108. Mystery Creek before it enters Ida Bay Cave.

Photo 109. The old limestone quarry.

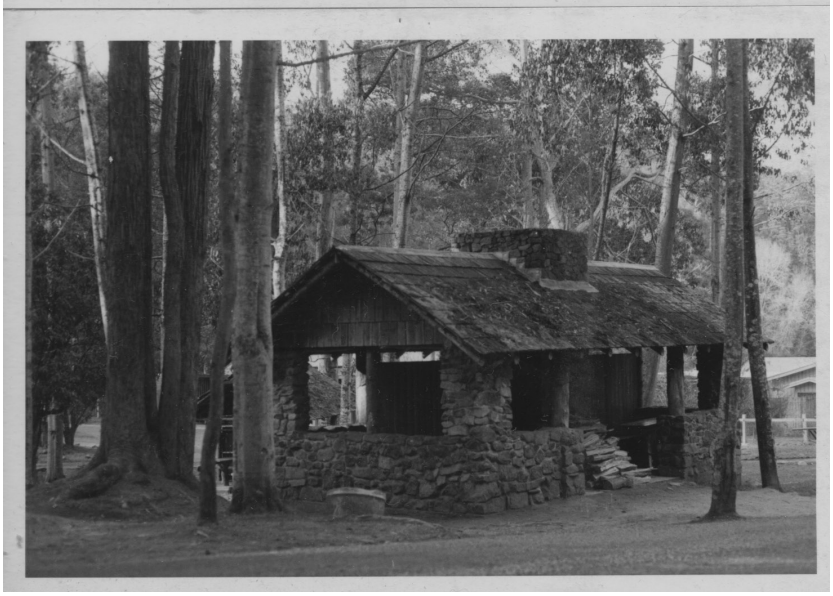
Photo 110. Marble Hill is in the centre, with Lune Sugarloaf on the left and Moonlight Ridge on the right. The present limestone quarry can be seen below the saddle between Lune Sugarloaf and Marble Hill.

APPENDIX K
PHOTOGRAPHS – PHYSICAL DESIGN, INTERPRETATION, PRESENTATION

Photos Photos 1-57 were taken with an Asahi Pentax SP 500 camera using Kodak Tri-X Pan black white film and a Rollei E19BC electronic flash.

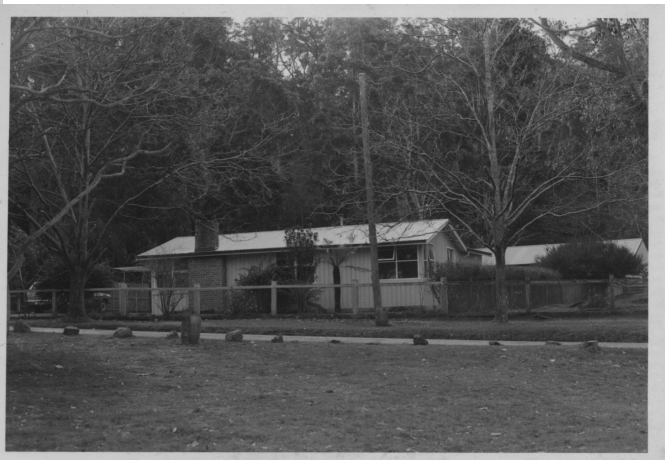
Photo 1. Well-designed outdoor fire-place. Natural materials have been used and the effect is aesthetically pleasing.
The flat top of the wood storage area can be used as a table
(Mt Field National Park).

Photos 2, 3. Attractive and functional picnic facilities, blending into their surroundings
(Mt Field National Park).



< Photos 4, 5, 6. Road to Lake Dobson, Mt Field National Park; a route with a distinctive "park" atmosphere. Care has been taken not to widen the road too much or to cut steep embankments.

7, 8. Ranger accommodation. Where practicable it is best sited outside park boundaries (Mt Field National Park). v



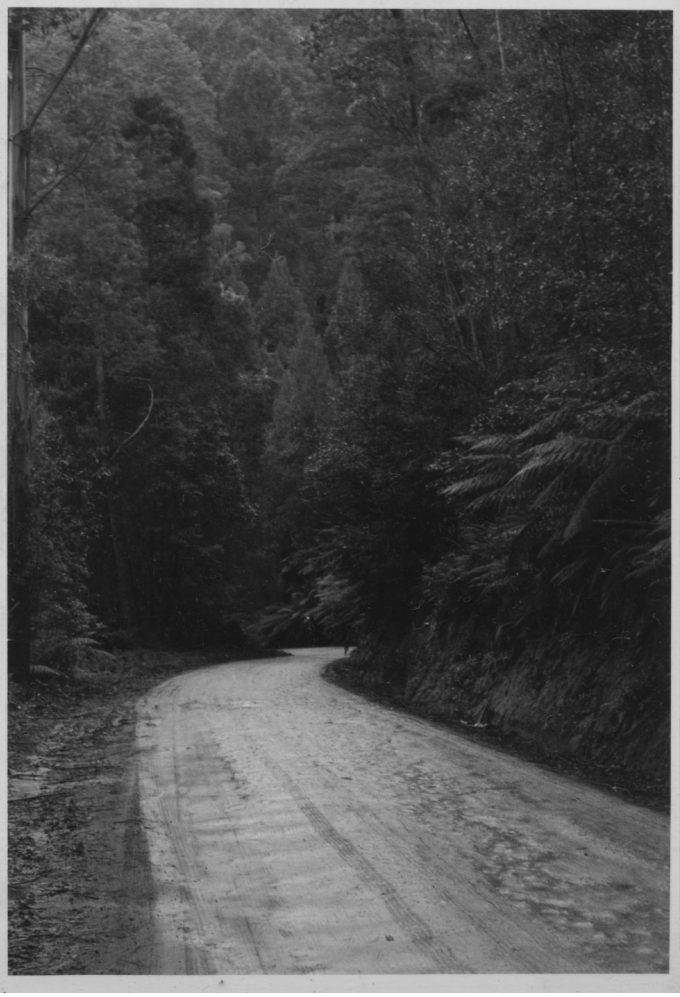


Photo 9. Shelter shed at Lake Dobson. Although built of besser brick, an innately unattractive material, this structure is appropriate to its alpine landscape.

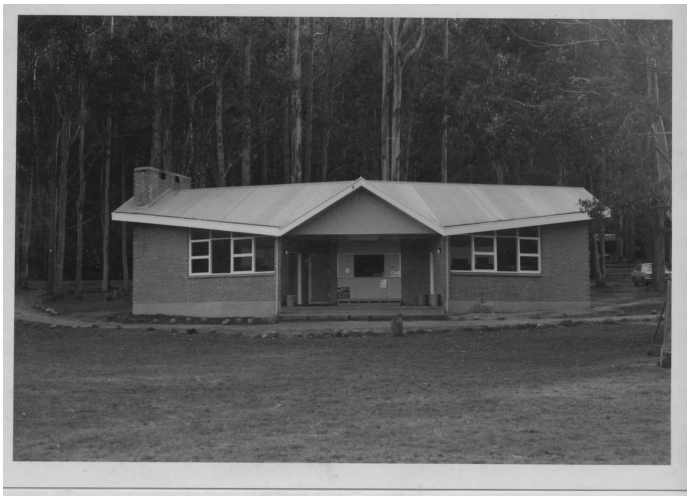
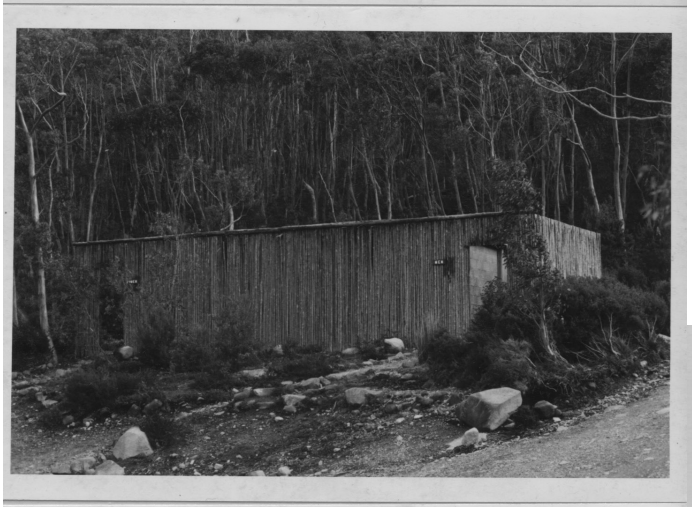


Photo 10. Visitor Centre at Mt Field National Park. Although certainly quite functional, this weatherboard building is quite inappropriate in its park setting.



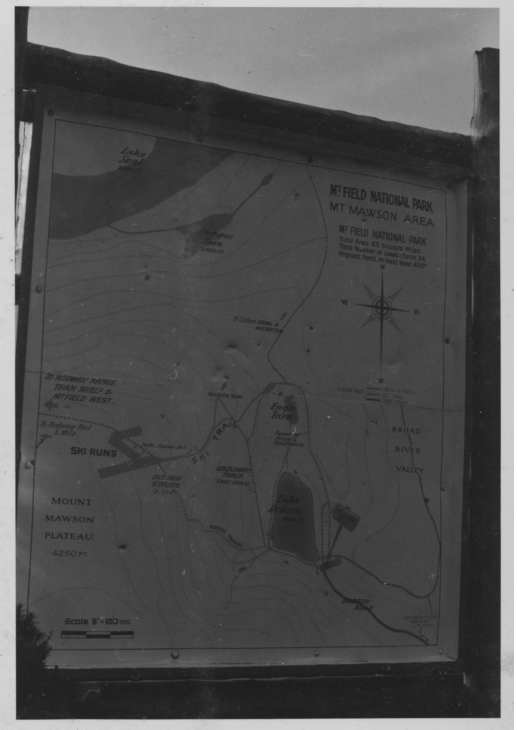
< Photo 11. Toilets at Lake Dobson. Constructed from besser brick, this building is well screened by tea-tree saplings.

Photo 12. Interpretive sign in Mt Field National Park. An excellent method for identifying natural landscape features.

Photo. 13. Orientation aid at entrance to Mt Field National Park. Constructed from treated sawn board with painted lettering. If all signs within a park or reserve were thus standardised, a distinctive atmosphere would be created, in harmony with natural features. v

Poto 14.> Interpretive aid in Mt Field National Park. Constructed from 2 cm pipe welded onto steel plate with painted lettering.

Photo 15. >> Map of Mt Mawson area. Such aids are of continuing interest to visitors.



SCOTTS CAVE,
MOLE CREEK
A former tourist cave, it is now derelict and heavily vandalised.

Photo 56. Sign at entrance. Not even a locked gate now protects this cave.

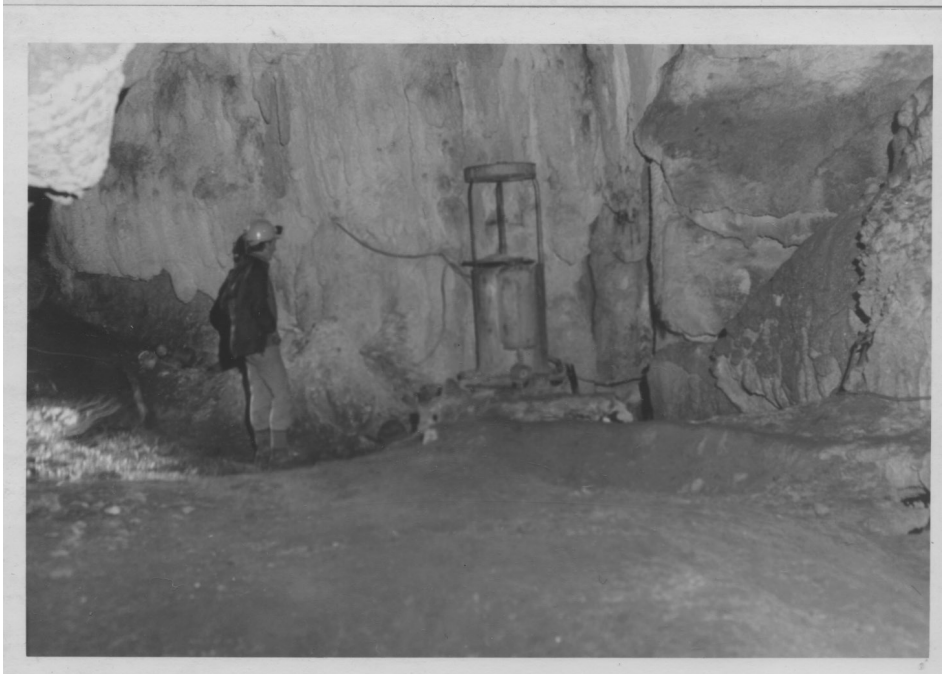
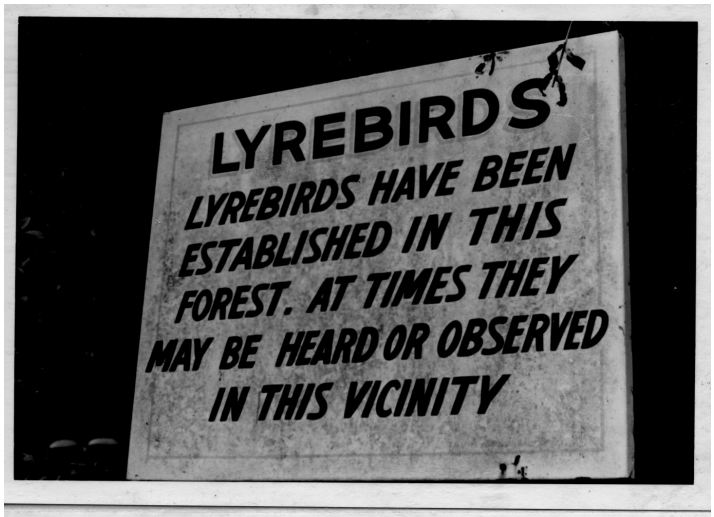


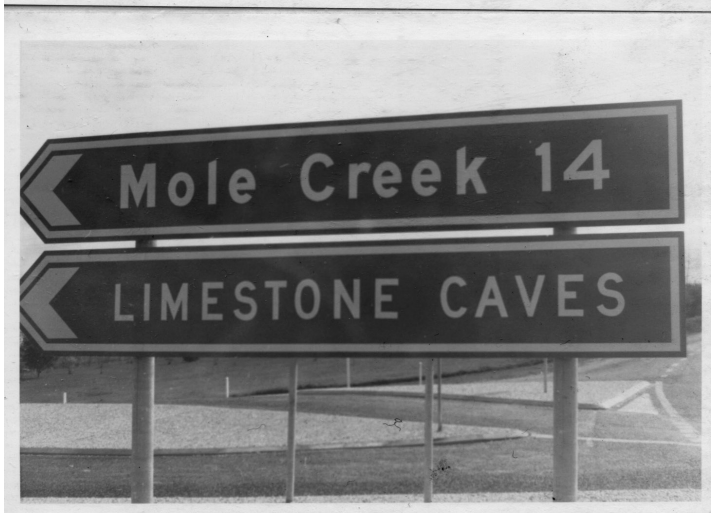
Photo 57. Acetylene works, now heavily encrusted with calcite.

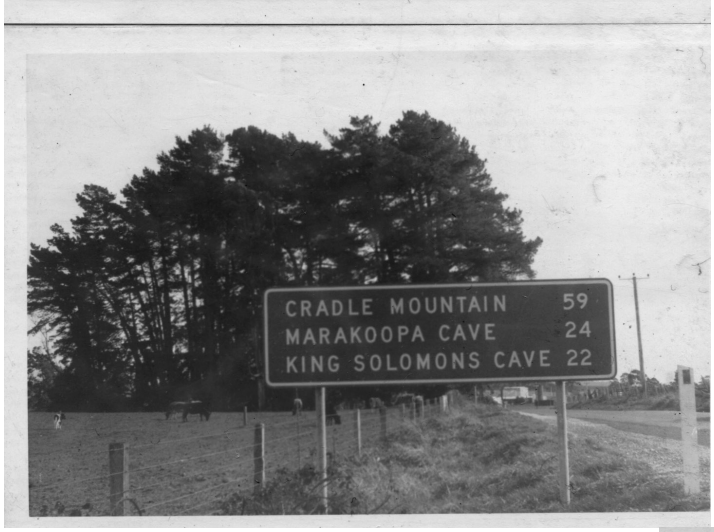
Photo 16. Acetylene light fitting. Piping, barbed wire and other fittings are still in the cave.



< Photo 17. Interpretive sign on a cave reserve (Hastings).

Photo 20. > Entrance to Newdegate Cave.





Photos 18, 19. Good signposting (Deloraine).

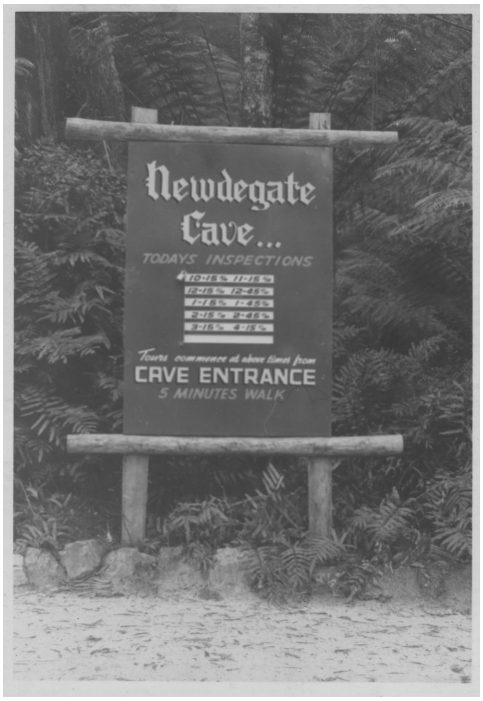


Photo 21. Sign near Newdegate Cave.

Photo 22. Ticket Office, Newdegate Cave. This structure is badly placed next to the access track, creating a bottleneck during peak periods.

Photos 23, 24, 25. Signs at start of path to Newdegate Cave. Standardised signs would be more appropriate than a wide variation in styles, colours and sizes; and would promote a distinctive "park" atmosphere. <

Photo 26. Electricity generator shed near Newdegate Cave (Hastings). Although the building is an attractive structure, the motor is very noisy.

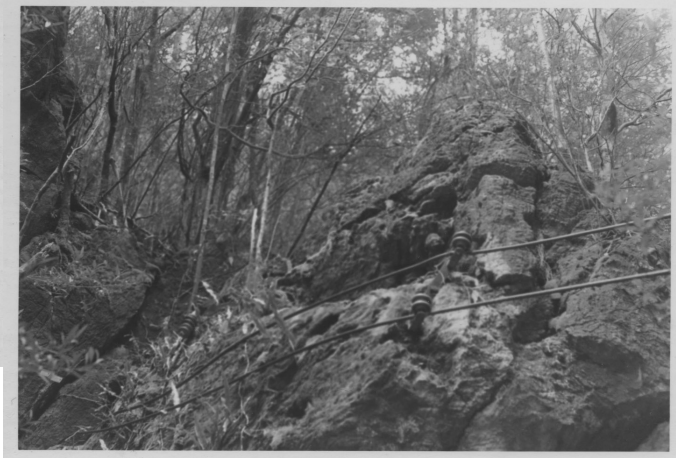


Photo 27. Overhead electricity wires, > Newdegate Cave. Underground cables are much more aesthetic and require less maintenance.

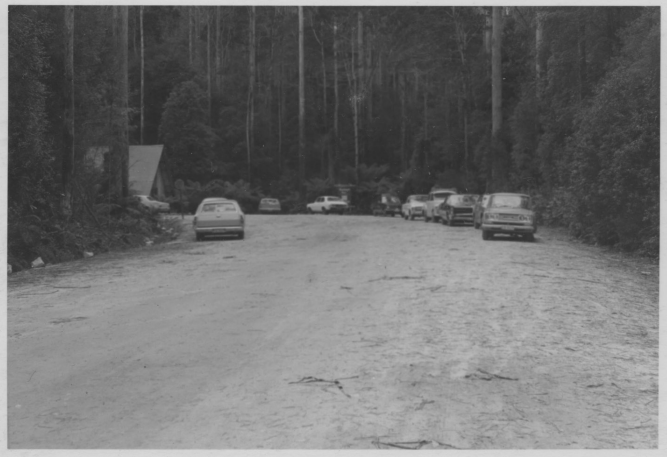


Photo 28. Car park and generator shed, Newdegate Cave. Two-way traffic flow creates congestion during peak periods.

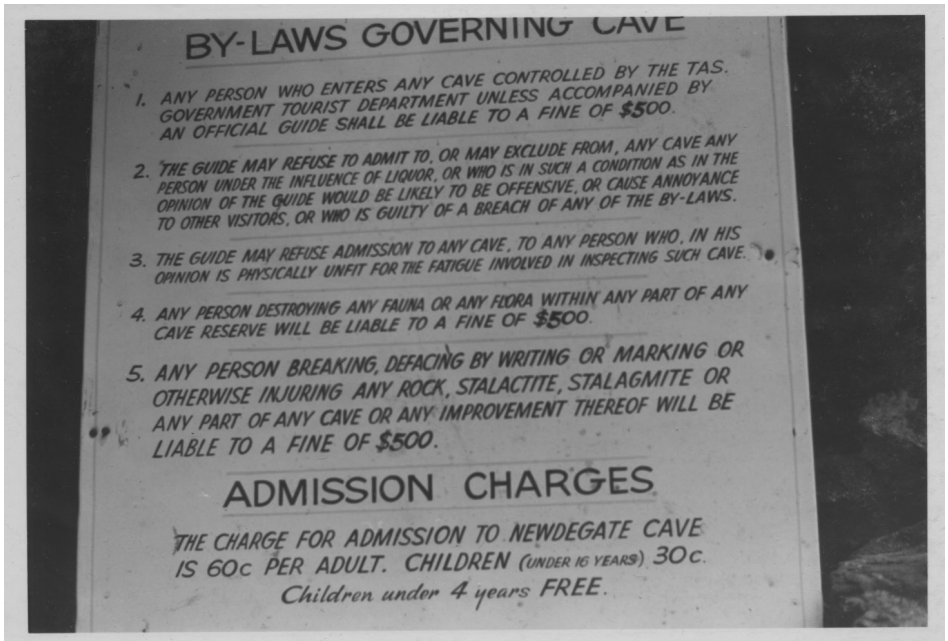
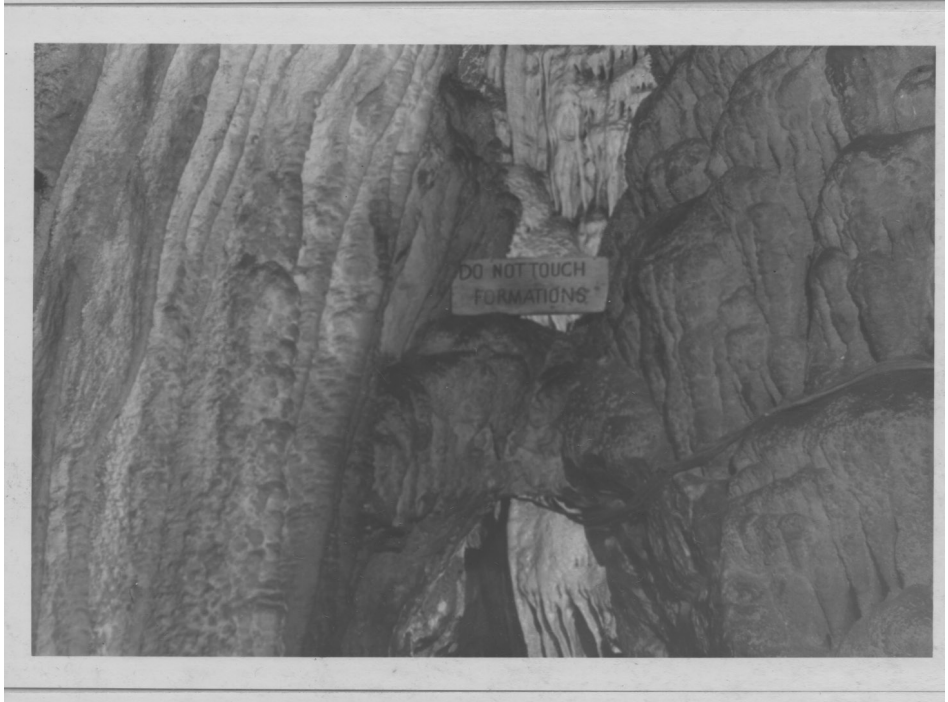


Photo 29. Stiff penalties for offenders who damage reserves. Such signs must be displayed prominently and the rules enforced in order to protect reserves.



Photos 30, 31. Signs in King Solomons Cave, Mole Creek. Hand-painted, "home made" signs are inappropriate.

Photo 32. Inside the entrance of Marakoopa Cave, Mole Creek.

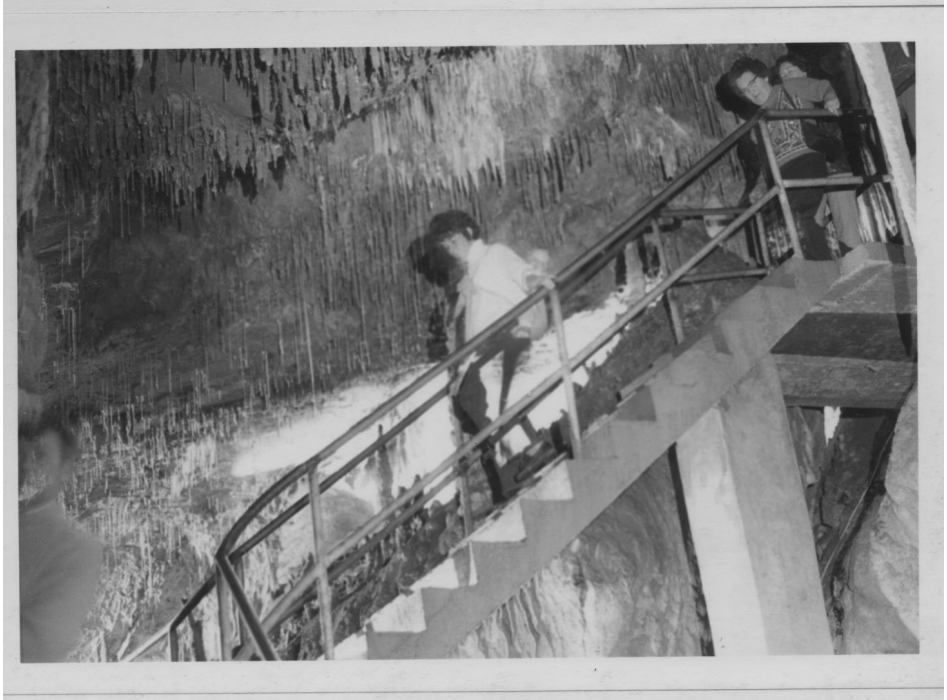
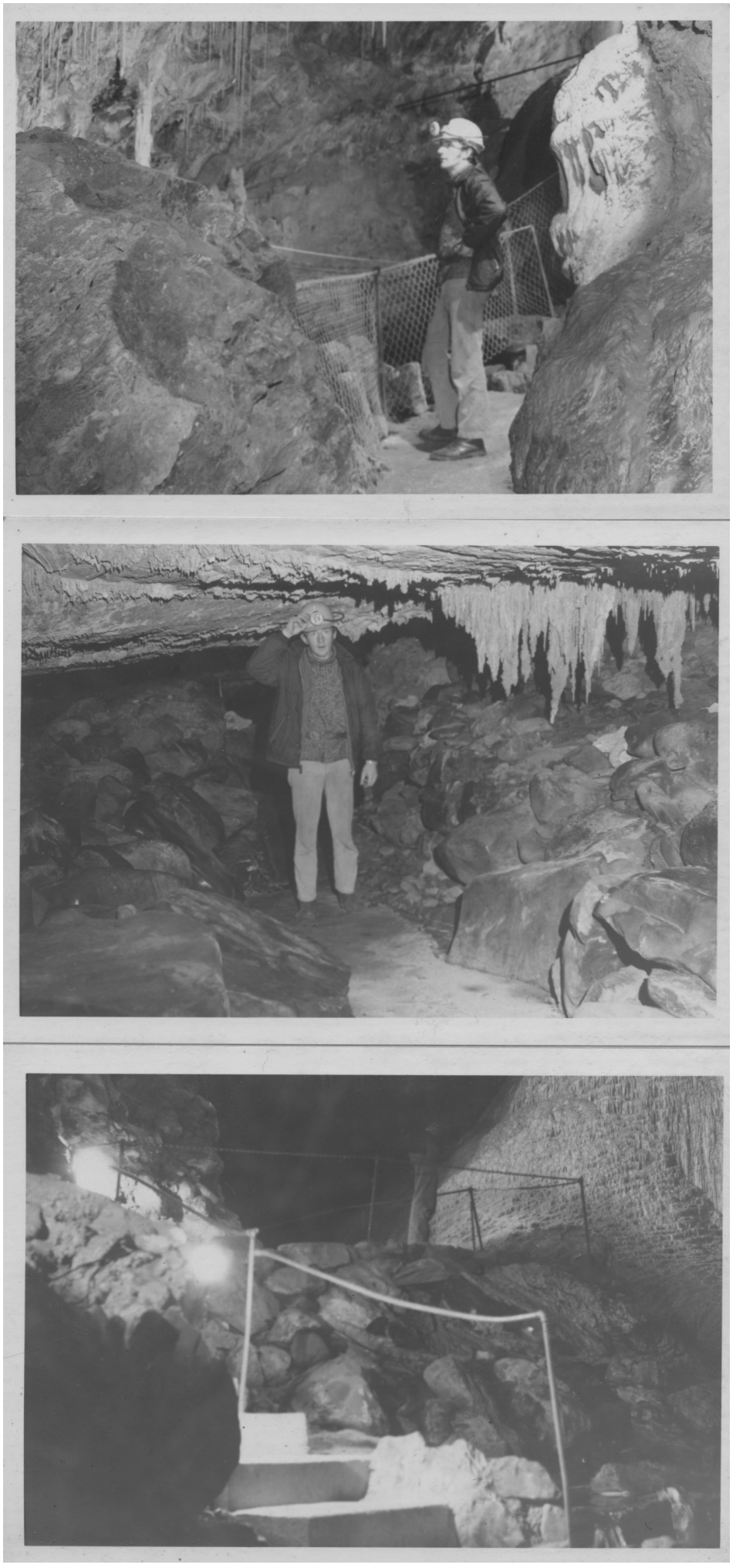


Photo 33. Visitors in Newdegate Cave, Hastings.

Photo 34. "Chicken wire" in Newdegate Cave. Where used to protect cave formations from vandalism, an alternative is perspex.



Photos 35, 36, 37. Narrow pathways in Marakoopa Cave, Mole Creek.

Photo 38. Drainage grill in King Solomons Cave, Mole Creek.

Photo 39. Fence in Marakoopa Cave. Small stone walls could be just as functional and far more aesthetic.

Photo 40. Spiral stairway in Newdegate Cave, constructed in 1938.
Lights are not concealed on the return trip.

Photo 41. Electrical installations in King Solomon Cave.

Photos 42, 43. Stone walls in King Solomons Cave. Use of stone walls should be encouraged.

Photo 44, 45, 46. Light shades in King Solomons Cave. Although certainly functional, these fittings could be shielded from view.

Photo 46. Spotlight, Newdegate Cave. A shade could perhaps be provided to prevent glare from behind.

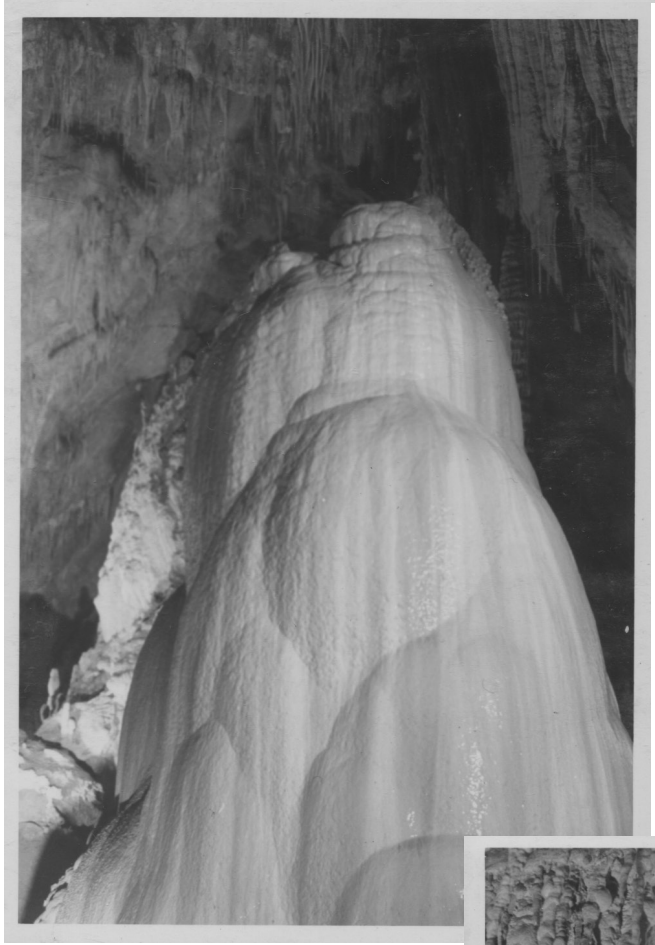


Photo 48. The Estcourt Stalagmite, Newdegate Cave. Green algae has recently started to grow on this formation, possibly due to long periods of illumination.

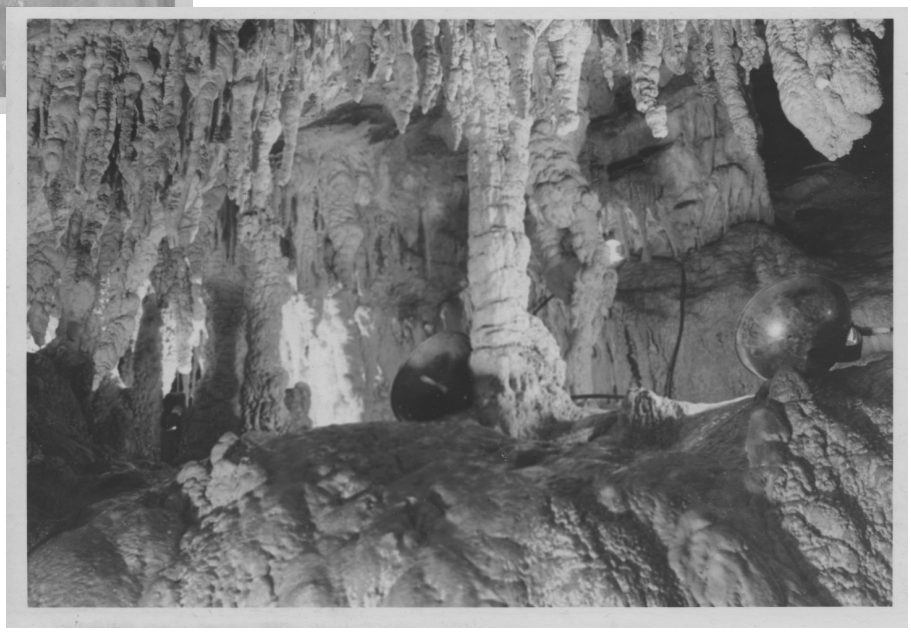


Photo 49. Unsightly light fittings in Marakoopa Cave.

Photo 50. Exposed wiring in King Solomons Cave.

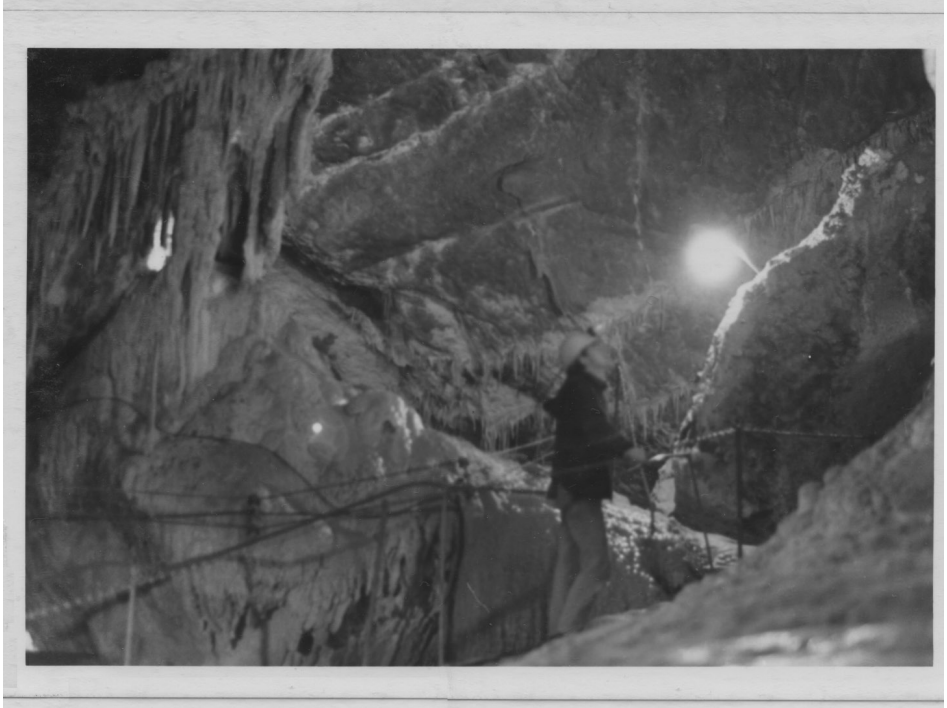


Photo 51. Overhead wiring in Marakoopa Cave.
Mains wiring should ideally be concealed in conduit and be placed under walkways.

Photo 52. Exposed wiring in King Solomons Cave.

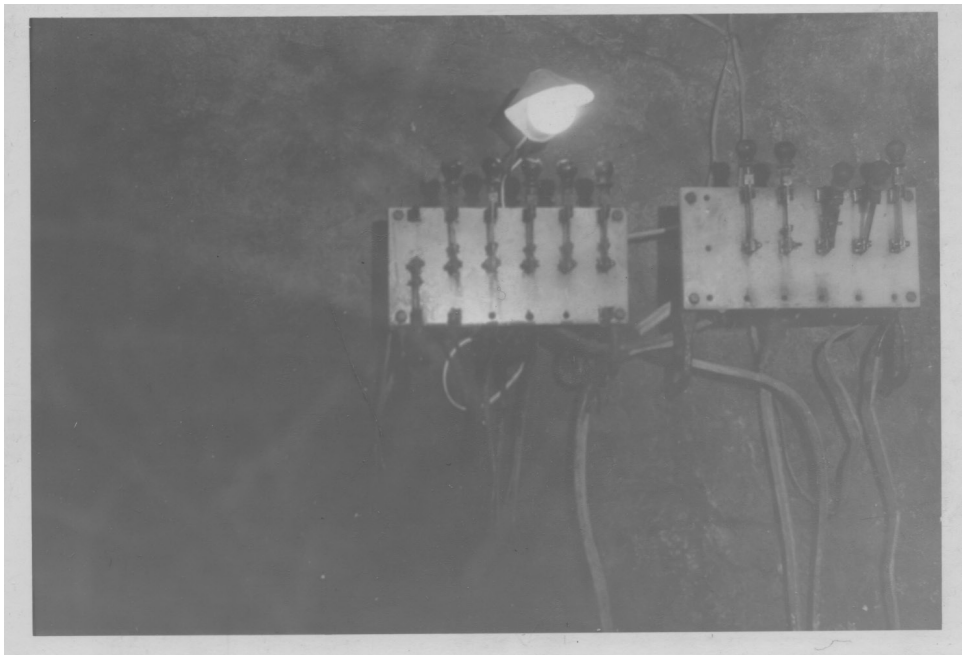
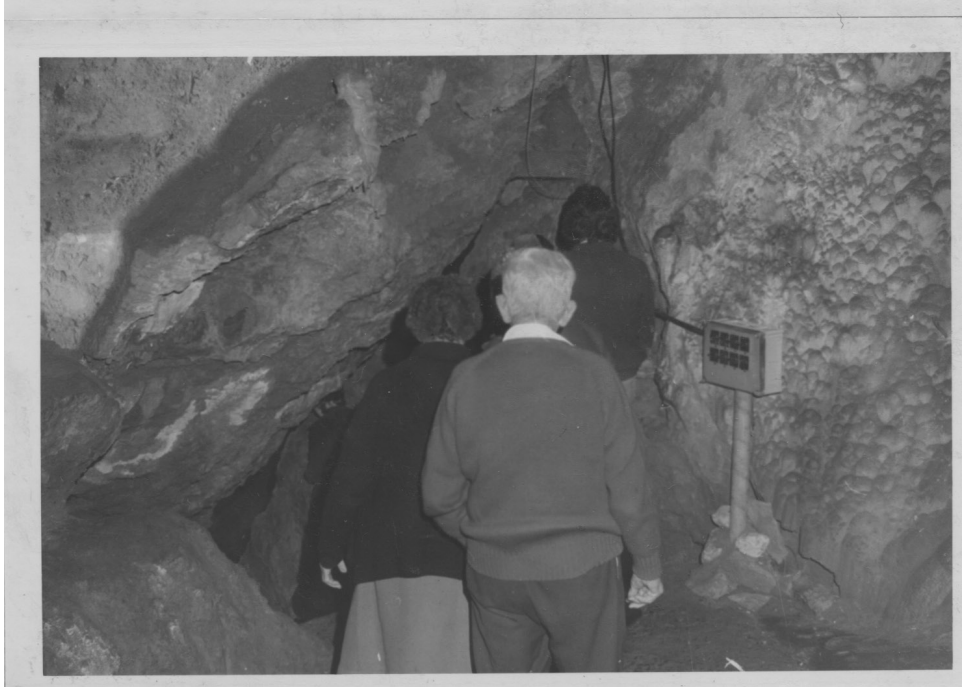


Photo 53.
Older style switches in King Solomons Cave.



Photos 54, 55.
Modern switches in Newdegate Cave.

58. Toilets at Hastings.

APPENDIX L
CAVE FOLDERS

BUCHAN CAVES

Published by the Victorian Ministry of Tourism

The Fairy Cave

The first cave to be opened, the Fairy Cave, is one of remarkable beauty. It is about 400 yards long, and at places it is 100 feet below the surface. By a stairway from the face of the hill, access is gained to the first chamber about 20 feet below.

This Cave contains many striking features, including the Fairies' Hall, the Crystal Grotto, the Jewel Chamber, the King's Chamber, Queen Victoria Chamber, and the coloured shawls or blankets with peculiar markings closely resembling the products of the loom.

Aisles and corridors extend to the right and left, outlets for trickling streams. In imagination visitors can see ruined cities, crystal gardens, fleecy clouds, sparkling gems or marble basins, all having the appearance of being encrusted with driven snow.

In the second chamber of the Fairy Cave, wombat and kangaroo bones are embedded in the rocks, and bones of an extinct type of wombat as large as a horse were found in a nearby chamber.

To some tourists the portion of the cave known as the Bridal Chamber makes the greatest appeal, with its alcove and altar embowered in orange blossoms, while silver stars twinkle overhead. Glittering chandeliers are suspended from the roof. Even the wedding cake is to be seen, composed of limestone, and frosted as with powdered sugar.

The Royal Cave

This is a magnificent cave and rivals in beauty any yet discovered. Though in the vicinity of Fairy Cave, there is no connection between the two, and its formations are absolutely distinct from those of its neighbour. In some of the chambers there are a number of very large columns, and the crystallisation is strikingly conspicuous. One of the most remarkable portions has been named "Niagara Falls" owing to its resemblance to a petrified torrent. Other principal features of this Cave are "The Font of the Gods", "Psyche's Shrine", "The Princess Royal" chamber, "The Sculptor's Studio" and the "Lilyponds". By many visitors, "The Font of the Gods" is considered to be the outstanding feature of all the caves.

The caves are open for inspection every day at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. with an additional inspection at 1.15 p.m. during Christmas and Easter periods.

CAVES OF WEST AUSTRALIA

Published by the W.A. Tourism Development Authority

The granite coast and the foot of the limestone hills later subsided, leaving only the highest peaks on the coast standing above the waves. Streams running from the hills to the sea were forced underground and made channels through the more porous parts of the cementing sands. These streams, over countless years, carved caves out of the limestone. By stream erosion and the collapsing of loose parts of roofs and walls great underground cavities were created.

As the caves were being carved out of the hills, nature was busy beautifying them and forming fantastic patterns in the limestone with drop after drop of water saturated with lime and minerals. Iron oxides and manganese in the water has, in many places, added colour to enhance the beauty of the formations.

YALLINGUP CAVE

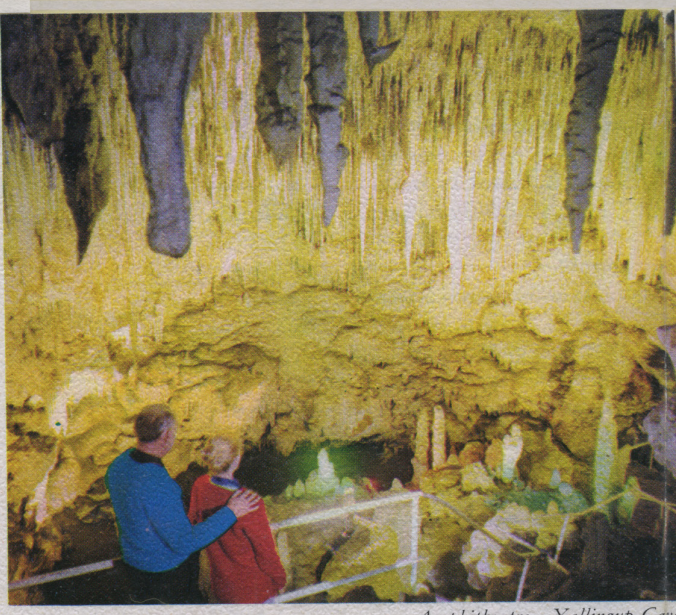
Yallingup Cave, at the northern end of the cave series, is 167 miles from Perth and was named after a nearby rivulet which winds around Wardanup Hill. The Cave was discovered accidentally by Edward Dawson in 1900 while looking for a horse that had strayed.

Each of the chambers in this cave has its own individual wonders and curiosities. Nature has been extremely generous with her handiwork and has adorned the walls and ceilings of every chamber with fragile and fantastic stalactites of every conceivable shape and variety. Massive stalagmites, 30 feet and more in circumference, form alabaster pillars as if to support the arches high above.

The walls within the "Chamber of Mysteries" are abundantly decorated with myriads of pure white stalactites resembling coral and carvings of perfect craftsmanship. Graceful folded shawls, semi-transparent and with vandyke edges, hang softly from the roof.

The finest example of the shawl formations is known as the "Arab's Tent". A beautiful folded shawl, striped with delicately tinted bands of colour, hangs across the entrance. The shape of the tent can be easily seen from different angles and appears extremely real. Amid all this magnificence one almost expects to see the shawl lift and a sheik step forth in all the opulence of the East.

A short walk from the cave through a beautiful valley, leads to the sea, where some of Australia's finest surfing combers 20 ft. high roll shorewards for up to 700 yards.



Amphitheatre—Yallingup Cave

MAMMOTH CAVE

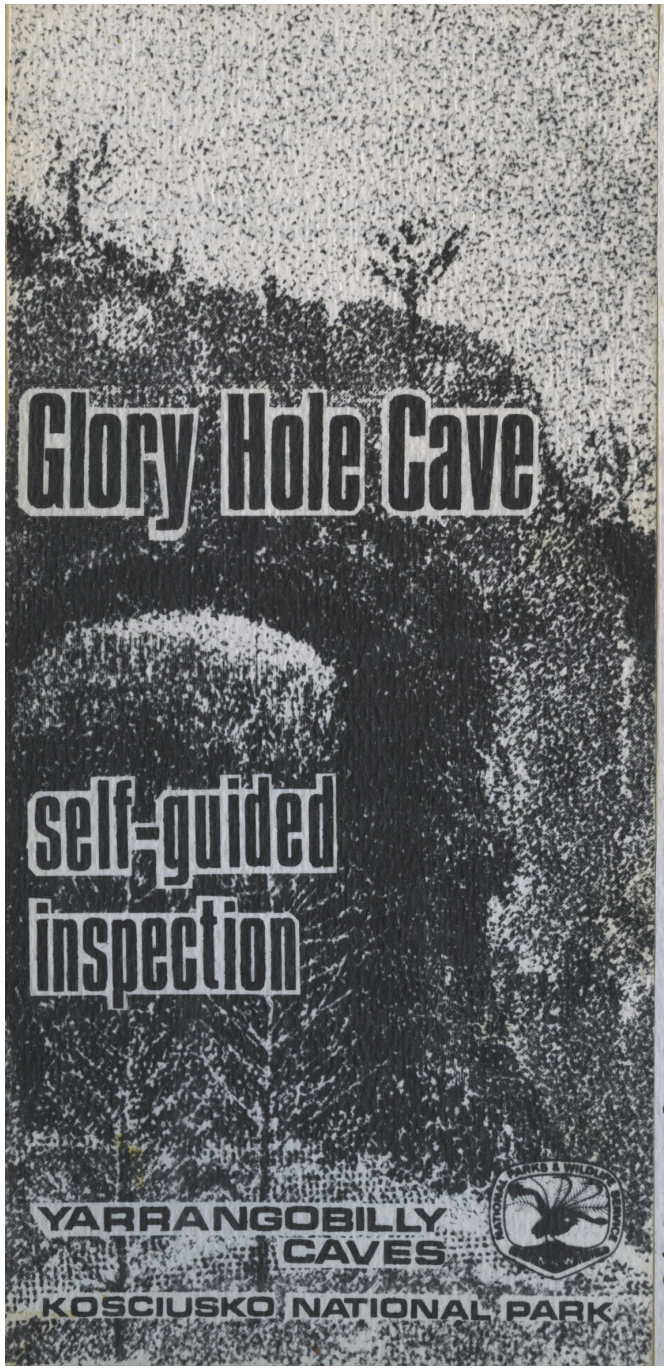
This cave, situated 14 miles south of Margaret River and set in a very picturesque karri country, has a most pleasant approach and an easy, pleasing entrance.

Mammoth, so named because of its majestic proportions and colossal formations, is by far the most interesting cave from a fossil viewpoint.

It was discovered in 1894 and explored by the late Tim Connelly who made the first entry through a sink hole on the western side of the main highway.

The beauty of Mammoth lies in its impressive and chaotic grandeur, imparting a sense of the infinite. Of all the caves, it is the most awe-inspiring. It grips the imagination. Immense chambers have lofty domes and yawning abysses. It is a great depth and has been explored for a distance of three miles.

Colourful lighting—Lake Cave



You are about to undertake a self-guided tour of the first cave in Australia to be equipped for this type of viewing. These preparations have been undertaken for your convenience and enjoyment by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of N.S.W.

No time limit is placed on your inspection but we request that you move forward through the cave and do not back-track.

GLORY ARCH WALK

The walk to the cave entrance starts at the junction of the Kiandra Road and the road to the Jersey and Jillabenan Caves (200 yards south of the Visitor Centre) and leads through the now dry valley of Rules Creek around precipitous limestone bluffs to the Glory Arch.
This track is a remarkable piece of construction, having been built by one man, Anthony Bradley (who was a guide at the Caves) in 1907.

INTERPRETATION FACILITIES

As you proceed through the cave you will find a number of viewing platforms at which recorded commentaries describing features of the cave may be heard. The tape recorders may be turned on by pressing the buttons indicated. Illuminated signs explain features at other points of interest.

WARNING!

The calcite formations in caves have formed over many thousands of years; once broken they are lost forever. In order to maintain this cave for the enjoyment of future visitors *IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU REFRAIN FROM TOUCHING ANY OF THE CALCITE FORMATIONS.* Both for your own safety and the protection of the cave, *PLEASE KEEP TO THE WALKWAYS.* Electrical cables and unstable, slippery rocks make areas off the walkways dangerous. *ANY PERSON FOUND OUTSIDE THE SAFETY FENCE WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CAVE AND WILL BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.*

NO SMOKING PLEASE: It is regretted that smoking cannot be allowed as, in the confines of even this large cave, it can be most unpleasant for other visitors and the smoke, settling on formations, would in time discolour them.

CONDITIONS IN THE CAVE

MOISTURE: Caves are inclined to be damp, especially in winter. In some places there may be water on the path and water frequently drips from the roof. Sturdy footwear is recommended but special clothing is not required.

LIGHTING: The cave is adequately lit by electricity—visitors do not need torches. No coloured lights are used so the colours you see are entirely natural.

TEMPERATURE: The temperature within the cave is quite comfortable, being warmer than outside in winter and cooler in summer. The average temperature in this cave is about 50° F.

LENGTH OF INSPECTION: The Glory Hole Cave is approximately 1,000 feet in length but the inspection involves about 1,500 feet of pathway. There are some 206 steps in the cave, as well as numerous inclined ramps. The overall change in height between the entrance and exit is about 150 feet. About an hour should be allowed for the inspection.
Sick, elderly or infirm persons are advised to visit a less demanding cave such as the Jillabenan, if possible.

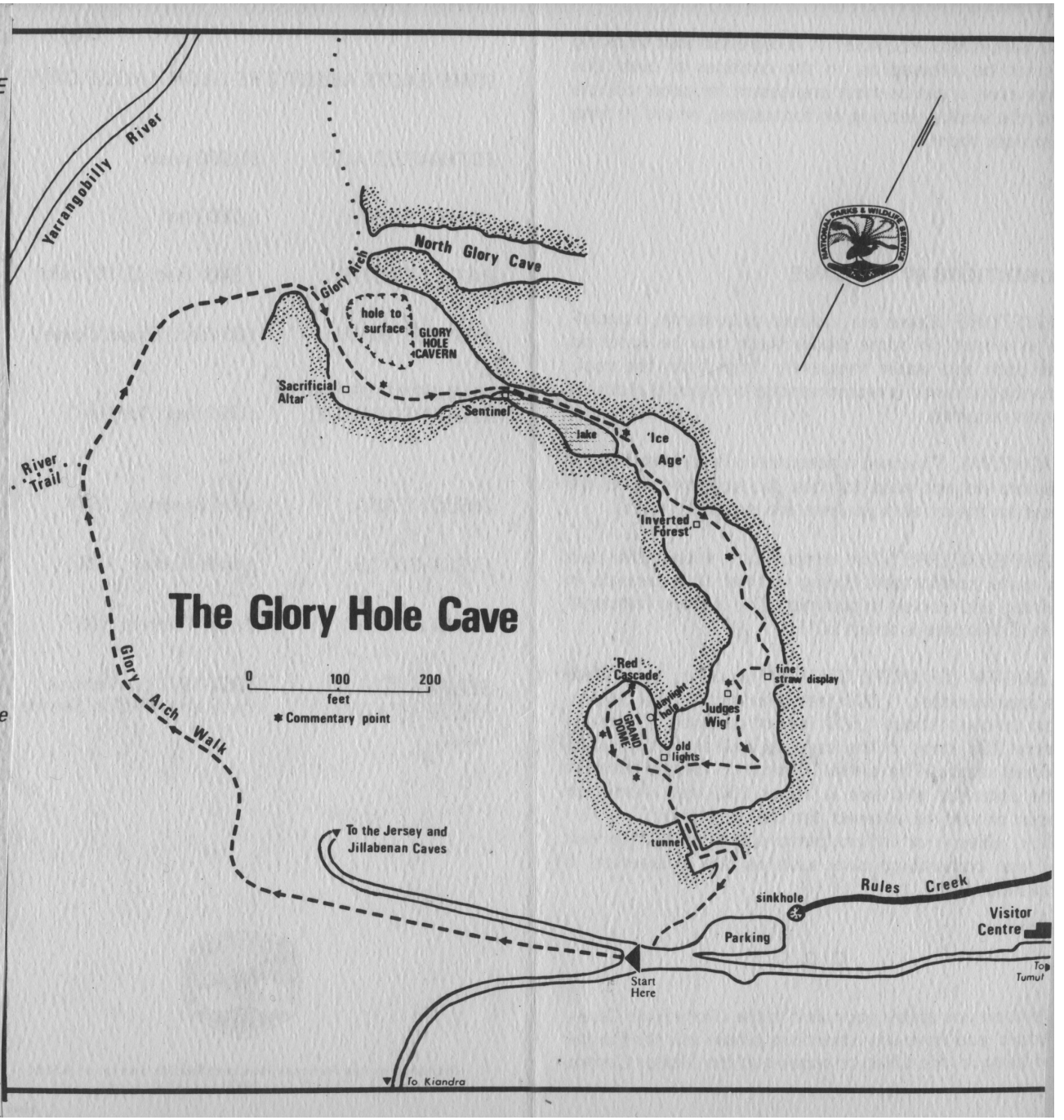
□ □ □

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Glory Hole Cave—should you have any questions please ask the Ranger on duty in the Cave, or enquire at the Visitor Centre.

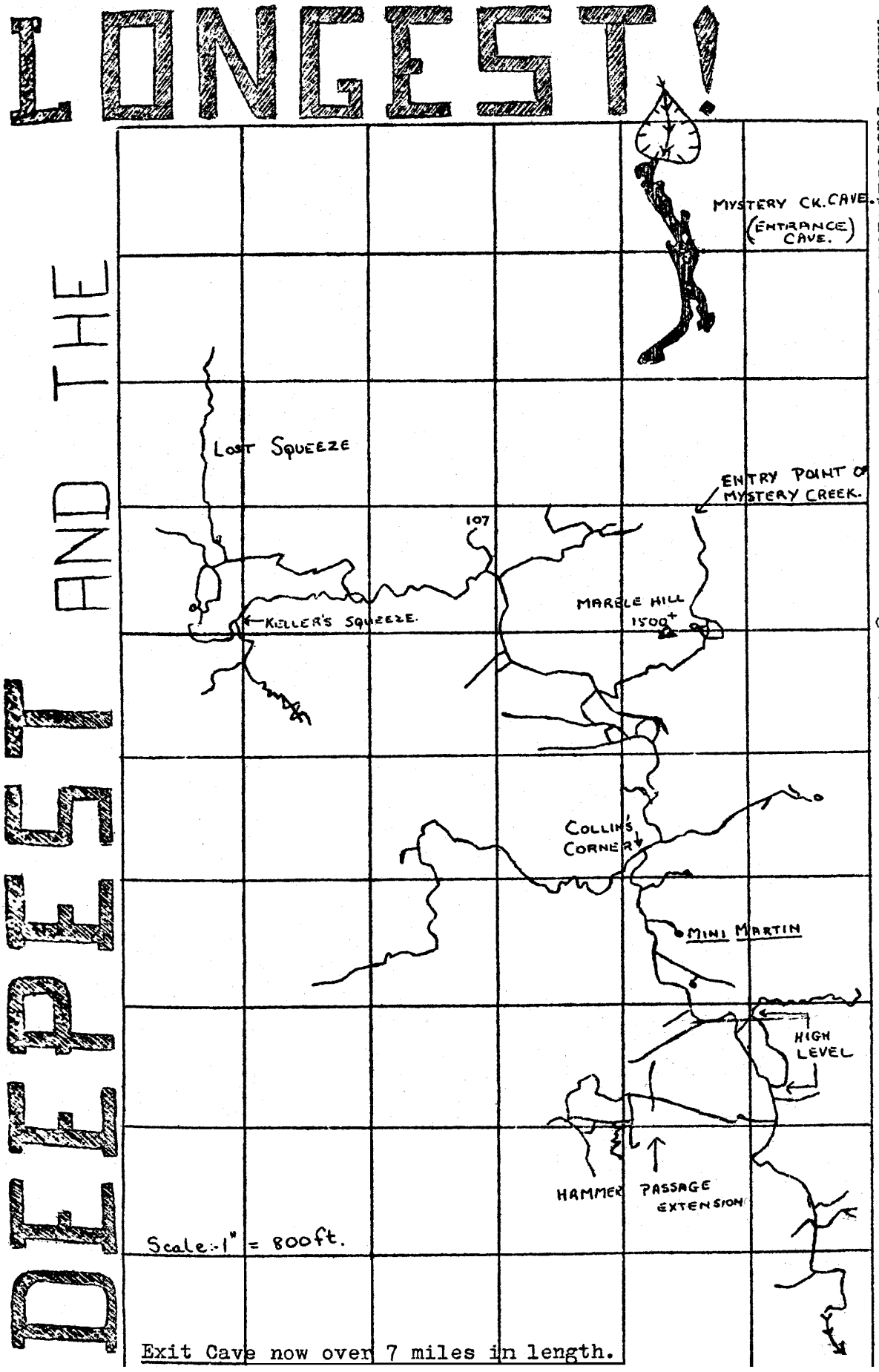
SOME FACTS ABOUT THE GLORY HOLE CAVE

ESTIMATED AGE:	50,000 years
CAVE LENGTH:	1,080 feet
PATH LENGTH:	1,540 feet (3/10 mile)
HIGHEST ROOF:	180 feet ('Grand Dome')
MAXIMUM DEPTH BELOW SURFACE:	c.260 feet ('Ice Age')
DISCOVERED:	John Bowman, 1834
FIRST GUIDE:	James Murray, 1887
FIRST SURVEY:	Oliver Trickett, 1899
SELF-GUIDED PRESENTATION:	1968-1970 by National Parks and Wildlife Service

Published by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of N.S.W.
1971



APPENDIX M
PRESS CLIPPINGS – EXIT CAVE



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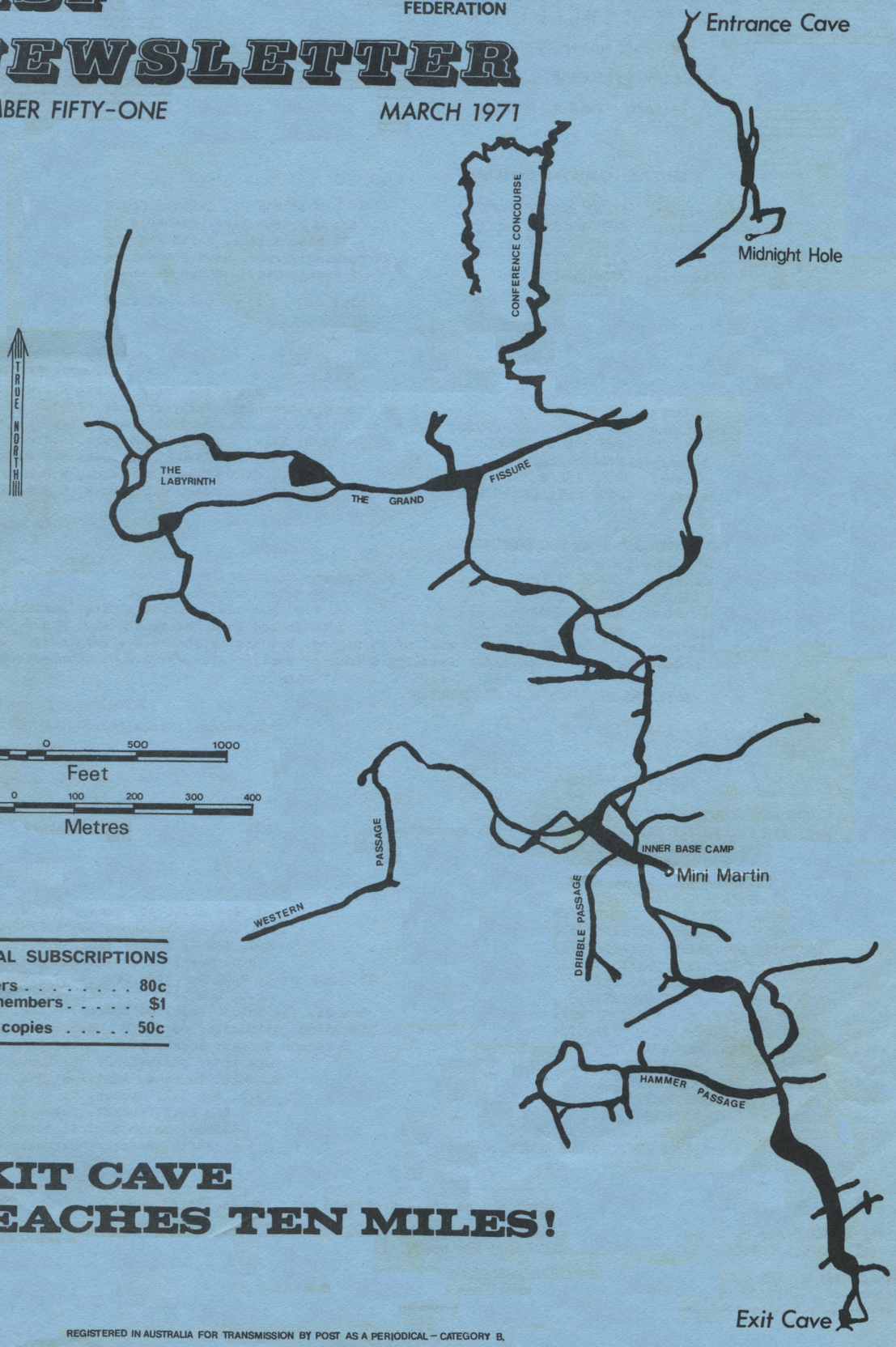
NUMBER FIFTY-ONE

MARCH 1971



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EXIT CAVE REACHES TEN MILES!

REGISTERED IN AUSTRALIA FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A PERIODICAL – CATEGORY B.

CULT OF THE CAVE

A new cult is springing up

INCHING cautiously down the steep, rock-strewn slope of the cave, a party of speleos reached the edge of an overhanging cliff. They knew it dropped about 200 ft. into the darkness. They had plumbed it before and now, equipped with ladders and ropes, were going to attempt a descent. Their helmet lamps, shining down into the void, revealed a long, long drop and sheer walls of dangerous, unstable rock.

The ladder anchored securely, one man tied on a safeline and, with his companions belaying him, began the descent. Slowly but confidently, he stepped from rung to rung, farther and farther down the void until from above his companions saw his helmet lamp become a tiny bright speck, like a glow-worm shining in the bottom of a well-shaft.

The speleo's booted feet left the ladder rung and stepped on to the rocks at the foot of the pitch. He reckoned he'd come down about 200 ft. and that he was some 350 ft. underground. Looking up, he could just see his mates' lights, like stars moving high above him. He was standing in a world which no human being had ever trodden before. A dark, humid, mud-smelling world, it held an indescribable fascination for him. He loved it. That is why he was there. That is why his mates were anxiously waiting for him to signal them to come down.

There is no doubt that caves hold a strange fascination for most of us. Exploring them, you reach virgin country, unknown territory where you are an explorer and a pioneer. But let's be honest, most of us suffer from claustrophobia or aren't tough enough to spend hours crawling through mud, dragging ourselves over wet rocks, climbing up and down ladders suspended in darkened space! Cave exploration or speleology demands more sacrifice than most of us are prepared to make, but, of course, it has many rewards, many thrills.

It is a very young sport, and there aren't many Australians actively engaged in it. You might, perhaps, find 200 or 300 speleos in the whole nation. There is, however, at least one club in every State, and more people are joining the speleo ranks every year. Fortunately, we have a huge number of caves and there's no end to adventure in underground Australia.

The technique is more or less standardised. Conditions may vary according to the terrain, but the methods of cave exploration are more or less the same everywhere. There are two types of caves — pot-holes and cave systems. The former are generally narrow, steep and entail free-ladder and rope pitches, often in the way of water-

David Lanyon and Paul Rose warm up over a tin of canned heat before tackling an eerie 180 ft. free ladder descent into Pillinger Pothole, Tasmania, last summer.

in Australia — a cult of toughies who like wandering around in the maw of mother earth.

By HARRY FRAUCA

Hobart speleo David Elliott photographing formations in Hastings Cave.

chambers and passages and follow — theoretically — a horizontal level. Some have deep rivers, others contain interesting rock formations, others have a lot of mud in them.

The exploration of both pot-holes and cave systems is generally quite exhausting, and sometimes quite dangerous, too. But "it's all part of the game" speleos say as they gaily recount that time when a mate had to be dragged out of a pot-hole because he'd become completely and utterly exhausted. And "it's part of the game" too, to be wet and covered in mud for hours at a time.

Tasmania, last summer, was the rendezvous of speleos from all parts of our country. They held the fraternity's bi-annual meeting in the island State between December 26 and January 20. Represented in this meeting were the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, Sydney University Speleological Society, Canberra Speleological Society, Cave Exploration Group, South Australia, Victoria Cave Exploration Society, Snowy Mountains Speleological Group and two independent speleos from Queensland.

Playing host, the Tasmanian cavers showed the underground "sights" to their mainland pals and Tasmania—known for the beauty of its bush and mountains — is now known to a few mainland speleos for the beauty of is underground scenery. In this article Frank Brown, a well-known and active caver, tells OUTDOORS readers what Tasmania has to offer in the way of caves.

Frank Brown speaking: "We have discovered and explored many caves since we formed the Tasmanian Caverneering Club back in 1946. But there are hundreds of other unknown caves in the State. Some of those we know have very interesting sights, others even have underground rivers. We also have some pot-holes offering many exciting pitches. The main difference between Tasmanian and mainland caverneering lies in the fact that our bush is extremely dense and to reach a cave often entails long and arduous scrub-bashing—carrying the gear on your back, of course."

Frank told me about the Growling Swallet, a famous pot-hole which is reached from the township of Maydena, seven miles down the Australian Newsprint Mills' logging road where you take the overgrown Karmburgh track into a dense myrtle forest. A weary hour's walk (it can be a very wet walk) brings you to the entrance of the Growling Swallet.

It was discovered by Frank Brown's father and some mates back in 1913. Under Mr. Brown's directions, Frank and his pals began to search for the entrance of the Growling Swallet in 1946. It took them some time and a great deal of bush-whacking in rain forest to locate it.

In their first trip they penetrated only about 200 ft. Their lights shone on a rocky slope dropping falls. Cave systems are formed by precipitously in front of them. Then they came to the lip of a cliff down which tumbled a waterfall. The cliff was overhanging.

"We plumbed for depth," Frank says, "by dropping stones and clocking the time they took to hit bottom. We reckoned the cliff was about 45 ft. high, and as we needed a ladder to negotiate it and had none with us, we were forced to go back."

The next time, they packed in ropes and a ladder. Made by themselves, the ladder consisted of duralium rungs attached to cables from aircraft control wires. A ladder of this type, of 100 ft. length, can be easily carried on top of one's pack.

They began the descent into the Growling Swallet. "A stream flows through it," Frank says, "and its deafening roar makes conversation very difficulty. The floor is very slippery too."

They reached the lip of the waterfall, anchored the ladder and with a safeline round the waist, the first man lowered himself down the pitch.

"We assembled at the foot of the waterfall," Frank says, "and went on cautiously because the floor was very steep and slippery and the stream roared down into the darkness. A descent of about 200 ft. brought us to another obstacle. Another cliff down which the stream dropped in a waterfall. We plumbed for depth and found it was 70 ft. deep. We needed another

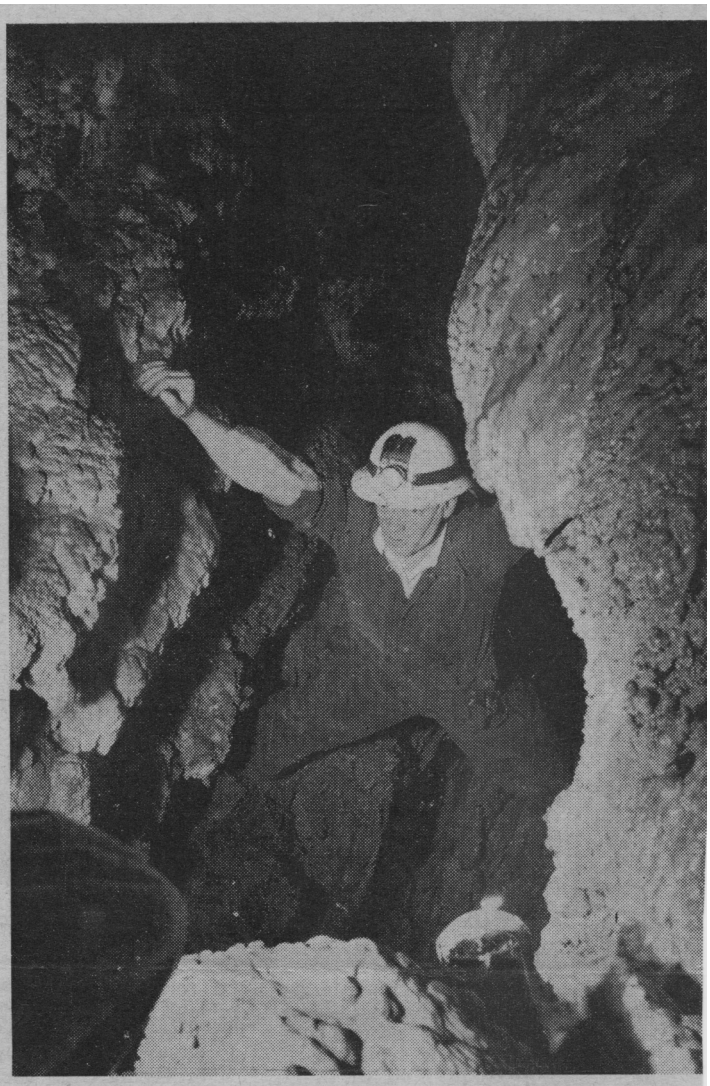
CULT OF THE CAVE

ladder to continue because the only one we had was fixed to the first waterfall, so, once again, we had to retreat. It was quite a tough day too—we spent about 10 hours going up and down that pot-hole. We saw no stalactite formations — the rock there is very fossilised."

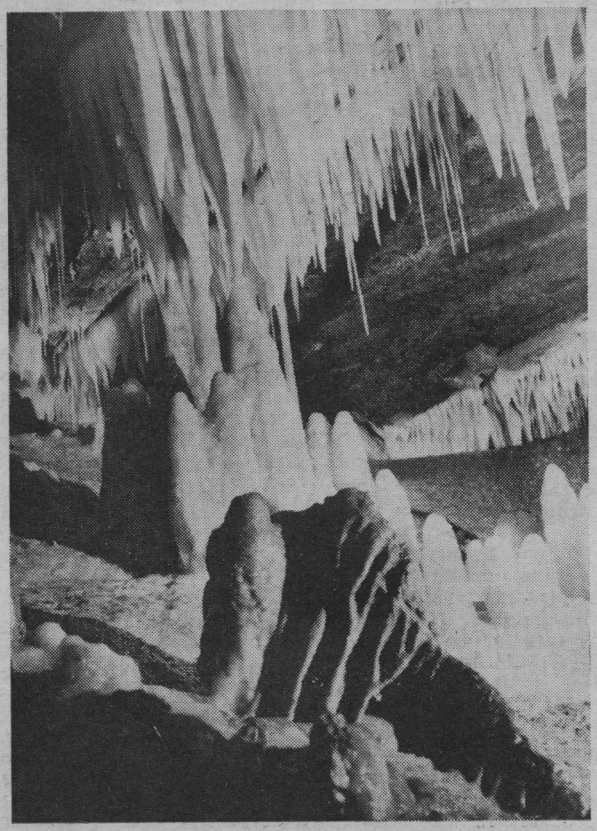
In the third attempt, they got down the second waterfall and found they had reached the bottom of the pot-hole. It is formed by a smallish mud-walled chamber in which there is a pool, and lies 560 ft. underground — one of the deepest pot-holes known in Australia up to date.

"The exploration of the Growling Swallet isn't difficult," Frank explained. "It makes an interesting weekend trip. But it's a very wet trip because you actually have to wade down and climb up a stream and then there're those two waterfalls which always seem to get into the way of your ladder! The best seasons for tackling the Growling Swallet are mid-winter and mid-summer, the rest of the year the place may be flooded on account of the snow melting from the nearby mountains."

According to Brown another interesting pot-hole is the Pillinger near Maydena, accessible by way of the Styx River Road. It was discovered in 1948 and since then several explorations have been done,



Frank Hasler of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club chimneying during an underground exploration.



Stalactite and stalagmite formations in Lynd's Cave, Mole Creek area, Tasmania.

reaching a depth of 350 ft., though the bottom may be some 200 ft. farther down.

"It's a pretty nasty place," Frank says. "It's full of loose rocks, narrow, steep passages and there's a crazy 180 ft. free-ladder pitch which gives me the creeps. When you are in the Pillinger you have to talk in whispers and move very carefully because you never know what or when will set off a rock fall. The rock of this particular pot-hole is impregnated in water and very loose. There's no stream there, in fact it's the only pothole or cave in Tasmania where I've been thirsty. Most of them have more water than you want for your comfort, but not the Pillinger. Incidentally, the water in Tasmanian caves is quite drinkable."

Talking about water, Frank told me something about Ida Bay Cave which experiences periodical floods, the flood level reaching 50 ft. — proved by ferns and other stuff deposited on the walls of the cave.

Ida Bay is Australia's southernmost cave system and is reached by way of Lune River. A further four miles down a railway track brings you to a quarry where the

CULT OF THE CAVES

(Continued from page 15)

Known since the early days, it wasn't explored until 1949 and was named after Coleridge's poem, "Kubla Kahn".

About this cave, Frank says. "First, you have to go down a very steep slope, the floor of a great chamber. The slope is littered with logs and tree-limbs. Once the farmer who owns the property in which Kubla Khan lies, thought he might be able to get into the cave by felling a big tree through the entrance. So he fell the tree but it went crashing down into the cave and didn't help him at all.

"After the first slope, you come to a 30 ft. pitch which has to be negotiated by means of a rope. Then comes a 45 ft. ladder pitch, and after this you find yourself at the top of the first big chamber—this is about 180 ft. long and 100 ft. wide at its widest, and its bottom is about 200 ft. underground. From here, a 40 ft. rope pitch leads down to the beginning of the Alph River.

"The Alph flows through a narrow canyon, the height of the ceiling varying from 15 ft. to 40 ft. and the width can be spanned with outstretched arms in many places. Some pools in the river are as deep as 15 ft., so wading through them is out," Frank explains.

Leading Tasmanian speleo Frank Brown emerges from a muddy squeeze hole.

In 1957, Hobart speleos made an attempt to negotiate the Alph with two rubber dinghies. They were packed down into the cave, pumped up, and then Dick Dowden and Albert Goede set off on an exciting voyage down the dark, mysterious watercourse. Keeping their craft in midstream by pushing with their hands against the canyon walls, they floated down, their lights piercing the darkness ahead. They found that the river is formed by a series of pools linked together by rapids. At the end of each pool the rubber dinghies had to be hauled out of the water and carried down the rapids. But their trip wasn't a long one. Some 400 yards from their starting point, Dowden and Goede came to a rock wall rising in front of them, while the Alph disappeared underneath the rock. The two speleos were forced to retreat.

"That's as far as we've ever got in that direction," Frank says. "It's really frustrating because in the obstructing rock wall there is a squeeze hole about 10-12 inches wide and four or five feet deep. Looking through it, your light reveals the Alph River flowing on the other side. If we could only get through that hole, we'd be able to continue exploring the river course."

Frank explains that the most remarkable features of Kubla Khan are the terraces on the floor of the second big chamber. The amber-coloured floor slopes down in a 200 ft. staircase. In each step there's a pool of water, some of them five ft. deep.

Another curious feature of Kubla Khan and one which will interest many OUTDOORS readers is the fact that one trout, about eight inches long, was found in the Alph River last summer!

In the Mole Creek area are found many other cave systems, some of them explored, others untouched. Frank told me about the Honeycomb, a hill literally pitted with caves. Already, seven different entrances have been discovered as well as innumerable passages. Exploration of the Honeycomb entails wading through many creeks and lots of mud.

In the same area there is also Lynd's Cave, which was discovered and explored in 1948. "It's rather difficult to find, though," Frank says, "because the entrance lies at the foot of a cliff on the bank of the Mersey River and can't be seen until you get to it. You enter Lynd's Cave by way of a crack about 18 in. wide and some 10 ft. high, half full of water. Inside you have to wade with water up to your neck. Then, you come to a pool and to go on you have to climb up a waterfall. It's a wet cave . . . and how! But it has some very beautiful formations."

Frank Brown as his mates of the Caverneering Club have been exploring caves for 14 years. During this time they have discovered and explored miles of underground Tasmania, but there's still endless new worlds to conquer. Yes, Tasmania offers grand and unlimited underground adventure. Frank explains that he and his mates enjoy more facilities than most mainlanders. For example, the distances from Hobart and Launceston to good caves is not more than 180 miles, so most caves are easily accessible within the weekends.

The snags in Tasmania seem to be the density of the island's bush and rivers. The former makes exploration of certain promising areas extremely difficult. Limestone formations which are likely to be rich in caves lie in practically unexplored and very tough country. It is an established fact that a Tasmanian speleo must be a bush-walker as well.

Recently, for example, a party of Hobart speleos spent four days looking for caves in the Mount Gell area in the west coast. Laden with ladders, ropes, camping gear and food supplies the men struggled through tough scrub, dripping myrtle forest, across soaking buttongrass moors, through creeks and huge tree falls. At the end of their four days' search, wet and weary, the speleos hit the homeward bound trail without having found one single cave—but they had certainly done some bushwalking!

The rivers are a serious danger to some of the known caves. Tasmania has many more rivers per square mile than any other State, and it also has the heaviest rainfall. So the hazard of flooded rivers and creeks must always be borne in mind. In a spell of wet weather many caves become flooded.

So far the Tasmanian Caverneering Club has suffered no fatality. Mishaps have, of course, occurred—bruises, cuts, etc., are part of the game — but extreme caution has always been exercised. For example, all ladder pitches are negotiated with a safeline and safety helmets are almost always worn.

Although mainland speleos use carbide lamps, Tasmanians prefer to use battery lights. They find it more convenient for climbing and moving in difficult terrain. The standard light is a shooter's spotlight fastened to the helmet and powered by a six volt dry battery, which gives about 20 hours of light.

Despite the thickness of the bush, the danger of floods and the discomfort of the mud in the caves, Tasmanian speleos are carrying on their good work. Under the rugged crust of their beautiful island they are discovering a world full of wonder and beauty. ●

THE POTHOLERS

Daring Tasmanian cavemen pioneer fresh tourist attractions

By HARRY FRAUCA

The track to magnificent Exit Cave, 120 miles south of Hobart, takes the pioneering explorers through a jungle of tea-tree and bauera scrub.

WHEN sightseeing tourists in Tasmania 50 years hence take a comfortable look at the vast and wonderful caves that honeycomb the small island State, they probably won't realise the tough job being done by today's pioneer explorers of the underground beauty spots.

Several of the caves and a number of what are called potholers are already beginning to attract tourist attention. In one of these, called the Growling Swallet, cave explorers have descended the record Australian depth of 600ft.

In explorations over the last decade, parties have descended two other underground formations, one of which they believe is certain to become a favourite tourist attraction in years to come. This one is called Exit Cave and is about 120 miles south of Hobart. The other, a pothole formation, is at Pillinger's Creek, about 50 miles west of Hobart.

Exit Cave possesses a magnificent glow-worm display and lovely rock formations. The Pillinger's Creek formation is essentially a shaft which would entail difficult climbing pitches and ladder work hardly likely to appeal to tourists. It has not been fully explored, however, and may yet reveal unexpected beauties that could be developed.

Both Pillinger's Creek pothole and Exit Cave are, at this stage, very difficult to reach.

Since 1948 several parties of cavers had plodded through the rain forests in the Tyena Range to explore the pothole. The 1948 party included Hobart cavers Frank Brown, David Elliott and Doug Steen.

Brown says, "We were poorly equipped then because we had little experience. We had formed our club only two years before. We carried a 100ft hemp rope and a 50ft rope ladder." (Most ladders today are steel wire with duralium rungs, averaging 30ft in length and weighing about 2¼lb. The sections can be joined together. Nylon ropes have replaced the hemp ones; they weigh only 4lb and cost about £10.)

Before entering the shaft, each man donned a boiler suit worn inside out so that pockets and buttons would not snag on projections, a helmet with a battery-powered miner's lamp attached to it, some candle stubs and matches in case of light failure, and a few iron rations.

SOON after entering the pothole, they moved down a steep corridor floored with loose stones or scree until the leader came suddenly on a gaping hole in the passage floor. It opened into a seemingly bottomless pit. The party bypassed this hole, but 80ft further on came on an even more fearsome shaft.

Their lights shone on sheer walls disappearing into empty darkness. One of the men dropped a rock into the shaft while another man clocked the seconds it took to hit bottom. It was calculated that the shaft was 175ft deep. As the party had only 50ft of ladder they postponed their exploration.

What impressed them most on the 1948 trip was the unstable, crumbling nature of the rock. The passage walls and the screes were like shifting sands, always ready to move and the threat of avalanches was constant.

Besides these hazards, the low temperature and high humidity below ground almost numbed their legs and arms.

In 1950, Brown and Elliott returned to Pillinger's Creek with another party. This time they had a 150ft steel-wire ladder with duralium rungs, a 50ft rope ladder and a 300ft hemp rope.

They went into the pothole carrying a stout 5ft long sapling with them. On reaching the lip of the 175ft shaft, the sapling was wedged into the rocks to serve as a belay for the ladders.

BROWN says ladder climbing techniques are standard throughout the world and are divided into contact and free ladder. The first can be negotiated by almost anyone since the ladder touches the wall and cannot swing, but free ladder requires much practice.

"If you don't know the technique you'll swing around and around or finish by hanging upside down from the ladder," Brown says, "but in our expeditions even the veterans are made to put on a safeline when negotiating ladders. With a safeline on, if you come off the ladder you'll be held up from above. The first man up or the last man down has no safeline to protect him, so he must be the strongest climber in the party."

ON this trip, Elliott tied on a safeline and began the descent of the shaft. About 180ft down, Elliott's booted feet hit the sharp-pointed top of a huge boulder—since called Devil's Spear—that rises 20ft from the bottom of the shaft.

At the bottom of the shaft he stepped off the ladder and began exploring his surrounding. Suddenly from the bottom came Elliott's voice. "Bring me a light. I've broken my lamp," he shouted.

Peering over the brink of the chasm the other members of the party waiting above saw the glimmer of a candle stub which Elliott lit to replace the helmet light which he'd smashed accidentally as he scrambled around the shaft bottom.

Brown tied on a safeline and taking a spare light, descended the shaft, a procedure which, he says, was wrong on his part. The light should have been lowered on a rope.

"ELLIOTT and I were the most experienced cavers in the party, so I should have stayed with the others. But we didn't yet know all the safety rules. That day taught us many things," he says.

Exploring the bottom of the shaft, he and Elliott found it was a chaotic collection of loose rock and boulders embedded in mud walls. These rocks adhered to the mud so precariously that they could have come off with the reverberation of the cavers' voices.

They found a passage leading to the mouth of another shaft but they could not descend this as they had no more rope or ladder. At this point, they calculated they were about 300ft under ground level and decided it was time to retreat.

Elliott climbed up the ladder in the shaft as Brown stood at the foot of Devil's Spear watching his companion's ascent. Elliott was reaching the top of the shaft when suddenly he yelled "look out." The next moment Brown saw Elliott's helmet, the miner's lamp on it still glowing, plummeting down the shaft. He ducked, but too late. The helmet struck him a stunning blow on his back, which nearly knocked him out.

BROWN'S misfortunes did not end with that mishap. He found that when climbing up the ladder in the shaft, the sleeves of his boiler suit, which were buttoned at the cuffs, slipped down from the wrists on to his forearms, tightening and cutting off circulation.

Soon his arms became paralysed by painful cramps and he felt he was losing his grip on the ladder. He had to call to his companions to haul him up the ladder.

Since that day the Hobart cavers have always unbuttoned the cuffs of their boiler suits before climbing a ladder.

Several other explorations of Pillinger's Creek have been made since those two pioneering trips. Two other alternate and easier shafts were discovered leading down to Devil's Spear so that the spectacular but dangerous ladder descent is now unnecessary.

Early this year, another

Page 54 PEOPLE
September 14, 1960

party of Hobart cavers reached what they believe is the deepest point man can go in Pillinger's Creek. It is a little sand-floored chamber about 400ft under surface level and in which the only exit is a little "squeeze hole," not big enough to allow a man's body through.

Situated somewhere west of Lune River, one of the most southerly townships in Tasmania, Exit Cave is still little known.

The first visit to the cave was made in 1947 by a Hobart bushwalking party led by Lune River identity Alan Smith. Bush fires had burnt out much of the scrub so it took only a four-hour walk to reach it.

On their return trip, the bushwalking party discovered a small cave in which were millions of spiders. These were harmless but repulsive cave-dwellers and such a large concentration in one spot had never been seen before in Tasmania. Cavers and bushwalkers have searched for the spiders' cave since but it has never been relocated.

The second trip to Exit Cave was in 1954 and this time the party found that they were tackling a tough piece of bush.

IN the intervening years, the scrub had grown higher and higher until it formed an almost impenetrable barrier. The explorers took eight hours to reach the entrance to Exit Cave, double the time it had taken the 1947 party.

"We went into the cave the next morning," Albert Goede, who was with that party, says, "the first chamber is about 60ft wide by 40ft long. There's a big river inside, but we found a fording place.

"We crawled into a corridor where we discovered some very beautiful formations. The floor was covered in sand, which meant easy walking. At the end of the corridor we saw the first of the glow-worm displays. It was amazing.

"There were hundreds of worms and their glow illuminated the contours of the rock on which they clung. They are a species known as Lampirus noctulis and are of the same genus as those in New Zealand's Waitomo Cave."

The next party, in 1958, to explore the caves found the going rougher than even the 1954 trip.

The party included Sydney University Speleological Society members Adrian Hunt, Laurie Bishop, Margaret Innes and Robin Case, and members of the Tasmania Caverneering Club Rein de Vriess, D. Lathman and D. Seymour and E. Smith, of Canberra. The Tasmanians were experienced bushwalkers.

"We left Lune River at 8 o'clock on the morning of December 31, 1958. I'll never forget that date," de Vriess says.

"Hour after hour we had to push our way through masses of tea-tree and bauera, and had to climb up and down fallen logs, then about 3 o'clock in the afternoon we struck a sea of cutting grass. I'd never seen anything like it before.

"The tussocks rose 10ft above us. The long, razor-sharp leaves tore at our skin.

"At 8 o'clock we were still in cutting grass but felt we couldn't go on. We were parched with thirst and dead beat. So we made camp."

There was no water anywhere, so they had to quench their thirsts with three cans of beer distributed among the eight of them. The beer also served them as a New Year celebration.

NEXT morning, they moved on into the tangle of tea-tree, cutting grass and bauera again.

"We had to cut our way through it. Two men, without packs, would hack at the scrub with slashers and axes while the rest of the party waited. Then we'd move on and two other chaps would take their turn at track-cutting," de Vriess says.

"We knew where we were and about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, eight hours travelling non-stop from the last camp, we hit the banks of D'Entrecasteaux River, where we dropped our packs and had our first real drink for two days."

Later that evening, three of the party struck the entrance of the cave about half an hour's "scrub-bash" up river.

In the next two days the party penetrated farther into Exit Cave than the previous parties had. They also followed the course of the underground river but had to retreat when they struck deep water.

"We are sure that Exit Cave will prove to be the largest in Tasmania and one of the largest in Australia. It's a huge place and there are many offshoots to the main chambers and passages," de Vriess says.

According to him, it isn't a dangerous cave. The rock is solid and there are no pitches (climbing sections) that need ladders or ropes, though further explorations may reveal difficult obstacles.

Cavers say Australia could be one of the world's leading speleological countries in the future for it seems that there are countless caves and potholes in the limestone formations on this vast continent, particularly on Tasmania, the island of mountains which may, some day, become the island of caves. #

A steel wire ladder with duralium rungs is firmly set into position at the snow-covered entrance of Pillinger's Creek pothole, west of Hobart.

Adventurous cave explorers like David Elliott, of Hobart, are opening up some new underground beauty spots in Tasmania.

[This article has been rearranged and reformatted to fit these pages]

COUNCIL SUPPORT REQUEST FOR RESERVE

Feb. 1972

The Tasmanian Cavaneering Club has informed the Esperance Council that a submission in respect of the desirability of proclaiming a Reserve in the Marble Hill area between the Lune and the D'Entrecasteaux Rivers, had been presented to the Director of Parks & Wildlife (Mr Murrell).

The area proposed as a reserve extends from the Mystery Cave, near the Ida Bay Limestone Quarries to the Exit Cave, near the D'Entrecasteaux River. Members of the Cavaneering Club have now surveyed about 10 miles of the cave system which ranks ninth among the worlds largest caves.

In February 1971, Esperance Councillors & other interested people were conducted on a tour of the Exit Cave by the Superintendant of the Hastings Caves (Mr Ray Skinner).

Access, at present, is by two miles of rough and wet track from the Forestry Road which extends to the D'Entrecasteaux River. The party were greatly impressed with the attractions of the Exit Cave.

At their last meeting, the Council decided to write to Mr Murrell, strongly supporting the Cavaneering Club's submission and the request that the Marble Hill Cave Reserve, as requested, be proclaimed.

The Huon News — — — November 10, 1967

Council Says Forestry Interested in Cockle Ck. Road

THE Esperance Council have informed the Forestry Commission that, in the Council's opinion, it is to the interest of the Commission that the Cockle Creek Road be kept in repair.

At the October meeting of the Esperance Council a letter was tabled from the Chief Forestry Commissioner (Mr A. Crane) offering the use of a road grader at a cost of $5 an hour if the Council would provide a driver, for maintenance work on the Catamaran Road.

Cr. D. Seabourne said that he thought the proposals by the Forestry Commission did not take into account the fact Forestry Commission vehicles were among the principle users of the Catamaran Road. The costs were not within the capacity of the Council which had only $200 a year to spend on the road.

He moved, and it was decided to inform the Commission of the Council's opition that the Forestry Commission had a material interest in the maintenance of the Cockle Creek Road.

A visitor to Cockle Creek over the November long weekend has informed the Huon News that, in addition to 10 occupied shacks, 6-8 cars visited Recherche each day whilst he was there and 11 fishing boats sheltered in the Bay. The week before when he was down eight cars and two lorries came through. One car pulled up with its nose in the scrub across Cockle Creek Bridge and the driver asked "Is this the right road to Port Davey?" which illustrates the tourist demand.

A mile or more below the Lune railway crossing a new, metalled, forestry road leads off to the right and more or less parallels the Cockle Creek Road. Between the Half Way Creek and the D'entrecasteau River there is a dolcritic dyke which pushed up from deep under, way back in the times when volcanoes and lava flows were the order of the day in Tasmania. The picturesque and rugged sides of the dyke can be seen clearly from the old road since the bush fires.

Possibly as a result of the plutonic activity, the locality is rich in gem stones and has become very popular with the Lapidarists Club, both along the old road and along the new Forestry Road.

Often too, cars will be seen parked near the stock yards. They usually belong to cavaneers who have a short route from that point to the Exit Cave which opens into several miles of caverns, along the route of the creek which dives southward into the hill in the Ida Bay Caves near the Carbide Companys limestone quarry.

This is only the nascent tourist trade, of course. But between the Lune and the New River there is also a belt of timber at least 25 miles long and of varying widths. Probably 50,000 acres or more of timber, access to which is the responsibility of the Forestry Commission. Hence the Esperance Councils expression of opinion.

THE MERCURY, SATURDAY, 26/12/1964—3

TASMANIA'S CAVES ATTRACT INTERSTATE ENTHUSIASTS

TASMANIA'S caves again have attracted parties from other States as well as local caverneering enthusiasts.

Parties of caverneers from New South Wales have invaded the State to explore and search for caves.

A seven-man party from Canberra will go to Exit Cave, near Ida Bay, through thick scrub to see the cave's fine display of glow worms.

The cave is said to have the finest display of glow worms in Australia and New Zealand.

The Gordon River will have two parties who will travel by boat to the river's upper reaches in search of caves and take photographs of the area.

The Tasmanian Caverneering Club has made two trips to the area in search of caves to add to the tourist attractions of the river.

The club has a big programme of trips in Tasmania, with both branches undertaking projects.

The main party will have its headquarters at Mole Creek.

The branches will complete the survey of several new caves, trace the course of two underground rivers, and collect spiders and glow worms.

Specimens, which are hoped will include the bones of mammals and the Tasmanian tiger, will be collected and sent to experts.

During the year the caverneering club has been training boy scouts and New Town High School boys in the Duke of Edinburgh award and it is hoped to interest more boys in the thrills of caverneering.

Record descent into cave

TEN members of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club set a new Australian depth record of 720ft. on Saturday. 21-8 1967

The record was made by linking a recently discovered system of vertical shafts with a large cave system known as Exit Cave.

The system is in Marble Hill, four miles south-west of the small settlement of Lune River in Southern Tasmania.

The record was set by club members Allan Keller and John Marshall, with the other eight forming two support parties.

The descent, which included a 350ft. vertical drop, took 6½ hours. Two way radios were used to keep the explorers in touch with the surface party.

The record breaks a 10½-year mark of 560ft. set by the club in the Florentine Valley to the west of Maydena.

Reserve Sought for Ida Bay and Exit Caves

THE Tasmanian Caverneering Club have approached the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Mr P. Murrell) to urge the declaration of a reserve for the protection of caves within Marble Hill at Ida Bay near Lune River.

The Club is in process of preparing a detailed submission in this respect. The following details are from that submission.

The area which the club believes should be protected contains two major caves.

Mystery Cave is, at present, Australia's 4th deepest at 665 feet.

Exit Cave is by a large margin Australia's longest and largest cave with 10 miles of known passages—and much exploration still to be done.

Exits Cave's connection to 'Mini Martin' gives the system a total depth of 720 ft., making it the 3rd deepest in Australia.

The club's concern will centre mainly on the need to protect Exit Cave; although many of the arguments also apply to Mystery Creek Cave.

There are many economic and scientific reasons why the Ida Bay Caves should be conserved. Exit Cave offers excellent prospects for tourist development. It would be completely unlike any other tourist cave in Australia. Apart from spectacular scenery the cave offers many features of outstanding interest both in geological and botanical fields.

It could become a major research and educational centre. This approach to cave development is already being tried with considerable success in the Naracourte Caves in South Australia.

Exit Cave is quite different from the Newdegate Tourist Cave. It has a very impressive glow-worm display confined to the first quarter mile of passages. The display consists of concentrations of luminous larvae of the fly Arachnocampa Tasmaniensis, which is closely related to the New Zealand species responsible for the famous glow-worm displays at Waitomo.

Explorers who have seen both Exit and Waitomo Caves say that the display at Exit rivals that at Waitomo.

Also of interest to visitors are the enormous dimensions of the river chambers and the active underground stream.

Unusual and spectacular formations are found in upper levels not far from the entrance. This includes spectacular columns, stalactites and stalagmites and unusual formations of 'mondmilch' a spongy variety of calcium carbonate, probably due to bacterial activity.

BIOLOGICAL FEATURES

Biological interest in the Mystery Creek and Exit Caves is associated with their history, which has been long enough for the development of a unique fauna including true cave species (troglobites).

And, although the Ida Bay Caves are close to the Hastings Caves, the two have always been isolated from each other and have developed in different rock types.

The caves at Ida Bay occur in Ordovician limestone, while those at Hastings are found in Precambrian dolomite. Consequently, like two islands close together, yet isolated from each other, the two areas have developed quite distinct troglobitis faunas.

The most outstanding recent discovery in the Mystery & Exit Caves has been a completely eyeless cave beetle—the only one in Australia—and a new species belonging to the cave genus 'Goedetrechus' which appears to be scarce and confined to Exit Cave.

Another cave beetle also confined to the Ida Bay area is the well known 'Idacarabus Troglodytes' described by A. M. Lea in 1910 & for many years Australia's only known troglobitic species.

In Australia, cave adapted beetles are confined to Tasmania where six species have been recorded. Of these two are confined to the Marble Hill area at Ida Bay.

Other limestone areas should be sought

Ida Bay has big tourist potential

MR JOHN CHICK claims that an alternative for mining limestone at Precipitous Bluff exists.

While I fully agree with him, I strongly disagree with his suggestion that Ida Bay would provide a suitable alternative, and that it does not present a conflict with conservation interests. Much of the limestone at Ida Bay is extremely cavernous and contains the most extensive cave known in the Southern Hemisphere, with 10 miles of passages explored and mapped.

This cave is one of the most significant found in Australia and is not only of considerable scientific interest, but also has great potential for tourist development because of its outstanding size and glowworm displays, which rival those of the Waitomo Cave in New Zealand.

Two and a half years ago the Tasmanian Caverneering Club submitted a proposal to the National Parks and Wildlife Service to have part of the Ida Bay area declared a State reserve. Care was taken to exclude those areas of limestone which showed little sign of cave development so that they would be available to the mining industry.

Our proposals were strongly supported by the Esperance Council, as there is also a good possibility that the cave will be developed as a tourist attraction, since there is local interest in such development. Despite the merits of the plan, it is still "under consideration" by the Tasmanian Government after two and a half years.

Our members consider that from a cave conservation point of view, the preservation of Exit Cave is far more important than the known caves at Precipitous Bluff. Nevertheless, the latter are significant, particularly when they are viewed as a component of such a unique scenic area as exists there.

Limestones of similar nature do outcrop in other parts of Southern Tasmania and may offer suitable alternatives. An almost continuous belt of limestone appears to crop out from Precipitous Bluff northwards as far as the valley of the Cracroft River, near Burgess Bluff. Limestones also outcrop along the Picton River and at Surprise Bay on the South coast.

The tragedy is that while our Government proclaims the importance of investigating the high grade limestones at Precipitous Bluff, no attempt has been made to explore alternatives. We have in Tasmania a highly regarded Department of Mines, and if high grade limestone is as important to the State's economy as we have been led to believe, why has this department not been authorised to investigate alternative areas? Some of these at least are more accessible than Precipitous Bluff.

Until such an investigation is carried out, we cannot expect to evaluate the situation at Precipitous Bluff.

ALBERT GOEDE,
President, Tasmanian Caverneering Club.
Hobart.

The Mercury
Hobart: June 25, 1973

28-6-1973

Tourism best for Esperance

I DISAGREE with the arguments for the granting of a mining lease in the Precipitous Bluff - New River Lagoon area as expressed by the Warden of Esperance (Mr A. H. Thodey).

I dispute his assertion that the Esperance Municipality and its people will benefit from the venture.

Road construction to New River Lagoon would be a major undertaking — such that a mining company would be reluctant to invest in. For the State Government to contemplate road access for tourist and mining advantages would be economically suicidal.

Might I suggest to the Esperance Council that the upgrading and development of existing tourist assets in the area would be a more fruitful suggestion. Motels, boathouses and good fishing could be developed at Recherche Bay for far lower costs than at New River Lagoon.

The local council should consider pushing such tourist developments as the upgrading of the Catamaran Road and the opening of Exit Cave. There is not yet one motel south of Hobart.

Visitors would hardly travel to New River Lagoon for such accommodation.

ANDREW SKINNER.
Battery Pt.

THE MERCURY, THURSDAY, 30/11/1961—7

"Missing" caverneers asleep — unworried

FOUR young people, considered overdue on a caverneering trip to Exit Cave near Catamaran, were found asleep early yesterday morning — completely unaware that concern had been felt for them.

They are Elizabeth McIntyre (20), of Jane Franklin Hall, who is from Rowella, West Tamar; John Fairhall (19), of Berriedale Rd., Berriedale; Michael Douglas (19), of York St., Bellerive; and Stephen Mack (19), of Mawhera Ave., Lower Sandy Bay.

All are students at the University of Tasmania and they left Hobart on Saturday to explore the cave and its noted glow-worm display.

When the party had not returned to Hobart on Monday night, the club became concerned, believing they had intended returning then

The manager of the Australian Carbide Co. Quarries (Mr. Donnelly), who had met the party on Saturday, had informed the police when he did not see them on the return journey on Monday.

A preliminary investigation was organised by the Caverneering Club on Tuesday night.

Messrs. Albert Goede and William Peterson were driven by Mr. Frank Brown about 60 miles south-west from Hobart to Catamaran, then taken about eight miles to the limestone quarry on the company's railway.

"No date set"

The four students were found asleep in a hut there.

They said that they had set no specific day for their return, intending to come back any day from Monday until the end of the week, and explained this to friends.

The party was well supplied with food and equipment.

The two groups left the area together soon afterwards and arrived back in Hobart later yesterday morning.

The Tasmanian Caverneering Club acted on a standing rule to investigate after a party is 24 hours overdue.

A spokesman said yesterday it was the first alert in the club's 13 years existence.

The four young people inspected Exit Cave on Sunday and Monday, sleeping in the bush outside.

They believe they were the first people to enter one section of the cave—several hundred yards past a point described to them as the previous limit.

They had hoped to find whether the Exit Cave joins up underground with the Entrance Cave.

They found a series of narrow tunnels, rock climbs and other obstacles and turned back.

2—THE MERCURY, WEDNESDAY, 29/11/1961

CAVERNEER CLUB PARTY OVERDUE

TWO young men and a young woman are overdue from a caverneering trip to Exit Cave at the Lune River, about 66 miles south-west of Hobart.

They left Hobart on Saturday morning in a utility, and were due back on Monday night.

They are members of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

When they had not returned last night a small party from the club left Hobart to make preliminary investigations to see if it was necessary to send a full-scale search and rescue squad.

The Exit Cave is about 12 miles from Catamaran, in the southernmost part of Tasmania.

The cave is considered by many who have seen it to have the finest display of glow-worms in Australasia, but its popularity is limited by its inaccessibility.

For the weekend party, it was a 14-mile walk from their utility through thick scrub, which has caused the walk to be known as the "Kokoda Trail."

It is considered possible that the three missing people may have been delayed by losing their way in this area.

They are fully equipped and are experienced in such conditions.

Huon News. March 14 1973

Great Caves of the World

AFTER the meeting of Esperance Council on February 28th, the Superintendent of Hastings Caves gave a talk, illustrated by films and slides, on cave development overseas.

Several months ago, Mr Skinner returned from his Churchill Fellowship trip, during which he visited many of the most famous caves in the world.

Since returning home Mr Skinner has been preparing a report to the State Government on his findings.

During the tour Mr and Mrs Skinner were privileged to visit caves in New Zealand, Japan, the U.S.A., Britain, the Continent and the Middle East.

Mr Skinner said that he concluded it to be preferable for government authorities to develop cave areas; but there was much to commend encouragement of private enterprise for development and conduct of associated services such as hotel-motels and other attractions.

Mr Skinner, who was assisted by Mr Max Webberly (Headmaster of Dover Area School), showed comparative films of glow-worms at the famous New Zealand Waitomo Caves and at the Exit Cave at Leprena. The local cave was well up to standard, as far as glow-worm display, but is yet undeveloped.

Mr Richard Bennett, who was present, showed slides of Exit Cave which has 11 miles of known passages.

In the U.S.A., a town of 20,000 people has grown up round the famous Carlsbad Caves to service the tourist industry. America also had a number of privately run caves.

The Cheddar Caves in Somersetshire, owned by the Marquis of Bath had a through put of half a million visitors a year. The caves were estimated to have been subject to human occupation for upwards of 50,000 years. However, as with all the caves illustrated, there is no doubt that Hastings Caves are highly endowed with formations.

They also saw the fantastic ice caves in Austria which are an annual seasonal attraction.

A memorable visit in Japan was to Aki Yoshido, a much eroded limestone plateau some 150 square kilometres in area.

Beirut, in Lebanon, stood out as the most highly developed cave system. Development costs had been over $4 million and an extraordinary large tourist industry had resulted.

The Mercury 23 March 1973, p14

The country's longest cave

A 10-mile cave in the South-East of Tasmania has been confirmed as the longest in Australia and the ninth longest in the world.

The cave, named the Exit Cave, is part of the Ida Bay system, several miles south of Hastings.

According to the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, the cave could be developed for several hundred thousand dollars.

But the president of the club (Mr A. Goede) said between $2 million and $4 million would eventually be needed to develop the Exit Cave to world standards.

The cave has already attracted attention from some of the world's most foremost caverneers from universities in America and Europe, and several groups have travelled from the States to explore the cave's passages.

Unique formations of limestone and a rare species of glow-worm have interested geologists and biologists.

Mr Goede is very keen to have the cave developed — but "the whole project would be beyond the resources of my club and I don't think the members would have the inclination to do the work," he said. "But any advice needed would be readily available."

The cave was discovered in 1890 by a party of loggers, but was not entered until 1947 because of difficult access through marshland.

In 1960 a group from the caverneering club made another attempt and entered for half a mile before a large rock fall stopped the trip.

By 1967 a path had been made around the worst of the swamp, and this time full exploration of the Exit Cave was made.

In 1970 the Australian Speleological Federation had a conference at the University of Tasmania, and from here a group of 12 explored the Exit Cave and mapped out a new system.

Mr Goede would not give the exact location of the Exit Cave because he feared vandals would wreck some of the rare formations.

"Admittedly vandals would have to be dedicated to their nasty work and be extremely fit, but even then I would prefer to keep the location secret," he said.

But Mr Goede did say the cave could be reached after a two-mile walk from a road near Hastings.

Mr Goede said groups of people could be taken through the cave by club members if they were prepared to rough it a bit.

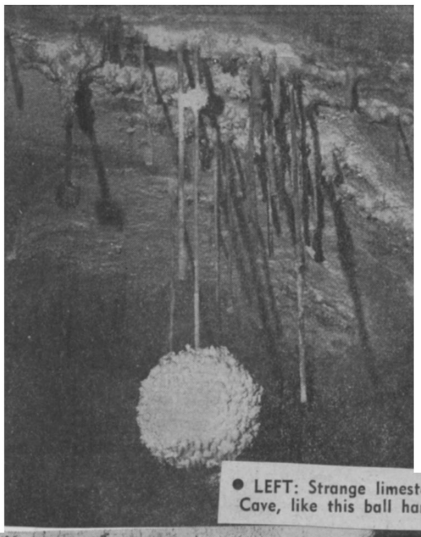
"We want people to share with us the beauty of the Exit Cave, but I must warn them there are no cement paths or stairs to climb," he said.

"At the moment we can only take the inexperienced about half-a-mile into the start of the rockfall."

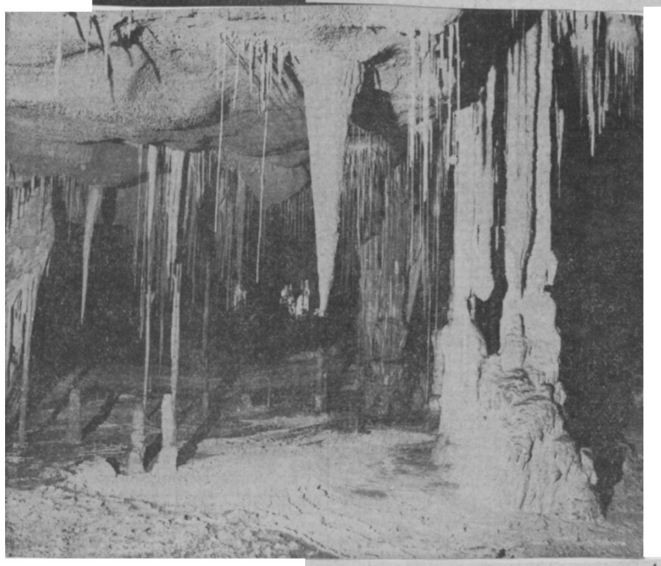
Mr Goede said any further penetration would involve camping underground for several nights.

The cave takes about four days to explore fully, and as the system forms part of an underground tributary of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, a careful watch on the water level has to be kept.

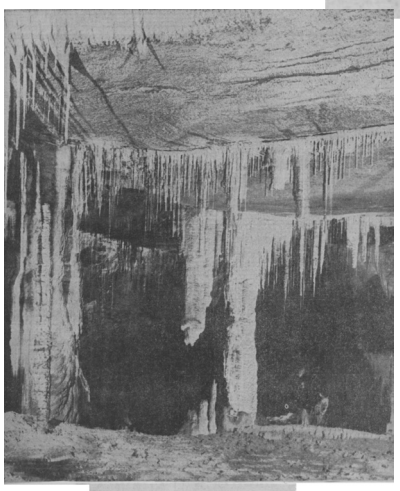
In Winter, parts of the cave are inaccessible due to the depth of water. — **ANDREW HORTON.**



● LEFT: Strange limestone formations abound in the Exit Cave, like this ball hanging at the end of a stalactite.



● BOTTOM LEFT: A fantastic scene near the entrance of the Exit Cave.



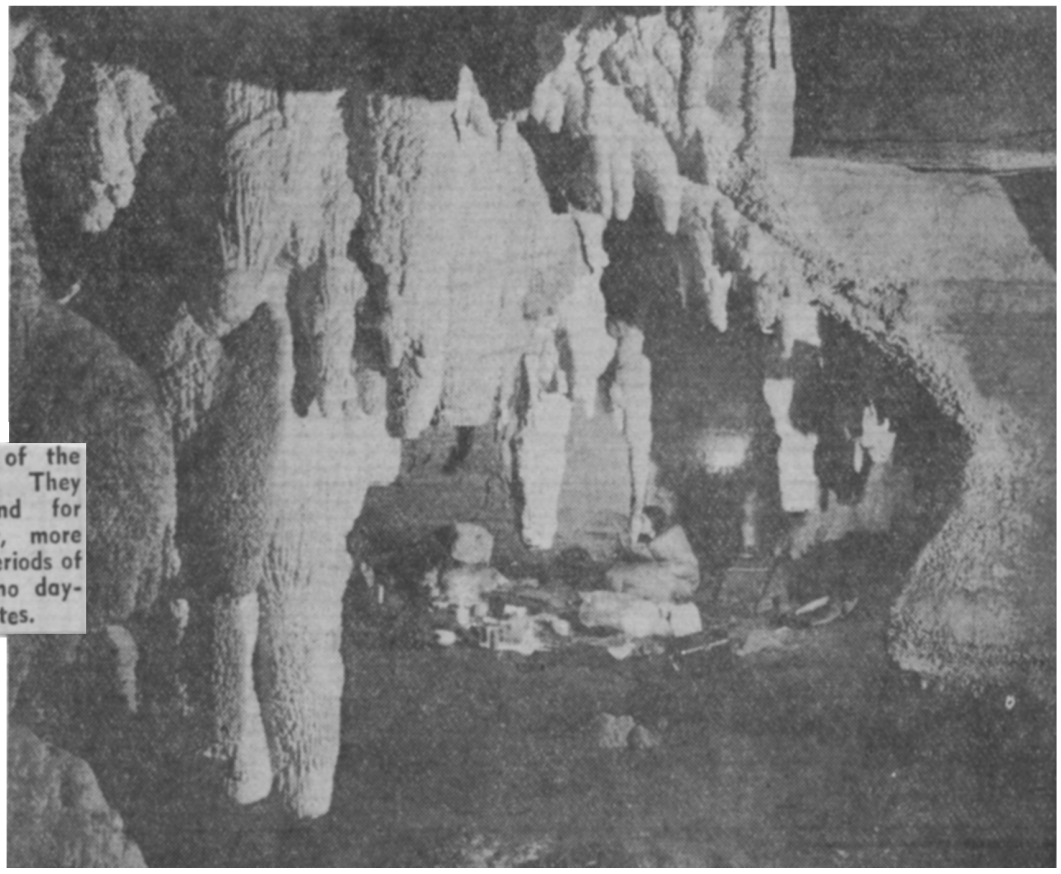
● ABOVE: The beauty of the thousands of delicate stalactites is emphasised by the thick contrasting columns formed during the centuries.

EXPLORING THE HUGE EXIT CAVE

EXIT CAVE, south of Ida Bay, is one of the longest caves in Australia, with more than 10 miles of known passages.

It is a horizontal stream cave formed by the cutting action of two waterways, D'Entrecasteaux River and Mystery Creek.

The cave is a challenge even for experienced caverneers. Three who took up the challenge recently were Sydney visitor Noelen Silvester, Andrew Skinner, and photographer Richard Bennett.

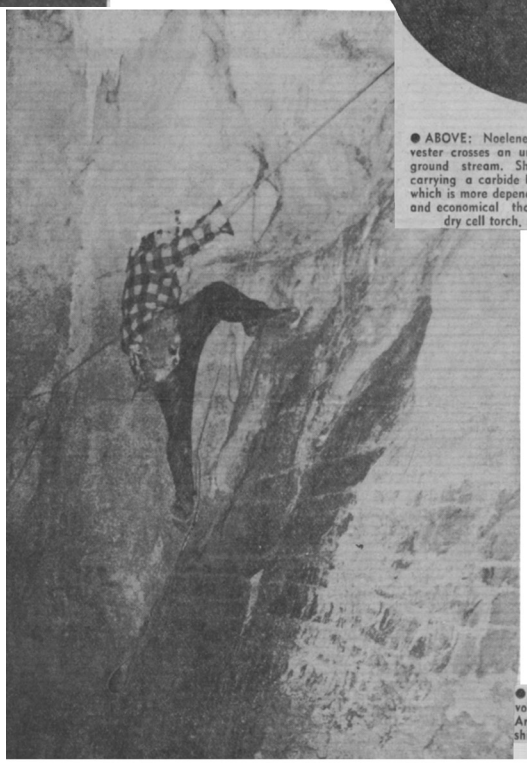


● RIGHT: One of the party's camps. They stayed underground for three days — or, more correctly, three periods of 24 hours, since no daylight penetrates.

● *ABOVE: In places the cave opens into huge vaults whose beauty becomes apparent when the explorers turn their lamps upwards to the strange formations.*

● LEFT: Mystery Creek rises and falls according to weather conditions in the world outside, and presents a danger to the inexperienced caverneer.

● ABOVE: Noelene Silvester crosses an underground stream. She is carrying a carbide lamp, which is more dependable and economical than a dry cell torch.



● LEFT: Caverneering involves skill in rock climbing. Andrew Skinner uses a makeshift rope ladder to come down a smooth cave wall.

APPENDIX N
PRESS CLIPPINGS – CAVE TOURISM

Page 8—Tasmanian Motor News, November, 1971

A DAY TRIP INTO WONDERLAND

Beauty in the heart of a hill

Perfect spot for a picnic

A SILVAN setting for one of Tasmania's most popular Summer picnic spots, the thermal pool at Hastings in Southern Tasmania. The perfect day trip from Hobart, a visit to Hastings is full of interest. An inspection of the spectacular caves, a picnic by the pool, and swimming in the warm mineral waters — something for all the family. You will find all the information you need to plan a day's outing at this famous beauty spot on Page 8.

● This view of the little "town" shows the building which houses a unique museum, the work of a student who has collected many interesting specimens of minerals found in the area.

ONE of the most pleasant day trips from Hobart at this time of the year is to Southport, the State's southernmost town.

But Southport itself is not the main attraction of this tour.

The "bonus" is a 34-mile round journey off the main highway to Hastings and its thermal pool and caves.

The route south is the familiar one on the Huon Highway to Huonville, crossing the Huon River at that town and travelling via Franklin, Geeveston, Surges Bay, Glendevie, Dover, and Strathblane.

The whole route to Southport is sealed and, although care is necessary on the many bends in the highway, there are no real problems for the cautious driver.

● *To Page 9*

HASTINGS CAVES AND THERMAL POOL

● *From Page 8.*

The total mileage to Southport is 63, but because of the numerous bends and some narrow sections, and the chance of meeting fruit trucks in the season and logging vehicles at most times of the year, two hours should be allowed for the journey.

The highway is adequately signposted, and no trouble should be experienced in staying on the route, but for those who have not travelled the highway before, the use of the Club's excellent Tourist Map of Tasmania is recommended.

Leaving Hobart, the highway winds up the foothills of Mt Wellington to Fern Tree, skirts the side of the mountain and then runs down into the Huon Valley.

From Huonville, the highway runs through orchard country and, although the blossom is all but finished now, the trees are fully leaved and the brilliant greens of the countryside provide some spectacular vistas across the valley, the Huon River, and D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

□

Southport, at the end of the highway, is a small fishing town, and there are some excellent beaches in the area, with safe swimming.

The turnoff to Hastings is about three miles north of Southport.

The road into Hastings, the thermal pool, and the remarkable Newdegate Cave is surfaced with gravel, and apart from three short sections of corrugations, is in reasonable condition.

For most of the 12 miles the road is adequately wide for two vehicles to

The pool is fed by a subterranean stream.

The walls and surrounds are concrete, but the bottom is muddy.

A special section is reserved for small children.

There is no charge for the use of any of these facilities, and films, food, sweets, etc, are available from the chalet.

A small museum, housing the collection of a young student, is open for inspection.

It contains a wide range of mineral and other specimens, and is well worth seeing.

There is no charge for admission, but donations towards adding to the collection may be left in a box near the entrance.

The Hastings Caves, discovered in 1917 by timber-getters, are among the best in the State — many say they are equal to any in Australia.

The entrance to the Newdegate Cave is reached on foot, about five minutes' walk through magnificent bush along a well - maintained track from the parking area at the end of the caves road.

Lyrebirds have been released in this area and it is possible to see and hear the birds at times.

A guide service is provided, and the times of inspection are clearly posted both at the chalet and at the entrance to the track to the caves.

Inspection parties are limited to 40 persons, and the charge is 60c for adults and 30c for children under 16.

It is essential that flat-heel shoes be worn in the caves, and slacks are preferable to skirts for women visitors.

The temperature inside the caves varies, but is generally chilly and a sweater is recommended.

The caves are well lit, and safety rails and fences obviate any danger of a fall.

The mineral formations are breathtaking in their size and beauty.

Photography is permitted, and the use of flash equipment is essential.

At least six hours should be allowed for the round trip from Hobart to Hobart, but a further two or more hours can easily be spent on the journey if it is to include a visit to the caves, a dip in the thermal pool, and a leisurely meal.

● Entering the caves is like stepping into another world, an underground fairyland lighted to obtain a spectacular effect from the grotesque shapes of the mineral formations.

THE MERCURY, WEDNESDAY,

SEPTEMBER 11, 1957.

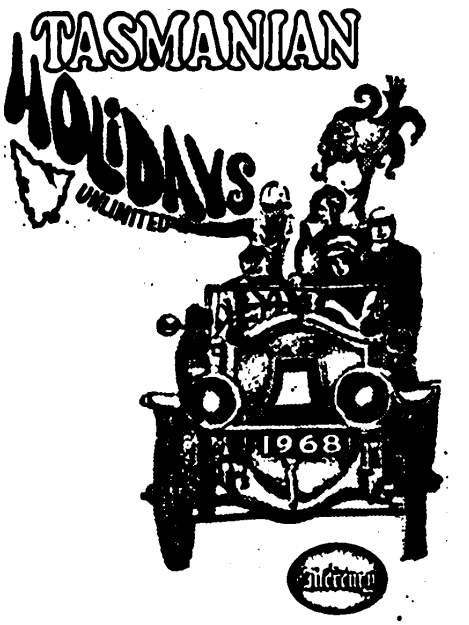
Improvements At Marakoopa Caves

The Minister for Tourists (Mr. Neilson) has advised Mr. Best, M.H.A., that a number of improvements are being carried out at the Marakoopa Caves, in the Mole Creek district.

The work consists of the clearing of a picnic ground, the building of a new bridge over a creek, and several other measures designed to improve the appearance of the grounds near the entrance to the caves.

● Appropriately named the Devil's Backbone this range is part of a mountain panorama which can be viewed from the northern end of the Hartz Range. This is an area rich in splendid scenery and a "must" in any touring itinerary that takes in Southern Tasmania.

Wonderland where beauty drips from roof



ESPERANCE is particularly rich in variety of scenery—beaches, rivers, caves, and lakes — and the drive through the Hartz Mountain National Reserve, then on to the caves at Hastings, is a real delight.

Offering, as it does, so much to the lover of natural beauty, this trip could well be the highlight of the sightseers' itinerary in the South.

Leaving Huonville and Franklin, the tourist passes through Geeveston, with its modern shopping centre and new housing subdivisions which followed the establishment of Australian Paper Manufacturers' mill at Port Huon a few years ago.

The Hartz range is reached by a 14-mile drive from Geeveston through the Arve Valley, one of the State's richest — and prettiest — forest areas, from where APM draws the bulk of its logs.

The road, which winds its way through the mountain glades, is a major feat of engineering, with its deep cuttings hewn through rocky, mountainous country.

It has opened up enchanting scenery — manfern glades, majestic stringy barks, giant swamp gums, some towering 250ft, with 40ft girths, and thick, impenetrable patches of myrtle.

A spur road of about six miles branches off the main forestry road, and this climbs through even more spectacular forest country to the lookout on top of the Hartz Mountain.

The lookout, at the end of a pathway made of manfern butts, is about 4,000ft above sea level, and from it one takes in a magnificent panorama of the Huon.

From this point, the Government is pushing ahead with a road over comparatively flat button grass country to a hut established many years ago with facilities for hikers and mountaineers.

One can walk leisurely to view some breathtaking scenery, the rugged splendour of which is unlike anything else in the State.

Within easy walking distance of the hut is a spectacular 200ft waterfall, where the Arve River plunges from the mountain into the densely timbered valley.

Descending the mountain road, the visitor motors back to Geeveston en route to the Hastings Caves, passing through Dover, a lovely seaside holiday resort, with the quaint islands, Faith, Hope, and Charity nestling in Esperance Bay and Fultyama-like Adamson's Peak as an attractive backdrop.

Leaving Dover the route takes the tourist through the sawmilling district of Strathblane, then on to Southport, an orcharding settlement and fishing port, and magnificent Kingfish Beach.

This trip is over a recently-completed, wide bitumen highway, replacing the narrow, dangerous road which previously led to the caves.

At the Southport turnoff, the visitor leaves the bitumen for about six miles to the road into the Hastings Caves and thermal swimming pool.

Since these were opened 23 years ago, they have had magnetic appeal for thousands of Tasmanians and tourists from other States, and overseas.

Built at a cost of $40,000, a new restaurant at the caves, finished four months ago, seats 50 people and is well equipped with a modern kitchen.

Off the diningroom is a modern kitchen, cool rooms, and storage space, and there are three bedrooms to provide staff accommodation.

The new development is evidence of the steady growth in the number of visitors to the caves, which rank as one of the State's best tourist attractions.

Each year between 15,000 and 17,000 people are shown through the fascinating Newdegate Cave, with its efficient lighting system and concrete steps leading to its many attractive chambers.

Mr Roy Skinner, the chief guide, is confident that visitors to the caves this year will exceed 18,000.

The Tasmanian Caverneering Club has surveyed about six miles of the cave system associated with the creek which goes underground near the Ida Bay limestone quarry, and those who have visited the Ida Bay caves have been enthralled by the glow worms there.

The old chalet is to be retained and the front room will be used as a museum, containing a magnificent display of minerals and Tasmanian stones and relics of surrounding districts.

...Tasmanian Motor News, October, 1965

FOUR PAGES ABOUT

TOURING WITH THE R.A.

CAVE VISIT IDEAL DAY'S DRIVE

TASMANIA has some magnificent caves within an easy day's drive from the main centres of population, and a visit to one of these natural wonders could be a highlight of Spring and Summer motoring.

The caves at Hastings, Marakoopa, and Gunns Plains offer the tourist a chance to explore these natural phenomena in safety and at little cost.

All are lighted and tours are conducted by a competent guide. Charges for admission are standard — 6/ for adults and 3/ for children.

The Hastings caves are about 70 miles from Hobart via Huonville and Geeveston, but some parts of the road are in poor condition and about 2½ hours should be allowed for the journey.

The conducted tour takes about 45 minutes, during which the guide describes the fascinating formations, and visitors can inspect at close range limestone growths millions of years old.

An underground river adds to the wonder of caverns up to 100ft. deep, and children will find the visit especially enthralling.

Amenities and conveniences at and near the cave entrance include toilets, car park, picnic tables, and a chalet where meals are available.

The Marakoopa cave is 22 miles west of Deloraine via Mole Creek, and here again some parts of the road are rough but should not deter the visitor.

King Solomon's cave is another two miles from Marakoopa.

AMPLE PARKING SPACE

The Marakoopa cave is the only limestone cave in Tasmania where the remarkable glow worms can be found, and these tiny creatures give the effect of a clear, starry night within the cave.

Conveniences include clean toilets, tables, chairs, and hut with a fireplace for picnickers, and ample parking space.

The tour of the Marakoopa cave takes about one hour, and that of King Solomon's cave about 40 minutes.

The Gunns Plains Caves are about 16 miles from Ulverstone, all on good roads.

The guided tour takes about 45 minutes, during which visitors see the formations from five platforms and explore some 300 yards of cave.

Conveniences are excellent, and include toilet facilities, a fireplace, and a fresh water supply for picnickers, and a car park and rest area.

The hours of inspection vary at each cave, and visitors can obtain information about times and other details from the R.A.C.T. offices at Hobart, Launceston, Devonport, and Burnie.

Full information about road conditions, routes, and the caves themselves will be contained in a series of articles beginning in "Motor News" next month.

THE MERCURY, TUESDAY, 5/1/1960—15

Fire Closes Caves Temporarily

Hastings Caves will be closed for at least two days to permit repairs following a fire which damaged the lighting plant yesterday afternoon.

The prompt action of a tourist driver prevented the fire causing serious damage to the plant.

The driver, employed by the Pioneer Tourist Co., noticed the fire in the engine shed of the caves. It had started from the plant's generator, and he was able to prevent its spread with a fire extinguisher.

Repairs, however, will occupy at least two days, and the caves will be closed during that time.

Tas. Travelways June - July 1972

e-July, 1972.

The turnoff to Hastings is about three miles north of Southport.

The road into Hastings, the thermal pool, and the remarkable Newdegate Cave is surfaced with gravel, and apart from three short sections of corrugations, is in reasonable condition.

For most of the 12 miles the road is adequately wide for two vehicles to pass, but care should be taken on the bends, some of which have soft shoulders.

The road is used by heavy trucks carting logs, and in places it is advisable to pull off the road and stop to allow these to pass.

About 35 mph is a safe speed, but this will be reduced by dust if there is much traffic on the road.

A further deviation from this road to Lune River is possible, but the journey to Catamaran should not be attempted except in vehicles with four-wheel drive or exceptionally high ground clearance.

□

Many collectors of minerals and gemstones favour fossicking in this area, and recent roadworks have turned over the material on the roadside so that many specimens are available without digging.

A kiosk, restaurant, and picnic facilities, all in good condition, are available at Hastings, where the thermal pool attracts scores of bathers each weekend.

The temperature of the pool varies between 75 deg and nearly 90 deg, and the pool is emptied and refilled daily to ensure maintenance of temperature and a high standard of hygiene.

The pool is surrounded by gardens, with dressing-rooms, and toilet, picnic tables, barbecue facilities, and a hut equipped with tables and benches for those who prefer to eat under shelter.

Caves are spectacular

At peak now

ATTENDANCES in Tasmania's four limestone caves have been increasing annually — and not without good cause.

The spectacular formations have been imaginatively lit to create a wonderland of glittering minerals.

The awe-inspiring scenes can be viewed from well graded paths that thread through the labyrinth of chambers and tunnels deep underground.

Three of the four caves are under the control of the Tasmanian Government Tourist Bureau, and are located at Hastings, south of Hobart, and near Mole Creek, inland from Devonport.

The fourth cave is controlled privately and lies in the hills behind Gunns Plains, inland from Ulverstone.

The caves are open for inspection daily, at times listed on Page 2 of this issue.

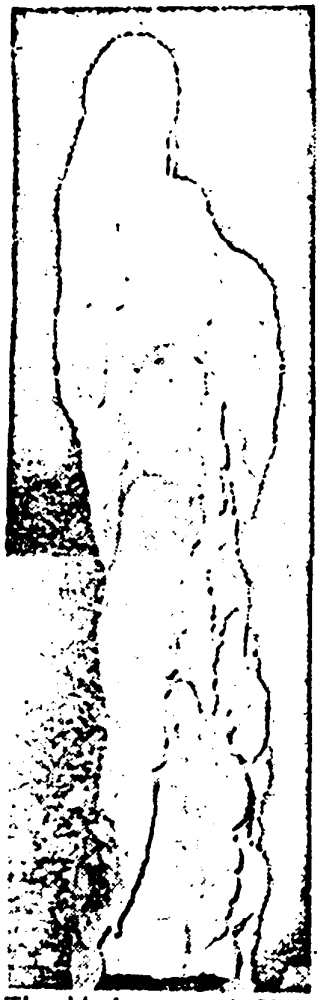
Admission fees to each of the caves is 60c for adults and 30c for children.

● Our photo shows part of the Altar formation in the Cathedral Chamber at Hastings Caves south of Hobart.

Galaxy of limestone caves in Mole Creek district is unequalled in the world

By T. W. Flowers

NOWHERE in the world can be found a galaxy of caves to equal those in the Mole Creek area, but the main drawback to tourist development is the abominable roads for which every Government department refuses to accept responsibility.



The Madonna and Child stalagmite in the Marakoopa Cave.

Mole Creek, with a population of around 600, covering an area of not much more than 10,000 acres, nestles under the Western Tiers, and Mt Roland.

It is over a century since the first settlers — the Howes and Walters families — came to the district. Much of the area was owned by the late Henry Reed who had the well-known Wesley Dale estate at Chudleigh.

The land was considered of little value and poor quality, and was used as Winter run for stock when Wesley Dale was too wet.

How wrong that theory was is proved by the magnificent dairy farms that now exist in the area, the secret being the clay subsoil and the natural limestone deposits.

Mole Creek gets its name from the large stream which emerges from underground some three miles south of the township, and as the early migrants were of British origin they reckoned that it put them in mind of a mole hole found in British streams.

There were no moles of course, but the creek contained countless platypus, and still does, and so Mole Creek has a name that has stuck for more than 100 years.

Almost the entire area is limestone rock in the outcrops.

A Government survey some years ago revealed that some of the areas of limestone were the richest in the world, but so far no mining of the stone has been done.

40 charted

Where you find limestone in areas so large as Mole Creek, you find those natural phenomena — caves.

More than 40 have been inspected and charted by the Tasmanian Caverneering Club and many more could be opened up with a little work.

Some of the principal ones are, Marakoopa, King Solomon, Croesus, Honeycomb, Lynds, Diamond, Soda Creek, Union, Ashdown, Kitchen, Wombat, Baldocks, Prohibition, Flowerpot, Waterworks, Scotts, Westmoreland, Howes, Kubla Khan, and Mersey Hill.

The first cave to be commercialised was King Solomon, found around 1906 by a paling splitter named Poachin.

This cave is unique in that no stream flows through it, and it is situated on a high rocky outcrop.

Access originally was down a 40ft ladder and only the young and agile would attempt the climb.

Illumination in those days was by acetylene gas, and the action of the gas almost turned the entire caves into a blackened mass.

Under cliff

The present entrance to King Solomon was put through by Mr W. Marchant and Mr Jabez Byard in the late 1930's and the cave is now very easy to explore.

Marakoopa, some five miles to the south-east at Mayberry, is larger than King Solomon, and is considered the better of the two.

Several of its features are unique; its glow worms are not found anywhere else.

This cave was originally found and explored by the brothers Harold and Jim Byard, who were reared from boyhood in the district.

One day while hunting wallaby they decided to follow the creek and find out where it came from. After beating their way through almost impenetrable scrub for about a mile, they found that the creek gushed out from under a limestone cliff.

Next day they returned with candles, and at once realised they had discovered something of importance. They got in touch with the Lands and Surveys Department and took up 20 acres which included the cave.

They then cut a track, removed rock, and opened the cave around 1912. Many thousands visited the cave and it became world famous.

The cave was sold to the Tourist Department after the First World War.

Immense

Money has been spent inside the caves on improving tracks but a large part has not yet been opened to the public.

The Croesus Cave could almost be called one of the seven wonders of the world. Words are inadequate to describe the spectacular beauty in the immense caverns, some of which would hold fair-sized buildings.

Every square yard is adorned with stalactites and stalagmites, the colouring ranges through every colour, and huge shawls hang from the roof in almost every colour.

The floor in most areas is covered with a dazzling maze of limestone crystals on a dark brown background. It takes about four hours to inspect.

Many approaches have been made to the Government to open this cave to the public, but the answers are always the same: "Too big," and "We have two others that are open."

Neglect

Some years ago, Mr Reg Howe, of Mole Creek, who incidentally built the staircases in Hastings Cave, submitted a plan for a miniature railway system for Croesus, but this received no backing.

If the Government is not interested in opening Croesus, it should let private enterprise do it.

Added proof of the neglect of the Tourist Department was seen when it bought Baldocks Cave many years ago from the late Mr Bert Martin.

This cave, although small, had some very fine features and was

22—THE MERCURY, WEDNESDAY, 23/1/1963

INQUIRY INTO INCIDENCE OF GLOW WORMS

INVESTIGATIONS are to be made to ascertain the extent of glow worms in the Marakoopa Caves.

The Minister for Tourists (Mr. Atkins) visited the Marakoopa Caves, at Mole Creek following reports by the guide that glow worms had been observed over a period in a chamber of the cave 150ft. off one of the pathways.

Mr. Atkins said that although a few glow worms could be seen on occasions in the lighted sections, their appearance was mostly spasmodic, and occurred usually after heavy rain.

The chamber where they had been seen gave every indication that displays would be consistent.

Regular observations would continue over the next few months, and if the display proved to be constant, estimates for costs for pathways and bridging would be obtained.

Mr. Atkins said that a glow worm chamber in a Tasmanian cave would be an outstanding tourist highlight, as had been proved by the world-wide publicity given the Waitomo glow worm cave in New Zealand.

Mr. Atkins was accompanied on the visit by Mr. Barnard, M.H.R., and the Director of the Tourist Department (Mr. Bessell).

THE MERCURY, SATURDAY, 1/10/1960—5

MINISTER TO GO ON CAVE EXPLORING EXPEDITION

MEMBERS of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club will take the Minister for Tourists (Mr. Atkins) on a cave exploring expedition this weekend.

The party will investigate Creasus Cave at Mole Creek, on the North-West Coast.

Creasus Cave is on the recently-developed Mersey Valley road area, and was discovered by the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

It is recognised by caverneers as one of the finest caves in Australia, being more than two miles long and only partially explored.

Among equipment to be carried by the party is a rubber dinghy.

This will be used to cross a large water-filled section of the cave, more than 60ft. deep in parts.

Two members of the Tasmanian Government Tourist Bureau, Mr. F. Southey and Mr. C. Haley, will make the trip to investigate the tourist possibilities of the cave.

Camera men from the Tasmanian Government Film Unit will film parts of the descent for tourist promotion work.

The cave is controlled by the Scenery Preservation Board, which has given permission for the expedition.

THE MERCURY, TUESDAY, 4.10.1960—5

CAVE TRIP WAS TOUGH TEST

MEMBERS of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club were impressed by the way the Minister for Tourists (Mr. Atkins) and two tourist leaders "roughed it" in the Croesus cave in the North-West at the weekend.

An official of the club said this yesterday, reporting on the trip by club members, the Minister, and Tourist Bureau officers, Messrs. F. Southey and C. Haley, of Hobart.

The party visited the cave at Liena on Saturday, he said.

They had been underground for some five hours, with discomforts such as wading through chill (43 deg. Fahrenheit) waters above their knees. At one stage a rubber dinghy had to be used to inspect the cave.

The Minister and the tourist officers had gone through it all and earned the respect of club members, said their spokesman.

The caverneering club, interested in Government development of the cave as a tourist resort, pointed out the fine formations of stalactites and stalagmites, the "golden stairs," 90ft. high and 15 to 20ft. in width, and the shawls — like hanging blankets.

Members put to Mr. Atkins their proposal that an electric train be used to take tourists into what was a very level cave.

The party had stayed overnight at Mole Creek and on Sunday inspected Marakoopa cave at Mole Creek, which is already a tourist attraction.

Mr. Atkins promised full consideration of the proposal, the spokesman said.

THE MERCURY, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1957.

MANY DRAWN TO MOLE CREEK CAVES

MOLE CREEK caves are proving an increasing attraction to visitors.

The Minister for Tourists (Mr. Neilson) said yesterday that from July last year until the end of last month there had been more visitors to the caves than for the whole of 1955-1956.

Increased interest was being taken in the Maracoopa Cave, which had attracted 1,919 visitors in the past 12 months, compared with 1,202 for the previous year.

Mr. Neilson said that he had visited the caves last week.

There had been considerable improvement of the road to King Solomon Cave.

Improvements were being carried out by the Forestry Commission, and it was expected the work would be completed before the end of the Winter.

With the early completion of the main road to Mole Creek by the Public Works Department, there would be a first-class road from Launceston to the Mole Creek Cave.

As the Forestry Commission had relieved the Deloraine Council of the responsibility of a section of the road to King Solomon Cave, Mr. Neilson said he had sought the co-operation of the council in improving the road to the Maracoopa Cave.

Mr. Neilson said that a large number of people had visited only one of the caves, as they were probably under the impression that both had similar features.

Each cave had its own distinctive features, and a visit to both caves was well worthwhile

THE MERCURY, TUESDAY, 7/1/1964—3

Blasting threat to Creosus Cave

From a special correspondent

OFFICERS from the Hydro-Electric Commission and the Public Works Department are going to the Mole Creek area to supervise blasting operations near the famous Creosus Cave.

Considered to be extremely delicate and brittle, the stalactites, may be endangered by the blasting which is being carried out for a commission road leading to the Mersey River.

The road will pass within about 300ft. of the cave.

Blasting, which has been proceeding for some time, is now approaching a critical point.

It was stated yesterday that to minimise the risk of damaging the unique formations, engineers may order some modified form of blasting.

Pilfering problem

Creosus Cave awaits development before it can be opened to the public.

Pending finance for such development, the Scenery Preservation Board some years ago blocked the cave entrance with an iron grille to stop the theft of stalactites.

However, water running into the cave scoured out the ground beneath the grille and allowed people to get in by crawling.

Then the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, which explored the cave, erected a locked gate inside the entrance. This has not so far been breached.

The club has told the Government that when Creosus Cave is finally opened and lighted, it will be the finest in Australia.

32 THE MERCURY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1956

IMPROVING CAVES FACILITIES

Facilities at Hastings Caves chalet and thermal swimming pool are to be improved.

The Minister for Tourists and Immigration (Mr. Neilson) said yesterday a tender had been accepted for a new toilet block at the pool, installation of showers, and construction of footpaths to the dressing sheds.

A new toilet block also would be erected at the chalet.

The installation of power at the chalet had almost been completed.

Mr. Neilson said a picnic shelter between the chalet and the swimming pool would be erected within the next few months.

THE MERCURY, 1956.

Cave May Be Attraction

Scotts Cave, about two miles south of Mole Creek, may become a tourist attraction.

The Minister for Tourists (Mr. Hand) has approved a suggestion by Mr. Duthie and Mr. Barnard, M.H.R., that the cave be opened up as a Government tourist attraction.

Mr. Hand approached Cabinet for funds to develop the cave, but was informed that none were available at present.

The cave was first discovered in 1907 and in 1910 was lit by acetelyne lamps and opened for inspection.

The cave remained open and was visited by thousands of people until 1936, when electricity was placed in King Solomon's Cave, which had become a Government tourist attraction.

Mr. Barnard and Mr. Duthie recently inspected the cave and its approaches.

THE MERCURY, FRIDAY, 4/9/1959—

N.W. CAVES MORE POPULAR

The Gunns Plains Caves —one of Tasmania's most famous tourist attractions —are proving more popular than ever before.

The number of tourists shown through the caves during the past year almost trebled the previous record and there are indications that the record will again be broken this year.

Mr. Graham C. Maxwell, official guide for the past 33 years, said last night that 5,653 visitors had inspected the caves in the 12 months since H.E.C. lighting was connected on June 7 last year.

Previously it was unusual to have more than 2,000 tourists in a year.

Mr. Maxwell said the installation of power and work carried out on the caves last year had proved a "terrific boost" for the caves.

TASMANIA'S CAVES ATTRACT INTERSTATE ENTHUSIASTS

25/12/6?

TASMANIA'S caves again have attracted parties from other States as well as local caverneering enthusiasts.

Parties of caverneers from New South Wales have invaded the State to explore and search for caves.

A seven-man party from Canberra will go to Exit Cave, near Ida Bay, through thick scrub to see the cave's fine display of glow worms.

The cave is said to have the finest display of glow worms in Australia and New Zealand.

The Gordon River will have two parties who will travel by boat to the river's upper reaches in search of caves and take photographs of the area.

The Tasmanian Caverneering Club has made two trips to the area in search of caves to add to the tourist attractions of the river.

The club has a big programme of trips in Tasmania, with both branches undertaking projects.

The main party will have its headquarters at Mole Creek.

Specimens, which are hoped will include the bones of mammals and the Tasmanian tiger, will be collected and sent to experts.

During the year the caverneering club has been training boy scouts and New Town High School boys in the Duke of Edinburgh award and it is hoped to interest more boys in the thrills of caverneering.

THE MERCURY, SATURDAY, 10/10/1959—13

HOLE EARNS CASH

BEIRUT. — A hole in the ground is being turned into big business at the nearby grotto of Jeita, which enthusiastic pot-holers are promoting as a new kind of tourist attraction.

Plans are already being made to open up parts of it which are at present lost in darkness.

The grotto is a series of limestone caves under Mt. Lebanon leading towards the source of the Nahr El Kalb, or Dog River, which flows through them. The river, known in classical times as the Lycus, provides Beirut's water supply.

Jeita was opened to the public for the first time in July this year and in the first two months was visited by nearly 11,000 tourists who paid about £22,000 Lebanese (about £2,400 sterling) for the hour's boat trip through the cathedral-like grotto with its mighty stalagmite and stalactite formations, and dazzling rock and water colours ranging from blood-red to emerald green.

Although it is a recent development, and not well advertised, the fame of the grotto is spreading fast, as tourists visiting Lebanon from all over the Middle East go to see it. One of them recently described it as "the wonder of the world."

A British team of engineers made the first thorough investigation of the grotto in 1873 when they were making a hydrological survey for the Beirut Water Co. They penetrated about 3,250 feet into the cave network and left a bottle standing on an upward forming stalagmite.

After 86 years, that bottle now has a covering of calcite less than half an inch thick, giving an idea of how many millions of years it has taken for the grotto's great calcite formations to grow to their present fantastic, and often sculpture-like, shapes.—A.A.P.

12—THE MERCURY, FRIDAY, 18/12/1959

CLAIMED CAVES NOT DRAWING TOURISTS

A CLAIM that the Hastings Caves area was neglected by the Government as a draw for oversea tourists was made by Cr K G Mundy at Wednesday's meeting of the Esperance Council.

Cr. Mundy said a ratepayer in the area was of the opinion that the Hastings Caves had been ignored by the Tourist Department.

Although car excursions were arranged for several hundred Iberia passengers, none visited the caves.

Cr. Mundy said the man had pointed out that the caves were developed as a tourist attraction at considerable cost, yet despite declining attendances no attempt was made to publicise the spot.

The Warden (Mr. W. E. Briteliffe) said following the council suggestion that another swimming pool be developed from running water with a temperature of 70 deg., he had visited the area with officers of the department and was amazed not only at the warm stream but the attractive vegetation of the forest, which would be a great draw for tourists.

Cr. R. C. Sharp said tourists from all over the world would flock to an area which had such attractive caves and hot springs if properly developed.

The Warden: The only catch is that a bigger pool would cost £10,000, but that is a fleabite compared with what is spent on tourist attractions on the Mainland.

Cr. D J. Owens said members of the Caverneering Club were constantly discovering new caves in the area.

The council decided to stress the importance of developing the area for tourists and to invite members of Cabinet when they next visited the district.

Nine attractive posters were submitted by school-children for adoption for use in welcoming tourists to the municipality.

The contest, which carried a prize of £2 2/, was won by Keren Russell, of Geeveston.

The council will provide a reward of £50 for information leading to the conviction of vandals at the Geeveston swimming pool.

Cr. C. R. Cairns, who sponsored the motion, said that recently a child cut her foot on a broken bottle in the pool and another had to have an injection when he injured his foot on a fish hook.

Councillors opposed participation in the proposed Southern ambulance scheme, claiming they were well served by the ambulance based at Huonville.

10—THE MERCURY, TUESDAY, 8-10-1968

More see our caves

EVERY day in the past financial year an average of 55 people wandered through Tasmania's four limestone caves.

The Minister for Tourists (Mr Atkins) said yesterday 20,088 people inspected limestone caves open to the public in 1967-68 — slightly more than the previous year.

And this "can be considered quite satisfactory in view of adverse conditions both in other States and in Tasmania during 1967-68."

At the Newdegate Cave, Hastings, there were 12,176 visitors; King Solomon Cave, Mole Creek, had 5,761; Marakoopa Cave, Mole Creek, 2,073; and Gunns Plains Caves, 2,078.

At Hastings the new restaurant with seating for 80 had proved popular.

An innovation at Hastings had been evening inspections by organised groups, mainly for photography.

Evening group inspections could also be arranged at the Mole Creek caves.

40—THE MERCURY, MONDAY, 25-8-1967

Subterranean wonderland

ONE of Tasmania's best tourist attractions, the limestone caves and thermal swimming pool at Hastings, which attract about 17,000 sightseers a year, will be given a boost soon by two developments.

A modern restaurant will be built to serve the increasing numbers of visitors to the caves, and the widening and sealing of the Huon Highway from Dover to Southport is scheduled for completion this Summer.

Visitors will then be able to reach the caves from the city in less than two hours.

The sealed section already has reached Strathblane, five miles south of Dover, and the road has been widened and regraded as far as Settlement Hill, leaving only about eight miles for similar treatment and sealing during the Summer.

Plans for the restaurant have been approved by the Esperance Council, and the building, will be erected by the Public Works Department.

Provision has been made for a weatherboard structure of about 2,300 square feet.

The restaurant will be 30ft. by 25ft. in addition to the kitchen, cool rooms, and storage space.

There also will be staff accommodation with three bedrooms and living quarters.

The new development is evidence of the popularity of the caves and thermal pool, and this year more than 18,000 persons are expected to see these attractions.

Explorations by the Tasmanian Caverneering Club are likely to greatly increase the attractions of the caves.

Members have surveyed about six miles of the cave system linked with the creek which goes underground near the Ida Bay limestone quarry.

When the new exit cave is opened, the display of glow worms will rival those in the celebrated New Zealand caves.

Opened more than 30 years ago, Newdegate Cave is renowned for its beauty, with a great variety of stalactite and stalagmite formations.

THE MERCURY, TUESDAY

JULY 23, 1957.

Gunns Plains Caves May Be Improved

The Scenery Preservation Board is to consider proposals for improvements to the Gunns Plains Caves.

The Minister for Tourists (Mr. Neilson) said yesterday that the Director of the Tourist and Immigration Department (Mr. Bessell) had recommended that improvements be undertaken, and the caves be leased privately so that they would be available for inspection by tourists at suitable times.

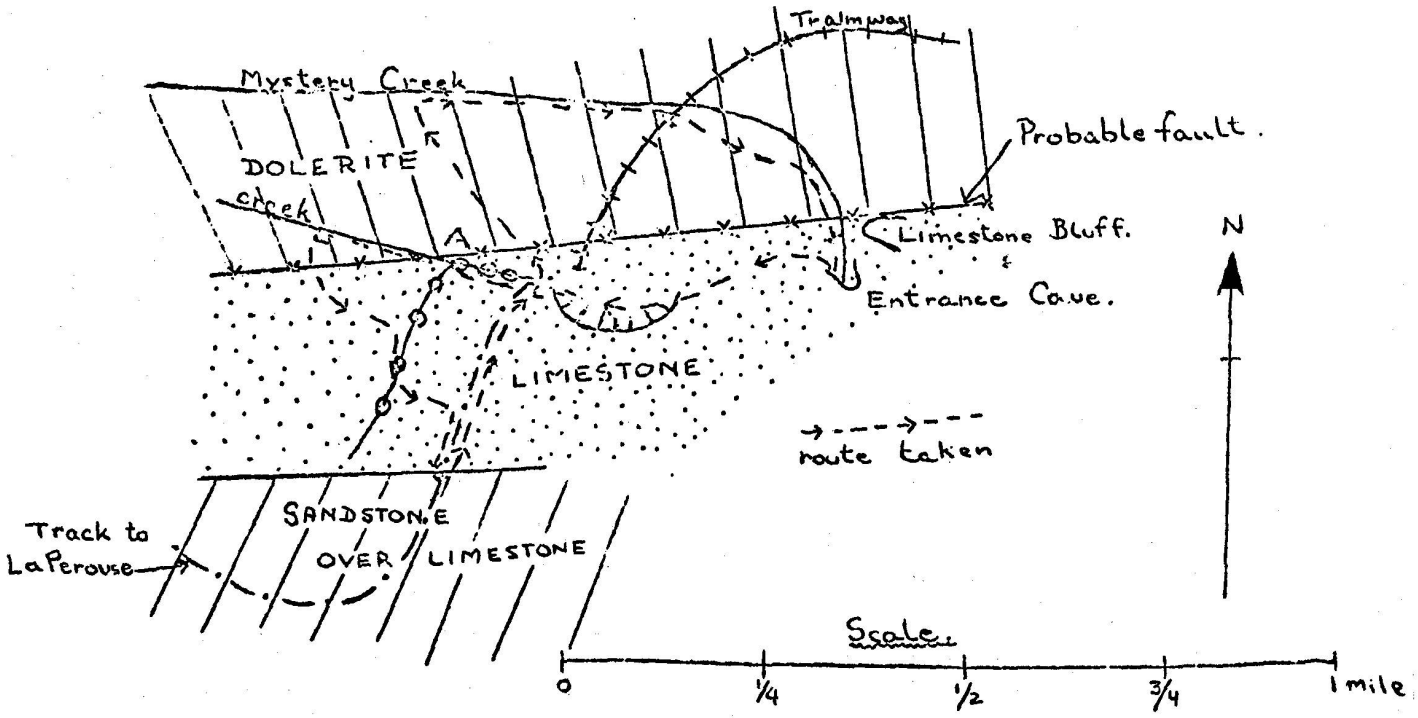
Mr. Neilson expressed appreciation of the voluntary developmental work done by the Ulverstone Tourist and Progress Association during its term as lessee of the caves.

A few similar items have been omitted.

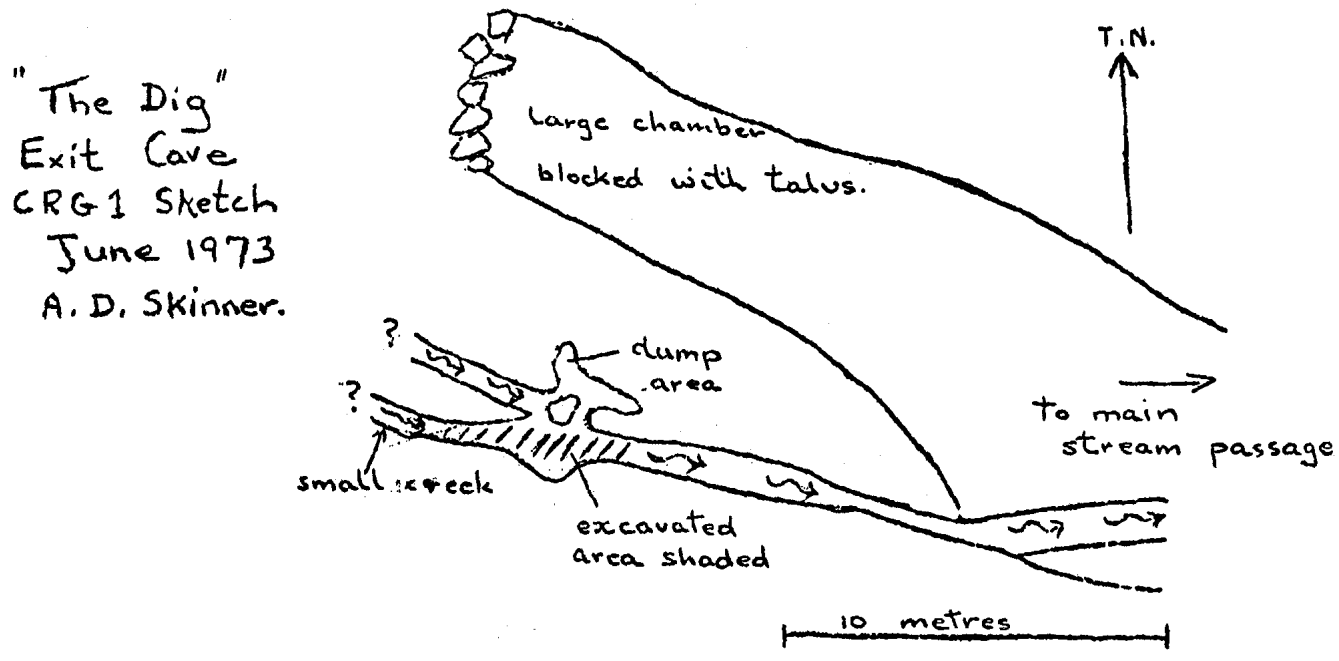
APPENDIX O
SKETCH MAPS

[Some plans have been adjusted to fit the available space]

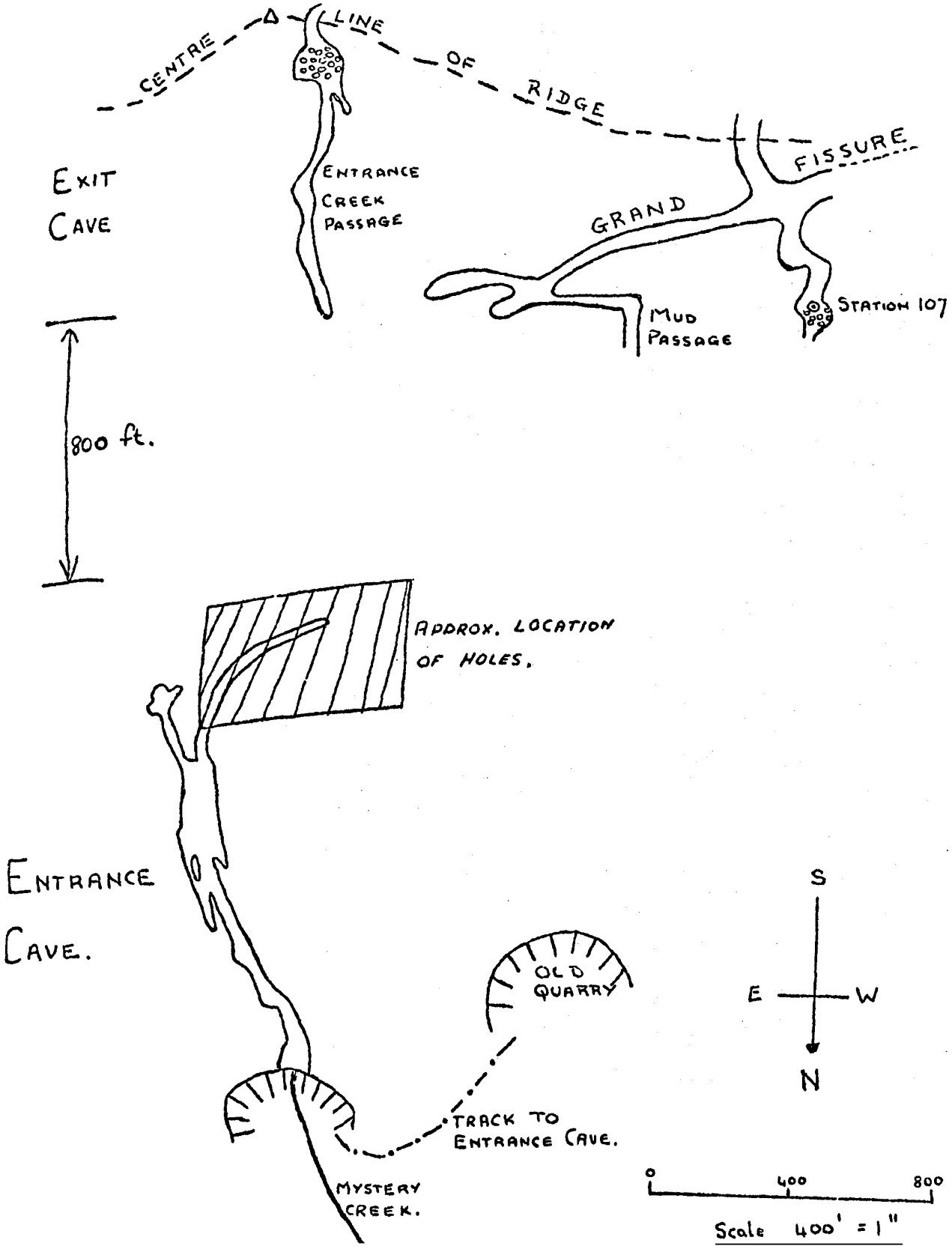
SKETCH MAP NO. 1
IDA BAY NORTH AREA
Published May 1968 "Speleo Spiel" No. 24
Drawn by B. Collin



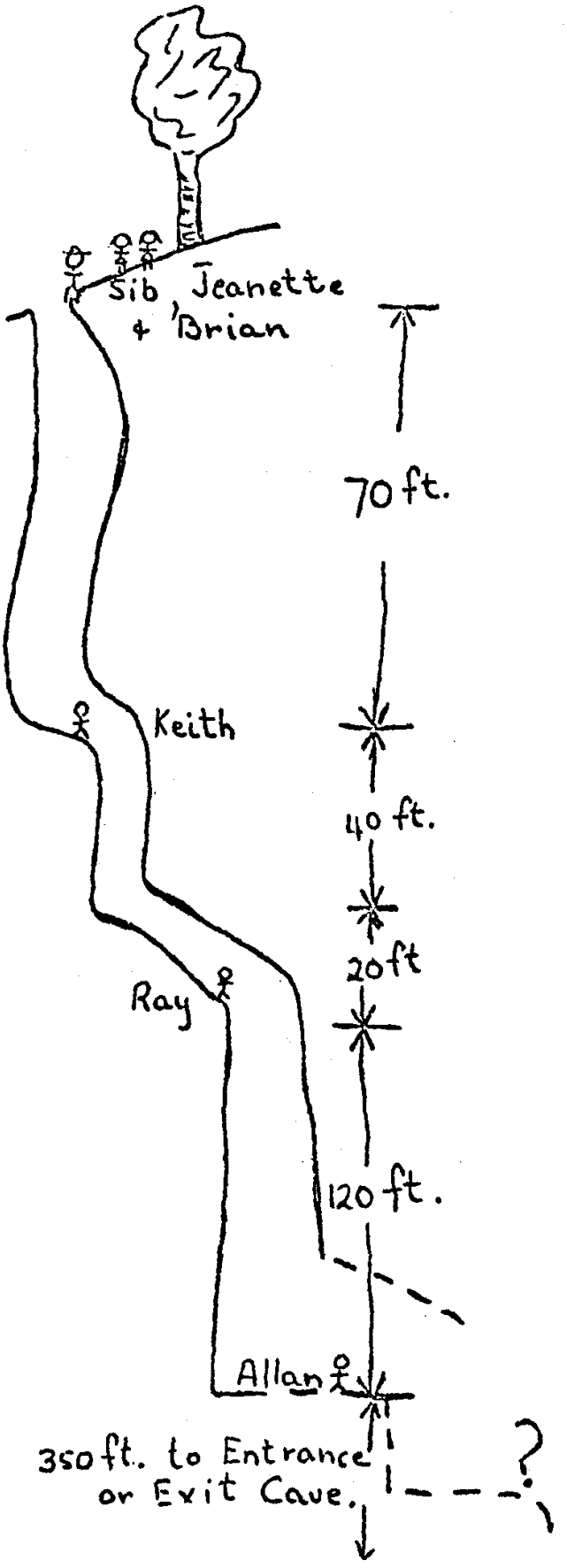
SKETCH MAP NO. 8
"The Dig"
Published June 1973 "Speleo Spiel" No. 80
Drawn by A. Skinner



SKETCH MAP NO. 2
Location of Midnight Hole
Published August 1968 "Speleo Spiel" No. 27
Drawn by B. Collin

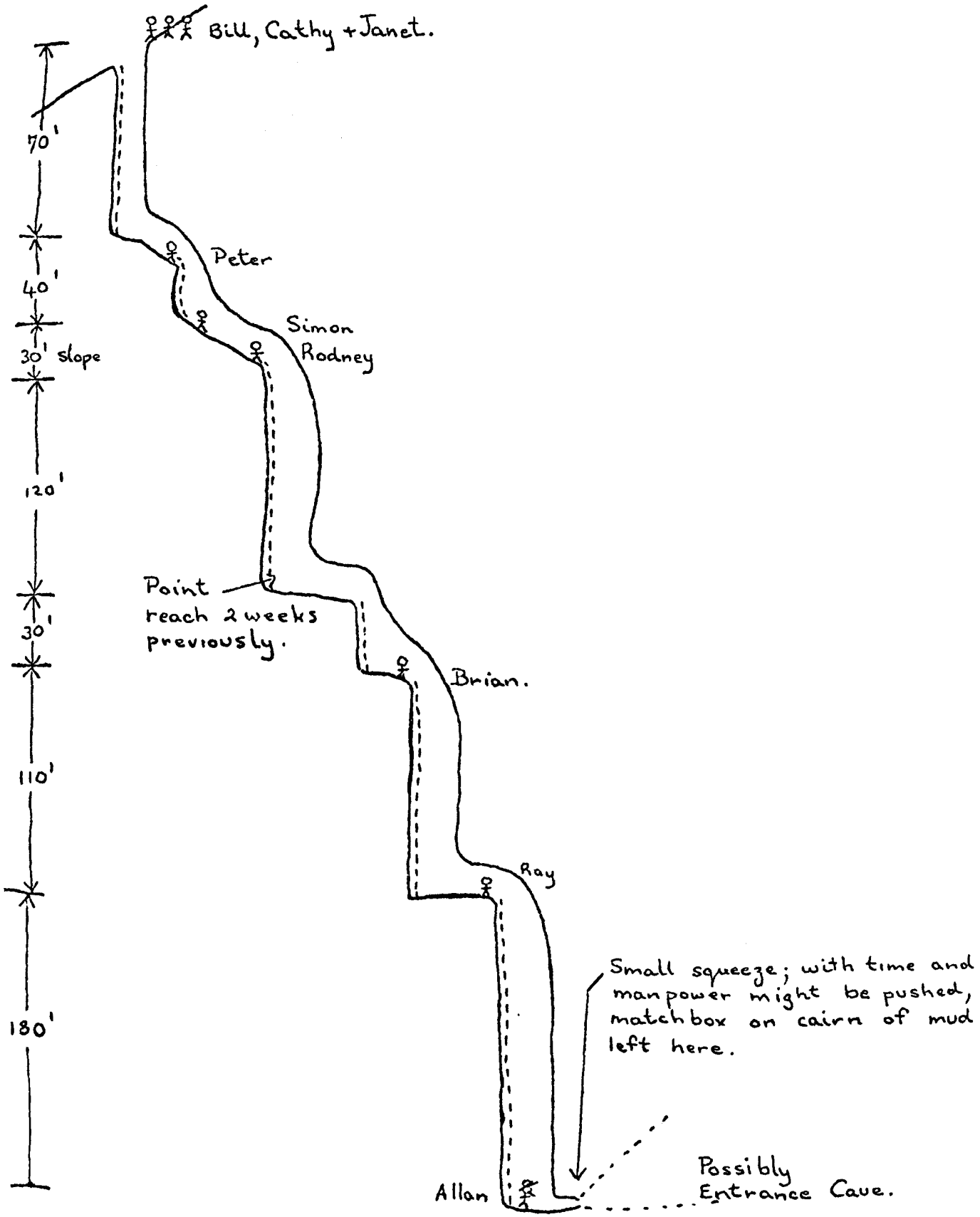


SKETCH MAP NO. 3
MIDNIGHT HOLE
Published August 1968 "Speleo Spiel" No. 27
Drawn by B. Collin



SKETCH MAP NO. 4
MIDNIGHT HOLE
Published August 1968 "Speleo Spiel" No. 27
Drawn by B. Collin

MIDNIGHT HOLE.



SKETCH MAP NO. 5
CHOCKSTONE POT
PUBLISHED December 1968 "Speleo Spiel" No. 31
Drawn by Brian Collin

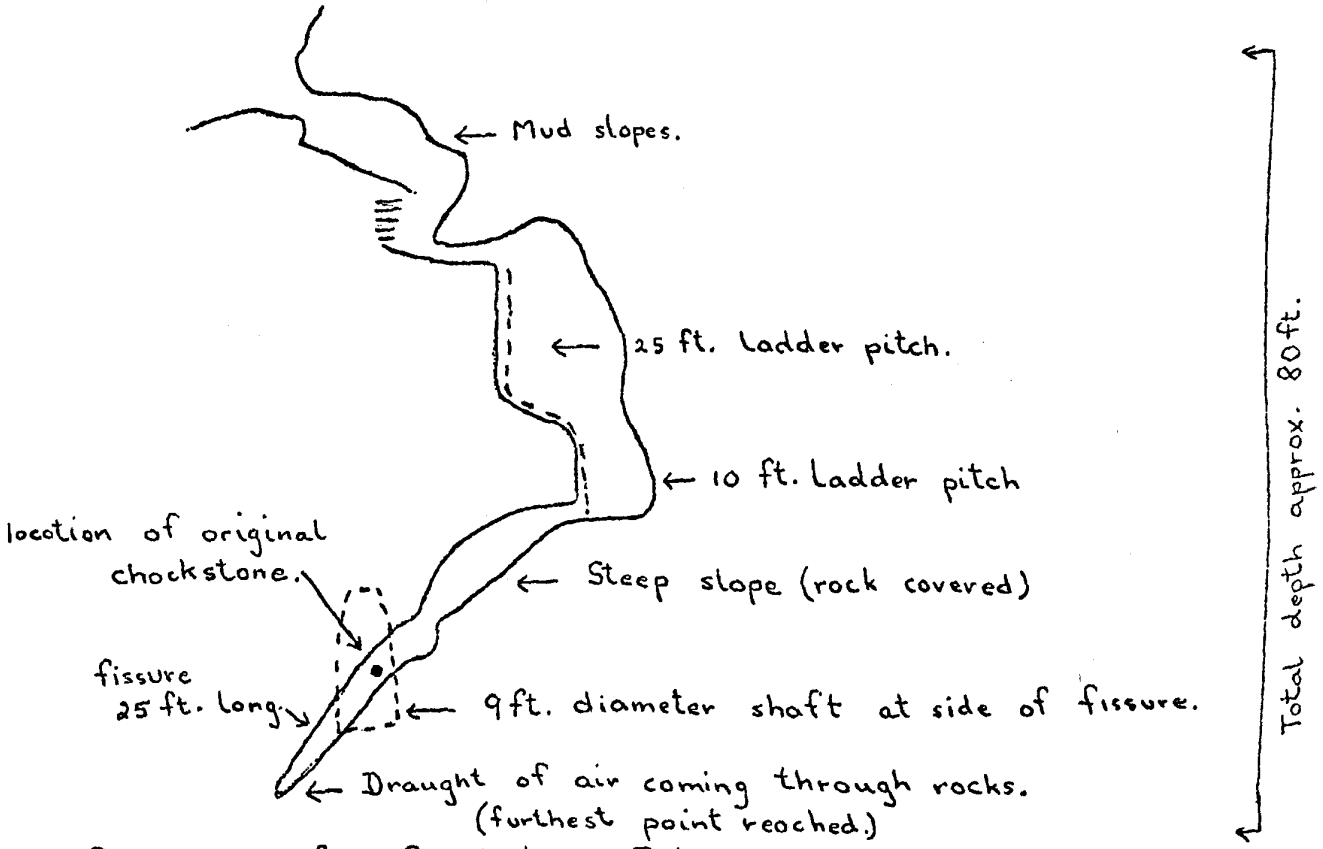
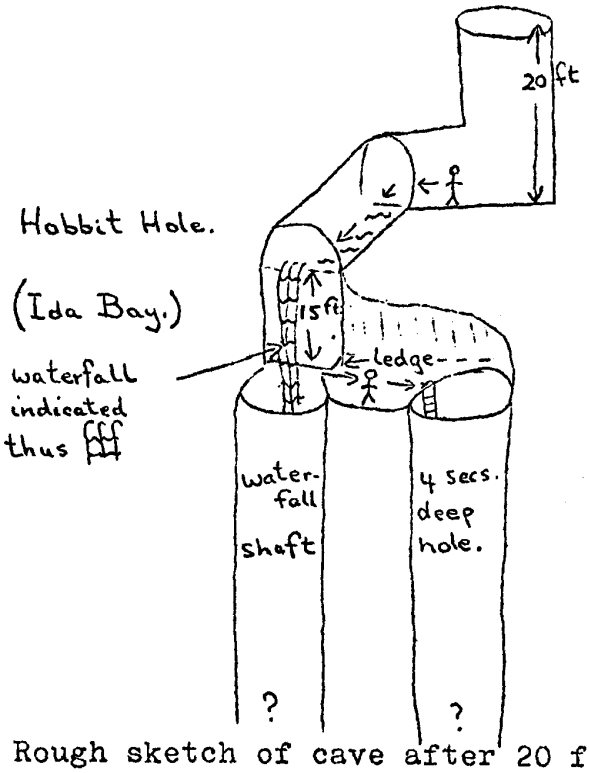


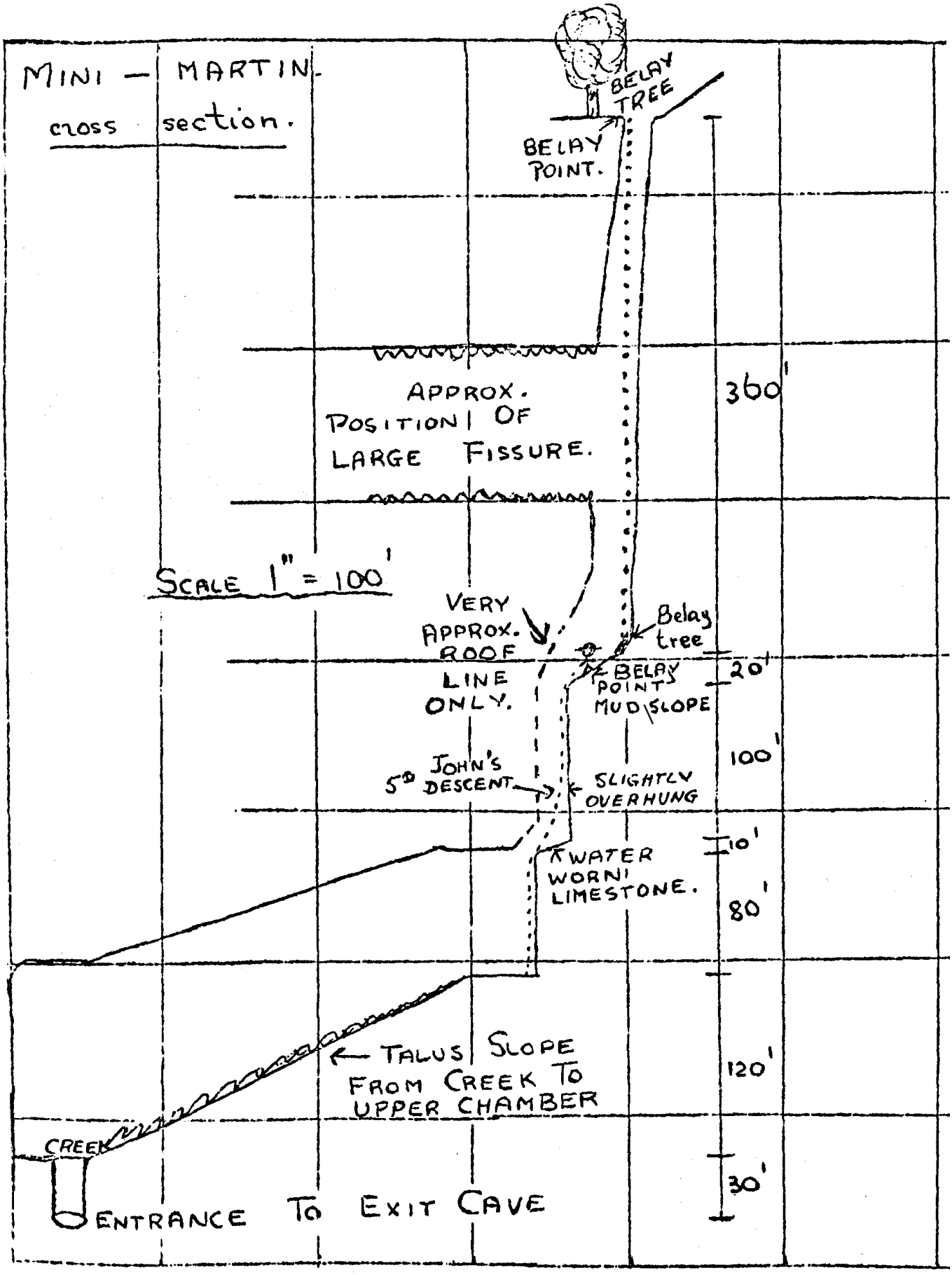
Diagram of Chockstone Pot.

SKETCH MAP NO. 6 HOBBIT HOLE
Published May 1969 "Speleo Spiel" No. 35
Drawn by K. Sparreboom



Rough sketch of cave after 20 ft. pitch.

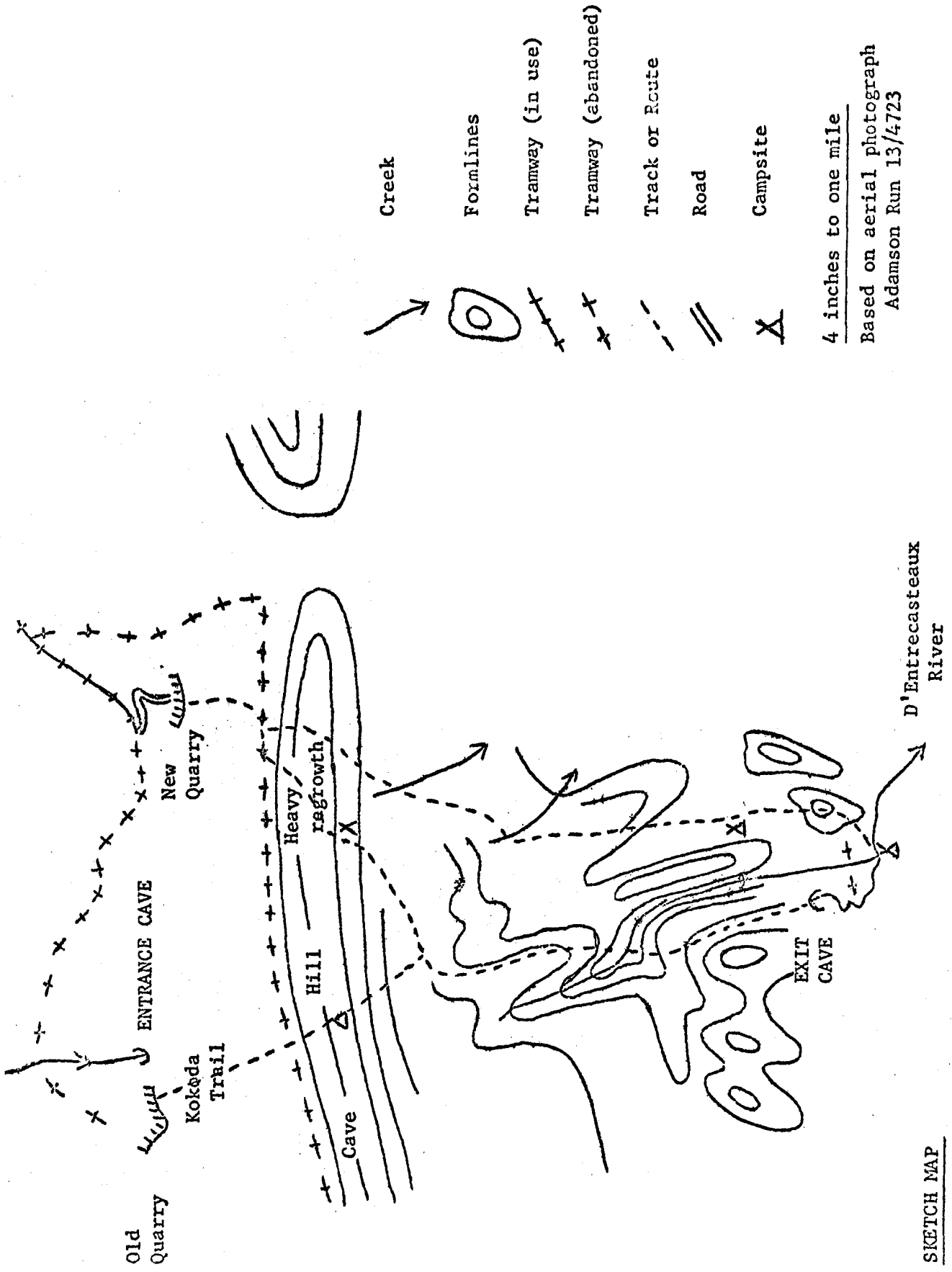
SKETCH MAP No. 7
MINI-MARTIN
Published September 1967 "Speleo Spiel" No.17
Drawn by A. Goede



SKETCH MAP NO. 9

ACCESS TO EXIT CAVE

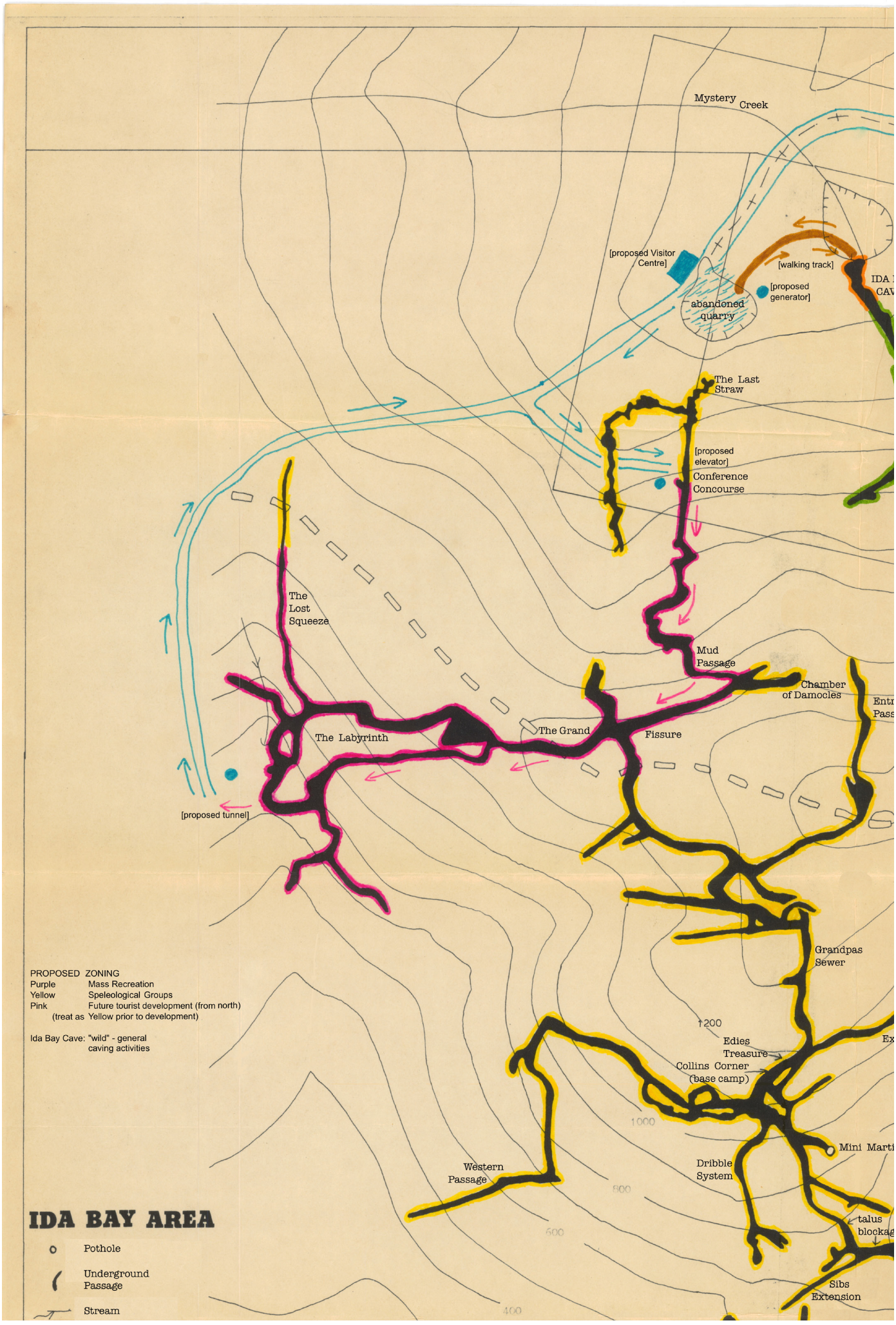
Published in September, 1960. Bulletin of Tasmanian Caverneering Club No. 4 Drawn by M.H.de Vries

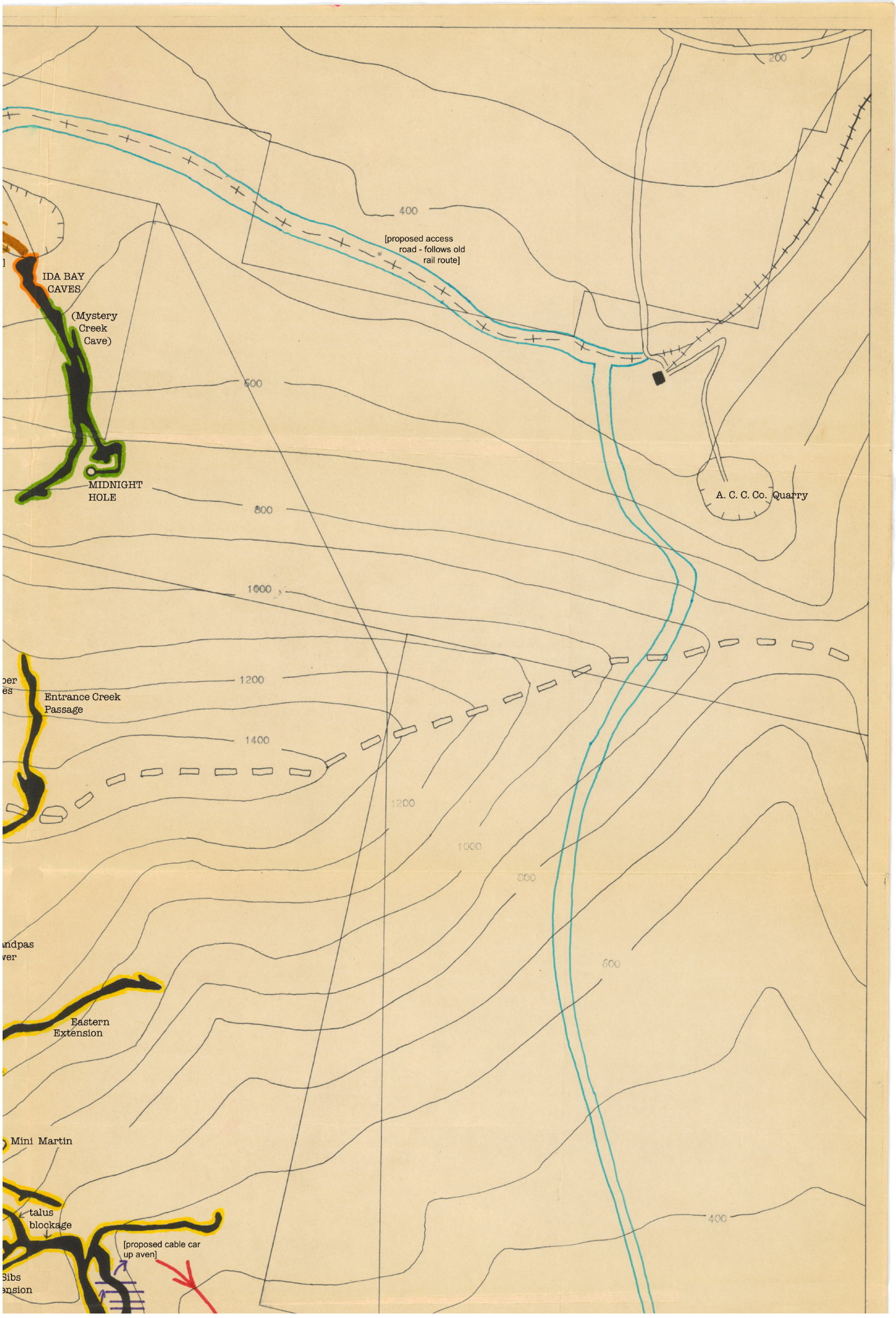


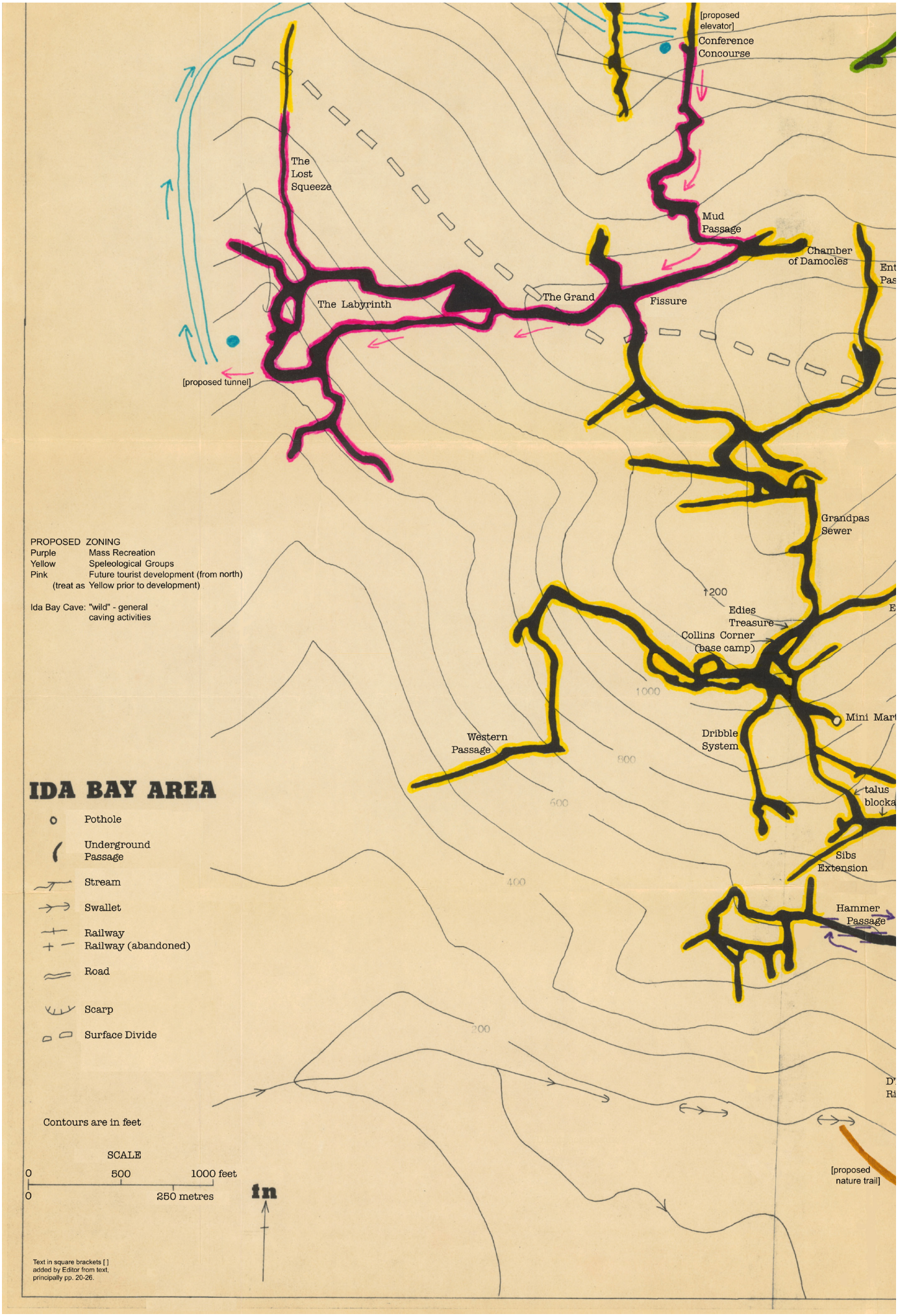
APPENDIX P
MAPS

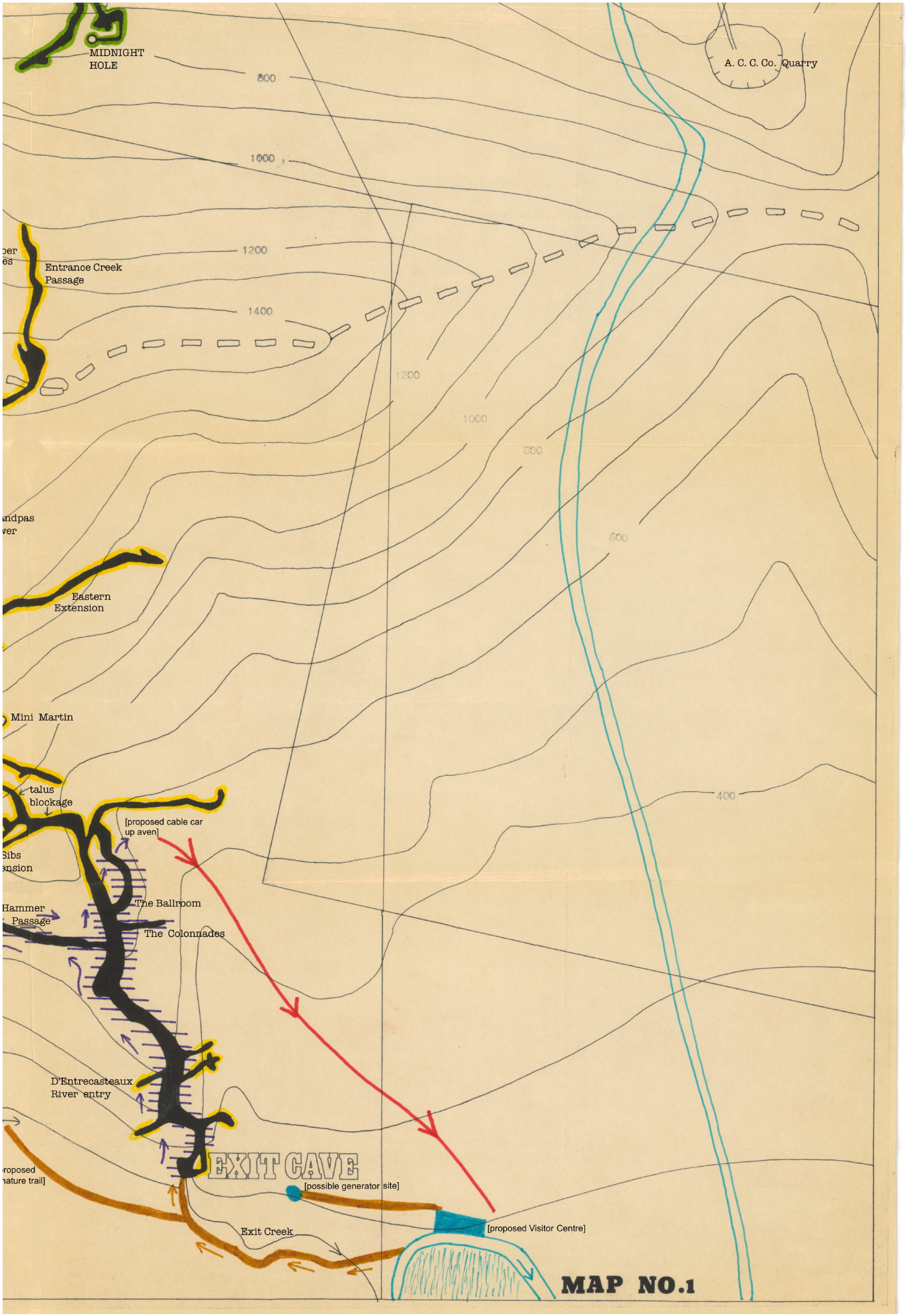
SURVEY DATA [Map 4] 1st km Semi-permanent survey markers of orange tape

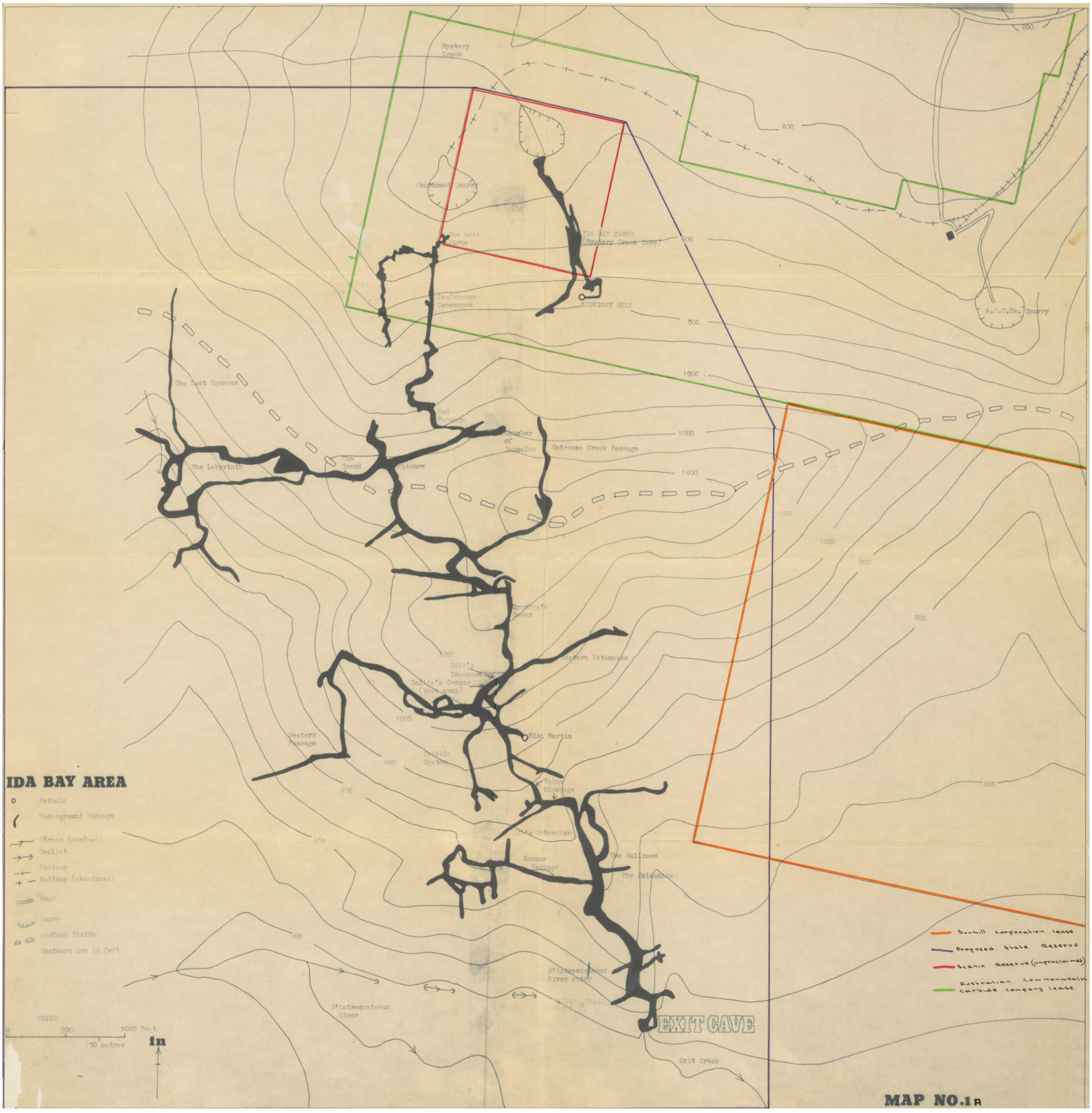
Station	*distance feet*	*bearing*	*elevation*	*distance metres*	*corrected distance m*
1-2	59’8”	132°	+9°	17.89	17.39
2-3	58’1”	353	+38	17.69	10.86
3-4	96’3”	320	+45	29.32	14.94
4-5	43’5”	321	-6	13.23	13.06
5-6	92’8”	319	-10	28.25	27.28
6-7	76’1”	2	+15	23.17	21.44
2-8	108’5”	163	-7	33.3	32.73
8-9	94’3”	120?	+65	28.78	7.6
9-10	63’	235?	+39	19.19	11.48
10-11	78’2”	65?	+5	23.82	23.61
8-12	100’10”	164	-1	30.73	30.6
12-13	52’1”	156	+12	15.86	15.09
13-14	81’7”	201	+2	24.85	24.82
14-14a	100’	222	+30	30.46	22.38
14-15	81’1”	199	+32	24.7	17.81
8-16	85’10”	218	+40	26.16	15.26
16-17	47’1”	230	+45	14.34	7.31
17-18	64’1”	292	+38	19.52	11.98
18-19	54’10”	284	-5	16.72	16.58
19-20	48’1”	233	+1	14.61	14.6
20-21	35’3”	212	+10	10.73	10.36
21-22	56’1”	274	-3	17.08	17 .02
22-23	96’1”	225	-9	29.26	28.44
23-24	103’10”	281	+6	31.65	31.25
15-25	92’10”	155	-5	28.30	27.99
25-26	89’	108	-3	27.11	27.0
26-27	77’5”	103	-22	23.59	19.19
27-28	84’7”	111	+12	25.78	24.51
28-29	86’9”	157	-11	26.6	25.50
29-30	96’4”	123	0	29.33	
30-31	102’	145	-7	31.07	30.54
31-32	87’5”	223	+12	26.64	25.32
32-33	89’6”	186	+1	27.3	27.2
33-34	85’1”	130	+30	25.91	19.03
34-35	45’3”	91	-23	13.78	11.48
35-36	40’8”	61	+17	12.39	11.20
36-37	48’1”	97	-22	14.64	12.38
37-38	69’	84	-29	21.02	15.75
38-39	100’10”	157	+12	30.73	29.21
39-40	120’	159	+2	36.5	36.4
40-41	41’6”	259	-6	12.94	12.77
41-42	44’	220	0	13.40	
42-43	32’	316	-10	9.74	9.41
43-44	68’	311	-5	20.71	20.53
44-45	31’	66	0	9.44	
44-46	44’	183	+15	13.40	13.0

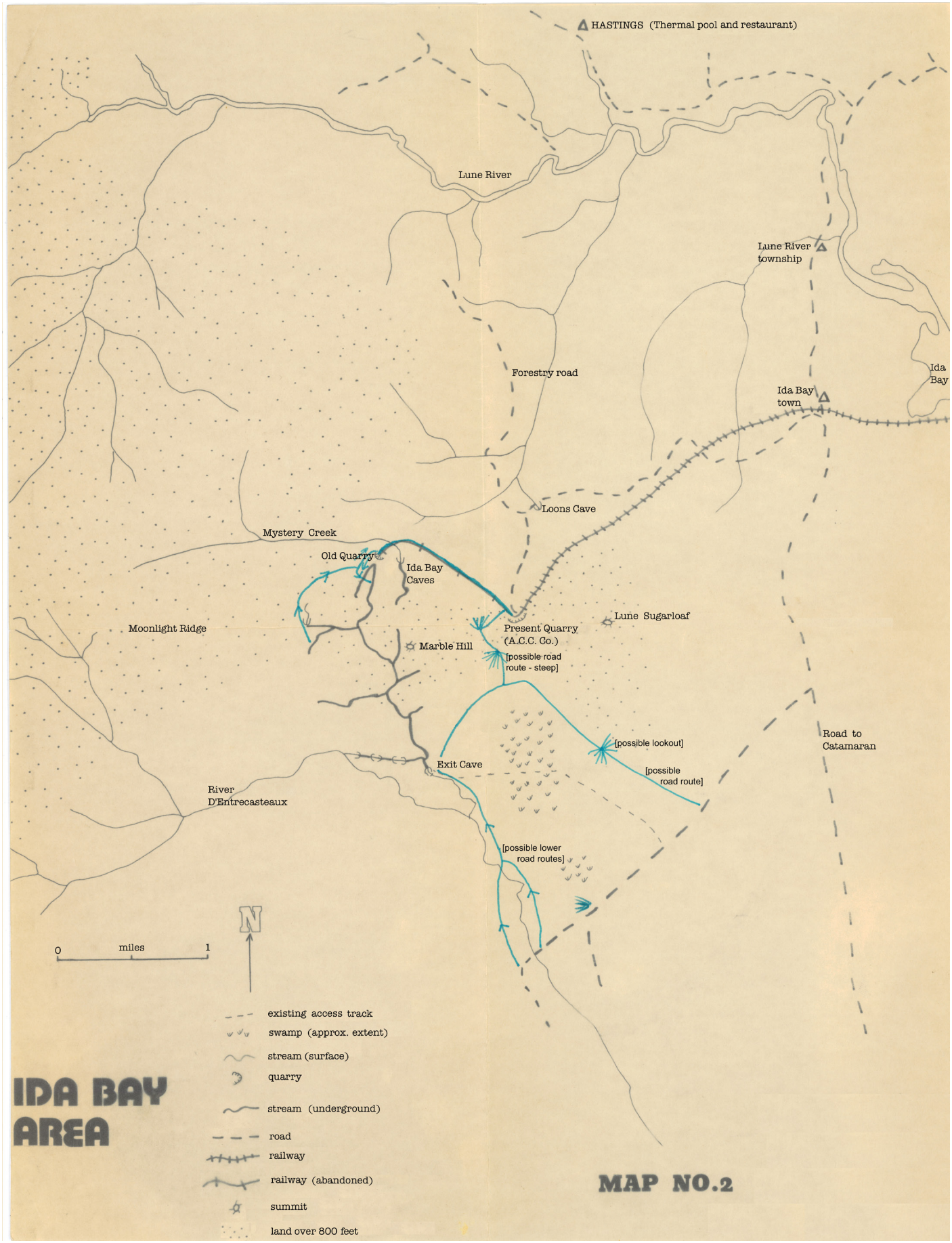

Mystery Creek
[proposed Visitor Centre]
[walking track]
[proposed generator]
abandoned quarry
The Last Straw
[proposed elevator]
Conference Concourse
The Lost Squeeze
Mud Passage
Chamber of Damocles
The Labyrinth
The Grand
Fissure
[proposed tunnel]
Grandpas Sewer
1200
Edies Treasure
Collins Corner (base camp)
1000
Mini Marti
Dribble System
Western Passage
800
600
talus
Sibs Extension
400
PROPOSED ZONING
Purple Mass Recreation
Yellow Speleological Groups
Pink Future tourist development (from north)
(treat as Yellow prior to development)
Ida Bay Cave: "wild" - general caving activities
IDA BAY AREA
Pothole
Underground Passage
Stream

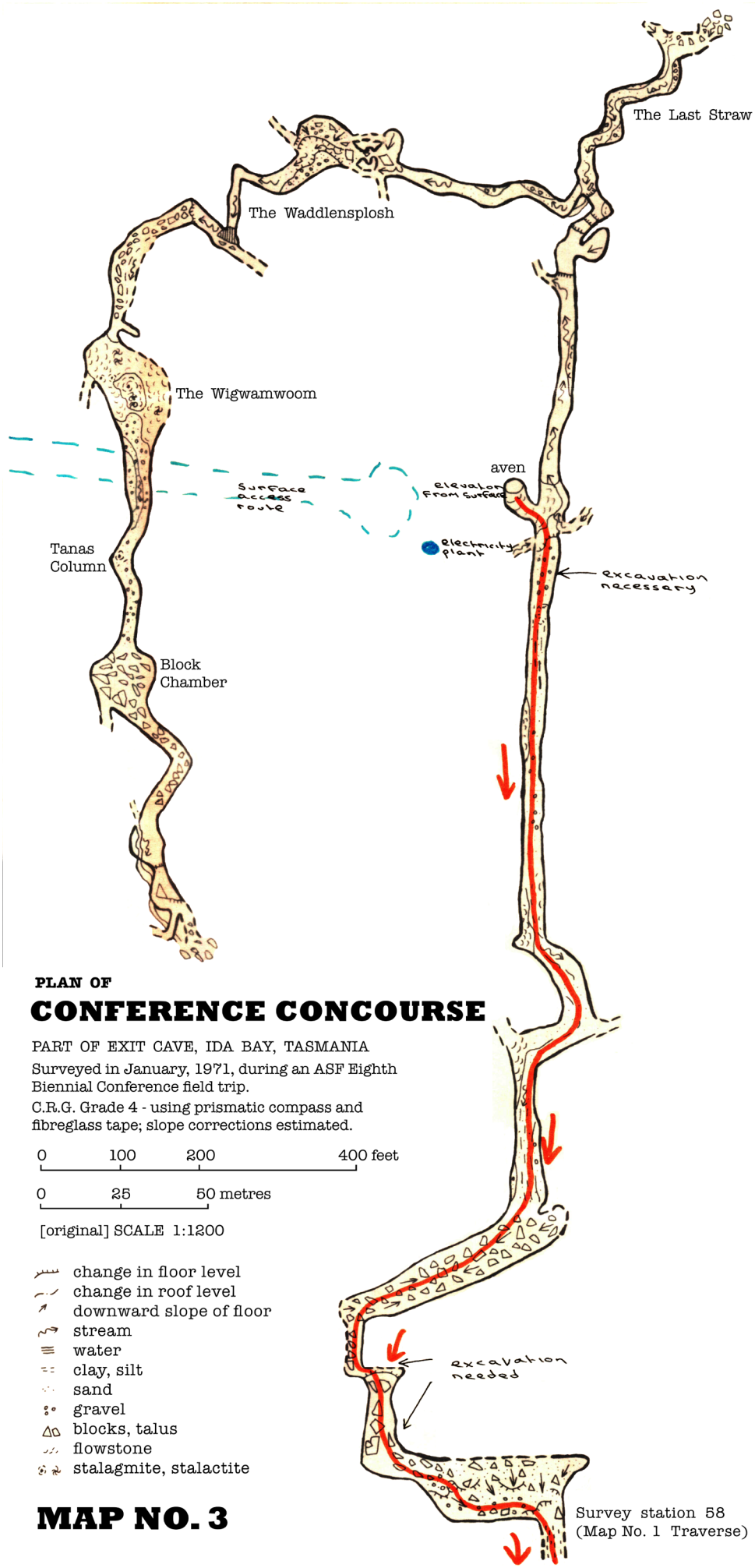

200
400
[proposed access road - follows old rail route]
IDA BAY CAVES
(Mystery Creek Cave)
500
MIDNIGHT HOLE
800
A. C. C. Co. Quarry
1000
1200
Entrance Creek Passage
1400
1200
1000
800
600
Eastern Extension
Mini Martin
talus blockage
[proposed cable car up aven]
400


[proposed elevator]
Conference Concourse
The Lost Squeeze
Mud Passage
Chamber of Damocles
The Labyrinth
The Grand Fissure
[proposed tunnel]
Grandpas Sewer
1200
Edies Treasure
Collins Corner (base camp)
1000
Mini Mart
Western Passage
Dribble System
800
600
talus blocka
Sibs Extension
400
Hammer Passage
200
[proposed nature trail]
PROPOSED ZONING
Purple Mass Recreation
Yellow Speleological Groups
Pink Future tourist development (from north)
(treat as Yellow prior to development)
Ida Bay Cave: "wild" - general caving activities
IDA BAY AREA
Pothole
Underground Passage
Stream
Swallet
Railway
Railway (abandoned)
Road
Scarp
Surface Divide
Contours are in feet
SCALE
0 500 1000 feet
0 250 metres
fn
Text in square brackets [ ] added by Editor from text, principally pp. 20-26.


MIDNIGHT
HOLE
800
1000
1200
1400
A. C. C. Co. Quarry
Entrance Creek
Passage
1200
1000
800
600
Eastern
Extension
Mini Martin
talus
blockage
[proposed cable car
up aven]
The Ballroom
The Colonnades
Hammer
Passage
D'Entrecasteaux
River entry
EXIT CAVE
[possible generator site]
[proposed Visitor Centre]
Exit Creek
400
MAP NO.1


IDA BAY AREA
Pothole
Underground Passage
Stream (surface)
Swallet
Railway
Railway (abandoned)
Road
Quarry
Surface Divide
Contours are in feet
SCALE:
0 500 1000 feet
250 metres
in
Mystery Creek
Abandoned Quarry
IDA BAY CAVES (Mystery Creek Cave)
MIDNIGHT HOLE
A.C.C.Co. Quarry
The Lost Squeeze
The Labyrinth
The Grand Pleasure
Chamber of Tranquility
Entrance Creek Passage
Eastern Extension
Eddie's Treasure
Eddie's Corner (Dead End)
Mini Martin
Western Passage
Hammer Passage
The Ballroom
The Columbids
D'Entrecasteaux River Cave
D'Entrecasteaux River
EXIT CAVE
Exit Creek
Sunhill Corporation lease
Proposed State Reserve
Scenic Reserve (unproclaimed)
Australian Commonwealth Carbide Company lease
MAP NO.1B


HASTINGS (Thermal pool and restaurant)
Lune River
Lune River township
Forestry road
Ida Bay
Ida Bay town
Loons Cave
Mystery Creek
Old Quarry
Ida Bay Caves
Moonlight Ridge
Present Quarry (A.C.C. Co.)
Lune Sugarloaf
Marble Hill
[possible road route - steep]
[possible lookout]
[possible road route]
Road to Catamaran
Exit Cave
River D'Entrecasteaux
[possible lower road routes]
N
0
miles
1
existing access track
swamp (approx. extent)
stream (surface)
quarry
stream (underground)
road
railway
railway (abandoned)
summit
land over 800 feet
IDA BAY AREA
MAP NO.2



PLAN OF

CONFERENCE CONCOURSE

PART OF EXIT CAVE, IDA BAY, TASMANIA

Surveyed in January, 1971, during an ASF Eighth Biennial Conference field trip.

C.R.G. Grade 4 - using prismatic compass and fibreglass tape; slope corrections estimated.

0 100 200 400 feet

0 25 50 metres

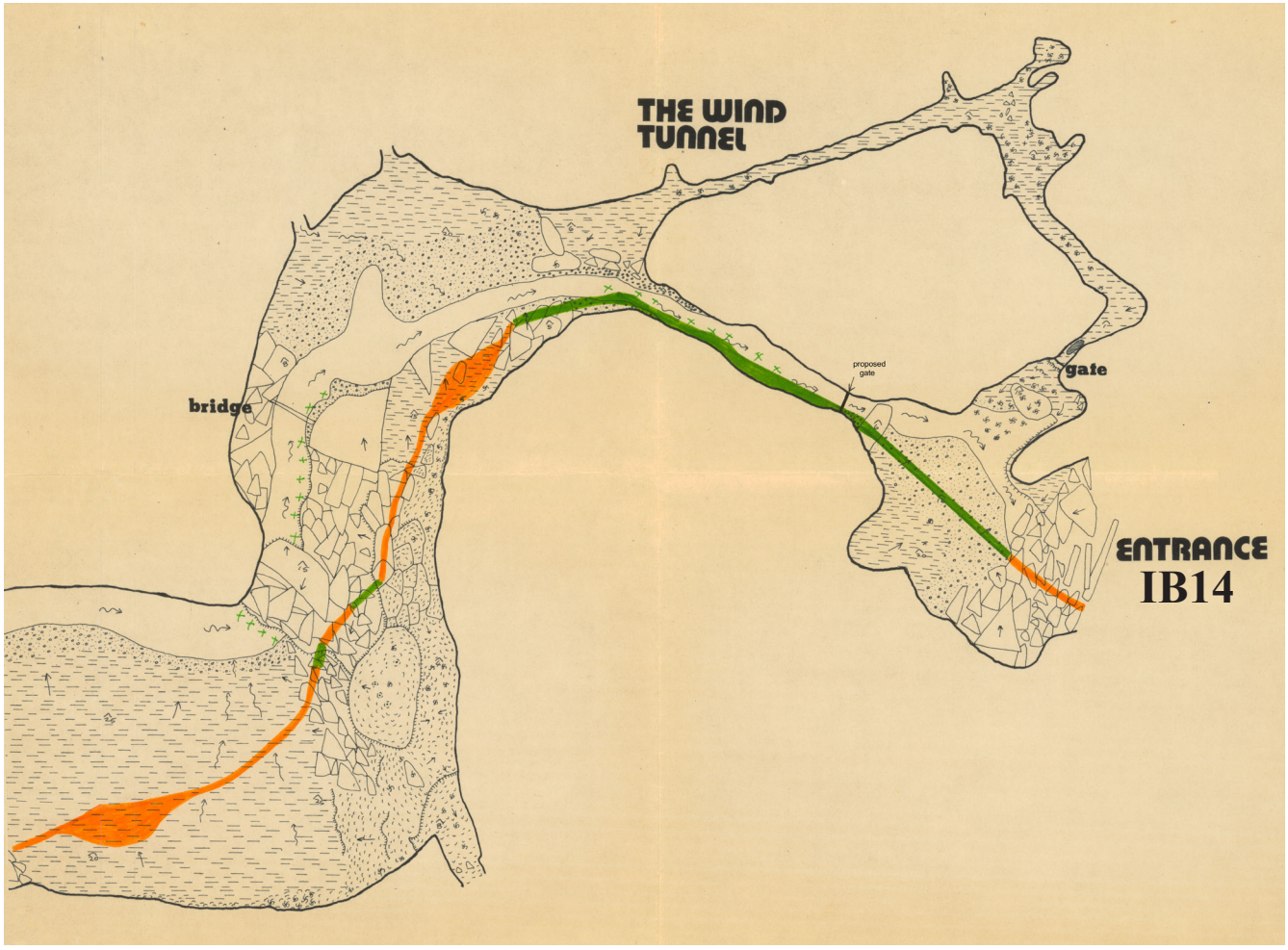
[original] SCALE 1:1200

- change in floor level
- change in roof level
- downward slope of floor
- stream
- water
- clay, silt
- sand
- gravel
- blocks, talus
- flowstone
- stalagmite, stalactite

MAP NO. 3

Part MAP No. 4
Entrance and Wind Tunnel

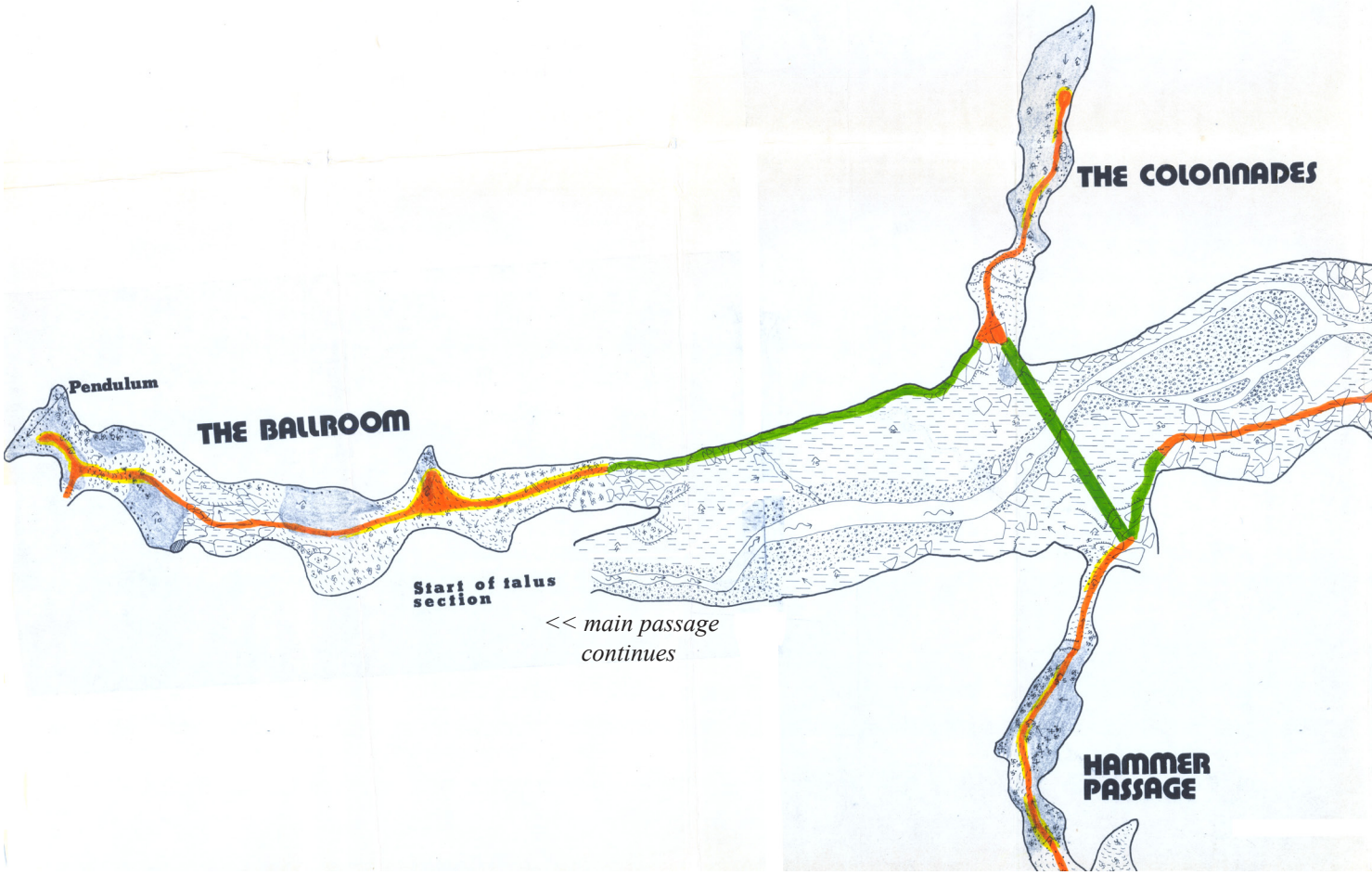
[same scale as main map]



<<< *joins page 123*

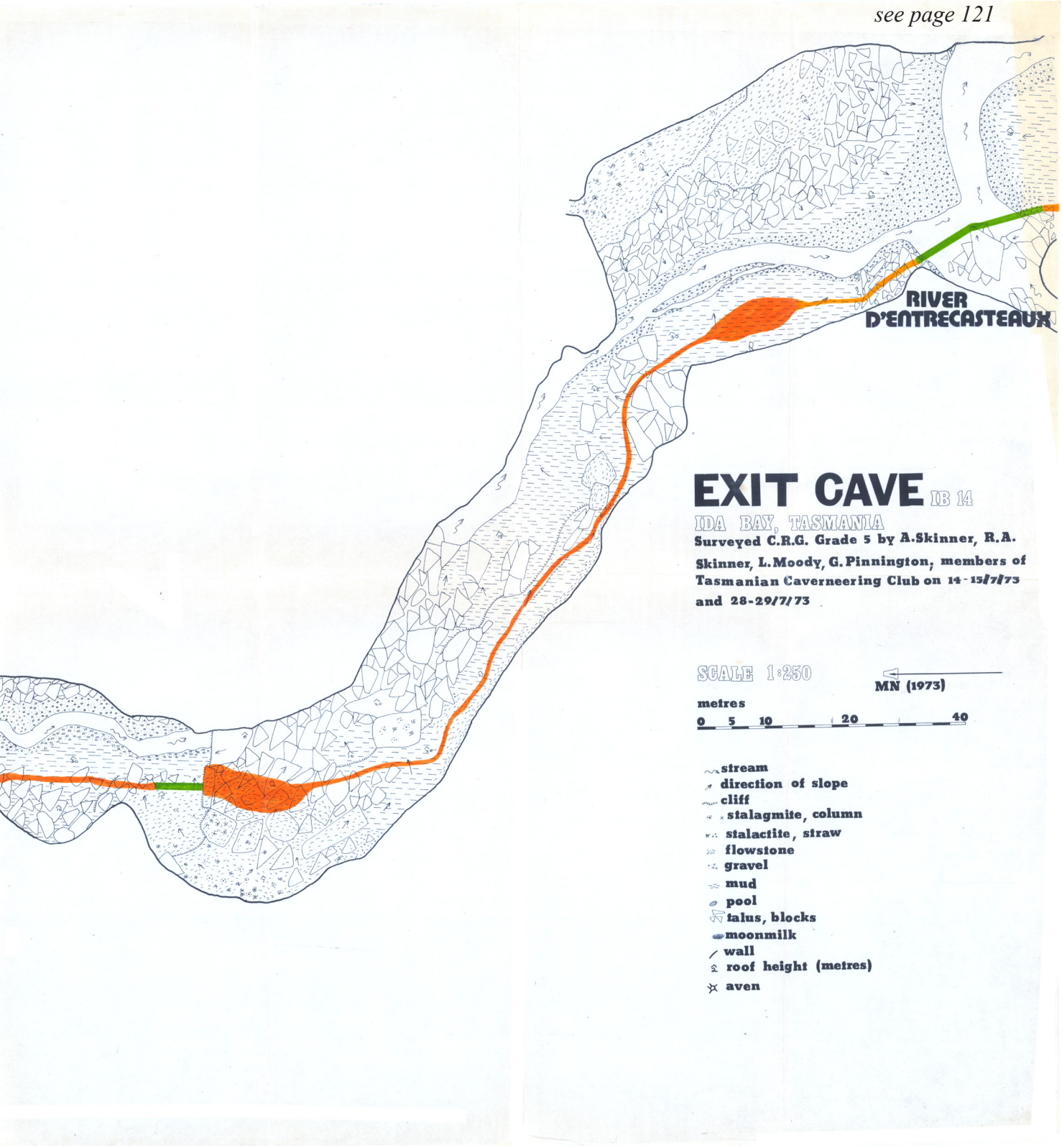
MAP No. 4 PART OF EXIT CAVE

Showing proposed tourist walkways = coloured orange
Bridges, stairways and suspended walkways = coloured green
Protection for formations required = yellow borders



for continuation see page 124

to entrance >>>>
see page 121



continues from page 122

APPENDIX Q
THE ESPERANCE AREA - PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos 90-98 and 112 were taken using an Asahi Pentax SP 500 camera. Photos 90-91, 95, 96, 97, 98 and 112 were taken using Kodachrome II colour film (64 ASA). Photos 92-94 were taken using Agfa colour film (50 ASA).

Photo 90. Outdoor enthusiasts on ice-covered Lake Hartz. Mt Hartz in the background.

Photo 91. View from Hartz Peak. Lake Hartz is in the foreground, with Mt Picton behind. Mt Anne is on the far right.

Photo 92. View from Moonlight Flats, looking towards Mt La Perouse (obscured by mist). The Hippo is the sharp hill on the left.

Photo 93. Thermal Pool at Hastings.

Photo 94. In Newdegate Cave.

Photo 95. Existing restaurant at Hastings.

< *Photo 96. The Lune River.*

Photo 97. Aerial view of Mt La Perouse.

Photo 98. Recherche Bay.

Photo 112. Cockle Creek, southern end of Recherche Bay.