

# SOUTHERN CAVER



**No. 68**  
**October 2014**



**In this issue:**  
**Southern Caving Society**  
**trip reports 1965-1980**

**Occasional Journal of Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc.**

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## Editorial

When SCS joined with TCC and TCKRG in December 1996 to form STC, the merged group inherited, *inter alia*, files containing the originals of many SCS caving trip reports, going back to 1965 which had never been published. SCS normally only published brief summaries of its activities in *Southern Caver*, generally under the heading "Area Reports".

In his enthusiastic search for details of the history of many of Tasmania's iconic caves, Alan Jackson came across these reports and decided they should be made available to all in order that the story of the discovery and exploration of our caves might be better understood. Over a period of months in 2012, along with active caving AND editing *Speleo Spiel*, Alan transcribed all the SCS reports in our archives, covering the period 1965 to 1980 (with an unfortunate gap between June 1973 and February 1976). These are now provided in chronological order – and, if you are reading the PDF version, in digital format so they are fully searchable.

Some comments on things which anyone doing a search should be aware of:

1. Dates. These are generally written in the format dd/mm/yy so use that format if searching for a particular day.
2. Cave areas. Names have not always been applied rigorously or as they may be today (2014), e.g. Junee-Florentine is sometimes referred to as Junee, or Maydena.
3. Units. Distances are in feet, yards and miles; temperatures are in °F.

Material in square brackets [ ] has been added by the editors. Minor punctuation and spelling changes have been made.

Contemporary photographs have been added for illustrative purposes; none were in the original reports. We thank the photographers who contributed material.

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STC was formed by amalgamation of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, Southern Caving Society and Tasmanian Cave and Karst Research Group in 1996.

STC is the modern variant of the oldest caving club in Australia, founded 1946.



## Southern Caver

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#### Cover photo:

The Khan and Begum, Kubla Khan Cave, Mole Creek, Tasmania.

Photo by Fred Koolhof, late 1960s.

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## Background

*The Southern Caving Society came into being on 7 April 1965 with a foundation membership of 36 members, 18 of them active. The first recorded trip made by the society – to Hastings – was made on 9 May 1965. During the initial twelve months a total of fourteen trips were made by the Society, ten of these being to the Mole Creek area, one to the Maydena [June-Florentine] area and the remaining three were to the Hastings area. Four of these trips, three to Maydena and one to Hastings, remain unrecorded.*

*During the second year, 1966, twenty-three trips were conducted – Mole Creek fourteen, Maydena five, two trips to Hastings and two to Lune River. Only four of these trips, two to Maydena and two to Mole Creek, have been recorded.*

*Adapted from: Anon. 1967 History of the Society. Southern Caver, 1(1): 1*

## 1965

**SCS Trip Report Mole Creeek** [apparently Dangerous Hole MC372, but first part of this report is missing]

Recent rockfalls noticed and cave appears to be even more dangerous than ever. First talus slope negotiated with some difficulty, first and second drops negotiated. Cave wall has dropped out from underneath making entrance route even more unstable and dangerous. Cave has changed extensively since last visit. Further collapse has occurred under formation section. Upon president's recommendation Dangerous Hole has been banned to members for obvious safety reasons (and other clubs advised of its state). Strong air movement was observed through a hole under the formation section. Time underground 2 hours.

Remainder of members visited Little Trimmer and Quarry Cave. Track has been made by timber cutters to within 20 ft of entrance to Quarry Cave. Possible cave in doline 5 chains to the left and up the hill from Quarry Cave reported by local contact.

S. Vince

### SCS Trip Report Mole Creek 21-22/8/65

Party: R. Taylor, S. Vince, E. Guinan, J. Morley, R. Cockerill, B. James, G. Wilson, G. Dans, D. Elliott.

Saturday morning. 1: scrub-bash from Shishkabab\* to Herberts Pot. Several entrances examined. Bearings taken of Shishkabab and Herberts. 2: Overland survey Georgies to Dangerous-Shishkabab. Saturday evening: Visit to Westmorland Cave – explored to impassable

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\*The name of MC155, according to *Aust. Karst Index 1985* is Shish Kebab but it was originally written by TCC, when changing its name from 'Top Hole', as 'Shish Kabub' – *TCC Circular*, Feb-Mar. 1965.

water level – water level marked by cairn built on false floor at head level. Saturday night: Exploration of Georgies Hall, back entrance to Georgies Hall proper discovered from entrance cave (LHS). Returned over Georgies Rock. Root Hall visited and also mid-level caverns. Returned to surface 4.00 am

R. Taylor

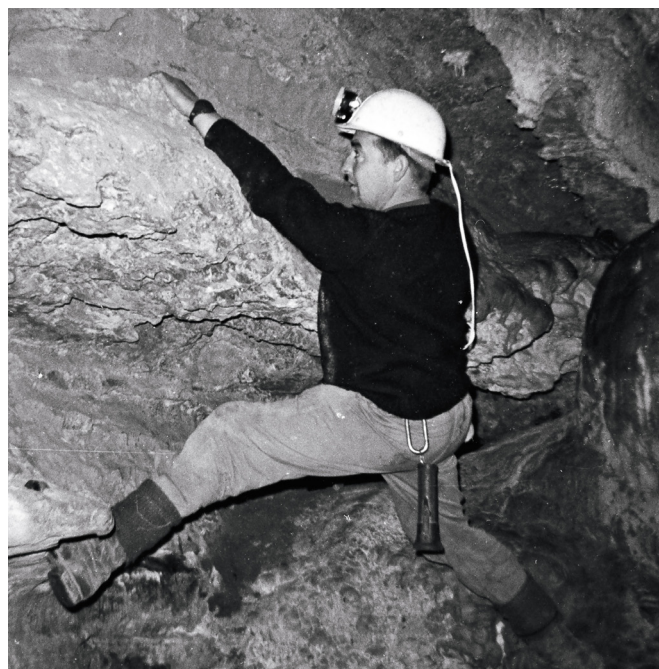
### SCS Trip Report Mole Creek 25/9/65

Party: E. Guinan, S. Vince, B. James, G. Davis, T. Cornish, R. Mann, R. Horner, R. Cockerill

Meeting with Bob Woolhouse and NBTCC ladders rigged at Shishkabab and main chamber inspected. Party split into two groups.

1: Water level exploration – flowstone section – ladder rigged over water and G. Davis floated on li-lo to find that water reached by crack in same pond – no further extension at water level. Small chamber above water named Candle Chamber. Water in the "siphon" 6 inches lower than normal.

2: Old Jamaica Corner attacked by EG, CD, BJ – no advance – needs concentrated modification by geology picks. NE corner well explored, no extensions found. Some extensions in W corner. Some photography carried out. Party left cave 12.00 am Sunday.



*Barry James, Hon. Life Member of SCS, in Honeycomb Cave, Mole Creek.*

*Photo: SCS Archives.*

### SCS Trip Report Mole Creek 9-10/10/65

Party: E. Guinan, R. Morley, R. Horner, B. James, S. Vince, B. Taylor, R. Mann, A. Campbell

EG, RM, RH attacked Old Jamaica Corner (in Shishkabab) – no further success. BJ, SV, BT, RM, AC – further exploration of talus floor. Full party then explored the talus but no new discoveries. Left cave 6.00 pm. On Sunday a party of boy scouts arrived at Honeycomb.

SCS party went to Georgies Hall and proceeded out Wet Cave via Root Hall, Eldorado Chambers, the Siphon, Sennacheribs Passage and the Eureka Link. J. Morley met with non-existent foothold and descended under the waves – no artificial respiration required. Time underground 4 hours. Scout party still at campsite and were given a lecture on the joys of caving by president James.

#### SCS Trip Report Maydena 1/11/65

Commenced scrub-bashing at 11.00 am. Saddle above limestone outcrop investigated (Chrisps Rd) and small cave found (Pygmy Cave Sept. 1960 TCC A. Goede, F. Brown). Valley over crest investigated. Shaft requiring 60 ft ladder investigated by S. Vince – false floors, partial choke by rocks etc. Valley contains 40 ft face of limestone on side. Floor of valley contains large drainage sump – no extensions. A small cave with very rotten formations found in face and named Rotten Cave. Shaft 30 ft deep no extension investigated by R. Cockerill. Party then made car trip to Gordon River Road and finally left Maydena at 6 pm after conferring Hon. Membership on Don Frankcombe and wife.

#### SCS Trip Report Hastings 27-28/11/65

Party of 13 members

Arrived Hastings 6:30 pm Saturday; camped at hut. Hon. Member Eric Hyett escorted members through tourist section of Newdegate Cave. Binney Tunnel and Hells Half Acre visited. Returned to surface 1 am. On Sunday, party visited Beattie Cave, then scrub-bashed towards King George V Cave on a level above Beattie. Two large sinks found and investigated. Creeks running into both, with approximately 50 yards between each. First crevice carrying a waterfall plumbed to depth of 65 ft. Investigation to be continued in dryer weather. Other hole explored to bottom – proved to be quite difficult and formationless crevice approximately 100 ft deep. No apparent extensions – water level passage investigated by A Campbell but wet crawl not pushed hard. Location characterised by very steep rise from valley floor with quite ... *[remainder missing]*



*Southern Caving Society group at Hastings Hut, around 1965-66: L to R: Graeme Wilson?, Mike Cole (Titch), David Elliott, Peter Sargent, Ron Mann. Dave, Ron and Titch were particularly active original members of SCS. Photo: SCS Archives.*



**Mole Creek 20/8/66**

Party: John Morley, Geoff Fry, John Lewis

General: The party slept in Honeycomb I Cave. Entered Georgies Hall on Saturday morning approx. 10:15 am. The party went to the siphon through Root Hall and Eldorado and retired from cave at 11:45 am. Party then tackled Kubla Khan but left after not going very far along the stream passage. Left Mole Creek at 6.00 pm for Hobart. J. Morley

**Maydena 21/8/66**

Party: Ron Mann, Dave Elliott, John Morley, Bob Cockerill, Eddie Guinan, Geoff Fry, Ted Cornish, J. Barnett, Andrew Campbell, Michael Cole

General: party stopped at turning circle on second road to right from F9 Road. After lunch the party ascended the hill in an easterly direction and followed the track to Growling Swallet. A. Campbell, B. Cockerill, J. Morley and E. Guinan entered the cave for one hour and reached a depth of 250 ft. Most of party went part of the way in. Left for home at 5:15 pm. R. Mann

**Maydena 24/9/66**

General: The party [*including Bob Cockerill*] bashed the hills to the right of Chrisps Rd and found one small cave near the top of the first hill. A large valley was then found further east which was followed down until the stream disappeared into gravel. We then followed the valley down further until it was joined by a smaller valley. A small creek disappeared into a hole near the junction. It was descended to a depth of 60 ft but the water made breathing difficult and it was left until the next weekend to explore it further. Party left for Hobart at 7.00 pm. (Satans Lair)

[*Later reported: "named by Bob Cockerill - because it's a bastard of a place - I nearly drowned on a ladder under the waterfall" - Bob Cockerill, pers. comm. GJM 17 Feb. 2006.*]

**Mole Creek 3-4/12/66**

Aim: Exploration of downstream in Herberts Pot.

Party: John Morley (leader), Geoff Fry, Paul Sargent, Mike Cole, Steve Harris

Report: The party reached the siphon downstream and then returned to surface in 10 hours. Deep pools were encountered downstream and Mike had to be piggybacked over one or two of them. A tributary stream was found to enter the main stream on the left hand side as one faces downstream but there was not sufficient time to explore this. On the way back Geoff bashed an upper level and became separated from the rest of the party temporarily. On Sunday everyone ventured into Shish Kabab and relaxed.

**Mole Creek Easter 1967 24-28/3/67**

Party: B. James, R. Mann, R. Horner, E. Guinan, M. Cole, S. Harris, G. Fry, D. Elliott, P. Sargent

General: On 24th R. Mann, R. Horner, M. Cole, S. Harris, E. Guinan and P. Sargent explored Kellys Pot. Entered cave at 2:45 pm. Party did not reach limit of previous exploration due to lack of time. R. Horner and E. Guinan explored a right hand branch of the stream but the passage became impassable. Left cave at 8:15 pm.

All of the party scrub-bashed the hills behind Winston Cubitt's farm on Saturday and found a small hole which seemed to be very deep judging by the rocks which were thrown in. S. Harris descended to -30 ft and found a vertical shaft. Decided to return on Sunday with rest of gear.

On Sunday 150 ft of ladder was used to reach the bottom of the cave. It proved to be only a sinkhole choked at bottom. (Later named Rock Drop). B. James, P. Sargent and E. Guinan left on Sunday night. The remainder of the party explored Quarry Cave on Monday morning and then D. Elliott, S. Harris and G. Fry left for Hobart. R. Mann, R. Horner, and M. Cole explored several holes on Bob Howe's property at Mayberry. One hole behind the Mayberry Post Office (Bob Howe's property) has a dry stream bed which has to be further explored. (Later named Pig Sty Hole). Party then went to Little Trimmer and spent app. one hour exploring the cave. Then they went to King Solomons Cave and asked if they could see the cave without the tourist lights. The guide, Mr. Wilcox, gave the party the keys and about half an hour was spent viewing the formation. On Tuesday morning they went to Roaring Hole, on Scott's property, and explored it for about half an hour, then left for Hobart.

M. Cole

**Maydena 21/5/67**

Party: E. Guinan, M. Cole, G. Wilson, P. Sargent, R. Cockerill and visitors L. Wilson, A. Rowe and TCC party

General: Aim of trip to show TCC party to Satans Lair. An early start from Hobart was planned but oversleeping on the part of both parties proved delay. Rendezvous was made at barrier. Breakfast at end of Chrisps Rd. March to cave done in usual time. TCC party did not know significance of sign on tree at edge of track.

Pitch was rigged after inspecting creek. Two separate pitches found to be more efficient – 60 ft for entrance and 60 ft for second pitch. Shelter built from man-ferns. After belaying TCC party below, SCS party left for cars for lunch.

Party then visited Pygmy Cave. M. Cole found another entrance – marked by cairn of stones on stump. He also found another cave entrance of imposing dimensions near top of hill. Proved to be a rift of impressive depth – well worth investigation. Party then returned to Hobart.

Footnote: • The rift was later named Zulu Pot.  
• TCC party used 9x30 ft ladders on trip.  
Reached the bottom of Satans Lair and returned to surface in 6 hours.

R. Cockerill

### **Mole Creek 27-28/5/67**

Party: S. Harris, R. Mann, G. Blake, G. Fry, E. Guinan, A. Campbell, R. Martin, B. James

General: Herberts Pot entered and pitches rigged, party split into two groups.

Group 1 – explored upper levels of stream passage but unfortunately nothing of great interest was discovered.

Group 2 – explored waterfall area and made a breakthrough. Some very nice formation was found, continuing on stream passage was again entered and followed. This passage finally split two ways, both of which were explored – the main watercourse is the left hand passage as you walk up the cave. This ends at a siphon. A candle was left on a ledge to show point reached. The right hand passage ended in talus and was not fully explored.

B. James (P.L.)

### **Maydena 3/6/67**

Party: R. Cockerill, G. Fry, R. Mann, A. Campbell, S. Huntley, G. Wilson, B. James

General: D. Frankcombe led trip approx. 80 chains into the scrub from Quarry and after much searching found a very large doline – this was found to be Rift Cave. Directions were then given by Mr. Frankcombe as to the whereabouts of several other possibilities. One of these was looked at but unfortunately it ended in a siphon. Directions to this area follows – follow F9 Road for approx. 1.5 miles – 3<sup>rd</sup> road to the left – a small stream passes under the road. Follow this down approx. 50 yards and cave swallows creek.

B. James (P.L.)

### **Maydena 10/6/67**

Party: B. James, R. Cockerill, D. Elliott, G. Fry

General: After party had thoroughly examined the air photo of the Maydena area it was decided to check on party that was in the field – after locating the other party B. James, G. Fry and R. Cockerill checked rest of hill and found a small cave known as Rotten Cave. A few photos were taken (magnesium ribbon used for light). Party then walked around hill and met up again with others – Pygmy Cave also visited.

B. James (P.L.)

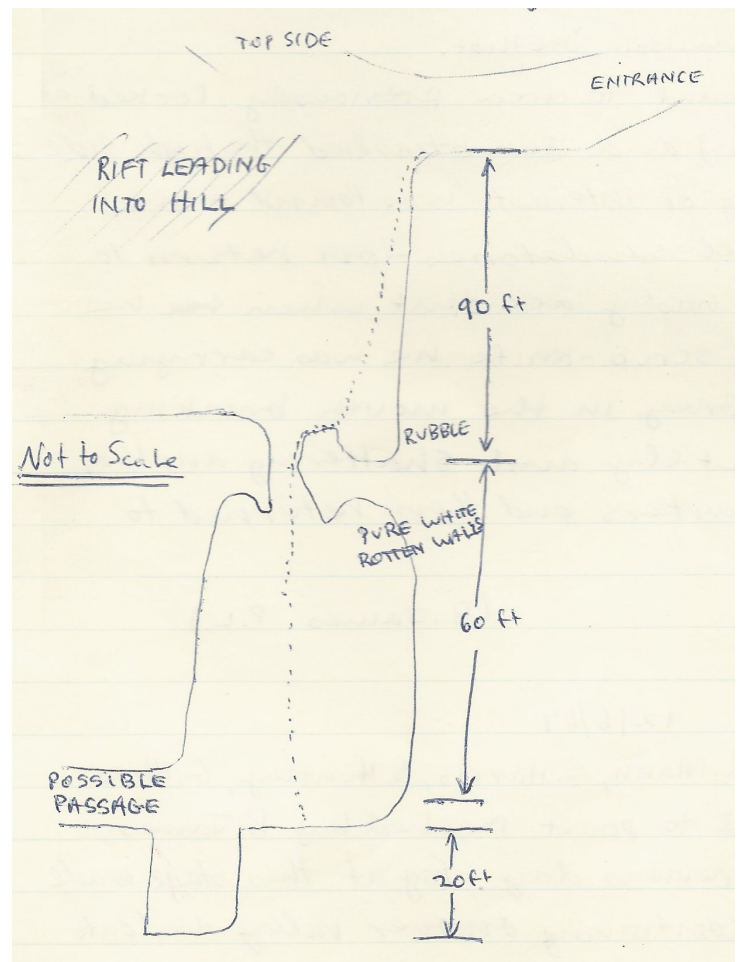
### **Maydena 10/6/67**

Party: R. Mann, S. Harris, G. Blake, S. Huntley, R. Horner, P. Sargent

General: Party left headquarters and proceeded to Cave Hill to further explore cave previously discovered. After

rigging pitch with 90 ft of ladder it was decided to let R. Horner descend into the depths – R. Horner notified the surface or belay party that 90 ft of ladder was not enough, so two more ladders were added to previous 90 ft. This proved to be enough except for approx. 15 ft. R. Horner then announced to everyone's disappointment that it did not go – party retired from cave and back to headquarters.

Notation: approx. opposite the end of ladder pitch a passageway was seen. This travelled in the direction of the rift – a possibility for a future trip. B. James (P.L.)



### **Maydena 11/6/67**

Party 1: B. James, R. Cockerill, G. Fry

General: Party proceeded into scrub above Dewhurst Quarry and followed the quarry ridge. This led into a clear area with terrific limestone faces. These were explored but apart from small solution chambers nothing of interest was found. Valley floor dry at time of exploration. Party then returned to headquarters.

Party 2: R. Mann, P. Sargent, R. Horner, G. Blake, S. Harris, S. Huntley, G. Wilson

Explored several holes around quarry area previously visited 3/6/67 but like other party nothing of real interest was found.

B. James (P.L.)



### **Maydena 12/6/67**

Party: B. James, G. Wilson, D. Elliott

Details: Party proceeded to area previously looked at on F9 Road (see 3/6/67) and scrub-bashed to high side of the road. Nothing of interest was found – this area appears to be all sandstone. On return to car G. Wilson had a nasty accident when Gray slipped off a log. A scrub knife he was carrying spun back and hit him in the mouth breaking off one tooth completely and shattering another. Party left for headquarters and then returned to Hobart.

B. James (P.L.)

### **Maydena 12/6/67**

Party: R. Cockerill, G. Fry, R. Mann, S. Harris, S. Huntley, G. Blake

General: Party proceeded to point reached by B. James, R. Cockerill, and G. Fry on previous day. Fog at this stage made visibility very bad, continuing on over valley and onto next ridge, party found doline that party from previous day had set out to find. This doline was thoroughly explored. Another doline filled with water was found and lyrebirds were seen. Party then left area. Fog caused considerable difficulty in finding way back to cars. Party then returned to headquarters, then back to Hobart. Obvious doline on air photos filled with water (see 25/6/67)

B. James (P.L.)

### **Maydena 25/6/67**

Party: R. Cockerill, R. Mann, S. Huntley, B. James, P. Sargent, S. Harris, G. Blake, G. Fry

Details: Party headed into the bush from Dewhurst Quarry Road to area previously visited on prior trip. After looking at several holes on way to large pot, R. Cockerill and B. James left the party to trace a stream that could be heard from hill above limestone faces. Locating this it was followed down until it plunged underground. This turned out to be Satans Lair. On the return trek many holes were found and marked with cairns etc for a latter trip. The other party found the pot that was the reason for the trip and after rigging pitches descended for 85 ft. Bottom not reached, coils of copper cable found in the cave.

B. James (P.L.)

### **Mole Creek W/E Autumn 1967**

Party: R. Horner, R. Mann, S. Huntley, B. James, R. Cockerill, S. Harris, M. Cole, T. Cornish

Details unknown

### **Hastings W/E 5-6<sup>th</sup> August 1967**

Party: R. Cockerill, G. Fry, R. Mann, D. Elliott, G. Wilson, S. Harris

Details unknown

### **Mt Anne, SW Tasmania Survey 26-28<sup>th</sup> August 1967**

Party: S. Harris, E. Guinan, M. Cole

Refer: Investigatory Trip Towards Mt Anne by E. Guinan, *Southern Caver*; 1(2): 8-9; The South West by S. Harris, *Southern Caver*, 1(2): 7-8.

### **Mole Creek, Dangerous Cave 12-13 August 1967**

Party: D. Elliott, Mike Cole, Greg Blake, Steve Huntley, Ron Mann, R. Horner

Dangerous Expedition Party: B. James, E. Guinan, S. Harris, G. Fry, R. Horner

### **Ida Bay Area 14-15/10/67 (Southern side of Caves Hill) [Exit Cave]**

Report by B. Collin (TCC) from *Speleo Spiel*, 19: 4

[*Handwritten SCS version is largely as published, except (1) published version headed "Exit Cave", (2) SCS version gives full names of Geoff – Fry, and Barry – James and (3) includes: "Summary: An interesting trip and participating S.C.S. were very impressed with the magnitude of the system and rendered assistance with surveying of minor sections."*]

### **Hastings Area 25 November 1967**

Party: J. Morley, P. Voss, M. Cole, S. Harris, G. Blake

Details unknown

### **Hastings Area 1-2/12/67**

Party: G. Wilson, D. Elliott, M. Cole, S. Harris

Aim of the trip: The aim of the trip was to repair a fallen bridge, reconstruct the road to a passable condition and clear a camp site.

Report: The party left Hobart at approx. 8:30 am Saturday morning and proceeded to Hastings where the Cave Superintendant was informed of our presence and our intentions.

When the party arrived at the "bridge" to be repaired it was found that bridge was not in existence, instead a culvert through which a creek had decided not to go. The creek had gone underground about 12-14 ft, thus causing a collapse in the roadway. This collapse was filled with rocks and shored up with timber and left to settle. A log across the road was attacked and modified. The road was made passable by means of much pick work and most of the overhanging bushes were cut back.

The party then continued NW up to the section of road where a large log is across it (left hand fork). Then the right hand fork was attempted and found to go in a NE direction to the other side of the valley and then in a SSE direction to a mud hole, which we were assured is good for getting stuck in (R.S!). This road connects with Creekton Road some distance farther on.

Camp was made in the quarry approx. half way between the main cave road and the fork. No other campsite has been found suitable so far ... !

Saturday night and Sunday – Rain

Members spent the remainder of the weekend dashing from their tents to the fire when the rain stopped and vice versa when it started.

After watching our road-making efforts run past in a creek (almost river) fashion we brought our aching backs back to civilisation, arriving in Hobart at approx. 7:00 pm

Gray C. Wilson (P.L.)

P.S. No more rain dances ... please.

### **Gunns Plains 29/12/67 (A.M.)** [*Original shows '68*]

Cave: Gunns Plains Tourist Cave

Site: In a doline about 100' above the valley floor.

Description: the cave was once a creek passage, now had only two to three feet of water flowing through it. The tourist part had caves joining to the left and right and formation section above the stream passage.

The formation was very beautiful. Transparent shawls up to fifteen feet long and up to two feet wide abounded on the roofs of the low caverns. There were shawls of the 'bacon strip' type, in many different colours ranging from bright yellow to dark red and some pure white. The pride of the cave was the Wedding Cake, this structure is composed of thousands of stalagmites all grouped together in a pyramid shape and it was anything up to thirty feet tall and had a base of at least twenty feet in width. The caves also had many beautiful straws, small helictites and beautiful sections of flowstone. After the six hundred yards (approx.) of tourist cave the cave extended on for about another four hundred yards of muddy stream passage.

Equipment: None needed.

General: The guide told of another cave over the other side of the valley situated about one mile as the crow flies.

Party Members: J. Morley (leader), M. Cole, R. Sergeant

Continuation of trip: see Gunns Plains 29 Dec. 1967 (P.M.) & Mole Creek 29 Dec. (10PM) Dec 67.

### **Gunns Plains 29/12/68 (P.M.)** [*Original shows '68*]

Cave: Unnamed cave

Site: About one mile as the crow flies on the other side of the valley from the Tourist Cave.

Description: The cave was a small dry creek passage which was simply 'overflowing' with formation. The first hundred yards of the passage was filled with lovely white straws, several small but colourful shawls and dark orange flowstone. The first two hundred yards comprised of talus block through which crawling was necessary. If this cave were to be divided into four different sections this section would comprise the first.

After this section of crawls the cave opened up to a dry stream passage varying from three to ten feet wide and

was approximately sixty feet in height. As far as torches could be shone shawl upon shawl could be seen, every perceivable type and colour of flowstone, straws and thick stalagmites clustered upon the roof. The flowstone began at the top of the wall as a very dark reddy mass but as it neared the floor it began to change colour to a brilliant white which sparkled when torches were turned on it.

After this there is a wet section making all the formation come to life.

Further along the cave a large pool was found with several glow-worms on the far side. The only way for advancement [*was?*] through this pool which was about four feet deep. On the other side of this pool the passage became narrower and diminished in height until the passage became impassable.

General: It was the supposition of those on the party that the cave was about seven hundred feet in length. The time taken was about two and three-quarters of an hour for the round trip. It was considered a relatively easy cave with three quarters of it being just a walk. It was suggested that a photographic trip be taken to this cave. The farmer whose land this cave was on told the party that other cavers had before visited him and had found a cave so deep that when a rock was dropped down it, it was said that it was never heard to hit the bottom. This hole would be situated above the Tourist Cave but about six hundred feet further up the hill and about half a mile further along the valley.

Party Members: J. Morley (leader), M. Cole, R. Sergeant

Continuation of trip: The party continued to Mole Creek this same day and arrived there about 7 pm. See Mole Creek 29-31 Dec. 67 or Gunns Plains 29 (A.M.) Dec. 67.

### **Mole Creek 29-30/12/1967**

Party: J. Morley, M. Cole, R. Sargent

After what we considered a very successful trip at Gunns Plains (this is because we had achieved good public relations with the guide and also several farmers), we continued on our merry way towards Mole Creek.

We arrived at Mole Creek at 7 o'clock that evening and immediately set up camp and looked forward to some good caving.

Next day, because we had plenty of time on our hands and also because Rex was new to the Mole Creek caving area we decided to go on a trip from Cow Cave to Pyramid. This trip proved uneventful and we were only underground for some 2.5 hours. As we thought we had plenty of time on our hands we went to Toboggan Hole [*Toboggan Hole MC60*]. This cave proved to be exceedingly sporty and I shall endeavour to describe it.

This cave is situated about half a mile behind the NTCC hut on the middle of the three small hills. After a short crawl of about twenty feet a thirty-five foot ladder pitch is encountered. This being very tricky as the climber has



to swing himself across a twelve foot crack to gain entrance to the small hole which we had to traverse through to get into the main formation section of the cave. The formation of this cave is of a very dark orange to almost a deep red colour. After climbing through the small crack at the end of the ladder pitch we were immediately confronted with a lovely, almost fully transparent shawl and more shawls continued down this passage for about twenty yards and then this passage tapered off into a small mud chamber. Through a small fissure in the side of this chamber we began to go down on the "tobogan slope". This consisted of a large slope of flowstone some sixty feet long at an angle of forty-five degrees and about thirty feet wide. While this huge slope was made into small chambers by the growing of many very beautiful shawls down the entire length of the slope. When we arrived at the bottom of this we found that the cave petered out into a small mud hole and so we decided to come out and go back to camp. When we had tied up the ropes and ladders we went to the entrance and found it raining quite heavily.

Next day it appeared as if the rain had set in as it had not stopped raining since we had left the cave the day before. We decided to go and try to find April Fools Hole but because we had insufficient directions we had to postpone the entering of the cave because we could find it and also because we became bushed.

When we arrived back at camp the rain had really set in so we decided to come back to Hobart after a very mixed trip which extended through seven days from 25th December until 31st.

## 1968

### Locality: Ranelagh, near Huonville – 1/1/1968

Cave: unnamed sandstone cave

Site: On the side of a hill in an orchardist property belonging to the Talbotts.

Rock: Sandstone

Description: A report was received of a cave on the side of the hill with a creek rising from the ground in a nearby gully.

The cave consisted of a steep slope leading underground about 20' where the cave opened up to the left wherein was a shaft of about 40' dropped to the floor below.

This ladder could only be descended half way as the whole structure of the cave was very loose and dangerous and therefore not recommended. (A fall of rock was accidentally set off in this first attempt.) The formation of the cave was considered to be due to faulting and weathering.

General: The whole trip consisted of no more than half a day and only about two hours were spent underground.

Equipment: 2x30' ladders; at least 60' of rope.

Party Members: R. Cockerill, R. Mann, B. James and S. Harris

### Florentine Valley – F9 Road 21/1/68

Party: Bob Cockerill, Barry James, Geoff Fry, Alex Terauds

Details: Party scrub-bashed ENE of the F9 Road, discovering four new holes, one of them a swallet later named Udensala (Three other holes, top one called Tassy Pot.)

A. Terauds

### Mole Creek, Liena 27/1/68

On Saturday afternoon the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1968 a party consisting of Ron Mann, Ted Cornish, Steve Huntley and Michael Cole left their cars on the side of the road near the Liena Mill and headed into the scrub. The object of the trip was to explore a hole which had been found in a large doline on a previous trip. The entrance was reached after ten minutes walking and a 120 ft rope was tied to a tree and thrown into a hole. There was an appreciable draught coming from the hole which is about 2 feet long and one foot wide.

The way down is directly underneath the sloping mud floor of the daylight chamber where the rope proved useful in negotiating the loose talus.

A talus chamber is reached and time was spent locating the route. The party ended up going the most difficult way which could have provided problems on returning had we not found the easier climb. In the next talus chamber most of the rock is covered with flowstone. Where a very narrow vertical squeeze, which can be most frustrating when coming back, leads to a low passage. At the end of the passage is a 20 ft ladder pitch into a very large talus chamber. One talus block would be about the size of an average house.

Another ladder was attached and was used as a handhold for negotiating the talus blocks on the right hand wall. The 60' of ladder ends at the flowstone which covers all the talus in the area and can be crossed by the 'fly on the wall' technique. Another ladder or short section of ladder would make the going easier. From this point the stream can be heard and it is only a matter of a few talus blocks before it is reached.

The stream is small and the passage at this point is only a few feet high but it opens up further downstream into much larger proportions. The whole of the stream passage is a mass of beautiful formation equal of any to be seen in Tasmania.

One 120 ft rope and a 30 foot ladder with header rope is the only equipment needed to reach the stream although an extra ladder can be useful in the talus section.

### Mole Creek Area 27-28/1/68

Details: Party left Hobart at 9:00 pm Friday. Georgies Hall was visited Saturday and three hours was spent underground during which time insects were collected including Pseudoscorpionida and *Idacarabus* sp. Sunday saw a visit to Baldocks Cave for two hours and three

hours in Westmorland Cave. Fauna collected from the latter included harvestmen, glow-worms and adult flies. Maracoopa I & II were later visited, six hours being spent underground from 10 pm to 4 am.

Aleks Terauds

### **Florentine Valley, F9 Road 18/2/68**

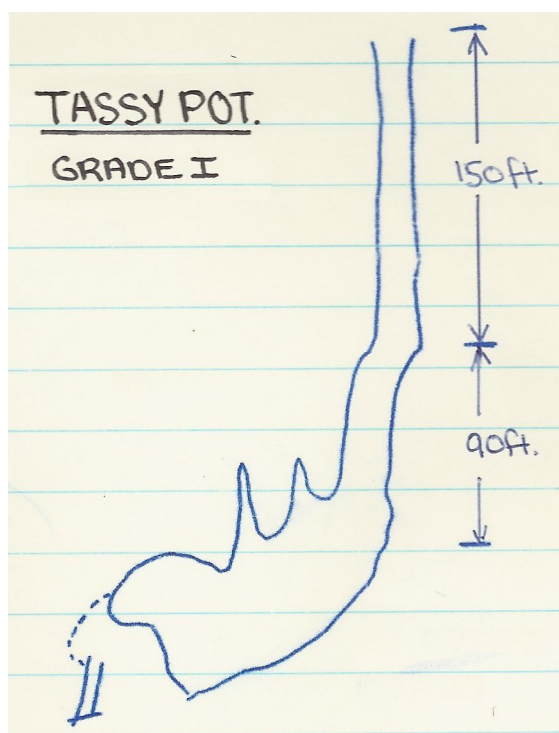
Party: Barry James, Bob Cockerill, Geoff Fry, Eddy Guinan, Steve Harris, Malcolm Smith, Michael Cole, Aleks Terauds

Details: Largest of the caves found 21/1/68 (Tassy Pot) explored.

1<sup>st</sup> pitch: 150 ft belay by Bob, down (in order) Eddy, Aleks, Malcolm, Michael, Steve

2<sup>nd</sup> pitch: 90 ft belay by Steve, down Eddy, Aleks, Malcolm. Muddy chamber – climbed up calcite ledge to pile of talus. Very narrow fissure behind it 30 ft along it then 30 ft ladder drop – belay by Malcolm, Eddie went down and found mud. Rodent bones observed, skull brought up.

Underground 6 hours (1 pm to 7 pm). Up belay by Barry. Aleks Terauds



### **Mole Creek, Kubla Khan Cave 24-25/2/68**

Party: Aleks Terauds, Barry James, Geoff Fry, Malcolm Smith

Details: Party left Hobart Friday night 11.00 pm

Kubla Khan Cave visited, old and new sections. Entered cave at 4 pm Saturday and came out 6 am Sunday. Collected: spider (Bob); Collembolae (Aleks)

Aleks Terauds

### **Mole Creek 27-28/2/68**

Party: Aleks Terauds and nine others

Details: Party spent 14 hours in Herberts Pot (2 pm – 4 am Sat-Sun).

Insects collected: *Idacarus* sp., *Anaspides* sp. ?Moth pupa?

Aleks Terauds

### **Florentine Valley, F9 Road 3/3/68**

Party: Barry James, Eddie Guinan, Steve Harris, Aleks Terauds, Reece Filbee, Peter Voss

Details: Exploration of cave found 21/1/68 (Udensala)

Creek flowing strongly. Barry outside. Belay by Peter and Steve, down – Eddie, Aleks, Reece. Then Eddie and Aleks went down further. Aleks hit by rocks dislodged on passage down, hand cut (three stitches) and bled profusely, requiring termination of trip and journey to New Norfolk for medical attention.

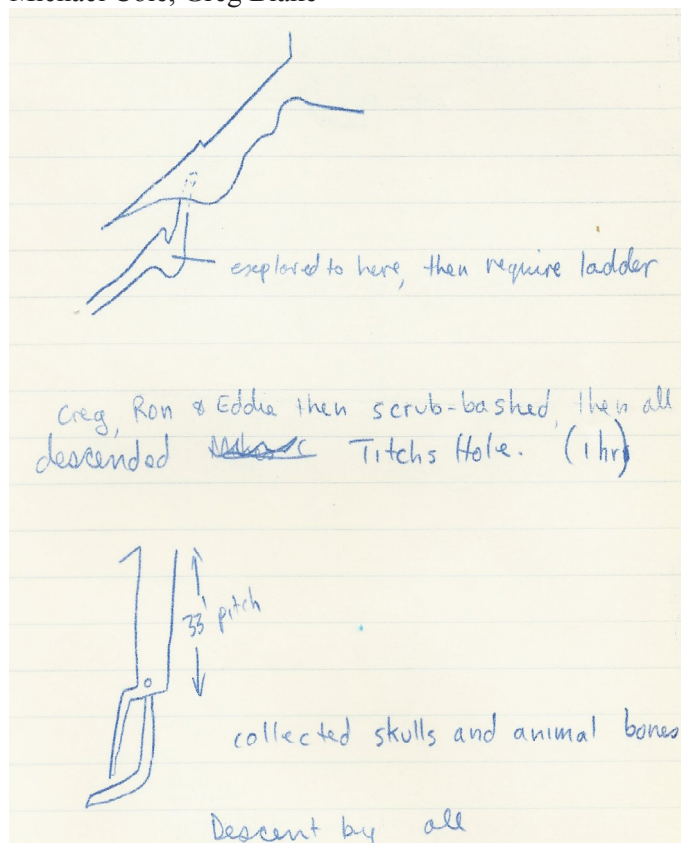
Glow-worms and wetas seen, spiders near surface not *Hickmania*.

The cave requires no gear to part explored if water passage is followed. Drenching to skin unavoidable if creek moderate to high. Care must be taken with loose rock, especially when descending. Undermined rocks common. Further exploration desirable. Two hours underground.

Aleks Terauds

### **Florentine Valley, F9 Road 17/3/68**

Party: Ron Mann (leader), Aleks Terauds, Eddie Guinan, Phil Andrews, Reece Filbee, Paul Schupp, Peter Voss, Michael Cole, Greg Blake





Details: Udensala – two hours spent underground. Exploration by Aleks, Eddie, Phil down to new level. Also in cave – Paul and Peter.

Greg, Ron and Eddie then scrub-bashed, then all descended Titchs Hole (1 hour).

Collected skulls and animal bones. Descent by all.

Aleks Terauds.

### **Hastings 24/3/68**

Party: Geoff Fry (leader), Greg Blake, Aleks Terauds, Reece Filbee, John (Austin)

Details: Newdegate Cave – Party spent approx. two hours underground, first visiting the Binney Tunnel, then Christmas Caves. Both muddy but neither wet.

Aleks Terauds

### **Mole Creek 29-31/3/68**

Party: Eddie Guinan (leader), Paul Schupp, Aleks Terauds, Geoff Fry

Details: All entered Shishkabab. Belayed up by Bob, he and Angie having arrived later. Wet all three days. Fascinating helictites. Four hours underground.

Aleks Terauds

### **Mole Creek 12-15/4/68**

Party: John Morley, Steve Harris, Barry James, Bob Cockerill, Michael Cole, Geoff Fry, Aleks Terauds, Eddie Guinan, Ron Mann, Paul Schupp, Dave Elliott

Details: Herberts Pot explored by Geoff, Aleks, Steve, John after ladder rigged by Bob and Barry. Big Assault. Approx. 12.5 hours underground. Photos taken and exploration downstream. Nothing new. Cold, wet trip.

Sunday trip to Croesus by Ron, Geoff, John, Steve, Aleks, Paul, Eddie, Michael. Entered in two groups. Eight hours underground.

Aleks Terauds

### **Mole Creek Surveying 9-12/6/68**

Party: Ron Mann, Dave Elliott, Michael Cole, John Mac [McCormack], Barry James, Steve Harris, Robert Homer, Paul Schupp

No details

### **Mole Creek Area 6-7/7/68**

Report by A. Goede (TCC) from *Speleo Spiel*, 26: 3-5.

A combined SCSD/TCC trip to show us (TCC) some of the discoveries that have been made by SCS in Herberts Pot.

[Handwritten SCS version is largely as published, except for addition of "Summary: The combined trip to Herberts with S.C.S. was very successful if rather strenuous. From our (T.C.C.) side the trip was poorly attended – only 3 members took the plunge. Some new passage was explored."]

### **Belvoir River Area 28/9/68**

Refer to: Belvoir River Deposit [in *Limestone deposits near Mt. Mayday* by R. Mann], *Southern Caver*, 3(1): 11, April 1971. [There was a subsequent trip, *Boxing Day*, 26/12/68; also not reported.]

### **Maydena, Satans Lair 10/11/68**

Party: J. McCormack, G. Wilson, A. Terauds, B. James, G. Fry, R. Mann

Report: Found hole on top of ridge prior to S.L. Partially blocked by large rock. Good prospects for depth. Needs excavating. S.L. water flowing into entrance. Rediverted at upper site. Cave negotiated to just below talus. Underground 3 hours.

### **Mt Ronald Cross 23-26/12/68**

Cave: unnamed

Site: The creeks in the middle of the plateau converge and disappear down a swallet.

Weather: Very hot.

Description: Similar to Satans Lair. A descent of 15' was the maximum possible due to the great amounts of water entering the cave (J.M.). Expectations are good if the water can be diverted.

General: It took 6.5 hours to travel from the cars to the plateau, carrying 60' of ladder and 200' of rope. The campsite was situated around the edge of the plateau from the track.

There were quite a few holes that only went down about 30'.

Even from the top of Mt Ronald Cross a suitable view of the hydrology possibilities was obscured. A good distance downstream was covered by J. Morley in search of a resurgence but with no results.

Party members: J. Morley (leader), M. Cole, R. Sergeant

Continuation of trip: to Gunns Plains ex Queenstown, Zeehan, Burnie, Ulverstone. See Gunns Plains 26-28 Dec.

## **1969**

### **Mole Creek – April 1969 (Easter)**

Party: B. James (leader), G. Blake

### **Montagu and Trowutta – April 1969 (Easter)**

Party: M. Cole (leader), P. Sargent, R. Filbee, R. Armstrong

### **Maydena, Rescue Pot – 13/4/69**

Aim of the trip was to explore the cave that was the scene of the rescue on 10/3/69. Entered cave with only 60 ft of ladder and found pitch to be 90 ft, so G. Blake and J. Morley waited on a ledge halfway down the pitch and the rest of the party waited in a small circular and

very draughty chamber at the top of the pitch while B. James and R. Cockerill returned to the cars to get ladders. When the ladders arrived B. James, R. Cockerill and D. Elliott waited at the top of pitch while rest of party descended, these members all going to a point approximately 60 ft below the bottom of the pitch. Then R. Mann and K. Kiernan returned to the bottom of the pitch to wait. At this point the cave consisted of a large talus chamber 100 ft high with fissure type passages leading off. There were two small mammal skeletons at the bottom of the pitch – not collected. Cave explored to siphon at 350 ft. Many side passages left unexplored. Only formation was a little flowstone near siphon. False floors and dangerous talus throughout.

Party: B. James (leader), R. Cockerill, D. Elliott, R. Mann, S. Harris, J. Morley, G. Blake, K. Kiernan

### **Mackintosh-Southwell Rivers Area 1-3/3/69**

Refer to: Mackintosh-Southwell Rivers Deposits [*An exploratory trip towards the Mackintosh-Southwell Rivers junction – January 1971 by R. Mann*], *Southern Caver*, 3(1): 13 April 1971.

Also follow up trip – January 1971.

### **SCS Trip Report 1969-70**

Compilation M. Cole (30/4/69-28/1/70), K. Kiernan (28/1/70 – 30/4/70)

Time Chart – 1st May 1969 – 30th April 1970

Mole Creek – 3/5/69 12 hours of hard exploration was spent in downstream Herberts Pot.

Maydena – 4/5/69 3 holes were found up F9 road. 2 were explored; 1 to be explored at a future date.

Mole Creek – 10-11/5/69 120 ft pot discovered between Georgies Hall and Shishkabab. Trip was organised for Mr. Elery Hamilton-Smith.

Hastings – 11/5/69 Newdegate Cave visited.

Maydena – 18/5/69 Re trip Maydena 3/5/69. Cave explored. Approx. depth 200 ft. Equipment – 100 ft rope plus 100 ft of ladder, header and safety rope.

Hastings – 30-1/5/69 Hard scrub-bashing done behind Wolf Hole. Nil found.

Hastings – 1/6/69 Wolf Hole explored beyond lake.

Hastings – 22/6/69 King George V visited.

Hastings – 15/6/69 Large party scrub-bashed behind Beatties Cave. Lyons Den rediscovered; 30 ft of rope needed to enter this hole – ladder.

Hastings – 29/6/69 Creekton Rd area looked at directly behind Coal Hill. Also King George V Cave visited.

Mole Creek – 11-12/7/69 Theoretical survey of Kellys Pot. No practical work done due to inclement weather.

Hastings – 20/7/69 Newdegate Cave visited.

Maydena – 17/8/69 Scrub-bashing done at the Gap at Maydena. Nil caves found.

Hastings – 24/8/69 Deep hole found 150 yards above Beattie.

Hastings – 31/8/69 Due to large log blocking way trip to cave found on 24/8 proved time wasting. Hole estimated to be 100 ft deep.

Mole Creek – 6-7/9/69 8 hours of surveying done in Georgies Cave.

Hastings – 20-21/9/69 New cave above Beattie could not be entered due to the water. Another cave was found approx. 100 yards from Beattie, approx. 40 yards.

Maydena – 28/9/69 3 holes found off the F9 road.

Maydena – 5/10/69 Scrub bash above Growling Swallet, evidence of large caves in the area.

Maydena – 12/10/69 5 holes found off Chrisps Rd. 3 could still go, one was at least 200 ft deep.

Maydena – 19/10/69 Beautiful cave with Don Frankcombe's help off Westfield Rd. (Welcome Stranger).

Maydena – 26/10/69 Tourist trip of cave previously found off Westfield Rd. (Welcome Stranger).

Mole Creek – 1-2/11/69 Exploration trip to Lorinna and also tourist trip to Lynds Cave.

Maydena – 9/11/69 Exploration trip of new cave found up Westfield Rd. (Welcome Stranger) 500 ft more passage.

Maydena – 23/11/69 Exploration in Welcome Stranger; 500 ft new passage.

Maydena – 30/11/69 Unsuccessful attempt to break through siphon in Welcome Stranger.

Maydena – 7/12/69 Welcome Stranger. Photography and survey main passage from entrance to siphon.

Mole Creek – Christmas '69 Tourist trips through Lynds, Georgies-Wet Cave, Pyramid-Cow Cave and exploration in Kellys Pot.

Jukes-Darwin – Christmas '69 Exploration trip of a new caving area.

Maydena – 1/1/70 Tourist trip though Welcome Stranger.

Maydena – 4/1/70 Pygmy Cave and Junee Cave.

Hastings – 11/1/70 Newdegate Cave. Investigation of possible link between it and Erebus.

Lorinna – 13-14/1/70 Scrub-bashing at Limestone Creek. Also investigation of holes revealed in road cutting near Liena.

Mole Creek – 24-25/1/70 Discovery and exploration in upstream Herberts Pot. Scotts Cave visited.

Hastings – 28/1/70 Unsuccessful search for Erebus



("after work" trip).

Maydena – 1/2/70 Tourist trip of Welcome Stranger and little hole with Don Frankcombe's help.

### **Maydena 4/5/69**

Cave: Two unnamed holes up F9 road.

Site: 1.5 miles up F9 road, then 100 yards into the scrub at an angle of 90° with road. The caves are found in two dolines in a gully to be followed from the road..

Rock: Gordon Limestone of Ordovician age.

Weather: Dull and overcast but fine.

Description: Under Don Frankcombe's direction we scrub-bashed the hill side and eventually discovered the first doline. The caves were found beneath a series of very spectacular waterfalls. Two were found and explored but were of no great length or depth.

Meanwhile Kevin had found the other hole only 150 yards away in another doline. The entrance was an 80 ft slope which led into a small talus section at the top of an old creek passage. This passage continued for approx. 40 yards and then abruptly stopped at the top of a drop of approx. 90 ft. due to many loose boulders at the top of this ladder pitch we could not explore any further that day.

General: A very successful scrub-bash and exploration trip and future trips have been planned.

Party: B. James (leader), R. Filbee, K. Kiernan, M. Cole, D. Elliott, G. Blake, N. James

N.B. The first of these two caves discovered was called Three Falls Cave at the meeting held on 7/5/69

The second named Owl Pot on 27/8/69.

### **Mole Creek 3/5/69**

Cave: Herberts Pot

Site: Opposite Shishkabab and facing up the gully towards the Western Tiers.

Rock: Hard, dark grey limestone of Ordovician age (Gordon Limestone).

Weather: Fine

Description: Swallet hole with sizeable creek; access into the large system is through a nearby dry entrance 90 ft ladder pitch; depth at least 300 ft, to stream passage, the stream then goes into a siphon and emerges at Wet Caves.

General: Went downstream past siphon into large talus section and began exploration. Nothing of interest was discovered and the team came out exhausted after 12 hours of hard caving.

Party: J. Morley (leader), F. Koolhof, J. Adams, T. Downie

### **Hastings 29/6/69**

Aim: To scrub-bash the area directly behind King George V Cave. This area of scrub-bashing was intended to ex-

tend along the contour of the hill towards Newdegate Cave.

General: Due to inclement weather conditions the small party decided to show the new member King George V Cave instead. After this has been done the members went along Creekton Rd in search of any good scrub-bashing areas behind Coal Hill. It was noted that there was a lot of clear hillside after the February bushfires.

Summary: Once more little positive scrub-bashing was done.

Party: M. Cole (leader), D. Elliott, S. Higgins

### **Mole Creek 11/7/69**

Aim: To survey Kellys Pot.

General: Due to the very wet conditions the trip had to be abandoned with the resolution that the surveying of the Wet Cave system would re-commence as soon as possible.

Party: R. Mann (leader), K. Kiernan, B. James, P. James, S. Higgins, G. Wilson, G. Blake, M. Cole

### **Hastings 20/7/69**

Aim: To explore Wolf Hole beyond the lake.

General: The party went for a trip through the Binney Tunnel and the Rabbits Ear Hole in Newdegate Cave.

Party: G. Blake (leader), R. Dredge, K. Kiernan

### **Maydena 17/8/69**

Aim: To scrub-bash Mt Tim Shea for any possible pot hole systems.

General: The party scrub-bashed Mt Tim Shea in the morning and decided that the area was not worth further investigation so extended their activities to the Gap. The area scrub-bashed was the right hand side of the road just before the top of the Gap is reached. The party observed many large limestone outcrops but no caves were found although three solid hours of scrub-bashing was done. It was thought that there could be a big possibility of caves being found beyond the area bashed and further behind the hillside. It was noted that the Gordon River tourist road could be seen from the high limestone outcrops, so the possibility of a deep cave being found was visualized.

Summary: A future trip planned to this area after a map (geological) of the area has been obtained.

Party: M. Cole (leader), K. Kiernan, D. Elliott.

### **Maydena 28/9/69**

Aim: To scrub bash off the F9 road.

General: The F9 road was followed to its highest point, well above the limestone level. A fairly large sized stream was followed back down the hill to the cars.

The party then proceeded downhill and began scrub-bashing at the beginning of the limestone level; south

side of road. A small stream was followed down into a doline and this was explored.

The entrance was 60 ft wide by about 40 ft deep to the doline and the stream disappears into a small hole too small to follow. An entrance to a cave was found in the side of the doline, but due to a rather unstable talus entrance the cave could not be entered. Downhill from this doline another one was found. This one was about 60 ft wide and about 40 ft deep and water was running down one side of it. The entrance to this cave is a steep slope of about 30 ft. This led into a small chamber which headed off into a small passage and from this into a very small talus section which eventually choked up. A further doline was found down beneath this last one. It was approx. 80 ft wide and 60 ft deep. Water disappears along 10 ft of passage which became too narrow to negotiate. *[These three dolines are likely to be JF-388, JF-387 Porcupine Pot and JF-414 Jolly Roger, respectively – AJ]*

Summary: Although three small holes were found nothing of great significance was found.

Party: A. Terauds (leader), B. James, K. Kiernan

#### **Maydena 5/10/69**

Aim: To scrub bash off the edge of the F9 road and also follow the first large creek noted on the trip of the 28th of September.

General: The creek was found to be a direct tributary of the Growling Swallet stream. After having a look at Growling Swallet the party investigated a series of dolines beneath the track on the way back to the cars. Although these dolines looked promising nothing of great importance was found, although a great deal of scrub-bashing was done.

Summary: Evidence was found of some large holes which could be situated above the entrance of Growling Swallet.

Party: R. Cockerill (leader), R. Mann, G. Blake, K. Kiernan

#### **Maydena 12/10/69**

Aim: To scrub bash the area around Chrisps Road

General: The road was followed to its highest point. The party then set out into the scrub from the end of this. 50 yards from the road an entrance was found in a large limestone outcrop. This was explored to an approx. depth of 200 ft, leaving a 60 ft drop at the bottom unclimbed.

After the party left this, it split into two groups, one examining the top of the hill, the other following the outcrops around the side. This scrub bash resulted in a total of seven holes being found.

1 – 30 ft ladder to a series of high-roofed chambers and talus climbs. No stream as yet, but wet in lower section of the passage. A pitch of 60-90 ft at the bottom yet to be rigged, also plenty of scope for talus thrashing. The ex-

ploration was to a level of approx. 200 ft and it was noted that there were signs of a previous party being there.

2 – A doline taking the flow of a creek was the next find. A dry entrance on side of the doline was explored to a depth of approx. 60 ft. The cave was not explored any further due to the size of the group of holes found directly behind the cave being entered.

3 – The next hole entered was in a doline some 50 yards from (2). A dry entrance was explored to a 15 ft drop after a 40 ft passage had been followed. The cave was negotiable after this distance. The wet entrance in the doline was not attempted.

4 – 100 yards above (2) by a small limestone outcrop on a yellow paint survey trail a 30 ft ladder pitch was followed into a tiny chamber which proved impassable.

5 – The further three holes found and explored were only small and of the grotto type.

Summary: Due to the many holes found the scope for exploration in this *[area]* is justified.

Party: B. James (leader), D. Elliott, K. Kiernan, G. Rumbold, N. Heaven

N.B. After discussion with Albert Goede of TCC it was decided that (1) is almost definitely Bone Pit; (2) was found to be previously known – Voltera.

#### **Maydena 19/10/69**

Aim: Trip was undertaken because Don Frankcombe was going to show the members of the party an efflux found by some of his ANM employees during tree felling.

General: The efflux was found at the end of the Westfield Rd, where no party had been before because the road had only been newly cut. The cave Don showed the members began in a siphon and also ended in one, although the first is negotiable because it was only half full and at its greatest height it would only be a small duck, although the water is very cold. The cave is of the type which the party has only got to follow the creek to the end of the cave. The cave has the best formation of any cave in the Florentine area and this makes it unique because the formation is superb. The length of the hole is about 2000 ft and is only a walk through type.

Summary: This cave will make the Maydena area because it now is on par with Hastings as far as formation caves go.

Party: B. James (leader), R. Mann, S. Vince, K. Kiernan, R. Cockerill, G. Wilson.

NB. A swallet off the end of the highest extension of Westfield Rd was shown to the party – no go. Large Stream. 8 chains from road.

#### **Maydena 26/10/69**

Aim: This trip was organised because the members participating wanted to see the new cave found on the 19th.

General: The members had a good trip, fine weather and



a dry trip though the cave.

Summary: All the members agreed that this was the finest cave in the Maydena area that had been found up to date.

Party: B. James (leader), R. Cockerill, A. Cockerill, M. Cole, K. Kiernan, S. Vince, S. Harris, D. Elliott

### **Lorinna and Mole Creek 1-2/11/69**

Aim: To examine the possibilities of a new caving area at Lorinna.

General: Party scrub bashed a section of hill side directly above the Forth River at the Lorinna Showgrounds. The only find was an efflux flowing from beneath a cliff of limestone, but the hole proved too small to enter.

The party then, after seeking advice from a resident, proceeded to Limestone Creek and here found several holes. The biggest being a 50 ft drop with a formation of shawls in it.\* The second hole was only a small hole which consisted of a long crawl which eventually choked out.\*\* Several smaller holes were found, but due to the fading light and the fact that the party had pitched camp at Mole Creek the night before they had to leave the area. The farmer who the party spoke to referred to a cave that was further down the creek as a 'walk through' type.

The next day the party decided to go on the first official trip of the SCS through Lynds Cave, which is situated above the Mersey River on the cliffs just along from the Liena Bridge. The party was very impressed by the beautiful formation of glow-worms in the cave and also the beautiful formation, in particular the pure white stalactites. Some members of the party likened it to the very beautiful cave Croesus which is just around the corner from Lynds.

Summary: The party thought it was a very successful trip; a trip has been planned in the near future to visit Lorinna again and also a photography trip to Lynds Cave.

Party: M. Cole (leader), K. Kiernan, D. Elliott, S. Vince  
\* named Shawl Pot      \*\* named Canned Crawl.

### **Maydena 9/11/69**

Aim: To explore the possibility of breaking through the siphon in the cave found on the previous trips to Westfield Rd area.

General: Although approx. 500 ft of new passage was discovered the siphon was not broken. It was noted however, that with a little digging at the entrance to the siphon the water level could be reduced far enough for entrance to the siphon, and it is hoped that this is only a small duck.

Summary: A future photography trip was planned by the members participating.

Party: R. Mann (leader), J. Morley, S. Newman, K. Kiernan

### **Mole Creek 16-17/11/69**

Kubla Khan

Party: J. McCormack, B. James, R. Cockerill, J. Morley, R. Horner, M. Cole

Report: Visited Xanadu Chamber and Forbidden City? viz. entrance behind Khan. Photography in Link(?) and Pleasure Dome.

Time underground 15 hours.

### **Maydena 23/11/69**

Aim: To explore new cave found up Westfield Rd.

General: A GOOD TRIP was had by all and some 500 ft of new cave was found.

Party: A. Terauds (leader), G. Wilson, K. Kiernan, D. Elliott, S. Street, P. Andrews

### **Maydena 30/11/69**

Aim: To try to break through siphon in new cave found at Westfield (Welcome Stranger).

General: Due to wet weather conditions the siphon proved impassable and the digging of it proved to be a waste of time.

Party: A. Terauds (leader), R. Mann, S. Street, D. Elliott, S. Vince

Note: This cave was named Welcome Stranger.



*Looking into the sump, Welcome Stranger JF229.*

*Photo: G. Middleton (3.2.73)*

### **Maydena 7/12/69**

Aim: To survey Welcome Stranger and also a photographic trip.

General: A. Terauds and R. Cockerill surveyed the cave and found it to be 2200 ft long. 51 points were used in the survey. The rest of the party were shown around and some good photographs were taken by Cole and Wilson.

Party: R. Cockerill (leader), R. Filbee, A. Terauds, M. Cole, G. Wilson, D. Elliott

### **Mole Creek 26-28/12/69 (Xmas trip)**

Aim: Explore Kellys Pot beyond siphon and also show the Victorian visitors our best caving area.

General: The exploration of Kellys proved fruitless. The vics were shown Georgies to Wet Cave and also Pyramid to Cow Cave. Also visited Lynds Cave.

Party: B. James (leader), S. Tickell, D. Elliott, G. Fry, M. Cole, J. Taylor, S. Vince, S. Street, G. Wilson, R. Mann

### **Jukes-Darwin Field 26-28/12/69 (Christmas trip)**

Aim: To examine Jukes-Darwin as a possible caving area and to look for caves reported to exist near the track 4.5 miles from Kelly Basin.

General: The party arrived at a landslide on the road about 6 miles from Kelly Basin at 2.00 pm Friday. The party then walked in to the Aron River [*like the Nora, a tributary of the Bird*] bridge where it camped.

On the way in, a small cave beside the track, ¼ mile north of the bridge, was explored and named Hamoik Passages. This was later found to be the cave found by the TCC on its trip in 1962. It consists of 300 ft of low, crawling stream passage which leads to a decorated chamber. Upstream, the stream passage became too tight, and downstream it was blocked by a rock wall. This was partly removed to allow access to another 50 ft of passage which passed below the road and emerged some 25 yards from the Bird River.

Later that afternoon the party walked to the Bird River Gorge, which is situated approx. 3.5 miles from Kelly Basin. A number of small holes were investigated but they did not go.

On Saturday the party walked up the Aron for two miles, and then followed a fair sized tributary up to the west, to a point well above the limestone once again, a lot of little holes that did not go, but this was the most promising looking area yet visited. Later, on Saturday evening, the party investigated a dry valley adjacent to a railway siding near the bridge, but little could be achieved due to fading light.

On Sunday the party stopped to scrub-bash near Hamoik on the way out. A number of new entrances were found in the area, but although they appear to connect with the system they were often un-negotiable. 200ft of stream passage was followed to a chamber. The area is riddled with dolines, most of which are uninvestigated.

Summary: A promising area – limestone relief 1000 ft, numerous dolines and dry valleys, little surface drainage. A miner from Gormanston has offered to show the club caves of which he knows near the 3.5 mile and on the King River. He has also placed at our disposal two huts in the area, which are equipped with radios for emergencies.

Party: S. Harris (leader), K. Kiernan, J. Morley

## **1970**

### **Maydena – Welcome Stranger 1/1/70**

Aim: A 'tourist trip' through Welcome Stranger.

General: Another trip through this beautiful cave, and another 200 ft of passage explored. A creek entering the main stream passage from the northern side, 40 ft beyond the crawls near the entrance was followed up past a squeeze which had stopped earlier exploration, and was finally lost in a roomy talus chamber. This talus warrants thrashing.

The party explored most of the known cave to the siphon.

A scrub-bash was then made up the hill and dry valley, beneath which the cave runs. No holes were found there, but half mile east of the entrance, a doline taking the flow of a creek was found. This is possibly the swallet of Welcome Stranger creek, however, it is unfortunately unnegotiable without a dig.

Summary: The party decided that the swallet warranted further investigation, possibly with fluorescein, to see if it is Welcome Stranger Creek.

Party: S. Harris (leader), M. Cole, J. Sloane, N. James, D. Bolwell, J. Taylor (VSA), K. Kiernan

### **Maydena – Pygmy Cave, June Cave 4/1/70**

Aim: To explore the holes found on 12/10/69.

General: The party arrived at Maydena at 11:00 am and proceeded to the holes behind Bone Pit. It was found that these two holes were already known, having been found some two years previously. One had been named Voltare\*. A number of smaller holes in the area were examined, but they did not go.

The party then spent one hour in Pygmy Cave.



*John Taylor, VSA, in Pygmy Cave. Photo: K. Kiernan*

As the weather was bad it was decided that it would be a good day for a general reconoitre of the area's road systems, so the party drove out along the Florentine Rd to a point where it was blocked one mile beyond the river, and then up Lords Rd to Cashion Ck. Limestone was present at both these localities, and a short scrub bash at the latter revealed a 6 ft hole with water at the bottom.

[\* This name is commonly misspelt. Correct spelling is 'Voltera' – GM]



The party then spent 30 mins in Junee Cave.

Party: R. Mann (leader), J. Taylor (VSA), K. Kiernan

### **Maydena 11/1/70**

Aim: A combined trip with the TCC to investigate some new holes behind Junee Cave, including swallet holes over 1000 ft vertically above it.

General:

JF-2 – looked at only. Has big waterfall of 120 ft entering it. Await dryer weather.

JF-3 – bottomed. Dead end at -160 ft.

JF-4 – Creek enters it, explored to -50 ft.

JF-5 – discovered 100 yards from JF-4. Rift into 25 ft high face. 2 x 60 ft pitches into spray-filled chamber of JF-4. Progress halted due to dampness.

NB route to caves marked in plastic from Quarry Rd.

Party: B. Collins (TCC), A. Keller (TCC), R. Cockerill (SCS), G. Wilson (SCS), J. Taylor (VSA), P. Harvey (CCT), Lesley ? (CCT)

### **Hastings – Newdegate Cave 11/1/70**

Aim: To investigate the possibility of a link up between Newdegate and Erebus, which would give a depth of 500 ft.

General: The party had originally planned to investigate the new swallet hole near Welcome Stranger at Maydena, but because the day promised to be hot the necessary re-arrangements were made and it set off for Hastings with the prospect of an 'après-caving' swim.

After meeting the new guide, Mr. Conrads, the party went underground at 2:20 pm. The Binney Tunnel was noted to be much wetter than usual, and a point was reached on the mud traverse beyond the ladder pitch into Hells Half Acre where the party decided to return to the surface, as one member's lighting equipment had begun to give trouble.

On the way out it was noted that there were many trickles of water entering the cave which had not been present on the inward journey. On reaching the surface at 5:25 pm the party was greeted by a violent thunderstorm and lightning.

S. Harris

Party: S. Harris (leader), M. Cole, N. James, K. Kiernan

### **Lorinna 13-14/1/70**

Aim: To follow up the trip of 1/11/69.

General: The party arrived at Lorinna at 4:30 pm. A scrub bash was conducted down Limestone Creek and resulted in the discovery of numerous small holes that do not go. Numerous dolines, two of them of quite large size were found, and the efflux of a quite large stream into Limestone Creek, the entrance to which is unfortunately too tight.

The following day the party scrub-bashed behind the showground, and once again found numerous small dolines.

On the way back through Mole Creek area, the party stopped at a road cutting on the Liena road, west of the Mersey bridge, and explored some small holes exposed there. The largest was 40 ft long and contained some interesting decoration. These holes were in Tertiary basalt.\*

Party: D. Elliott (leader), C. Williams, K. Kiernan

[\*See Anon. 1970, Lava caves at Mole Creek. *Southern Caver*, 2(1): 11.]

### **Mole Creek – Herberts Pot and Scotts Cave – 24-25/1/70**

Aim: To explore Herberts Pot above the waterfall.

General: The party entered the cave at 10:00 am, rigged the pitch and reached the stream passage at 12:00 noon. It then took one further hour to reach the waterfall. After having negotiated the climbs necessary to bypass this, the party encountered two small streams which converged to form the main stream.

The left hand stream was followed past a duck to a siphon. Beside this a dry passage was explored. This passage was still going when the party turned back. Numerous smaller passages near it were only partially explored. In one of these was a 50 ft high aven with a passage entering near the rood. This was not entered. The party then found a dry route back from beyond the duck via an old, dry, stream passage.

The party then explored the right hand branch for ¼ mile before turning back because of low lights. This passage was also still going. It consisted of large chambers connected by low, crawling stream passage. The party left the cave exhausted at 3:00 am after 15 hrs solid trogging.

Cole and James did not reach Mole Creek until 6:00 pm Saturday 24th, so, finding the bulk of the party absent, they did a short trip into Honeycomb I.

The following day the party spent one hour in Scotts Cave.

Party: S. Harris (leader), M. Cole, J. Morley, N. James, J. Taylor (VSA), S. Street, S. Vince, K. Kiernan

### **Hastings 28/1/70**

Aim: To locate Erebus

General: The party arrived at Hastings at 7:30 pm and followed a bearing of 85° from Newdegate Cave entrance until reaching the reserve boundary. The party then followed this for 100 yards toward Beattie, and explored a tiny (12 ft deep) hole in a log-filled doline. From there the party proceeded 200 yards uphill, and finding nothing of interest, returned to Newdegate via the same route, exploring a small hole on the boundary 6 ft deep.

Summary: The party was agreed that the location of the cave would probably require a full weekend. The trip proved the feasibility of 'after-work' trips during summer.

Party: M. Cole (leader), N. James, S. Vince, K. Kiernan

### **Maydena – Welcome Stranger – 1/2/70**

**Aim:** A tourist trip through Welcome Stranger, and to investigate a new hole found by Don Frankcombe.

**General:** The party explored the main stream passage of Welcome Stranger to the siphon, Arthur taking a number of photographs en route. An attempt to force the draught hole near the siphon was unsuccessful as it is too small to negotiate.

The party then scrub-bashed from near a quarry on the top branch road in the Westfield area in search of the new hole. This was found at the bottom of a deep doline, and was the swallet of a small creek. A dry entrance choked off after a few feet. The wet entrance was followed down 20 ft of narrow passage to a 12 ft drop. From the bottom of this 30 ft of passage led into a small talus section which finally choked off, at a depth of approx. -25 ft.

Time underground was approx. 3 hrs.

Party: R. Mann (leader), S. Vince, Arthur Clarke (VSA), Bob Chappel (VSA), Evonne Chappel (VSA), K. Kiernan, Reg.[?]



*Ron Mann with fine flowstone, Welcome Stranger.  
Photo: K. Kiernan.*

### **Ida Bay – Mystery Creek Cave (Entrance Cave) 8/2/70**

**Aim:** To locate and explore Mystery Creek Cave (Entrance Cave).

**General:** The party arrived at the tram track below the ACCC quarry at 11:30 am and left for the cave soon after. The walk to the cave required 1.5 hours but this was slightly longer than normal because no members knew the location of the track from the second quarry, and so the party had to follow Mystery Creek downstream from the disused railway track.

The party explored the stream passage to a siphon. An overhead route to bypass this proved to end in a talus choke. The party also explored a side passage further down the cave, but an attempt to follow a strong draught there proved fruitless when it was found to be issuing

from a talus choke.

The party did not venture into the upper level of the cave. The track to the quarry was located for the return journey.

Time underground was 3 hours.

NB. The area was found to be well populated with snakes and members may be well advised to bear this in mind when scrub-bashing there.

Party: R. Mann, J. Morley, S. Harvis, D. Elliott, S. Street, K. Kiernan

### **Hastings – Waterloo Swallet – 10/2/70**

**Aim:** To explore Waterloo Swallet

**General:** After showing John [Taylor], Beattie Cave, the party moved on to Waterloo Swallet. For once there was hardly a trickle of water entering it.

The initial pitch was found to be 120 ft in three stages – 60 ft to a small ledge, another 30 ft to a platform, and then another 30 ft drop to the bottom. From here a passage led down steeply to a 30 ft chimney, and then into a mud chamber, with some interesting acoustic effects. At the end of this chamber was a mud dam 15 ft high, and beyond this was a passage which became progressively smaller until choking off at a depth of app. -200 ft.

The cave was in the form of a fissure, the upper parts of which appeared to extend beyond the point reached but they were too high to reach. A small passage leading towards Trafalgar Pot was not followed, but it would appear that the two are almost definitely linked.

Time underground was approx. 2.5 hrs

Party: S. Harris, M. Cole, J. Taylor (VSA), K. Kiernan

### **Mole Creek – April Fools, Honeycomb I – 14-15/2/70**

**Aim:** Tourist trip and photography in April Fools.

**General:** The party left the campsite at Caveside at 11:30 am and arrived at the track to the cave at 12:30 pm. This was found to be badly overgrown, and considerable difficulty was experienced in finding the cave.

While searching for the entrance, a 20 ft deep pot in the same doline was explored. It was choked at the bottom.

The party eventually went underground at 2:30 pm and explored the cave to the outflow entrance, returning via the same route and taking numerous photographs on the way.

The party left the cave at 12.00 midnight and found what was 'obviously' the track leading from the cave. Unfortunately the 'track' faded out within 50 yards, and the next few hours saw the party shivering around a fire after becoming slightly 'bushed'. This 'extended scrub bash' ended soon after first light the next morning when the party fell onto the Lynds Cave track.

While M. Cole and F. Koolhof walked the two miles back up the road to fetch the cars, the remainder of the party found the Hydro bridge across the Mersey River a



convenient place from which to hang a ladder for some practise.

Later that day some of the party spent ½ hour in Honeycomb I Cave.

Party: M. Cole (leader), J. Taylor (VSA), F. Koolhof, R. Filbee, K. Kiernan

### **Mole Creek – Pyramid, Kellys, Shishkabab, Kubla Khan, Maracoopa I – 28/2-2/3/70**

Aim: To survey Kellys Pot and to show John Taylor a few more caves in the district.

General: The party arrived at Mole Creek at 1:00 am Saturday 28th and lit a fire. This led to a series of spectacular explosions due to the presence of ashes of a number of batteries left by a previous party. Un-nerved, the party decided against sitting around the fire, and with the exception of SS, who sensibly decided to go to sleep, we all trundled off for a couple of hours in Pyramid.

The party arrived back at camp at 3:30 am, and after a few hours sleep rose reluctantly later in the morning. R. Mann, R. Cockerill, S. Vince and J. Taylor went off to survey Kellys. 28 points were used in the survey, which reached the point where the two creeks join, a distance of about 1000 ft from the entrance. S. Harris, G. Blake, S. Street and K. Kiernan spent 3 hrs in Shishkabab and there was some discussion on laddering a hole found adjacent to Old Jamaica Corner which appeared to have running water at the bottom.

The following day, Sunday 1st, a party consisting of S. Harris, S. Vince, G. Blake, S. Street and K. Kiernan set out to show John Kubla Khan. About 2 miles from Kubla someone remembered the eyebolts for the climb up to the new section, so it was back to camp to pick them up. Once finally down the pitch KK did his best to kill a dead snake while waiting for the rest of the party. John was suitably impressed with the sportiness of the aerial route along the stream passage. At the end of Cairn Hall the party found the pitch to the new section was already rigged with a ladder. The party had a look at Xanadu and spent some time in the Pleasure Dome on the way out. It was noted with disappointment that a great deal of damage had occurred in the cave since the last SCS visit. Rubbish, including piles of spent carbide, was everywhere, much formation has been removed or broken or was unnecessarily muddy. Possibly worst of all, a floor in the new section that had been covered with gypsum crystals 12 months before was almost bare – what had not been stolen had been crushed. While the Kubla party were away M. Cole, A. Cockerill and D. Elliott arrived at Mole Creek, and joined the others in a trip through Maracoopa I Cave.

Later that night revolting student John Taylor took part in a fiery demonstration of how to blow up a 'choofer', fortunately sustaining only a slight burn to his wrist.

At 12:15 pm the party left the campsite, one car heading back to Hobart and two going to Maracoopa I cave,

where M. Cole, D. Elliott, J. Taylor, G. Blake and K. Kiernan spent another 3 hrs underground during which time John succeeded in another spectacular elimination, this time of the glass of KK's head lamp, a premonition, perhaps, of MC's broken windscreen on the way home through the lakes? [KK]

Party:

Name	Days	K. Kiernan	3
R. Mann	2	S. Vince	3
J. Taylor (VSA)	3	R. Cockerill	2
S. Street	3	A. Cockerill	1
S. Harris	3	D. Elliott	2
G. Blake	3	M. Cole	2

### **Hastings 8/3/70**

Aim: An overland survey of the Trafalgar Pot and Wolf Hole tracks.

General: The party commenced surveying the Trafalgar Pot track at 11:30 am. The survey as far as Lyonns Den (point 19a) took one hour, and then a further hour was spent surveying up past Beattie Cave (point 20) and Flag Locker to Waterloo Swallet. Half an hour was then spent clearing and surveying a track to Trafalgar Pot. The track was found to be [blank] feet long.

The Wolf Hole track was then surveyed from the cave back down to the road. It was found to be [blank] feet long. [blank] points were required. The section of Chertmans Rd from its junction with Caves Rd to its junction with the track was surveyed and found to be [blank] feet long.

Equipment: 100 ft tape, hand compass, hand inclinometer.

Party: S. Vince, K. Kiernan

### **Mole Creek 14/3/70**

Aim: To explore the new extension in Shishkabab, found on 28/2/70.

General: The party arrived at the cave at 11:30 am, rigged the pitch and proceeded to the new hole. 60 ft of ladder was rigged and K. Kiernan descended to a ledge at -50 ft, and then returned to the top as the ladder could be seen to be too short to reach the bottom. Another 30 ft of ladder was attached and S. Harris descended to -70 ft, and then returned to the top after seeing that the ladder ended in the centre of a large, deep pool. S. Street then descended to water level but saw that it was pointless to attempt to leave the ladder as the water was very deep (est. 15 ft) and there were no handholds on the walls. The walls plunged vertically into the pool, which was estimated to be 50 ft long and up to 12 ft wide, and siphoned at both ends. It is just upstream of the deep pool that is the previously known stream passage in the cave. J. Morley later descended to have a look. A number of small crawls in the small chamber adjacent to the top of this ladder were pushed but no appreciable progress was made. Party retired from cave at 3:30 pm and returned

to Hobart.

Equipment:

a) entrance pitch – 1 x 120 ft rope, 3 x 30 ladders, 1 x 30 ft header

b) second pitch – 1 x 120 ft rope, 3 x 30 ft ladders, 2 x 30 ft headers

Party: J. Morley (leader), S. Harris, G. Blake, S. Street, K. Kiernan



*Typical fine speleothem display, Shish Kebab.*

*Photo: G. Middleton*

### **Maydena 29/3/70**

Aim: Reconnaissance of area burnt by ANM during previous week, and look for new scrub-bashing areas.

General: Proceeded to Maydena and drove to the Westfield area where it was found that a fairly large area near Udensala had been burnt. As this area had been fairly well bashed no further work was done. Several roads near Welcome Stranger were traversed but no limestone found.

Summary: Nothing of very great interest was noted.

Party: R. Mann (leader), M. Cole, C. Harris R. Mann

### **Mole Creek 27-30/3/70 Easter 1970**

Party consisting of S. Harris (leader), K. Kiernan and S. Street left Hobart 10:30 am 27/3/70. Spent 3 hrs in Herberts rigging ladder pitch for next day with two eyebolts which were inserted. We entered the cave at 4:30 pm. That night 1.5 hrs was spent in Wet Caves from the mouth of which no water was flowing as it was all sinking into Embryo Cave.

Frank Brown (Jnr) and Ian McKendrick of NBTCC arrived at 10 am on the Saturday. The five of us waited for R. Cockerill who by 3 pm had not turned up so we set off for Herberts Pot. We went underground at 3:45 pm and made a three hour trip to a point in the talus above Tombstone Traverse. Here we decided to return to the surface as Frank Brown's lights were getting low. Frank and Ian were very impressed with the size and sportiness of Herberts. Slow progress was made in descending the climb down the wall to the stream below Tombstone Traverse and a rope may be advisable here in the future. At the point before leaving the stream passage Frank

made a cup of coffee on a hexamine stove. After having a bit of food we made our way to the surface which we reached at 11 pm. The ladders were left to be picked up on Monday. The two NBTCC members left for L'ton that night.

On the Sunday we decided to dig through behind Old Jamaica Corner. We entered Shishkabab at 3:15 pm with a geology pick and hatchet as digging implements. The mud was dug and the remaining water was drained from the gour nearest the flowstone wall but a breakthrough could not be effected because of a solid wall of formation blocking the way. The Old Jamaica chocolate dropped into the gour in 1964 was however, found and duly presented to the owner, R. Cockerill, on return to Hobart. A crowbar was suggested by K. Kiernan for a future trip to this part of the cave. S. Street took into the cave a radio which he connected with one end of some old telephone wire lying in the main chamber, the other end of the wire was connected to the bottom of the ladder; reception was perfect and this as well as hot coffee and food added to our comfort. The party left the cave at 8:15 pm leaving the gear to be picked up the following day.

On Monday after retrieving gear from Herberts Pot and Shishkabab the party entered Westmorland Cave about 4 pm and proceeded to the crawl. Glowworms seem to have diminished slightly in numbers concentrated in two main groups. The party left the cave at 5:30 pm returned to campsite and left for Hobart visiting Alum Cliffs on the way, arriving in Hobart at 10 pm.

Stephen Harris.

### **Maydena 19/4/70**

Party: R. Cockerill (leader), Alex Terauds, Dave Elliott, Barry James, John McCormack, Phil Andrews, Kevin Kiernan

Details: The party entered Welcome Stranger at 12:30 pm. B. James and D. Elliott with J. McCormack explored some side passages and did a great deal of photography. The rest of the party surveyed some of the upper level including the tributary creek (which enters near the crawls just beyond the entrance (survey point 9) up to its source in the talus collapse).



*Kevin Kiernan in decorated passage above stream, Welcome Stranger. Photo: G. Middleton (3.2.73)*



1100 feet of passage was covered and [blank] points were required. The cave is now the longest at Maydena.

#### **70-71/1 – Tourist Trip, Hastings Area 5/5/70**

Report by J. Morley

Party: John Morley (leader), Libby Emmett (prospective), Mag Curtis (prospective)

Details: Party spent 4 hours in Newdegate Cave doing the 'tourist' trip through the Binney Tunnel to Hells Half Acre. It was noted that the Binney Tunnel is becoming rather wet again. Whilst in Mystery Chamber, the unpredictable nature of the subterranean water movements was well illustrated when Mystery Ck changed from a dry state to one of flood in the space of a few minutes. All members had an enjoyable trip and the prospective went very well.

NB. This is the second time rapid flooding of Mystery Ck has been observed by an SCS party (see Area Reports: Hastings. *Southern Caver*, 1(3): 3).

Summary: An enjoyable trip marked by an observation of very rapid flooding.

Recommendations: Beware of flooding in Newdegate Cave.

#### **70-71/2 Mole Creek area – Underground Exploration Date: 9-10/5/70**

Report by K. Kiernan

Party: Steve Harris (leader), Steve Street, Kevin Kiernan, Tim Peters (prospective)

Details: Party entered Herberts Pot at 6:45 pm, reaching the stream passage in 2¼ hrs and the upstream waterfall 1¼ hrs later. Quick progress was made up to the top chamber and along to the old dry stream passage adjacent to the duck found 24/1/70. Party thrashed the talus heap at the end. It proved rather interesting. Ascent of the aven was abandoned 40 ft up due to the treacherous nature of the rock. The party then explored some crawls and observed much dead vegetable matter. A sandbank was found where a series of animal footprints were observed. These were photographed (KK) and then a fissure was discovered and scaled for 60 ft to a choke where soil and dead vegetation was in abundance. The party then moved to the junction of the two creeks and found that while the right branch was flowing at its normal rate, the left (duck) had changed from a mere trickle to a healthy flow comprising approx. 70% of the total main stream. The upstream end of this chamber was then bashed opposite the creek junction and a possible continuation of the upper/upper level present on the opposite side of the chamber was observed from a distance but not explored. As it started in talus it could be just a further chamber extension.



Summary: A fruitful exploration trip finding evidence of a possible other entrance and a curious change in creek levels.

Recommendations: Exploration of the possible upper level, the side passages on the right tributary passage, and further go at the creek passage itself.

#### **70-71/3 – Surveying, Maydena (Florentine Valley – Westfield Area) Date: 17/5/70**

Report by R. Cockerill

Party: Aleks Terauds (leader), Bob Cockerill, John McCormack, Steve Street

Details: All entrances of Welcome Stranger were connected by surface survey. Inside the cave, two new sections, each approx. 300 ft long, were found. The first of these passages is on the left hand side of the main stream passage (survey point 28) and as per previous pattern in this cave is at right angles and was not fully explored but shows promise.

The second passage is on the left side of the creek just past the entrance crawl and leading off the big chamber. It is an upper level section trending parallel to the creek and approx. 20 ft above it. The passage is approx. 12 ft high and varies from 4-10 ft in width. The right hand side has loose talus over the 20 ft drop to the creek. There is some formation and the end is blocked by flowstone. This was surveyed.

Approx. 600 ft of passages were surveyed. The water level was found still be low, with water in the crawl but none flowing outside. Time underground was 4.5 hours.

Summary: A successful survey and exploration trip with approx. 600 ft of new passage found.

Recommendations: The first of the new passages requires further exploration and surveying, as do a number of other sections of this cave. Beware of the talus on the left side of the second new section as it is loose and a number of holes drop straight down to the creek 20 ft below.

#### **70-71/4 – Tourist Trip, Maydena (June Area – Chrisps Rd Area) Date: 17/5/70**

Report by J. Morley

Party: John Morley (leader), Chris Harris (prospective), Glen Kowalik (prospective) – Climbers Club of Tasmania, Joanne Kowalik (prospective) – Climbers Club of Tasmania

Details: The party spent four hours in Bone Pit for the benefit of the prospective members. The party rock-climbed 80 ft down the second pitch (i.e. the first of the big interior pitches), this being the deepest point reached. All participants enjoyed the trip and the prospectives went very well.

Summary: An enjoyable trip for prospective members involving considerable rock-climbing.

Recommendations: This cave has never been thoroughly



explored and would provide an interesting trip for a wet day. The cave is only 50 yards from the top of Chrisps Rd, is dry, and previously explored to a depth of 300-350 ft by TCC (1960) via three ladder pitches – 30 ft, 140 ft, 90 ft.

**70-71/5 – Surface Exploration, Maydena (June Area – Chrisps Rd Area) Date: 17/5/70**

Report by K. Kiernan

Party: Ron Mann (leader), Dave Elliott, David Bowling (prospective), Kevin Kiernan

Details:

The party scrub bashed the area behind Rescue Pot. Party set out into the scrub 150 yards west of the valley immediately west of (Pygmy) Cave Hill. Party proceeded through snow and horizontal scrub to a point approx. ½ mile above the road towards Tyenna Peak. Heading slightly westwards a sizeable creek was found and followed down through a ravine-like valley up to a 40 ft deep cut in an almost unentrenched hillside. Soon after reaching the top of the limestone the ravine disappeared and the stream flowed across a flat, peaty surface and split. One branch joined another and entered Rescue Pot, while the other, and by far the larger (2 cusecs) branch leaped into the centre of a spectacular and previously unknown 80 ft pot 100 yards SW of it. A small collapse immediately to the west was entered but there was no entrance in it. Another 50 yards down the valley (i.e. the valley immediately west of Cave Hill ridge) a small stream (½ cusec?) was found entering a big doline and flowing down under a face. The entrance is very small. 75-100 yards further down the valley, at the base of a 15 ft face halfway between the valley floor and hilltop, a small entrance into talus beside a 10 ft deep 10 ft diameter collapse was found. Proceeding up the hill the party found the Rescue Pot ridge track back to the road. The creek crossed by the track was followed down to its swallet near Zulu Pot. This was in a very large doline but choked with large talus blocks. None of the holes found on the day were entered.

Summary: A promising area with a number of holes found. The new pot near Rescue Pot may be the source of the stream in Rescue Pot, in which case the water must drop approx. 200 ft in the about the same distance horizontally.

Recommendations: Exploration of the holes found, with scrub-bashing being continued westwards towards the Gap. In the light of the stream sinking near Zulu Pot it may warrant descending [Zulu Pot] again in an attempt to explore the passage leading off from 20 ft above the bottom. If a stout tree branch were to be lowered down the 170 ft shaft it could be used as a scaling pole.

**70-71/6 – Underground Exploration, Hastings Area Date: 21/5/70**

Report by J. Morley

Party: John Morley (leader), Tom Morley (prospective), Norm House (prospective)

Details: The new section beyond Lake Pluto in Wolf Hole was fully explored. A number of dry crawls through flaky talus were also investigated, one through a rift leading to a series of small chambers with flat, dry, cracked mud floors. Efforts to proceed beyond this point proved fruitless so the party retired from the cave after 4 hrs underground. The prospective went well.

Summary: A successful exploration trip with the new extension thoroughly explored.

Recommendations: As the area beyond the lake has now been thoroughly explored, any future extension will not (should not!) be there.

**70-71/7 – Surface and Underground Exploration, Maydena (June Area – Chrisps Rd Area) Date: 30/5/70**

Report by K. Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), John McCormack, Chris Harris

Details: Party set out from the top of Chrisps Rd and found a small cave 100 yards SE of Voltera. This consisted of an entry to a small chamber with a steeply sloping floor – total depth 30 ft, length 40 ft, no decoration. Tyenna Peak was then ascended by way of Voltera Ck, Voltera Ridge and a very steep hill at the top which was traversed to the west. From a height of approx. 3500 ft the party descended slightly to a small tarn (obvious on air photos – directly behind Cave Hill). The obvious valley leading off the end of this appears to be an overflow and was not investigated but appears from the air photos to become, or join, the big valley near Voltera. Instead, a creek was heard below i.e. SE of it, which was seeping out from the tarn, and as this creek was quite large (2-3 cusecs approx.) it was decided to follow it down, but it turned out to be the creek which crosses the Rescue Pot track. Rather dispirited, the party set out along the ridge track to Rescue Pot, finding a shaft of at least 40 ft on the top of the hill, about 20 ft to the right of the track approx. 75 yards before it descends onto the valley floor. It appeared to have a passage leading off but was not explored due to lack of time. After reaching Rescue Pot and numbering it 201 the party went across to the new pot discovered 100 yards SW of 201 on 17/5/70. From a small balcony 20 ft below the lip on the eastern side, a reasonably dry ladder pitch of exactly 60 ft was descended. However, attempts to explore beyond the bottom of the pitch were halted due to the amount of water dropping over the waterfall. The way on appears to be via a 3 ft high, amply-watered and wide crawl leading off over rounded rocks at approx. 145° i.e. towards 201. This pot was numbered 202 on an outcrop on the balcony. On the way back along the valley track from 201, what looked to be a horizontal entrance was sighted in a valley 25 yards away but not explored (situated approx. 50 yards

from the shaft found on the way in). While the party was walking overland back to the top of Chrisps Rd, a creek was heard in the vicinity of the big valley near Bone Pit, just above the cleared area. This could be Voltera, or a creek sinking in the obvious doline that is clearly visible on the air photos, at the foot of the valley.

Summary: Although the holes high in the big valley near Bone Pit (see air photos) were not found, 201 and 202 were numbered and an attempt made to explore the latter, two new holes were found near 201 and a good idea of the surface hydrology was gained. A creek was heard near Bone Pit which may lead to a new cave.

Recommendations: Diversion of the 202 stream will be easy and should allow exploration of 202. The other holes found require exploration, and the stream near Bone Pit should be looked at.

[Cave Numbering Reports] **Maydena**

### **201 Rescue Pot**

Numbered 30/5/70 on rockface.

Description of entrance: In doline, small creek inflow under 40 ft face. Entrance 10 x 20 ft. 20 ft drop.

Location, access: Situated at northern end of (Pygmy) Cave Hill ridge. Follow dry valley up from 90° (to east) corner of Chrisps Rd by Cave Hill to Swallet near Zulu Pot or adjacent track to creek. Cross creek and follow track up ridge or converging dry valley to cave.

Discovered: Mr. W. White of Maydena in 1967.

First explored: W. & B. White, M. Flint 10/3/69 and SCS 13/4/69

NB: This cave came to light after rescue of two amateur speleos, including the discoverer, on 10/3/69.

Description: Dangerous swallet hole taking very small stream. 15 ft drop leads to 200 ft of steeply descending fissure type passage, then a 90 ft ladder drop to a large chamber and rifts leading to stream passage. Good sized stream at bottom, ends in siphon. False floors and dangerous talus throughout.

Notes: Collapse stage of development, controlled by N-S jointing. Number of bones of recent marsupials. Negligible formations.

Depth: Approx. 350 ft

Equipment: 2 x 30 ft ladders, 90 ft ladder, 2 x 120 ft safety ropes, 60 ft rope for entrance.

### **202**

Numbered 30/5/70 on rockface at obvious belay point: balcony 20 ft below doline lip on eastern side.

Description of entrance: Spectacular vertical-sided collapse doline 90 ft deep and 50-60 ft diameter, with waterfall from creek of 1-2 cusecs.

Location, access: 100 yards WSW of 201.

Discovered: R. Mann (L), D. Elliott, D. Bowling, K. Kiernan (SCS) 17/5/70

First explored: SCS

Description: 60 ft ladder drop from balcony on eastern side of doline. Water flows into 3 ft high crawl.

Notes: Possible source of creek in bottom of 201.

[*Later named Tyenna Tomo – Bunton, S. 2009 Cave Hill – Relocating Rescue Pot. Speleo Spiel, 374: 10*]

### **70-71/8 – Underground Exploration, Ida Bay Area (Northern side of Marble Hill) Date: 30/5/70**

Report by J. Morley

Party: John Morley (leader) – SCS, Brian Kennedy (prospective) – CCT, Jo Errey (prospective) – HWC, Oscar Clepper (prospective) from Fort Worth, Texas, USA, Ian McKendricks – TCCNB, Tim Walkden-Brown – TCC, and nine others, mainly from TCC, HWC and CCT.

Details: Party spent 4 hrs thrashing some loose rock fall at the far end of Mystery Creek Cave (Entrance Cave). No extension was effected. Trip was primarily for the purpose of introducing some TCC prospectives to the sport of caving.

Summary: An enjoyable trip for prospective members but no new underground territory was found.

Recommendations: This cave is little known by SCS and thus any parties from this society considering exploring it would do well to consider obtaining a TCC guide as the cave is well known to that club.

### **70-71/9 – Surveying, Maydena (Florentine Valley – Westfield Area) Date: 31/5/70**

Report by R. Cockerill

Party: Bob Cockerill (leader), Chris Harris, Phil Andrews, Kevin Kiernan

Details: Party entered Welcome Stranger and surveyed the route in via the back (dry) entrance to the small chamber between the crawls. The creek passage was re-surveyed up as far as the point where the upper level loop joins the main passage, and then back along the upper level and two-sided passage (excluding the tributary creek) to the main stream passage. From here the upper level running parallel to the upstream section of the main stream passage from the big chamber was resurveyed. In the crawls at the end of this a small white substance believed to be a fungi was observed. It consisted of white 'needles' up to one inch long projecting from a central core. Near this a scapula, two lower jaw bones and a number of other bones were observed and collected (PA), believed to be *Rattus lutreolus*.

On the way out the upper level route back over the wet sections (before point 8) was located, making it possible to easily bypass this section entirely. All stations were numbered on paper in cairns. 4¼ hrs was spent underground. The water level was high and the creek was flowing outside the entrance and very cold. PA and CH looked after the tape, KK the instruments with RC drawing and recording. 38 stations were required.



Summary: A good trip. Surveying: S21 → S19 + S19 → D → 9; 9 → M4 → H + H4 – L2. 38 stations in all.

Recommendations: Some more surveying remains to be done in this cave.



*Steve Vince admires shawls, Welcome Stranger.  
Photo: K. Kiernan*

#### **70-71/10 – Underground Exploration, Mole Creek Area Date: 6-7/6/70**

Report by J. Morley

Party: John Morley (leader), Mick Flint (prospective) – CCT, Bryan Kennedy (prospective) – CCT, Rob Abe (prospective) – CCT

Details: Party spent 12 hours in downstream Herberts Pot with 2 hours being spent thrashing the rockfall downstream, but no extension was found. Two bypasses were found in the stream. A new type of belay was used very successfully at the ladder pitch. The new bolts for the ladder pitch proved very satisfactory. The water level was low but the creek in the cave was lower than the main creek. Highlight of the trip was RA playing rock climber to pass one of the deep pools. He discovered (the hard way) that cave limestone is treacherous and disappeared gaily under the waves clutching a 1 ft square block of rock which pulled out of the wall.

Two other TCCNB members in the area tried to get from Pyramid Cave-Cow Cave but failed.

The prospectives went very well but were exhausted upon leaving the cave, after only 12 hrs !!!?

Summary: A good trip but no extension was found.

Recommendations: It is beginning to appear that there is no extension in that chamber and that attention should soon be concentrated elsewhere.

#### **70-71/11 – Surface and Underground Exploration, Jukes-Darwin, Gordon/Franklin and Mt Ronald Cross Date: 13-15/6/70**

Report by K. Kiernan

Party: Steve Harris (leader), Chris Harris, Kevin Kiernan, Garry Kavlie (prospective) from Gormanston

Details: Party left Hobart at 10:00 am and at 1:00 pm the gremlins struck at the Cortina's clutch cable which spewed out its contents somewhere between Mt Arrow-smith and Bubbs Hill, making it necessary to proceed to Queenstown in third gear all the way. After repairs had been effected the party proceeded to Gormanston, picking up GK and his dalmatian dog, Ben, at 6:30 pm, and thence to GK's no. 1 hut, situated just along the Crotty Track from the Darwin Rd. Rain prevailed during the night and most of the next day, and this limited activities. The party travelled by car to GK's no. 2 hut, further towards Darwin. Both of these huts are left unlocked and are available for the society's use. Leo Jeffries, the contractor building the new HEC road to the Franklin River, happened by at this time, and after a few quick words with GK, agreed to leave the gate to this road open. Further towards Darwin, GK showed the party a 200 ft waterfall on the side of Mt Darwin (waterfall is visible from the no. 2 hut). This is high on the mountainside and is supposed to go into a cave, and rise at the foot of the range. The creek flows near to the Darwin limestone quarry (now defunct). GK indicated the site of the old quarry and spoke of two flooded caves adjacent to it, which could be drained by digging a trench. From here the party drove down to the Franklin track and Kelly Basin track junction, and then out towards the Franklin to a constructor's camp approx. 2 miles, i.e. one ridge, from the Franklin River. No limestone had been observed since Darwin. The Gordon-Franklin area is the site of a planned HEC development and thus in urgent need of attention. No scrub bashing was done in this area. From here the party proceeded back to the Kelly Basin Track. Previous experience has shown that while it is possible to get by car from the start of the track to a landslide 2 miles down it, it was at some cost to paintwork and risk of getting bogged, so the car was left at the turnoff. The party walked down to Hamoik Passages and number Hamoik I Cave in the upstream direction thus: 201 – entrance adjacent to efflux, 202 – entrance top side of track, 203 – collapse pot entrance. Hamoik II was then numbered in an upstream direction 204 & 205. CH journeyed from 204-205 underground to meet up with the others who entered 205 for GK's benefit. Some wetas were collected and large black spiders seen. Another 80 ft of very low passage was explored of the upstream end of the main chamber, and this contains some rather pretty, although dead, decoration. When it was seen to be necessary to negotiate a tight corkscrewing squeeze down in to a very restricted creek passage, exploration was abandoned as it was some miles walk back to the car and this would have been rather unpleasant in a soaking wet condition. This new stream may be the one entering Hamoik I. GK then told of three cave entrances close together on the bank of the Bird River, 2 miles downstream of the bridge, and then the party



headed back to camp. At 10:30 the following day the party broke camp and dropped GK off at Gormanston and headed homewards. The party had a look at the extremity of the Mt Ronald Cross area at Davis Ck. Party went from the point where the creek turns westwards to the dolomite boundary/Lyell Hwy boundary to the east, i.e. NE side of McKays Peak. Only ½ hr was spent there, and some dolomite samples collected.

Summary: An interesting trip despite the weather.

Recommendations: Investigation of all cave reports from Jukes-Darwin, and another trip to the Franklin River before the HEC floods it.

### **Cave System: Hamoik Passages, Jukes-Darwin**

Locations, access: Situated ¼ mile north of Bird River bridge on Kelly Basin track approx. 4½ miles from Kelly Basin and 3-4 miles south of junction of Kelly Basin and Franklin tracks. Heavily blazed tree beside track.

Details: Small stream cave system with two, perhaps three, small permanent creeks. Breaches a small surface divide.

#### **i) Cave: Hamoik I Cave**

Located: TCC 1965

Description: Outflow stream cave with low roof, becoming too low upstream. Two or three small chambers, upstream, the largest being approx. 40 ft in diameter and 30 ft high. Cave passes right under track.

Length of passages: 300 ft

Depth: 40 ft

Notes: Some formation including gours. Formation mostly dead and muddied. Glow-worms. Wet. Spiders.

Entrances:

No. [JD]201

Location: Immediately below track (SE side), adjacent to outflow 30 ft from Bird River and directly opposite 202.

Description: Rift 6 ft high x 3 ft wide.

Numbered: 14/6/70 on rock face

No. [JD]202

Location: Opposite side of track to 201 and 30 ft away. Situated in doline below blazed tree.

Description: Rift 2 x 6 ft and 10 ft deep in doline of 15 ft diameter. Enters stream passage.

Numbered: 14/6/70 on rock face.

No. [JD]203

Location: 75 yards up ridge from 202. Follow blazed trail.

Description: Vertical sided collapse doline 40 ft deep, 60 ft long x 30 ft wide. Connects with main chamber.

Numbered: 14/6/70 on blazed tree on southern side of doline due to total lack of outcrop.

Equipment: 1 x 30 ft header, 40 ft ladder, safety rope.

#### **ii) Cave: Hamoik II Cave**

Located: SCS 26/12/1969

Description: Exceptionally low roofed inflow cave with two small, permanent, independent creeks. One chamber and high rift. Become too low downstream.

Length of passages: 200 ft

Depth: 30 ft

Notes: Some formation mostly dead and muddied. Wet. Spiders.

Entrances:

No. [JD]204

Location: 50 yards from 203, heading parallel to track towards Darwin.

Description: Rift 6 x 3 ft, by 15 ft deep at bottom of doline 20 x 40 ft and 20 ft deep to downstream end

Numbered: 14/6/70 on rock face

No. [JD]205

Location: 50 yards up valley from 204.

Description: Situated in doline 30 ft diameter and 50 ft deep at end of large compound doline. Creek inflow under 50 ft rock face, entrance 15 x 5 ft.

Numbered: 14/6/70 on rock face.

### **70-71/12 – Surface Exploration and Surveying, Maydena (June Area – Chrisps Rd Area) Date: 14/6/70**

Report by R. Mann

Party: Ron Mann (leader), Greg Blake, Dave Elliott

Details: General scrub bash in area of Voltera and survey of Voltera, Sesame visited – creek now goes underground 25 yards further up valley. Party then proceeded back to the main road and looked at the area below the junction with Chrisps Rd with a view to possible effluxes, but found nothing.

Summary: An interesting trip but nothing of note discovered.

Recommendations: Explore the hole near Sesame where the creek now sinks and look for more effluxes.

### **70-71/13 – Tourist Trip, Maydena (Florentine Valley – Westfield Area) Date: 14/6/70**

Report by R. Cockerill

Party: Bob Cockerill (leader), Phil Andrews, Sue Hewitt (prospective), Graeme Watt (prospective), Leonne Smith (prospective)

Details: Welcome Stranger was visited. Most of the clean side passages were visited. Northern upper level on upper level D – stream discovered. Entrance up very narrow vertical squeeze. Reached siphon 3:15 pm, left at 3:25 pm. Approx. 1 gram of fluorescein was placed in the siphon. The party followed the stream out to the surface leaving the cave at 3:35 pm. Fluorescein not sighted by 4:35 pm, water level quite high, bottom entrance

flowing strongly. Very small *Anaspides* were observed at the siphon. Wetas not evident until main stream passage reached. A number were seen at the Madonna (sq). The prospective went very well.

Summary: An interesting trip for prospectives with a new section found which appears to be a fourth level of development in what now appears as a quite complex and strongly joint controlled system. New section is heavily decorated.

Recommendations: Exploration of the new section and continued surveying.

**70-71/14 – Underground Exploration, Maydena (Florentine Valley – F9 Area) Tassy Pot Date: 20/6/70**

Report by K. Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Chris Harris, Greg Blake, Graeme Watt (prospective), John Morley

Details: Party rigged the pitch with 240 ft of ladder on 3 x 30 ft headers and at 12:30 descended the pitch. Due to the shortage of starters GB had to descend unbelayed as last man down. From the ledge at -150 ft, the ladders were positioned for the second drop, this being approx. 85 ft. Owing to the safety factor KK opted to remain on the ledge and belay the others down. Once down, JM and GB moved on into a crawl which led to the new extension. This was rather poor as it left the other two, both new to the game, stranded with nowhere to go, at the bottom of the pitch.

The extension leads from the lowest point of the floor in the chamber at the bottom, via a 2 ft high muddy crawl. This continued for approx. 6 ft to a small chamber with an appreciable draught coming through the floor. A 6 ft drop led to a crawl into a rift, and then a superb chimney. This chimney starts off narrow, as a squeeze, then becomes very wide and continues this variation due to large talus slabs in it. Finally it is necessary to transfer from a fully outstretched bridging position to a position on one of the walls only to climb down the final 15 ft on that face. This manoeuvre is rather awkward. The total length of the rock/chimney climb is approx. 70 ft. At this point is small chamber, with a 1 ft high stalagmite on approx. 4 square feet of flowstone – the only decoration so far found in this cave. There are numerous bones on the floor. From this point, at a depth of 300 ft, the way on is via a steeply sloping fissure passage, over an 8 ft drop and down to a couple of squeezes (horizontal) and then out on a catwalk on the side of a great shaft and across into a sizeable chamber, at around -350 ft. There are many bones in this chamber.

The shaft drops from the upper levels, and where it passes the chamber is about 80 ft across. The depth was estimated at 100-150 ft, and at the bottom appears to take on quite enormous dimension in a big chamber, in which there is the sound of trickling water.

The whole cave seems to owe its structure to choke of two or three great shafts and sometimes the choke is

only very thin, with drops of up to 20 ft below them. This gives rise to rather sobering thoughts regarding talus chokes.

Some spiders (not yet identified) were collected from the bottom of the first pitch, and glow-worms and frogs observed.

Three members had been sitting at various spots for 6 hrs, and it was a cold party that eventually regained the surface. Perhaps the worst thing about the trip was rolling up all the ladders, ropes and headers, while cold and wet.

It was noted that some parts of the pitches are dangerous. The top of the first pitch is overhung with logs and loose rock it would be nigh impossible to move, while the ledge between the two is a motley agglomeration of rocks, rotten logs and mud. Thus it is rather dangerous to stand at the base of 1st drop, as things occasionally fall and whistle past. Likewise, standing at the base of the second drop is exceedingly dangerous.

Summary: A spectacular trip which established the cave as one of the deepest in Australia, attaining a depth of 350 ft with a further drop of 100-150 ft in sight.

Recommendations: Beware of loose rocks, especially at ladder pitches. [see plan/long.section overpage]

**70-71/15 – Underground Exploration, Maydena (Florentine Valley – F9 Area) Tassy Pot Date: 28/6/70**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Greg Blake (leader), Kevin Kiernan, Leonne Smith (prospective), David Mitchell (prospective), Chris Harris

Details: All of party descended to the big chamber at -350 ft. It was decided that the previous party had underestimated the depth of the shaft, which could be 180 ft. The time taken for a rock to make its first bounce was 3 seconds (=140 ft) and it then continued rattling for a further 7 seconds (times roughly by wrist watch). As the party had only 100 ft of ladder it was deemed unworthwhile to rig the pitch. GB chimneyed down a 50 ft deep rift at the far end of the chamber, to a depth of 400 ft approx. total. However, it did not go.

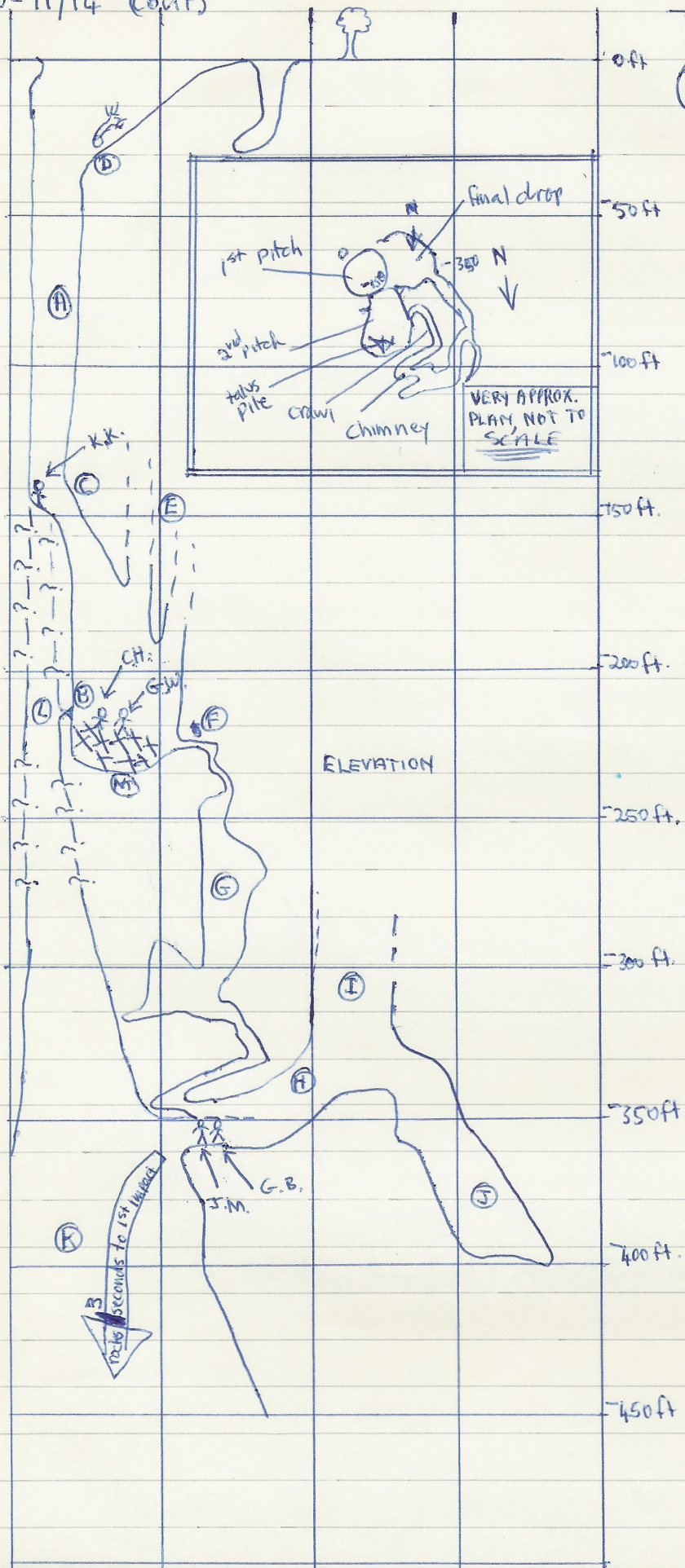
It had been a battle getting the gear in, but it was worse getting it out again and by the time the surface was regained 12 hours had been spent underground. Whilst standing at the base of the 2nd drop, CH was struck on the leg by a large rock, probably 1 ft in diameter and 6" thick. Fortunately it was only a glancing blow and no injury resulted but it provides further encouragement for being very careful of these pitches. The ledge is very loose and dangerous but pretty well impossible to clean up.

After leaving the cave some trouble was experienced with the car and it was not until 1:00 am 29/6/70 that the party reached the ANM gate and telephoned Hobart to avert a search and rescue callout. Apologies to all for the



No. 70-71/14 (cont)

# TASSY POT (Florentine Valley)



C.R.G. Gr. I  
0 50 100  
SCALE  
1 INCH = 50 FEET

## KEY

- (A) 1st pitch = 150 ft
- (B) 2nd pitch = 80-90 ft
- (C) hedge - loose and dangerous for people climbing P.2.
- (D) logs, loose rock - dangerous
- (E) avenus
- (F) crawl
- (G) chimney - 70 ft.
- (H) chamber
- (I) huge aven
- (J) rift
- (K) bottom shaft 100-150 ft
- (L) shaft visible through squeeze at bottom of P.2. Possible ~~continuation~~ continuation of (A), top of (K)
- (M) talus pile, rift behind it



scare. Last members got home by 4:30 am.

Summary: A very enjoyable trip but the pitch is bigger than first thought. It will take a big party and a full week-end to bottom this cave as the ladders will have to be lowered from the top pitches.

Recommendations: Beware of loose rocks.

#### **70-71/16 – Tourist Trip, Hastings Area Date: 4/7/70**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Chris Harris, Peter Henley – WASG, Julie Henley – WASG

Details: This was a hurriedly arranged trip for the benefit of WASG members Peter and Julie Henley, freshly arrived in Tasmania by way of Bendethera (NSW).

Party entered Newdegate Cave and after a brief unofficial inspection of the tourist section entered the Binney Tunnel and went as far as Hells Half Acre. The creek was flowing very strongly and in fact was clearly audible from the gate on the tourist cave. It was noted that the muddy sections of the cave had dried out considerably, notably the muddy slide down to Mystery Creek in Mystery Chamber, which was just very sticky. An enjoyable time was spent lounging in the mud, modeling clay figures and chasing oranges which Julie dropped at every opportunity. Party eventually retired from the cave into pouring rain after 4 hrs underground.

Summary: A very enjoyable trip, even if a somewhat sadistic way to introduce unsuspecting mainlanders to the joys of caving in Tasmania.

Recommendations: Beware of oranges???

#### **70-71/17 – Surface Exploration, Maydena (June Area – Chrisps Rd Area) Date: 5/7/70**

Report by R. Cockerill

Party: Bob Cockerill (leader), John McCormack, Barry James, Dave Elliott

Details: party proceeded to the top of Chrisps Rd and scrub-bashed the general area. A number of previously known holes were found, and also some new ones. No underground exploration was carried out, and all the holes located were numbered. Numbers used were 203-211.

Details of these holes can be found on the next page.

Summary: A successful exploration trip, and some underground exploration is now required in this area.

Recommendations: Exploration of the new holes located and more scrub-bashing in this area.

#### **Cave Numbering**

##### **[JF]203 Bone Pit**

Numbered 5/7/70 on rockface.

Description of entrance: Vertical cleft 20 ft high x 10 ft wide in 40 ft face. 30 ft drop.

Location, access: 100 yards NW of the top end of Chrisps

Rd. Bearing to Cave Hill 250°. Elevation 2,280 ft.

Discovered: TCC 1951

Re-discovered: B. James (L), D. Elliott, N. Heaven, G. Rumbold, K. Kiernan (SCS) 12/10/69.

First explored: TCC 1951

Description: 30 ft ladder drop leads to sizeable chambers and talus climbs. Long ladder pitches (140 ft, 90 ft) or interesting rock climbing. No running water but wet in lower sections of cave.

Notes: Development controlled by NNW-SSE jointing. Few formations, mainly 'moonmilche' and a little flowstone. Number of bones of recent wallaby (*Wallabia rufogrisea*, *Thylogale billardieri*) and possum (*Pseudocheirus convolutor*).

Depth: 300-350 ft

Equipment: 1st pitch – 1 x 30 ft header, 30 ft ladder, safety rope. 2nd pitch – 2 x 30 ft header, 140 ft ladder, safety rope 200 ft. 3rd pitch – 2 x 30 ft header, 90 ft ladder, safety rope 120 ft.

##### **204**

Numbered: 5/7/70 on adjacent stump with cairn of rocks.

Description of entrance: Sink in top of ridge. Entrance approx. 30 ft drop, diameter 3 ft.

Location, access: On top of ridge on top of Chrisps Rd.

Discovered: 4/1/70

##### **205**

Numbered: 5/7/70 on rock face.

Description of entrance: Two small entrances close together under yellow painted arrow on rock face. 30 ft drop.

Location, access: 150 yards NNE of 203 on yellow paint survey trail under arrow painted on rock face. Bearing to 204 = 100°

Discovered: D. Elliott, N. Heaven, G. Rumbold (SCS)

First explored: SCS

Description: 30 ft ladder pitch, no continuation.

Notes: some 'moonmilche'.

Depth: 30 ft

Length: 8 ft

Equipment: 1 x 30 ft header, 1 x 30 ft ladder, 50 ft safety rope.

##### **206**

Numbered 5/7/70 on rockface.

Description of entrance: Entrance (dry) on SE side of large doline under sheer 20 ft face above inflow of large creek. Slopes over talus.

Location, access: In deep doline over ridge from 205. Creek is audible from 205.

Discovered: B. James, K. Kiernan (SCS).

First explored: SCS

Description: Short slope leads to 20 ft rock climb down

to low passage.

## **207**

Numbered: 5/7/70 on rock face.

Description of entrance: Creek inflow under 50 ft face in very large doline. Sassafras tree growing upslope of entrance.

Location, access: 100 yards N of 206. Bearing to 206 = 180°.

Description: Dry entrance above creek inflow. Passage slopes at 45°. At -50 ft there is an 8 ft drop. The cave then closes off.

Survey: Grade 2 by R. Mann, G. Blake (SCS).

Equipment: 3 x 30 ft headers, 20 ft ladder.

## **208**

Numbered: 5/7/70 on rockface.

Description of entrance: In face above doline, entrance 2'6" x 12" into chamber.

Location, access: Over ridge from 207 near creek with tumble fall, 20 ft above doline from 209. Entrance 50 yards from end of face towards road. Bearing to 206 = 150°, distance 100 yards.

Discovered: 5/7/70

## **209**

Numbered 5/7/70 on rock face.

Description of entrance: Dry hole on left of valley, gradual slope in corkscrew.

Location, access: Over ridge in creek with tumble fall, on left of valley. Bearing to top of Chrisps Rd = approx. 100°

Description: Dry hole, gradual slope in corkscrew.

Depth 30 ft

## **210 Sesame I**

Numbered: 5/7/70 on rockface.

Description of entrance: Doline with 60 ft face.

Location, access: In large doline up from road. Bearing to top of Chrisps Rd = 105°. Bearing to 209 = 20°, 100 yards distant.

## **211 Sesame II**

Numbered: 5/7/70 on rock face.

Description of entrance: Pot 15 ft in diameter, approx. 60 ft drop.

Location, access: On top of 210 doline, 20 yards from 210. Bearing to top of Chrisps Rd = 105°.

Discovered: B. James, R. Cockerill, J. McCormack, D. Elliott (SCS) 5/7/70.

## **70-71/18 – Surface Exploration, Maydena (June Area – Chrisps Rd Area) Date: 19/7/70**

Report by John McCormack

Party: John McCormack (leader), Dave Elliott, Aleks Terauds, Kevin Kiernan

Details: 6" of snow on the ground at Chrisps Rd. Parked car below Pygmy Hill and set off into scrub in 201 area. Followed valley down from 202 after photographing 202 in snow conditions. Went to holes previously found on trip 17/5/70. Swallet hole under face in large doline numbered. Hole by small collapse further down valley explored. Entry 1 ft x 1 ft through talus into chamber 10 ft long x 4 ft wide. Not numbered. Cave makes nasty noises when anyone walks over roof – a creaking, grinding sound. Cave on top of ridge also relocated and numbered. Pot is no deeper than 30 ft.

Exploration eventually abandoned due to cold and snow storms. Clambering over logs and crossing rugged lapiaz can be hazardous at the best of times and the snow didn't make things any better.

(Highlight of the trip was the demise of Mr. Terauds' new waterproof trousers, which slowly parted at the seams until completely falling off with all seams parted – KK).

Summary: A wet, cold, amusing trip.

Recommendations: (Don't buy a set of red waterproofs for \$3.50!) Also, explore holes numbered and general area between Bone Pit and Rescue Pot, also valley down from 213 and westwards towards the Gap.

Holes Numbered:

212 – Situated 20 ft to the right of the ridge track to 201. Entrance 3 x 3 ft to drop of 20-30 ft. Unexplored. Discovered 70-71/7 trip on 30/5/70.

213 – 50 yards down the valley from 202. Small stream flows into large doline and disappears under rock face. Unexplored. Entrance 3 ft x 1 ft high. Discovered 70-71/5 trip on 17/5/70.

NB Both numbers affixed to rock face at entrance.

## **70-71/19 – Surface Exploration, Lorinna Area and Railton Area Date: 25-26/7/70**

Report by K. Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Chris Harris, Dave Elliott, Chris Williams (prospective), Steve Street

Details: Party left Hobart in driving wind and rain at 9:00 am and arrived at Lorinna at 3:00 pm. Campsite 100 yards along showground from bridge over Forth River appeared to have been used considerably of late and a good track has been cut 25 yards to the river. As it was still raining, the tents were pitched by the fallen down shed beside the track, to take advantage of some protection offered by the big trees. It took one hour to light a fire in appalling conditions and scrub bashing was abandoned for the day. The efflux at the end of the showground was numbered 201. A very small stream joining the 201 creek 60 ft downstream of 201 was found to issue from a rise pit 20 ft up the bank – no go. That night the weather varied from fine-cold-snow-rain to hail etc.

The following morning dawned wet and the area was soaked after a couple of particularly heavy down pours overnight but after a few clearing showers it became

rather hot and humid. The western side of the river, opposite the showground, was then investigated from the bridge northwards to the fault boundary with the Lorinna Greywacke (at this point high cliffs rise beside the river and a creek flows along the fault). A couple of good creeks were crossed but according to the maps they originate higher up on the basalt area and not as effluxes. In this area the limestone is of very low relief and largely obscured by recent alluvium. The only sign of solution seen was in a dry valley approx 2/3 of the way from the bridge to the fault, where a series of pools were found, one of which appeared to be very deep, but was plumbed to a depth of only 3 ft. It seemed to have channels at the bottom, and possibly serves as a swallet when the creek is flowing less strongly, but would never be negotiable due the high water table. The sun then broke through and the party decamped and went to Limestone Creek to number Canned Crawl and Shawl Pot, collecting a weta from the former and observing a number of large cave spiders.

Two residents were met at Limestone Creek, who gave the following information (with party's conclusions in parentheses):

No knowledge of 202, 203.

Cave in cliffs at showground, I think it has a creek coming out of it. It is necessary to crawl under an outcrop to enter it. It is supposed to go at least a bit. A geologist got stuck in it after finding exiting harder than entering and the locals had to use a crow bar to prise another entrance in to get him out. (This is no doubt 201).

Recollection of two caves at Limestone Creek between the bridge and HEC track across creek. In one of them a long rope was used in exploration by earlier residents.

The mystery cave spoken of before on Limestone Creek. It is supposed to be somewhere in the gorge, but in which bank? Two residents explored it many years ago and had trouble finding their way out. There were many bones at the end and one of the residents considered that a calf must have wandered in. (This would take a big entrance!)

Walk-in cave beside cemetery. Informant considered it may be the top end to 201. (If it has a creek going in it may be the one mentioned in A. McIntosh Reid's geological report.)

Party left Lorinna in pouring rain.

Summary: West side of river opposite showground requires no more work but further downstream is supposed to be another outcrop further down. Numbers 201-203 placed. Good information gained.

Recommendations: Look at the area further downstream below flood level and the eastern bank below flood level from 201 – Limestone creek area. Limestone Creek gorge is not below flood level so is not in urgent need of attention. 201 requires further exploration, also the cave by the cemetery.

From Lorinna the party went to Railton.

This area was briefly visited on the way home but appears to be of little interest. The limestone area is extensive but of very low relief and no karst development was noted, although surface drainage appeared absent over a large area. The only sign of solution of the limestone was seen in the quarry on the Latrobe Rd, where a rugged lapiaz was developed below a very [*thin*] soil mantle of clay overburden. The quarry face is 50 ft high and contains many solution channels up to 6 ft in diameter, but all are infilled with terra-rosa. A very deep pool on the quarry floor is indicative of the high water table.

Summary: This area appears of little interest, although some small caves may occur.

Recommendations: Does not appear to warrant further attention.

Caves Numbered at Lorinna:

201 – efflux at showground. Very tight but supposedly goes.

202 – Canned Crawl. Low crawling cave with rockfall and 15 ft chimney. Small chamber at bottom. Tiny entrance 100 yards down from Limestone Creek bridge on left bank 20 ft above creek 20 ft downstream of track.

203 – Shawl Pot. 10 ft drop to small chamber and 25 ft drop to water. Some decoration. At base of 20 ft face beside Limestone Creek on left bank 100 yards downstream of 202.

## **70-71/20 – Surface Exploration, Hastings Area (NE Side of Cave Hill) Date: 9/8/70**

Report by D. Elliott

Party: Michael Cole (leader), Dave Elliott, Chris Harris

Details: An attempt to explore near the waterfall well west of the big subjacent doline with waterfall on the NE side of Cave Hill was foiled when a huge tree was found to be blocking the road (Chestermans Rd) just past the junction with the King George V/Wolf Hole track. The party attempted to reach the back of the hill via Creekton Rd and a branch road which is probably the one joining Chestermans above the quarry. The branch road became too muddy and a 4WD vehicle would be needed to proceed further. The party then walked along the road for ½ hour and set off into the scrub. A creek was heard in a valley but time did not permit investigation. A small collapse was seen which may not have been a doline as the area did not look like dolomite country. The area scrub-bashed was on the branch road (marked “no thoroughfare”) from Creekton Rd, below Chestermans Rd. The weather was mainly fine but with some short showers.

Summary: An interesting new area was looked at but no dolomite was positively identified. A tree across Chestermans Rd just above the Wolf Hole track looks like severely hampering work in the area of the NE side of the hill until removed.

Recommendations: Worth another look to confirm pres-



ence or otherwise of dolomite and investigate the creek.

**70-71/21 – Underground Exploration, Mole Creek Area Date: 22-23/8/70**

Report by K. Kiernan

Party: Michael Cole (leader), Steve Street, Chris Harris, Kevin Kiernan

Details: Party reached Georgies Hall Cave early on Saturday afternoon. The cave was numbered MC201 on the rock face at the entrance. Rough steps were cut in the mud slope. Party entered cave and went to upstream siphon via Root Hall, Eldorado. Explored in Peppermint Crawl. Strong draught but water too deep due to flooding. Party then bashed talus and looked at decoration in Eldorado area, eventually returned from cave after approx. 6 hrs underground.

Highlight of the trip came on Saturday night when CH succeeded in wandering off the bank into the creek at the campsite and sinking. He was revenged that night when heavy rain fell and the tent being occupied by SS and KK was totally flooded, and all gear nicely dampened.

Summary: An interesting trip but thwarted by rain. First number placed in the Mole Creek Area [by SCS].

Recommendations: Peppermint Crawl is deserving of more attention but will have to wait till the water level drops somewhat.

**70-71/22 – Tourist Trip, Ida Bay Area (Northern Side of Marble Hill) Date: 30/8/70**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Chris Harris, Peter Henley, Julie Henley

Details: In an astonishing display of speleo-masochism the party wasted a good Saturday night staggering up Marble Hill on the La Perouse track laden with gear, in search of Hobbit Hole (IB115) and Revelation Cave (IB1). It has since been learned that this is not the track anyway, the correct one branching right from the old quarry. They struggled valiantly onwards despite light rain on the way, before their thirst for caving was eventually firmly quenched by a couple of heavy downpours. So with more than slightly dampened spirits, thoughts of even wetter caving than usual, and an additional excuse of bad light, the party tramped back to Mystery Creek Cave (IB10) for a couple of hours general trogging in this large but rather uninspiring system.

Summary: A somewhat disastrous trip caving-wise.

Recommendations: The club should try to obtain from TCC a map of this area.

**70-71/23 – Surface Exploration, Mole Creek Area Date: 5-6/9/70**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Dave Elliott, Chris Harris, Graeme Watt, David Robertson (prospective)

Details: Two hours after arrival at Mole Creek, Gavin Linger plus tractor finally retrieved Mr. Elliott's car from outside Honeycomb I Cave where it had become firmly bogged. It was noted that the creek at the campsite was in flood and sand had been piled on the banks above bridge level and a large tree had been torn down and was lying across the creek.

On Saturday night two hours were spent in Maracoopa I Cave. The creeks were flowing very strongly and the Fireplace was flooded. Some time was spent doing some general trogging in and around the Canyon, Tourist Section, and a short distance up Long Creek.

On Sunday the party went to Echo Valley, near Croesus Cave, at Liena, to investigate a landslide reported in the area by *The Mercury* (1/9/70). This proved to be very large and has modified the local drainage pattern and a number of new surface creeks have appeared, while one has vanished. The owners of Echo Valley, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Young, consider the slide the result of the HEC blocking an efflux while building the road, and resultant build up of pressure after heavy rain. The landslide was in too dangerous a state to explore, but should be interesting when it settles down a bit.

The Youngs referred to many dolines on the hill (known aptly as The Dropout) and also a few holes. One local legend concerns a large cave supposedly containing bones of the Tasmania Tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*).

Summary: An interesting area well worth more visits.

Recommendations: The slide appears to have opened a number of underground water channels.

**70-71/24 Junee-Florentine – Florentine Valley – F9 Area – Tassy Pot Date: 13/9/70**

Aim: Bottom or bust

Result: Bust

(Planned) Party: (1) Rigging party – R. Cockerill, Barry James, John McCormack, Leonne Smith; (2) Assault party – Aleks Terauds, Steve Harris (replaced by Graeme Watt), Chris Harris, Kevin Kiernan (leader); (3) Surface party – Peter Henley, Julie Henley, Dave Elliott, Steve Street.

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Details: Rigging party was delayed in leaving Hobart and did not reach the cave until 7:30 am, then found the ladders to be tangled and were further delayed. The reels that were supposed to have carried 1500 ft of telephone wire fizzled out at 200 ft, so from a planned 5 telephones we were stuck with only two, one on the surface and one on the -150 ft ledge. Fresh falls of wood into the hole made things a little more loose than usual. By the time the assault party arrived only the first pitch was rigged. Steve Harris injured his shoulder prior to the trip and could not go. He was replaced by Graeme Watt.

By the time the assault party had descended the first pitch its numbers were further reduced as Aleks found he was

not as fit as he thought. Bob had by this time been underground 6 hrs and was not keen to go on as he was wet and also not feeling fit. Steve was not keen to go on. Finally Leonne volunteered to go on. However, as the time was already 1:30 pm it was calculated that if exploration was continued the party would not regain the surface until 3 am or later, as the rigging of the pitches would have to be done on the way instead of by an advance party as planned. By the time the party was further reduced for belaying etc. no more than two bods could have got to the bottom of the new ladder pitch to explore.

Furthermore, the cave had started making unstable noises and it seemed unwise to press on with such an inexperienced party. It was only Graeme and Leonne's third trip.

Bob, Aleks, Graeme, Steve and Leonne then went back to the surface, followed by the gear, then Kevin and Chris. The -150 ft ledge had apparently been weakened by rain and the last two up heard some odd noises and saw a small part of the ledge on which they were standing collapse.

Summary: The trip failed primarily because some of the main party members did. The cave seems to have become slightly unstable.

Recommendations: The piton placed for the belay of the second pitch should be replaced with eyebolts. Belay of the ladder off something other than the first pitch ladders would allow more convenience in that both pitches could be climbed at the same time. It would also take some of the strain off the ledge. Members should take more notice of their personal fitness when doing a hard trip such as this one.

### **70-71/25 Mole Creek, Shannon – Herberts Pot (tourist trip), Honeycomb I Cave (tourist trip) Date: 3-4/10/70**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Chris Harris, Leonne Smith, Peter Henley, Julie Henley

Aim: To show Peter and Julie Kubla Khan Cave.

Details: Due to the illness of one member Kubla Khan Cave was not entered. Instead, CH, LS, KK toured into Herberts Pot on Saturday afternoon, going as far as the top of the narrow chimney just after the long sandy crawl. Although the day was fine, the cave was wet, with water streaming down the ladder pitch and long crawl. The crawl showed signs of having been completely filled during the recent floods and contained great quantities of slippery wet silt.

On Saturday night the same trio toured into Honeycomb I Cave. The upper levels were visited, and even here signs of the floods were evident, with dead vegetation caught on the roof, sometimes over 20 ft above creek level.

On Sunday the party journeyed home via the Lakes

Highway, and located the supposedly cavernous basalt flow between Shannon Lagoon and Todds Corner, at Miena.

Summary and Conclusions: The original plans fell through, but it was still an enjoyable trip for those who caved. A basalt flow at Shannon was located, supposedly cavernous.

Recommendations: The basalt flow could prove of interest and is well worth investigation. In the course of the trip the party had occasion to call on the district nursing centre at Mole Creek. Most members probably do not know of the presence of this valuable service in the area and it should be publicised. It is situated on the north side of the road on the Deloraine side of the turnoff to Caveside, five houses from the turnoff.

References: Sutherland, F. L. The Varied Volcanoes of Great Lake. *The Tasmanian Naturalist*, No. 19, Nov. 1969 p.1

### **70-71/26 Junee Area – Chrisps Rd Date: 4/10/70**

Caves: JF-204, JF-205, JF-206, JF-207, JF-208, JF-211

Report by P. Schupp

Party: Paul Schupp (leader), Bob Cockerill, Brent Newton, Sue Medhurst, Graeme Watt

Aim: To explore some of the holes previously found at Chrisps Rd.

Details: Details of exploration carried out:

JF-204 – The entrance shaft to this proved to be 45 ft deep. At the bottom is a small chamber with an aven extending almost back to the surface.

JF-205 – Re-explored. No further advance.

JF-206 – Explored to depth of 100 ft; strong draught.

JF-207 – Explored to bottom and extended slightly. The pitch was not rigged with a ladder, but was chimneyed. Gallant leader spend 30 minutes wondering how to get back up again.

Un-numbered cave [JF-208] near Voltera – big chamber with decoration in face[?]

JF-211 – Explored to depth of approx. 100 ft. The first ladder pitch is 50 ft then a 30 ft pitch into chamber with talus. Strong draught entering through hole in false floor – requires geology pick to open.

Summary and Conclusion: A successful trip with promise of further exploration in this area.

Recommendations: JF-206 and JF-211 require further exploration.

### **70-71/27 Area: Junee; sub-area: Chrisps Rd. Date: 11/10/70**

Caves: (un-named) JF-204, Un-numbered [JF-208], JF-211

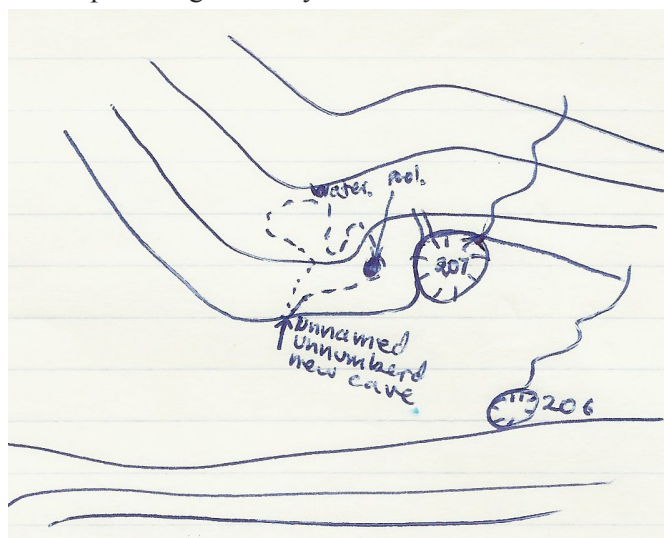
Report by P. Henley

Party: Barry James (leader), John McCormack, Peter Henley, Julie Henley

Aim of trip: Further exploration of Chrisps Rd. holes.

Details: Details of exploration carried out:

Un-named, un-numbered cave (found last trip) [JF-208] – hole 300 ft long near Voltera (JF-207); two medium-sized chambers with good flowstone decoration; ends in rubble pile. Large wallaby skull found.



JF-204 – No advance from point reached last week.

JF-211 – Explored to boulder choke; strong draught; could go with some work to clear away false floor.

Summary and Conclusions: An enjoyable trip with prospects of further discoveries in this area.

Recommendations: Dig prospects are good in JF-211.

#### **70-71/28 Florentine Valley – Westfield Date: 17/10/70**

Cave: Welcome Stranger

Report by Bob Cockerill

Party: R. Cockerill (leader), Angie Cockerill, Rien de Vries, Jim Rogers, Pat Merrick

Aim: Tourist trip

Details: The party toured through Welcome Stranger. The water level was high and the water very cold.

Summary and conclusions: An enjoyable trip.

Recommendations: The recently discovered extension still has not been explored.

#### **70-71/29 Junee – Chrisps Rd. Date: 18/10/70**

Report by A. Terauds

Party: Aleks Terauds (leader), Dave Elliott, Geoff Fry

Aim: Surface exploration of area between JF-211 and (Pygmy) Cave Hill ridge, and exploration of the ridge itself.

Details: A number of new holes were numbered, plus some previously known ones. The area between JF-211 and Cave Hill was explored. The area numbers 214 to 220 were allotted.

Summary and conclusions: This area has been effectively scrub-bashed, and now requires little more exploration before we move west into that lovely horizontal and bauera west of JF-201.

Recommendations: Exploration of the holes so far found in the Chrisps Rd. area is required. Further surface exploration should be undertaken in the area west of JF-201; the limestone has a local relief of over 1400 ft in this direction.

Holes Numbered:

#### **JF-214 Pygmy Cave**

Description of entrance: Entrance 2 ft wide and 18 inches high in centre of small face. Horizontal entrance.

Location, access: ¼ mile up Chrisps Rd. is a small conical hill (Cave Hill) divided by a large collapse into two prominent peaks. The entrance is in a face on the top side of the collapse.

Discovered: TCC 1960

First explored: TCC 1960

Description: Small cave with two small entrances; three or four small chambers connected by low-roofed crawls.

Notes: Development strongly controlled by two sets of joints at right angles, especially set trending N-S. Follows bedding planes. Depositional stage of development; nice gourds and stalactite forms, flowstone, abundant mondmilch, long primary stalactites.

Depth: 50 ft

Length of passages: 400 ft (?)

Equipment required: nil

#### **JF-215 Zulu Pot**

Description of entrance: Impressive rift leading into hill. 170 ft ladder pitch with ledges at -90 ft and -150 ft.

Location, access: 100 yards NE of JF-214 under tree shaped like hangman's noose.

Discovered: SCS 1967

First explored: SCS 1967

Description: 170 ft ladder pitch with ledges at -90 ft and -150 ft; passage in wall opposite -150 ft ledge is yet to be explored, requires scaling pole. Rotten walls; abundant mondmilch.

Notes: Controlled by E-W jointing. Large stream sinks into big doline 100 yards up hill of this cave, exploration of the passage may provide access to it.

Depth: 170 ft

Length of passages: ?

Equipment required: 170 ft ladder, 200 ft rope, 2 head-ers.

#### **JF-216**

Walk in entrance in cliff behind JF-215. Ladder pitch. Back of Cave Hill. New Discovery. Large birds nest above entrance.

#### **JF-217 (Deefour Pot?) [not Deefour – AJ]**

Description of entrance: Ladder pitch

Location: North of JF-214

Discovered: 1960 by TCC [*sic: JF-217 is NOT synonymous with Deefour –AJ*]



First explored: TCC 1960 [*sic: as above*]

Description: Single shaft of 130 ft, blocked at bottom.

Equipment: 130 ft ladder, 150 ft rope, 2 headers

#### JF-218

Narrow shaft 20 ft deep, appears to have passage at bottom. In valley below Zulu Pot. New discovery.

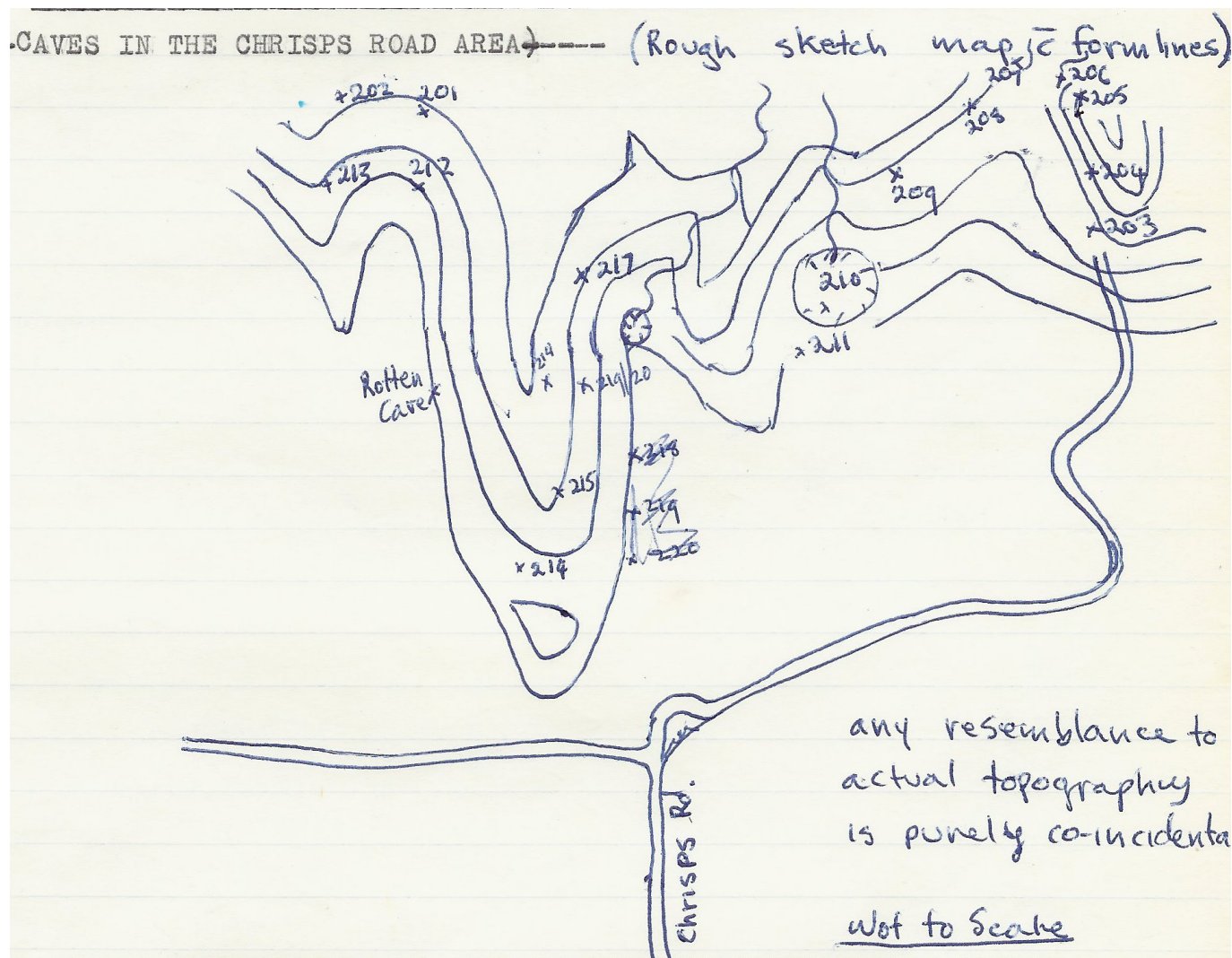
#### JF-219

New discovery in valley below JF-218. 2nd entrance to 220- ladder.

#### JF-220

New discovery in valley below JF-219. 2nd entrance to 219 - horizontal.

The entrance pitch was rigged at 11:00 am and JM, GB, KK and GW descended. GW placed a terrier and eyebolt for belay of the belay man on the second pitch. A belay for the second pitch ladder was found around a bollard on a ledge about 20 ft up the wall. The second pitch was then descended and these four bods moved down to the Goodbye Chamber, with the others following. The pitch here was rigged and the party gaped in amazement as 240 ft of ladder disappeared down the hole, from a belay point on the side of the talus block near where the chamber is first reached. At this time the others arrived and stated loudly their opinion that the depth had been greatly underestimated – revised estimate to Goodbye



#### 70-71/30 Junee-Florentine – Florentine (F9 Road area) Date: 29/10/70

Cave: Tassy Pot (exploration)

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: John Morley (leader), Greg Blake, Kevin Kiernan, Geoff Fry, Chris Harris, David Mitchell, Graeme Watt, Phillip Robinson (TCC)

Aim: Bottom Tassy Pot

Details: Prior to entering cave some cave numbering was down, details of which appear at the foot of this report.

Chamber = at least 370 ft.

GB then started down the big pitch, stopping to rest on a ledge 1 ft square 140 ft down, then went to the bottom of the ladder, where he reported that he was still some distance from the bottom. He went back to the ledge and JM descended with 8 ft more ladder. This was added and GB descended again. It was difficult to see past all the steam, so he went back to the ledge and JM went down again. The ladder was seen to be about 20 ft from the bottom.

The party then left the cave after 13 hrs underground.

A notable feature of this cave is the upwards extension

of the big shaft. It extends up, without diminishing noticeably in size, so far that neither carbide lamps, torches nor burning magnesium ribbon allow the top to be seen.

Summary: This was a spectacularly successful trip that saw the cave pushed to a depth of at least 610 ft, making it the third deepest cave in Australia, after [*Mini Martin* (720 ft) and] Midnight Hole (660 ft); and the deepest in the Junee-Florentine area, at least 60 ft deeper than Growling Swallet (560 ft) (Australia's third deepest).

The big pitch is the third longest yet descended in the country, after Big Hole (near Braidwood, NSW -288ft). This was also the deepest descent yet made in Australia where it has been necessary to come back up again via the same route, rather than walk out a bottom entrance.

Recommendations: Rather than climb the entrance pitches un-roped a new technique was used. Knots were tied in the rope at regular intervals and a karabiner clipped to the rope. This greatly limited the length of any possible fall.

Numbered Caves:

JF-221 Owl Pot

JF-222 Small pot beside Tassy Pot, 25 ft drop and 40 ft deep.

JF-223 Tassy Pot

JF-224 Pot 50 yards down valley from Tassy Pot. 70 ft deep with 2x30 ft ladder drops.

#### **70-71/31 Mole Creek – Liena and Mayberry (Tourist Trip) Date: 7-8/11/70**

Cave: Croesus Cave

Report: C. Harris

Party: Bob Cockerill (leader), Angie Cockerill, Peter Henley, Julie Henley, Chris Harris

Details: Peter, Julie and Chris drove to Mole Creek on Friday night and spent Saturday morning clearing flood debris from the track to Wet Cave. Bob and Angie arrived in the afternoon and the party journeyed to Croesus Cave. The gate has been flattened by flood water and buried beneath sand. The cave was inspected and no decoration damage attributable to the floods was noted. A small area of flowstone was seen to be covered in mud but this appears to be coming from the surface and nothing to do with the flood. Members used their cameras to advantage.

Following this the Liena landslide was visited. It is still a big mess and carries an active stream. It was looked at from the road but not investigated at length.

That evening saw a visit to Mr. T. Richardson, cave guide at Maracoopa. He told of flood damage to the tourist cave. Some of the paths were washed away and the gate and entrance destroyed. Some rocks were washed onto the paths that the combined efforts of four guides could not lift. It will be interesting to see if any modification of some of the tight sections upstream, e.g. Fire-

place, has occurred.

That night it was found to the great relief of all present that the Mole Creek Pub is open again, with Mrs. Lambert at the helm.

Summary: A very enjoyable trip.

Recommendations: The Liena landslide still requires investigation.

#### **70-71/32 Junee-Florentine – Florentine (Westfield Road) Date: 14/11/70**

Party: John McCormack (leader), Kevin Rassmussin (prospective), Greg Blake, Geoff Fry

Details: After belaying the Tassy Pot party down their cave, this party went to one of the higher roads leading off Westfield Road and scrub-bashed. Above a large doline approx. 400 yards below the road the party set off in a SW direction and found a muddy new cave. This was explored for a distance of about 200 ft and numbered JF-226. The party then returned to Tassy Pot area and numbered Three Falls Cave.

Cave Numbering:

New cave = JF-226

Three Falls Cave = JF-225

#### **70-71/33 Tassy Pot Date: 14-15/11/70**

Refer [*Kiernan 1970 The Conquest of Tassy Pot.*] *Southern Caver*, 2(4): 8-18.

#### **70-71/34 Junee (Chrisps Rd) Date: 15/11/70**

Party: Aleks Terauds (leader), Joanne Terauds, Dave Elliott, Steve Harris, Michael Cole, Graeme Watt, Bob Cockerill, Angie Cockerill, Phil Andrews, Sue Hewitt, Kevin Kiernan

Details: Purpose of this trip was to explore JF-19/20 [*sic*: 219/220].

After the return of the victorious party from Tassy Pot two poor unfortunates allowed themselves to be talked into(?) going back to Maydena. The party was delayed by the appropriate celebrations and finally arrived at Chrisps Rd about 12:00 noon.

From about 50 yards down the road from a sharp corner to the right beside Cave Hill the party set off in the approximate direction of Zulu Pot. About 100 yards from the road Kevin stumbled across a hole. Initial testing by throwing down rocks led the party to think it was quite deep. 60 ft of ladder was placed down the hole and Steve descended to investigate. The 60 ft was just the right length. At the bottom was a small chamber, but from there the cave came to a dead halt. Kevin went down to have a look and then a disappointed party left the cave, naming it Anticlimax in view of the previous night's effort.

The other group had gone up to JF-19/20 [*sic*: 219/220]. The easiest entrance was chosen but to the disappointment of all the cave stopped dead. The small chamber



just inside the entrance contains some old decoration. Some time was spent as the group had a good look at this cave and Joanne made her first descent.

Returning from Anticlimax, Steve, Mick, Dave, Graeme and Kevin investigated a number of tiny holes in the lapiaz just south-west of JF-19/20 [*sic*: 219/220]. The deepest of these was a pit 30 ft deep.

JF-18 [*sic*: 218] was then investigated. Steve descended the 50 ft ladder pitch into this rather spectacular little entrance, followed by Kevin, Graeme and Mick. The cave seemed to come to a dead stop, but after some hairy climbing manoeuvres by Steve and Mick a passage some 20 ft up in the wall was reached, but unfortunately this terminated within a few feet. A feature of this passage was that tree roots in it had been covered by calcite to form odd-looking stalactites.

The party then left this cave and scrub-bashed towards the swallet of "Tarn Creek". From here some of the party went straight down the dry valley, while others took a devious route across to the logging tracks.

An enjoyable trip with some good work done.

#### **70-71/35 Gordon River Road Date: [? Nov. 1970]**

Party: Peter Henley (leader), Chris Harris, Phil Robinson (TCC)

Details: The original purpose of the trip was to explore JF-211 and JF-202. Due [*to*] the weather being beautiful it was decided that it was too nice a day to spend in a cave so the party went for a drive down the Gordon Road. At the start of the Mt Anne track the party met a TCC party and looked at air photos of the big hole on the dolomite NE Ridge, and walked a short distance along the track with them, but this was the nearest thing to caving done all day.

An enjoyable day but no work done.

#### **70-71/36 Mole Creek (Caveside) Date: 5-6/12/70**

Party: Michael Cole (leader), Chris Harris, Kevin Kieran

Details: Purpose of trip was to further explore the dry upper level stream passage running upstream from the upstream siphon in Georgies Hall, discovered in 1967 by B. James and R. Cockerill.

Party arrived at Mole Creek early in the am of Saturday. After a windy and rather wet night the party set off for the cave at about 3 pm.

Party proceeded straight down to the siphon and then up the passage in question, keeping to the lower crawls. A few hundred feet of this was explored through some rather loose talus. Finding the lower way blocked by a squeeze the party then looked to the talus at a slightly higher level. After only a little exploration of this the party found that it was back at a marker cairn built some time before, so rather disappointed made their way back to the siphon. The siphon was quite low. Directly above

it, and slightly to the right of the entrance to Peppermint Crawl a small passage was investigated. This had two entrances close together and a strong draught issuing from it. It was too small to enter, but one of the entrances would be large enough if a flake lying in it could be removed. Whilst hammering at this with a geology pick a small piece of rock fell into the siphon and gave rise to some interesting gurgling, so the siphon was investigated more closely. It was found that an air space of 2 or 3 inches existed, extending back in for about 12 ft until cut off by a lower portion of the wall. Outside the small siphon chamber the eastern wall of the big chamber was scaled by Michael and Chris. Chris traversed to a big block from which he could see an upper level passage heading upstream and downstream, on the other side of a 40 ft deep chasm. There were signs of further exploration to the block. The chasm was not crossed as there was no belay rope available. Leaving the siphon area the party moved back to the bottom end of Eldorado II. At a point estimated to be over the top of the siphon a hole was found which was estimated to be about 40 ft deep. Rocks dropped down this landed with a resounding splash. The party then left the cave.

The following day saw a nice clean(?) dry trip pottering around the old tourist section of Baldocks Cave, then a quick trip back to Hobart in time for tea, for once. The NW is particularly lush at the moment.

#### **70-71/37 Junee-Florentine – Florentine (Westfield Road) Date: 6/12/70**

Party: Aleks Terauds (leader), Joanne Terauds, Bob Cockerill, Angie Cockerill, John Morley, Steve Vince, Steve Harris, Jill Ware, Dave Elliott, Graeme Watt, Mark Hooper

Details: Purpose of trip was to further explore JF-226, located some weeks earlier. The party found that JF-226 was previously known, having been discovered by SCS in 1967. The cave is quite small and has two entrances. Much of it has to be traversed by crawling. It provides a through trip of about 150 yards and carries a small stream through a limestone ridge.

While Aleks' group was exploring the dry valley below this, Angie found a big doline to the south. This was approx. 80 ft deep with steep sides. The doline appears to have many entrances due to collapse of the walls leaving many talus blocks piled up about the place. Only one proved to go anywhere, leading to a new cave which is virtually undecorated. Through a crawl through talus blocks the way leads on to a series of talus scrambles. A series of medium-sized chambers is then reached. Then follows a narrow, rounded and meandering stream passage with a small stream. A siphon was reached after about 400 ft of passage was explored. Looking to the upper levels a way was found over some loose rock to a point behind the siphon where the stream was again picked up, but after about another 200 ft a sump was encountered. This had a 6" air space which is quite narrow,



only big enough to accept the head if it is turned sideways. Graeme negotiated this duck and reported that the cave went on but lack of time prevented further exploration. Total length of passage explored was about 600 ft.

A successful trip with some good work done.

Cave Numbering:

JF-227 = bottom entrance of JF-226

JF-228 = new cave, number on talus block at deepest point in doline, near apparent entrance.

**70-71/38 Junee-Florentine – Florentine (Westfield Road) JF-228 Date: 8/12/70**

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Steve Vince, Rob Horner, Chris Harris

Details: The party went straight through to the duck and negotiated this. The way led on through narrow, and sometimes draughty passage for another approx. 500 ft, bringing the total length of the cave to approx. 1000 ft. Further progress is prevented by a large slab of rock which has slipped out of the wall and blocks the passage. Some attempts were made to find a way through the talus behind this but none were successful, but it could still go. Many side passages and upper level passages were left unexplored. The cave is quite complex and a “temporary geographical disorientation” on the way out resulted in the discovery of quite a large upper level chamber on the way out. This is not far from the entrance.

A feature of this cave is the narrow stream passage before the siphon. This meanders in such a fashion as to suggest that it is due to normal stream (surface) action rather than joint control, i.e. water under pressure (gravity) eroding by attrition, corrasion, corrosion, abrasion etc. and the course being dictated by the force of the water. The cave shows signs of completely flooding during heavy rain, and should not be entered when such is likely. The lower levels appear bare of fauna, presumably due to the regular flooding but the upper levels provided quite a few specimens

**70-71/39 Newdegate Cave, Hastings Area Date: [?]**

Party: Bob Cockerill (leader), Rien de Vries, Pat Merrick

Details: An attempt to push an old discovery of Rien’s to get past the upstream known limit proved fruitless. A few hours were then spent in general trogging and photography in the main cave.

**70-71/40 Mt Mayday Area**

Party: Ron Mann (leader), Steve Street, Chris Harris, Graeme Watt

Details: refer to [Mann, R. 1971 *Limestone deposits near Mt. Mayday.*] *Southern Caver*, 3(1): 11-12.

**70-71/41 Gordon-Franklin Area Dec.70-Jan.71**

Details: refer to [Morley, J. 1971 *Limestone at Franklin River.*] *Southern Caver*, 3(1): 10.

**70-71/42 Welcome Stranger, Florentine Valley Date: 30/1/71**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: M. Cole (leader), A. Carter (prospective), J. Jenkins (prospective), L. Brushee (prospective)

Details: The party did a general tourist trip through the cave.

**70-71/43 Mole Creek Area Date: 29/1 – 1/2/71**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Chris Harris, Peter Henley (WASG), Julie Henley (WASG), Alex Saar (WASG)

Details: Party met up with Alex at house at Mole Creek. Following day saw trip to Georgies Hall where a loose boulder was removed. Then to Herberts Pot where attempts to safen [*sic*] the loose flake near the rope climb were only moderately successful. The trip concluded with a great night due to Alex’s accordion playing and general inebriation.

**70-71/44 Junee-Florentine Area – Khazad-Dûm Date: 23-24/1/71**

[Party: Philip Robinson (leader), Peter Shaw, Kevin Kiernan, Laimonis Kavalieris, Norm Poulter, Chris Harris, Gregg Blake, John Morley and Stuart Nicholas.]

Details: refer to [Kiernan, K. 1971 *The descent of Khazad-Dûm – 23-24 January 1971.*] *Southern Caver*, 3(1): 3-5 and [Robinson, P. 1971 *Khazad-Dûm – 23-24 Jan. 1971.*] *Speleo Spiel*, 54: 4-6.

**70-71/45 Kubla Khan, Mole Creek Area Date: 5/2/71**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: John McCormack (leader), Steve Street, Peter Henley (WASG), Julie Henley (WASG)

Details: The party entered the cave via the back entrance and photographed the Forbidden City, the Khan, Xanadu Chamber and surrounds.

**70-71/46 Junee-Florentine Area Date: 13/2/71**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Barry James (leader), Bob Cockerill, Chris Harris, Kevin Kiernan, Steve Street, Graeme Watt, Rien de Vries

Details: The party proceeded to western most extension of Chriss Road below Cave Hill where Civil Defence Team was waiting. Object was to assist in search and rescue exercise and investigate holes reported by Don Frankcombe. One of the holes was found near the unconformity on the far side of the dry valley, another was found under a log between the unconformity and the valley – explored to a depth of 30 ft and still going, getting bigger – another small hole found near creek.

Recommendations: Area and holes worth further attention.

**70-71/47 Welcome Stranger, Florentine Valley Date: 14/2/71**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Ron Mann (leader), Dave Elliott, Steve Street

Details: The cave was thoroughly photographed.

**70-71/48 Mt Mayday – attempt to reach limestone from Tullah Date: 20/2/71**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Ron Mann (leader), Steve Street, Dave Elliott

Details: Some old mining tracks behind Tullah were investigated. By way of these the party reached a point some 5 miles from Tullah. Here they were still some 6 miles from the limestone. Given good conditions this could prove to be a better way of getting there.

**70-71/49 Ida Bay Area – Northern side of Marble Hill, Loons Cave Date: 20/2/71**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Graeme Watt, Chris Harris, Alan Rogers

Details: The party quickly located the draughty top entrance to Loons Cave, rigged the 90 ft drop and descended. Initial attempts to get into the main cave failed, and the party found themselves at the bottom entrance. Returning along the incredibly muddy passage to the base of the shaft some muddy footprints were seen leading up a slope, this being the way into the main cave. The main cave is like a very muddy Welcome Stranger, even the decoration is covered in mud.

The cave ends in a rockpile. The passages are generally large, but there are some diabolical little muddy crawls. Another feature of interest is a number of spectacular large avens.

Two side passages were looked at. One, half way along the cave on the left as you go in (between the two avens) ended in a small breezy rock pile. The other went on and on through very deep liquid mud. It is probably as long as the main cave. At the end a number of side passages were explored, some of which were still going when the party turned back. The very wet, horizontal bottom entrance was used to leave the cave.

The cave is well worth another visit and extensions are likely. It would be quite a good introduction to caving.

**70-71/50 Khazad-Dum, Junee-Florentine Date: 27/2–1/3/71**

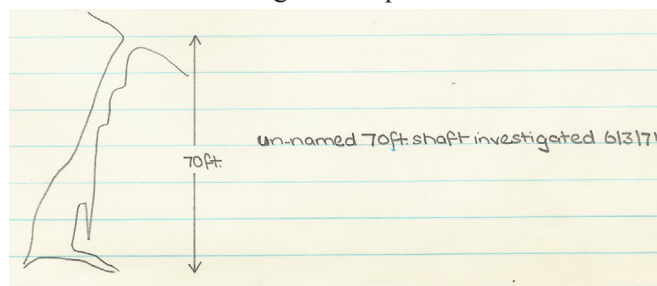
Details: refer [Kiernan, K. 1971 *Khazad-Dum Expedition 27/2-1/3/71.*] *Southern Caver*, 3(1): 6-9; also [Robinson, P. 1971 *Khazad-Dum Feb. 27-March 1, 1971.*] *Speleo Spiel*, 55: 4-5.

**70-71/51 Junee-Florentine Date: 6/3/71**

Report by: C. Harris

Party: Mike Cole (leader), Steve Street, Graeme Watt, Alex Terauds, Bob Cockerill, Norm Poulter (SUSS)

Details: Party proceeded to Civil Defence search area (see report no. 70-71/46). The small grotto near the creek was fully investigated – no go. Some other holes were looked at (one of these to a depth of 70' choking out – snail shells and bones found, none collected). The two large holes at the head of the valley were explored for a short distance to top of an estimated 100 ft drop – very promising. Two large holes require exploration. Further surface investigation required.



**70-71/52 Mt Ronald Cross Date: 13/3/71**

Report by: C. Harris

Party: Bob Cockerill (leader), Chris Harris, Steve Street, Graeme Watt

Details: party proceeded to the summit of Ronald Cross before camping at the small lake nearby. On the plateau Aquarius Swallet was found to be dry but 30 ft ladder permitted only brief examination down to big chamber via 30 ft pitch. Another 30 ft pitch and drop of unknown depth is visible. 'Dozens' of other small holes in same area were found and investigated. Cave crickets were collected (B. Cockerill) from Virgo Cave.

Further surface exploration is required and scrub-bashing on the eastern side of R.C. below Aquarius. Aquarius awaits further exploration in dry weather.

The campsite area by the large tarn on the Ronald Cross plateau is very spectacular and cavers should attempt to retain the area in its present state by refraining from littering.

**70-71/53 Mole Creek System – Kellys Pot Survey Date: 27-28/3/71**

Report by Kevin Kiernan

Party: Ron Mann (leader), Steve Street, Dave Elliott

Details: The party spent six hours surveying and used 11 stations to cover 400 ft of passage. There is another 200 ft to go to the end of the cave. The depth surveyed is 320 ft. The cave was very wet – a suspected rise in creek level caused the eventual retreat from the cave. Conditions underground were miserable and some of the survey readings may be slightly dubious.

Flooding has left much debris at the entrance and inside has moved the sandbank and several boulders.



**70-71/54 Mole Creek Date: Easter [9-12/4] 1971**

Party: Bob Cockerill (leader), Angela Cockerill, John Morley, Steve Harris (leader, Herberts Pot team), Kevin Kiernan, Steve Street, Chris Harris, Mike Cole and 12 VSA members

Details: The weekend saw tourist, photography and exploration trips to Prohibition Cave, Maracoopa I, Croesus, Kubla Khan, Devils Pot, Honeycomb and Herberts Pot. Exploration of the pool at the foot of the 90 ft drop in Shishkabab proved fruitless. In upstream Herberts Pot the sump was found to be dryer than usual and was negotiated for 300 ft to an impenetrable second sump. Half-way between the waterfall and the sump a new extension named the Paragon Vaults was discovered – 1500 ft long with an almost continual display of the best helictite formation in Tasmania. The vaults were photographed by Darryl Carr of VSA. The vaults end in a long high passage which is blocked by a fresh rockfall. The passage is draughty and will probably go but is dangerous. Thus ended another traditionally highly successful Easter trip to MC.



*Helictites, etc., Paragon Vaults, Herberts Pot, Mole Ck.  
Photo: Darryl Carr Easter 1971*

**Herberts Pot Survey (surface)**

During Easter a surveying team (B. Cockerill, C. Harris, S. Street) partly completed a surface survey of the entrances to Shishkabab, Dangerous and Herberts Pot. Survey remains uncompleted at large stump about 100 yards from Drop-In Cave.

(Paragon Vaults: refer also [Anon. 1971 Mole Creek.] *Southern Caver* 3(1): 28-29.)



*Fine helictite and other speleothem display, Paragon Vaults, Herberts Pot. Photo: Darryl Carr, Easter 1971*

**71-72/1 Junee-Florentine Area Date: 1/5/71**

Report by: C. Harris

Party: John McCormack (leader), Kevin Kiernan, Chris Harris, Leonie Smith, Graeme Watt

Details: The party left Hobart about 8 o'clock and proceeded to the Chrisps Road area after picking up Kevin enroute at the Junee Homestead where he was recovering from a 10 hour jaunt into Khazad-Dum with a TCC party the day before. The object of the trip was to number the holes found by Don Frankcombe and SCS members in the area visited on 13/2/71 and 16/3/71 and continue scrub-bashing in the area. The party set off up the valley numbering JF-251, JF-252, JF-253 and JF-254 (which would be approximately 900 ft above Chrisps Road). Kevin and Graeme looked at a small collapse chamber about 50 ft up the cliff face above JF-254 [*probably JF-554 Nasty – AJ*]. The group then traversed west from JF-254 on approximately the same level finding three small holes (one of these taking a small stream). At about 4 o'clock we descended to the Adamsfield Track which we followed back to the cars. After collecting Kev's gear at the homestead the party reached Hobart at approximately 7:00 pm ending a successful scrub-bashing trip which marks the beginning of a new financial year.

**Cave Numbering:**

JF-251 – Location: in valley west of western extension of Chrisps Road 150 yards above level of road. Description: doline 30 ft in diameter taking creek of approximately ½ cusec, doline 15 ft deep, passage appears to run below general valley floor, entrance very small, possibilities not great, probably choked, drop of not more than 30 ft.

JF-252 – Location: approximately 200-300 yards up valley from JF-251 and 30 ft above creek. Description: (see trip report number 70-71/51) entrance 2' by 3' wide, 70 ft deep (laddered 16/3/71), down-bedding.

JF-253 – Location: further up same valley and similar height above valley as JF-252. Description: 18" x 3' wide entrance to small chamber 40' long ending in tight squeeze, nil possibilities.



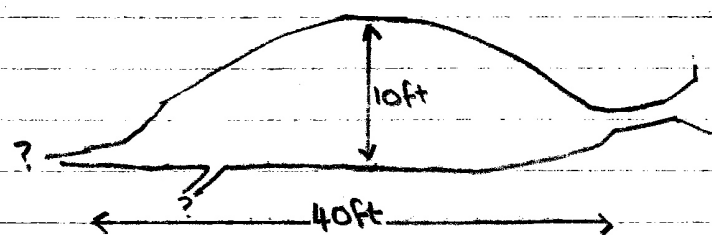
JF-254 – Location: 50 ft above valley floor – follow red track markers from creek bed. Description: number placed at bottom of large doline, small walk-in entrance rubble slope to possible 100 ft pitch (?) – unexplored but at this height is possibly choked by debris as a result of ice action.

Recommendations: laddering of JF-254. JM's 'fire water' (recipe on request).

[See JF253 sketch below]

(Note: dip and strike recorded of limestone in area – strike 65°, dip 30°)

### J.F.253 UN-NAMED CAVE (S.C.S.13/2/71)



### 71-72/2 Exit Cave Date: ? [May 1971]

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Chris Harris, John Morley, Leonne Smith

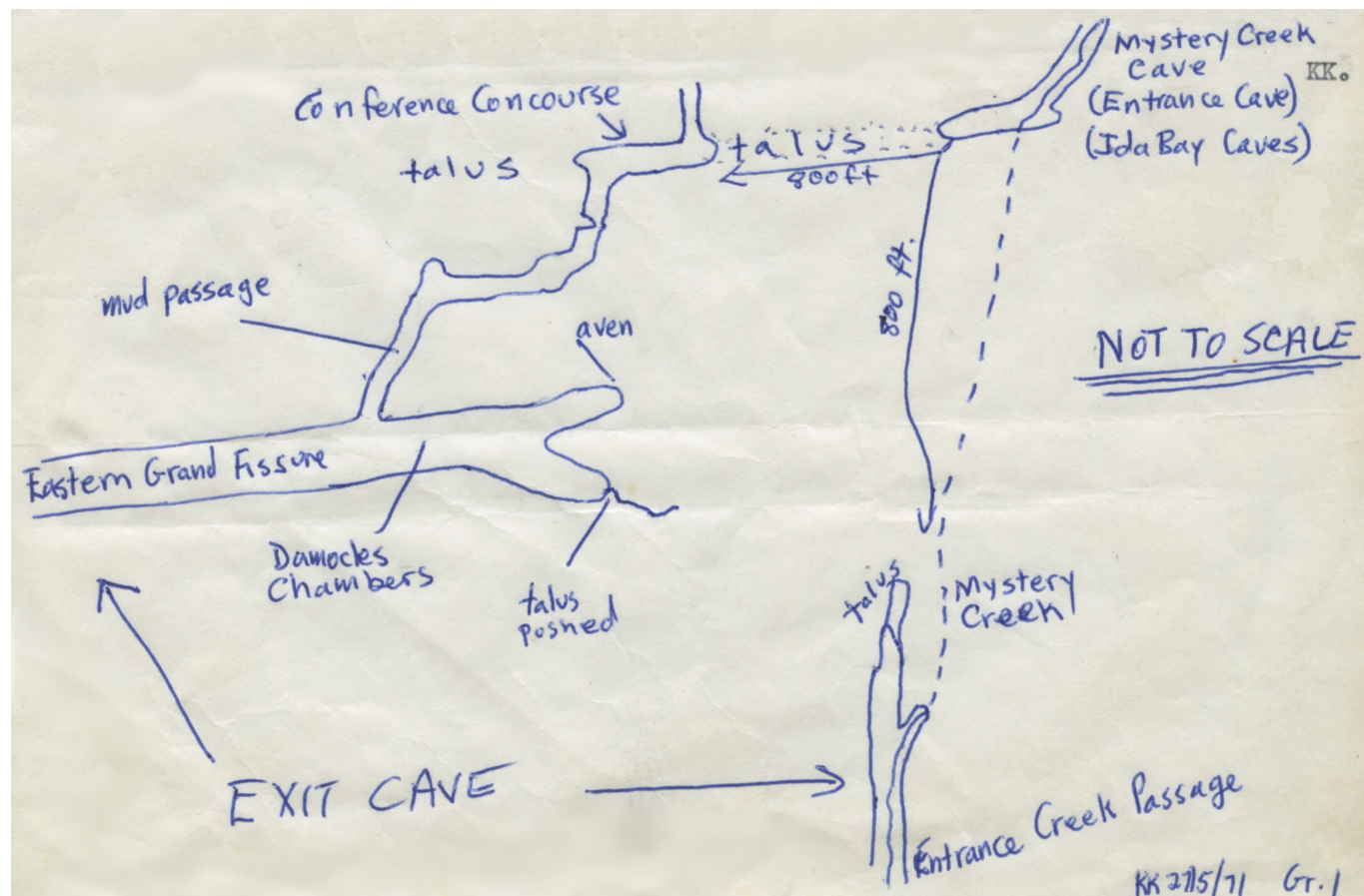
Details: The idea was conceived at 11:00 pm Friday night; 5:00 am saw the party at the start of the Exit Track, weather bitterly cold but fine. A 1.5 hour wade through knee-deep mud and water to the cave, across the rope traverse and camp was set up in the Wind Tunnel.

Food. Sleep. At 6:30 pm John, Chris and Kevin set off, leaving Leonne on her own.

Up through the talus and beyond; clambering over logs to the foot of Mini Martin, not long ago the deepest cave in Australia; to camp two and a quick look at the helictites in Edies Treasure. Then on to the Grand Fissure, up to the east into the beautiful Chambers of Damocles, up the Mud Passage as far as the marker at the entrance of Conference Concourse then back out to Damocles and into the talus at the end of the southern branch. We pushed 200 ft into this, then broke into two separate leads, both tight, both going strong. One in particular is most interesting – a flake of limestone needs removal but beyond is a passage (not talus) 3 ft high and 6 ft wide. Brian Collin (TCC) has since informed that this talus has previously been pushed only about 100 ft. It is aiming in the right direction to bypass the talus at the end of the Entrance Creek Passage in Exit if it goes. Then out of the talus to the northern branch of Damocles – ends in an aven (no go).

Trudged back to Leonne after seeing four miles of cave in about 7 hours. She had been startled, and continued to be, by something knocking over mugs and rattling plates – deemed to be imagination. Much food. Much sleep. As rejuvenated carbide lamps gave us a spectacular sunrise we noticed our imaginative something had eaten our unprotected bread. Suggest TCC have booby-trapped the cave with their own pet Balrog.

Back at road by 8:00 pm Sunday to a holed fuel tank and interesting trip back to Hobart. Tremendous trip – keen tourists.  
KK



**71-72/4 Newdegate Cave Date: 23/5/71**

Party: Kevin Kiernan (leader), Peter Henley, Chris Harris

Details: The trip was arranged for the benefit of Peter who was doing his last caving in Tasmania prior to going to Canberra.

Thwarted by lack of knowledge of its location, initial attempts to find King George V Cave were followed by a trip through the Pophole into Christmas Caves in Newdegate Cave. Scaling a 15 ft flowstone slope in the large chamber before the end of this section, a 1 ft square hole was entered. It only went a short distance, about 60 ft, but is very pretty with light orange flowstone on the floor (steep) which has gourds; orangey-brown shawls, some creamy coloured, on the walls and blocked at the end with pure white straws and no mud so possibly new. Very nice.

Underground about 3 hours.

Temperature in Christmas Cave 48°F KK

**71-72/5 Hastings – King George V Cave Date: ?**

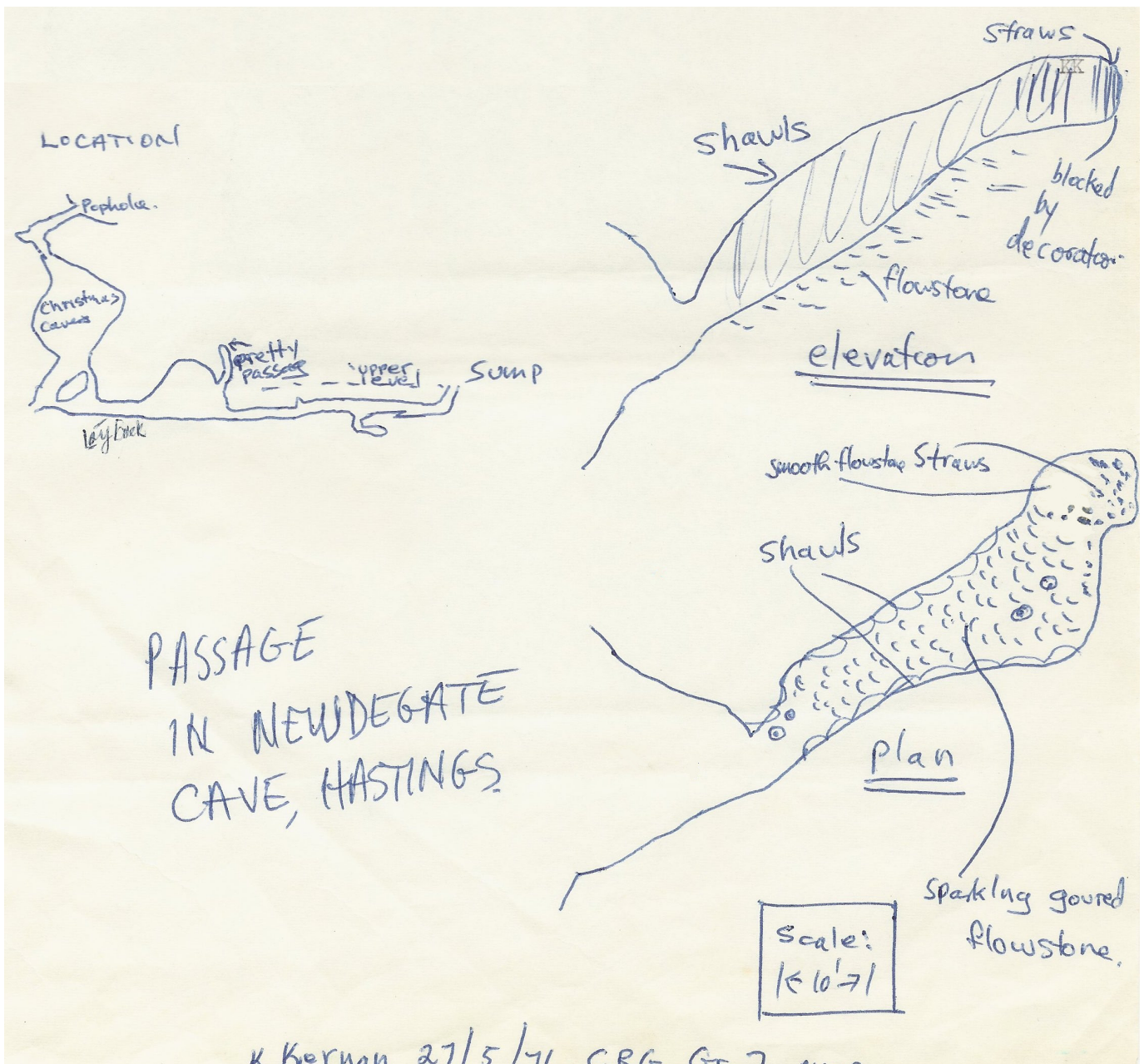
Party: M. Cole (leader), S. Street, G. Watt, C. Harris, Neil James, Harri Durkly and John

Details: This trip began as a follow up to 71-72/3 but on the arrival of Chris, Neil, John and Harri several hours later the party decided to have a look at KGV. The weather had been fine but as soon as we opened the doors of the cars it began to rain and continued for the rest of the day. Several hours were spent in KGV before the party returned to Hobart.

**71-72/5(A)6 Limestone Outcrop in Nelson River Valley Date: 30/5/71**

Report by: Kevin Kiernan 31/5/71

The Nelson River karst is situated in the Nelson River valley four miles south of the Lyell Highway where it crosses the Nelson Valley Creek. Access is along the flanks of either range of hills, the east flank of the western range being used by myself and party on 30/5/71, by which it is approximately a two hour walk along three



K. Kiernan 27/5/71 C.R.G. Gr. 7 map



quartzite hills to the limestone.

The area consists of two isolated hills of limestone, long presumed to be Ordovician, however the appearance of the outcropping rock is quite unlike Gordon Limestone, it is laminated and may well be of Devonian age. (Devonian Limestone occurs on the west coast at Point Hibbs, where it is known as the Pt Hibbs Limestone, part of the Spero Bay Group, and has a stratigraphic thickness of 570 ft.) Despite intensive searching, albeit by a party not particularly interested therein, we were unable to detect palaeontological evidence to substantiate or refute this.

From the last hill the outcrop appears as a small area of probably no more than 30 acres, rising little over 100 ft above river level and covered by 25 major dolines and a number of smaller depressions, randomly scattered. The limestone outcrop is almost entirely confined to the western bank of the river, where it has been exposed by removal of the thick overlying glaci-fluvial (?) gravels (excellent benches occur). It probably underlies these gravels for much of the length of the valley but the only other surface outcrop appears to be a small isolated hill a few hundred yards (two meanders) further downstream. This is also on the western side of the river, and is about 200' long, 50' wide and 50' high. Opposite this ridge is a deep tributary valley where the limestone may outcrop again. A collapsed outer bank halfway between here and the main area also has limestone outcropping but these smaller areas were not investigated. At the southern end of the main outcrops a small creek follows a straight course to the river, probably along a small fault.

Closer examination reveals that the surface outcrop between the dolines is marked by a spectacular development of rillenkarren, easily the best karren field in the state. The surface outcrop is without doubt the most rugged and extreme example of this typical form of karst development in Tasmania and it is well worth the walk in just to see it. The limestone beds dip approximately 30°-40° to the west.

The underground karst is equally well developed. Having cut down through at least 300 ft of glaci-fluvials to the limestone, the Nelson River immediately opened the limestone by solution, cutting off a meander which is now active only in time of flood. The present swallet has a spectacular entrance 50' high and 60' wide. The Nelson River, flowing on 30/5/71 at approximately 15 cusecs, disappears into a small channel which cannot be followed far due to blockage by debris which has been washed in. At the unexplored efflux, 100 yards away, the river emerges from a 3' wide rift. The water is very deep and there is a 3' airspace. Upstream and downstream of the underground course the river is flanked by limestone cliffs up to 60' high.

At the base of these cliffs, on the northern side of the outcrop, are a number of former inflow caves, now active only at time of high flood and penetrable for about 50 ft to a silt blockage. Higher in the cliffs are a few

abandoned inflow caves, now dry and containing some decoration. The largest of these explored extends some 60 ft before branching into two passages, one going up to the surface and the other along into one of the caves in the bottom of a doline. Virtually every doline seems to contain at least one cave, generally about 50 ft deep. At the southern end of the main outcrop there is a second active efflux, carrying quite a volume of water. This is probably an underground anabranch from the main swallet. Despite the presence of former swallets at several levels at the northern side of the area, there is only one other hole on the southern side and this does not appear to have formerly been an efflux. It is some 20 ft up a steep bank and unexplored. It seems the water may have always effluxed at the low level.

At least 10 small caves were explored and many more located. The most promising, in the centre of the outcrop, was not explored as a 30 ft ladder is required. Although there is no potential for large caves, the area is well worth further attention by speleos. Despite its small extent it is the most extreme example of concentrated typical karst development in Tasmania, with a genuine honeycomb of small caves such as exists no-where else in Tasmania. It would be hell but very interesting to survey the caves. The area would take a few days even to explore thoroughly. [See sketch map, next page]

#### **71-72/6 Mole Creek – Kubla Khan Date: 11-14/6/71**

Report by: C. Harris

Party: John Morley (leader), Greg Blake, Steve Street, Chris Harris, Grahame Watt, Jane Morley (prospective), Roger Cox (prospective) Leonie Smith

Details: The trip turned out to be one of the most eventful for a long time. The original object was to visit Herberts Pot but the idea was abandoned when it was discovered that the creek at the Caveside campsite was considerably higher than normal. One carload of cavers arrived about 2 am on Saturday morning, camping the evening at Caveside. The rest of the party arrived about 6 am the same morning after stacking their car in thick mist on the way. They spent the morning at the TCC hut near Maracoopa Caves but later moved to the SCS camp.

On Saturday afternoon Chris had the misfortune of stacking his car which had to be towed to Mole Creek by John. When Chris and John returned to camp they were greeted by the smell of cooking and a blazing fire which put all thoughts of trogging off till the next day. On Sunday the party decided to visit Kubla Khan. Members entered the cave at about 6 pm after leaving a rope in the bottom entrance enroute in case needed for a through trip. The party found the 'new' entrance ladder pitches already rigged, so assuming a TCC party was already inside the cave, we entered. The TCC party was met inside and informed us they were leaving. As we wanted to spend more time in the cave we suggested derigging the pitches for them later. Our request for the use of the lad-



# GEOLOGICAL SKETCH MAP (40ft<sup>2</sup>) NELSON RIVER KARST AREA

(very approximate  
rough and far  
from exact)

## STRATIGRAPHY

Ordovician(?)

quartzite

limestone (Gordon?)  
(may be Devonian)

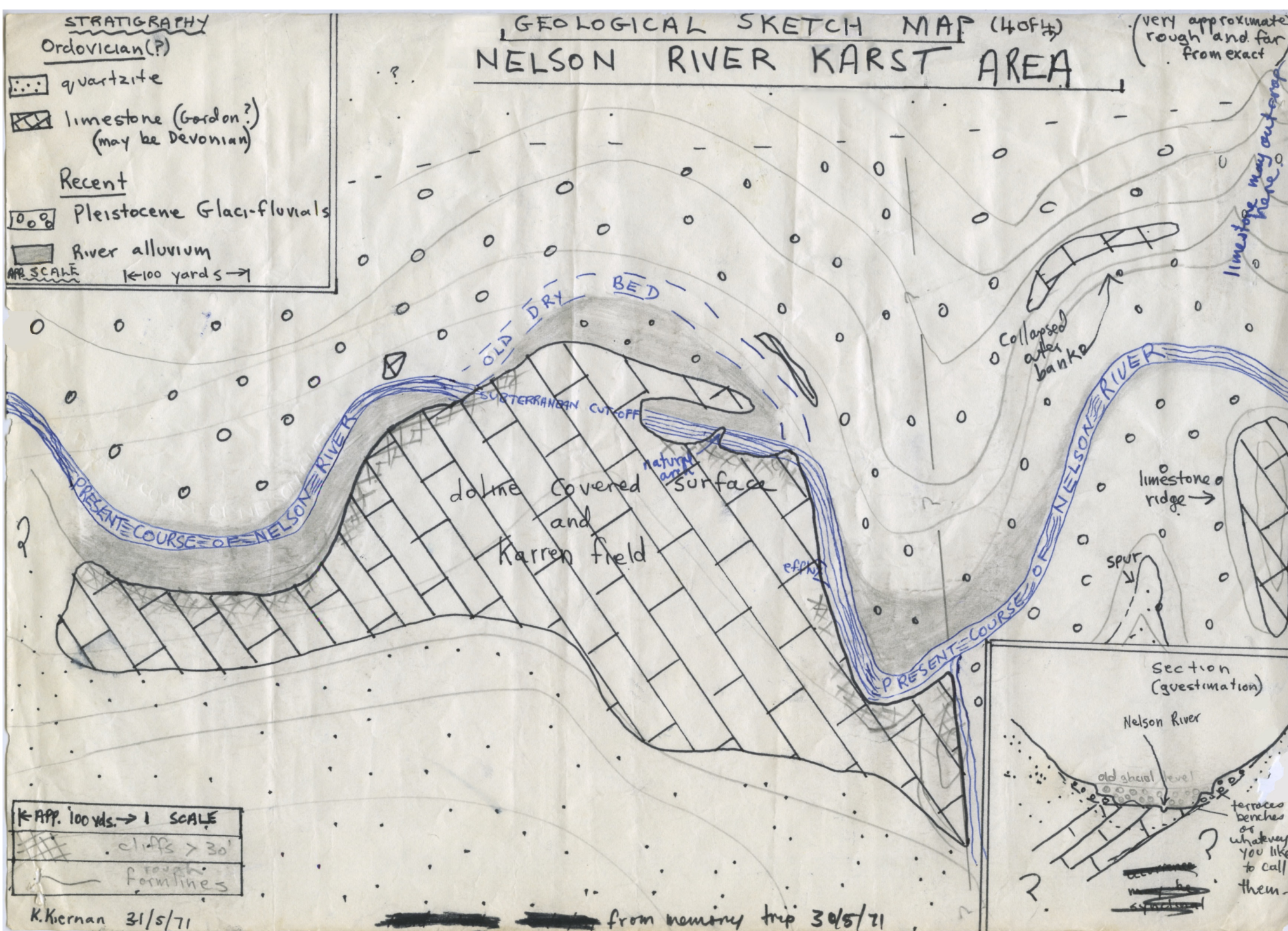
## Recent

Pleistocene Glaci-fluvials

River alluvium

APP. SCALE

← 100 yards →





ders was refused and the TCC party left. About ½ hour later we left the big chamber after admiring the Khan on the way out. It is in this proximity that a very large hole in the floor approximately 30 ft deep has to be straddled. Steve Street, who was leading at the time (8 pm), slipped and fell. John and Greg (who was following Steve across the traverse) and Chris were by his side almost immediately to ascertain injuries. The injuries appeared to be a damaged shoulder – the right arm was immovable – and a bruised leg. He was examined by Roger Cox – a medical student – who suggested it would be ok to move the patient. Then came the long, arduous journey out of the cave via the stream passage to safety. At the 30 ft pitch on the flowstone Chris assembled a harness and Grahame lowered Steve to the bottom, the rest of the party descending by the chimney on the left side.

The main stream passage was then entered and the party realised the stream was unusually high. We now also began to realise the extent of Steve's handicap. He found it increasingly difficult to walk and his arm was agonising to move. We now tackled the problems offered by the stream passage. A system was devised where Steve was attached to the middle of a 120 ft rope by a carabiner and waistloop attached to a figure of eight knot. This allowed him to be belayed from two sides. Greg in the front and John from behind while Chris gave active assistance in the middle to the patient. Meanwhile the rest of the party moved ahead of the victim in a tight group. The morale of the party was exceptionally high and the prospectives did a magnificent job considering this was their first taste of caving. At the entrance, while Grahame prepared hot food on a portable stove for Steve, Chris, Greg and John attempted an exit up the 40 ft entrance pitch. John finally reached the top by prusiking. A pulley was rigged with the rope and the party then hauled each other up in turn. Within 8 hours of the accident Steve was resting comfortably in the Deloraine District Hospital nursing a cracked shoulder blade and a few minor bruises. He was discharged on the following Thursday.

#### **71-72/9 JF-229 Welcome Stranger (Westfield Road) Date: 4/7/71**

Report by: Chris Harris

Party: Alex Terauds (leader), John McCormack, Paul Schupp, Grahame Watt, Mike Cole, Kevin Kiernan, Chris Harris

Details: The party left Hobart at approximately 9:00 am on Sunday morning and entered the cave about lunch time after some time was lost when Paul had a puncture en route. The cave was numbered by Chris – JF-229 – but as there was only one screw to secure the number it will have to be secured on a later trip. Before entering, Mike Cole placed about ¼ lb of fluorescein in the swallet discovered on New Years Day about ½ mile east of the entrance. The fluorescein was placed in the swallet at approximately 12:20 pm.

The first sighting at the sump in JF-229 was made by

Paul and Kevin at 12:53 pm (very faint). At 1:00 pm a very strong recording was made by Paul, Kevin and visitors Albert Goede and Wes Carpenter (both TCC) 25 yards downstream of the syphon. This indicates a definite link up and provides a new incentive for finding a bypass of the syphon as some interesting extension may be found. A flowstone wall near the syphon which has yet to be climbed could be a possibility. John, Grahame and Alex re-established the survey stations with waterproof ink on the white plastic tape in preparation for finishing survey on later trip. A TCC party led by Albert Goede was met inspecting the cave.

#### **71-72/10 Junee-Florentine – Pygmy Cave Date: 17/7/71**

Party: S. Harris (leader), G. Holmes, S. Young, T. Beck, J. Ware, C. Tremayne, F. Spaulding, P. Young, John and Geoff

Details: The party was going into Welcome Stranger but the leader confused the upper lower entrance with the upper entrance and decided the water was too high. So everyone trooped off to have a look at magnificent Pygmy Cave which was dry! The novices were impressed nevertheless with this tame little expedition and one or two of them expressed an interest in coming on one of our more typical club trips, there being a total of 10 people on the trip.

#### **71-72/12 Chrisps Road area Date: 24/7/71**

Party: Aleks Terauds, Chris Harris, Steve Street, Kevin Kiernan, Grahame Watt

Details: The aim of the trip was to carry out further work in the area above Chrisps Road (see SCS trip report number 71-72/1). The party followed the creek below the limestone cliffs to approximately 200 yards above JF-253 where a small chamber about 15'x10' was numbered (JF?) [*Likely to be JF-230 – AJ.*]

Then the party laddered JF-254 which as suspected was choked by rock debris. The cave is a narrow rift 65' deep. There is a small lead in the talus at the bottom but this was not pushed due to narrowness and unstable rock. The party then dropped back down into the valley at a point just below JF-252. The creek which on 1/5/71 was fast flowing was today a dry stream bed, the creek disappearing several hundred yards up the creek bed from JF-253. As the creek was dry below this point it was considered a good opportunity to visit JF-251 normally impassable due to active streamway. It was entered via a 25 ft ladder pitch into a small bell-shaped chamber with gravel floor. A small crawl leads to a further 15 ft drop but this was left due to lack of time. The party returned to Hobart at 7:00.

Recommendations: Attempt to rediscover cave on Chrisps Ck (ref. Prof. Carey).

**71-72/14 Junee-Florentine Date: 31/7/71**

Party: Ron Mann (leader), Steve Street, Dave Elliott

Details: Photography Welcome Stranger

**71-72/14 Mole Creek Date: July 1971**

Party: S. Harris (leader), C. Harris, R. Cockerill, S. Street, Harry Durkley, Neil James, K. Kiernan, D. Bolwell, S. Mainwaring.

Details: R. Cockerill, S. Street and K. Kiernan arrived on Saturday afternoon and did some surface surveying (Wet Caves to Honeycomb and also up to Herberts Pot entrance). D. Bolwell injured his knee in a motorbike crash on the way to Mole Creek on Friday night so was put out of action. N. James, S. & C. Harris and H. Durkley went into Herberts but came out after four hours in which time one hole was drilled for a new expansion bolt for ladder anchorage at the top of the latter pitch.

On Saturday morning everyone visited "The Mansion" near Mole Creek.

On Sunday ropes were put into a tree near the campsite for the cloggers to be tried out – trial run was successful and fast even when tried by inexperienced members of the party (and D. Bolwell with injured leg).

The water in the creek was very high so it was assumed that we wouldn't have got much exploratory work done even if we had got right into Herberts.

**71-72/15 Junee-Florentine Date: 31/7/71**

Party: Ron Mann (leader), Steve Street, Dave Elliott and one visitor

Details: Photography in Welcome Stranger

**71-71/16 Junee Area Date: 28/8/71**

Party: K. Kiernan (leader), G. Watt

Details: We took the 8:00 am bus to Maydena (cost \$1.75). The bus driver took us to the HEC barrier and there we met (by sheer luck) Clive Boulter of the TCC just returning from 'geologising' near the Gordon dam site. He drove us out to the airstrip. Incidentally there is a theoretical charge of \$1.00 entry for walkers (i.e. on foot) yet motorcyclists only have to pay 50 cents and they can take in two people!! It was about 12:00 am mid-day by the time we left the airstrip. First buttongrass then hearty rainforest and horizontal, button grass again and then the baurea started and continued! The only relief came when we hit head-high cutting grass. Eventually we came onto buttongrass again about halfway between the logging roads and the airstrip, due south of Sunshine (Nichols) Spur. We headed west on the plain then into the scrub again. Eventually we hit Tim Shea Creek (northern branch of Tyenna River) about 20 cusecs and in places meandering incredibly.

We followed this some time and some distance upstream probably from about halfway between Dewhurst Road and Sunshine Road. At the furthest point we had lunch

about 2:00 pm then blazed back to logging roads hitting at junction of Sunshine Road with the main road. This section also had plenty of scrub but quite picturesque. 100 yards east of Sunshine Road we followed up a small creek ¼ to ½ mile but little sign of steepening of the limestone and flat land ahead. On Sunday we visited the Weld River with the TCC.

Concluding Remarks: We found no tributaries flowing off the limestone. Every so often swamp made this difficult to verify. While cutting out of here we crossed a good small creek – worth a look upstream. This probably means everything east of here drains into Junee Cave. Further upstream of Tim Shea Creek needs a look – soon.

P.S. One tributary was found while cutting out. Initially it was thought it may be worthwhile to investigate this with a view to a possible efflux. However, to the north lies Sunshine (Nichols) Spur, an anticlinal quartzite ridge, most likely the stream represents surface drainage from the spur and therefore not really worth investigation.

**71-72/18 Welcome Stranger (JF-229), Westfield Road Date: 11/11/71**

Report By: Chris Harris

Party: John McCormack (leader), Chris Harris, Phil Andrews, Leonie Smith and visitors Roger Cook, Darryl Cutting, Kevin Rasmussen, Sue Hewitt, David and Mrs. Lees.

Details: The party spent several hours underground inspecting the formation and taking photographs before returning to the cars during a heavy snowfall. A flow-stone wall near the syphon was climbed in an attempt to find an extension.

**71-72/19 Junee-Florentine and a Gordon River Recon. Date: 9-10/10/71**

Report by: Chris Harris

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Dave Elliott, Chris Harris

Details: When this party left for the old Junee Homestead late on Friday evening little did they know that a wet weekend was in store. Members had the opportunity of witnessing the magnificent spectacle of the Gordon and the Junee in full flood. On Friday night Dave bogged the car in front of the homestead and the party, swearing profusely and hurling abuse at the weather, the car and each other in general carried the gear the last hundred yards to the hut. Most of the next day was spent brewing the billy and spinning yarns about the 'good ole days' in front of a blazing log fire although Kevin and Chris managed to do a little scrub bashing on the hill behind the Homestead and photograph the skeleton in Dead Horse Cave between showers. On Sunday the party travelled along the Gordon Road to the dam site to investigate the possibility of gaining access to the Gordon River limestone area by way of the gorge. It was later found out that the Hydro have a track cut along the side of the



gorge and a flying fox, the use of which should be investigated. The only other possibility seems to be by using another reported Hydro flying fox across the Serpentine.

**71-72/20 Search and Rescue – New Norfolk Area  
Date: 13/10/71**

Party: Bob Cockerill, Barry James, Kevin Kiernan, Mike Cole, G. Watt

No report

**71-72/21 Hastings and Adamsons Peak Recon. Date:  
17/10/71**

Party: Mike Cole (leader), Dave Elliott, Chris Harris, Kevin Kiernan and Grahame Watt

No report

**71-72/22 Combined TCC, SCS Khazad-Dum Expedition Date: [30/10/71]**

SCS Party: Kevin Kiernan, Chris Harris, Grahame Watt

TCC Party: P. Robertson, P. Shaw, B. Collins, B. Lehman and surface party

Details: This trip was a preparatory one for a major assault on Khazad-Dum this summer. A great deal of hard work was done by the underground party in fiery conditions (the cave was in flood) and included the laying of a telephone line from the surface to the bottom of the 70 ft pitch over 400 ft underground. Also an eyebolt (1/2" loxin) was placed at the top of the 90 ft ladder pitch. Due to the tremendous force of water entering the system the parties were forced to enter via the Serpentine Extension and an attempt to bolt the 30 ft waterfall pitch at 650' was abandoned due to the first waterfall pitch (20 ft) being impassable. The underground party left the cave at sunset and loaded with gear strung out along the track homeward.

[See also TCC Report: Robinson, P. 1971. *Speleo Spiel*, 63: 4.]

**71-72/23 Junee-Florentine Recon. Date: 14/11/71**

Party: Dave Elliott, Kevin 'Swamp Fox' Kiernan, Chris Harris

Details: This trip was a follow up to a previous trip to the same area (trip report 71-72/16). This area contains thick scrub and is flat, swampy and featureless making navigation difficult (a compass is essential equipment). In this respect the area should not be taken lightly although the area is easy of general access. Efforts should be concentrated mainly on following up the main creek and any tributaries with the possibilities of an efflux being found. It will be interesting to trace the origin of the large amount of water in the main creek. The area needs further attention.

**71-72/24 Junee-Florentine Recon Date: 19/11/71**

Party: K. Kiernan, S. Harris, D. Elliott, S. Street

Details: Attempt to scrub-bash down toward north branch of Tyenna River from top of The Gap. Trip was thwarted by heavy rain.

**71-72/25 Sphinx Rock – Mt Wellington Date:  
28/11/71**

Party: K. Kiernan, C. Harris

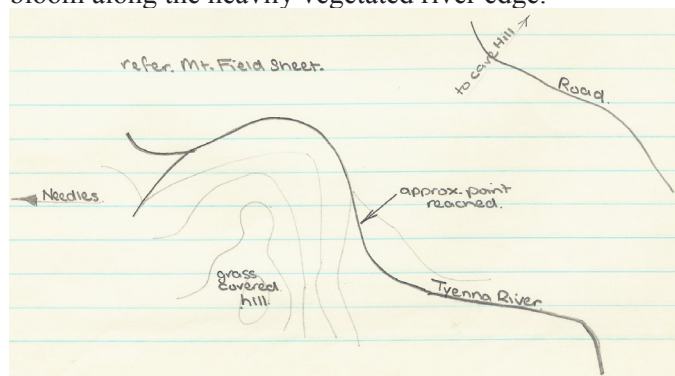
Details: Trip intended as a ladder, abseiling etc. practice on this 50 ft rock face on the Lenah Valley track as a training trip prior to SCS participation in the assault on Khazad-Dum (JF-4,5).

Gear: 2 x 30' ladders, 2 x 120' ropes

**71-72/26 Northern Branch Tyenna River Date:  
29/11/71**

Party: K. Kiernan, C. Harris, D. Elliott

Details: This trip was a follow up to 71-72/24. The party arrived at Maydena in beautiful sunshine to see magnificent views of Tyenna Peak, The Needles etc. with caps of snow. The party then plunged into the Tyenna at the end of F2 Road and headed upstream for several miles until bearings could be taken on a couple of the peaks (Tyenna Pk 30°, Florentine Pk 18°, Tim Shea 270°). Several small creeks joined the river although several of these turned out to be flood channels. No major tributaries were reached. It might be advisable to work down from The Gap next time. A number of native trout were spotted in the river and a great deal of waratah was in bloom along the heavily vegetated river edge.



**71-72/27 Junee Date: 5/12/71**

Party: J. McCormack, D. Elliott, C. Harris

Details: The party left Hobart at 8:30 am and arrived at the old Junee Homestead in hot sunny weather to find a Khazad-Dum party (TCC) which included two SCS members just leaving for Hobart after spending 15 hours in the cave the day before.\* We then proceeded to one of the higher roads leading off Westfield (right side). We entered JF-226, discovered and numbered in 1970 (refer to report number 70-71/32) doing the through trip to JF-227 (refer to report number 70-71/37). This small system is interesting and might be worth surveying at a later date. The line of collapse was then followed downhill to the large doline containing JF-228 (refer to report number 70-71/38). Not realising that he had been in this cave

before, Chris haired down it till he reached the apparent end of the cave. Perhaps he would have realised this if he had found a sump at the end but on this occasion it had dried up. Following this and a great deal of photography, drinking coffee and general apathetic lazing in the brilliant sunshine, the party returned to Hobart.

[\*See report Robinson, P. 1971. *Khazad-Dum (June)* – 4, 5/12/71. *Speleo Spiel*, 64: 6-7.]

**71-72/28 Ladder Practice – Sphinx Rock Date: 9/12/71**

Party: R. Cockerill, A. Cockerill, G. Fry, G. Blake, R. Mann, C. Harris, D. Elliott

Details: Gear: 2x30' ladders, 3 ropes, 4 carabiners and abseil slings.

The party left Hobart from Franklin Square at 6:30 except for Dave who went home for tea. Some of the members did ladder climbing while Bob tried his hand at abseiling and then clogging back up the pitch. Greg surpassed us all by doing 13 non-stop trips on the ladder. This has proved a pleasant after-work trip and should pave the way for future trips of this kind during the summer.

**71-72/29 Mole Creek Date: 11-12/12/71**

Party: Dave Elliott, Geoff Fry, Greg Blake

Details: From all accounts no work done but a bloody good bludge trip was had by all.

**[Khazad-Dum 11/12/71]**

*According to Speleo Spiel, 64: 7 (report by P. Shaw) the 'final assault' on K-D did not take place as scheduled on 11-12/12/71, due to heavy rain, but the cave was visited by a joint SCS/TCC party. –GM]*

**71-72/30 Combined Final Assault on Khazad-Dum – TCC/SCS Date: 11-12/12/71**

[Actual date was 18-19/12/71]

SCS Party: C. Harris, K. Kiernan, G. Watt

Details: Refer [Kiernan, K. 1971 An historic descent.] *Southern Caver*, 3(3): 6-8; [Robinson, P. 1971 *Khazad-Dum* – 18, 19/12/71 (Advance party report)] *Speleo Spiel*, 65: 3-4.

## 1972

**71-72/31 Hastings – Scrub-bashing Date: 1/1/72**

Party: Gray Wilson, 'Tich' Cole, Dave Elliott

Details: The party traversed from Hastings Caves around the side of the plateau on approximately the 600 ft contour toward Mesa Creek. See old Southport Sheet.

**71-72/32 Hastings – Newdegate area Date: 2/1/72**

Party: Gray Wilson (leader), Mike Cole, Dave Elliott, Chris Harris, Steve Street, John McCormack

Details: The party arrived at Hastings in brilliant sunshine and after chatting with the Skinners and general idling in the sun, proceed to Newdegate. Gray, Chris, Steve and John decided to inspect the Binney Tunnel while Tich and Dave did some scrub-bashing on the hill behind the cave. Gray's party pushed a couple of tight squeezes in the far reached of the Binney and then emerged after a couple of hours to find Dave and Tich already back at the cars.

**71-72/33 Hastings Date: 16/1/72**

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Graeme Watt, Dave Elliott, Chris Harris

Details: No work done but a bloody good bludge trip had by all.

**71-72/34 Maydena Date: [?]**

Party: A. Terauds, R. Cockerill, D. Mitchel

Details: Investigation of future SCS use of 'chalet' at Wylds Crag being built for foresters conference – unsuitable for use as hut as one side is open but adequate for shelter. Attempted to find Frankcombes Cave but couldn't as road has been altered – vegetation changed. Party notes that new roads in area open new caving areas.

**71-72/35 The 'Drop-Out', Echo Valley Date: 8-9/2/72**

Report by: Steve Harris

Party: Steve Harris (leader), Dave Elliott, Dave Mitchel

Details: The party arrived at "Echo Valley" near Liena on the Saturday afternoon. Long discussion was had with Harry and Pat Young on conservation. Camp was set up on their property alongside the Mersey River which was at a very low level at the time due to the HEC filling Parangana dam. The campsite was opposite Lynds Cave and after tea Dave Mitchel and Steve waded across the river and left the clear warm mild air [?] to enter the cold rushing stream passage of Lynds. Neither of us had seen the cave before and it was looked at fully.

The Sunday saw Harry Young giving us directions to a hole near King Solomon which he found years ago on horseback. This hole he thought deserved priority and so we headed off and found it, thanks to fairly explicit directions. It turned out a shaft with a ladder pitch of 40 ft. This was descended by Dave Mitchel and Steve Harris. The floor of the shaft was muddy and sloped down for another 20 ft. There was no way on. All we found were small choked off fissures. There was little air circulation and after collecting some bones believed to be those of a wallaby we headed back up.

Back at "Echo Valley" though the holes near the "Drop-Out" still have to be inspected and, although according to Harry Young they don't appear to be very promising, he will direct the next SCS party in the area directly to them.

After the hole near King Solomons was inspected the

party headed for Hobart via the “Mansion” at Mole Creek. A letter was written out of courtesy to Harry Young explaining the result of our shaft descent, etc.

The trip was enjoyed very much by the party who intend to camp in the same spot at “Echo Valley” on future trips to Liena.

#### **71-72/36 Hastings Date: 13/2/72**

Report by: Steve Harris

Party: S. Harris, G. Fry, S. Street, C. Harris and prospective member Robert Lawson

Details: The party excepting G. Fry went through the Binney Tunnel and as far as the top of the ladder pitch – the journey intended mainly as an introductory trip for a prospective member: Robert Lawson. G. Fry, because of his leg injury, accompanied the other regular tourist party.

After this little jaunt the party went to a place near Lune River where agates and other gemstones were collected.

#### **71-72/37 Maydena Date: 20/2/72**

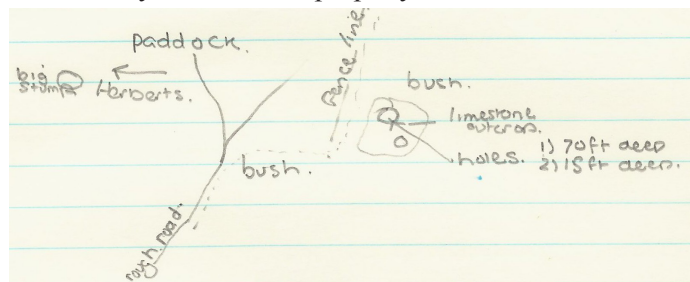
Party: G. Fry, S. Street, R. Lawson

No details

#### **71-72/38 Mole Creek including visit of VSA cavers Date: Easter 1972**

SCS Party: Steve Harris, Chris Harris, Robert Lawson and Leigh Gleeson

Details: The SCS party arrived at the Wet Caves campsite late on Friday night. Saturday saw a visit to Shishkebab and Herberts Pot where the ladders were rigged in preparation for a combined SCS-VSA assault the following day. Gavin Linger of Caveside also showed members several small holes, the deepest 70 ft, which he had recently found on his property.



The next day 12 VSA and SCS member visited Herberts. With some abseiling and others using the ladders the party reached the stream passage late on Saturday night. The team split into two groups one going upstream the other downstream to the siphon.

The upstream party pushed further into the rockfall which has proven to be very loose. Some animal carcasses (not log decomposed) were found.

#### **71-72/39 Maydena Date: 23/4/72**

Party: John McCormack, Dave Elliott, Leigh Gleeson, John Ward, Chris Harris, Karen Dedenczek

Details: The party left Hobart at 8:30 for the Chrisps Road area. Belayed by Dave, everyone descended JF-211 (Sesame II) to the apparent final chamber approximately 50' below. Leigh (without the aid of a geology pick!) pushed the squeeze finding a 15' drop which will require a ladder or at least a rope. As the party also wished to visit Welcome Stranger we left. The first part of Welcome Stranger was completely dry but to everyone's surprise halfway up the stream passage the stream was encountered flowing out through the right wall. The siphon was very low and very silted up (about 1' between roof and silt). Leigh, Chris and Karen scaled the flowstone wall back from the siphon (see prev. trip reports) but it narrows at the top and is choked by formation.

#### **Hastings – Newdegate Cave Date: 28-29/4/72**

Party: B. James, R. Cockerill, A. Terauds, P. Andrews, S. Andrews, D. Elliott, S. Harris, K. Kiernan for part of the time

Details: This trip left Hobart on Friday afternoon to take part in an Army PR film featuring a cave rescue which was to be filmed through Friday night. Most of the party stayed at the National Fitness Camp as did the Army.

Filming was delayed through Friday night because of a lack of people to cast as bushwalkers but the action was recommended early on Saturday morning and went through till after 1 pm.

All the action of the cave rescue sequence featuring Sue Andrews in a “Neil Robbie” stretcher was faked in various parts of the tourist section of Newdegate.

Members headed back to Hobart in the afternoon. According to the camera man the colour film would be released on the theatre circuit next June.

#### **Civil Defence Charade in Florentine Valley 6/5/72**

Kevin Kiernan

50 Civil Defence and Police and six SCS (Ron Mann, Dave Elliott, Kevin Kiernan, Barry James, John McCormack, Dave Mitchel)

D. Mitchel, K.K. and Ted Cornish lost party, eventually located search party in typical CD cowboys and Indians balls up. Some said successful. Others didn't. At least it wasn't the army this time. God help Australia.

#### **June with TCC 7/5/72**

Kevin Kiernan

Returning from Scotts Peak 10:00 am met Phil Robinson and Peter Shaw of TCC heading towards June. Teamed up to work at June.

Leisurely breakfast on the road then up to small cave (JF-40, or 41?) on opposite side of valley to JF-5. Surveyed from here to JF-5 to JF-4 and back to JF-40. Then surveyed JF-40 to bottom – very steep descending about 110 ft with 4 or 500 ft of passages. Very sporty and solid



with little grot and some pretties. First explored Daryll Carr (VSA), Wes Carpenter (TCC) and self at ASF 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference. Ends in gravel choked crawl.

Then headed eastwards beyond JF-5 to Dribblespit Swallet, beyond to JF-14 (impressive entrance not explored beyond crawl at -60 ft.) Numerous small holes found. Reached Brandenburg Concerto Pots (ref. ASF 8<sup>th</sup> Convention) and JF-3. Reached Cauldron Pot track and then surveyed back down this track (which runs down the Cauldron (JF-2) valley to the Khazad-Dum track).

### Welcome Stranger 13/5/72

John McCormack, Janeen McCormack, Kevin Rasmussen, Marie Rasmussen, Marilyn White and Jenny Cooper General look see and to show the new comers.

Cave dry (except pool at ?????) to survey station 23 where it diverts to hole in right hand wall. Remainder of cave 4 inches of water.

### Junee-Florentine – JF-211 14/5/72

Stephen Harris

Party: S. Harris, L. Gleeson, J. Ward

Gear: 3x30' ladders, 2x120 ft ropes, 1 header.

This team got a very early start leaving Hobart at 7 am. The aim was to explore JF-211 beyond the squeeze. This was to be a great day because the party was rewarded in their heroic effort by more and more cave looming ahead of them.

Beyond the squeeze is a 30 footer (ladder) and then another 30' ladder pitch almost immediately. This is followed by 20 yards or so of passage leading into a dry but wide stream passage. As this is followed further on it gets a bit wider and there is easy walking for a while along this dry stream passage which contains numerous animal skeletons, some of them not long decomposed. This was one aspect that impressed itself upon the party – the number of bones and so on. Most of them appear to be of rodents such as kangaroo rats and so on.

Further on the stream passage divides. One branch goes to at least a 40' crawl ending abruptly over a chamber. The other branch is a roundabout but not a constricted route to the same chamber. The chamber and the indirect route to it are full of loose gravel and boulders. In the chamber the party stopped above a shaft which is thought to be about 60', at least requiring two more ladders.

It's hard to say how much further the cave will go on but next trip will need altogether 5 ladders, 3 ropes, a couple of headers plus more ladders and gear because this may be a deep cave requiring many more pitches. There is little formation in the cave. Although there is a lot of loose rock it was considered not dangerous at this stage provided the party takes reasonable care. The party went underground at 10 am and emerged at 3 pm, spending 5 hours underground.

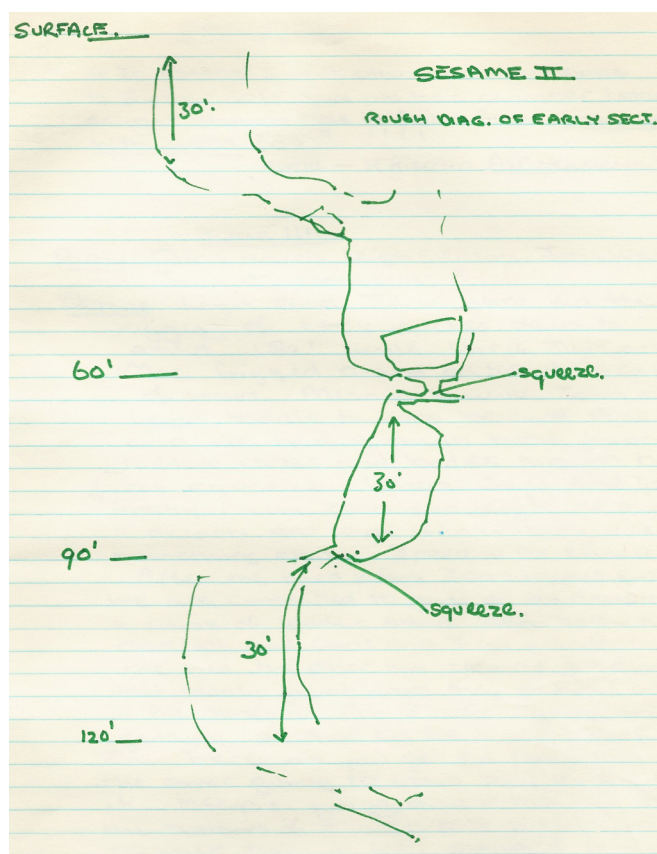
### Junee – Sesame II 11/6/72

Chris Harris

“JF-211 Sesame II 30 ft pitch and short slope to further 50 ft drop into talus chamber; strong draught through hole in false floor; may go with work”!!! – [K. Kiernan 1971 Caves and karst of Junee-Florentine, Tasmania. *ASF Newsletter*; 53: 4-10]

Party: Chris Harris, Leigh Gleeson, John Ward, John McCormack, M. Cole

Details: Leigh and John Ward did the rigging of early pitches down to about 150' while Chris, Tich and Mac friggged around on top for a couple of hours. Meanwhile John and Leigh twiddled thumbs below. Mac and Co. have a merry time jamming ladders, ropes and bodies through the first squeeze. When Chris and Tich finally reach John and Leigh it's about 11 o'clock and Leigh is mumbling quietly something about 'speed is the essence'.



After the third pitch John makes sure we are committed to going on by dropping a couple of ladders about 100 ft below the rockfall and Chris and Tich wonder how the hell the other two clowns got down that bloody great drop they stumble on in the rockfall. At 320 ft lights are getting low and so's the bloody roof. From here on you get the feeling that the cave's going to stop any minute but it keeps going and dropping. At the bottom of a wet 30 ft pitch you realise that it has sumped but you are wrong again – it's just a very deep pool – the cave is still going. In 7 hours underground progress is halted at a 'guestimation' of 450' by a 15' drop.

### **Junee-Florentine 4/6/72**

Party: B. James, J. McCormack, R. Cockerill, D. Elliott, J. Ward, L. Gleeson

Purpose: Surface survey of Chrisps Road area.

### **Further exploration and surveying of JF-211 17-18/6/72**

Underground Team: L. Gleeson, C. Harris, Karan ..., J. Ward

Surface Team: M. Cole

Equipment: 9 ladders (270 ft), 5 ropes (600 ft), 5 headers, 2 short ropes (~30 ft)

Continued on from where previous party had left off (10/6/72). Followed along horizontal passage for some several hundred feet where the cave ended abruptly in a vertical fissure some 67' below this passage. The dimensions of this fissure were approximately 100 ft high, 100 ft long and 3 ft wide. Small stream entered this fissure from both ends and seeped through the floor in several places. It is highly probable that these streams continue on under the fissure however there is no possible way of getting through the floor to follow them. Surveyed right to the bottom from where the last surveyors had terminated.

Return trip to 15 hours.

### **Maydena 25/6/72**

K. Kiernan, M. Cole, D. Elliott

Chrisps Road surveying continued from JF-211 to ??? back to survey peg.

### **Hastings 1/7/72**

Chris Harris

Tich, Leigh Gleeson, Kevin Kiernan and Chris Harris trucked off to Hastings and completed surveying to Bell Chamber. The clino and compass are giving trouble vis. Condensation in clino. Suunto equipment should be given the big chuck.

### **Ida Bay 8-9/7/72**

Party: K. Kiernan, M. Cole, R. Broadby, J. McCormack

Object: Decko at Exit

Results: Objective achieved. Good trip by all.

Party reached the 'fissure' in Exit. About 20 hours underground camped in 'Wind Tunnel'. Photography of gypsum needle.

Left Hobart 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon after an hour's drag through the swamp, arrived in cave 7 o'clock – creek was high and we waded creek, 4' deep approximately and camped in Wind Tunnel, due to so much water around and we wanted to return home Sunday. 5 o'clock Sunday – on our way (creek had dropped 15" overnight) we reached the Eastern Grand Fissure and back towards Mud Passage, however time was against

us so had to return. John McCormack photographed gypsum needles and Edies Treasure. An eye opening trip and most enjoyable. Returned Hobart 6 pm.

### **Junee – Zulu Pot 16/7/72**

Chris Harris

Party: C. Harris, L. Gleeson, M. Cole, G. Watt

Gear: 7x30' ladders, 3x120' rope, 2 headers, survey gear.

Exploration of Zulu Pot carried to 200'-250' by Leigh and Grahame belayed by Chris (who's still swearing for leaving his helmet in Hobart). This trip also results in a major find – the discovery of a Thylacine skeleton on a ledge near the bottom of the cave. The skull was removed for identification purposes and its identity confirmed by Phil Andrews on the same night. This will be followed by a scientific report from Phil and removal of the remaining bones on a later trip.

[See Andrews 1972 Thylacine remains – Florentine Valley. *Southern Caver*, 4(1): 10-11.]

### **Florentine Valley 23/7/72**

Steve Harris

Party: Phil Andrews (leader), L. Gleeson, S. Harris, M. Cole, J. Ward, G. Watt

Aim of trip: one party to recover thylacine skeleton from Zulu Pot and other party to take photographs in Welcome Stranger.

The two carloads of members met at the ANM road barrier at 10:45 am and immediately headed for Zulu Pot. M. Cole and J. Ward split off to take photographs in Welcome Stranger and John took 38 shots – unfortunately black and white. Phil, Graham, Steve and Leigh did the steep climb up to Zulu's entrance. Snow was well down on Field West and it was bitterly cold and all but actually raining.

The 210' of ladder was rigged on two headers anchored to a huge prostrate log above the entrance. Steve descended first, then Graham and then Phil accompanied by numerous plastic bags and a kit bag. The short climb to the skeleton was then made. Phil gathered up every bone and took the surface clay and dirt as well for sake of thoroughness.

It is very hard to believe the thylacine came into the cave the same way (same entrance) as we did because of the stepped nature of the descent and the animal would surely have killed itself on one of the falls. Rather, the animal could have got there by another entrance possibly since blocked up which led into the lower portion of the pot. Another alternative is that the animal may have died and been washed in although this is considered unlikely because of the animal's size and position (with regard to any conceivable flood path). The animal could have been curled up and it lay in a small hollow set in underneath a wall in the highest and driest part of the small chamber. The small chamber was completely enclosed,



the only way out being up. An interesting discovery was what could have been a series of claw marks – parallel grooves in clay about 3-4 feet up the part of the wall nearest the skeleton. These markings were not made by any members of the two parties to have been in the chamber and if they were claw marks they have been well preserved because they were on part of a wall which is protected from falling rocks and also water erosion.

The party ascended the ladder in difficult conditions – wet clay covering the rungs.

Leigh had weathered the cold and boredom of waiting at the top of the ladder in the entrance passage and acting as belay man.

The party reached the surface at ... and were back in Hobart by ...

### **Hastings 29/7/72**

Party: M. Cole, L. Gleeson, L. Cole

Entrance Cave was seen for the first time by all members. It was noted that it is now only a maximum 15 minutes leisurely walk to Entrance along a brand new road turning off the road and going directly to Union Carbide Quarry.

### **Mole Creek 4-5/8/72**

Party: S. Harris, C. Harris, L. Gleeson, J. Ward, G. Watt and two visitors: G. Kowalik and C. Rathbone – both of Climbers Club of Tas.

Aim: To explore upstream Herberts Pot.

Report: The weather was lousy and Mole Creek was thundering out of Wet Cave so it was thought best not to attempt Herberts. Four of the party had not seen Kubla – so we set off for there.

Went underground at 1 pm. The water was up reasonably high but did not worry us unduly (waist deep at point of descent from stream passage traverse). The two climbers went mad with cameras on the Pleasure Dome and in the Forbidden City. The party partook of food and hot drinks in the Forbidden City before pushing on to the point below the bottom of the ladder pitches of the Back Entrance. The party came to the surface at 10 pm.

Camp was in the new roadside shed belonging to Max Oliver at Caveside who showed good hospitality.

Sunday morning saw the climbers away early to the ski slopes and later the cavers in typical unhurried fashion to Hobart.

### **Lune River – Loons Cave 6/8/72**

S. Harris

Party: S. Harris, L. Gleeson, P. Gleeson, J. Ward, G. Watt, M. Cole, D. Elliott, K. Kiernan

Cole, Elliott and Watt were a separate party through the day and they did some bush bashing into the 'Hogsback' near Hastings looking for possible limestone quarry sites which may be used in the future.

As far as the other party goes, Peter Gleeson did not have any gear and stayed on surface while the others went underground via the ladder pitch into Loons Cave. The cave was slightly drier than usual but everyone made the most of the mud and slush – this is the big attraction in this cave apart from serious exploration caused by its being close to the Exit Cave complex. A small 'centipede' about 1.5 cm long, white and almost transparent (the digestive tract of the specimen could easily be seen throughout its length) was found at the end of one of the passages on the roof.

Graeme Watt and John Ward took the walk/swim-out exit while Leigh Gleeson and S. Harris climbed the ladder. Exit time about 5 pm. We rendezvoused with the other team (Cole's) and headed for town. Home 7 pm.

### **Mole Creek 11-12/8/72**

Party: S. Harris, G. Rumbold, G. Holmes, J. Lackowicz, P. Young, S. Young, F. Spaulding, J. Ware, M. Cole

Gear: 3x30' ladders, two headers, 1x120' rope

Report: As most of the party had only visited Mole Creek on one previous occasion a trip into Shishkebab was thought worthwhile. Some photographs were taken. Four hours was spent underground on Sunday afternoon. One of the party experienced difficulty on the ladder in the entrance pitch but time and patience got her to the surface.

A small sample of clay was taken out for experimental ceramic work.

M. Cole arrived at the campsite on Saturday evening and the following day led the party to Cow Cave. Unfortunately the 'Letterbox' had too much water in it but the rest of the accessible part of the cave was looked at.

### **Florentine Valley 16/9/72 (Sunday)**

Party: S. Harris, L. Gleeson, M. Cole, J. Ward, C. Bell, G. Watt, M. Peterson, Diane ?

Cave: Welcome Stranger

The party originally intended to scrub bash and descend some holes in a gully on the NE side of Pygmy Hill but heavy rain defeated this and the party journeyed to Welcome Stranger.

Those who had not seen the cave before were very impressed – 3 hours of the afternoon was spent looking around inside. The stream had plenty of water in it – more than usual.

### **Maydena 17/9/72**

M. Cole

Party: M. Cole, J. Ward, L. Gleeson, S. Harris, C. Bell, G. Watt, 1 girl, M. Peterson

Purpose of trip: Scrub bash area on left fork of Chrisps Road past Pygmy Cave

### Caves Explored: Welcome Stranger

Due to bad weather party went to Welcome Stranger. There were three members who had not been previously. *[Above report seems to cover same trip as previous one. The previous report is dated "16/9/72 (Sunday)" but this day was actually a Saturday, so the trip probably took place on 17/9/72. –Eds.]*

### Hastings 24/9/72

R. Mann

Party: R. Mann, D. Elliott

Purpose of trip: photography in Newdegate

Unable to photograph because cave guide was not co-operative. Decided to go to Entrance [Cave] but weather too bad and returned home.

Special Highlights of Trip: Renewed acquaintance with Constable E. Guinan at Huonville and had guided tour of Police Station.

### Jukes-Darwin 23-24/9/72

M. Cole

Party: M. Cole, K. Kiernan, L. Gleeson, J. Ward, C. Bell, A. Skinner, 2 girls

Purpose of trip: to investigate caves in Jukes-Darwin area

Due to poor weather no caves, nor limestone was explored. Bushwalking was done at Ocean Beach (Strahan) and on the track towards Kelly basin. (Saturday report: A. Skinner, R. Bell, K. Kiernan and K. Medlock toured pollution on the King River mouth, Ocean beach etc. better as a conservation weekend than caving.)

### Maydena 6-7/10/72

K. Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, K. Medlock, A. Skinner, R. Bell, V. ?South? (V)

June Cave

Purpose of trip: Initiation

Spent 0.5 hour initiating in June Cave Sunday morning.

Special Highlights of Trip: Saturday night ?noises? in June Hut.

### Maydena 8/10/72

G. Watt

Party: G. Watt, M. Cole, L. Gleeson, C. Harris

Purpose of trip: Exploration of Chrisps Road

JF-210 was found to choke after 30 ft.

JF-206 cave entered at sink and upper entrance – 70-80 ft of passage.

JF-207 (Voltaire?) approximate depth 60 ft. Choked.

JF-208 large entrance chamber, much formation, approx. 150 ft passage, choked.

### Maydena 15/10/72

L. Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, M. Cole, G. Watt

Bone Pit. Cave was thoroughly explored to bottom. Approx. 350'. Some new bones were extracted by G. Watt.

### Ida Bay 21/10/72

K. Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, D. Mitchell

Purpose of trip: 1. Investigate survey trails which may indicate diversion plans for Mystery Creek. 2. Locate alternate source of water.

Mystery Creek Cave

Followed survey trail leading to east below quarry across to railway – no water. Walked along track towards Mystery Creek and noted new survey trails (see below). Returned to bottom of road to quarry and noted water passing under main road from efflux further up the hill. This may be suitable for the quarry men if they do really want only 30 gallons a day and not vast water for sluicing overburden. Creek flowing at approximately 1.5 cusecs.

*[See diagram on next page.]*

### Hastings 22/10/72

??? (author)

Party: G. Watt, M. Cole, D. Elliott, P. Clauson, R. Butorac, J. McCormack, S. Harris, K. Kiernan, D. Mitchell, M. Hurburgh, A. Floyd, R. Winzenberg, C. Clark

Purpose of trip: Introduction to caving for Venture Scout Group.

Newdegate – Hells Half Acre

An excellent trip and all appeared to enjoy it. We can expect some of these to call on us for another trip. Trip reached Hells Half Acre and returned after much fun on the mud slope for an hour or so.

### Maydena 29/10/72

R. Cockerill

Party: B. Cockerill, A. Terauds, A. Sprent

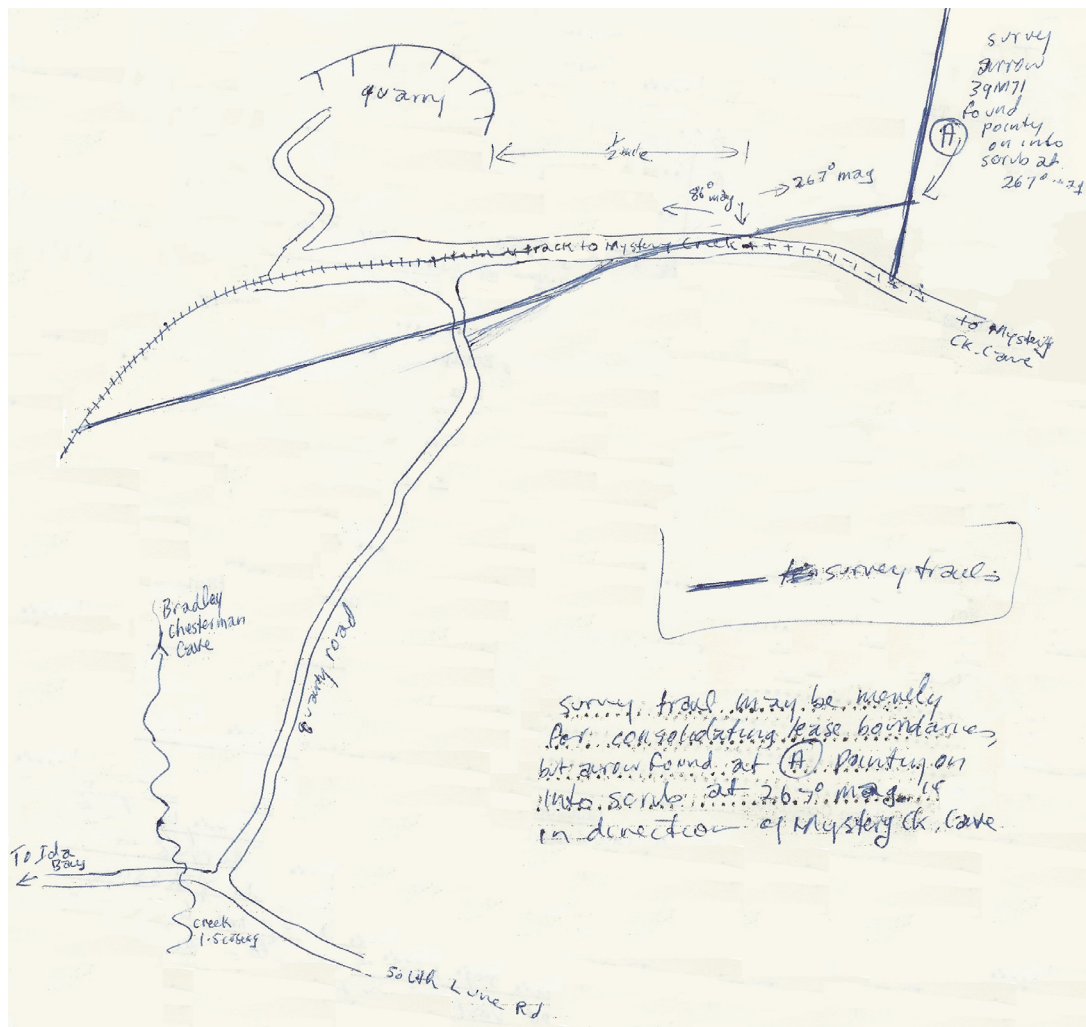
Purpose of trip: Familiarisation for A. Sprent.

Welcome Stranger

Introduction of Florentine Area and Welcome Stranger to A. Sprent. Waterflow – disappearing at station 23. Many upper levels pushed.

Toured Chrisps Road re confirmation of survey.





Doline filled with water – large collapse blocks, unknown depth

Two entrances – one 30 ft pitch at side of arch.

Redpa – low-lying limestone. Relief 10 ft. Eight caves, one with 200 ft of passage.

Special Highlights of Trip:

Met James Malley of Trowutta – founder Tas Tiger Centre.

Received tiger print chart.

Showed interest in SCS find of tiger bones at Maydena.

**Well exploration, Richmond 26/11/72**

Party: John McCormack, M. Cole, R. Cockerill, A. Terauds, Chris Harris, Ant

### **Mole Creek 4-5/11/72**

R. Mann

Party: R. Mann, D. Elliott

Purpose of trip: Photography, water divining

New Caves Discovered: No. 210, Armchair Cave – in old course of Mole Creek just behind the rising.

Photography in Baldocks and Honeycomb.

PR with local farmers.

Cave found could be named already. Number 210 scratched in rock face over the entrance.

### **Hastings – Waterloo Swallet 12/11/72**

C. Harris

Party: Chris Harris, Leigh Gleeson, Karen D., Chris Bell

Caves Explored: Waterloo Swallet

Entered at top entrance – traversed low down past entrance to Trafalgar Pot.

### **Trowutta Arch, Redpa 18-19/11/72**

Party: Kevin Kiernan, G. Watt, M. Cole, D. Mitchell

Purpose of trip: Exploration

Caves Explored: Trowutta Arch, Redpa

Trowutta doline and arch.

Arch 20 ft high, 70 ft long

Sprent, Ron Mann, Graham Watt

Purpose of trip: Explore well on Dick Baker's property, Richmond

Well bottomed at 75 ft. Four bods went to bottom. Ant and Chris ??? in the water (3 ft).

For report see letter dated 1/12/72 addressed to Mr. Baker. [Not located –GM]

### **Hastings 3/12/72**

Party: J. McCormack, A. Sprent, J. Sprent, M. Cole, R. Mann, S. Wilson, D. Elliott, Dave Bludhorn, Lynn Bludhorn

A general tour of tourist cave plus Binnie Tunnel and Pop Hole to familiarise bods ??? in publication of Hastings book.

BBQ lunch with family and swam in thermal pool after caving.

### **Mole Creek 3/12/72**

Party: K. Kiernan, A. Skinner, R. Bell

Purpose of trip: sightseeing on way to PB court hearing in Devonport

Spent one hour in Honeycomb I. Creek nearly dry. Swallows and wattle birds noted to be nesting in at least five sites through the entrance chamber.

### **Khazad-Dum 9/12/72**

Chris Harris

Party: C. Harris, L. Gleeson, L. Closs (Climbers Club of Tasmania)

Three slightly merry cavers had a great time thrashing around the Junee scrub at 2 am in pouring rain trying to find the Khazad-Dum track. After about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour of this they returned to the ghost-ridden Junee Homestead and next day they were seen heading into the Styx River trestle bridge in a SUPER ACE (GO ANYWHERE) LAND ROVER.

Special Highlights of the trip: Are you kidding!

### **Mole Creek – Herberts Pot 16/12/72**

Party: K. Kiernan, A. Skinner, D. Mitchell, S. Wilson

Purpose of trip: examination of higher levels near Paragon Vaults

Entered Herberts Pot around 11:00 pm. Went as far as the top of Tombstone Traverse before people started to pike. Lies about the distance to the Vaults urged party on to the Vaults Passage. Three hundred feet up the passage Mitchell stopped and refused to move, resulting in rapid rebellion. Disgusted/relieved leader continued on to the first vaults chamber for look see before re-joining and leaving cave.

Special highlights of the trip: On the way out A. Skinner lost his watch. This was detected near the entrance. Mitchell abseiled back down the 80 ft pitch and prusiked out looking for the watch. Skinner's voice nearly became squeaky when he later found the watch under a rock near the entrance.

### **Flowery Gully 17/12/72**

Party: K Kiernan, K. Medlock, A. Skinner, R. Bell

Purpose of trip: gather notes for Nibicon Conservation Seminar paper

Caves Explored: FG-201 Flowery Gully Cave (Winkleigh Cave), FG-202 Vanishing Cave [tags placed on this trip]

Obtained permission from "The Rookery" to examine limestone quarry near the Rookery turnoff. Owner said only small potholes encountered. Large quarry with three benches – agricultural lime probably. Then proceeded to meet Mr. Bob Beams, the big dogs and two limestone quarries on his property. We found a new entrance had been opened to Flowery Gully Cave during quarrying – a small hole through loose talus and nastily fractured rock. Looked at cave quickly – rather vandalised but upper level really beautiful, cave must once have been one of Tasmania's best, has approximately 1000 ft of passage. Then visited Vanishing Cave which is in the nearby quarry and partly quarried away. Upper levels particularly beautiful.

### **Honeycomb Cave 17/12/72**

Steve Harris

Party: S. Harris, N. James, C. Harris, L. Gleeson, S. Shore, M. Pett

Went for a leisurely trip into Honeycomb 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  - two girls took claustrophobic fright and three people headed out of cave while N. James, L. Gleeson and C. Harris continued on to explore. Found some very good formation. Team visited Henry Read's mansion subsequently and then headed for Hobart.

### **Mole Creek 23/12/72**

Party: K. Kiernan, L. Holloway, D. Bludhorn, L. Bludhorn

Toured through Honeycomb I and early sections of Wet Cave to placate the Buldhorns whose party did not arrive at Mole Creek.

### **Gunns Plains and Eugenana 23/12/72**

[Name misspelt 'Eugenanna'.]

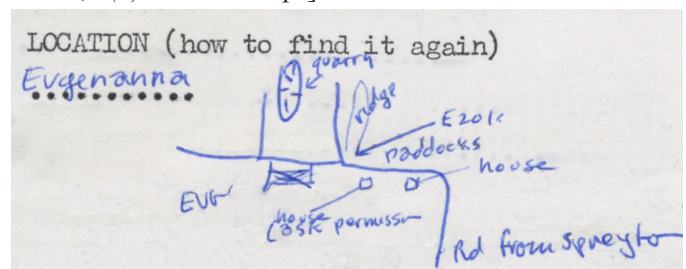
Kevin Kiernan.

Party: K. Kiernan, L. Holloway

Caves explored: Gunns Plains Cave (Gunns Plains), Sherrills Cave (Eugenana, E-201)

Visited the Gunns Plains tourist cave and looked quickly at the limestone areas nearby. Guide spoke of two other caves.

Then visited Eugenana. Full details of cave submitted to editorial committee for *Southern Caver*, also map CRG Gr 2. [See Kiernan 1974 *The Eugenanna Area*. *Southern Caver*, 5(3): 9-10 + map.]



### **Montagu and Redpa 30-31/12/72**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, S. Harris, M. Cole

Numbered 201-207 and explored past pools, 800 ft, bones, pretty, wet.

Found five caves on opposite side of road, two tagged, others rock face scratches.

Went to Redpa, found R-210, numbered eleven caves.

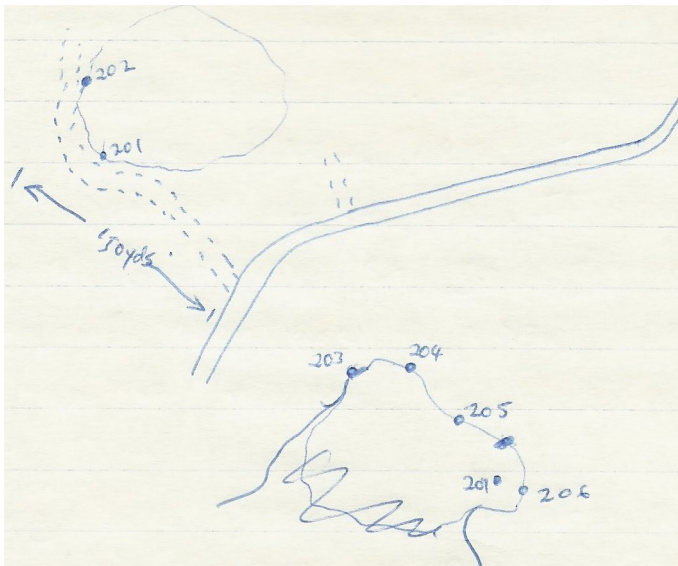
Directions to Montagu Caves:

1. Go to Montagu
2. See Mr. A. T. Gourlay (ph. Montagu 5) who lives on the left hand side of the road just before the sealed bit ends, next door to the parish hall in a house surrounded by a green hedge.



1973

3. Get the gate key from the aforementioned Mr. Gourlay.
4. Drive on along the Cape Grim Road. Just beyond the sealed bit is a branching of the ways. Head south. Then shortly after comes a 90° corner in the road. If you go straight ahead you'll arrive at the dump so go right instead.
5. About two miles beyond Montagu a road branches to the south. It has a wide entry, is nearly opposite a house and unsignposted.
6. Half a mile along this road you reach a double cyclone wire gate. That's what the key is for. Ten feet beyond the gate a sign tells you you are on Buckbys Road. (If you've missed the turnoff and gone ahead you'll end up at the gate to Woolnorth which just goes to show you are really up the shit and will have to try again – DON'T GO TO WOOLNORTH.) (The Woolnorth gate is a mile or so along the Grim Road past Buckbys.)
7. Drive 4-5 miles along Buckbys Road and turn off onto Grunter Road (clearly sign posted).
8. Drive 1.3 miles (exactly) along Grunter Road.
9. Stop. To your left lies an overgrown bulldozed track (just beyond a slight left hand bend in the road).
10. Walk 150 yards up the track. The caves are obvious little entrance in a low hill on the right.
11. There are other caves on the opposite side of the Grunter Road.
12. Just to the left is a 1 ft diameter gum notched 6 ft up.



30-31/12/72

Leigh Gleeson

Party: C. Harris, L. Gleeson

Prusiking

Attempted several cliffs in Orford area and also on Mt Wellington.

Hastings 6/1/73

Andrew Skinner

Party: Andrew Skinner, Ros Bell, Stephen Jager, Michelle Jager, Stephan Karpiniec, Fiona Skinner

Purpose of trip: Investigate upper levels in layback wee three crack in Newdegate Cave

Newdegate Cave evening trip. Mystery Creek very dry with few pools. Upper levels of wee three crack entered by chimneying. Does not go. Investigated upper levels in Layback – one promising section. Needs scaling pole.

Possible connection to tourist section in upper levels of Layback

June – Exploration hole/area above Gap 7/1/73

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, D. Mitchell, D. Elliott

(Tags not taken as some bloody fool has locked them in the cupboard)

Comment before start of trip: We have just driven all over southern Tasmania trying to get a key to his bloody establishment. While I appreciate that control is needed on keys, could not a little consideration be given to the people who are doing the active caving with regard to keys and not just the bureaucratic power-needing handful of nongs who have keys at present.

Trip report overleaf [but no trip report found – AJ.]

Hastings 9/1/73

Andrew Skinner

Party: Andrew Skinner, Ros Bell, Stephen Jager, Michelle Jager, Fiona Skinner

Purpose of trip: visit downstream end in KGV and investigate damage

KGV, Hastings in dry weather. Downstream section silted up. *Rattus rattus* noticed. Strange noise at downstream end – possibly water. Most passages entered – traversed to upstream talus pile. Creek dry. *Hickmania troglodytes* with egg case observed. Some rubbish removed.

Cave has not deteriorated in last six months. Now has gate by unlocked? Old wooden ladder removed.

Precipitous Bluff 12-25/1/73

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, A. Skinner, R. Bell, L. Gleeson (SCS); N. Montgomery, P. Glasby, G. Middleton (SSS); A. Pavey, C. Fisher, P. Radcliffe (UNSWSS); J. Catter (NZSS); J. Dunkley (SUSS); K. Dekkers (WASG)

Purpose of trip: General exploration mining lease area

¼ mile found beyond pools in PB-1. PB-3 explored for 2/3 mile, continues but very wet. PB-201 found and



explored to bottom at -270 ft. PB-202 and PB-203 both small holes. PB-204-209 all unexplored. PB-201, PB-1 and PB-3 mapped. Numerous bugs collected.



*Andrew Skinner & John Dunkley in Damper Cave, PB, 16 Jan. 1973. Photo: G. Middleton*

[See Terauds 1973 Precipitous Bluff must not be destroyed. *Southern Caver*, 4(4):3-5; Middleton & Mintgomery 1973 Southern Caving Society Precipitous Bluff expedition 1973. *J. Syd. Speleol. Soc.*, 17(7):185-212.]

### **Surprise Bay 23/1/73**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, A. Skinner, R. Bell, G. Middleton (SSS)

Purpose of trip: initial exploration

New caves discovered: SB-201-204 in cliffs in ¼ mile of beach sea cliffs, 30-50 ft a.s.l.

Four caves found, combination of marine and karst development in Gordon limestone. More trogging required. Magnificent area – virgin ocean beach and little lagoon with limestone all around.



*K. Kiernan in cave in coastal limestone, Surprise Bay, 23 Jan. 1973. Photo: G. Middleton*

### **Mole Creek 27-28/1/73**

Kevin Kiernan

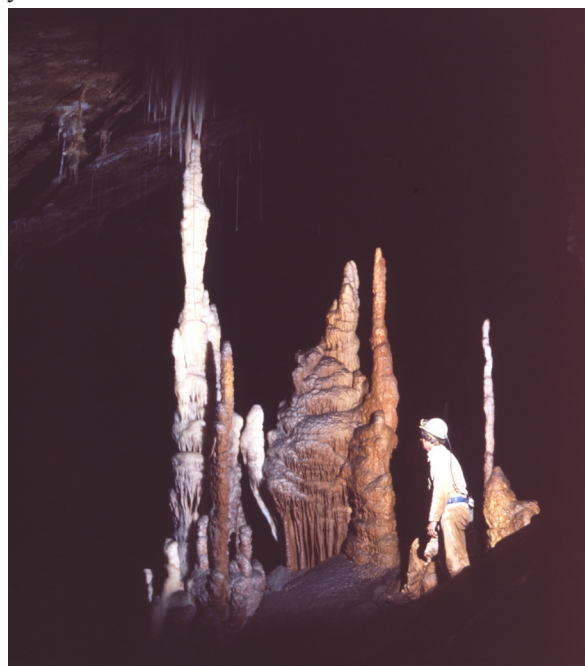
Party: K. Kiernan, A. Skinner, M. Cole, F. Koolhof, D. & L. Bludhorn, John and Nancy ?, S. Street, G. Middleton (SSS), P. Radcliffe (UNSWSS), C. Fisher (UNSWSS)

Day 1 – all to Croesus

Day 2 – some to Georgies (found possible new bit – see

MC). Others to Kubla (cave deteriorating badly).

Day 3 – a few to Shishkabab



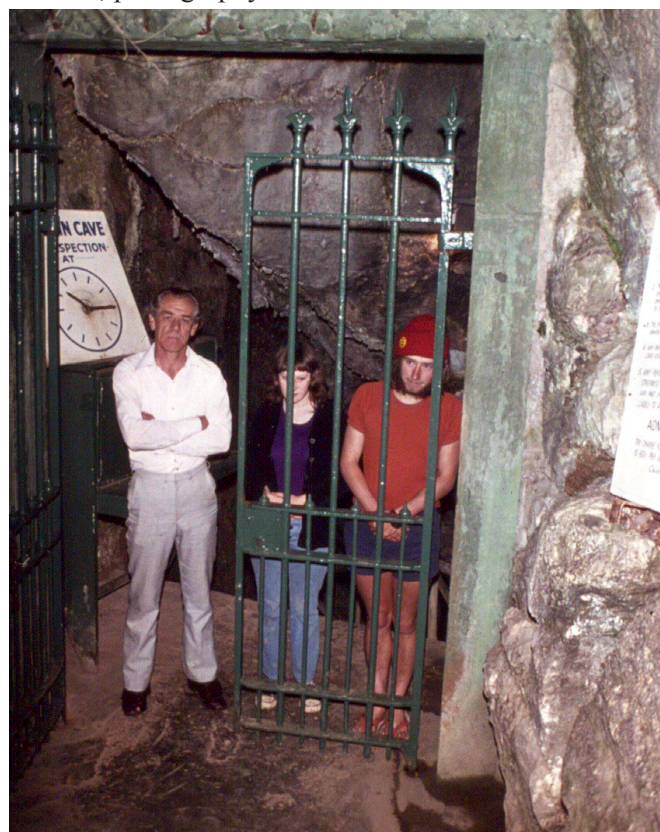
*In Kubla Khan. Photo: F. Koolhof*

### **Hastings, Ida Bay 30/1 - 3/2/73**

Andrew Skinner

Party: A. Skinner (SCS/TCC), G. Middleton (SSS), Rudolf Frank (VSA), Roy Skinner (TCC/SCS)

Purpose of trip: track marking calcite and flowstone floors, placement of reflector tags, collection of rubbish, tourism, photography



*Roy, Fiona & Andrew Skinner at entrance to Newdegate Cave, 30 Jan. 1973. Photo: G. Middleton*



Too late to do Wolf Hole. Photography in Newdegate on 30<sup>th</sup> January. 31<sup>st</sup> January to Exit Cave. Quick trip in to Camp 2. Looked at damage to Edies Treasure pm 31<sup>st</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> February left Camp 2 for West Grand Fissure where some 'new' talus was investigated. East Grand Fissure and Conference Concourse marked with red reflector tags. 2<sup>nd</sup> February marked tracks in Ballroom and part of Collonades.

Track marking almost complete. Rubbish all carried out of cave. Gate still unlocked but will be served with new lock next trip.

### **June-Florentine 3-4/2/73**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, G. Middleton (SSS), R. Frank (VSA), A. Skinner, G. Watt, L. Holloway

Visited Welcome Stranger and entrance to Khazad-Dum on Saturday. Explored holes in valley in The Gap (see previous reports) on Sunday. All but one blocked - pushed down to 100-120 ft – still going, very scungey. Perhaps the scungiest cave in the world. Named Grot Grovel.



*K. Kiernan, A. Skinner, R. Frank at entrance to Welcome Stranger Cave, 3 Feb. 1973. Photo: G. Middleton*



*K. Kiernan  
in Grot Grovel  
4 Feb. 1973  
Photo: G.  
Middleton*

### **June-Florentine Unknown date**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, M. Cole, A. Skinner

Interesting trip. No details permitted.

### **Ida Bay – Exit Cave 17/2/73**

Andrew Skinner

Party: A. Skinner, D. Nichols, R. Bell, W. Carpenter, R. Skinner, K. Medlock, F. Skinner

Purpose of trip: track marking in Edies Treasure

Left via D'Entrecasteaux. Touristing in upper levels before talus. Checked markers in Grand Fissure. Marked and fenced off part of Edies Treasure. Walked out track in dark.

### **Francistown (sandstone) 20/2/73**

A. Skinner

Party: A. Skinner, K. Kiernan, S. Jager

Purpose of trip: Investigate report of a small cave near Francistown

Caves explored: "It doesn't look much like limestone cave" – F-201

Small cave formed by collapse of Triassic sandstone blocks with small creek running through. Some fauna collected. Report of glow-worms in winter. No potential. Map – Grade III done by Kevin Kiernan.

### **Mole Creek 24-25/2/73**

L. Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, C. Harris, S. Street, S. Wilson, M. Vermeulen

Cave explored: Croesus, Honeycomb 1 1/2, Lynds, Shishkabab plus one more.

Brilliant weekend. Unnumbered cave explored (some 200 yards NW of Pyramid Hill). Started in large doline dropping through 40' of talus to a small creek, which developed into a narrow fissure some 80 yards long, the fissure being filled with water required a cold swim to verify its end.

### **June-Florentine 4/3/73**

Ron Mann

Party: R. Mann, D. Elliott, F. Koolhof, B. ? (visitor)

Purpose of trip: participation in S&R film and photography in Welcome Stranger.

Drove to Florentine Bridge and appeared before the cameras for a S&R film being made by the Commonwealth Film Unit.

Spent 3.5 hours photographing in Welcome Stranger. Water level fairly low.

### **Ida Bay Date unknown**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, A. Skinner, S. Jager

Visited Bradley Chesterman Cave – polluted. Found ASF Pot and numbered it IB-202. Also tagged IB-201 near old quarry and IB-203-205 west of new quarry.

### Mole Creek 3-5/3/73

Party: M. Cole, M. Vermeulen, C. Harris, S. Wilson, ???, J. Ward, L. Gleeson, S. Street, G. Bailey, M. Russell, R. Maloney, A. Maloney, Gaye ?

Report – general:

Saturday 5/3/73 – Seven members visited Kellys Pot. Unable to reach siphon due to high water. Three hours spent underground. All members visited Baldocks. A party also visited Pyramid.

Sunday 4/3/73 – One party visited Herberts Pot as far as the Vaults while another visited Honeycomb and Wet Caves.

Monday 5/3/73 - Four members went through Pyramid to Cow Cave. Silver paper and ??? paper collected

### Mole Creek 17/3/73

Andrew Skinner

Party: Andrew Skinner, Greg Strickland (VSA), Leonie Smith, Ros Bell

Purpose of trip: Walls of Jerusalem (walking trip)

Party spent one hour underground looking at side passages in Honeycomb 1 1/2. When car broke down Andrew and Ros looked at limestone outcrops near the turnoff to Devils Gullet.

N.B. map attached. [below]

### Hastings 17-18/3/73

Party: Delia and Marg, Chris H., Tich C., S. Wilson, Steve Street, G. Bailey, L. Gleeson, D. O'Brien

Tourist trip to Wolf Hole

### Hastings 24-25/3/73

M. Cole

Party: M. Cole, L. Gleeson, S. Wilson, G. Bailey, R. Maloney, M. Russell, S. Harris, S. Street

To see Wolf Hole

Wolf Hole thoroughly looked at. Photography now a must.

### June-Florentine 25/3/73

L. Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, G. Bailey, S. Wilson, visitor

Purpose of trip: revisit June efflux

Waded up through cave to end to find water level a little higher than usual. Return trip took one hour. Graham and Stewart both agreed that cave is in fact a wet cave – beaut trip.

### June-Florentine 1/4/73

L. Gleeson

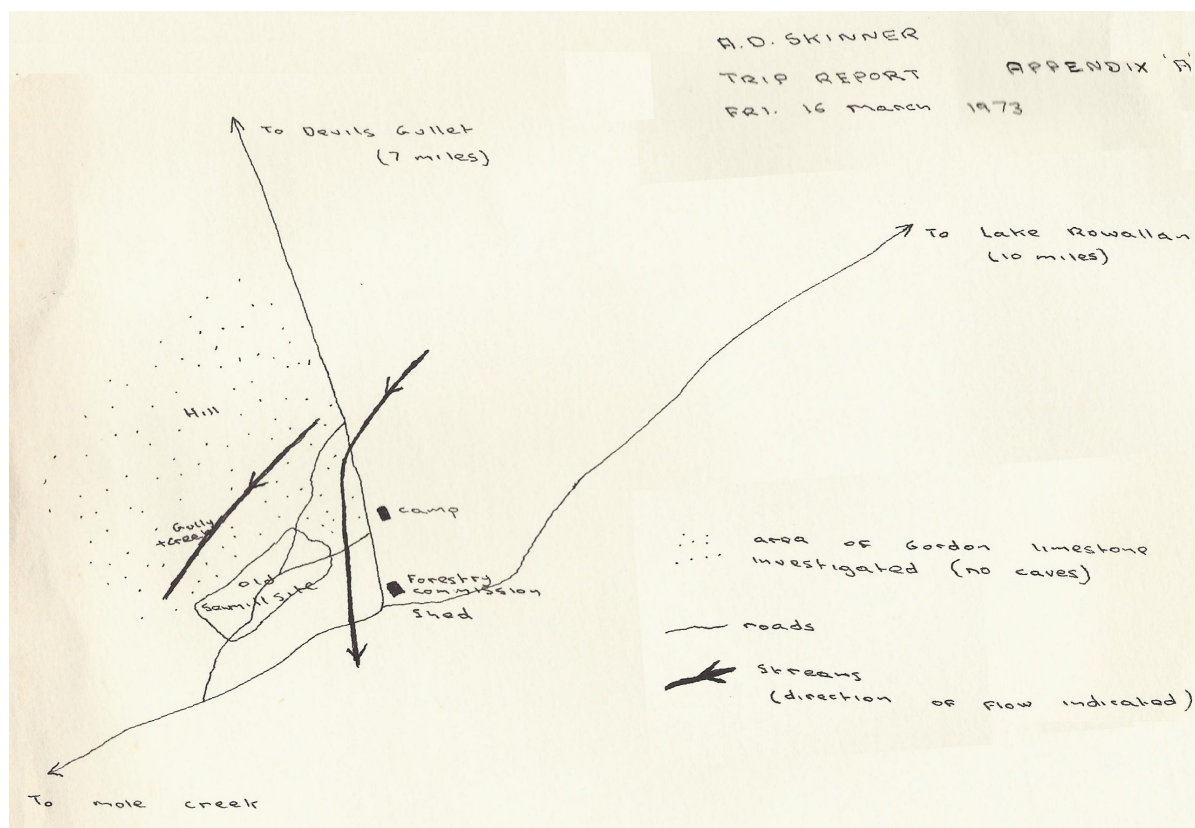
Party: L. Gleeson, S. Wilson, G. Bailey, and visitor Greg

Purpose of trip: to explore and survey a cave system in the lower Florentine

Caves explored: JF-260 Unnamed

A member of the ANM survey team led us some 21 miles down the Florentine to a small limestone ridge (50' high

and almost 400 yards from the river). Reconnaissance of a small section on the southern scarp of this ridge revealed three dry cave entrance all of relatively small dimensions (~6' x 4'). We selected one at random with the aim of exploring it then sys-





tematically exploring the others. IN the first hole the small entrance rapidly developed into a well-formed circular tunnel (3'x4') which extended for some 70' or more until it dropped down a 20' mud bank into a very muddy creek bed. Initially there appeared no way beyond this point, however a determined S. Wilson piled into the sludge and pushed a tight squeeze up a mudbank beyond to open up a new chamber and talus section. Our visitor Greg was the first to suggest a possible route through the talus extremities while Graeme with the help of Stewart retreated back to the surface to get the survey gear. A combination of bad language and persistence brought the team through a 6' squeeze tunnel into another small chamber from which the cave branched in two directions. Again it appeared that the cave terminated in this talus chamber until a Mr. Bailey cracked a relatively tight squeeze at the top of a small climb and linked the chamber with the surface. Simultaneously Greg scrambled through talus in the other branch to find a third entrance. These two latter entrances turned out to be the two previously observed on the surface.

The team then systematically surveyed the three entrance system and numbered the largest entrance. Although the cave is but a small (400') horizontal system with little formation its small dimensions and tight squeezes make it quite sporty. This, together with the fantastic setting in the rainforest jungles of the Florentine provided an enjoyable day for the troops. We will return to this ridge in the near future to check out other known possibilities.

#### **Mole Creek 20/4/73**

Mike Cole

Party: M. Cole and 23 others (VSA, TCC, NBTCC, CSS and BMSG represented)

Purpose of trip: to explore Wet Caves System

A complete report of all work done will be printed in the *Southern Caver*, Vol. 5 No. 1. Would the records office see me after this edition is released for a copy to attach to this report [*No copy was attached but report is in Southern Caver, 5(1): 14-16 – Ed.*]

#### **Hastings and Ida Bay 25/4/73**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, K. Medlock, D. Elliott

Scrub-bashed unsuccessfully between bottom of Chestermans Road to just past KGV track below road then visited Bradley Chesterman Cave at Ida Bay.

#### **Almost PB – Vanishing Falls Easter 1973**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Ron Brown, Dick Jones

Purpose of trip: to visit Vanishing Falls

Essentially a walking trip to see the never-visited Vanishing Falls NE of Precipitous Bluff. Lousy weather for three days including 43 hours holding the tent down

in the snow (6" of snow in 10 minutes at one stage). Walked out in one day crawling on all fours in places in strong wind and rain. Snow down to around 1000' but melted quickly.

#### **Ida Bay 20-25/4/73**

L. Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, Graeme Bailey, Stewart Wilson

Purpose of trip: six day trip to Exit Cave

High water levels meant that the team never reached its destination of Camp 2, they being held up at the Dribble System for three days. Our estimate of time without watches showed us to be one in six out, i.e. we overestimated the time.

See general trip report in *Southern Caver*, 5(2): 11-17.

#### **Rope work 30/4/73**

L. Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, S. Wilson, S. Street, G. Bailey, C. Harris, M. Vermeulen, M. Russel, visitor – Leonie

Purpose of trip: rope work at Blackmans Bay

Post Easter trip celebrations combined with the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations of one club member, on the night before the proposed abseil and prusik practise ensured a late start for the team. Nevertheless a rope was rigged by lunch time for the team, who with varying degrees of enthusiasm bailed off the cliff tops to the rocks below (using the rope of course) then prusiking back up to the top.

Special highlights of the trip were:

1. A single crab abseil and rope ??? thick by Graham.
2. A free climb by Stewart into an unenviable and embarrassing situation.
3. A 30' free fall trick by Gleeson resulting in grazed elbows against the rock face.

#### **Lower Florentine 5-6/5/73**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, Stewart Wilson, Graeme Bailey, Mieke Vermeulen, John Ward, Dianne ?

Purpose of trip: return to JF-260 and to find new caves in JF-260 area.

New caves explored: JF-261 – 100 yards north of JF-260 [*JF-261 is now 'Itchy' near JF-250 Scratch Pot. May not have been tagged. –AJ*]

New road works in area of JF-260 made the finding of the small limestone ridge a little difficult nevertheless the numbered entrance to JF-260 was found by 11:00 am. A reconnaissance by Stewart showed water levels in the cave to be some 6' above that of the survey trip. This meant that from this entrance (unnumbered) we could only get some 80' into the cave. Hence we returned to the second entrance into which the team entered with varying degrees of enthusiasm. The 6' tight squeeze provided sporty caving for the team as usual and proved

a physical impossibility for members of the team with king size bums. A not to be discouraged Mieke piles into the squeeze to get through in record time and then turns around and demands something a little more severe. High water levels impeded progress from this second entrance.

We returned to the surface after about 1.5 hours frigging about and proceeded to look for new holes. John found an interesting pot some 100 yards from JF-260 and he and Graham proceeded to explore this and showed it to be some 200' in length (nice clay passages). Simultaneously Mieke spotted another small hole which, upon investigation by Stewart and myself, turned out to be another surface entrance to JF-260.

Muddy tracks between caves and road provided the odd laugh for the troops.

Exploration required!

Stewart why did you hit Mieke on the head with a log of wood at the cave entrance?

### **Loons Cave 5-6/5/73**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, A. Skinner, M. Cole, R. Frank (VSA)

Found a few hundred feet of new cave at far end, some with good helictites. Laddered in, swam out.



*K. Kiernan in Loons Cave, 12/1/75. Photo: G. Middleton*

### **Ida Bay 12-13/5/73**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, A. Skinner, K. Medlock, R. Bell – combined SCS/TCC trip

Rain and laziness on Saturday caused lilo race down Lune River from near chalet to bridge.

Plan to survey HHA abandoned next day due to high water level of Mystery Creek downstream of Mystery Chamber.

### **Junee-Florentine 12-13/5/73**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, G. Bailey, J. Ward, S. Wilson, M. Vermeulen, Dianne

Purpose of trip: to bottom Zulu (JF-215)

Did not have the usual ladder rigging problems associated with Zulu. Stewart and John pushed a squeeze at the bottom to extend the existing depth by another 20'. We will return some time in the near future with bolting and/or piton gear in an attempt to check out other possibilities.

### **Junee-Florentine 20/5/73**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, Mieke Vermeulen, Kav (NSW), Chuck (USA), visitor Rosanne

Purpose of trip: visit Welcome Stranger

An enjoyable trip. Water levels relatively high in Welcome Stranger – visitors impressed by formation but not by temperature of the water. We subsequently went to the Florentine River for lunch and finally home.

Note – another pass balls up – girl in office so it was necessary to obtain a note from Molland??

### **Hastings 22/5/73**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, A. Skinner, F. Skinner

Surveyed KGV but for dry passage parallel to upstream section. Found 30 ft aven with waterfall near upstream rockfall.

Lost compass on way out. Search failed to locate it. Will return for another look.

### **Maria Island 28/5-1/6/73**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Kath Medlock, Ros Bell, Andrew Skinner, Claire Wilmot, Gus ?, Sue?, Cathy?, Margaret ? Fiona Skinner, Stefen Karpiniec, Paul Crowther

Combined trip – SCS/TCC/Tas Uni Geographical Society

28 May – Party left Triabunna by boat for Darlington, except for KK and KM who flew to Chinamans Bay from Cambridge and walked the seven miles up to Dar-



lington, arriving just after dark.

29 May – Visited and photographed the general Darlington area, then party broke into two: one climbed Bishop and Clerk, the other (KK, AS, SK, KM) descended the fossil cliffs at Half Moon Bay to look for caves developed at sea level in the limestone. About one mile south of the old quarry site two large travertine deposits approximately 20 m long were seen midway on the cliff face. Efforts to get around the coast failed when an overhanging face dropping into deep and rough water was encountered. That night the sewers (convict-built bricks) were visited but no insect life found.

30 May – Revisited cliffs and explored a cave (MI-1 – number allocated but tag not placed) just at the base which we had walked over the day before. Mapped to CRG Grade 2 (KK). AS laddered one of the top holes in the main rift but found deep water and no ledges so the end was not pushed, despite SK's frantic effort to cram himself down the small hole near the landward end. Then pushed on around the cliffs and lilo-ed past the barrier of the previous day. Just beyond was a large cave entrance 20 m deep with no side passages. It was not entered. The travertine fans were reached, the first one proving to be old with origins from a (too) narrow crack some 35 m up the cliff face (and a similar distance from the top). The second was the site of a small waterfall coming out of the cliff face at a similar height. Thoughts of abseiling down from the top were abandoned due to the overhanging nature of the cliffs.

31 May – Party set out for the north shore of Reidle Bay to visit the caves reported by Dave Hillieson (UQSS) (*Speleo Spiel*, 78:5) at 913758 on the Maria 1:100,000 sheet. After a late start only KK, KM, AS, SK and RB were still in the race as we hit the sand of Reidle Bay. Darkness was approaching as we raced along the north shore past a tremendous little granite beach. Eventually KK and AS reached the caves – nearly. The tide was high and the caves inaccessible. We stumbled back to Darlington in the dark.

A 36 km walk, only to be stopped 200 m from the entrances. Met Richard Schmidt (president TCCNB) in Darlington that night.

1 June – The morning was spent packing up and taking a last look at Darlington before leaving for the (rough) boat ride back to Triabunna, cold pies, but a good fire in the Spring Bay pub. The weather had broken after five days of glorious sun.

### Conclusions

Caves in this area are not likely to be large but are at least a fair size. They represent principally marine processes but with some later karstic modification, primarily in terms of speleothem development. The fact that the rock is limestone probably accounts for the caves being somewhat larger than most sea caves. The NPWS is doing a great job restoring Darlington, but mumblings were heard from many quarters of a possible great re-

sort complex at Chinamans Bay. However, in view of the new airstrip being built near Darlington, it would seem a northern site would be more likely. Both are strongly opposed by most.

*[There appears to be a gap in the records of some 2.5 years at this point, for which no reports have been located. –Eds.]*

## 1976

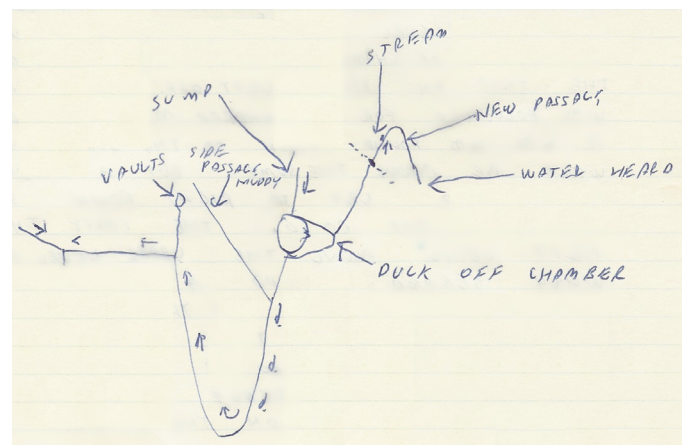
### Exploration – Herberts Pot 24/2/76

Graeme Bailey

Party: C. Harris, G. Bailey

The party entered Herberts at 12:30 pm and quickly reached the upstream waterfall as the travelling was a delight in the low water. An upper level formation chamber was looked at near the Westmoreland branch. The party then continued with the exploration to carry on where the 3/1/76 trip left off. Upon reaching 'Duck Off Chamber' the party followed the stream through the long wet section with only minimal airspace and came to the next low section which proved to be an impassable sump. The party then returned to 'Duck Off Chamber' without extending the stream way. The progress was then centered on the upper level passage which leads off from 'Duck Off Chamber'. The point was reached where the trip on 3/1/76 left off. The passage was followed for a hundred metres and then a way was found down to the stream which would be above the sump but a ladder was needed to get right down so the party could not do so. The party then kept going along the upper level passage which seemed to do a U-bend. Water was then heard but the passage was getting tight. The water was getting louder and louder but due to the size of the passage it was decided to turn back. On the way back stream was found to sink 20 m above the Westmorland junction with the sink taking most of the water. The party emerged at the entrance at 11:30 pm

NB – 'Holy Hell Passage' discovered on this trip.



### **Herberts Pot, Mole Creek 3-14/3/76**

Chris Harris

Party: Steve Street, Chris Harris, Leigh Gleeson, Chris Bell (visitor)

Report: The weather during the weekend was overcast with some drizzle whilst the party was underground. The water level was low in the stream passage of Herberts.

The party spent 15 hours underground going under at 11 am on Saturday. Steve, Chris H. and Leigh continued the survey from the major bend just beyond the 'railway passage' through to 'Duck Off Chamber', then through the duck to the final sump. The team worked in grueling conditions (low, water-filled passage) in this section. The survey was then continued along the new extension (discovered Dec. 1975) to a rope pitch. This was the limit of previous exploration (24/2/76). Chris and Leigh continued on only to find that the extension had returned them to their original starting point near the major U-bend. The party, somewhat confused, discussed this remarkable 'turn' of affairs before retreating in order to survey 'Holy Hell Passage' (discovered 24/2/76).

The team were now beginning to feel the effects of the continuous exposure to cold water and the long hours. We were all grateful for our earlier feast of ham, cheese, chocolate, scroggin and sardines! Progress was now slow. Chris climbed up to explore an upper level passage at the S-bend in Holy Hell Passage, whilst further on our visitor was attempting to photograph formation. He took several colour slides but could not change films because of the danger of getting grit into the camera. The survey team meanwhile continually halted as Leigh and Chris Bell had not seen Holy Hell Passage before and paused to gape in amazement at the incredibly intricate helictites and gypsum display including previously unnoticed green (!) helictites. After completing the survey of this section the team retreated to the entrance emerging in the early hours of the morning.

### **Mole Creek 20-21/3/76**

Steve Harris

Party: S. Harris, A. Spaander, Dain Bolwell, Annie Alexander, Lin Wilson

Report: The basic intention of the trip was to introduce some novices to the pleasures of caving! All the party except Lin left Hobart 6:30 pm Friday night. Lin came across from Fingal by bike on Saturday afternoon. It pissed with rain on Friday night and Saturday until the party entered Shishkabab and admired formation and generally buggered around. The team ascended after taking a slightly more sophisticated version of 'smoko'. The weather changed for the almost perfect and Sunday saw all except Annie on the through trip from Wet Cave to Georgies Hall. Lin was leading this but one of the novices managed to get ahead and took the wet way though Eureka Link!

### **Shishkebab, Mole Creek 'Early' 1976**

Chris Harris

Party: Bob Cockerill, Margaret Russell, Mieke Vermeulen, Chris Harris, Leigh Gleeson, Rod Hughes

Report: The aim of the trip was to investigate a lead in the lower talus section (recalled by Bob from early exploration). The narrow lead, fairly high in the talus, runs roughly in line with the low wall of the main chamber above the sump (heading approximately south direction). Although the lead was narrow it was pushed past the previous limit, marked by a cairn (possibly placed by J. Morley). Unfortunately, due to the difficult angle the team could not get past a nasty S-bend even though the lead seemed to continue. Margaret, Chris and Leigh sweated over the problem for some time in the restricted conditions but were finally forced to admit defeat. There is a limited possibility of further extension but the attempt should only be made by a dwarf equipped with a jackhammer. On the Sunday Leigh and Bob walked up to the Leech Pot area but had an unfortunate confrontation with the owner of Claridge's farm as permission to walk across his property was not obtained. Club members to this area should use the Westmorland Falls Track to bypass the property in future or if it is absolutely necessary to cross this property ask permission and mention club's name.

### **Florentine 22/3/76**

Bob Cockerill

Party: B. Cockerill, S. Nicholas, P. Watts, Ross Bridge (SSS?), nine members of Police S&R Squa including Grahame Galloway

Purpose of trip: Orientation of Police to caving

Introductory trip planned to Growling Swallet but due to high water had to abort after going to limit of daylight. Then went to Welcome Stranger. Three cavers and nine police went as far as siphon and back to entrance. Water low. Not one piece of formation broken. Some sections of flowstone washed. Police found trip so interesting they extended into their own personal time.

### **Mole Creek 23/4/76**

Party: R. Cockerill, G. Galloway (Police), C. Hocking (CCT), Bob Woolhouse (NC)

Purpose of trip: familiarise party with Herberts Pot for S&R exercise

Party looked at S&R situation as far as key-hole with particular attention to pitch for Trymont [?] Winch application.

### **Mt Ronald Cross 16-20/5/76**

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Chris Harris, Lin Wilson, Steve Street, Peter Russel

Purpose of trip: to continue surface and underground exploration



The stream which drains the tarn down the steep gorge to the Surprise Valley was followed right down to that river. The overflow waters from the tarn did not sink at all. On the return climb to the camp a slightly different route (up a ridge adjoining the valley) was followed and only one cave was found (5 metres deep) – this was not numbered. The gully containing all caves found on the 1974 trip was further investigated to several hundred metres below MR-209. No more caves were found. On the last trip MR-209 was left with exploration incomplete. On this trip the 20 m pitch which had stopped the 1974 team was negotiated. From the bottom of this pitch a mud slop ran down for 7 metres to a drop of unknown depth. This was not checked. A waterfall could be heard but not seen. This looked promising until a stream was observed about 100 metres further down the gully on the surface. The suspicion is that the waterfall and efflux are one and the same waters.

There is still further surface work to be done further down this valley.

During the trip the lads treated themselves to the delights of the pine forest behind the tarn.

Persistent bad weather put a damper on the whole trip. Nevertheless the natural attractions of Mt Ronald Cross made the trip most enjoyable.

### **Trowutta May 1976**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Greg Middleton, Andrew Skinner

Details: Visited Trowutta Arch via new access route (i.e. got lost but stumbled over the fucking thing anyway).

Water level at least 20 to 25 ft lower than last visited and the legendary cave below the lake level was negotiable: entrance 20 ft high by 40 ft wide but rapidly loses height till blocked with mud and silt about 80 ft in.

Lake still incredibly deep despite low level. Passage previously noted under arch not investigated. Other low level leads at northern end of doline system investigate to no avail, numerous pieces of waterway under collapsing rooves investigated (up to 20 ft diameter) along base of doline.



*K. Kiernan & A. Skinner, Trowutta Arch, 5 May 1976.  
Photo: G. Middleton*

### **Mole Creek May 1976**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Greg Middleton, Steve Harris, Elery Hamilton-Smith

Details: Visited Herberts Pot for geriatrics/armcharists gathering. At upstream waterfall party split: GJM and SH continued to Vaults and surrounds while EHS and KWK returned to the surface suffering from poor lights and severe jaffle withdrawal symptoms. One member of party subsequently treated for torn arteries resulting from attempt to force jaffle iron into bloodstream via inner forearm and another currently being treated at Chudleigh Arthritis Intensive Care Clinic for irrevocably clenched fist and burns.

### **Montagu May 1976**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Greg Middleton, Andrew Skinner

Details: Party visited Main Cave but did not penetrate beyond the pool sequence in the main streamway. Return trip planned to push likely lead located some years ago (KK) at the far end of cave. One would have to be a bloody idiot to countenance the idea as it would be necessary to go some distance into the dark zone where there are probably all manner of creepy crawlies and other horrible things (e.g. Steve H.)



*A. Skinner at limit of exploration, MU202 Photo: GJM*

### **Hastings 17-18/6/76**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Mieke Vermeulen, Marg Russell, Jim ?, Rod Hughes, Ronda ?, Doug Anderson, Sandra Anderson

Purpose of trip: Visitors' trip to Wolf Hole

Had a little trouble finding the cave as a new track now leads off from the Wolf Hole track and leads towards the top of the hill. Anyway, the cave was eventually found and the visitors enjoyed it, especially the ladder pitch.

### **Newdegate Cave, Hastings 3-4/6/76**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, Geoff Holloway, Andrew Skinner, Greg Middleton

Report: Borrowed TCC scaling pole and took it to Hastings for use in the arse end of Newdegate, particularly around Hells Half Acre area and the big aven.

But two lights failed within 10 minutes of the entrance, so trip was turned into a reeky of likely sites for pole work.

Skinner took a really good fall into Mystery Creek by the big aven – really fuckin’ terrific, nearly killed himself, silly bugger, shame really.

Pole is now stored at Hastings. Permit now needed for entry to Newdegate.

### **Mole Creek 3-4/6/76**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Lin Wilson, Derek Shield

Purpose of trip: Water tracing at Mole Creek – Herberts Pot, Kellys Pot

Extremely successful weekend. Results:

1. Established link between Kellys Pot and upstream Herberts sump (fluorescein dye test) – visual observation.
2. Established link between entrance stream at Herberts Pot and the main stream resurgence in downstream Herberts Pot just below the standing pools (fluorescein dye test – visual observation).
3. Verified that part of the main stream between Westmorland junction and Paragon Vaults junction is captured and diverted towards Westmorland stream which it subsequently joins and then reappears back in Herberts Pot main stream (Fluorescein dye test – visual observation).

Quantities used:

Kellys to upstream Herberts ½ lb (moderate water levels).

Herberts entrance to downstream resurgence 1/6 lb.

The team was underground for 14 hours (very cold and wet). Initially we collected the charcoal bags from the previous dye tests from the downstream tributaries. Then we proceeded upstream to the sump.

We placed fluorescein in Kellys at 10:00 am on Saturday and went into Herberts at about 3:00 pm. Travel time for the fluorescein was about 8-10 hours with a considerable lag.

Prior to going into Herberts Lin took a visitor into Georgies Hall and Wet Caves and generally had a bit of a splash about.

We returned from the cave at about 5:00 am on Sunday morning and got to bed at 6:30 am – wet and miserable.

### **Ida Bay 11/7/76**

Mike Cole

Party: M. Cole, G. Pickford, G. Bailey, Rowallan Rovers (7)

Purpose of trip: Introduction trip into Entrance Cave for

visitors (7)

Aim of trip accomplished. All visitors happy with trip. No new discoveries. Plenty of glow-worms present.

### **Everlasting Hills/Jane River Area 1-2/8/76**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Kevin Kiernan, Greg Middleton, Bob Graham

Purpose of trip: To investigate dolines previously unchecked in the region of the everlasting hills.

The party made their way along the Jane River mining road on push-bikes (or rather bush-bikes) for even miles before abandoning these in favour of a cross country trek to the large dolines. All three had dolines within the dolines and some carried small streams. Most were enterable for only a few metres although one continued for 10 metres before inadequate lighting prevented the explorer continuing. This hole may still go, however it does not look particularly promising.

A location map with more precise details will be published in a forthcoming *Southern Caver* [see 8(4): 7-9].

Greg and Kevin returned to the push bikes the same day while Leigh and Bob spent the night and the next day in the area. Many small un-enterable dolines were also found on the perimeter of the larger dolines. It is not known whether the dolomite here is continuous from Mt Ronald Cross or merely an isolated outcrop. Certainly the three large dolines have relatively low relief and one could only expect horizontal systems.

Summary: This brief trip has not yielded anything spectacular. Although exploration and scrub bashing is not complete, it is though that potential for sizable caves is not particularly good.



*Bob Graham investigates a hole at base of doline, Everlasting Hills.*

*1 Aug. 1976  
Photo: Greg Middleton*

The most magnificent rainforests on the valley sides would make a return trip worthwhile for their own sake, however.



## Junee – Cave Hill Area 12-13/8/76

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Stephen Gleeson

Purpose of trip: To test whether waters sinking in the region of Rescue Pot emerge at the Junee rising.

2 kg of fluorescein placed in small stream sinking in Rescue Pot gully (this stream sinks into a cave via a 3 metre waterfall some 200 m up the gully from the end of the Pygmy hill road section of Chrisps Rd). Visual observation of fluorescein was made by a bushwalker on the following day (24 hours later).

The team made their way to and from Maydena on push-bikes from Hobart.

## Junee Ridge Area 26/8/76

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Derek Shield (SCS); Steve Annan, Anne Annan, Max Jeffries (TCC Maydena Branch); Albert Goede, Laurie Moody (TCC)

Purpose of trip: Exploration of large shaft (now called Chairman Cave) previously found by TCC Maydena Branch.

TCC led us to this magnificent-looking shaft (15 metres across) up on the eastern ridge of the Junee drainage basin. The cave has substantial elevation potential although not quite as high as Khazad-Dum. Prior to this trip the Maydena Branch team had descended the cave only for part way down the entrance shaft but had succeeded in verifying its considerable depth.

On Saturday we initially hung six ladders down the first pitch. Leigh descended (Laurie and Albert belaying) carrying two more ladders on his belt. These two were quickly attached when he found that the first six were hopelessly inadequate. Unfortunately even with eight ladders the bottom one was still 40 feet off the floor, so Leigh was lowered right down by rope. Derek followed with three more ladders and similarly performed some mid-pitch attachments.

Thus we used 280' of ladder but estimate the vertical distance to be about 250'. The bottom chamber is considerably large, 15 m x 8 m, and from here two possible leads take off. One only has been checked. This is a very narrow fissure down which we climbed 50 feet onto a ledge. Beyond this was another drop of at least 50' but possibly 80' or more. This we did not descend for want of more equipment. There is a reasonable draft here so exploration future looks good. A team will return next week. No stream passage has been reached as yet.

## Florentine 27/8/76

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Albert Goede (TCC), Leigh Gleeson (SCS)

Purpose of trip: 1. Exploration of caves in Cashion Creek Road area; 2. Collection of activated charcoal bags used in Growling Swallet water tracing test; 3. Collection of

two dozen cave crickets for laboratory study.

Results of Growling Swallet water tracing test. Growling Swallet to Junee Rising visual observation of fluorescein by Max Jeffries. Laboratory analysis for charcoal bag at: 1. Junee Rising, 2. Tyenna River, 3. Lawrence Creek Rising. Notes: 3 kg of fluorescein placed in Growling Swallet.

Caves visited in Cashion Creek Road area:

1. JF-88 – 300 metres passage
2. JF-97 – Titans Shelter (bone deposit cave) – pushed two squeezes in this cave.
3. JF-96 – 50 metres of passage. Good example of tubular passages.

Cave crickets collected from Cashion Creek Cave – 18 males and 19 females collected from a considerably large population in this cave. Specimens to be sent to Sydney for observation as part of PhD study.

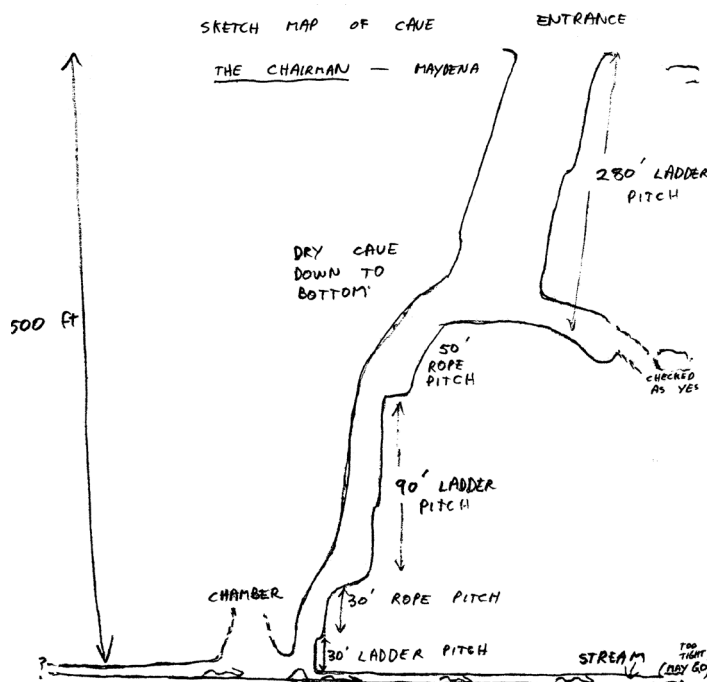
## Junee – The Chairman 4/9/76

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, D. Shields (SCS); S. Annan, J. Parker (TCC); visitor Graham

Purpose of trip: To survey the Chairman cave at Junee Area

We proceeded to the area in very wet and cold conditions. Heavy snowfalls on the previous night had meant that our march up to the cave was in 6" of snow. Under such conditions the forest was extremely beautiful and a pleasure to walk through. Unfortunately we did not succeed in surveying the cave [*but see sketch below*].



Leigh took sick and did not go down the cave and hence put an end to hopes of survey. Nonetheless Derek led Steve and Graham down into the cave and succeeded in extending the horizontal sections of the cave at the bot-

tom. The derigging of the cave was extremely tedious and took many hours.

Belaying men and gear up the entrance pitch alone took four hours.

### **June 5/9/76**

Derek Shields

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Derek Shields

Purpose of trip: Exploration – The Chairman

Left Hobart 7 am, started descent 10 am. SRT in (280 ft), climbed narrow cleft (50 ft), ladder descent (120 ft), easy climb. Ladder descent (30 ft) free hang ends on peak of large boulder in very large chamber. Two creeks flow in and join, then through 200 ft rockfall to very narrow squeeze. Still many prospects of extension.

### **Entrance Cave, Newdegate Cave 25-26/9/76**

D. Montgomery

Party: D. Montgomery, John Axton, Karan Robinson, Anne Stewart, Graham Harvey, Simon Knight

Purpose of trip: To familiarise people with caving. Hopefully for potential members.

Went into Entrance for a look about. Went upstream to waterfall and upstream to the talus. Went into the upper level, pushed a few squeezes including the Matchbox Squeeze. Went into Newdegate Cave for a look-about.

### **Warrane-Bellerive (sandstone) 26/9/76**

G. Bailey

Party: G. Bailey, S. Street

Purpose of trip: Explore sandstone cave

A small sandstone cave was investigated behind S. Street's residence. On entering the cave a genuine cave-man was found residing in the cave with suitcases and sleeping bag. The trip was very enjoyable.

### **Mole Creek 30/9 – 2/10/76**

Ron Mann

Party: R. Mann, L. Gleeson

Purpose of trip: Checking details generally at Mole Creek and to fluorescein the hole at South Mole Creek.

Friday – Put fluorescein in creek behind the old farmhouse on the track to Kellys Pot. The fluorescein came through to Wet Caves after 29 hours. We checked out an area near Herberts Pot and followed the Herberts stream down from an old track to the cave. A small collapse in a valley to the SE of Algy Howe's property has a hole in the bottom that could be pushed.

Saturday – Checked collapses and caves near the Rising and went to Cow Cave. Two dolines alongside Cow Cave contain a creek which may or may not be the creek in Cow Cave. Went to Roaring Hole and Mouse Cave to look at stream.

A large rift near the Rising has what appears to be a run-

ning stream in it. Needs gear to get into it.

Sunday – Went to find the Arch, Honeycomb 2 and Blackberry Hole. These caves are located in the hill directly north of the road leading to Honeycomb from Caveside.

### **Ida Bay 17/10/76**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Leigh Gleeson, Greg Middleton, John (visitor)

Purpose of trip: Return trip to Loons Cave

Relatively poor weather on the surface did not prevent the keen team from groveling in the mud-filled passages of this enjoyable cave. Cave length at least 1 km.

### **Mole Creek 23-24/10/76**

Steve Harris

Party: Steve Harris, Fred Koolhof, Mary

Aim: To photograph in Croesus Cave

Report: Camp was set up at the Wet Caves campsite and the party went underground 11:50 am Saturday. Hasselblad camera, tripod and two powerful flash units were used in photographing various formations the complete distance of the stream passage. Two exposures were made of the Golden Staircase. Party returned to surface at 5:30 pm after meeting Jed and Peter underground (from N. Caverneers).

Alum Cliffs were visited on Sunday before the return trip to Hobart.

### **Mole Creek 27-28/11/76**

Ron Mann

Party: L. Gleeson, S. Wilson, L. Wilson, Lousie Mulquiny

Checked are below Kellys Pot for stream which is supposed to be heard beneath a limestone outcrop but nothing was found this time. Put fluorescein in Cow Cave and watched a stream in two dolines nearby but the dye did not show. Concluded that the two stream are separate at this point. Saturday night explored Pyramid-Spider Caves and on Sunday went to Honeycomb 1 for exploration and photography.

### **Mole Creek Christmas 1976**

Graeme Bailey

Party: G. Bailey, R. Hughes, S. Street

Party spent a few days lazing around the campsite. An extensive investigation was had of Georgies and the party then toured Wet Caves looking at side passages on the way out and investigating the glow-worms. We all marveled at the sight of Wet Caves entrance appearing from the darkness and noticed that it was similar to a map of Australia.



**1977**

**Ida Bay – Entrance Cave (fauna collecting) 31/1/77**

Mike Cole

Party: M. Cole, Dr Shun-Ichi Ueno, Yoshinobu Morimoto, Masatsune Takeda

Purpose of trip: Collection of cave fauna in Entrance Cave

Escorted three Japanese zoologists from Dept. of Zoology, National Science Museum, Tokyo through Entrance. Three hours spent underground with much vigorous collecting. A report will be given to Roy Skinner for future publication in the *Southern Caver*.

**Mole Creek 5-6/3/77**

Graeme Bailey

Party: Graeme Bailey, Fred Koolhof



Graeme Bailey, Herberts Pot, 5 June 1977  
Photo: F. Koolhof.



Graeme Bailey exploring in Herberts Pot, 5 June 1977  
Photo: F. Koolhof.

Purpose of trip: Photographic

Herberts Pot, new area (Holy Hell Passage)

**Ida Bay – Exit Cave 6/3/77**

S. Wilson

Party: S. Wilson, C. Wilson, B. Wilson, L. Mulquiny, L. Gleeson, M. Vermeulen

Purpose of trip: Introductory trip for prospective new members

Cave entered about 11:30 am. Water level very low. Whole party through Hammer Passage as far as the tight section. Path well marked and parties have been using it. Good to see.

L.G. and M.V. back. Rest of party through, coming out just downstream of the talus. Once again parties had been observing the well marked tracks.

Returned to entrance by 3:30 pm. Track to cave well marked and dry.

**Lake Timk 7-9/3/77**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, D. O'Brien, K. Hughes, A. Davies, I. Brown

Purpose of trip: Fester

Visited Lake Timk – swallet about 1 ft underwater. Wait till next summer.

**Mount Weld March 1977**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, Chris Bell, Ian Brown

Explored two pots on Mt Weld. First bottomed out 20 ft – no go – second descended for 100 ft to ledge. 50 ft more to go but no gear. Much scrub. Return soon.

**Flowery Gully 19/3/77**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Karen Hughes, Alison Davies

Report: Made contact with the R. Beams household, then visited the downstream entrance to Flowery Gully Cave (the main cave). Entrance has been quarried and is rather unstable. Entrance number was missing but later found and reinstated. (May have fallen off with party of wall.)

Visited Vanishing Cave, which must have been really incredible before the blasting and vandals.

Later looked at upstream entrance to the main cave. Very draughty.

Also poked around in quarry on back of ridge behind Vanishing Cave (off Smiths Rd) where there are a couple of holes and a bloody great tiger snake.

Area also recommended for mushies.

## Loongana 27/3/77

Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Peter Minchin, John Davies, David O'Brien, Alison Davies, Bob Brown

Visited Leven Canyon on way in, peering in from the top (about 300 m deep) then visiting Hells Gates (where the river first enters the canyon via a rushing limestone gorge) and walked down into the canyon proper.

Then went to Mostyn Hardy Cave, encountering a camp full of State Emergency Services people who had had a cave rescue exercise the day before. Cave itself found to contain ball of string! Entrance is 12 m deep doline, entry via a mud slope on one side. Went in via the stream entrance, (northern); little decoration; superb glow-worm display in final area before sump (about 300 m in); most of cave low-roofed with a couple of biggish chambers.

Then visited Swallownest Cave, a stream cave with a gravel-choked sump after about 300 m. Strong draught early part of cave (goes?). Entrance right at river level – can step out and splash to get clean.

Unlike these two, which are within 50 m of cars, Leven Cave is on the opposite side of the river, at river level. Didn't intend to go there (decided to go for a lilo float down the river (in mild flood)) but enjoyed excellent sport trying to gain entrance which is 2/3 down a rapid with standing waves up to about 30 cm high. Succeeded at third try – a bit awkward as water tries to push you in under the cliff if you get in the wrong spot(s) and a bit futile as no torches. Good sport though.

Then retired to get into the mushies and blackberries.

## Mole Creek 31/3 – 1-3/4/77

Ron Mann

Party: R. Mann, L. Gleeson, M. Vermeulen, S. Wilson

Purpose of trip: Exploration and photography

Checked out wet and dry doline behind the old Kelly farmhouse on Kellys Pot track – dry doline does not go and wet doline goes for about 10 feet and the creek sumps. We checked again to find the creek supposed to be heard under limestone near the old sawmill nearby but could find nothing. Leigh checked out a hole in a face just down the valley from the sawdust pile and found small decorated cave.

Photographed in Honeycomb 1 and 2. Excellent passages in both.

## Upper Franklin (Early) April 1977

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, Ian Brown, Greg Middleton

Visited upper Franklin – ascended ridge from Lake Undine (on upper Franklin) up towards Mt Gell. Aim to get to doline on western side but ran out of time. Miserable weather but great trip.



*Shelter cave near Lake Undine. I. Brown & K. Kiernan.  
Photo: G. Middleton*

## Maria Island Date unknown

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, Ian Brown, Karen Hughes, Basil Rathbone

Slothful weekend at the new Skinner residence. Activities namely drinking and jaffling but coast bashed a bit of limestone and wet through the Piranha Passage in Tearflesh Chasm. Skinner absent for activities due to apparent excessive pre-occupation with the contentment of his idyllic new venue.



*Tearflesh  
Chasm,  
Maria Island.  
Photo:  
K. Kiernan*

## Mole Creek 16-17/4/77

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Derek Shields, Phil Smythe (visitor).

Purpose of trip: Exploration beyond the draught hole in the sand passages – downstream Herberts Pot

Moderately low water levels meant that the team were at the exploration front in a relatively short time. Beyond the draught hole the cave develops into a talus chamber with varying size blocks and extending for at least 20 metres. Width and height is about 10 metres and for



most of its length the chamber is 'filled' to the roof with blocks. Once through the hole the draught becomes very diffused and difficult to trace. Nonetheless it is still perceptible and suggestive of a possible link at the lower bedrock level at the extremity of the chamber. The team spent about four hours methodically working at the various 'talus combinations' but was unable to establish a break through. Along the floor of the chamber is a small stream bed which occasionally carries a little water. The best option to date is to put more effort into this section of the chamber rather than up high in the chamber. The going is very slow as the talus blocks are well packed but a return trip is well worthwhile.

Our visitor insists he saw a live bat in the chamber but this was not able to be verified.

### **Cheyne Range 23-25/4/77**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, G. Middleton, I. Brown, D. O'Brien, A. Davies

Second attempt to reach the big depression NW of Mt Gell in wet weather. Lost two starters on the first plateau and another on the second. Two bods (IB & KK) reached the doline second day – really great but doesn't go, though there are other holes thereabouts. Came back via the eastern bank of the Franklin, which, like the alpine vegetation and the scrub, is really superb vegetation – alpine pine and cushion plants and turning fagus incredible. Scrub also worth a mention.



*Autumn fagus, Cheyne Range - Ian Brown*

*Photo: G. Middleton*

### **Loddon River 23-25/4/77**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Lindsay Wilson, Steve Street, Peter Russell

Purpose of trip: Exploration of new dolomite area in the headwater-catchment area of Loddon River

The team approached via the Jane River 4WD track as far as its crossing with the Loddon River. We then followed up the river for a couple of miles (open rainforest country) to the first major tributary coming in from the right (south). We mounted the ridge on the NE side of the tributary. This ridge can be followed to its summit

beyond which it is about two miles further SE to the area suspected to hold a huge doline.

Times – West Coast road to Loddon River along Jane River track 1.5 hours; Jane River track up Loddon River to first tributary 2 hours; Tributary up ridge to summit (2200') 2 hours (long and hard)

fortunately a track leads from the tributary up the ridge for at least half its length to the summit. Beyond the summit the scrub is very thick and progress is extremely slow. Navigation is difficult. A return trip would have the knowledge of this trip and would probably make the doline in three days.

### **Mole Creek 24/4/77**

Fred Koolhof

Party: Steve Harris, Fred Koolhof, Sue

Purpose of trip: Photographic

Caves explored: Wet Caves, Shishkabab



*Speleothems – Shish Kebab. Photo: Fred Koolhof*



*Stalactite with crystals – the type of speleothem that gave the cave its name, Shish Kebab.*

*Photo: Fred Koolhof*

### **Junee-Florentine 8/5/77**

Ron Mann

Party: L. Gleeson, R. Mann, G. Pickford, D. Devitt

Purpose of trip: Tourist trip to Khazad-Dum

Had to walk up Junee Quarry Road from the barrier 200 metres up from the main forestry road because the barrier was locked. Reached KD 1.75 hours later and spent two hours underground going as far as the top of the 90' pitch.

A 10' and a 20' ladder were used plus a 60' rope.

### **Junee-Florentine 14/5/77**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, B. Cockerill, A. Terauds, three visitors: Colin Ramsy, Dave ?, Adrian ?

Purpose of trip: Return trip to Growling Swallet

Travelled along the old pack track to the cave. A considerable volume of water entering the cave made for an exhilarating downward trip. Team spent three hours underground but only descended to about 1/3 of the total depth. After returning to car the team then went to Welcome Stranger cave at Bob's suggestion. Excellent day.

### **Lodden River 24-26/6/77**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, P. Russell

Purpose of trip: To locate large doline in upper Loddon River area – (Doline shown on dyline maps of area).

An early start on Friday morning saw us heading along the Jane River road towards its crossing of the Loddon River. (This section takes 1.5 hours.) From here we head up the river through beautiful rainforest for two hours to the first major tributary coming in from the south. A solid two hour battle up along the ridge on the east side of this tributary puts one on a knob at an altitude of around 2700'. Following the ridges to the SE through very thick country puts one at the doline in another two hours. Thus total time from Lyell Hwy to doline is 7.5 hours solid. There are very few campsites and little running water up on the ridges.

#### **Results**

The doline is approximately 200 metres across and 100 metres deep. Sides are very steep in places and thick vegetation covers the entire doline floor and walls. Only one cave entrance has been found so far and this does not look particularly promising (no water going into it as it is on the side of the doline). Unfortunately lack of time prevented thorough search of the entire doline. Several hours would be required for this. There are some small streams inside the doline however what happens to them is not clear at this stage.

A return trip to this spectacular dolomite doline is still a gamble as to whether any significant caves will be found in it.

### **Hastings 3/7/77**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, two visitors from Ambulance Board of Southern Tasmania – Colin Ramsay and Dave

Purpose of trip: Return to Wolf Hole

Overgrown vegetation on track to cave makes going a little slow. Spent five hours down the hole re-exploring the cave. Some small sections beyond lake have not been fully pushed as evidenced by lack of tracks in mud. Potential does not look good though. All in all the team loved this magnificent cave.

### **Ida Bay 22/8/77**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, P. Russell

Purpose of trip: Return trip to Entrance Cave

Spent a leisurely several hours in the cave, this being Peter's first visit.

Water levels were low and glow-worms beautiful making the visit very pleasant.

### **Hastings - KGV 18/9/77**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, D. O'Brien, A. Davies, two more

Purpose of trip: fuck about

Tourist trip.

### **Ida Bay 28-29/7/77**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Lin Wilson, Steve Street

Purpose of trip: Return trip to Exit

Left Hobart on Friday night, stopped in at Mick Cole's place and enjoyed his family's company until 11:30 pm. Arrived at start of Exit track at 1:00 am and set out for cave at 1:30 am. It took us about two hours to get to the entrance and the team was not in bed at camp until 4:30 am (Saturday). Arose at 11:30 am and enjoyed a 13 hour day in the Labyrinth area. Camped once again at Camp 1.

### **Rope practice 12/9/77**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, P. Russell

Purpose of trip: Rope practice down at Blackmans Bay

### **Rope practice 18/9/77**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, P. Russell

Purpose of trip: Rope practice down at Blackmans Bay

### **Junee-Florentine 10/10/77**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Peter Russell



Purpose of trip: To bottom Growling Swallet

Pleasant weather made the one hour walk to the cave extremely pleasant. The track is a little hard to find at first but then remains perfectly obvious thereafter. The cave was carrying a fair amount of water and hence made the system all the more sporting to explore. Round trip took almost five hours.

### **Mole Creek 20-23/10/77**

Ron Mann

Party: R. Mann, L. Gleeson, M. Vermeulen, G. Pickford, R. Hughes, P. Russell

On Friday Ron and Leigh went to Westmorland Cave and managed to get to the siphon at the end of the cave due to low water levels. Upper levels were explored but no way on was found. Spider Cave was visited that afternoon.

On Saturday the whole team went to Marakoopa and explored past the 'Fireplace' but did not get as far as the Roll Over.

On Sunday Honeycomb 1 & 2 were visited and low water levels allowed some stream passages to be explored that were flooded on a previous trip.

### **22/10/77**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, G. Middleton, plus two

Purpose of trip: Exploration

Time in cave: too many hours

Location (how to find it again): Exceedingly dubious. Probably by clearfelling or defoliant.

Pots explored. Mud found.

### **Hastings Date unknown**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, D. O'Brien, Eduardo ?, Christine ?

Purpose of trip: Wander

Visited KGV cave. Wandered.

### **Florentine Date unknown**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, D. O'Brien, A. Davies, Calo, Christine

Purpose of trip: wander

Visited Growling Swallet and Welcome Stranger. Cooked many jaffles. Pissing on carbide is not a good way to light a fire.

### **Upper Weld Date unknown**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, D. O'Brien, D. Ziegler

Purpose of trip: Exploration

Visited upper Weld River karst area. Climbed Mt Bowes

from Bowes Saddle via old Port Davey Track from Scotts Peak Road one km north of Timk track. Wandered out to the towers visible deep in the forest next day from normal climbing ridge of Bowes. TCC track ignored – superfluous and too far south. The pinnacles (hereafter referred to as the 'Torres del Weld') are quartzite and 100' high. Small holes in ridge to west (dolomite) and generally around. Climbed the pinnacles (except one) for good view then out via Frodshams (looked again at small hole on track descended in *Southern Caver* article and walked back down road to cars.

Special highlights of the trip: Spotted bluff just south of transmission line (spotted from Bowes) to look at next time. This will be the great 'Karst Ends Bluff' expedition.

### **Mt Weld Date unknown**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: K. Kiernan, G. Middleton, etc

Purpose of trip: Exploration of two pots

Two small holes explored. Hill steep. Scrub thick. Forest nice. Deepest hole 50 ft (Go to Upper Weld instead next time.) Outcrop not very big.

### **June-Florentine 30/11/77**

Alex Terauds

Party: A. Terauds, R. Cockerill, P. McQuillan, R. Brieze-Stageman, M. Brieze-Stageman (last three visitors)

Purpose of trip: Welcome Stranger, scrub bash, insect collecting

Found extension in Welcome Stranger possible leading to air (surface). Nature of party prevented full exploration.

Comments: water about 30 cm deep in stream passage and very cold.

### **Mole Creek Christmas 1977**

Party: M. Cole, L. Wilson, D. Cole

Party went to Georgies Hall and photographed in Eldorado 1.

## **1978**

### **Maydena 19/3/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Alex Terauds, Peter McQuillan (visitor)

After one hour delay in finding the correct road the team set off along the Growling Swallet track – weather absolutely perfect.

The track is becoming progressively overgrown particularly the first sections and indeed it generally takes ¼ hour to find the start of the track. Low water levels made the trip very straight forward – all in all a pleasant day.

### **Mole Creek 23-28/3/78 Easter**

Party: R. Mann, L. Gleeson, M. Vermeulen, L. Wilson, A. Terauds, P. & C. McQuillan, S. Harris, Sue Harris, Debbie Backhouse, CEGSA members, VSA members

Refer *Southern Caver* report [Vol. 9(4): 2-4]

### **Junee-Florentine 30/3/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Neil Smith (CEGSA), Jeanette McLaren (VSA)

Purpose of trip: Tourist trip to bottom of Khazad-Dum

Relatively low water levels made the bottoming attempt certainly more pleasant than winter trips. The small team of three made for fairly efficient maneuverability and little time was lost waiting around at the bottom of pitches. The almost complete use of SRT meant that the small team had little difficulty in gear hauling.

We drove up to Maydena on the morning of the trip and headed into the cave at midday. We surfaced just after midnight wet and tired. Made our way back to the Junee Homestead and the car and drove home immediately. Hobart at 5:00 am.

### **Maria Island 1/4/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: K. Kiernan, L. Gleeson, other non club members

Purpose of trip: Familiarisation trip to the sea caves north of Darlington – Maria Island

Kevin guided a few of us to two of the small but interesting sea caves to the north of Darlington. The longest of these MI-4 has approximately 80 metres of passage-way nominally above sea level although it would only be wise to visit it during low tide. The passageways are relatively tight and jagged. In some places the smell of sea weed is a little overpowering.

Apparently there are more caves on the north side of the island (coastal) but these are a little more difficult to approach.

### **Ida Bay – Exit Cave 9/4/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, Steve Street, Peter Russell, Peter McQuillan, Cathy McQuillan, Alex Terauds, Kim Darling, Rob Ellingston, Graeme Bailey

Purpose of trip: Brief visit to Exit Cave

The track into the cave was relatively easy going because of the dry summer. The team split up into two. One heading for Camp 2 and the other looking at Hammer Passage, the Colonnades and the Ball Room. The very low water levels made the trip even more enjoyable.

### **Maydena 16/4/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, A. Terauds, P. McQuillan

Purpose of trip: To relocate JF-14

After a couple of hours wandering around near Cauldron Pot JF-14 was not found. However it is now known where this cave is and it should not be difficult to find next week.

### **Junee-Florentine 23/4/78**

Party: R. Cockerill, A. Terauds, B. Nicholson (TCC)

Purpose of trip: Beginners Luck, Pygmy and Zulu

Preliminary look at Beginners Luck as a possible venue for the forthcoming S&R practise exercise.

### **Junee-Florentine 29-31/4/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, L. Wilson, A. Terauds, P. Russell

Purpose of trip: Three day exploration of Khazad-Dum via JF-14

See [Gleeson, L. 1978 Further exploration in Khazad-Dum] *Southern Caver*, 10(1): 14-16.

### **Maydena 1/5/78**

Bob Cockerill

Party: R. Cockerill, A. Terauds, B. Nicholson (TCC), Police S&R Squad members

Trip to Beginners Luck to show members of Police S&R Squad the cave.

### **Maydena 7/5/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, L. Wilson, P. Russell, M. Vermeulen, J. Ward, K. Darling, L. Molequiney, and visitor

Purpose of trip: Recovery of gear from JF-14

The gear had to be collected from the bottom of the second pitch in JF-14. L. Wilson and L. Gleeson took two hours to de-rig the gear and bring it to the surface. Fortunately there was a large team to help carry the enormous amount of tackle back to the cars. All members were loaded with gear and it took an hour to reach the road.

### **Hastings 20/5/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, P. Russell, B. Turner (visitor)

Purpose of trip: Return trip to Wolf Hole

Despite the very heavy rain on and before the trip conditions underground were not too bad. In fact things were still pretty dry making exploration rather pleasant. The team spent about five hours underground and went as far as Lake Pluto.

### **Mole Creek 22-24/6/78**

Mieke Vermeulen

Party: L. Gleeson, M. Vermeulen, R. Sproule, C. Pickett, J. Cross, Ryan ?



Caves explored: Honeycomb, Wet Caves

Tourist trip to Mole Creek – very bad rain but the troops enjoyed the trip very much. Possible further trips.

Trip highlight – One member fell in the creek.

### **Maydena 27/5/78**

Bob Cockerill

Party: R. Cockerill, A. Terauds, R. Mann, S. Harris, K. Darling, L. Gleeson, TCC members, Ambulance Board members, Police S&R Squad members

Purpose of trip: 'Operation Womguano'

Search and rescue exercise at Beginners Luck cave with Police S&R Squad, Ambulance Board members and TCC. Various aspects of S&R difficulties tackled.

### **Maydena 16/6/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, C. Ransley, D. Watson, J. Molequaney

Purpose of trip: Return trip to JF-211 Sesame II

The team spent ten hours underground but did not reach the bottom. Another three or four hours would have been required to do this. Despite a considerable amount of rain in the area the cave was relatively dry. It is thus a good winter cave trip. Unfortunately the awkward nature of some of the pitches makes the trip rather slow, nonetheless since one is pretty dry then this is not such an unpleasant business. In the centre of the cave (at the 60' rope pitch) things are fairly loose so a lot of care is required here. Once one gets to the bottom stream passage (which only carries a little water) there is no problem with loose debris. For much of the length of this final stream passage there is a pseudo level above the present stream. If one climbs onto this then one finds a rather beautiful former stream passage. There is quite a lot of old formation on this higher level but it is now almost entirely dried out.

### **Maydena 8/7/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, P. McQuillen, L. Wilson

Purpose of trip: To find and visit Rift Cave

See *Southern Caver* for full description. We followed the Junee Ridge route up past the Chairman Cave. The track is fairly well marked although is a little difficult in places (it is an old forestry track). It took 2.5 hours to reach the cave (it is a half hours walk further on from the Chairman). Return trip took two hours. The cave itself is excellent and a real joy to bottom. It reaches a depth of about 450' and requires only one (about 30') handline. Round trip to the bottom takes only one hour.

### **Florentine Valley 5-6/8/78**

Steve Harris

Party: S. Harris, Colin Ransley, Barry Neave, Mike Dor-

ney, Dave Miller

Aim of trip: To bottom JF-211 Sesame and to recover gear rigged by L. Gleeson's party.

Report: This turned out to be a hard dose of caving – nearly all the party had been underground before but most hadn't tackled such a difficult cave. The party headed underground at about 6 pm on Saturday and it was relatively smooth going right to the bottom as we were climbing on gear rigged some hours previously by Leigh's party. Nerves were set on edge at the rope traverse section where there is a great amount of unconsolidated rubble, much of it being dolerite.

About three ladder pitches from the bottom we encountered the other party on their way out. They were in two groups – the rear one consisting of Leigh who was accompanying an exhausted member of their party. Leigh reported the finding of a further extension in the cave which would put the cave from the fifth deepest to the fourth deepest. All our party bottomed, some of us having a cursory glance at the new extension which could be a goer according to other party.

The trip back to the surface was fast but the rigours of the environment were exacting a toll. Some of the party were tiring and the tedium of rolling up muddy ladders and rope added to the burden. Dave was nursing a sore ankle at this stage.

The morale of the party was determinedly good and it was the early hours of Sunday morning when the party tackled the entrance pitch. Colin fell when he was near the top. Unbelayed, he was wearing muddy, slippery gloves. The crucial hand slipped out of its glove at the wrong time and Colin fell a full ten metres. Tiredness was a contributing factor and no belay was used because everyone was anxious to get to the surface. Belays were used on other pitches in the cave where individuals requested them.

Colin was saved from more serious injury mainly due to the fact that his fall was broken as he hit the wall many times and struck a glancing blow on a log at the base of the pitch.

Shock and muscular injury at the base of the spine were sustained.

The party eventually got themselves to the surface at 4 am and returned to the homestead for a warm by a fire and a dawn breakfast. By 9 am all were on the road returning to Hobart as some of the ambulance officers were due to go on duty that afternoon.

### **Maydena 5-6/8/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, G. Mulvaney, D. Watson, A. Melville, G. Eichler (rigging team); S. Harris, C. Ransley, B. Neave, M. Dorney, D. Miller (derigging team)

Purpose of trip: Reopen exploration of JF-211 Sesame II  
The trip was extremely successful. Indeed the depth of

the cave was extended from 720' to 750'. For full report see *Southern Caver*, 10(2): 2.

### **Mole Creek 2-3/9/78**

Steve Harris

Party: S. Harris, S. Backhouse, Malcolm Reid, Helen Hudson

Report: The aim of the trip was to introduce two people (Malcolm and Helen) to caving. Nothing vigorous was therefore done.

Sue and Steve arrived at the Wet Cave campsite on Friday night. After a brief shower of rain on Saturday morning Malcolm and Helen arrived. The weather the rest of the weekend was dry with heavy low cloud.

Honeycomb was the first cave tackled, approximately 1.5-2 leisurely hours spent in and out various entrances.

A ladder was rigged on a tree at the campsite to enable instruction in ladder techniques but none of the party were confident enough to tackle any cave with a ladder pitch.

On Sunday morning, approximately 2.5 hours was spent in Georgies Cave. Georgies Hall and Root Hall were examined. The visitors were thoroughly impressed by this part of the cave.

### **Maydena 18/9/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, M. Vermeulen, P. McQuillan, Cathy McQuillan, P. Russell

Purpose of trip: To inspect possibility of temporary diversion of inflow stream into Satans Lair cave.

The walk to the cave takes a good ½ hour from the 'spar' on Cave Hill. Location of Satans Lair itself is not very difficult, it being the only significant sized creek in the immediate area – some two gullies over from the spar. The present trip was only partly successful in its aim. Obviously the site which was used a few years back was not the same as the one used this time. We will have to go back and have another go.

### **Mole Creek 23-24/9/78**

Ron Mann

Party: R. Mann, L. Gleeson, M. Vermeulen, P. McQuillan, K. McQuillan

On Saturday the party surface surveyed from Honeycomb 2 to Spider, Roaring Hole and Cow Cave and completed the survey back to Spider Cave. Unfortunately it was found towards the end of the day that the tripod was probably upsetting the compass and therefore the readings could not be guaranteed. Later plotting showed the survey did not close and was 50 m out. On the Sunday we looked for the cave reported to be in the quarry near Cheops Pyramid (near the Rising) but only a small hole blocked with large blocks could be found.

A rift near the rising was descended and a very small creek flowing into a pool was found.

The party then looked at a doline near Cow Cave while Ron and several others tried their hand at water divining using metal rods.

The method appears to be fairly accurate although there was not sufficient time to check further.

### **Mole Creek 14-15/10/78**

Steve Harris

Party: S. Harris, L. Gleeson, G. Middleton, Elery Hamilton-Smith, Dr. John Watson (WA), Ross Gobie (SA), Janet ? (Vic), Frank Salt, Lyndsey Salt, John Hawkins, Peter Cover (NC) and two others.

Report: The aim of the trip was to show some delegates at the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation Conference in Burnie through Australia's most spectacular cave. It was also an investigatory trip for two personnel from the NPWS. The team entered Kubla Khan at 12 noon and the total time underground was about seven hours. The rear entrance was used but concern was noted about the disappearance of the lock on this entrance. Some of the mainlanders took photographs. Most had seen the cave before. All were emphatic in the praise and most claimed repeated trips only made their fascination for the cave heightened.



*Steve Harris setting up ladder at upper entrance Kubla Khan, 14.10.78. Photo: G. Middleton*

Unfortunately some ladders were left behind in Hobart and this caused delays in the cave while some members



of the party fetched their gear. All members of the party went only to the Khan, where a magnesium flare was lit by Frank Salt. The aluminium foil lining the reflector and which was some distance from the actual flare, vapourised with the intense heat.

On Sunday morning Elery, John Watson, and Janet left for Devonport via Alum Cliffs. Ross had left for Launceston on Saturday night.

Leigh, Greg and I drove around to Union Cave on the Mersey River side of the Dogs Head. There is an excellent campsite here and this is where we met up with Frank, Lyndsey, John and Peter Cover. They were going to dive the third sump in Union Cave. After waiting some time for their return we eventually were told they had succeeded in getting past the third sump and that there looks like a possibility of bypassing further water by using an upper level rift. The floor of these dives is very fine clay silt and the water quickly becomes claggy.



*Frank Salt emerging from sump, Union Cave 15.10.78*  
Photo: G. Middleton

It was very enjoyable at this spot by the Mersey and members of SCS might very well consider it as an alternative campsite.

Greg, Leigh and I left Mole Creek at about 3 pm for Hobart.

### **Maydena 22/10/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, B. Cockerill, P. McQuillan, A. Terauds  
Purpose of trip: To revisit Satans Lair – start survey of cave

The walk out to the cave takes a good hour and is not particularly pleasant. The first two ladder pitches presented a few problems with loose rocks. On this trip we only managed to survey the first 200 ft of the cave.

### **Maydena 23/10/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, C. Ransley, D. Watson

Purpose of trip: Continue survey of Satans Lair

The survey was continued beyond that of the previous day. Progress was slow and as yet only half the cave is surveyed.

### **Herberts Pot 14/2/79**

Party: Sam Worthington, David Martin (SSS)

Sighted in downstream section; fish(?) approximately 12 cm long, fins on end, white, swimming about in shallow water and apparently unafraid of cavers' boots.

### **Khazad-Dum 17/2/79**

Party: Sam Worthington, David Martin (SSS)

Surveyed the Depths of Moria; from Sump 1 to Sump 2. Sump 2 is approximately two metres lower than Sump 1 and thus the depth added is much less than the 20-50 feet claimed by R. King *et al.* on 16/4/76 exploration trip. Hence new depth 1060 ft. A stream resurges 75 metres to the south east of Sump 1 (then flows 30 metres downstream to Sump 2). Connection between the two streams has not been confirmed.

### **Florentine Area 17/3/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, A. Terauds, S. Street

Purpose of trip: Survey of Three Falls Cave (JF-225)

The survey party made an early start from Hobart and arrived at the cave entrance almost 10:00 am. The troops were not very familiar with the route through the early sections of the cave and consequently one hour was lost rediscovering the initial passageway. Once underway the party surveyed at a relatively slow pace (troops were a little rusty). We surveyed to the bottom of the known cave (Grade 4) but time did not permit any exploration. The high water levels would probably have ruled out an hope of extending the system anyway.

The surveyed vertical depth of the cave is 85 metres and not 120 metres as suspected by the original explorers.

The general form of the cave is one of a high narrow (sometimes tight) rift, dropping down reasonably quickly. Fortunately the stream which sinks very close to the entrance to Three Falls Cave does not reappear until the bottom of the system so one can keep dry until the very last.

### **Ida Bay 19/2/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, D. Martin, S. ? (UK)

Purpose of trip: Tourist trip to Exit Cave

The dry weather conditions made for a pleasant walk in and a leisurely trip underground. The party spent five hours under and in this time made a round trip to the Grand Fissure. Also visited Edies Treasure – were not particularly impressed.

### **Junee-Florentine 11/3/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, A. Terauds, P. McQuillan, K. McQuillan

Purpose of trip: Revisit to Frankcombes Cave

The stream was pretty well dry so the team made easy progress to the end of the stream passage. The troops spent about 2.5 hours underground.

### **King Island March 1979**

Kevin Kiernan

Kevin Kiernan was a member of a university party which visited two sea caves on the south-western coast of King Island. The largest cave was some 80 m in length and profusely decorated. Wall encrustations of gypsum were present. A smaller cave to the south has been extensively vandalised although another promising hole in the same area remains unexplored. The caves were mapped and these maps together with more detailed descriptions will in due course be published elsewhere.

[*See Goede, Harmon & Kiernan 1979 Sea caves of King Island. Helictite, 17(2): 51-64.*]

### **Ida Bay March 1979**

Kevin Kiernan

Kevin Kiernan, Karen Hughes, Dave O'Brien, Alison Davies and Sydney visitors Ian Brown and Maryanne ? attempted to visit Exit Cave but arrived at the cave complete with key only to find a new lock had been fitted without advice being given to SCS. Six peoples' time, energy and petrol were wasted. The Sydney visitors had to go home before the return visit by the remainder of the party two weeks later when they become the first party to visit the new Exit Cave State Reserve.

### **SRT Practice March 1979**

Kevin Kiernan

Practice trips have been held at Gorbies Corner and Sphinx Rock, involving Greg Middleton, Kevin Kiernan, Karen Hughes, Conrad Hughes and Sandra ?.

### **Nelson River 21-22/4/79**

Kevin Kiernan

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Dave O'Brien

Details: Spent Friday night at King River and walked in early Saturday.

Swam up the outflow cave (30 m) to large rift with continuing cave opening into sizeable chamber with thick gravel beds partly removed. Bone deposits collapsing from clay beds adjacent to ceiling left unsupported. None collected as inaccessible or embedded in flowstone. A beetle and another bug collected. Stream sumps. Surveyed down the cut off meander from upstream of the inflow cave to the big overhanging bluff near the far side

of the limestone outcrop, also surveyed terrace levels.

Surveyed the inflow cave and found bone deposit in colluvial material overlying alluvial fill, again collapsing with subsequent removal of the supporting fill. Adjacent small rift contains more recent bone material in a less coherent, earthy matrix. A few loose surface bones collected.

Rain overnight brought the cut off meander into flood and also the inflow cave, where the stream was up about two metres.

Explored and sketched three new caves (small) next morning before walking out in miserable weather. Fixed datum set up near efflux – cairn 30 cm high surrounded by wooden stakes.

Return trip planned to continue work.

### **Junee-Florentine 21/4/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson; Terry Reardon, Ric Hutchings, Rod McDougal (CEGSA)

Purpose of trip: Bottoming trip to Khazad-Dum

The start of the Tasmanian autumn made the 45 minute walk to the cave very easy to take. The team quickly got geared up and headed underground. Moderate water levels meant that the waterfalls were not too difficult to negotiate. The party were on the bottom within five hours, however the return trip was much more tedious. All in all the trip took 15.5 hours underground.

The SA visitors enjoyed the cave but found it very trying. We all returned to Hobart immediately after the trip and slept a day and night.

### **Ida Bay 28/4/78**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, Peter McQuillan, Cathy McQuillan, P. Russell, A. Terauds; Terry Reardon, Rick Hutchings (CEGSA)

Purpose of trip: Visitors trip to Exit Cave

The two South Australian visitors were picked up at Ida Bay and taken to the start of the Exit track. Fine weather overhead made the one hour march to the cave rather pleasant. Water levels in the cave were moderately high but did not cause any problems. The team spent a total of five hours underground. One party of four went through to the Grand Fissure. While the second party spent some time in the side passages downstream of the talus.

### **Mt Tim Shea 18/6/79**

Steve Harris

Party: K. Kiernan, S. Harris

Report: The day was overcast with occasional rains and frequent iced vo-vos. We found a fragment of rock on the forest floor. We discussed whether it could have been limestone or dolomite. It was quartzite! We went home.



### **Julius River, Lake Chisolm 23-24/6/79**

Steve Harris

Party: K. Kiernan, G. Bailey, S. Harris

Report: Some surveying done in the Julius River area, efflux of Julius River Cave was pushed by KK and SH with wet suits and li-los but it only went in for about 20' and the ceiling closes out. There is a strong flow of silt-laden water from this cave. Some fauna collected.

The attractive passage at the influx of the cave was negotiated until a large water-filled chamber was reached. Li-los are needed to get to what looks like a gravel bank on the other side.

On Sunday Lake Chisolm was visited. This is surrounded in part by solution dolines which probably take a certain amount of overflow from Lake Chisolm.

The party were very impressed with this peaceful and awe-inspiring area.

Returned to Hobart Sunday afternoon.

### **Mole Creek – Kubla Khan 4-5/8/79**

Steve Harris

Party: L. Gleeson, S. Harris, P. Russell, K. Darling, (M. Vermeulen, Sue Backhouse on surface). Joined with another party consisting of Tim & Edward Daniels and Janet ?

Report: This party camped at Caveside and experienced generally good weather considering it was winter.

It was about midday when we headed into Kubla. Leigh and Kim rigged the rear entrance while Pete and I put ladders down the old entrance and waited for the others. Another party turned up so we all combined forces to do the through trip. Edward Daniels of Ulverstone, Janet of Sydney and Kim and Pete had not been into the cave before and they registered the expected amount of awe for this cave. A lot of crap has been left in the cave by careless people – the magnitude of abuse is disgusting. About 8 pm the party returned to the surface.

On Sunday I collected some ferns from a limestone cleft on the back opposite the campsite and some 50 metres up into the burnt out scrub. About six different ferns were collected and have been recorded elsewhere.

### **Magra (sandstone) 26/8/79**

Steve Harris

Party: K. Kiernan, S. Harris

Report: On the 1:100,000 map (Derwent) area marked some caves – Handsome Caves, Cashes Cave, Patmores Cave.

KK and I set out on this fine, warm Saturday afternoon to explore the sandstone cavernous cliffs of these areas and although we did not do any real caving as such we saw many interesting things worthy of note. The uncommon firetail finch was seen in this dry eucalypt forest as we walked up the hill from Back River Road towards

Handsome Caves. We kept largely to a very old well formed track.

Handsome Caves seem to be no more than shallow rock shelters albeit patterned with a remarkable honeycomb weathering in which birds nest. Further up on the ridge beyond a series of sandstone cliffs is the highest and most spectacular cliff. On top was a strange landscape of hidden miniature valleys, bluffs, castles, strange weathering forms, clefts, overhangs.

An old aboriginal hearth was located under one shallow overhang, evidenced by a waterworn 'axe' of smooth dolerite.

The endemic *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* occupied much of the ground on the top of this highest sandstone cliff.

Returned to Hobart 4:30 pm.

Follow up trip definitely worthwhile.

### **Judds Cavern 1-2/9/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Wilson, L. Gleeson, P. Russell, C. Wilson, B. Wilson

Purpose of trip: Visit Judds Cavern (SW)

The march in was relatively slow taking some eight hours. Track is well defined and travels through some pleasant forest. Judds Cavern campsite is very civilized, set in delightful rainforest. The team spent two hours in the cave exploring as far as could easily be reached with hands in pockets, i.e. 800 metres.

A fast team could walk to the cave in six hours easily.

### **Florentine Valley– Owl Pot 15/9/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, S. Nicholas (TCC)

Purpose of trip: Survey of Owl Pot

The cave which is located near Tassie Pot (F9 Road) but on the other side of the road, was soon found some 100 metres off the road. It has a spectacular rift entrance (dry) leading into an old stream way (dry) for 40 metres to a 30 metre (approx.) pitch.

Unfortunately the pitch stopped the team. No suitable natural belays could be found to safely hang a Bluewater from. Hence we had to withdraw. It is obviously a case for ladders for which a suitable belay exists.

Three hours spent scrub bashing west of Recue Pot but nothing found.

### **Florentine 22/9/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, L. Wilson, S. Nicholas (TCC), C. Rathbone (CCT)

Purpose of trip: Revisit Tassie Pot

The team reached the bottom of the main pitch in about four hours. The round trip to the surface took nine hours.

See reverse side for details of pitch[es]:

First pitch – 140' drop. Requires 150' rope, 30' header. Tie off to a large manfern or tree near entrance. Problems with rotten logs near top of pitch. This represents considerable danger – take great care. It may be possible to bolt on opposite side. Protection – one protector 20' down from lip.

Second pitch – 90' drop. Requires 100' rope and 8' header. Natural belay point on left three metres above floor and directly above pitch. Protection – two near top of pitch (not obvious); one over lip of pitch some 15' down (not very obvious).

Third Pitch – 50' handline only – narrow chimney. No protection required – rope pitch can be broken in middle.

Fourth pitch – 240' pitch – 250' rope required. Headers – 5x8'. Large natural belay – large block some 20' back from hole which overlooks shaft. Protection – four protectors. One at very top (not serious), one about 5' down, one about 20' down (important) – need a very long protector to be entirely safe in case rope moves around, one about 60' from bottom – this is obvious as it is a lip.

#### **Maydena 11/10/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, M. Vermeulen, Nicholas Harwood

Purpose of trip: Visitors trip to Welcome Stranger. Also inspect problems of logs at top of Tassie Pot.

Water levels relatively low in Welcome Stranger – good trip, three hours.

Tassie Pot problem could not be effectively solved by bolting – as the bedrock face is rather shattered.

#### **Mole Creek 20-21/10/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, L. Wilson, L. Molequiney, M. Vermeulen

Purpose of trip: To visit Lynds Cave and Ghengis Khan. Ghengis Khan Cave is on Kubla hill and is reached by following the track to the back entrance to Kubla itself. A side track leads off from the main track about half way up the hill to Ghengis Khan Cave. No gear is required for the cave and a casual visit only takes two hours. Formation is very nice. The team also visited Lynds Cave. Moderately high water made for a relatively sporty trip.

#### **Scotts Peak 21/10/79**

Steve Harris

Party: K. Kiernan, S. Harris, S. Backhouse

Purpose of trip: To explore and survey small dolomite karst area – Upper Huon

The sun shone on the party during our stay in this pleasant area. A late morning start from Hobart but we were lunching on a gravel bank next to the Huon River in the early afternoon. The cave numbered 001 was surveyed

completely except for a small passage which had a great deal of water in it and probably curved around the base of the pile of fill (at base of shaft). We climbed out of the shaft which appeared as if it may have been fairly recent.

Downstream on the same bank of the river and behind a curtain of foliage we found a wide open cavern which was about 15 m long and flat with some formation in it. The cave was surveyed. The formation was a very muddy brown and leaves and twigs from flood debris was lightly cemented to the stalactites. The whole cavern had a very thick deposit of silt in it. It seemed obvious that sometimes the river must have flooded this cave.

Ferns were collected on the dolomite near the entrances of both caves. Among the ferns collected were *Asplenium trichomanes*, *Blechnum wattsii*, *B. nudum*, *Polystichum proliferum*, *Gleichenia microphylla*, *Grammitis billardierei*, *Blechnum chambersii*, *Microsorium diversifolium*.

#### **Eliza Plateau, Mt Anne 17/11/79**

Steve Harris

Party: K. Kiernan, S. Harris, Mark

Report: The party left Hobart at 5 am with the aim of visiting a snow patch on the Eliza Plateau to check on a snow cave which KWK has been monitoring over several weeks.

The cave still existed but had receded – was surveyed and photographed. Later in the afternoon the cave was full of 'steam' from the warm creek which was flowing through the cave.

Lunch was had with our legs dangling a couple of thousand feet above Lake Judd and then we pushed for the summit of Anne herself! The view from the top was incredibly beautiful because the day's weather was still, hot and blue after a dense mist had cleared from the whole of the south-west since morning.

Some snow patches were checked for other caves – no go. Not the right combination of circumstances elsewhere it seems.

We landed back at Condominium Creek carpark at 5:30 pm. Mark, a Canadian new to Australia was very impressed with the mountains and the day's walking.

#### **Surprise Bay 17-23/11/79**

Ron Mann

Party: Ron Mann, Leigh Gleeson, Mieke Vermeulen

Purpose of trip – Bushwalking and cave exploration

Walked from Cockle Creek to Surprise bay and return

Several caves in Gordon Limestone on the coast at Surprise Bay were investigated. These caves had previously been explored by Kevin Kiernan. The surface limestone is very sharp and steeply bedded the beds being only above 6-9 inches thick. More caves could possibly have been checked however a large bay stopped easy progress and would have taken a long time to get around. Excel-



lent surface scenery. Caves are quite small.

1980

### **Mole Creek 25-28/11/79**

Ron Mann

Party: Ron Mann, Leigh Gleeson, Mieke Vermeulen, Steve Street, Patrick Hudson, Therese Hudson, Terry (UK visitor)

Purpose of trip: General trogging

Trip started with Honeycomb jaunt to the lower levels. On Monday the party went to Spider-Pyramid-Cow Cave circuit and found the caves to be quite muddy and the Letterbox in Cow Cave had more than the usual amount of water at the bottom necessitating a wet passage. A mud slide by five of the group in the far end of Cow Cave was a highlight of the trip.

On Tuesday some of the party went part way up Wet Caves. The rest of the trip was spent around the campsite with a trip to the Alum Cliffs which are very impressive after you find them. The track zig zags down a steep hill and stops where there is a good view down into the gorge cut by the Mersey River.

### **Maydena – Owl Pot 1/12/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, A. Terauds

Purpose of trip: Return visit to Owl Pot

Our original intention was to survey the known cave, but were unable to do this because of lack of survey gear. We turned the trip into an exploration effort. After only a half hour of search effort we had 'pushed' the talus in the bottom of the 'known' cave. Several tight vertical squeezes led to a sequence of high rifts which eventually reached a major stream after some 250 metres. At the T-junction meeting of the stream and the rift we chose the downstream course but were soon stopped after only 50 metres by a 30 metres waterfall.

Prospects look exceedingly promising.

### **Maydena – Owl Pot 8-9/12/79**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, A. Terauds, L. Wilson, P. McQuillan, S. Harris

Purpose of trip: Continued exploration of Owl Pot

A vast amount of equipment was hauled through the cave as far as the 30 m waterfall such was the optimism of the troops. All up it took four hours to assemble at the waterfall. On descent of this spectacular shaft (one of the best waterfall shafts in Tassie) we were soon stopped by talus. We made no serious attempt to push this talus due to lack of time. Return soon.

### **Ida Bay – Exit Cave 8/1/80**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Wilson, N. Smith (CEGSA), J. Cundy (CEGSA)

Purpose of trip: Visitors trip to Exit Cave

Pushed through to Grand Fissure and back in 4-5 hours.

### **Maydena – Owl Pot 10-11/1/80**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, N. Smith (CEGSA), J. Cundy (CEGSA)

Purpose of trip: Survey and exploration of Owl Pot

Survey completed from tight talus below ladder pitch to base of main waterfall. An additional 200 m of passage added to known length although no significant depth included in this. Party stopped by small sump 100 metres along from main waterfall. 100 metres added to upstream section and 80 metres to a steep rift opposite main T-junction where main rift meets main stream.

Future exploration prospects not all that promising.

### **Maydena – Khazad-Dum 12-13/1/80**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, N. Smith (CEGSA), J. Cundy (CEGSA)

Purpose of trip: Bottom Khazad-Dum via JF-14 entrance

Low water levels made trip very pleasant. Return bot-toming trip took about 11-12 hours via JF-14.

A new bolt was placed at top of last pitch (i.e. on ledge above 220' pitch). This bolt is next to the other two old ones (it is on the right hand side of these as you face it). JF-14 trip a real buzz as always.

### **Mole Creek – Herberts Pot 16-17/80**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, D. Gillieson (UQSS), J. Landsberg (UQSS)

Purpose of trip: Exploration trip to Herberts Pot

Exploration was carried out in the downstream section of the cave. The downstream tributary area was checked closely but no new leads were found. The high rift above the stream was also checked. Nothing of consequence was found.

### **Mole Creek 26-28/1/80**

Leigh Gleeson

Party: L. Gleeson, N. Smith (CEGSA), other SA visitors

Purpose of trip: Exploration of Paragon Vaults in Herberts Pot. Kubla Khan trip.

Thorough exploration at known end section of the vaults produced no breakthrough. Obstacle is a small talus sec-

tion – considerably loose and dangerous.

Kubla through trip in six hours.

**Maria Island Date unknown**

Party: L. Gleeson, P. Russell

Inspected sea cave on north of island, e.g. Tear Flesh Cavern (MI-4) [*Tearflesh Chasm MII?*]

TRANSCRIBED BY ALAN JACKSON JULY 2012



*Welcome Stranger Cave, Junee-Florentine      Photos: Fred Koolhof*