

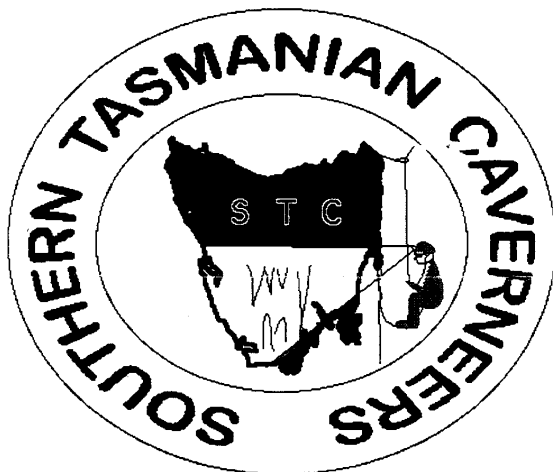
Speleo Spiel #300 Jan-Feb 1997

Newsletter of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers.

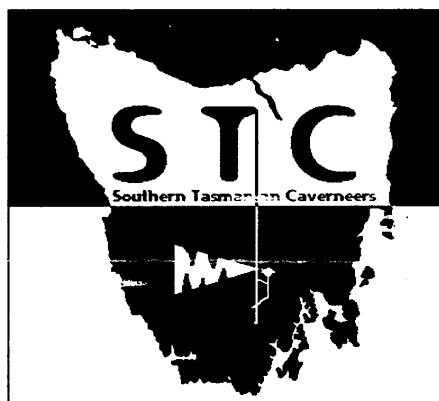
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Logo 1



Logo 2



Logo 3



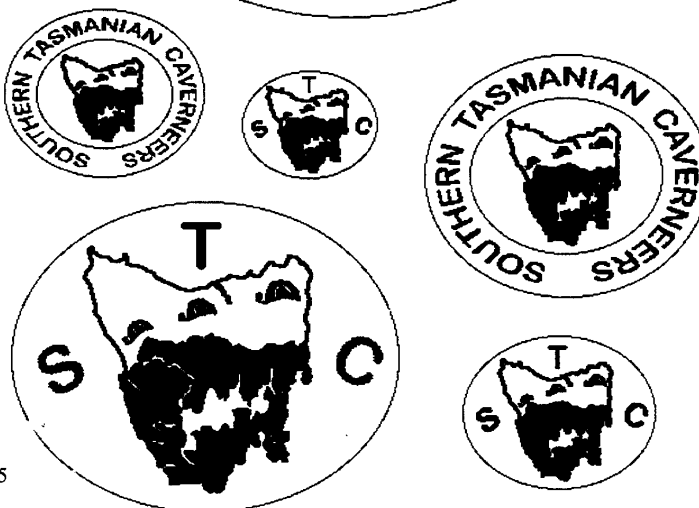
Logo 4



The STC needs a new logo
One of these will be selected
at the next general meeting
on Wed 2/4/97.

Arranged here are the
suggestions to date if you like
one of these please inform
the meeting of your
preference. If you don't like
any of them then get busy
and send your design in
before the meeting.

Logo 5



Speleo Spiel

Issue Number 300 January 1997

Newsletter of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers PO Box 416 Sandy Bay Tasmania 7004

Web page: <http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/scaving/>

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Cover Suggested logo's

Editorial:

Yet again the Spiel has a new editor/editors, the merged club decided to elect several editors in the hope that between them they could manage to keep this publication on time. Obviously this hasn't worked. I guess I am reassured to see that the recent merger has not affected everyone's attitude to caving.

Or am I being to cynical, a quick look at the list of activity since amalgamation suggests that more caving is being done than most people realise.

Spiel on the internet: Before sending this issue I tried to contact most of our subscribers, you now have a choice of formats you can continue to receive this Hard copy version and or you can elect to receive the Internet .html format version. The internet version will be sent by email as an x.zip attachment. Save the attachment and unzip the contents to any one directory then use your browser to open the file "spXXX.zip" If you would like to receive the internet version please notify me by email: jauhawk@ozemail.com.au Please remember to specify whether you want to continue receiving the Hard Copy version. (Save trees go electronic)

The Cave Archive project: Those of you with Email will probably have heard all about this so for those who haven't read on. As you are no doubt aware, information about a particular cave may be scattered over a dozen issues of the Spiel and Southern Caver to successfully research what work has gone before requires a complete set of both publications and many hours to track down references from the occasional indexes that have been compiled.

The Archive project aims to eventually digitise all back issues of both journals and any other club publications. Then using HTML cross reference articles and trip reports to the caves they refer to. The finished archive will be presented in an internet style format the archive will not be available on the net but club members may obtain copies which can be stored on any home computer.

To date nearly 200 caves referenced in 100 Spiel's, 5 S Cavers and the TCC exploration journal are already in the archive. The remaining 200 Spiels and 40 S Cavers were printed on gestetner and the print quality is too poor to scan. **We desperately need volunteers to retype these issues**, you do not need any knowledge of HTML. All you need is a word processor and some spare time. If every club member with a word processor and some spare time could type up 5 issues over 6 months then the project would be nearly complete. If you would like to help with this project please contact John Hawkins-Salt Ph wk (03) 62349544, Email: jayhawk@ozemail.com.au

Club Matters:

S.T.C: A new "beginning" for old faces

On December 4th 1996, caving in southern Tasmania took on a new face. In fact, to many of us, it was just the same old faces, going the same places, but now with a new name to the faces.

Barely two and a half weeks after the Tasmanian Caverneering Club (TCC) celebrated its 50th anniversary as the oldest caving group in Australia (they actually formed in September 1946, not November!), TCC amalgamated with the two other southern-faced groups of faces that represented organised caving in Tasmania: the Southern Caving Society (SCS) and the Tasmanian Cave and Karst Research Group (TCKRG). It wasn't all plain sailing (and not a lot of caving either) and unfortunately we also lost a few familiar faces in the process..... come back Stuey; come back Bob! Despite the fact that we had an elected steering group that had already put together a new constitution (based on the previous SCS, TCC and TCKRG models), there were at least several stages in the amalgamation process, when it seemed like the whole thing was going to falter.

Trevor had gone off o.s. to grab a souvenir, some of the diehard life members went a bit ape and some decided it was time to see the light of day and give caving a miss, TCC lost Dean from its helm for a while and consequently lost both its President and *Speleo Spiel* editor as well, then TCC Vice-President: John Steen went out in sympathy with Dean, Albert Goede did the sensible thing and went off caving and studying in New Zealand, Jol went to Canberra to do his straw stalactite

analysis thing at ANU and then the SCS President (Jeff) just seemed to disappear, no one really knew where.... but then he came back again..... and so did almost everyone else!

Then there was that damned name thingy we could not seem to agree about, combined with the claims and counter-claims that pre-amalgamation meetings with all cavers were being stacked by either TCC members or SCS members, depending on what the issue was going to be voted on. So for those of you who came in late..... you can close the door behind you now! How did we get our name? Why was there an amalgamation?

So many questions.....

.....too many answers. Well, the suggestion for amalgamation came out of the AGM's of both SCS and TCC early in 1996 and some earlier informal pub discussions back in 1995, but it was not really a recent thing..... there had been moves to amalgamate virtually within a year or two after the breakaway group left TCC to form SCS some 32 years ago and then again in the 1970's and 1980's. In more recent times it had become obvious that the same old faces were filling the same old places year after year, to the point where the respective Presidents of SCS, TCC and TCKRG were also the respective editors of SCS, TCC and TCKRG journals..... too much work for too few people!

So here in Tasmania where there are reportedly more than 4,000 caves in 300 (plus) separate areas of carbonate rock (but not all karstified), we couldn't find enough cavers to do all the exploration and documentation in southern Tasmania. Plus of course, in our thriving city with a population of 150,000, there were not enough Hobart people to keep two recreational or sporting type caving clubs and one cave science based group active and not enough willing hands to share the workload of each organisation. So here we are now, one big happy family: Southern Tasmanian Caverneers (STC)!

There were four names being considered for our new amalgamated body, but we eventually ended up with SOUTHERN TASMANIAN CAVERNEERS: the name first chosen at the combined EGM of all three groups back in late May (29-v-1996). It had been suggested then that "Southern" coming from SCS reflected the fact that we were based here in the south of State; "Tasmanian" coming from "TCC" was indicating the name of our State (Tasmania) and "Caverneers" was in fact a word peculiar to Tasmania: "invented" by those first intrepid pioneering cavers who originally formed the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, back in September 1946, barely a year after the end of the Second World War. So, what about the TCKRG, where did they fit into this new name and the amalgamation process? Well, they did not fit into the name, but they also did not want to be left out in the cold without their caving thermals on! Most TCKRG members had been recreational cavers at some stage and many were either ex-members or present members of TCC or SCS and it seemed appropriate that provided any new body of cavers in southern Tasmania was prepared to also have a science component (preferably with its own funding source), then TCKRG was prepared to join the party. Any more questions?

STC is meeting on the first Wednesday of every month at Hampden House (Battery Point) in the Brownlow Room (above the RAFT office)..... 8pm start. There is some suggestion that we might have more informal pub nights on the 3rd Wednesday of the month as well....see Kelly Miller (President of Vice for Social Tasmanian Caverneers). Well, who else is elected to what? Presently elected (and relieving) office bearers include: **Arthur Clarke** (*President*), **Kelly Miller** (*Vice-President*), **Dean Morgan** - presently being relieved by **Jol Desmarchelier** (*Secretary*), **Vaughan Andrews** (*Treasurer*), **Jeff Butt**, **John Hawkins-Salt & Vaughan Andrews** (*Joint Editors*), **Albert Goede** (*Scientific Officer*), **Jeff Butt** (*Equipment Officer*), **Stephen Bunton** (*Public Officer*), **Arthur Clarke** (*Karst Co-ordinating Officer and Librarian*), **Jeff Butt and Dean Morgan** (*Search and Rescue Co-ordinating Officers*); **Trevor Wailes** has offered to be our *Map Archivist*. Other news: Dean Morgan is now the Editor for Australian Speleological Federation's (ASF) *Australian Caver*; Jol is acting as STC Secretary; Jeff Butt is going overseas, so arrangements have been made for gear access. We have agreed to apply to become a full member club of ASF. STC has inherited the former post office box of TCC, so all correspondence should be forwarded to: **Southern Tasmanian Caverneers, P.O. Box 416, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005.**

Well, what have we been up to since coming together on December 4th last year? Apart from the odd meeting or two and a Christmas Party to boot and a slide evening, there's actually been a bit of caving going on! The details of some of these trips will appear elsewhere in this esteemed newsletter; fittingly in **Speleo Spiel** number 300: the first issue produced under the banner of Southern Tasmanian Caverneers.

Following is a summary of caving trips by STC personnel since amalgamation day:

- December 7th - Mole Creek: Kubla Khan..... Jeff Butt and Northern Caverneers;
- December 8th - Mole Creek: Queen of Sheeba, Ghengis Khan, Marakoopa 1..... Jeff Butt and Northern Caverneers;
- December 8^h - Hastings: Bush-bashing search for Beatties Cave.... Arthur Clarke and locals; plus Ida Bay: Bradley-Chesterman Cave..... searching for cave fauna;
- December 12th - Ida Bay: Exit Cave, replacing batteries and changing over data loggers in streamway for Ian Houshold..... Jeff Butt and Wayne Tyrill;
- December 18th - Junee-Florentine: Slaughter House Pot - Growling Swallet through trip.... John Salt and Ian Langstaff;
- December 22nd - Junee-Florentine: Growling Swallet (Trapdoor Streamway and upper level extension)..... John Hawkins-Salt, Ian Langstaff, Dean Morgan and niece (Sophie) plus friend, Kelly Miller, Leigh Douglas and Arthur Clarke;
- December 24th - Junee-Florentine: Growling Swallet (Trapdoor extension survey).....
- J. H-Salt ; I. Langstaff; K. Miller;
- December 29th - Gunns Plains: Classic Clastic Cave, trying to avoid the mud and Fred Dutton(?), plus Great Western Cave, checking cave fauna sites and examining palaeokarst deposit.... Arthur Clarke and Steve Blanden (Savage River Caving Club);
- December 30th - Loongana: Swallownest Cave, Mostyn Hardy Cave and mound springs, searching for cave fauna especially hydrobiid gastropods..... Arthur Clarke, Steve Blanden and Winston Ponder (Australian Museum, Sydney);
- December 31st - Gunns Plains: Gunns Plains Tourist Cave, Weerona Cave, searching for tiny hydrobiid gastropods and crangonyctoid amphipods in cave streamways..... A. Clarke, S. Blanden and W. Ponder;
- January 5th - 7th (1997) Ida Bay: Exit Cave, Sydney Uni Speleo Soc. visit to Tasmania - track marking in Grand Fissure and Damacles passage... IanHoushold & SUSS;
- January 12th - Junee-Florentine: Growling Swallet (Space Rat Alley and Necrosis)..... John Hawkins-Salt and Kelly Miller;
- January 26th - Junee-Florentine: Growling Swallet, Trapdoor extension exploration and survey..... J. H-Salt, D. Morgan, K. Miller;
- February 2nd - Junee-Florentine: Peanut Brittle Pot..... Jeff Butt, Wayne Tyrill and Dave Rasch;
- February 2nd - Junee-Florentine: Frankcombes Cave and Growling Swallet, search for broken straw stalactites suitable for trace element and isotope analysis in palaeoclimatic studies.... Albert Goede and Jolyon Desmarchelier;
- February 6th - Secret Location (?): Big abseil/ prussik (off manmade structure), sounds like one of them damn long walls..... Jeff Butt and Dave Rasch (see report elsewhere);
- February 9th - Junee-Florentine: Coles Creek area, exploration "swim" in deep water of a "new" 2-3m wide stream cave near Wylds Cragg..... Rolan Eberhard and others;
- February 16th - Ida Bay: Mystery Creek Cave, beginners trip and inspection of "new" chunk of limestone recently fallen from cave roof.... Arthur Clarke and friend Anne.

STC and the electronic age; where to now? Interestingly about two-thirds of our 40-45 members have access to electronic mail, but perhaps not necessarily all having the same computer literacy skills when it comes to sending email attachments or setting up website homepages. We need to be very mindful that we still communicate by telephone, "snail-mail" Australia Post and talkfests at regular meetings so we don't disenfranchise the other third of our membership who may not own a computer.

Electronic mail/ http websites/ jargon for some but not for all.

Arthur Clarke

Minutes of meeting No 1 of the STC at Hampden House, Battery Pt. 18/12/96

Meeting Opened: 8.30pm

Present: John Steen, Albert Goede, Greg Middleton, Ian Household, Peter Verwey, John Hawkins-Salt, Arthur Clark (Pres), Jeff Butt, Wayne Tyrell, Therese March, Leigh Douglas, Vaughan Andrews, (tres) Nigel Williams, Tess, Di Sward, Rae Glazik, Joel Desmarchelier, Dean Morgan (Sec), Kelly Miller (Vice-Pres), Trevor Wailes

Apologies: Dave Nichols, Sarah Boyle, Stephen Bunton, Kent Henderson, Mick Williams, Tom Porritt.

Previous Minutes: Accepted as read. (Moved AC, Seconded JB)

Business Arising:

- Stephen Bunton had accepted the position of Public Officer.
- Albert Goede had accepted the position of Scientific Officer.
- Arthur emphasized the need to have more than 2 names on the S&R list supplied to Police.
- Dean to organise a proper list for S&R.
- TCC & SCS gear had been sorted. Roughly 1300 metres of rope, with around 800 metres good, and 500 metres 'dodgy'.
- Arthur asked about the club stamp. Agreed to proceed with a stamp with only the name and address of the club and not worry about a logo for now.

General Business:

- Arthur raised the issue of access to the club gear when the Equipment Officer was away. Jeff said that arrangements could be made, and possibly another key could be left with other office bearers.
- Jeff presented a draft of a 'membership form'. All agreed to accept the draft as is.
- Greg Middleton applied for membership and was accepted.
- Ian Household "complained" about the cost of Household Membership being \$50 for him!!! (see next point)
- Membership fees decided were:
 - \$25 for Full Membership.
 - \$18 for Junior Membership.
 - \$10 for Prospective Membership.
 - \$40 for Household Membership.
- Albert commented that he had a drawer full of TCC maps. Trevor offered to look after them.

Progress Report:

It was reported that all was ready to go with Corporate affairs, and all funds were in the process of being transferred. Letters need to be sent out to all relevant caving clubs to inform them of the amalgamation, and Jeff was going to a S&R meeting the following night to let them know of the changes. All books will need closing off properly and auditing..

Finances: \$197.30 Food & Drinks for the following festivities. \$16.00 Treasurers new books. \$10.00 Meeting room hire.

Meeting Closed 9pm

I know we do not usually report the minutes in the Spiel but I thought as this was the first official STC meeting they should go in for posterity. ED

Super drill: see trip reports

The club cordless hammer drill has been modified and now sports a belt mounted battery pack. This increased storage should give around 30 8mm holes or 10+ 12mm holes "in limestone". Happy bolting.

Florentine Access:

As the merged club now has two Florentine gate keys it was decided the second key will be kept at the Hobart Indoor Climbing Gym (ph 03 62349544) which is open 7 days. This should make life easier if Jeff is off caving when someone else wants the key.

An update from the Quartermasters Store

It wasn't long ago that a large station-wagon load of X-TCC gear was combined with half a room of X-SCS gear to form the veritable mountain of STC gear. The quality and serviceability of items in this pile varied between excellent to trash. Over the last month I have been gradually sorting out all the gear and thought it a good idea to give members an update.

LAMPS: All lamps have been tested, repaired and an identifying orange label has been painted on the battery case. Oldham (4 Volt) lamps are labelled with the letters "A", "B", etc. Gel Cell (6 Volt) lamps are labelled with the numbers "1", "2", etc. If there are any problems with any lamp, then it should be easy to let me know that Lamp X has problem Y when you return it. If a problem is reported, it will be fixed!

Capacities of all lamps were measured (in terms of the number of hours on High Beam) as part of the overhaul and several batteries were retired. After weeding out the bad ones there are 23 Lamps remaining. The capacities of these are recorded in a table at the rear of the Gear Loans book. For a battery to remain in the pool is desirable for it to have at least 7-8 hours capacity, (when new the capacity is about 14-15 hours). The table below gives the capacities (at Jan '97), note that I only tested up to 8 hours, so you will see many ">" signs in this table.

	4 Volt Oldhams												6 Volt Gel-Cells											
Lamp	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Capacity* (Hrs)	>8	>8	>8	>8	>8	>8	4	>8	>8	6	>7	>7	>8	>8	>8	>8	>8	8	>8	>8	>8	>8	7	

Lamp "G" has been placed to the side. Lamps "J" and "13" are still in the lamp pool.

Six new belts have been made up. Some of you will be pleased to know that I used a more generous waistline than my own as the appropriate length for this batch!

HELMETS: There are 14 serviceable Safety Helmets (Construction Workers Helmets), which are only suitable for horizontal caving. There are 2 (almost brand new) SRT suitable helmets.

ROPES: I am still currently working on checking (any questionable sections found are being cut), cataloguing and labelling (length and year) the ropes. Roughly, there is about 1000-1200 m (about 350m still on the roll) of rope and about 40% is of 11 mm diameter, 20% 10 mm and 40 % 9 mm. About 50 % is Bluewater and the other 30% Beal and 20% Edelrid. The couple of "X-Chech." ropes have been destroyed. About half of the 11 mm Bluewater is on the stiff side. Most of the 9 and 10 mm ropes are in good condition, although there are a few short lengths that have seen a lot of use and are very furry.

About half of the 11 mm rope is 10 and 13 years old. There is an amount of rope of indeterminate age, which probably means older still.

Once I finish cataloguing what we have, I would like to scrap any rope that is older than 10 years (or of indeterminate age), too stiff or too furry. Parts of this proposition met with some disapproval at the last STC meeting, with several people saying that they were more than happy to hang their life on 10+ year old rope. As a result I propose that we test some of this older rope with the 80 kg drop test rig that I have and use the results as a basis for further decision making.

LADDERS AND TRACES: Prior to the amalgamation both clubs had sorted out their ladders and traces and all commercially made ladders are in good condition. There are a few lengths of club made ladder (steel cable, alloy rungs and copper swages) that must be pushing 20 years of age. Given the potential for electrolytic corrosion under the copper swages (un-observable) these ladders will be out of use until professionally assessed or tested.

SRT GEAR, BOLTING GEAR: I haven't got this far yet. I do know that there are approximately 5 sets of 'uppers' and 'downers'. However many of the downers are at the end of their useful life. I believe the bolt kit to be in good condition.

POWER DRILL: This hasn't seen the Store yet, as it is in use. I believe that it is in excellent working order.

SURVEY GEAR There are three complete sets of gear. The accuracy/calibrations of these instruments have not been assessed. If you plan to use them it would be worth your while to run a few checks on them first.

ROPE PROTECTORS There is a large pile, half are the PVC type, the other half are constructed from old fire hose.

STC WAREHOUSE SALES: See the add in the back of this Spiel for what there is in stock. Note that the price of Carbide is now about \$500-600 per 100 kg drum, if you can get it! As a result the price on our scant remaining carbide has been set at replacement value, i.e. \$6 per kg. Also, since supplies are limited individuals will only be able to purchase small quantities.

So that's where I am up to with the gear. Given the amount of time this is taking I haven't had a chance to look at much in the way of Editorial responsibilities, or to make a start on cataloguing the X-SCS archives.

A Few Words On Borrowing Gear From The Store

If you are planning a trip and require gear from the store, here are some of the ground rules:

- Contact me by phone 62 238620 and if I'm not there leave your requirements on the answering machine. (Note that I don't check my Email on a daily basis, so the phone is the best means.)
- For gear needed on the weekend you should contact me before Friday. If you leave it to Saturday, I am most likely to be away and so there is no guarantee of getting the gear. Vaughan 62 238401 also has a key, so he is the second chance.
- Record all loans in the gear book accurately and completely, e.g. Lamps A, F and G; not just 3 lamps; e.g. Ropes 35 m/1992/9 mm, 70 m/1995/10 mm; not just 2 ropes.
- Gear should be returned promptly and in a clean state. When taking ropes the rope-washer (fits on a normal hose) should also be taken so that you can clean the ropes before they are returned.
- Any damage should be reported, e.g. abrasion point on a rope, rope subject to a shock load, any dropped gear, Low bulb blown in Lamp "3" etc.
- The person returning the gear is responsible for collecting and paying any hire money (see table below) owing for any of the gear. It is simply not good enough to return the gear and say that person A owes this much and person B owes that etc. A receipt will be issued upon receipt of any money collected.
- Lamps taken for a weekend day should be returned by the Wednesday following, at the latest. Lamps are in high demand, there are several good customers who regularly want 15 units-this earns good income for the club.
- Lamps, belts and helmets should be thoroughly hosed clean after use. If they are still muddy helmets should also be wiped with a damp cloth.

GEAR HIRE RATES (to be ratified at the next STC meeting):

Item	Notes	Members	Non-members	Commercial group
Lamp, belt	Helmets provided free of charge	\$3	\$4	\$5
Pack	For personal use.	\$1	\$2	N/A**
Harness/descender	For single pitch cave, e.g. Loons	\$1	\$2*	N/A
	For multi-pitch cave, e.g. Midnight Hole	\$5	\$6*	N/A
Complete SRT set	For single pitch cave, e.g. Loons	\$3	\$5*	N/A
	For multi-pitch cave, e.g. Midnight Hole	\$8	\$10*	N/A
* Only available for use on a trip with Club members. ** N/A = Not Available.				
NB. Ropes, Rope Packs, ladders and other equipment are only available for members use. There is no hire fee for these, it is a privilege of membership. However any losses arising through abuse or neglect must be made good by the member.				

Trip Reports:

Playing with the new club drill, Growling Swallet JF-36

Trapdoor Stream 18/12/96 Party: *Ian Langstaf, John Hawkins-Salt*

This trip had two purposes, 1: An introductory Slaughterhouse - Growling through-trip for Ian who had come down from Brisbane to "try caving". 2: To carry the drill in and start a bolt ladder up the scaling pole aven in Trapdoor stream.

Both the scaling pole and waterfall avens appear to be part of the same rift system which carries an active inflow from the Trapdoor system. The fact that this flow is entering the "known" system several hundred meters downstream from the Trapdoor aven suggests significant development above and parallel to the Trapdoor stream. If navigable this area could connect back to Trapdoor Swallet and / or provide a higher connection on to Necrosis thus bypassing the Herpes III flood zone.

Other than Ian's introduction to re-birthing in the Slaughterhouse entrance series, the trog down to the Trapdoor stream was quick and uneventful. As we had the drill, a backup bolt was added to the second pitch (see sp299 Slaughterhouse re bolted). The gear was left at the scaling pole aven while we wandered down to Herpes. Water levels were very low though there was extensive evidence of recent flooding. Feeling confident of an unhindered exit through Growling we returned to the aven.

Using etriers 12 bolts were placed gaining some 9-10 meters of height. Intermediate bolts were 8x40mm Dynabolts the top two were 10x60mm Dynabolts. The idea was that Dynabolts could be removed and reused, reducing cost and not leaving an ugly line of scars up the wall. 8mm bolts are less taxing on battery resources and the 10mm bolts provided a more substantial anchor for removing the lower bolts on abseil and returning to the high point. The whole system worked surprisingly well and work was only halted as the belayer was starting to freeze solid.

The gear was stashed in Destiny and a leisurely return made through Growling. All in all an enjoyable trip with a good start made for further work. We returned to Hobart in time for the meeting's. Another trip was planned for the coming Sunday.

In future a self belay with a short length of dynamic and a Shunt or Gibbs would be more comforting and free the belayer to stay warm or go and do something more productive. Some additional aid

gear could also speed up the process. Nuts, Pitons and Friends where possible, sky hook placements could be chipped every second step etc.. I think with some refinements this type of aiding will prove a powerful tool for future exploration.

John Hawkins-Salt

Part 2: 22/12/96

Party: *Dean Morgan, & two beginners, Kelly Miller, Leigh Douglas, Arthur Clarke, Ian Langstaf, John Hawkins-Salt*

With the usual delays our 8am start saw the last members underground by 12am. Dean and his beginners had given up waiting and taken off for Trapdoor & Herpes III. I waited at the entrance for Arthur and Ian, since Ian had the drill battery this seemed prudent. Leaving Arthur, Kelly & Leigh to make their own pace, Ian and I took off.

Before we had finished getting organised Kelly and Leigh arrived, Arthur's knee had given up so he stayed in the main stream collecting bugs. Anyway we continued bolting from the previous high point, 7 more bolts were placed and a grate deal of time wasted negotiating some protruding / overhanging mudstone bands. With much grunting and amidst showers of mudstone and pebbles a serpentine overflow passage was reached, from this point the stream and waterfall could be clearly heard a short distance away.

While waiting for others to ascend I looked around and confirmed that the stream was accessible. Kelly's light had failed and so, forgoing the lure of new passage Kelly and Leigh started out, and Ian ascended the pitch.

The overflow passage joined the stream some 10m on and 5m before the waterfall back to the trapdoor stream. We continued upstream for something less than 300m in narrow but not uncomfortable serpentine passage, to the base of a 30m? aven and waterfall. The entire passage showed high level development with our lights failing to illuminate an upper limit to the passage. If necessary the aven could be scaled using the same techniques, better rock and the ability to make some free moves in the rift should make the process faster. About half way to the aven an obvious route over a large chock boulder led up into the rift. This led steeply up several ramps to the underside of a large and unstable talus pile. The stream could still be heard I suspect we were level with or above the aven's inlet. After some very delicate poking around under the boulders we decided to call it a day.

A survey of the areas discovered may determine weather pushing into the boulder pile or further bolting is worth the effort. Apparently Stefan described entering a similar area of steeply ascending unstable talus above the upstream waterfall in Trapdoor stream. Surveying may show if we were close to where these waters originally separate. Thanks to Ian Kelly & Leigh for their patience while I was learning to aid climb. With luck future discoveries will justify the effort.

John Hawkins-Salt

Midnight Hole IB-11 5/1/97

Party: *John, Maree & Storm (age 3) Hawkins-Salt, Dave and Jenny (tourists)*

The weather was less than conducive for climbing so what to do on short notice, obvious, Midnight Hole. With no baby sitter available we decided it was time for Storm's first vertical trip. As usual the cave was about as exciting as a walk to the local pizza shop. Storm was so comfortable with his SRT rig that he fell asleep on the 5th pitch only to be rudely awoken at the Matchbox. Much to everyone's disgust he negotiated the squeeze standing upright and bending only once for the tightest bit. A swim in the Lune River finished a pleasant if lazy day.

John Hawkins-Salt

Part 3: Surveying 24/12/96

Party: *Kelly Miller, Ian Langstaff, John Hawkins-Salt.*

Returning to survey previous finds and maybe push the boulder pile a bit further, hopes were high for a quick and productive trip. The scaling pole aven was reached after about 45 min still a bit slow but improving. The new pitch was ascended and a survey commenced up to the base of the next waterfall the limit of previous exploration.

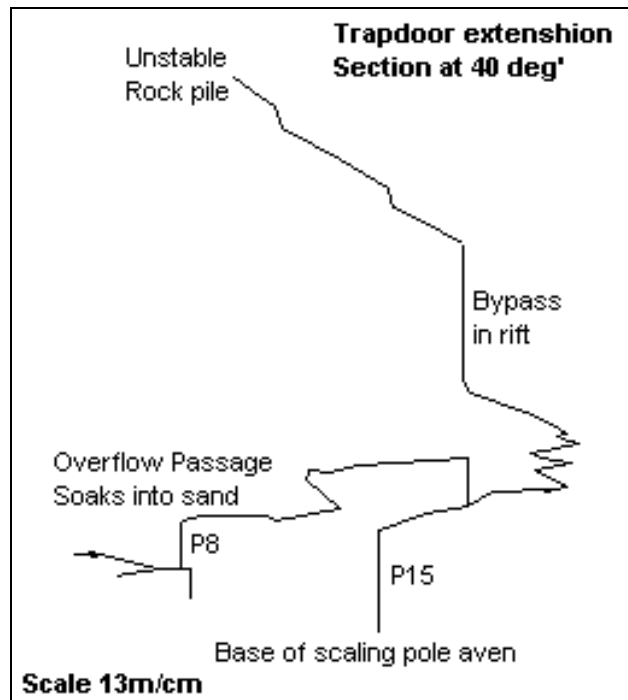
After this we returned to the rock pile to continue exploration after a bit of squirming I reached a point directly above the head of the waterfall, while waiting for Kelly to bring up a handline Ian returned to report a good lead higher up.

The pile opened into a spacious chamber with the entire floor suspended over the rift below. This area warrants further work also the boulder pile continues up above the chamber. From here a narrow rift continued toward the stream, a handline was rigged from a small balcony to reach the stream. Back in well defined passage the stream continued steeply up for some 40 m where multiple water sources issued from the base of another boulder pile. The survey revealed that this point is very close to the base of Trapdoor Swallet further work may prove fruitful.

After surveying from this high point back to the top of the waterfall we returned to the Destiny junction for a quick coffee before heading out.

Back at the entrance after 7 hours with 218m horizontal and 90m vertical of new passage, and time to wash the gear. All in all a productive and very enjoyable trip making a pleasant change from recent tourist trips. I look forward to more of the same.

John Hawkins-Salt



Touristing Slaughterhouse Pot

02/02/97 Party: *John & Maree Hawkins-Salt (STC) Jill, Stuart & Joel (MUMC)*

We set out to introduce some Melbourne Uni Cavers/Climbers to Tassy caving. Trapdoor stream was reached without event, most of the party continued up the scaling pole aven for a look at "the new bit" while I dashed on ahead to check a bearing taken on the last trip. With this done we stopped for coffee in Café Destiny then headed out. Water in the main stream was very low, all enjoyed the cave and are keen to do more during there visit.

John Hawkins-Salt

Disasters come in Threes:

The SpaceRat Alley - Mainline connection 12/01/97.

Party: *John Hawkins-Salt & Kelly Miller (with cameo by Trevor Wailes)*

How do you know it is going to be one of those days.....?

1. You read the sign at New Norfolk saying that the road to Salmon Ponds is open (but not saying it is closed beyond that).

2. You get to Maydena thinking, "Oops, forgot the key, but it doesn't matter because the gate is hardly ever locked now."
3. You take notice of one of Trevor's hot tips for a lead in Growling.

The successful bolting of the Scaling Pole aven left John keen to do more. Trevor had suggested an aven at the end of Space Rat Alley which apparently had a good lead at the top, enticing because of the proximity to Coelocanth.

Disasters Number One and Two. After viewing the bridgeworks at Plenty and backtracking to New Norfolk, then finding the ANM gate locked and searching half of Maydena for a key....we wondered what the cave gods had in store for us.

Disaster Number Three. The bolting gear was picked up in Destiny, and hauled out to Space Rat Alley and the aven. Two full packs (one Very Heavy) meant it was no easy task in the narrow passage. At the aven, try as we might, there was no lead up there, not caver-sized anyway. (On an old TCC light the small scallop may have been in shadow and appeared as a gaping passage ED)

Consequently, the packs were hauled with much swearing and cursing back to Destiny. (I think T.Wailes was mentioned once or twice in the curses, something about throwing the heavier pack at him.) A quick coffee and pasta at Cafe Destiny restored some enthusiasm, although not for carrying the pack. A jaunt up to Necrosis and to the start of Mainline rounded out the day.

The morals of the story are:

- a) roadsigns can sometimes be useful. b) never ever assume the gate will be open. c) check out Trevor's tips in person before hauling tonnes of gear to points distant.

Kelly Miller

Growling Again 16/2/97

Party: Trevor Wailes, Kelly Miller, Rob Williams, John H-S **Aim:** To test run Trevor's new back.

Kelly took Trevor up to the new bit above Trapdoor stream for a look see. Meanwhile Rob & I moved the bolting gear to 5 ways chamber in Necrosis. We spent some time trying to climb up into the aven in 5 ways and eventually decided that although it would be simple to bolt we really couldn't be bothered. We then spent about ½ an hour unsuccessfully looking for Trevor's undescended pitch. We caught up with the other's on the way out to find that they had a similarly uneventful day.

Again this time with Dean. 26/01/97

Party; Kelly Miller, Dean Morgan, John Hawkins-Salt.

Growling again with no specific plan other than to try to be productive. Dean was interested in having a look at the new bit above the bolt ladder. This was done and our previous limit was pushed a bit harder to no avail, some unpleasant movements in the rockpile precipitating a hasty retreat.

Back at the top of the pitch the rift above was climbed in a few places. A 8m chimney in the rift lead to an overflow passage apparently heading in the same direction as trapdoor stream. The passage is serpentine rift of dimensions similar to Trapdoor stream but much cleaner with extensive coral growths. After 90m a 8m pitch was reached. Although lack of draught and obvious siltation dampened enthusiasm, we decided to return for the gear.

Kelly & Dean started surveying while I went ahead to rig the pitch (two temporary 10mm Dynabolts). The pitch was descended into a heavily silted chamber where the water was soaking into sand in several places. A branch of this chamber was explored for about 30m to a restriction which may be negotiable, but with absolutely no draft seemed fairly pointless. A small passage on the RHS near the base of the pitch leads to a 4m climb requiring a handline, however the rift above this appears climbable and may warrant a return trip. Further exploration in the rift before the pitch may also be worthwhile. This area is very close to Avons Aven and could potentially provide a dry bypass when Herpes is flooded. All in all a pleasant day, a meal at the Tall Trees Café on the way home just to finish of.

John Hawkins-Salt

Burning Down the House" 16/11/96

Party: *Jeff Butt, Arthur Clarke, John Chick et. al., after the TCC 50th dinner.*

1. Philosophers with a stridence declare,
"A cave is a thing that's not there,
It is absence, not being,
And believing's not seeing;
It's just rock! (around water and air)."

2. It's a problem that each caver faces
Regardless, with fondness for places;
A Passion ne'er sated,
For rocks carbonated,
And philosophically ill-defined spaces.

3. As we kitted-up with much mirth,
It was Jeff who soon proved his worth
By finding the hole in
A bit of a doline,
That led down to the bowels of the earth.

4. Was I foolhardy, Stupid or mad,
To want to go caving so bad
That a grey fifty-niner
Should don cap, like a miner?
(But now, having done it, I'm glad.)

5. The thrill, once again, of the squeeze,
While crawling in creeks on my knees,
And, when jammed at Chick's
Limit,
I wanted inimit-
able mud, the passage to grease.

6. I could squeeze with more ease, were I
thinner,
But at bottom I grinned like a winner.
(Spared a thought for A. Clarke,
Waiting back in the dark,
Both our problems - too much of the
dinner.)

7. With no Li-lo, nor tyre or such craft
To fashion a black-water raft,
And aspire to emergence
At the Junee resurgence
We turned back, up the tunnel and shaft.

8. So we crawled and we squeezed and
bent double,
And I wriggled and writhed through the rubble,
And sampled a portion-
(Not total) - exhaustion.
The way out is always more trouble.

9. Squeezing back through the "Limit" was
sadder,
Though always returns should be gladder,
There's no ifs, buts, or maybes,
It was Jeff's jelly babies
Gave the boost to get back up the ladder.

10. Now, where we weren't wet we were
damp,
And mud-covered from boots up to lamp,
I emerged from our plight,
From darkness to light
And, tired, felt the full force of cramp.

11. I'm now bruised and lost acres of skin,
And have aches where aches never have
been,
On my knees now are masses
Of poultice (molasses,
With comfrey and rhubarb and gin!!).

12. Introspection: (while rubbing a
shoulder
Which lost in a fight with a boulder)
Have I assuaged the craving,
The longing, for caving?
Should I admit, if not old, that I'm older?

13. Should I forego the mud and the strife,
And confess to my long-suffering wife,
With passion and vehemence
Or terms of endearments,
That there's now but one love in my life?

14. If I did, and reneged, I'm a louse,
And NO judge would condemn my souse,
If I fell to the yearning,
And SHE to turned to burning
My trog-gear, and me AND the house.

John Chick, 21 November 1996.

Peanut Brittle (JF147) 2/2/97

Party: Dave Rasch, Wayne Tyrrel, Jeff Butt

Aim: To have a look at Peanut Brittle and cogitate upon any leads that might head toward the JF341 system.

We had heard lots of nasty things about Peanut Brittle (PB), such as “lucky there’s a good tree at the top as the rock is appalling”, “take 11 mm as there isn’t much to anchor off and there are lots of rub-points” etc. Given this a trip to PB wouldn’t normally have much merit when there are much nicer caves around. However, PB lies in an interesting position in relation to the JF341 system. The nearby swallet has been dye traced into JF341, so we were wondering if there were any human sized passages that headed that way as well.

None of us had managed to enter PB before, on one previous attempt we didn’t locate the hole till very late in the day (after we had played around in JF148 instead). Anyway on this day, we three gentleman, with gentlemanly sized packs of 11 mm rope set off for PB. We again had a little trouble locating the hole, but there is a key to finding it and it will never again temporarily elude us. From the PB/341 track cross-junction with the old Bridal track, follow the track left, up the hill. You soon pass JF128 (a tag tied to a tree root) on the way and a couple of other nearby holes (don’t fall in!) and emerge onto a massive pile of fallen logs. Stop and listen, you will hear the small swallet about 50 m away. Head towards it (you may in fact find bits and pieces of blue tape). PB is in the doline 5 m down from the contact swallet. In fact in times of heavy runoff, the stream that sinks must partially flow down PB.

We anchored one end of the rope to the nice tree at the doline edge and headed down the slimy entrance hole and first tight handline/pitch before the cave opened up at the top of the 24 m pitch. We found plenty of good anchors and the pitch series down to Junction Hall was quite a fun technical piece of caving with multiple rebelay and redirects (take plenty of tapes and krabs). We decided to take the main route down (not the Window Pitch route) and the next few pitches were again remarkably easy to rig (even managed to use a chock for a redirect), though the walls of the cave were somewhat spongy and friable (on the ascent, the prussiking feet of the person above against the walls made the cave sound like a cow with a bad case of the plops!). Our 200 m of rope (connected all the way to the surface) ran out just at the top of the second last pitch (15 m) and we were a tad annoyed at having wasted about 20 m by tying to the good tree at the edge of the doline.

We decided to call it a day, and as we all had various commitments over the next few weekends decided not to leave PB rigged for a an easy revisit. Derigging was a breeze and we left the cave feeling that PB has been a much maligned cave-it was quite a pleasant trip.

The PB connection possibility to the JF341 system thus still remains a question to be answered.

JB

A visit to a man-made structure

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt **Aim:** To have a bit of a fun. 16/2/97

If we seemed a bit preoccupied at the last STC meeting, there was a reason as Dave and I had a little project on the go. As Albert was finishing off his slides we were driving into the night, arriving at our destination at about 2 a.m. Dave retired to his tent, I just kipped out on the ground as it was a mild night. Of course it started sprinkling so I retreated into the car at 4.

At 6 Dave gave me a wake-up call, he hadn’t slept much due to anticipation! We scoffed a little food, donned our SRT gear and 2 huge packs of rope and strolled to our objective. Two ropes were rigged, about 4 m apart and hung freely 140 m down to the ground below. I ducked back up the hill to take some photos as Dave nervously stepped over the edge (you could tell he was nervous as he was connected to the rope by 5 pieces of gear!), but soon relaxed as he started his decent. Meanwhile I snapped a couple of pictures and then headed back to get my own adrenalin hit. Despite having a ratshit night’s sleep I was well and truly awake as I stepped over the edge. The exposure was massive!! There is something safe about abseiling in the dark of the underground, the

exposure I felt atop a 140 m free-hanging pitch in the daylight was well in excess of that felt on the 191 m pitch in Niggly.

The abseil required a lot of concentration as the slick rope wanted to zip through my descender with blistering speed. The wall was something like 5 m from us and if it wasn't for the horizontal banding there would have been little to gauge ones progress. We bottomed the pitch about the same time and had a bit of a look around before swapping ropes and prussiking up. The prussik up was hot work, but much more relaxing than the descent. After 20 minutes and a couple of photos en-route we were into derigging mode.

Twenty minutes later all the gear was back in the car and we eased ourselves into a leisurely breakfast. We felt quite smug at having done a fun thing, but it almost felt like we hadn't done anything at all. I hope the photos turn out. Oh, and if you are wondering about the venue, well you can probably guess, but we won't be saying anymore than that!

JB

Other Stuff

ASF-CLAG news

ASF-CLAG now have copies of the "Caving Safety course manual Version 1.1" for sale. This comprehensive 92 page manual has been written by Jeff Butt and Dean Morgan and deals with all aspects of caving safety covered in the Cave Safety Level 1 course. Laddering and belaying is included, as well as rigging for ladders and belays. Other topics covered are: Planning your trip, personal equipment, caving hazards, safe rigging, ladders and belaying, dealing with an emergency, and also includes details on reading and interpreting cave surveys, as well as a complete glossary of cave terms. Well worth the purchase! The price of this quality bound manual is a mere \$12.00 for STC members, and \$15.00 for non-members. You had better get in fast though, as there are very limited numbers.

Contact Dean Morgan, 17 Belhaven Ave Taroona, (03) 62 279318 (H) to purchase your issue.

Cave Safety Level 1 Weekends

ASF-CLAG will be running their Cave Safety Level 1 workshop on the weekend of May 31st - June 1st 1997. Haven't got the weekend free??? No problem!!!! There is also one scheduled for later on in the year on November 22nd & 23rd.

Cave Safety Level 1 is a weekend workshop catering for every aspect of being a safe caver. The aim of the workshop is to impart knowledge of safe caving practices to all participants and try to cover all the topics required to be assessed as an ASF-CLAG accredited Level 1 Caver. There will be a strong emphasis on giving participants as much hands-on experience as possible (excluding SRT). All aspects of pre-cave, in-cave, and post-cave considerations will be dealt with, including:-

- assessing a cave for age/experience of party
- weather conditions and prediction
- clothing requirements
- make-up of party
- group safety
- underground hazards
- rigging ladders and belay lines
- emergency/safety gear requirements
- cleaning and examining gear
- first aid considerations
- gear checks
- trip intentions
- pre-trip briefings
- navigation

- belaying

If you are interested in attending either of the weekends, then please contact:

Secretary. ASF-CLAG PO Box 416, Sandy Bay Tasmania 7005 Or ask Dean Morgan or Jeff Butt for more details.

Some Thoughts on Cave First Aid.

Having recently attended the TOLC Remote Area First Aid Course, I have been re examining my thoughts and preparation for cave first aid.

I guess my attitude has been that someone else will have a first aid kit and if not we can always improvise. After 3 days discussing the difficulties of extended patient care, while waiting for help or planning self rescue I began to realise how much difference a few basic items and some forward planning could make.

If you are guiding a group who are clearly dependent on your experience then you definitely have a duty of care and would be mad not to consider issues like first aid. However if you are caving with a group of peers it may be worth asking yourself a few questions like.

- Who in the group has the most experience, in general, in this cave?
- Are they prepared to handle an emergency?
- Is anyone else in the group?
- Is someone carrying a first aid kit?

You might be surprised to find yourself the apparent if un-designated trip leader.

In selecting items for a cave first aid kit I made the basic assumption that almost any caving accident which requires first aid will result in the victim spending longer in the cave than planned. Assuming that the victim can be stabilised, other than the actual trauma, Hypothermia will be the greatest problem and if the patient's body temperature can't be maintained then no amount of first aid will help them.

The kit below weighs just under 1kg and is packed in a Trangia type metal container, which as part of the kit can be used for heating water etc. The whole kit fits neatly in my small (5l) dry bag which also holds dry mitts, balaclava, thermal top, tobacco etc.

Other stuff	First aid stuff	Medications
2 candles	1 Roller bandage	Gastrolite
1 matches	1 triangle bandage	Pain killers
1 lighter	1 roll tape	Strong pain killer
1 space blanket	1 pr tweezers	Glucose tablets
1 pk solid fuel tabs	1 pr gloves	Salt
4 disposable heat packs	2 Sterile dressings	Antiseptic
5m 3mm cord	wound closures	1 Sterile irrigation
safety pins		
1 sharp knife		
4 instant soup's		
2 energy bars		
2 accident report forms		
1 pencil		

John H-S

Who to Blame:

President:	Arthur Clarke 03 62282099	arthurc@southcom.com.au
Vice President:	Kelly Miller 03 62445025	K.A.Miller@pharm.utas.edu.au
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Public officer:	Steve Bunton 03 62782398	sbunton@postoffice.friends.tas.edu.au

STC Warehouse Sales

Did you know that we have the following for sale?

Tape

- Edelrid 25 mm tubular tape. Ideal for rigging, chest harnesses etc. (White) \$2.00 per m
- 5 cm flat tape (ideal for harnesses, rigging, gear bags, battery belts etc.) (available in Blue or Red) \$1.50 per m
- 2.5 cm flat tape (ideal for handlines, rigging, gear bags, battery belts etc.) (White) \$0.80 per m

Safety

- 9 mm Beal dynamic rope (ideal for cows tails, safety loop) (Purple) \$3.50 per m
- Space Blankets (don't be caught underground without one!) \$4.00

Lighting

- Duracell 4.5 Volt flatpack batteries (for your backup Zoom). (Use by 2000!) \$8.00 each, (or 3 for \$23.00)
- Yuasa 6.7 Gel Cells (6 V, 7 AHr, weighs 1.3 kg) \$25.00 each
- 6 volt bulbs to suit the above Gel Cells a variety of Wattages (1, 1.5, 2, 3) are available from \$1.00 to \$2.50 each
- Female spade connectors to suit Gel Cell Terminals \$0.20 each
- Plastic light brackets (new, and with fittings) for helmets \$3.00 each
- Metal light brackets (used and no fittings) for helmets \$1.00 each
- Jets (21 litres/hr) for petzl kaboom \$5.00 each
- CARBIDE. NOTE: CARBIDE MUST BE USED RESPONSIBLY! (**Limited Quantity Only-replacement cost is high!!**) \$6.00 per kg
- Miscellaneous second hand pieces for Oldham headpieces. Contact us for details.

When you need any of the above please contact Jeff Butt on (03) 62 238620 (H), or write to us: SOUTHERN TASMANIAN CAVERNEERS, P.O. BOX 416, SANDY BAY 7005. If you have any other suggestions of gear that the club should Bulk Buy, then let us know and we will see what can be done.