

# SOUTHERN CAVER



**No. 70**

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**In this issue:**  
**Southern Caving Society**  
**trip reports 1982-1994**

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

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## Editorial

When the Southern Caving Society joined with the Tasmanian Caverneering Club and Tasmanian Cave & Karst Research Group 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. Subsequently, Alan transcribed all the SCS reports in our archives, covering the period 1965 to 1994 (with an unfortunate gap between June 1973 and February 1976). The first part of these, 1965 to 80 was published as *Southern Caver* 68 in October 2014. The second part, 1982 to 94 is presented here.

Those searching these records should be aware:

1. Dates. These are either written in the format dd/Month/yyyy or dd/mm/yy so use those formats if searching for a particular date.
2. Cave areas. Names have not always been applied rigorously or as they may be today, e.g. Junee-Florentine is sometimes referred to as Junee, or Maydena.
3. Units. Metric units are generally used.

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

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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:

Helictites – photo by the late Jeff Butt,  
location and date unknown

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## Introduction

After a brief gap in 1980-81, these reports resume the story of SCS contemporary activity in 1982. The reports were generally written by trip leaders a few days after the relevant trip. Many were written by hand on SCS trip report forms; some were computer generated. In a small number of instances the editors have had trouble reading particular words. In such cases we've included our best guess or had to indicate a word is unknown with '??'.

Reports generally contain the following information, though not necessarily in this order:

Date:

Caving Area:

Report Author (generally party leader)

Party members:

Purpose of trip:

General Report / Details:

## 1982

April 1982      **Florentine**

Rolan Eberhard

Party: Two visitors

Purpose of trip: Tourist

Caves Explored: Growling Swallet

General Report: Slack trip to the sump then home after a look at the start of the new extension.

17-18 April 1982      **Mole Creek (Herberts Pot)**

Steve Harris

Party: S. Harris (L), D. Ziegler, A. Lister, P. Robertson

Report: Drove to Mole Creek on Saturday morning and went underground at about 5 pm on Saturday.

We were blessed with low water levels in the creek making it a comparatively dry trip.

Reached upstream waterfall, paused for tucker and then returned to the surface and a crisp clear autumn night, at 3:30 am Sunday. 10.5 hours underground. Some of the very beautiful flowstone and formation was inspected above the creek in the cave.

Hot soup at 4:30 am.

Left the campsite reluctantly at about 4 pm.

8-9 May 1982      **June-Florentine**

Phil Jackson

Party: Phil Jackson, Bill Nicholson

Purpose of trip: Survey Welcome Stranger

General Report: Spent the weekend part clearing the log on Chrisps Rd and cutting firewood for the Homestead.

Cold water must have acted as a deterrent to the survey of Welcome Stranger.

16 May 1982      **Ida Bay**

Phil Jackson

Party: Phil Jackson, Dave Montgomery

Purpose of trip: Explore new caves at Ida Bay

General Report: Three new caves were looked at – the first one has a 37 foot pitch followed by a small gravel in a narrow passage and a 5 foot vertical squeeze and a 12 foot chimney and a small chamber at the bottom choked by talus.

The second cave requires more work in shifting unstable talus. The third cave has previously been visited. More reports in surveys in next *Southern Caver*.

21-23 May 1982      **Mole Creek**

Phil Jackson

Party: P. Jackson, R. Fulton, B. Nicholson, L. & L. Wilson, Ian Hunt (TAC), G. Bailey, 3 members of Northern Caverneers

Purpose of trip: Photography in Kubla Khan and fill a void in the Wilson family's education

Caves explored: Kubla Khan, Genghis Khan

General report: Arrived about midnight Friday and hit the sack after much rabble rousing. Russell and Graham arrived at the campsite Saturday morning. By midday we were ready to flash the shit out of Kubla and three Northern Caverneers kindly offered to rig the ladders in the top entrance to make our through trip easier. Russell and Bill piked. The trip through was reasonably uneventful with the exception of Bayless skinning his nose and the usual grunting and groaning through the standard tricky spots. The main features of the cave were thoroughly photographed.

While we were in Kubla Russell poked about in Genghis Khan and Bill arranged firewood for our comfort during our undertaken reveling Saturday night and early into Sunday morning.

All participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the Wilsons' education is no longer lacking in the area of Kubla Khan.

29 May 1982      **Florentine**

Phil Jackson

Party: P. Jackson, R. Fulton, D. Montgomery

Purpose of trip: Surveying and exploration

Caves explored: Rift Cave

General report: Upper dry levels pushed – all found to return to main stream passages, either straight into or via ladder.

5 June 1982      **Florentine**

Phil Jackson

Party: P. Jackson, R. Fulton, L Symington (visitor)

Purpose of trip: Survey and exploration

Caves explored: Rift Cave

General report: Survey completed. All obvious leads pushed to limit. Only possibilities are by digging, the most likely at the bottom of the cave.

12-14 June 1982      **Mole Creek**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: Phil Jackson, Russell Fulton, Leonie Symington (visitor)  
Caves explored: Westmoreland, Genghis Khan, Wet Cave, Honeycomb  
General report: Initially intended to survey Westmoreland but due to heavy rainfall it sumped 20 metres inside entrance. Genghis Khan was surveyed except the two alternative entrances.  
Russell and Leonie visited Wet Cave and Honeycomb.

3-4 July 1982      **Westfield Road**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: P. Jackson, G. Bailey, D. Ziegler  
Purpose of trip: Photography and surveying  
Caves explored: Welcome Stranger  
General report: Generally a slack trip with a little of each done – a good time had by all.

11 July 1982      **Hastings**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: P. Jackson, G. Albion (TCC)  
Purpose of trip: Mud fight  
Caves explored: Binney Tunnel  
General report: All had a ball except from one minor incident that was mud in our eye – this should be considered seriously when indulging in mud fights.

17 July 1982      **Cave Hill**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: P. Jackson, R. Fulton  
Purpose of trip: Intro to SRT for Russell  
Caves explored: Sesame II  
General report: Did first three pitches. Operation “Intro” successful.  
P.S. Sesame II’s a fine cave

24 July 1982      **Cave Hill**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: P. Jackson, R. Fulton  
Purpose of trip: Intro to SRT for Russell and surface survey.  
Caves explored: Rescue Pot  
General report: It was decided to enjoy the sunshine so the surface survey took preference. A track will be cut to the caves on the hill soon (I hope).

25 July 1982      **Chrisps Rd**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: P. Jackson, 8 members of Rosny College Caving Group.  
Purpose of trip: Training trip  
Caves explored: Bone Pit  
General report: Cave generally trogged except for bottom pitch.  
Good mud fight and all enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

2-4 August 1982      **Mole Creek**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: Phil Jackson, Stuie Scott Jodi Scott  
Purpose of trip: To make amends for aborted Pelion (snow fun) trip.  
Caves explored: Kubla Khan  
General report: After aborting Pelion trip the party returned to Hobart via Smithton to get caving gear then headed for Mole Creek. An uneventful but enjoyable trip through Kubla. Stu, a rock climber and previously unimpressed with caving, was impressed. Jodi was ecstatic and both enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

7-8 August 1982      **Mole Creek**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: Phil Jackson, Russell Fulton, Dave Ziegler, Chris Bell, Sandy McVie?  
Purpose of trip: Photography  
Caves explored: Kubla Khan, Genghis Khan  
General report: While Russell and I rigged top pitch the others poked around in Genghis. Nothing unusual to report except multiple orgasms from some members of the party who were underequipped with photography gear. A trip to do the job properly has been threatened for two months’ time. Also a theodolite survey has been threatened.

15 August 1982      **Ida Bay**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: Phil Jackson, Graham Michalek (RC), Murray Symes (RC), Mark ? (prospective)  
Caves explored: Entrance Cave  
General report: General trogging including Matchbox Squeeze.  
Met up with girl boy scout group led by Andrew Davey (TCC)

21-22 August 1982      **Junee-Florentine**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: P. Jackson, D. Ziegler, Bradley Paul (visitor)  
Purpose of trip: Photography, track marking and showing prospective around caves.  
Caves explored: Bone Pit  
General report: We flashed the shit out of Bone Pit on Saturday. Met TCC party who were snooping around JF-206, 207, 208 area. A good time was had in Bone Pit. Sunday was spent strolling leisurely through the bush making the most of the sunshine whilst taping the track to Rescue Pot.

19-24 April (Easter) 1984      **Mackintosh**  
Phil Jackson  
Party: Phil Jackson, Sarah Boyle, Lindsay Wilson, Louise Wilson, Wong Kai Beng, Brendan Diacono, Graeme Bailey, John (NW Walking Club)  
Purpose of trip: Search for caves in Mackintosh area.  
General report: Only found two new small caves. Vast

numbers of dolines with tiny entrances and dry valleys. Should really explore contact area.

12 May 1984                    **Mole Creek**

Sarah Boyle

Party: P. Jackson, S. Boyle, A. McNeill, B Diacono, K Kiernan, G. Bailey

Purpose of trip: Do Herberts Pot and help K. Kiernan with some surveying (which did not eventuate).

Caves explored: Herberts Pot

General report: Got in as far as main stream passage. Saw first upstream waterfall and first downstream waterfall. Kevin too pH tests of main stream.

26-27 May 1984                **June-Florentine**

Phil Jackson

Party: P. Jackson, M Carnes, B Diacono

Purpose of trip: Caving (funny that)

General report: While Martyn went off to Satans Lair on a ??? trip with Rolan Eberhard, myself and Brendan sat in the Kingswood and watched the rain falling all around. Saturday night was spent viewing a fireworks display then completed the night in usual June Home-  
stead style.

Sunday – we wandered up to Tarn Creek Swallet which was fuckin wet where Martyn had yet another go at pushing the squeeze and retreated after receiving a good soaking. Then Martyn pissed off and myself and Brendan surveyed Chrisps Rd as a baseline for the Cave Hill maps.

2 June 1984                    **Ida Bay**

Phil Jackson

Party: P. Jackson, S. Boyle, A. McNeill, Wong Kay Beng, R. Boyle

Purpose of trip: Originally to survey Hammer Passage but did not have enough time – a trip for newcomers.

Caves Explored: Exit Cave

General Report: Found Hammer Passage. Went up stream that enters main stream passage via Ball Room loop – may have possibilities for new entrance (length of passage ~100-200 m).

5-7 October 1984              **Mole Creek**

Phil Jackson for K.K.

Party: K. Kiernan, P. Jackson, B. Diacono, Louise Wilson, Lindsay Wilson

Purpose of trip: To assist Dr Kiernan in his Study of the Mole Creek caves and environs.

General Report: Arrived Friday night and set about improving relations with the right wing Cave Country Caverneers.

Saturday the party wandered around placing charcoal bags for Dr [Kiernan]'s water tracing experiment searching for the effluence to Prohibition Cave (where the fluorescein was put in). Baldocks, Cobblers Cooler, Union, Cyclops were bagged.

Kevin and Brendan stayed and scrub-bashed the environs of My Cave and found a promising new valley. Wilson, Wilson and Jackson did some survey work for NPWS from Queen of Sheba to King Solomon. This survey was completed on Sunday then the entire team went off to do Baldocks and collect the charcoal bags.

16 January 1985              **June-Florentine**

Phil Jackson

Party: P. Jackson, R. Otto, G. Trease (both MICE – Mount Isa Cave Exploration)

Purpose of trip: Show RO and GT a bit of Tassie vertical caving – do Owl Pot.

Caves Explored: Owl Pot – 5 hrs

General Report: Taught these mainlanders a bit about Tassie 'mud'! It kept them pretty quiet – they were shagged by the end of the trip. Went as far as top of waterfall pitch. They couldn't even make it back to the car without having a stubbie. However, it WAS thoroughly enjoyed by all.

19-20 January 1985          **Kevin Kiernan**

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Phil Jackson, Sarah Boyle, Niel Smith (CEGSA), Kerry Hamilton (CQSS), Jim ?, Mike Bain (WASG), John Whittaker (NSW), Andrew Robson (UQSS)

Purpose of trip: Explore new section found in Mersey Hill on previous trip

Caves Explored: Mersey Hill Cave

General Report: New section consists of scrabble up talus heap, 58 ft pitch, followed by some very easy going stream passage for 1-1.5 km. Exploration was halted by the discovery of another pitch going up! No surveying was done as equipment has just about stuffed it.

Further exploration will be done.

27 July 1986                    **Midnight Hole**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Dave Green, Lindsay Hicks, Tony Bridges, Russell Fulton

The Trip: The purpose of the trip was to have a play with our vertical toys. The track to the old quarry was revolt-  
ingly muddy in places and the climb up to the entrance of Midnight was fairly steep.

The first 21 m pitch was rigged using a couple of traces around trees and needed one protector. The second 11 m pitch was rigged from the eyebolt and tied back to the first pitch. One protector was used but this could be dispensed with by rigging the pitch anywhere else but from the eyebolt. A short climb leads to the top of the 39 m pitch and a traverse out into the rift from an eyebolt back from the edge leads one to a Petzl bolt from where the rope hangs fairly free. One protector was used about half-way down but was unnecessary. The fourth 8 m pitch was rigged from an eyebolt. At this stage the cave was becoming cleaner. We did not have enough protectors for the fifth 34 m pitch so we retreated. A small

amount of water was trickling down at this point. No problems were experienced ascending and we reached the entrance just on dusk.

#### 10 October 1986      **Midnight Hole**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Dave Rasch, Helen Beggs, Bill Nicholson, Donald Hudspeth, Arthur Clarke, Russell Fulton

The Trip: The shop at Dover was open so Donald, Bill and I enjoyed a leisurely early morning brew, a pie with sauce and the odd hot coffee scroll or two. Dave and Helen arrived, we went to Arthur's place and eventually all found ourselves at the entrance to Midnight Hole.

The descent went smoothly down pitches of 21, 11, 39 and 8 metres. At the top of the next 34 m pitch an eyebolt with a little movement when pushed encouraged us to place another bolt. Unfortunately, after several minutes of vigorous banging, it was discovered that there were no cones in the bolt-kit and so this activity ceased abruptly. The location of this half-drilled hole is at about chest level on the opposite wall as the stand looking down the pitch.

The pitch was then rigged from the doubtful eyebolt with a taut tie-back to the previous pitch. Bill opted to stay at the top of this pitch and so the rest of us descended this slightly damp but very enjoyable drop.

The final pitch of 49 metres was descended by Donald, Helen and Dave, the 60 m rope was dropped down to them and they made their way out through the Matchbox Squeeze and into Entrance Cave. A diversion was made at the far side of the Matchbox Squeeze and some little trogged passage was looked at, including some tight squeezes.

Arthur, Bill and I prusiked out wasting little time but still arrived back at the cars after the others. A very enjoyable trip for all concerned.

#### 15-17 August 1986      **Mole Creek**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Dave Rasch, Helen Beggs, Lindsay Hicks, Robert Whitworth, Duncan Poulson, Andrew Wakefield, Bill Nicholson, Russell Fulton

The Weekend: It rained. We went to Herberts Pot and it was wet. No one had been further than the pitch head before so we had fun finding our way through. The TCC must have been pretty slack not to push past the talus chamber they stopped at, especially considering the draught in the cave. The crawly bit was quite wet and the main stream was flowing strongly. We didn't go too far upstream before we decided to head out. Dave and I prusiked and the others laddered a fairly damp 25 m pitch.

Outside it was still raining. We had a few beers in the rain and the next day we went to Shishkebab, again with ladders and prusikers. As we left, the weather fined up considerably.

A wet but good weekend caving-wise.

24 August 1986

#### **Milk Run**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Lindsay Hicks, Donald Hudspeth, Russell Fulton

The Trip: The day started at a slow pace and as it progressed it got slower. Time was wasted, things went wrong, lights had to be fixed, enthusiasm waned etc. etc. By the time we got to the top of the 26 metre pitch it was realised that bottoming the cave would ensure a very late night. By the time we had figured out how to reach the bolt out in the rift we were ready to pike – so we did.

Our ascent was uneventful, the 42 metre entrance shaft being a superb prusik as well as having been a great abseil.

In the interests of achieving something positive that day, we set up a Z-pulley system to haul the gear sacks up the final pitch. Something was not quite right because the system actually made it harder to haul up the gear rather than easier. A good thing it wasn't a real rescue.

31 August 1986

#### **Machete Pot**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Tony Bridges, Lindsay Hicks, Russell Fulton, Helen Beggs, Jeff Butt

The Trip: The purpose of the trip was to explore a cave located earlier in the year near Mini Martin. The hole in question is only three metres off the side of the old Exit-Mini Martin track, about 100 metres before Mini Martin. Rocks that were dropped down the hole indicated a depth of at least 50 metres with a ledge about 10 metres down.

The cave is about 4-50 minutes' walk down the New Exit Track, then up the red tape track past Big Tree Pot and Skyhook Pot. We arrived at the hole late morning.

So, a rope was thrown down and Bridgy descended, first to a ledge about 20 m down. From this point a hole could be seen heading down and the cave appeared to open up into a large, deep rift. Jeff and I descended to suss out the situation with Bridgy. After much stuffing around, a placement for a #8 Rock was found in a horizontal crack and with a further tie-back to the previous rope I descended to the start of the pitch proper to look for a suitable place for a bolt. I found a spot a few metres down the shaft but wasn't entirely sure. I ascended and Jeff went down to look. He found a better place and promptly banged in a bolt. Bridgy then descended and rigged a rope to see if it was long enough. He wasn't sure if it reached the bottom and as it was getting late, we decided to retreat and attack again next weekend.

While the bolting/rigging party was playing in the cave, the others had been scrub bashing and generally getting cold so the decision to leave was not unpopular.

7 September 1986

#### **Machete Pot**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Lindsay Hicks, Helen Beggs, Jeff Butt, Arthur Clarke, Russell Fulton

The Trip: After the first few hundred muddy, disgusting metres of the 'new' Exit Track, it was not an unpleasant walk to the new hole.

The first pitch was quickly rigged and descended by Jeff and Lindsay. The 'big' pitch was then rigged and Jeff descended. (On the surface, Helen's chest harness rig was being modified at this stage.) Jeff reached the bottom and estimated the shaft at 40 m with no rope protectors needed. Lindsay followed next and then Helen, with her improved ascending system. Arthur and I followed, surveying as we descended. The 'big' drop turned out to be only 32 metres but was very pleasant down a smooth, slightly muddy, straight-walled shaft. A further small climb of about three metres led down to a small constricted horizontal passage – too small to be entered. At the base of this small drop, Jeff discovered a corroded machete, and so the problem of naming the cave was solved.

The machete was lost in 1959 by a caver/track cutter when it struck against a rock and fell from his hands. (It was later presented to him and the owner at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner of another caving club.)

The ascent from the cave was uneventful.

#### 14 September 1986      **Owl Pot**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Jeff Watson, Dave Green, Russell Fulton

The Trip: We arrived at the gate at 7:40 am (!) and did not waste too much time in proceeding to the Owl Pot carpark.

The tree across the Nine Road had been removed and we took this as a good omen for the trip. This time, there was no snow to throw down at people descending the absolutely disgusting handline pitch at the entrance. The 30 metre first internal pitch was rigged a couple of times and we descended this really nice pitch with feet against the angled layers of limestone. A few short climbs down a clear stream passage and into a large chamber. Up over a rubble bank and then left down some more climbs until we reached a small hole against the wall in some boulders. The squeeze was not too tight, but was awkward. Some more crawling, climbing etc., led down to a large boulder with drops all around it. This was Bowling Alley Pitch. Jeff abseiled down over a long ridge, Dave free-climbed down to the same spot a different way and I ablined down behind him, ending up with a noisy spare. The route was then down a long, high rift passage (with one crawl under boulders) until the intersecting stream passage was reached. We followed this down to where the stream plunged into a deep, black abyss.

Bolt hangers were placed, a rope rigged and Jeff set off down beside the pumping 30 metre waterfall. Dave and I followed, and we climbed up away from the stream to eat a Moro Bar for lunch. After having been suitably impressed with the atmosphere of the waterfall chamber, we quickly departed the cave, with only a slight delay for Dave at the squeeze and were back at the gate in time

to surprise Ted the gate-keeper, (the surprise was that it was before 5 pm).

A thoroughly enjoyable trip, all in all.

#### 21 September 1986      **Dwarrowdelf and KD**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Jeff Butt, Jeff Watson, Dave Rasch, Russell Fulton

The Trip: The aim of this trip was to start rigging Dwarrowdelf for a combined SCS/TCC KD exchange trip.

The walk to the cave took a pleasant 25 minutes and the first pitch was rigged fairly quickly. Jeff W. descended the 20 or so metres to the bottom. The small creek flowing into the cave was enough to produce dampness at the base of this pitch but not too unpleasantly so. The rest of us descended and then climbed down over some boulders to the head of the next pitch. This was also rigged fairly promptly and descended by Jeff W. There was a little bit of water dripping down this pitch but certainly not as much as was coming down the first pitch. The main stream obviously finds another way down.

At this stage we became aware of the presence of other cavers in the cave. First, voices were heard, and then a large rock came tumbling down, luckily not falling down the second pitch. If four people seemed to be a lot in this cave, then seven was certainly a throng, and that was the situation we then found ourselves in. Three TCC persons, perhaps looking for an easy down and up trip, had suddenly appeared. This in itself was not a terribly bad thing, but when they showed no intention of leaving and in fact started to offer 'help' with the rigging, some tension developed. So with just two pitches rigged the trip was cut short.

I departed first and went for a poke in KD, entering the Serpentine Route to near the first pitch and also looking into the main dry bypass to the top of the scaling pole pitch.

The others left Dwarrowdelf in dribs and drabs and the consensus of opinion was that it was not a jolly trip.

#### 28 September 1986      **Dwarrowdelf and KD**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Jeff Watson, Dave Green, Russell Fulton

The Trip: This was a no-nonsense trip to finish off the rigging of Dwarrowdelf. We arrived at the cave early and quickly headed down to the top of the third pitch. This was rigged from two old rock-climbing bolts and Jeff prepared to descend to look for a rebelay about 10 metres down. As he started his descent, he kicked off his gear bag (containing the bolt kit) which was attached to his cows tails. As the slim blue bag sailed down the 55 metre pitch, bounced a few times and then thudded to the floor it became apparent that it was probably not attached to Jeff's cows tail (I know this because Jeff was still standing silently at the top of the pitch and he was definitely not using a 55 metre cows tail on this occasion).

Two minutes of silence ensued and then a brief post-mortem was held. We did not have enough protectors to safely negotiate the pitch without using the bolt rebelay 10 metres down so it looked like Dwarrowdelf II had come to a premature end. Jeff decided to descend a short way down the pitch anyway, to try to locate the bolt for future reference but could not find it. We retreated.

On the surface, we decided to head off to KD. We knew Rolan Eberhard and Phil Hill were rigging KD for the exchange trip. We zipped up to KD and headed into the serpentine route, then cut back through to the main dry bypass. The first small 4 metres pitch wasn't rigged. They must have free-climbed it we thought, so we did too. At the top of the 15 metre optional handline pitch there was no rope either so we free-climbed down that. Through the flattener and then up into a rift, across some boulders and to the eyebolts that mark the 28 metre free-hanging pitch. No rope here either and we were fairly sure they hadn't free-climbed here! Obviously, they had gone down the serpentine route. Back up we went and then down the serpentine route. The first pitch (23 metres) was reached and there was a rope hanging down it. A traverse out into the rift was required to reach the rope and the pitch was a little damp. We headed down through high body-width passage to the next pitch. As there was someone on this pitch we decided to head out and keep out of his way. Our ascent was speedy and we did not see the TCC bods again until Westerway (apart from when we were at the top of the first pitch and one of them arrived at the bottom).

The KD diversion was very enjoyable and partially compensated for the Dwarrowdelf trip.

#### 5 October 1986      **Owl Pot**

Andrew McNeill

Party: Rebecca Boyle, Jeff Butt, Andrew McNeill

We arrived at the doline at 9:15 in bright sunshine and handlined into the entrance chamber. The first pitch was uneventful and we found the squeeze without much trouble, thanks to cairns left by a previous party. After a bit of vacillation Russell, sorry Jeff (!?), lead the way to the bowling alley pitch. Both the climb and handline/pitch were rigged as a single pitch. From midway down running water, not the main creek, could be heard and probably warrants further investigation. A beautiful bedding plan rift lead to the top of the waterfall pitch. On the return up this pitch the writer tried to be smart getting onto the rope and ended up drenched and swinging under the waterfall. Lunch at the top of the pitch was followed by a relatively uneventful return to the surface marked only by the advent of the Butt prusik knot, used to make protectors impossible to remove and to annoy bears. A somewhat muddy party arrived at the surface, still in bright sunshine, by 3:30.

NB The two bolts and hangers from the top of the waterfall pitch were removed, the casings greased and marked by yellow tape.

#### 5 October 1986

#### **Khazad-Dum**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Dave Green, Helen Beggs, Russell Fulton

The Trip: The purpose of this trip was to wander down the serpentine route and then have a poke around in the main streamway, possibly doing a pitch or two.

An early start was made and we arrived at the entrance to be greeted by a higher than normal flow of water. The 23 m pitch was rigged by Dave (the rope had been pulled up and the sling taken off the bollard from which it is rigged) and we all descended. The next 15 m pitch also had the rope pulled up. We descended four metres to a ledge (one protector) and then headed down the 11 metre drop to the bottom. A rebelay directed the rope away from the worst of the small stream tumbling down this pitch. One protector is needed at the edge. The next pitch was rigged with ladder (already in place) and was about 9 metres. A 10 metre rope pitch came next, rigged from an old bolt and rehung over a convenient bollard to eliminate protectors. A few short climbs led down to the final serpentine pitch – a short ladder.

From the last pitch, the route follows a rift containing the stream over some boulders with one low crawl. The passage then is intersected by a longer straight passage which leads down to the main streamway. The noise of the main stream can be heard some distance up the serpentine passage.

We had a quick wander downstream and then headed upstream to the base of the 50 m waterfall. The strong wind and spray encountered near the base of this waterfall was very chilling and it was not a place to stop and chat for any length of time.

We headed back downstream, stopped for lunch, and then retracted our route up the serpentine. We made fairly good time and were back on the surface by 3:15 pm.

#### 7 October 1986

#### **Khazad-Dum**

Dave Green

The Party: Phil Hill, Dave Green

The Trip: To check out the sumps for diving potential.

We used the TCC ropes installed ten days previously and made the main streamway in short order. Phil had a mega-flash to go with his Nikonos V and so we paused for piccies at each streamway pitch. The stream was high and sporting and the duck under the waterfall at the base of the 9<sup>th</sup> pitch was particularly numbing.

We duly arrived at the limit of TCCs rigging. The final 40 m pitch lay over a sharp edge ten feet above the floor of the Brew Room. Phil tied off the rope and climbed to site astride the lip, then casually stepped off the other side. I was quite amazed at this feat as Phil was not attached to anything! On following him, I too stepped off onto a nice ledge with a view into the chamber below.

A trace and a couple of protectors later, we abseiled down. A pretty specy decent for the first half if followed by a mind-blowing last 20 metres free of walls with the KD streamway appearing from a false roof and falling

right beside me. The chamber at this point is huge, such a contrast to the rest of the cave, but finding the way on is easy: just follow the stream.

Sump 1 was a dirty, foam-capped pond and the Depths of Moria are small, mud-lined passages that occasionally bottom out into scungy wet pools. After some time spent squeezing in this maze, I eventually found myself back in the main passage to reunite with Phil, who reported Sump 2 to be clear and very divable.

That left us two and half hours to get to the ANM gate, which after a pleasant trip out was gained with ten minutes in hand. All in all, a really amazing cave: who needs pretties when you've got such dynamic water!

#### 12 October 1986      **JF228 and Problem Pot**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Andrew McNeill, Helen Beggs, Steve Summers, Leonie Fulton, Russell Fulton

The Trip: The main problem with this trip was that it took about three hours to find the caves! My memory had faded after four years and we only managed to locate the caves in the last place that we intended to investigate before we headed somewhere else (like Steve's place).

Problem Pot was entered and trogged although a resident brush-tailed possum was not overly impressed with our presence. This cave would be very suitable for novices and is only about three minutes' walk from the road. It contains a few hundred metres of easy passage.

JF228 was located further up the valley, about another six or seven minutes' walk and is in a large doline which runs at right angles to the main dry valley.

The entrance is down through some boulders on the left far side of the doline as you walk into it. A scramble down through some talus and then a short three metre climb (optional handline) and the cave opens up into a descending rift. A small stream appears and the route is down a few short climbs and then into a one to two metre wide stream passage in solid limestone. A clear sump is reached fairly soon but can be bypassed via a climb up over it a short distance before the sump is reached. There is evidence of flooding on the other side of the sump. There is reputedly another two hundred metres of passage on past the sump but we did not have the time to explore further.

JF228 was discovered on 6 December 1970 and has not been explored fully or surveyed. The cave is well worth another visit and surveying.

#### 24 October 1986      **Big Tree Pot**

Dave Green

The Party: Jeff Watson, John Salt, Andrew McNeill, Dave Green

The Trip: Bottoming trip.

The cave consists of beautiful shafts connected by short serpentine passages, the finale being the last big pitch. A Florentine-hour start saw us rigging the first pitch at 10 am. We descended the first three dry pitches, enjoying

the imagination needed for rigging them, then a short, dripping pitch to the gaping abyss that is the big pitch.

We needed a trace for the rigging; the one at the top of the last pitch of course. Bear opted to head out and replaced the trace with a sling allowing us to descend the 90 m shaft. By this time, Jeff had determined the shaft to be five 'bullshits' deep. Due to a shortage of rope, the critical trace around a spike was backed up only by a nearby boulder cemented to the floor. John descended confidently past the dry top section and then the last wet 88 m. After redirecting the rope off a broken stalagmite to escape the stream that John had suffered, Jeff made a pleasant descent (bar the mid-rope knot).

Jeff and John stood at the bottom peering through the spray down the last short pitch, doubting that the rope reached all the way. Jeff's attempt at traversing to a possible down-climb ended as he quietly peeled off into the substantial waterfall that dominated the pitch. Valour getting the best of reason, he descended past the end-of-rope knot and dropped to the floor, drenched. John descended, tying a sling to the end so we could retrieve the line. I then made a speedy abseil (especially the last wet bit), and bottomed the pitch(es) with a parachute roll out of the streamway.

A quick grovel in the mud at the sump and we began our way out. To avoid the worst of the waterfall, Jeff climbed a rift and then swung out into the pitch. Thus, he managed to repeat the drenching he got coming down! The 90 m then turned out to be about 55 'bullshits' long, but at least it was dry(ish). As John disappeared into the spray I settled into a shiver and waited for the pre-arranged tug on the rope (vocal signal being useless this close to the waterfall). It was a relief to begin prussiking and I reached the top a short time later in a much warmer condition.

We continued the ascent hauling ropes, mud and water to be met at the entrance by Arthur Clarke sporting a brand new trog suit. He'd arrived a bit late to use it, however, and set off shaft-hunting in the twilight. In dribs and drabs we arrived at the car and coiled the 260 m of rope, looking forward to cleaning it on Monday. It was agreed that it had been a jolly fine trip and we highly recommend the cave.

#### 1 November 1986

#### **Dwarrowdelf**

Dave Green

The Party: Andrew McNeill, Lindsay Hicks, Dave Green

The Trip: Sump-hunting

We arrived in the rain, we changed in the rain, we slogged to the cave entrance in the rain and we entered in a downpour. I found a dryish spot high in a rift atop the second pitch which, although usually dry, looked extremely wet today, and waited for the other hapless victims to arrive. As I sat there in the drips listening to a nearby waterfall, I realised that it was going to be a wet trip; lucky I brought my parka I thought.

We swapped water for wind for the third and fourth

pitches, Bear deciding to resurface from the bottom of the third. He'd just passed his first rebelay and had been sitting in the cold contemplating the next and thought he'd seen enough waterfalls for the day. (He subsequently hared off to look at KD and Cauldron anyway.)

The next two pitches were totally drenching; the section at the top of the 67 m pitch was a crashing waterfall. A cows tail on the backup rope was essential as the force of the water from above made the traverse to the pitch head rather risky.

Leaving Lindsay, who decided the amount of water disappearing down the pitch was just too much for gloveless hands, I descended this spectacular shaft at a fast clip. Spray and drips turned into a solid waterfall 25 m from the bottom and I could not see walls or floor; the reflection off water was too glaring. I saw the bottom 10 feet before hitting solidly and hid under an overhang while coaxing numb fingers to take off my rig.

If the noise of the water so far was loud, then the waterfall at the base of KD was deafening. The water came down in pulses, cracking on the rocks below sending sympathetic throbs through my brain as I made my way around behind it. Following the water, I eventually made Sump1, a foaming whirlpool. On to Sump 2, also foaming. The rockfall to Sump 3 rearranged itself on my return giving me quite a fright. So I headed up and out, having my usual trouble with the squeezes (I think my body expands as soon as it starts going up!).

Back to Dwarrowdelf by 1 pm, I had a quick look for vertical leads, but found only the well-preserved skeleton of a 'possum'(?). Then it was up and out. Hard work made light of the pummelling from water falling 70-odd metres, the worst being at the top, hauling in the rope plus 40 m more for the trip tomorrow. Another hour saw me at the spectacularly wet entrance, water cascading in from all point of the fissure.

As I stripped off my (for once clean) ascending gear I could clearly head the KD stream. Resisting the temptation for a look-see, I headed for the carpark, soaked to the skin, praising myself for having the good sense to be on the trip that didn't have to derig the cave!

9 November 1986

**Ida Bay**

Dave Green

The Party: Russell Fulton, Andrew McNeill, Lindsay Hicks, Greg Jordan, David Green

The Trip: Shaft bashing

As SCS was barred from the Florentine this weekend, a trip was arranged to look at a couple of Ida Bay holes that Bear had found two weeks previously. Time gained by an early start was swiftly eaten into by visits to Arthur Clarke's and Southport and a rather leisurely walk along the Exit track in glorious sunshine.

The first hole to look at was IB-108 (courtesy A.C.) which turned out to be a 4 m deep karst feature. Then it was up behind Big Tree Pot to look at Bear's holes. At the first, Bear, Greg and I descended a couple of handlines to

a toney floor: dead end. A total of 15 m deep, so things were improving anyway!

The second doline was marked by red tape. This indicated that VSA has visited the spot, but since they had no rope, the tape means nothing except that the doline exists! Bear's lead was a rift above the doline with a couple of pitch entrances into the same rift. A 4 m drop was rebelayed off stals to a 15 m pitch where the cave opened out. The next 3 m drop lead to a gravel floor: drats, no way on at 25 m depth. Another improvement though! I prusiked out especially enjoying the entrance pitch which has windows looking out in the doline proper.

Following a limestone escarpment above Mini Martin westward, we found numerous entrances, but none could be forced into caves. Some time later, I was reclining on a soft log in the sunshine with a lyre bird inquisitively circling me, eating a kiwifruit sandwich (yum yum) when Russell gave a shout that he'd found a pitch. We assembled at the spot in question: an insignificant open doline with a small, draughting hole in one side. Russell had rolled a rock into it: a couple of bounces to the floor, a quick roll around the corner and then a wait for the bang at the bottom of the pitch: 20 m plus!

Greg and Russell descended to the pitch and reported difficulty in finding an anchor. We finally resorted to a dubious chock-stone backed up by a long line up to a trace round a handy limestone stock at the entrance. Down 25 m I hit bottom: a rift with leads left, right and down. As Greg descended, I checked out the left lead to a drippy closed aven. Greg arrived and went right while I went down 3 m to a muddy crawl that became too tight. Never mind, Greg had forced a tight bit into an aven with a pitch!

I followed him along the rift and stripped off to negotiate the tight big, also following the draught. Yep, a pitch all right, but no natural anchors around. There was good solid rock underfoot though and we had a bolt kit with us. We stared at the kit: I had seen its contents before and Greg had never even seen it at all! We decided that experienced help was needed. We weren't going to get it though, as a large boulder had moved for no apparent reason atop the first pitch (as Greg was descending it apparently!) and was stopped on the lip by Russell, who didn't relish the idea of abseiling with such unstable material above.

Greg and I started bolting. A few "nope, that can't be right", "oh, that's what that's for!" and "gee, it's hard work" 's later the bolt was in. I abseiled down on it and ten minutes later the second was placed, and Bear had arrived.

Greg and I descended 20 m to a rather open, slightly serpentine passage. Around the corner was a 15 m pitch. A long trace over a spike high above (best placed while descending the second pitch, I imagine), a narrow sling over a dubious flake on the left wall and a tie-back to the last pitch would anchor this pitch sufficiently. Due to a lack of tackle and time, we had to resurface. I checked

out the continuation of the rift up a muddy fissure. Rolling stones down the other side indicated that a handline down here would lead to a pitch of similar proportions to the third. So things look pretty promising at this point! From 50 m deep, we ascended, de-tackling and dislodging some of the loose boulders on the way. There are good reasons for optimism with this cave: it breathes (at the same time, Skyhook Pot didn't), it is now underneath a large (but boulder-choked) doline a short distance uphill of the cave entrance, it is opening out as it gets deeper and the pot is above a part of Exit that has large galleries. Next weekend will see another trip this promising and very interesting pot. The cave has an abundance of wildlife: spiders, beetles, snails (shells only) fungus/sponge and of course, wetas as well as animal bones at the bases of the avens in the entrance rift. I reckon it'd be a good cave for a real speleologist to visit with his collecting bottle and other scientific gizmos.

13-14 November 1986      **Exit Cave**

Dave Green

Party: Andrew McNeill, Nick Odling, Garry Davidson, Dave Green

A dry swamp allowed us the luxury of arriving totally dry, yippee! After CRCing the lock open we Exited. A short way in we paused to check on the air temperature: 8.9°C, i.e. very warm (and sweaty) and also at the Ball Room where I did the unusual and took a photo. I was keen to save some amp-hours for tomorrow and so was getting by on 0.5W – difficult in any cave let alone Exit. But it meant I was more prepared for lights out at the Grand Fissure and a game of 'Gollum's Scrag' (or "He's gone and crept off into the dark somewhere", "get away from my cake, you turd" and "who's that smell belong to?").

After a breather we continued under Bear's expert guidance to the Lost Squeeze area to view the delicate crystals there: amazing. Due to low water levels Bear and I were able to push the right hand lead to its limit: a too-flat flattener. So, back to the larger sections of the cave where Nick and Garry's lights dimmed forcing us out of the cave completely.

Several diversions later after a really nice fun-filled trip we said goodbye to Nick and Garry, who headed out into the rain and leeches. Bear and I made camp in the entrance chamber. After feeding time we found ourselves in the pit (if you don't understand that expression, see the glossary over the page you ignoramus) bored silly at 8:30 pm. What to do? Count the glowworms of course. The result was 1200+/- 200. By comparing the light of the glowworms in the chamber with estimated luminescence from bulbs and accounting for all the glowworms, we ascertained that each worm has a light output of 0.4 mW. As a test, we also predicted the brightness of a dull LED bulb on the basis of this estimate giving us 40 mW, which is about right. Bored again we rolled over and went to sleep.

IB-113

Up at 7, to Mini Martin in the rain and into the draughting cave discovered last week by 9 am. Dry at last. Surveying our way down, Bear and I descended, putting on rope protectors. Others were expected to follow, but we suspected that the rain may have put off the armchair cavers. We rigged the cave as last week except in the use of 10 mm rope throughout and using a trace on the flake atop the third pitch.

It was here that Jeff Butt and Greg Jordan caught us up with the news that they were the only ones coming today. Greg rigged a 3 m pitch off a couple of chocks well back from the pitch and I descended to a mud-walled gravel sump. A trickle of water escaped through a small hole at one end and there was no sign of the breeze so noticeable higher up in the cave.

We all had a good look-see and ascended to the top of the third pitch for a go at the other lead found last week. A 4 m climb/pitch rigged off a narrow tape over a small knob leads into a large passage which ramps over a 3 m climb/pitch to a larger drop. This we rigged off a taped shoulder backed up by a trace around a nearby boulder. Greg descended a beautiful little 12 m pitch to a gravel floor with a couple of leads. Jeff descended and I went up to Bear atop the handlines (appreciating them being rigged as pitches I might add) to get survey gear. Bear's battery was feeling the effects of yesterday's trip and he headed out after Tyroleaning the gear down.

Back at the 12 m pitch, Jeff had just prusiked up intending to go down again: I told you it was a nice pitch! During my descent I tried to pendulum over to a rift 7 m above the floor but couldn't make it. Greg and I manually pendulumed Jeff over and he reported the rift to be aligned above one of the leads on the floor. Jeff and Greg talked each other along their respective leads with the result being a silty, tight, uphill continuation at floor level and an exposed continuation higher up; the latter perhaps offering better travel overall (and possibly has side leads).

The most promising lead however is a disgusting looking hole in the floor at the other end of the aven. This drops into a shallow pool, the brink of which blocks the way on into a flattener with a strong breeze: we'd found the draught again! Greg shifted a couple of rocks and I chipped away at the rim but a G-pick is really needed. It would be quick work and although the pool is of course wet, the flattener itself is dry and it would be easy enough to turn around once in it. The lead curves out of sight after about 6 m. It is not at all mud-coated and I spotted a glowworm in it: not a sump, I reckon.

As my chest was jammed in the squeeze, Greg obligingly dragged me out and we decided that at 4 pm it was time to turn around. So it was up and out, surveying as we went. I noticed another lead atop the last pitch: a short climb on the right leads to what looks to be a rift at right angles to the main rift – definitely worth a look at some time.

Bear was waiting at the bottom of the second pitch: a combination of not enough rope left for the pitch and poor lighting had left him stranded. This was the first time I had been near my lunch all day and I was almost quick enough to get stuck into it before Bear shot up the pitch with it. (As it happened, I only managed to catch up with it during rope-washing the next day: bliss at last!) The entrance was in sunshine, a welcome sight as we were all cold and liberally coated in mud. This is the muddiest I have ever been after a caving trip yet. I can't really recall that much mud around: rather odd. The cave is pretty scungy though; there's heaps of shitty rock in it as anyone below someone else on the rope will testify. The pitches are getting shorter as piles of debris accumulate at their bases.

We left the entrance (now sporting a sparkling new tag), heavily laden. Bear and I had a quick trip down to Exit to retrieve our camping gear (including a force feeding of weightier foodstuffs before loading up) and staggered up to the quarry in bright moonlight. Back to Hobart by midnight and collapse into bed thinking of that draughting flattener ...

P.S.

1. Thank you Jeff for going to considerable trouble to get Bear and I back home.

2. Bolts and hangers were removed atop the second pitch: we're tired of the cave for the present and who knows when anyone else will return? But please someone go; there's three leads to look at even excluding the obvious flattener. (Take a hand torch; the helmet might be a bit awkward first time through.)

Glossary for Australians: "In the pit": to ensconce one's self in a sleeping bag. After some time in the bush both parties usually smell like an offal pit.

23 November 1986

### **Ida Bay**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Helen Beggs, Rob Galloway, Russell Fulton, Jeff Butt

The trip: We planned to do Revelation Cave (IB-1) but due to unfortunate circumstances we missed it by about 20 yards. We spent the rest of the day blundering around in the scrub looking for new holes (and old holes) but without a great deal of success.

Finally we went and had a look at Entrance Cave going as far down as the pressure tube which required negotiating a rift at the end of the cave.

We all felt fairly tired when we got back to the car, although we hadn't really done much.

21 December 1986

### **Revelation Cave**

Russell Fulton

The Party: Russell Fulton, Jeff Butt, Lindsay Hicks, Jeff Davies, Paul Merhulik

The Trip: The aim of this trip was to actually find Revelation Cave (IB-1) and enter it. (Last trip got us to within about 20 m of the cave without actually spotting it.)

The cave was quickly located and entered to escape the rain. A narrow descending rift at the entrance, followed by a grovel led into a neat metre-wide abandoned streamway. After about twenty metres, a small chamber was reached. A climb down through some boulders led to a large descending passage which then joins an aven and continues to descend a steep rubble slope (some loose boulders).

The cave then narrows down to some tightish almost serpentine passage still dropping until the edge of a 20 metre deep shaft is gained. A waterworn knife edge on the edge of the shaft offers a primary anchor point and boulder a secondary point was used back up the passage a bit. The descent was against the wall all the way and was an easy ladder pitch for the two non-SRT people. Below the pitch, the cave continues to descend (less abruptly) in a 4-6 metre wide rift with a very high roof (+30 m). The dimension of the cave at this stage must have fooled the original explorers into believing they were about to walk out into Exit Cave.

A stream enters from the left from a small clean conduit and the cave roof then starts to come down abruptly (or alternatively the floor rises). The stream disappears through a low-roofed squeeze which had evidently been pushed but it was little too wet for us to try anything today. Neither was there any trace of a draught.

Our exit was speedy and everyone enjoyed the trip.

28 February to 2 March 1987

### **Mole Creek**

Andrew McNeill

Party: P. Jackson, B. Diacono, A. McNeill

28/2 – Arrived at Mole Creek at ~2 pm and finding the campsite occupied by a caravan and three large tents. We headed for Parish's property. PMJ feeling the effects of age and alcohol, elected to potter around near the car while Brendan and I went looking for caves. The track was followed up the Baldocks valley and a dry stream located. This was followed to approx. 44250E.96000N and the dry valley north of this was investigated. Three caves were found:

44225E.96020N – a small cave with a triangular entrance a single chamber approx. 8 m long has a steeply sloping floor and a tight side passage that ends in a mud choke.

44230E.96040N – two small diggable entrances in the base of an outcrop lead to a single chamber approx. 10 m long with minor stals and a possible pitch.

44650E.96100N – a low approx. 5 m long entrance leads to a large mud-floored chamber that appears to be flooded much of the time. Two leads were noted:

Immediately to the left on entering the cave a crawl slopes down to a squeeze with a draught.

On the RH wall of the cave a further tight lead, partially blocked by formation, extends for at least 10 m.

After setting up camp we wandered through Georgies Hall – Wet Caves to further familiarise ourselves with the route.

1/3 – After it took Brendan two hours to make breakfast, and Jacko forgot some gear, we were underway by 11:30. Three hours of scrub-bashing, walking backwards and forwards and general mayhem we located Prohibition Pot (438000E.94900N) and taped a route from the road to the entrance doline. Both the dry upper passage and the lower wet passage were visited with progress in the latter being halted by a 30 ft waterfall. Four entrances on the eastern side of the doline were found to join into one rift that parallels the dry passage.

2/3 – We drove to within 10 minutes' walk of Prohibition, via the Scotts Cave road and surveyed the dry section, sampled a basalt dyke and located and partially surveyed an accessible but scungy stream passage. This took most of the morning and only a quick visit, with Karen Zig and Mal, to the stream passage was possible.

#### 12 April 1987      **Welcome Stranger**

Andrew McNeill

Party: B. Diacono, J. Davies, R. Davies, Carl ?, A. Wakefield, A. McNeill

After a reasonably on time start (1/2 hour late) we cruised westward in the Landcruiser and finally arrived, after some geographical embarrassment, at the Welcome Stranger carpark. Water levels in the cave were low and the two novices (Ross and Carl) enjoyed the stroll to the sump. A fair amount of time was spent examining the fossils in the creekbed and gazing at the formation. A quiche and beer lunch was followed by more geographical embarrassment before we ventured into Three Falls. This introduction to more sporting caving was terminated at the first pitch by a lack of SRT gear. A visit to the entrance of Tassie Pot rounded off the day.

#### 9-10 May 1987      **Mole Creek**

Andrew McNeill

Party: P. Jackson, S. Boyle, A. McNeill

9/5 – Arrived quite late to find the campsite occupied by a BMWLTC group. After the mandatory cup of tea, Jacko and I started surveying from the gate using theodolite and EDM. We traversed from here to the Honeycomb arch, Wet Caves, Wet Caves daylight hole, Georgies Hall doline and the base of the Herberts Pot track. This took approx. four hours, with cups of tea, for which time the Boyle basked and slept on the grass. An enjoyable evening was spent around the fire with Boris (O.R.C.) and his kids.

10/5 – Georgies Hall – Wet Caves was the outing for the morning, whilst the afternoon was spent surveying to the Pyramid doline, which Boris and his kids visited.

#### 13-14 June 1987      **Kubla Khan**

Surface surveying between two entrances

Sarah Boyle (??)

Surveyors and field assistants and track cutters: S. Boyle, P. Jackson, G. Jordan, A. Wakefield (joined the crew in the afternoon).

13/4 – A successful day was had surface surveying between the top and bottom entrances of Kubla. Tempers started to fray about mid-afternoon when we decided the bush had AIDS and was quite obviously going to be a bastard to survey through, around, under, over. However, with the arrival of Andrew at about 4 pm (with the news that Bear and Jeff D. had decided to go home) and the singing of a few short songs ("I'll sing you a song and it's not very long ..." "Bear is a bastard", "Greg is a bastard" etc.) work sped up. The final survey mark was set up at the top entrance and sighted to just on sunset and some satisfied people packed up instruments, radios, staff etc. and headed down the hill to the campsite.

Dinner was had and Jacko and Greg returned to the top entrance to rig the first two pitches, ready for tomorrow's riveting day's surveying.

When they returned to camp and stoked up the fire the serious part of the evening set in: drinking. Greg polished off ¾ of a bottle of Scotch and was a very pissed little vegemite by midnight (he can't remember kicking a billy of burning meths around the campsite – it looked rather spectacular!).

14/4 – A slow start. Greg was a pretty crook little boy – not a happy sight. Eventually got up to the cave about 12:30 pm. Surveyed to the top of the first pitch with a lot of frigging around. Easy from then on – until Greg decided to take an involuntary swim whilst clutching a rather large stal. i.e. he FELL about three metres and frightened the shit out of the rest of us and managed to frighten off his hangover as well – it went instantaneously. Greg was now very wet and very shaken up, so we quickly surveyed to the bottom of the second pitch then buggered off out of the cave.

Returned home with no more incidents.

Despite Greg's scare we were quite satisfied with the weekend's work. The more awkward part of the survey has been done, so we can now hopefully rapidly complete the traverse through the cave.

#### 12 July 1987      **Pendant Pot**

Andrew McNeill

Party: J. Butt, J. Watson, A. Wakefield, G. Jordan, A. McNeill

After an attempted early start we were into the cave by 10 am. Jeff and Greg were conned into rigging the entrance climb and we followed them through to the first pitch, by which time it was decided that we were moving too slowly to bottom the cave and the rope for the last pitch was abandoned. Pandemonium Rift was enjoyed by all as was the 40 m pitch, Andrew Wakefield's first encounter with a rebelay and we passed through the strongly draughting dig to the Ultimate Man pitch. Greg used all his expertise to rig this the wettest way possible and everyone received a good soaking. After a quick lunch and a look at the Boltezar pitch we headed out in good time, at the surface by 3:45, leaving the cave rigged. The only

problems being the muddy entrance slope and the rain of mud being hurled by cavers above.

P.S. Jeff recorded the following temperatures:

Growling stream 2.8°C

Pendant entrance chamber 3.9°C

Outside at 3:45 pm 4.9°C

19 July 1987

### **Pendant Pot**

Greg Jordan

Party: Jeff Butt, Greg Jordan

Recommendations: Live fast and die young (or is that live young die fast). Use 9 mm for Pendant – too much bloody work otherwise.

Details: A very cold frosty morning with lots of snow on the mountains. Growling was in moderate spate and c. 2.8°C water temperature. Went down the ropes left on the last trip – rerigged the third pitch – still in the water. Rigged the bottom pitch. Went down had a look – oh yeah nice blue sumps with bits of orange string. Back up pitch 4. Went into Jeff W. and Dave R.'s lead – a funny thing as it goes and goes – ran out of time. Then the fun started – derigging. A lot of 11 mm rope among two people. Greg managed to tear the arse out of J.B. multipatched cave pack in the squeeze. Got out one hour late, knackered, Jeff kept dropping things on the way out. Maybe he was hypo?

24 October 1987 **Mt Cripps (Mayday karst)**

Andrew McNeill

Party: P. Jackson, S. Boyle, J. Davies, A. McNeill (SCS), P. Rosevears, Rod ? (FC), R. Boyle

After being told of a well-decorated cave south of Mt Cripps we decided to have a look, accompanied by the cave discoverers<sup>1</sup>. We left the Mackintosh Road at ~9:15 am and headed along a cut line on a bearing of 118°. After 1000 m we passed a doline that Rod had found a draughting hole in. The entrance was cleared of logs and further excavation work inside the ret???? entrance we broke into a small streamway, which was followed until it required digging. A total of ~40 m of passage was followed. A large wombat skull was also recovered. Jeff had discovered another small cave nearby which he followed for ~6 m before giving up.

We continued down to Philrod Cave (My03)<sup>2</sup> which we taped and thoroughly explored. A cliff line trending south from the cave contains several entrances, some of which connect into the same stream system in Philrod. A further 100 m south from the cliff line is a water-filled doline ~ 20 m in diameter. Several vertical entrances were located above Philrod Cave; these have been taped and await exploration. We ran out of time and headed out, reaching the road by ~6:15 pm. A quick trip to the contact of Eldon group and Gordon group limestone preceded the drive back to Wynyard.

1 The discoverers were Rodney Walters and Philip Taylor in Feb. 1987 –Ed.

2 This may have been an early number; it is now CP37 –Ed.

This area is definitely worth further visits and Paul Rosevears may be contacted at the Forestry Commission Private Forestry Division, Burnie, to arrange keys etc.

P.S. Sunday was spent recovering on or near the beach at Wynyard.

Early 1988

### **Junee-Florentine**

Niagara Pot

Greg Jordan

Party: Jeff Butt, Greg Jordan

Details: We went down this rarely-visited cave. Well it was the middle of a drought and the cave was still wet. It involved a series of short pitches and climbs leading to a very large chamber. This chamber is a rather unpleasant loose breakdown concept. Ran away.

19 March 1988 **Mole Creek**

Kubla Khan

Helen Beggs

Party: Jeff Butt, Kristin and Jonathan, Helen Beggs

Recommendations: Take a ~20 m handline. Inexperienced cavers contemplating the through trip of Kubla Khan (involving traversing the River Alph) would do well to take a wetsuit and swim the River Alph (or lilo).

Details: Entered cave at tope entrance at 11 am. Jonathan had caved many times but never SRT'd, Kristen had only been in horizontal caves. Both enjoyed trip thoroughly. Top entrance down to Xanadu very clean. Some surveying was done in Opium Den and along the passage connecting Xanadu to Cairn Hall. A very spectacular, awe-inspiring cave and apparently in good condition. The Jade Pool was the highlight of the trip. By the time we reached Cairn Hall it was about 2000 hours and we decided to leave the Pleasure Dome for another trip. Earlier, climbing down a 'curtain' of hollow stalactites from Xanadu Chamber Kristin discovered the 'troglophone', a remarkably tuneful array of calcite tubes. The 20 m handline/abseil rope proved to be invaluable as a help to less-experienced cavers. It was used at least six times during the trip. In Sallys Folly there is a small deep pool which one can edge around by holding onto stalactites. Unfortunately, Helen's grip slipped and she ended up swimming the pool. Luckily there were plenty of spare warm clothes amongst the group. At the very beginning of the Stalactite Shuffle Helen let her knees slip too low on the steep slope while hanging onto the infamous stalactites and much against the recommendations of the group could not prevent herself from taking another dip. It was now ~2100 hours and Helen was very shaken and starting to feel mild hypothermia. After a climb to a ledge she changed clothes, ate some chocolate and felt much better. Jeff took her caving pack and the whole group helped her traverse the River Alph (a freeclimb back and forth across the stream 3-4 metres below, taking two hours). Not an experience she would like to duplicate. Everyone prusiked the exit pitch without any trouble despite Jonathan and Kristin having to

borrow Helen's and Jeff's gear. Last person out of cave at midnight. A very exhausting 13 hour trip. Quite a sporty cave.

1988 **Junee-Florentine**

Sesame I/II

Greg Jordan

Party: Greg Jordan, Lindsay Hicks, Helen Beggs, Jeff Watson, Dave Rasch, Russell Fulton (just like an old fashioned SCS trip – too many people)

Details: This was the one and only trip of the white elephant. Lindsay arrived with the biggest white caving pack ever seen. Unfortunately Sesame II is not the cave for a big cave pack.

Well in short, got down the first four pitches. Greg and Dave had an explore while waiting. Went through Nematode Crawl. The others caught up, we got to the top of the big pitch, thought it was late and ran away. Oh dear, the white elephant won't go through the pitch top squeeze, so poor Dave hanging on the top of the ladder pushing the bastard, Greg upside down in the squeeze pulling, 10-15 minutes of swearing.

Emptied the whole white elephant and got through. Dave and Greg had time to waste on the surface so went into Sesame II. Got down to Nematode Crawl and hence did a de facto through trip. And got stuck in the squeeze coming out (that bastard is tight).

1988 **Junee-Florentine**

Satans Lair

Greg Jordan

Party: Andrew McNeill, Greg Jordan, others

In and out, what a pleasure. What a walk though.

1988

**Ida Bay (Old Ditch, Mini Martin exchange)**

Greg Jordan

Party: Tom Porritt, Greg Jordan (down Old Ditch); John Salt, Rob Beedham, someone else (down Mini)

Well, the plan was to go to Big Tree Pot, so we did a Mini/Old Ditch exchange. The skies opened as we got to the entrance and we didn't have raincoats so piking was out of the question. Waterfalls everywhere.

Late 1988 **Junee-Florentine**

Surface; JF-149

Greg Jordan

Party: Jeff Butt, Dave Rasch, Greg Jordan

Surface surveyed from 341 to Peanut Brittle etc. then to The Chairman. The track in that area is now fully surveyed. There are lots of interesting holes up near Peanut Brittle.

Thrashed into 149, found a couple of unpleasant leads in this hole – squeeze, push rocks round, talk quietly in case you dislodge something.

This cave has an imposing entrance but well, we thought it might be best left for future generations.

21 February 1989

**Ida Bay**

Old Ditch Road

Nathan Duhig

Party: Russell Fulton, Nathan Duhig

Recommendations: Russell fixes his rack

Details: After lethargic walk to entrance put on trogsuits with Russell finding that his harness wouldn't go on over his trog suit anymore.

After the toilet bowl entrance Russel rigged the 11 m pitch off a conceptual spot? Russel frigged around rigging next pitch and had trouble changing over at the bolt rebelay ("Nathan, don't tell anyone in the club about this"). Finally he started descending until his rack completely jammed twice and was forced to retreat. I went down for the hell of it and at the rebelay my light failed. Went down anyway and returned. Quick exit and return to town.

23 February 1989

**Ida Bay**

IB-20 Thun Junction, IB-21 and a re-discovery

Nathan Duhig

Party: Jeff Butt, Russell Fulton, Nathan Duhig

Recommendations: Thun Jn. be pushed

Details: Russell staggered up hill, got lost on way to Thun Junction. Found old cave, went in for look and returned dissatisfied. Found IB-21, I went in down 15 m entrance pitch into aven and fiddled about in a rift lead which proved to be worthless. Eventually found and got into Thun Junction. Handline pitches went well, followed by tortuous rift. This stopped above aven and eventually rigged 35 m free hang. RUSSELL PIKED. Next pitch rigged quickly and descended. Then crawled as far as reasonable along draughting rift. Rift then became keyhole-shaped and should be pushed feet first. Probably joins Exit. Another pitch is possible???

21 April 1990

**Ida Bay**

Big Tree Pot

Sarah Boyle

Party: Sarah Boyle, Jeff Butt, Dave Rasch

Details: Cave was rigged by MSS in preceding week. Easy dry trip down and up. Dave wriggled around, exploring ~40 m of previously unexplored cave at bottom of 90 m pitch. Nothing going.

MSS derigged cave three days later. Incident occurred during derigging. As one person was prussiking up the third from the bottom pitch, bollard to which a tape re-direct was attached actually parted company with the wall and slid down the rope (still with the tape wrapped around it) bonked the caver on the shoulder and side of head before hitting the deck. Moral of the story – the bollard on this particular pitch no longer exists for rigging.

22 April 1990

**Ida Bay**

Valley Entrance – Exit Cave – Old Ditch Road

Jeff Butt

Party: Sarah Boyle, Jeff Butt, MSS (Mike, Yohan, Jox, Glenn Shaw, Grant)

Details: The aim was to show the MSS bodies the way through from Valley Entrance. Previously MSS had rigged Old Ditch Road so the idea of a through trip was appealing.

We entered Valley Entrance about noon and made our way easily through to the main drag, a few photo stops (and lunch) being taken en-route.

By the time we reached the Ball Room people were generally tired and only Jeff and Mike wished to exit via Old Ditch Road.

The horizontal party exited about 6 pm, the vertical bods hit the surface at 6:30. Everyone enjoyed the sojourn.

One point of interest/concern was that Old Ditch Road was rigged with 9 mm rope and that the bolt which gives a free hang on the second pitch was 'missed'. As a result an abrasion point trashed the rope (and Jeff also was not impressed at finding this imperfect rigging on ascent). This is a lesson (yet another!) that indicates 9 mm rope must always be rigged free.

29 April 1990 **Ida Bay**

Exit Cave – Conference Concourse

Party: Peter Bannink, Kathleen Hammond, Michael and Mathew Long, Deborah Speden, Heidi, Graham Hammond, Mark Doyle and Associates.

Details: The standard tourist trip, party of 12 getting to the Grand Fissure by 2 pm after a late start. One member obtained fluid on her knees and could not walk hence remained at Grand Fissure while others explored the Conference Concourse to its extremity.

Trip enjoyed by all other but turned into a long exit, getting back to the carpark at 12 pm. Hence one potential caving member was lost.

Otherwise no more tourist trips and caving members only.

29 April 1990 **Mt Weld**

Greg Jordan

Caves: Into you like a train

Party: Dave Rasch, Russell Fulton, Jean Jackson (no relation to Fillet), Greg Jordan

Recommendations: Go back, Jimmy

Details:

RF: Let's go and look for a cave I heard about.

GJ: Yeah, we'll go down and sleep Saturday night at Tahune.

Later...

RF, JJ, DR: Will we put the stoves and tents in?

GJ: No worries, there's a huge shelter at Tahune.

Later ...

RF: It's pissing down rain; there are yobs with spotlights, guns etc. here in Tahune (glower!)

Later ...

JJ: I'll sleep in my big plastic bag on the road.

RF: I'll sleep in the car.

DR: Me too.

GJ: I'll (gulp) sleep in my pack on the road (don't worry about the front coming over)

Next morning: Wouldn't it be nice to have a stove to make a cuppa (doesn't matter we don't have a billy).

Later ... The cave. Big stream dipping into a yawning entrance (similar to Growling), very wet.

Later ... oh dear, here's a sump. Oh dear, this major steep stream dips down a body-sized hole. And another sump, and another body-sized hole with a big stream (well, an interesting hole, but next time try to avoid floods).

Up and down looking for holes (no joy).

Later ... bloody cutting grass.

Later ... bloody fucking cutting grass.

Later ... fucking bloody fucking cutting grass.

Later ... (between Franklin and Huonville) puncture.

Where's the jack? Q: How does it work? A: Get three people to lift the car while another one pushed the lever.

Q: How do you lower it? A: dig a hole in the road to push the lever and get three people to lift the car.

Later ... Why didn't you check your spare?

Later ... where did that RACT van turn off?

Later ... home after 28 hours for 1.5 hours caving.

11 May 1990 **Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill

Caves: IB22, 28 (Con Cave and Gollums Grovel)

Party: A. McNeill, D. Rasch, D. Muskee

Further References: See trip report for 28/4/91. Also *Speleo Spiel* 196 for a survey and article on Con Cave and *Speleo Spiel* 203 & 207 for info on Gollums Grovel. Recommendations: Before going groveling at Ida Bay it's probably best to consult old *Spiele*s etc. and/or Arthur C. about what's been done.

Details: After a reasonably civilized start we arrived at the IB22 doline by about 10:30. Rigged a ladder for the entrance section using the long ladder (as we knew nothing about the cave) and descended into a low passage that opened into a large rift. Rigged a short drop (an iffy downclimb) and the next ~9 m pitch with the long ladder which I retrieved from the entrance and replaced with the short ladder. Descended pitch to find ladder ~1.5 m too short – no real problem. Followed rift down; Dave explored a passage to the left which ended in a 3 m climb with passage beyond. Dave piked on the climb and arrived back in the main rift just after I had having piked in a tight draughting passage. Dave had a go at this and managed another 2-3 m before this got too tight and required a fair amount of effort to dig. Returned to the main rift and descended the 7 m pitch, an awkward start, and explored the lower part of the cave (prior to this I had to return to the surface to get the SRT gear and rope) before exiting the cave for lunch in the sunshine in the old quarry. After some discussion headed up the red tape track to IB28. The hole in the bottom of the doline looked untrogged so we cleared some debris, chucked a ladder down and Dave and I descended into a loose talus

chamber eventually finding a way down to the top of a pitch with a note drawn on the wall – 1984, TCC Dig. Bastards!!! After a bit of discussion returned to the surface and headed back to the car to arrive at 4:30.

13 May 1990                      **Ida Bay**

Phil Jackson

Midnight Hole – Entrance

Party: P. Jackson, J. Jackson, G. Jordan, P. Sexton, P. Bannink plus nine members of Tas. Uni. Bushwalking Club.

Details: Five members descended Midnight Hole (Jean, Greg, Peter, Peter plus one) and met the remainder of the Entrance party at Matchbox Squeeze. All had jolly good fun – enjoyable trip.

17 May 1990                      **Hastings**

Phil Jackson

Wolf Hole

Party: Philip Jackson, Paul Steane

Details: Party left Steane residence at ~6 pm for survey of Wolf Hole. Arrived via Huonville Greek takeaway at track in pissing rain. Lost track in the dark then made it up as we went. Then rigged pitch, descended and began to survey then stopped surveying almost immediately due to bugged inclinometer. Subsequently a thorough tugging and flogging of cave was carried out along with tea and biscuit scoffing at lake. Then returned to Hobart at ~2:30 am Friday.

20 May 1990                      **Hastings – Adamsons Falls Track**

Philip Jackson

Party: Philip Jackson

Recommendations: Visit Adamsons Falls in winter.

Details: Scrub-bashed area north east of junction of Chestermans Rd and Adamsons Falls Road – no karst found. Wandered along Adamsons Track – no karst found. Top of ridge parallel to Adamsons Falls Road on eastern side – no karst found.

20 May 1990                      **Florentine Valley**

Jean Jackson

Growling Swallet

Party: Greg Jordan, Jean Jackson, Peter Bannink

Details: Planned trip down Slaughterhouse Pot and out Growling Swallet main entrance didn't happen due to high water levels in creek at entrance. A wander down the streamway didn't go far either. Snow on Mt Field = cold water!

The pike to Welcome Stranger was also a fizzer but we had a 'nice' tour of forestry operations while searching for it – it's before Lawrence Rivulet. A nature ramble amongst the Amanitas completed the day. We didn't even need to stop for Maydena greasies on the way back.

24 May 1990                      **Hastings**

Phil Jackson

Wolf Hole

Party: Philip Jackson, Lindsay Wilson, Peter Bannink

Details: Party left Hobart at about five pm for another weeknight caving fest. We arrived at Wolf Hole at 7:30 and surveyed 30 legs up main part of cave including loop around doline to Lake Pluto. Tea and mint slice biscuits were indulged in at the lake then we returned to entrance, car, Hobart in that order. All had a jolly good time – in fact a triumph for the midweek caving pundits.

27 May 1990                      **Hastings**

Philip Jackson

Beattie Area

Party: Philip Jackson

Details: An effort to locate Bettie, Lyons Den, Erebus was made. Only Lyons Den was located since the others are readily found from here.

A small cave (entrance) was located and subsequently lost somewhere north east of Lyons Den at about 100 +/- 95 metres. Fossil Creek Swallet was then located. Some karst worthy of further investigation was noted in the 'found then lost cave' area.

2-3 June 1990                      **Kubla Khan**

Jeff Butt

Party: Sarah Boyle#, Dave Rasch#, Rob Beedham#, Jean Jackson\*#, Greg Jordan\*, Jeff Butt\*#, John Burgess\*, Ros Burgess\*, Rima Truchannas\* (\* Saturday trip, # Sunday trip) [see permit application, pp. 18-19] Saturday – We discovered that the locked gate had been violated. The lock was still intact, but the bar at the top had been hacksawn (very recent looking cuts) through nullifying the effect of the lock. The bell housing around the lock was also missing. Despite the gate being violated we could not gain access as another lock had been attached to the bottom of the gate.

We reported these facts to the rangers (who removed the "illegal" lock on Sunday morning and reinstalled a PWH lock).

During Saturday evening (as we were camped at the end of the vehicular track) a vehicle approached. Upon seeing us they began to make a retreat (hardly a speedy one due to the rutted track and lack of a turning space). One of our party (Rima) approached them and learned that they were four mates from Devonport. Supposedly they were looking for a party!

We didn't think that too strange at the time, however now feel that it was rather strange and suspect that these people may have been associated with the 'modifications' to the gate. (We reported the vehicle/occupant to the rangers later that evening – they made a late visit, not realizing we were camping there).

Saturday [repeat?] - Our party of six entered via the lower entrance and proceeded to Cairn Hall. Enroute we sketched detail for the survey SCS is doing for PWH (the lower end of the cave is now complete – it only has to be drawn onto the master sheets).



**SCS COPY**  
**Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage**  
**National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970**

**PERMIT TO ENTER LIMITED ACCESS CAVE**

PERMIT No. **348**

Issued to: Trip leader	<i>Jeff Butt</i>
Name of Club or Institution	<i>Southern Caving Society</i>
Cave(s)	<i>Kubla Khan</i>
Intended No. in party	<i>6</i>
Purpose of Visit	<i>Recreation</i>

Please present this permit to the Duty Ranger at *Mole Creek* before entering the cave. He can be contacted on telephone *635 135* or *635 181* or *635 182* to arrange for collection of keys etc. This permit must be displayed on the vehicle dashboard while you are in the cave. After your trip you must complete the report overleaf and return this form to the Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, GPO Box 44A, Hobart 7001.

Your application to enter the above cave(s) is granted subject to the following conditions:

**Conditions of Permit**

- (1) Party members must comply with the Australian Speleological Federation Code of Ethics.
- (2) Underground camping is not permitted in any cave.
- (3) Copies of all maps, reports and other material resulting from trips done under permit shall be provided to the Department free of charge.
- (4) Permits will cover a single party only, maximum size 6 in Kubla Khan, Ghengis Khan, Croesus and Lynds and 12 in all other permit caves.
- (5) At least half the members of each party into Kubla Khan, Ghengis Khan, Croesus and Lynds must be current financial members of an A.S.F. affiliated club.
- (6) Individual clubs will be permitted a maximum of four trips into Kubla Khan each calendar year.
- (7) Through trips to Kubla Khan must enter at the upper entrance and exit by the lower entrance. Parties entering by the lower entrance must not proceed past Cairn Hall.
- (8) In Exit and Kubla Khan Caves, party members must keep to marked trails and avoid roped off areas. In Kubla Khan, boots and muddy clothes must be removed before entering the Pleasure Dome and the Hall of Kings. MUD must not be tramped across areas of delicate floor formation.
- (9) In Croesus Cave, sandals or similar soft rubber soled shoes must be worn to prevent damage to the flowstone.
- (10) Failure to complete and return this form after a trip will result in refusal of further permits to members of the club concerned.
- (11) This form, duly signed by the Secretary or his representative, constitutes the only authority to enter the specified cave on the date shown.

The above conditions, together with regulations under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970* and the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* and any instructions given by a Ranger, shall be complied with by all party members.

DATE OF VISIT

*2/6/1990*

TO

*3/6/1990*

Authorised officer:

*L.M. Dresser*

for A. J. Pedder, Director, as Managing Authority

*15.5.90*

Date

Reports should be forwarded to: The Secretary, Dept. of Parks, Wildlife & Heritage  
GPO Box 44A, HOBART 7001

FILE: M1/20/10

PWH MACDESIGN

This section must be completed at the time of your visit and endorsed by the Duty Ranger.

Names of Party Members:

Sarah Boyle<sup>#</sup>, Dave Rasch<sup>#</sup>, Rob Beedham<sup>#</sup>,  
Jean Jackson<sup>\*\*</sup>, Greg Jordan<sup>\*</sup>, Jeff Butt<sup>\*\*</sup>,  
Jon Burgess<sup>\*</sup>, Ros Burgess<sup>\*</sup>, Rina Truchanas<sup>\*</sup>.

Registration Nos. of Vehicles..... (\* SATURDAY TRIP)

Duty Ranger..... (# SUNDAY TRIP)

#### LIMITED ACCESS CAVE TRIP REPORT

State the activities of your party, results of any work undertaken, notes on any damage to the cave by your party or previous parties. If there is insufficient space on this form, feel free to attach additional pages. These reports will be kept as a permanent record by the Department and will be available for perusal by interested persons on request. Please return this permit and report as soon as possible.

NB Report Attached.

(\*) Information re a  
"violation" of the locked  
gate. ↑  
(This information was reported  
to the Rangers during  
our visit)

The Pleasure Dome was also visited. It is apparent that persons have not removed muddy boots/overalls in the not too distant past as fresh-looking mud was evident on the flowstone. Additionally it seems as though these people have sat down depositing large mud patches in several places. Also cigarette butts, ash and candle wax were noted in several places. Some of this material was removed and we talked of arranging a clean-up trip in the future.

Sunday – A party of three visited Cairn Hall and the Pleasure Dome. Another party of two visited Xanadu to sketch detail for the survey. There is still some work to be done in the Xanadu chamber, including sketches of the Helictite Dungeons.

2-3 June 1990                      **Hastings**

Philip Jackson

Party: Philip Jackson, Andrew McNeill

Details: Located and re-taped track to Trafalgar Pot on Saturday. On Sunday we located the subjacent karst features and continued on to find a new cave (vertical) in this region. Associated surface surveying was carried out.

10 June 1990                      **Hastings**

Philip Jackson

Newdegate

Party: Philip Jackson, Jean Jackson

Details: Proposal was to dye trace stream from Waterloo (Erebus) Swallet to waterfall downstream from Hells Half Acre however the only water in Newdegate was HHA. Therefore the dye tracing was abandoned in favour of small scale mud fights and surveying of HHA. This was only partially completed.

17 June 1990                      **Junee-Florentine**

Jeff Butt

Troll Hole (JF238), Khazad-Dum, Rift Cave, Welcome Stranger

Party: Dave Rasch, Jean Jackson, Jeff Butt, Natalie, Rob Beedham, Peter Bannink, Greg Jordan, Seb.

Details: A beginners trip

Jeff, Greg and Jean numbered Troll Hole with tag JF238. They then had a look in the entrance of KD.

Dave, Rob, Peter, Seb and Natalie checked out the 'Old Rift Cave', a little digging carried out at the bottom end. After lunch we all visited Welcome Stranger – a good time was had by all.

In summary, a successful beginners trip.

23 June 1990                      **Florentine**

Jean Jackson

341

Party: party, party. Greg Jordan, Dave Rasch, Jean Jackson

Recommendations: Get through the gate earlier and/or shorten the turnaround time and/or probably most sensi-

ble, leave incompetent gumbies at home! (or somewhere where they can't hurt themselves or anyone else, e.g. a padded cell).

Details: We could tell it was going to be a trip in fine SCS tradition when someone who shall remain nameless left the ropes at home at Ferntree. All went well until the same person (all fired up!) disappeared into the entrance, followed by sounds of a body falling. This had bad effects on Jean's anxiety and stress level (Greg, off having a piss, remained oblivious). Dave scraped the pieces back together and down we went ...

Down, down, to the top of the last pitch (by which time Jean's blood pressure was rising after struggling into a strange harness and almost clipping onto a rope Greg was still occupying). Only a few swear words were heard from the probe unit Greg, rigging the rebelay. Much more high blood pressure and a haircut later we were all at the bottom of the pitch. The boggle factor rose higher and higher until I got sick of writing this trip report. Anyway, we were late (1 hour) out to the car – to say 'good evening officer!' End result: a couple of possible leads and life enriching experiences.

21 June 1990                      **Hastings**

Jeff Watson

Wolf Hole

Party: Russell Fulton, Jeff Watson, Jessica Farley, Dimity Lange, Bruce Morely, David Fleming, Robert Ried, Ruth Farley

Recommendations: Do it

Details: Rafting on Lake Pluto. Fucking wonderful. Fully recommend big three paper scoob on the lake. Shit hot.

13 August 1990 **Hastings – Duckhole, Creekton Falls**

Phil Jackson

Party: Philip Jackson

Details: Walked along track to Creekton Falls via Duckhole. No karst noted except maybe Duckhole could be karst beneath Permian. Very nice trip.

22 August 1990                      **Ida Bay**

Jeff Watson

Midnight Hole

Party: Jeff Watson, Dave Fleming, Bruce Morley, Michael Blake, Ann Wessing, Dean Preston (Staff development – Sport and Rec.)

Details: A fine trip, even though cats had been pissing on my trog suit in the shed for about two months and I was subsequently pungent is aromatic endeavour. Down OK, up the back, noted 12 gallon drum moved (probably by water) and out. Six hours underground.

23 September 1990                      **Weld River South**

Russell Fulton

Weld Swallet #1 (on geology track), Weld Swallet #2 (new discovery)

Party: Dean Morgan, Russell Fulton, Dave Rasch  
Recommendations: Return with ladder. In this area, karst-meter readings are consistently high.  
Details: A valley was walked up to where a cave was thought to be. It was. A lovely swallet which didn't go – too tight. Nearby dry entrance had short climb to 10 m pitch down which stream could be heard.

23 September 1990 [date? – same as previous]

#### **Mt Weld**

Russell Fulton

Swallet #2

Party: Russell Fulton, Dave Rasch, Dean Morgan, Mark Doyle, Anthea Hill

Recommendations: A pretty place but no need to return with a light.

Details: Another early Sunday morning. Vomitous walk in. Descended 11 m ladder to stream which promptly ducked down into sump. No draught. Wandered up the valley looking for high cliffs located four years ago. Probably found them! Best find of the day was a draughting hole but only big enough to put a leg in. Somewhere there is a big cave and by fuck I'm going to find the bastard.

7 April 1991

#### **Hastings**

Russell Fulton

Wolf Hole

Party: Russell Fulton, Andrew McNeill, Ruth Lanyon, Robina Sharpe, Anthea Hill, Michael Roach, Mark Doyle and Daniel.

Recommendations: Good cave – not a sacrifice cave. Excellent straws, gypsum flowers and needles, boxwork, iron-manganese oxides.

Details: Seven geologists and a caver abseiled into Wolf Hole. A good poke around was had in the cave encircling the doline entrance. On to Lake Pluto for lunch, then across the lake. The gypsum in the dry chamber past the end of the lake is spectacular. In one place it is growing in situ in the soil and pushing the earth apart like a 'black frost'. The rock is very brittle and a little silicified in this region and Anthea spotted some fault striations.

Hells Passage was trogged – everyone up the rope. The exit was made quite efficiently – Ben[?], Mike prusiked up first and belayed everyone else up the ladder except Ruth who bravely prusiked up, showing up all the other girls' blouses on the trip (she though). I self-belayed.

14 April 1991

#### **Florentine Valley**

Burning Down the House

Party: D. Morgan, D. Wakefield [no report]

21 April 1991

#### **Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill

Exit Cave

Party: A. McNeill, R. Fulton, Ruth Lanyon, Robina Sharpe, Daniel Muskee

Further References: see Dean Morgan's report

Recommendations: Watch the weather when visiting Exit – the emergency crossing near the entrance no longer exists! Ensure that members of the party have adequate warm clothing and take a space blanket each!

Details: Left Hobart early and arrived in the quarry in quite heavy rain. Decided to go to Valley Entrance. Only light rain as we walked up and Mystery Creek was low. Decided that as weather seemed to be on the improve so entered cave at about 10:50 am. Placed an old ladder on the final drop into Exit, visited the acoustic chamber then to the Grand Fissure for lunch.

Creek didn't seem to be up much so decided to push on and exit via IB86. By the time we reached the rockfall the creek was looking quite high. We were moving quite quickly at this stage and reached the creek crossing just below the D'Entrecasteaux River inflow. I attempted to cross but only made it 2/3 of the way before the water was nearly neck deep and flowing quite strongly (unusual – the water generally ponds at about this point) so I gave up and returned. After discussing the options we decided to wait a while to ascertain if the water level was dropping – the creek level dropped approximately 1-1.5 inches in the first 20 minutes or so, so we decided to wait. Found a 'sheltered' spot and settled in. I had a stove so we had several brews. Some people slept while I used the time to explore high level passages in the area – something I've never bothered to do before – some nice formations. By 10:30 pm we finally crossed the creek which had dropped approximately 1.5 feet. Headed toward the exit to find the old emergency crossing was no more! As the creek was still very deep here we retreated to the large sandbank near the glowworms. After a few more hours waiting people were getting cold and the creek had dropped a few more inches. We returned to the last crossing and with a safety line crossed and exited via IB86 to find the ground covered in 1-2 inches of hail and the time approximately 2:40 am! Followed the track, reasonably easy, in windy-showery weather to reach the top of the quarry at 3:30 am. We were met by Greg Jordan and a group of police who were just setting off to look for us. Cadged a lift down to search base at the bottom of the quarry. Met by Jacko and Sausage. By the time we'd changed, thanked everyone and Greg had driven us home it was 6:30 am. Due to a radio problem a party who had set off to look for us at Valley Entrance were unable to be recalled and ended up doing a through trip (see Dean's report).

NB A ladder was left on the climb at the end of Valley Entrance and should be retrieved sometime in the near future.

21 April 1991

#### **Exit – Ida Bay**

Exit Cave

Party: Dean Morgan, Rolan Eberhard, Janiso[??] Police-woman

[no report]

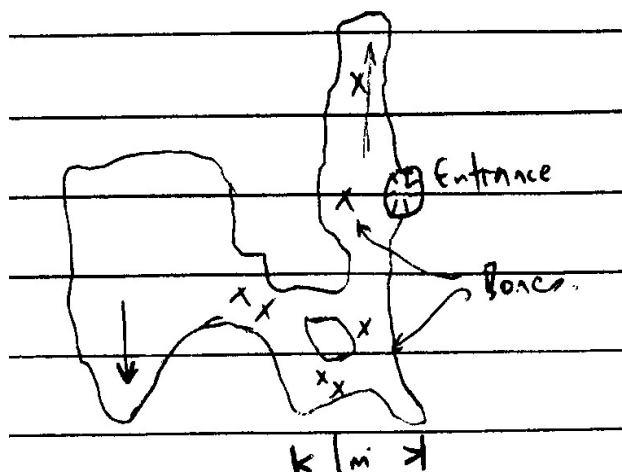
21 April 1991                      **Ida Bay**  
Old Ditch Road  
Party: D. Morgan, M. Rowell

28 April 1991  
Ida Bay  
Andrew McNeill  
Various Little Holes  
Party: A. McNeill, D. Rasch

Recommendations: A good area for more surface trogging but a bit depressing as everything seems to block off after only a couple of metres.

Details: A day of surface trogging near the old quarry. Started off by exploring to sub-Raschian size the cave in the face of the old quarry. Then wandered to the start of the Revelation track and the area of complex karst topography between it and the Southern Ranges track. Poked ourselves into every hole we could find but nothing went. Trended up the hill until found the tagged entrance IB80. 15-17 m from the entrance on a bearing of 037° magnetic Dave located an entrance choked with 'vegetable' debris. Threw the ladder down and we descended 3-4 m into a small cave with two chambers and lots of bones.

Sketch plan:



From here we headed uphill eventually trending into a dry gully that lead to the Moonlight Flats track. Approximately half way between IB40 and the track (i.e. about 5 m from the track) we located an elliptical shaft 2/3 covered by a log. Again we threw a ladder down and I descended 6.5-7 m to the inevitable choke with no way on. Headed across the track and contoured around until intersected Arthur's red tape track. Followed this to the IB28 doline where we found an apparently un-entered hole obscured by logs! Returned to the cars via the old quarry somewhat enthused about pushing the grot-hole near IB28.

Easter 1991                      **Frenchmans Cap**  
Andrew McNeill  
FC1 and FC2 (provisional numbers) – Haven't thought of names yet.

Party: P. Jackson, A. McNeill  
Further references: Article (in preparation, in *Southern Caver* No. 56)<sup>3</sup> will include surveys  
Recommendations: An area of dolomite worthy of further attention (in summer) with the only discouragement being the walk in.

Details:

Friday 29/3 – late start meant we made it to the campsite at the base of Philps Lead just on dark.

Saturday 30/3 – started bucketing with rain about ten minutes after we broke camp. Made it to the Vera hut in ¾ hour – thoroughly soaked. Spent rest of day lurking in hut – weather abysmal.

Sunday 31/3 – A better morning but still windy and showery. Decided to go for a day trip up to Tahune. Wandered up to the hut to get geared up and for a warm drink as the weather was taking a turn for the worse. At this stage Jacko discovered he had forgotten his light. Spent a couple of hours exploring the two small caves. FC1 still has a lead that goes but I piked as I was by myself (wimp!). FC2 may also go with judicious application of a geology hammer. Returned to Tahune hut to clean gear and warm up with a cuppa. Wandered back to Lake Vera. Monday 1/4 – Awoke to more rain which developed into snow on the peaks – a good sign that it was time to go. Waded down the Loddon and back to the car to find ... we'd been burgled as had all the cars in the car park.

Easter 1991                      **Loongana**

Helen Beggs

Puzzle Cave, Mostyn Hardy Cave

Party: Helen Beggs, Brad Phillips

Recommendations: Both caves on private property (Mountain Valley Cabins – Loongana) but the owner, Len, is very friendly and happy to show cavers through Mostyn Hardy Cave. He is extremely cave conservationist.

Details:

Puzzle Cave – Large entrance easily found at end of short track from Loongana Road just before turn-off to Mountain Valley Cabins. Cave ends up in a very tight squeeze. Fairly small cave with ~100 m of main passage – all horizontal.

Mostyn Hardy Cave – Discovered in the 1920s this is an extensive (>1 km passage) horizontal cave which was surveyed by the TCC in the early 80s. Quite well-decorated, especially away from the main drag. Many confusing passages and difficult 'rockpile' at the end of the cave leading to a small exit passage which has only rarely been used.

Overall a very interesting horizontal cave with opportunity for enjoyable exploration.

Definitely ask owner's permission to visit this cave as Mostyn Hardy is his pride and joy.

<sup>3</sup> Actually McNeill 1994 Caving at Frenchmans Cap. *Southern Caver*, 57: 13-17.

18 May 1991

### **Ida Bay**

Philip Jackson

Exit

Party: Philip Jackson, Alex Armitage, Ken Boland (VSA)

Recommendations: Go back again!

Details: We arrived at the cave to find the gate unlocked with the key in it – a less than acceptable situation. Further into the cave we found the perpetrators of this vile deed, in the form of one Tony Culberg with some punters for his “wild cave” tours. After a brief encounter we had lunch, a thrash around in the rockpile, a wander around camp two, then a return to the entrance via The Collonades and Ball Room. Approx. five hours spent underground in a thoroughly refreshing experience.

19 May 1991

### **Florentine**

Andrew McNeill

JF35 Gormenghast

Party: Jeff Watson, Bruce Morley, Andrew McNeill

Recommendations: Seems to be quite a good beginners sport cave (I enjoyed what we did!). At least one ladder or handline is required for the third climb noted in *Vertical Caves*.

Details: After a somewhat inauspicious late start we were at the gate by about 11 am. Drove up to the Nine Road and spend half an hour stuffing around trying to find the right road (it's the first major track to the right after the Westfield Road junction). Trogged up and headed along a recently flagged route which soon descended into a gully and became difficult to follow until we finally lost it in a dry gully. After 20 minutes or so we relocated the route and we blundered uphill until we intersected the old pack track and followed this to the Gormenghast stream which we followed to the grotty-looking entrance. We descended a small rubbly stream passage with quite pleasant climbs and scrambles. Eventually reached a 3-4 m drop that required a handline which unfortunately in a typical bout of confusion we had left higher up the cave. Time to go. Wandered back out and followed the pack track out – 15 minutes back to the car. Pulled the tapes off the long route and flagged the unobvious part of the pack track. It's now a very straightforward walk to the cave. A return to this grot hole is planned for soon.

19 May 1991

### **Hastings**

Philip Jackson

Newdegate – Binney Tunnel

Party: P. Jackson, G. Jordan, D. Muskee, K. Hosking, D. Lange, Ken Boland (VSA)

Recommendations: Avoid the new extension in Hells Half Acre ...

Details: The party entered the cave at 11:00 am, after threatening cave tourists and the Dover ‘Egg and Bacon roll’ shop, and made its way, with minimal unrest to the Hells Half Acre waterfall area. Here a leisurely lunch was had before Dimity, Ken H. and Daniel headed

off to the sump while the rest began the survey of the extension found on a previous visit. This extension is located at the T-junction approximately seventy metres below the waterfall. A short climb at the junction leads to a rift running parallel to the – of the T, of about thirty metres length. This leads to a large chamber of 15 m by 30 metres. Access to this chamber by traversing a wall of chossey sharp shattered dolomite. At this point two thirds of the survey party, quite rightly, baulked and decided not to continue. From here the third continued a grade two survey. From here a retreat was made to the Mystery Chamber for some photos and shenanigans with mud and people's faces etc. Then we commenced the battle against the forces that possessed people to cause them to pour water down the clay tubes and prevent others from normal passage. This normal passage was prevented by such things as human missiles using the tubes in a slippery slide fashion. After winning the battle all the party exited Newdegate having had a thoroughly refreshing trip.

19 May 1991

### **Florentine Valley**

Bruce Morley [but unsigned]

Gormenghast

Party: Jeff Watson, Bear McNeill, Bruce Morley

Details: ‘The best laid plans of mice and men’ is a saying coined especially for caving trips and this one was no exception. Once again the plans for an early start failed to come to fruition as one of the starters (with transport) opted for a day of rutting instead of caving. Our two dedicated, celibate cavers sat in a state of deep depression, contemplating their fate and lamenting the loss of the randy companion and the transport. Then out of the blue the phone rang and it was ‘Bear to the rescue’. Spirits were lifted as the threesome [report seems to have not been finished].

22 May 1991

### **Florentine Valley**

Bruce Morley

Slaughterhouse Pot/Growling Swallet through trip

Party: Jeff Watson, Greg Jordan, Russell Fulton, Bruce Morley, Father Ken Boland the caving priest, David Fleming.

Recommendations: Tighten bolt at top of the last pitch – Russell was not happy. Bolt finger loose.

Details: S&R staff development and friends.

Arrived via GV vehicle. Water level low. Made good time to bottom of Slaughterhouse. Father Ken highly impressed with his first Florentine cave. Side trip to Avons Aven and Trapdoor waterfall. Out via Windy Rift and streamway with a peek into New Feeling as far as the flattener.

Popped out to find a magic day and capped off a fine trip with 360° views from top of Tim Shea – Father Ken blowing out.

26 May 1991 [appears to be the same trip as the previous report, but different date ?] **June-Florentine**

Greg Jordan

Slaughterhouse – Growling Swallet

Party: Jeffrey Watson, Greg Jordan, Ken Bowland (VSA), Dave Fleming, Bruce Morley (Dept of Sport and Recreation), Russell Fulton

Recommendations: There's a rub on the Trapdoor streamway ladder. Russell doesn't like the bolts on the bottom pitch of Slaughterhouse.

Details: Quick pull through down Slaughterhouse. Ken and Greg to Avons Aven. Back up the streamway. Quick peek into New Feeling. Out. Tim Shea on the way out.

Love and Kisses, Greg.

1 June 1991

### **Hastings**

Andrew McNeill

Wolf Hole

Party: A. McNeill, Don and Andrew Hudspeth, Paul and Michelle Steane, Grant and Ralph Anderson, Gill Mclean, Sue ?

Recommendations: A good beginners' trip with some SRT (well, one pitch anyway).

Details: A predictably late start meant we were at the entrance by about 11 am. Riggged two ropes on the entrance pitch to speed things up but moderately slow as five of party had done no or very little abseiling. Wandered to Lake Pluto with some exploring of side passages. Visited Hells Passage then a cuppa before the ramble out, exploring some more side passages. Took less time that I thought it would to get out, even with a fair bit of gear shuffling. Suds (Andrew H.) somehow ended up carting most of the lights out in his pack. Retired to Dover pub for a beer then to Huonville for chips. Gill managed to lock the keys in Donny's car and we were informed by a passing policeman that we were parked in a no-standing zone. "If you're not gone in a couple of minutes I may have to book you!" Frantic manipulation resulted in the opening of a door and we were off home.

Michael J Lichon

Dept. of Plant Science

University of Tasmania

18 June 1991

### **Mt Ronald Cross**

Records Holder and Hon. Editor

SCS Magazine

Dear

Please add this brief report to the next issue of the club magazine.

Trip Report: Mt Ronald Cross – King William I, reconnaissance 1-3 June 1991

Party: Michael Lichon, Andrew Stewart

(Karst relevant components only):

1/6/91 Almost immediately, the ascent of Eucryphia Lead was characterized by karst features: dolomite outcrops, small depressions and lack of surface water.

Between 620 and 680 m there were larger dolines, one of which was explored, without finding caves. Between 820 and 920 m dolomite outcropped in bluffs and cliffs. Several small holes were located in this section. This region looked very promising to explore further, particularly contouring to the south west. The dolomite gives way to the Permian sediments at 950 m, evidenced immediately by surface water.

2/6/91 At 252195, the ridgetop of the Loddon Range was abandoned for the eastern descent. After 50 m of direct descent in medium scrub, we veered due south west to the prominent ridge. From here the unnamed lake, "679 m", could be seen while mist lifted, as well as a sinkhole lake deep in the forest at 258194.

Cheers,

Mick Lichon

2 June 1991

### **Florentine Valley**

Bruce Morley

Growling Swallet/New Feeling

Party: Phil Jackson, Jeff Watson, Don Hudspeth, Bruce Morley, Daniel Muskee

Details: Anticipating an early start, with 'this German' straining at the bit, our plans were dashed when a certain club president not only arrived very late but brought with him 'Mr Poo Fingers'.

Arrived entrance, water level low. Wasted no time in scrambling down streamway and through 'the flattener' keen to push on through to the 12 m pitch and then some exploring. Found this obvious 'trogged' passage which led ?????. Spent frustrating 45 minutes following false leads before 'el presidente' redeemed himself by climbing to the roof and finding the right passage. Slow progress as 'Mr Poo Fingers', suffering the ill effects of a night of debauchery, found it hard to 'get it all together' when crossing exposed rift. Finally large chamber reached with good formation and passaged followed to top of the pitch. Due to the debacle at the start time was running out and the boys had to be content with looking down the enticing hole and then turn tails for home.

8-10 June 1991

### **Mole Creek**

Andrew McNeill

Prohibition Cave, new cave

Party: A. McNeill, L. Vanzino, J. Jackson, G. Jordan, A. Hudspeth, D. (Dave, not Donny) Hudspeth, Gill McClean, Mel ?, Kevin Kiernan!!

Recommendations: Surface and cave surveys in the Baldocks-Sassafras area could establish very interesting hydrological relationships.

Details: Friday night – arrive at the Wet Caves campsite in pouring rain at about 11 pm. Jeff Watson and Dimity were already there and sheltering in their tent. (They were heading off walking.)

Saturday 8/6 – Stopped raining early in the morning but didn't get up until reasonably late. The creek had more water in it than I've seen for quite a few years – oh well,

stuffed up our initial plans so decided to head to Prohibition Cave. Visited the goat farmer on the way through – said there'd been 80 mm of rain in the last three days. Slogged our way along to the cave – the old logging track near the cave is now heavily overgrown. Luke and I surveyed the upper passages while Greg, Jean and Mel visited the very wet lower passages. We then regrouped and headed down the dry upper level. Wandered to the pool at the end of the cave which Greggles swam finding that the cave was only negotiable for a further 10 m. Retreated to the entrance and checked out the wet way. The most water I've ever seen in it. Returned to the campsite to find A & D Hudspeth and Gill had arrived. Settled in for an evening around the fire when KK materialized out of the dark. A pleasant evening somewhat ruined for me as I broke a tooth on Jean's rather inexpertly cooked popcorn!

Sunday 9/6 – Another late start as we hung around waiting for KK to arrive (he was staying at Marakoopa). Hitched a lift with Mr Parish across the paddocks to near the Sassafras sink then followed old 4WD track up hill – unfortunately the wrong track. Returned to paddock to meet KK who had just arrived. Found the right track and wandered to the vicinity of the Cave. But couldn't find it. After 20 minutes or so realised we had left our packs about 3 m from the entrance, now changed out of all recognition by a couple of large trees collapsing into it. Greggles descended a rope to check that it was the right hole then the rest of the party descended a ladder. Headed into the cave to find the sump full and impossible but Greggles had located a high level passage that we hadn't noticed earlier that bypassed the obstacle. Virtually ran up the cave to the flowstone flattener where Greg and I stripped off and pushed through the squeeze while KK checked out a tight passage branching to the right. The flattener was wetter than last time I'd done it. As we were changing back into our gear we could hear KK getting closer in his squeeze but unfortunately he couldn't make it, the last 2 m being just too tight. Greggles and I pushed on to a rift floored with mud and leaf litter and with a large weta population that obviously is quite close to the surface. About 20-30 m further on we reached a terminal-looking chamber with a small round water-filled hole in the floor that may lead on under dry conditions and a tight but diggable and draughting hole! We didn't feel like digging so headed out, after trying to climb the rift.

Monday 10/6 – No caving done but a nice walk past the entrance to Westmoreland to Westmoreland Falls then to the Wildlife Park for Devonshire Tea and home.

? June 1991      **Junee-Florentine**

Dave Rasch

Owl Pot

Party: Helen Beggs, John French, Brad Phillips, Dave Rasch

Recommendations: Sort out weekend caving, keys, per-

mits etc. for weekend trips to the Florentine. Check out the lead in the rockpile sometime.

Details: We went to Owl Pot. Riggged first pitch via existing bolts but placed a huge 'hex' on LH wall about 2 m up which gave a good free hang. Those bolts are in a silly place! At the squeeze/rockfall I climbed up high and could see through an only just sub-Raschian gap into more cave. My light could see the extent of the 'new' bit. Need to move two rocks about the size of a gear pack to get through.

Waterfall pitch pounding in fine fashion. Had lunch at the bottom but little time for exploration. Some unnamed members of party got lost at the top of the Bowling Alley on the way out. Smooth trip out, back to the car, back to the NPWS gate at 4:30 pm to find it locked, also the main ANM gate locked. Had to stir up the ranger who gave us a lecture about where was our permit ON PA-PER PLEASE. We'd phoned for a permit – never seen any permit on paper. Lots of confusion about how cavers can use the NPWS gate – who keeps the key etc. Ranger was wanking, he didn't have a clue.

15 June 1991      **Junee-Florentine**

Jeff "I'm a Piker" Watson

Owl Pot

Party: Bruce Morley, Jeff Watson

Details: Me and Bruce went to Owl Pot. Bruce wanted to prusik out of his first cave. I wanted to remember what a vertical cave is. Bruce bought some SRT gear, we had a play at Fruehauf Quarry. Thought we'd go for the weekend. Owl Pot and Three Falls over the weekend, no worries said Jacko. So me and Bruce went down Owl Pot anyway. No Jacko. Rained overnight and I couldn't face Gormenghast. Dean, Jacko and Bruce went instead.

21 June 1991      **Ida Bay**

Anon. [Muskee -?-]

Mystery Creek

Party: Daniel Muskee, Ellen Muskee

Details: Entered caves 9:30 am. Followed stream as far as we could go. Turned left and crossed creek, entered small passage cont. to main chamber. Did some exploring above main chambers. On the way out followed another stream. Squeezes became too small so didn't continue. Water level – low. Left cave 12:30 pm. Like to return.

23 June 1991      **Junee-Florentine**

Andrew McNeill

Gormenghast (JF-35)

Party: Luke Vanzino, Daniel Muskee, Pete Bannink, Lee Douglas, Andrew Hudspeth, Gill McClean, Greg Marquart, Andrew McNeill

Details: Let's go to Gormenghast, Jacko and the others bottomed it last week, it doesn't matter that it's been bucketing rain and snowing ... Arrived at the junction on the Nine Road and after sliding around in the car we

decided to walk along the road to the track. Into the cave at ~11 am. Didn't appear to be much more water than previously but about 20 m in Gill was saturated and decided to head out. Maybe it was wetter than before ... Pushed on down to near the squeeze where Daniel, Greg, Andrew and self decided to head out. Lee, Pete and Luke pushed on to the squeeze at which point they also decided to retreat. For some reason it seemed worse on the way out. Blue skies for the walk back to the car. Early so the Canadians (Gill and Greg), Andrew and I went touring – up Tim Shea then south to the Big Tree, a stop on the Styx River to watch a sea eagle. Out thru' the gate by 4:10. Gormenghast is a nice cave.

7 July 1991 **Ida Bay**

Bruce Morley  
Revelation Cave

Party: Russell Fulton, Bruce Morley, Jane, Ros, Jess

Details: Beaut day, almost too good to spend underground. Down through entrance into weta city and beyond. Leisurely trip to top of pitch, laddered down and explored huge 'Exit-sized' passage way before reaching streamway and abrupt end. On way out all flew up ladder except the author who grunted and groaned, suffering the effects of a broken rib inflicted while under the influence. A good day was had by all. Group size was originally eight persons but very soon dwindled to five when Jeff 'Big Girl' Watson and Dimity refused to get out of bed and Daniel's wife said 'you no go caving today'.

14 July 1991 **Ida Bay**

Daniel Muskee

Arthurs Folly, Lunes [*sic*] Cave

Party: Dean, David, Bruce, Owen, Daniel

Details: Entered cave (Arthurs Folly [*sic* – *Loons Cave*]) 10:30 am. Began with a 15 m pitch. Nice formations in cave. Cave floor was very muddy. Dean took us from main passage into a side passage where we had to slide down on our bellies through 10" mud. Came to a dead end and returned to main passage. Cont. along this until we reached another dead end. Exited cave 12:30 pm.

Entered Lunes Cave [*sic* – *Arthurs Folly*] 1:00 pm. It was a nightmare. Very tight squeezes all the way. Cont. until Bruce got stuck. Bruce and myself then turned round and headed back. We exited cave approx. 1:45 pm. The others exited 2:15 pm.

16 July 1991 **Ida Bay**

Russell Fulton

Scrub Bashing Near Western Creek Swallet

Party: Russell Fulton, Don Hudspeth

Details:

Secret buggery.

Arcane rituals.

Mysterious canoodling.

Moisture.

A bundle of faggots.

1 December 1991 **June-Florentine**

Andrew McNeill

Welcome Stranger, Three Falls [Cave]

Party: Daniel and Ellen Muskee, Mark Doyle, Andrew McNeill

Details: Arrived at the gate at about 9:10 am and headed north past the deforestation around Westfield Road to the Welcome Stranger carpark. The start of the track to the cave is not obvious but once found is well-formed. Entered the cave and immediately got lost (is this possible?) then continued up the creek to the sump, ooh-ing and aahing at the formations and fossils on the way. Explored some of the side passages before returning to surface and trundling to the Nine Road. Descended Three Falls to the top of the first pitch, very enjoyable, then out and home in sunny weather. A very pleasant re-introduction to caving for those of us who hadn't been underground for a few months.

7 December 1991 **Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill

Halfway Hole area

Party: R. Fulton, A. McNeill

Recommendations: Go back with a longer rope.

Details: I was apparently given a papal dispensation and allowed to visit Halfway Hole with Russell. The walk in was a bastard but we did re-route much of the pink flagged route which should improve access. Eventually arrived at entrance, after discovering a hold higher in the doline that went 'splash' when rocks were dropped down it. Rigged a ladder down a small hole about 3 m to the left of the main entrance and descended to the top of the pitch. Rigged using two bolts placed previously and Russell started descending only to find that the rope (~25 m) didn't reach a ledge. Oh well, dragged the gear out and decided to visit the horizontal cave in the same doline. Followed a small creek passage to a junction, one branch a waterfall and the other becoming too tight after a short distance. Retreated and climbed up into the roof to find both passages continued. Returned to the entrance and investigated a draughting hole that led down a ~3 m ladder pitch to a clear pool in a rift. My attempts to bridge across this were unsuccessful but the rift appeared to continue. Time to go, back out to the car by just after 4 pm, only just over an hour to walk out.

13 December 1991 **Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill

Surface trogging near Halfway Hole

Party: R. Fulton, A. McNeill, D. Rasch

Wandered in to the Halfway Hole area via the pink taped track starting from the saddle on the Moonlight Flats track. Number and explored several entrance in this area (aMG 871865 on the Leprena 1:25000 sheet).

IB136: Halfway Hole. Number tag placed on left hand side of main entrance, a large rift. A second small entrance is approximately 4 m further left, i.e. north, and

leads via a 10 m ladder pitch to a large chamber. A 2 m climb up on the left hand side of this chamber leads to the top of the as yet undescended big pitch.

IB137: Number tag placed above entrance. A horizontal stream cave of approximately 120 m length. Branches into several small 'streamways' that climb steadily. Two main leads not checked; an overhanging climb over talus and a tightening passage heading right from the base of the climb. Glowworms noted. On the left just inside the entrance a 2 m ladder pitch, that was draughting strongly on our first visit, leads to a deep pool in a narrow rift. Attempts to bridge across this and explore the rift further have been unsuccessful, i.e. it's very slippery!

A second, untagged, entrance approximately 5 m west of the tagged entrance leads to a >10 m ladder pitch into the pool described above. This may give access to the far end of the rift but still involves a slippery traverse about 3 m above the pool.

IB138: Located approximately 40 m uphill and NE from IB136. Marked by orange and blue flagging. A NE-trending rift that was tagged at its western end, low on the right hand side, i.e. on the opposite side to a tree used as a belay. Cave consists of three pitches; 17 m, 10 m and 7 m with a total depth of approximately 40 m. Many bones were noted.

IB139: "You mean I walked all that way for this" cave. Located approximately 50 m downhill and SE of IB138. There is an obvious large fallen eucalypt on its NW side and the entrance is marked by blue flagging at its SW end. Cave tag is located at the SW end of the rift low on the right hand side. A 10 m pitch was descended to find lots of logs choking the hole but one very tight lead, not followed.

In the IB136-137 doline there are also two other entrances to small caves that have not been numbered. The contact, between Permian and limestone, has been systematically trogged for about 150 m east of the IB138 entrance. It is poorly defined with many collapse features in Permian cover. Two interesting entrances were located, one requires a ladder and the second leads to a single chamber with no obvious leads or draughts (depth approx. 3 m, length approx. 7 m).

31 December 1991 **June-Florentine**

Andrew McNeill

Burning Down the House

Party: Mark Doyle, Ken Boland (VSA), Sue ?, Andrew McNeill

After a relatively organised start we had some confusion getting through the gate (first time I'd done it on a working day). Trogged up in fine weather and found the cave easily. Once inside navigation was the main problem, only Mark had been to the cave before and that was about 2.5 years ago. Eventually found our way to the main streamway where we had lunch. Headed downstream and followed the dry stream passage to its end. Mark and I groveled around in an unstable rockfall and

Mark managed to get through to a larger chamber beyond. Hopes of a new discovery were dashed when he reported a cairn and footprints. Retreated upstream looking for the way on to the upper levels and eventually wandered up to the wet flattens upstream. Not feeling like getting wet we had a rest then returned to the surface. A very pleasant day's caving, even if I didn't manage to find a trilobite fossil! Oh well, looks like we'll have to do another trip, what a pity!

1 January 1992

**Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill

Surface trogging near Halfway Hole

Party: A. McNeill, Ken Boland (VSA)

Wandered in to Halfway Hole and after a quick look at the entrance started taping a track, using red tape, around the hill to reach Great Expectations. Ken traversed around slightly higher up the hill than the route until we reached the unmistakable Great Expectations gully. Several entrance, described below, were marked with two red tape. Ken descended to the pitch in Great Ex. (now tagged IB129) while I explored the large chamber on the RHS of the entrance. Headed back towards Halfway Hole on the cliff below out taped route. Located two more entrances. From the second of these, an impressive shaft, a route was taped back up to the Halfway-Great Ex. Track. The junction of these two routes is marked by a red and a pink tape (lower track to the shaft).

Entrances taped were, from east to west:

A cave with two entrances, one a shaft from the Halfway Hole doline, approximately 25 m deep. The entrance in the gully immediately west of Halfway Hole was taped. This hole had been looked at previously by Fulton *et al.*  
2 An entrance above the track in the gully immediately west of Halfway Hole. Horizontal streamway similar in form to IB137. Probably previously looked at. Not explored.

An entrance below the track on the western side of the gully above. A small partly vegetation-choked hole that requires a ladder and some enlarging; not explored.

An entrance below the track in the top of a small cliff line. Approx. 200 m west of Halfway Hole. A small horizontal mud-floored rift approx. 10 m long. Water obviously sinks at its far end. No leads.

A major shaft at least 25 m deep approx. half way to Great Ex. On lower spur track. Not obvious if it continues on below the first pitch.

Melancholy Cave. A horizontal slot, about 150 m east of IB129 and approx. 3 m below track. Entrance leads to about 80-100 m of horizontal stream passage that branches into at least two streams. Good formation and some glowworms. Not fully explored and no signs of previous visitation. Stream appears to reach surface about 5 m below taped entrance.

An entrance in the eastern side of the hIB129 gully about 80 m from IB129. Drops steeply into a single chamber with a continuing climb. Not fully explored. (I think I've

visited this one before.)

A rift approx. 50 m from IB129 entrance. Pitch probably drops into large high level chamber of IB129. Not known if this has been visited previously.

None of these entrances have been tagged or allocated numbers yet but this will be done when we start exploring the area properly.

Ken and I staggered back to the car park a pair of very happy chappies after a very successful day!

2 January 1992

### **Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill

Revelation Cave

Party: Russell Fulton, Mark Doyle, Greg Jordan, Ruth Langour, Anthea Hill, Jane ? Andrew McNeill

Recommendations: Dig both the wet and dry ways!?!

Details: A reasonably on time start saw us at the car park at about 10 am. Wandered into the cave with Russell demonstrating his prowess at remaining near the end of the party to avoid getting wet in the scrub. Grovelled down to the top of the pitch where Greggles went ahead to start rigging. After a couple of minutes we head a load crash followed by silence! Greg eventually yelled up that we was alright, however a large flak on the LHS of the pitch head detached itself! A shaken Greg retreated leaving Russell to rig the pitch using a trace high on the right hand side backed up to a thread about 10 m up the passage. Descended the pitch, dumped gear and headed down the cave having a quick look at side passages on the way. A couple appear to go on but require some climbing. After a drink where the creek enters the passage wandered down to the dig. I had a bit of a scratch in the dry way while Greg and Mark pushed the wet lead. Both were convinced it would go given a pinch bar to remove a boulder blocking progress. An attempt to drown Mark, by damming the creek and releasing it while he was in the tightest part of the lead, failed dismally. Retreated up the cave after Anthea explored the creek passage for a short distance. Greg and I prusiked the pitch then belayed the others up the ladder. Exit from the cave was quite fast and after a minor mudfight at the entrance we wandered back to Mystery Creek to clean our gear in drizzly rain. On return to the car park we met Luke, Daniel and Ellen who had spent the day sitting in Exits Nostrils protesting about the planned extensions to Benders Quarry. Met them again the Kermandie pub for a beer then home.

11 January 1992

### **Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill

Various near Halfway Hole

Party: A. McNeill, J. Butt

Oh God, not the track again!!! Found ourselves at the Halfway Hole doline by 11:30 after the usual grunt up the hill. Trogged up and Jeff went for a look at the upper section of IB136 while I went and tagged IB140 (cave 1 in the last trip report for this area). Met back at the

packs then explored the horizontal cave in the gully west of the IB136 doline (cave 2 from last week) – it choked out after a bout 10 m but may be worth a bit of a dig someday. Dropped down the hill to cave 3, enlarged the entrance and threw the ladder down. I descended about 3 m to a small chamber with the only way on a descending rift as wide as my hand – you can't win them all! Wandered up to the contact and threw the ladder down a small entrance I'd found earlier (see report 13/12/1991) located east of IB139. Descended about 2.5 m to a small cave with two chambers dominantly in breakdown, with no way on.

Had lunch near the IB136 entrance then wandered around the red taped route to the shaft located by Ken Boland (cave 5). Rigged a nice free-hanging pitch and descended the 26 m to a small cave with no way on, except a tight lead heading back toward the surface. Returned to the surface, number the entrance, IB141, and wandered around the Melancholy Cave. I tagged the entrance IB142, while Jeff did some exploring. We think we've trogged everything possible in this hole now and it has a length of approximately 100-150 m, a very pleasant cave. Followed the gully up to Great Expectations. I fixed up the number tag, which was attached by only one screw, while Jeff had a quick peek down the main passage. Continued up the gully and after a very steep climb intersected the Halfway Hole track about 50 m from the Moonlight Flats track. Back to the car by 5 pm.

Description of numbered caves:

IB140: (cave 1 from report of 1/1/1992) Two entrances, one an approx. 10 m shaft in the southern side of the IB136 depression and the second (numbered on RHS) a steeply descending rift from the eastern side of the gully immediately west of the IB136 depression. Total depth approx. 20 m; length approx. 30 m. Blocked by cemented rubble. May be a continuation of the IB136 rift.

IB141 Fluted Pot: (cave 5 from report 1/1/1992) Number on LHS. Approx 26 m pitch leads to bottom of shaft with beautifully fluted walls. A single chamber to the east has a flowstone floor and leads to an aven. A small triangular hole in the SW side of the chamber leads to a climbing passage, with minor formation and animal remains, approx. 8 m long before it becomes too tight. A daylight hole above the main numbered entrance would probably give a total depth of approx. 30 m.

IB142 Melancholy Cave: (cave 6 from report of 1/1/1992) Number on RHS of entrance. Now considered to be fully explored. Complex stream cave; approx. length 100-150 m; vertical range approx. 5 m.

14 January 1992

### **Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill

EMP Pot (IB143)

Party: J. Butt, M. Doyle, A. McNeill

Further References: Survey, drawn by Jeff Butt (no number allocated yet)

Recommendations: Bottom of this cave needs pushing.

Details: Jeff rang on Friday evening all excited about a cave he and Arthur had partly explored on the previous night. Said cave was in the face of Benders Quarry and was breathing strongly. Jeff wanted to go again on Saturday afternoon but neither Mark nor I could make it so we went on Sunday. Arrived at the entrance quite early and Jeff re-rigged the first pitch before we descended the somewhat unstable-looking drop. Surveying as we went we dropped down the second pitch finding the rope very muddy – strange as Jeff didn't remember it being muddy. Rigged the third pitch from a dubious Y-belay on two stals and descended to the keyhole. I started descending through this hole finding it quite tight. Decided to use a ladder, as may be easier than a rope, so rigged this. In doing so Mark noticed a bolt that Jeff definitely hadn't placed on Thursday night – Bastards! Bob Reid and Arthur must have come back on Saturday!! Changed the rigging once again and Jeff descended through the keyhole to the top of another pitch. As he was getting ready to put a bolt in Jeff managed to drop the bolt hammer! (Jeff Watson mk II). Placed the bolt using a rock as a hammer and Jeff descended the pitch to a large chamber with a muddy floor and a cairn – was it Little Grunt? Jeff ascended and we exited the cave de-rigging it. Placed a tag at the entrance (IB143) and headed home. Quite a satisfactory day's caving and a very good introduction to vertical caving for Mark. Apparently Bob Reid spent some time exploring the final chamber and although there are still leads could not find an obvious way on.

25 January 1992                      **Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill

Halfway Hole (IB136) Area – surface surveying

Party: Andrew Tinks, A. McNeill

Recommendations: Continue traverse to Great Expectations and back to Moonlight Flats track.

Details: Jacko *et al.*'s trip to Halfway Hole had been postponed and I didn't have anything better to do so I convinced Tunksy, a new geology PhD student, that he needed to see some of the Tassie bush and helping me survey was a good way to do it!

Climbed up the hill and surveyed from the fissure in sandstone just below the saddle in the Moonlight Flats track, down to the IB136 doline and tied in most of the entrances in this area. A quick trip into IB137 was cut short by my torch failing so we beat a retreat to have a quick look at the entrance to Mystery Creek, then home early (5 pm) as I had to go to a BBQ. A short but productive day.

27 January 1992                      **Ida Bay**

Mr Morley

Halfway Hole (IB136)

Party: P. Jackson, Bruce Morely, Dick Vincent

Details: Surveyed from entrance to top of first pitch. Re-rigged first pitch with rebelay 20 m from top and another 60 m below. Abseiled to base of large pitch – a

fine thing. Had a quick look around and placed bolt at top of next pitch – estimate 20 m. Returned to surface confident cave kept going.

30 m of small horizontal passage between base of first pitch and top of second with howling draught.

29 January 1992

**Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill (the one that got away!)

Scrub bashing west of Benders Quarry

Party: R. Fulton, A. McNeill

Recommendations: Go back, after the protests finish!

Route in marked by dark blue tapes.

Details: Russell and I met at the Wilderness Society, for a late start at 9 am, with the aim of marking a clandestine route into the quarry and to check out what work was being done. Started on the track to Mystery Creek then commenced marking a route up the first major gully, approx. 150 m from the registration booth. About 100 m up we encountered dolines and several entrances marked by old orange tapes. As we climbed we passed heaps of out-cropping limestone and at least two shafts, one of ~15 m deep, worthy of a look. After about half an hour we hit the contact close to an entrance numbered IB134 and several pink tapes. From here we traversed around to the edge of the quarry. The events of the rest of the afternoon have been recorded in the newspaper and will not be detailed here, suffice to say they involve guard dogs, security officers and a visit to the Dover police station!

23 February 1992

**Ida Bay**

Andrew McNeill

Various near Benders Quarry

Party: J. Jackson, G. Jordan, M. Doyle, A. McNeill

Recommendations: More scrub-bashing! A couple of the located entrances should be tagged. Also the IB204 tag is not properly attached – should be replaced.

Details: Weather wasn't good so decided to abort the planned trip to the Halfway Hole area and have a look at the holes RF and I found near Benders Quarry (29/1 trip report). Headed up the blue tape track in light rain and started exploring the obvious entrances where a red/orange taped route intersects the blue tapes. First cave, a teardrop-shaped shaft 10 m deep, was blocked by a large log at its bottom. Rocks thrown down a small hole went down several metres but a chainsaw(!) is required to cut the log away and enlarge this hole. About 30 m further on and to the west of the taped route, Mark descended a rift that dropped ~15 m before becoming too tight (probably worth numbering this one). We continued up hill and I descended an 8 m blind shaft on the route (now marked with two blue tapes) while further up the hill again Greg descended a 15 m deep shaft that choked off (this was the highest entrance on the route that Russell and I had found). By this stage it was pissing down so we climbed up hill slightly to a flat bench and traversed around into a dry gully to the west. As we descended Mark noticed a small entrance on the eastern side (at about the same el-

evation as the 15 m shaft). Descended a fauna-rich passage to a chamber at ~12 m from which four tight leads were examined – one is impossibly tight but the other three went and would go further with more forceful pushing and probably some digging. The cave obviously contains a small stream at times. A further lead requiring a quite difficult-looking climb was not investigated. We retreated to the surface, marked the entrance with two blue tapes and continued down the valley. I headed further to the west and found the karsty terrain disappeared. Rejoined the others where Greg had located another entrance, on eastern side of gully – marked by two blue tapes, which after a considerable bit of gardening he descended for five metres before it became too tight. Further down the valley relocated the IB204 entrance (quite impressive and looks like it should be bigger than the description in the karst index suggests). An entrance approx. 5 m east of this may go – should be checked out later. A further 20 m north found another entrance that I marked with two blue tapes and Greg descended on a handline to where the hole choked at approximately 4 m depth. By now we were getting a bit sick of being rained on so headed back to the cars by ~2 pm. A good day – there's probably more potential in the area so will have another look later.

1 March 1992

#### Ida Bay

Andrew McNeill

Great Expectations – Halfway Hole area

Party: A. McNeill, M. Doyle

Recommendations: Go back young man!!

Details: Arrived at Luke's only slightly late to find Mark asleep in his car and no Greg or Jean. Waited for half an hour – still no Greg or Jean, so headed off. Not incredibly enthusiastic – we'd both been to a party the night before, but dragged ourselves up the hill and dropped into the Great Expectations gully. Mark noticed two small entrances in the cliff line just above the Great E. entrance. We dug one of these out and entered a sizeable chamber ~15 m long. In the floor were several holes leading to a rift which by the rock-drop method indicated was ~35 m deep. Having no rope or bolts we retreated to the surface, marked the entrance with blue tape and headed down the gully. Located the entrance Mark had found a few weeks ago and threw a ladder down. Mark descended and announced we'd need another ladder. We stomped off along Mark's taped route toward Halfway Hole. It's definitely not the best route! But did check out a couple of entrances that didn't go. Retrieved the ladder from the first pitch then visited IB137. Mark managed to push the far right hand lead a further 10 m before it got too tight and he retreated. Grabbed the ladder and returned to Mark's cave via the red tape track (head directly downhill from Fluted Pot (IB141) track junction. Descended both ladders to a slot, the ladder didn't appear to reach the bottom so tied on a few tapes and descended, down some scrambles to nothing! The cave fin-

ishes in a 5 cm wide descending rift – no way on. Quite a few skulls near the bottom. Total depth ~25 m. Decided to call it Crisper Cave. Pulled the ladders out, replaced one at the top pitch of Halfway Hole and headed home. A successful day.

1 March 1992 ?

#### Ida Bay

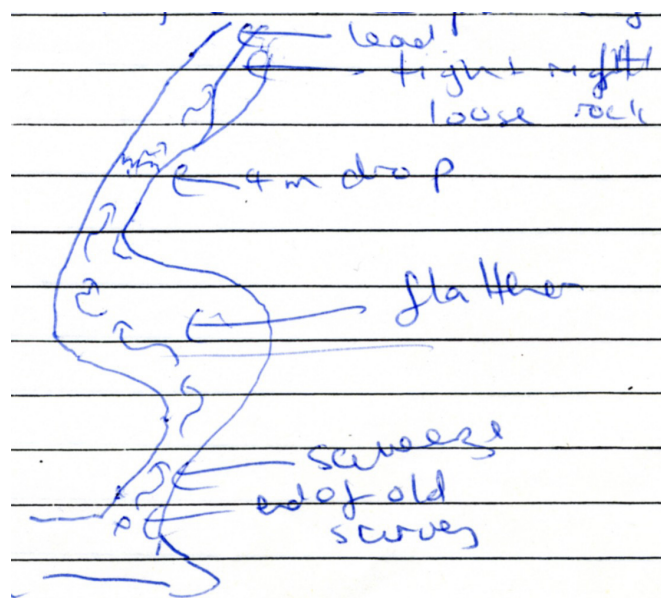
Jean Jackson

Revelation Cave

Party: G. Jordan, J. Jackson

Further References: How keen are you?

Details: Aimed for a low stress trip and dig at the end. Dug out the squeeze at the end. Pushed through to a rift with loose rock. About 30 m new horizontal, 6 m deeper. Left uneventfully.



7 March 1992

#### Ida Bay

Ruth Lanyon

Mystery Creek Cave

Party: Russell Fulton, Andrew McNeill (Bear), Anthea Hill, Jan Barton, Ruth Lanyon

Details: The original plan (to enter Mystery Creek Cave via Midnight Hole) was aborted on arrival at Midnight Hole due to a mysterious gastric illness waylaying one member of the party (who shall remain nameless). The fear of being vomited on by Bear from above was enough to decide that a horizontal entry was more appropriate. While Bear recuperated in the sun, the other four healthy strong brave members of the party entered Mystery Creek Cave via the main stream entrance and frolicked among the glowworms for an enjoyable few hours. Matchbox Squeeze was conquered by all but the laziest (he said he'd done it all before) and the cave was explored from end to end and top to bottom encountering only one other party (tourists!) along the way. The stream was extremely low (mysteriously enough) and a wondrous time was had by all (except Bear of course!).

7 March 1992                    **Junee-Florentine**  
Jean Jackson  
Growling Swallet – New Feeling  
Party: Greg Jordan, Mark Doyle, Karen McGraith (FUS-SI – ex TESS), Jean Jackson  
Recommendations: Use of ladder or some other system to make final climb into New Feeling safe.  
Details: Wandered down the streamway using tapes on some of the climbs since a couple of us were shaky (due to alcohol poisoning). Mark showed impressive stamina after a big night, but taking solid food later in the day. Water level was low.  
Found the (cairned) rift after the climb down without too much trouble. Greg climbed up and decided to pike on the final bridge over a ~6 m drop! So we continued down the streamway till the waterfall and climb then made our way out since we had no permit/key and didn't want to be locked in!  
A group of cavers camping at the car parking area near Growling – no one about. Finished the day with a tourist drive up Tim Shea and to Junee Resurgence.

8 March 1992                    **Ida Bay**  
Bruce Morley  
Halway Hole (IB136)  
Party: B. Morley, J. Watson, D. Vincent  
Details: Overcame couple of minor setbacks – late start, crook caver – to shoot down first pitch, competed some more surveying of leads off bottom of first pitch – some formation.  
Rigged second pitch (20 m) – very loose. Rigged third pitch (5 m), shot down, expecting to pop into Exit at any time. Hopes were dashed, however, as wind had disappeared and passage narrows up to nothing. Took note of large rift above final 5 m pitch. Returned to surface.

15 March 1992                    **Ida Bay**  
Andrew McNeill  
Mystery Creek – TUWC beginners trip  
Party: Andy the Arizonan, Paul Jeumeyer, Aaron Clode, Nigel Pinkus, David Rayner, Marcus Walters, Chris Aiken, Brad Jarvis, Andrew McNeill  
Details: A relatively early start meant we encountered Gregggle *et al.* at the Dover bakey. Also ran into Luke Vanzino and two others, planning to go into Mystery Creek as well – they told us Stuie Nich and Bunty had already departed for Midnight Hole while Dean, Trev and Vera arrived heading for Thun Junction – a busy day at Ida Bay! Wandered into cave and up to Matchbox Squeeze, a few people went through before Stuie *et al.* started arriving. We then retreated down the Laundry Chute and out the western branch. Navigation easier than I remembered but a few hiccups anyway. Dropped down the squeeze to the first stream sump then headed to the end of the cave and the rift above the second sump. The trip out was punctuated by an encounter with Gregggle and co ??? a quick visit to the waterfall and Cephalopod

Creek. The glowworms were also in fine form! Out into the rain by ~3:45 pm. A very enjoyable day for all concerned, after a total of five hours underground.

22 March 1992                    **Junee-Florentine**  
Andrew McNeill  
Welcome Stranger, a very little bit of Growling  
Party: Georgina Davis, Murray Haseler, Andrew McNeill  
Details: After an incredibly early start, ~7:20 am (well, incredibly early for a trip to Welcome Stranger). Quite a cold morning so glad to be in the cave – water level the lowest I've seen it. Wandered up to the sump and explored ??? side passages before returning to surface for lunch in the sun. Decided to visit Growling. Both Georgie and Murray suitably impressed by the entrance. Descended down the first couple of handlines before encountering Stuie Nicholas and his party coming out, as it was their rigging gear we beat a retreat. As still quite early drove up to the top of Tim Shea – another good view. Out and home early.

25 April 1992                    **Junee-Florentine**  
Andrew McNeill  
Khazad-Dum – search and rescue exercise  
Party: D. Morgan, M. Doyle, J. Butt, Lindsay Wilson, A. McNeill and a cast of thousands from TCC, Northern Caverneers and the police.  
Recommendations: Should be more of these – very educational.  
Details (the Bear's version): Made it to the police SAR store roughly on time ~6:10 am. After a quick briefing headed in convoy to the Junee Quarry Road and the search base which was set up on the knoll just past the KD track. Chaos reigned for a while until the rigging party (me, Dean and Bunty), phone party (Stuie Nicholas and Scott) and patient and helper headed into the cave. Meandered down the main route to the 21 m pitch where Bunty placed two bolts out in the rift to give a free hang. Stuie and the patient soon arrived and Dean, Stuie, Nick and Jason, the patient, descended the pitch while the haul system was set up.  
Hauling was quick and easy but getting the stretcher off the pitch was more of a problem especially with Dean nearly torching the ropes with his carbine every time he bent over! Struggled a bit with the stretcher which hadn't been assembled correctly. Support arrived so Dean and I started heading out, assisting Bunty rig and bolt the 9 m pitch and left Bunty bolting the 28 m pitch. A pleasant wander out passing several pairs heading in, including Jeff Butt, to arrive on the surface in light drizzle. Sat around Bob Reid's fire for a while until Stuie Scott arrive and Mark Doyle and three others headed down. After a rest wandered back to the caravan passing Lindsay Wilson heading in, who relieved us of the bolt kit. Bunty and I spend the rest of the exercise sitting around the fire, until everyone arrived back having taken 8.25 hours to extricate the patient from the cave.

2 May 1992                    **Junee-Florentine**  
Andrew McNeill  
Welcome Stranger, Gormenghast  
Party: Mike Roach, Mike Roache, M. Doyle, A. McNeill  
Recommendations: Go back and investigate the dyke further! Gormenghast is a good beginners' cave.  
Details: Met at the Geology department and after a take-away stop at Westerway were into the first cave, Welcome Stranger, by 10 am. Wandered up to the sump then back more slowly as Mike Roach took photos and we explored some side passages I hadn't visited before. Lunch back at the surface in light drizzle then drove to the Gormenghast. Found the track is overgrown with ferns, water levels very low! Wandered down to the vicinity of Shrimp Squeeze and noticed for the first time that the cave in this area is formed along a very feldspar rich dyke (feeder to the dolerites on Mt Field West?). Grabbed a small sample after deciding that we'd run out of time and should return to the surface. An uneventful but very wet return to Hobart. A very pleasant day.

15 May 1993                    **Ida Bay**  
Halfway Hole  
Party: J. Butt, A. McNeill, D. Rasch, D. Muskee  
[no report]

22 May 1993  
Party: J. Butt, D. Rasch

8 August 1993                    **Ida Bay**  
Andrew McNeill  
Many and varied from Cyclops (IB57) to Baader Meinhoff (IB113)  
Party: A McNeill, R. Fulton, A. Clarke, Mick Williams  
Recommendations: Don't bother with the contact north of IB113. It's been done to death.  
Details: Russell suggested we should scrub-bash from IB113 to Halfway Hole so we wandered down to the quarry, collecting Arthur with a minimal amount of time wasting. In along track to tag an entrance near Cyclops that Mark Doyle and I had looked at the week before – Russell thinks he and P. Jackson looked at this hole quite a few years ago! Traversed along contact to have lunch at a big rift with large logs just as it started raining. Pressed on past Mini Martin to eventually reach IB113. Found number tag hanging on tree so attached it to entrance. Getting very cold and wet so after a quick look around the IB113 area headed back to the quarry arrive ~4:30 pm.

29 August 1993                    **Junee-Florentine**  
Greg Jordan  
Rift Cave  
Party: Russell Leonard Fulton, Greg Jordan  
Details: We went to the Florentine, met J. Butt and D. Rasch on their way to discoveries in JF341.  
Well, we walked to 341, to Chairman, then there were no

more excuses. Went down Rift to see about digging out the bottom of the entrance rift. The water levels were a little high so we dug out gravel and the hole immediately [filled] with slurry. Maybe in a month or two.  
Went to Junee quarry afterwards and noted that there is a significant fault here (is this the line of the 341 streamway??)

18 September 1993                    **Junee-Florentine**  
Greg Jordan  
Growling  
Party: J. Butt, Sue Baker, Shirley the American, Greg Jordan  
Details: Went to the Growler to go to New Feeling. We went, we wandered, we climbed, I piked a a time, we left, went down the streamway.  
The stream was quite low. The second bottom climb in the dry bypass is now very wet.  
Buttsy found a route around one of the pitches in New Feeling.

19 September 1993                    **Ida Bay**  
Jeff Butt  
Midnight Hole through-trip  
Party: Sue Baker, Shirley Ulrich (Minnesota Speleo), Jeff Smith (visitor), Jeff Butt  
Details: A pleasant through trip. Sues first abseil underground. Shirley's first glowworms. Jeff Smith's first squeeze.

11 June 1994                    **Junee-Florentine**  
Andrew McNeill  
Party: D. Rasch, B. Russell, A. McNeill  
Recommendations: Go back young man!  
Details: Not really feeling like a big day so a late start before heading to car park at JF341 track start. Very cold getting changed but away by about 11 am. Wandered in to Washout Cave. Planned to re-locate an un-numbered shaft which lies above an interesting part of Rift Cave. On the first go we followed the left back of Washout Creek then contoured around the west. Decided this was not the right direction so retreated to Washout and tried a more scientific approach – trying walking on a compass bearing. This was more successful and we located a draughting entrance that takes a small stream (parallel to Washout creek). Jeff had described the pot we were after as being marked by a blue tape – we couldn't see one but thought this must be the entrance. Dave and Barry started digging it out while I checked out another possibility that didn't go. Dave had found a handline so I climbed down with a rope. Dave rigged the 4-5 m drop and descended to find the obvious small creek we were following sumped. However, a second small creek disappeared into a draughting hole. Dave and I spend about half an hour trying to dig this out – we gave up but more work may see it go! Current total depth of cave ~20 m – it deserves a number. Retreated to surface for lunch.

Decided to strike out toward Niagara Pot so followed Washout creek up to estimated position of contact then started traversing west doing a 'line search'. After about 200-300 metres of pretty uninspiring country Dave found a dry gully which he followed for a short distance before locating quite an impressive shaft. Threw a ~30 m rope down and Dave descended to report the cave closed off at ~40 m but there was a draughting lead requiring digging at -30 m. As it was getting late and we didn't really know where we were (!) we started heading down the dry gully trying a route and locating three pink taped pots (TCC 10-2-90) on the way. Found the Rift-341 track at the 'log swing' then headed on home – quite enthused.

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