

# Speleo Spiel

Issue Number 302 May - Jun 1997

Newsletter of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

PO Box 416 Sandy Bay Tasmania 7004

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



## Who To Blame

### President:

Arthur Clarke  
Ph: 03 62 282099  
Email: arthurc@southcom.com.au

### Vice President:

Kelly Miller  
Ph: 03 62 445025  
Email: K.A.Miller@pharm.utas.edu.au

### Secretary:

Dave Rasch  
Ph: 03 62 279056  
Email: david\_ras@antdiv.gov.au

### Treasurer:

Vaughan Andrews  
Ph: 03 62 238401  
Email: VAndrews@tnehob1.telstra.com.au

### Equipment officer:

Jeff Butt  
Ph: 03 62 238620  
Email: jeffbutt@netspace.net.au

### S & R officer:

Dean Morgan  
Ph: 03 62 279318  
Email: deanm@netspace.net.au

### Public officer:

Steve Bunton  
Ph: 03 62 782398  
Email: sbunton@postoffice.friends.tas.edu.au

### Spiel Editor:

John Hawkins-Salt  
Ph: 03 62349544  
Email: jayhawk@Ozemail.com.au

## Contents:

Editorial \_\_\_\_\_ 2

Club Matters: \_\_\_\_\_ 2

CLAG News \_\_\_\_\_ 2

SAREX 97 \_\_\_\_\_ 2

Things to do \_\_\_\_\_ 3

Gear Hire rates: \_\_\_\_\_ 3

Forward Program: \_\_\_\_\_ 3

Trip Reports: \_\_\_\_\_ 4

When the memories have faded. JF341 4th May, 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ 4

Bush Bashing: around Pillingers Ck 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ 4

New Feeling re-visited, 17 May, 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ 5

Serendipity Track 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ 5

Rift cave 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ 5

Sesame JF-211: 15<sup>th</sup> June 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ 6

Niggly JF-237 Part 1: 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ 7

Niggly Pt2 Alias JF-341: 29<sup>th</sup> June 1987 \_\_\_\_\_ 7

Net Stuff \_\_\_\_\_ 8

STC Email list \_\_\_\_\_ 8

OzCavers snippets: \_\_\_\_\_ 8

**Meeting the first Wednesday of the month in the Brownlow room at Hampden House Battery Pt 8:00 pm.**

Social gathering the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Shipwrights Arms Battery Pt. 8:00pm.

---

## Editorial

How to turn no news into news, winter is here again and the quantity of caving trips has gone from a few to even less. Fortunately a few prospective members have begun to trickle into meetings and a forward program has been organised *see below*.

---

## Club Matters:

### CLAG News

**From:** Dean Morgan

**Subject:** ASF-CLAG in Tasmania

Speaking as the position of Chairman of ASF-CLAG, I just thought I'd let the world know that the ASF-Cave Leadership Accreditation Group in Tasmania has folded due to a lack of support down here. No-one is interested in being accredited in Tasmania, and the efforts of volunteer labour has expired.

CLAG has totally been held together by only 3 people for the last 3 years or so, and those 3 have had enough. The last 2 meetings have both been cancelled as there were only going to be 2 people at them, so it was decided to wind up the group. I 'spose you could still call us EX-CLAG maybe?!?!?!

### SAREX 97

As you all should be expecting (and eagerly anticipating?) SAREX '97, the Search & Rescue exercise, is on again this year. The dates set down are 29th & 30th of November 1997. We plan to meet at Police S&R headquarters - 29 Paternoster Row, North Hobart. on Saturday 29th at 8:30AM. Transport can be provided for anyone who wants it, and there will probably be hut's or other forms of accommodation supplied for those of us keen to spend the weekend out.

This year, Parks & Wildlife are also keen to have a more active role, and be involved in the underground rescue, along with the usual members of the Police Search & Rescue squad, so it should be a good weekend out - as well as being vital to caving safety in Tasmania.

In keeping with the theme of secrecy (or is slack planning by Dean?!?!?), the exact venue has not been chosen yet, but it looks like it will be the Ida Bay, and possibly even Hastings area targeted this year.

As with every other year, anyone is welcome, even non-cavers. So please, drag along you wife, husband, girlfriend, boyfriend, partner, neighbour, neighbour's neighbour, neighbour's neighbour's neighbour, and even the people who live across the road from you! Even non-cavers are helpful for assisting outside the cave environment if they don't want to go underground.

Everyone learns something from these exercises, so please try and attend at least one of the days (preferably the Saturday). If you want any more information then please contact

Dean Morgan  
17 Belhaven Ave, Taroona Tasmania 7053  
(03) 62 270318 H (03) 62 345061 W  
[deanm@netspace.net.au](mailto:deanm@netspace.net.au)

### For Sale:

- Used SRT Rapel rack \$20.00.
- Spelean Gemini harness Medium \$20.00.
- Blunstone Boots size 5 \$20.00.
- Set of Tioga bicycle panniers, used once. \$50.00.
- Mountaineering skis-190cm streule with lockable Tyrolia bindings, skins, poles and size 11.5 Koflach plastic boots to fit above \$300.00 the lot.

Call Leigh (h) 62310348.

### For Sale :

Petzyl Kaboom Carbide Headlamp plus some carbide. As New.\$150.

Contact Vaughan Andrews  
Ph 6223 8401 (h) or  
[vandrews@ttnhob1.telstra.com.au](mailto:vandrews@ttnhob1.telstra.com.au)

### **Things to do**

#### **Growling Swallet.**

- Re survey main stream from Windy Rift junction to Sump.
- Survey minor leads in New Feeling, Contact John H-S for what to do.
- Finish Servalan survey and check climb down in boulderpole, take 10m handline.
- Survey up first stream in Necrosis and continue to climb cascades.
- Climb avens in Tiger Mountain.

- Climb at end of Nix inlet.
- Survey and check leads in the Cesspool.

#### **Other Florentine stuff.**

- Re-Survey Track from Growling Swallet to Ice Tube.
- Get GPS fix's on Dribblespit. Satins Lair. Ice Tube, Niggly, Serendipity, JF341, KD, Porcupine Pot,

#### **Ida Bay stuff.**

- Investigate shaft parallel to last pitch in Hobbit Hole (see Spiel#268).

Much Much more once Arthur puts pen to paper.

### **Gear Hire rates:**

Following is a list of new gear hire rates Ratified at the last STC meeting.

Item	Members	Non Mem	Commercial
Lamp, belt, helmet	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Rope Pack	\$3.00	\$5.00	N/A*
Harness / Descender	\$7.00	\$10.00	N/A
Full SRT Rig.	\$10.00	\$13.00	N/A

\* Only Available for trips with club members. N/A Not available.

N.B. There is no fee for Ladders, Ropes, Drill or bolting equipment. They are a privilege of membership however members are expected to make good any equipment which is damaged through neglect or misuse.

### **Forward Program:**

#### **July:**

- 02/07/97 8:00pm **Club Meeting** the Brownlow Room at Hampden House Battery Point. Tony Sprent to talk on surveying and mapping
- 06/07/97 **Beginners Trip** Gormenghast and maybe part-way down the Growling Streamway? Contact, Kelly Miller Email: [K.A.Miller@pharm.utas.edu.au](mailto:K.A.Miller@pharm.utas.edu.au) Ph: 62445025
- 16/7/97 8:00pm **Social Meeting**, Shipwrights Arms Battery Point.
- 20/07/97 **Beginners trip** Surveying odds & ends in New Feeling. Contact, John Hawkins-Salt Email: [jayhawk@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jayhawk@ozemail.com.au) Ph: 62349544
- 26-27/07/97 Extended **Photographic Trip** Kubla Khan, Contact, Andrew Briggs Ph 62 443884.

#### **August:**

- 06/08/97 8:00pm **Club Meeting** the Brownlow Room at Hampden House Battery Point.
- 20/08/97 8:00pm **Social Meeting**, Shipwrights Arms Battery Point.
- ??/08/97 **De-rig** Niggly. Contact John Or Steve.

---

## Trip Reports:

### ***When the memories have faded. JF341 4th May, 1997***

**Party:** David Rasch, John Hawkins-Salt, Maree Hawkins-Salt & Kelly Miller.

From the distance of a few days and a glass or two of cabernet, we had a really good day in 341. We were underground by about 11-ish, slip-sliding our way down to the top of the first short pitch. The two upper pitches were rigged with stiff 11mm rope, so getting down those on a petzl stop was a bit of an epic. A single 70 m 9mm rope rigged the next short pitch and the bigger 40 m pitch following. Dave had spoken ominously about the rebelay on the final pitch, but meeting it on the way down was a bit of an anti-climax, although the condition of the bolt didn't bear too much thought.

We lunched by the first crystal pool, then were taken on a tour of the pre-1993 sections, all the while disbelieving that we were still in the Florentine, thinking that this was actually the connection through to Mole Creek. After so many trips into Growling in the last 5 months, the character of 341 is incredibly different. The warmer temperatures too were appreciated.

From the dinosaurs' foot we followed a narrow rifting passage up into the more recent extension - lots of chimneying and crab-walking. There was more of that narrow winding passage then out into a chamber, and a brief visit to the Milky Way viewing platform. Very Nice indeed!!!

A lot of the rest is just a blur...so much cave covered until we sat up in 'The Gods' of the Theatre Royal - strange to think that only a few hours before we had walked over virtually the same spot on our way to the entrance.

Maree stayed to contemplate the waterfall and a fish-flavoured apple, whilst we raced on out to the connection to Rift Cave. The size of the passage is incredible! Just contemplating the volume of water required to form that ancient passage is mind-boggling.

We returned to the ropes after about 3 hours downstairs - it could easily have been more. Congratulations to Dave & Jeff for surveying when it would be so easy to just keep exploring. The trip out was a bit slow - the rebelay did deserve its' reputation - but at least we didn't have to de-rig.

Sometime around 8.30 we emerged from the bush, changed, and headed home, with only a few stops for the author of this item to get her stomach into gear (the advantage of writing the trip report is that graphic details are glossed over, not embellished). Thanks to Dave for acting as tour guide for what is a truly incredible cave.

*Kelly Miller*

### ***Bush Bashing: around Pillingers Ck 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1997***

**Party:** Leigh Douglas, John H-S

We set of with the aim of finishing a few surveys in GS only to find a backhoe parked in the middle of the remains of the Tyenna Bridge. Though assured that the new bridge would be in place by Friday walking to GS was out of the question.

We decided to have a look around the old "Benders" quarry site located near 55GDN692640 (Maydena 1:25,000 sheet) A dozer track on the RHS of Roberts Road marked with 3 blue tapes, descends to the contact where two contouring tracks outline the majority of outcropping limestone. Several boreholes were noted along these tracks.

About 3 hours were spent bashing around the area to no avail. Locals have noted other outcrops in the Pillingers Creek catchment and report numerous Karst and Cave features. The contact seems to occur between 150 and 200 m above the valley floor with plenty of catchment above, this area seems to have reasonable potential and could deserve some more work.

I would like to hear if anyone else has done anything up there.

*John H-S*

### ***New Feeling re-visited, 17 May, 1997***

**Party :** Leigh Douglas, John Hawkins-Salt, Liz Canning

**Aim:** to survey/resurvey from the first 12m pitch in New Feeling

As our plans for an all female trip were thwarted, Leigh and I agreed to a surveying trip to New Feeling. As my first trip to Growling Swallet in some years this proved a pleasant if muscularly painful re-introduction to the system.

The survey commenced at the bottom of the first 12m pitch in New Feeling. Although some of the passage to the sump had previously been surveyed, the original data had been lost and passage dimensions had not been taken. We surveyed 389m of which 150 m+ was previously unsurveyed.

The survey ended at the downstream sump. Leigh made a valiant attempt to connect to Serendipity Cave System only 250m away according to previous estimates and survey results. However a tight and muddy squeeze defeated even her dimensions. On the way out an old gym rope hand line was installed on a flowstone down-climb above a bridging descent.

A number of side passages remain to be tied into the survey at some stage.

We emerged from Growling Swallet at 9 pm after 10 hours underground. Pumpkin soup at Tim and Wendy's gave us sustenance to complete the trip back to Hobart, although car problems on the way back gave us visions of a cold night on the side of the road.

*Liz Canning*

*[Subsequent analysis of the data revealed that the original survey was correct but the SMAPS data stopped about 50m before the Passover. Also in cave station numbers did not match SMAPS station numbering. The total surveyed length of NF according to On Station is 994m. The survey only traverses the main route and a couple of side passages, I would be very interested to see how much extra length a complete survey of this area produced. ED]*

### ***Serendipity Track 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1997***

As everyone had some excuse for not caving, John Maree & Storm had a leisurely walk up to Serendipity. As expected plenty of windfall made the track fairly slow, however, most of the marking tapes are still in place and the track was followed with no difficulty. We had intended to bash over the hill to Ice tube but decided hauling 16kg of tired child wasn't worth the effort. So we opted for afternoon tea at the Café in Maydena instead.

*John H-S*

### ***Rift cave 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1997***

**Party:** Dave Rasch, Judy Clarke, Leigh Douglas.

An exploration/surveying trip into Necrosis, became a quick look in Rift Cave when John H-S piked due to a severely unsettled stomach. *[not entirely self inflicted ED].[For once SUB-ED]*

I had last visited Rift Cave in May 1988 with Nick & Rolan when we were exploring some leads and tight tubes via the new passage that SCS had opened up. Being much fitter at the time I found it a pleasant trip and had no memory of pitches and other such obstacles. Dave's interest in Rift seemed an excellent opportunity to get a glimpse of what he and Jeff But had found in the last 7 years or so.

The Chairman track is well trodden from the many trips into this area. It could do with more taping for those coming out a night. The entrance seemed more overgrown since my last visit. The soil is very unstable around the top of the doline and there is evidence of land slippage and more large tree-fall into the entrance.

We entered the tight down-sloping, wet and boulder strewn passage on the top RHS of the main entrance. This opened up and continued downwards for at least 15m giving way to a tight phreatic passage above a wet 20m-ish pitch. Unfortunately the wiring on my light disagreed with

the tight passage, so out came the mighty Petzl Micro. I found loading my new Petzl Stop rather difficult on the awkward pitch, which Dave and Judy negotiated with ease.

We continued downstream over more wide passage with a bouldery floor. It is wise to move carefully throughout the cave as there are some very large boulders perched in some precarious positions and the floor is generally loose. Dave's excellent rigging made negotiation of some awkward problems feel much safer. We were soon into a large chamber, with growling stomachs and full bladders - it was time for lunch. I discovered scoffing Sardines is not good practice and was soon v-e-r-y sleepy. Dave showed us the big passage towards JF-341. The chambers were large with lots of rockfall and tessellated mud floors. There are so many leads in this cave, much water must have been here once as evidenced by the sculpting and fluting of passage's with numerous smooth boreholes in the ceiling and high up in the walls. Visiting the Theatre Royal felt like entering the abode of a higher presence. Unfortunately our slow pace and fading light prevented Dave from looking at the leads we were aiming for.

The return journey was not as difficult. With my light a fading yellow smudge I found the energy to get out as quickly as possible Thanks to Judy and Dave for helping to illuminate my way. Dave de-rigged with Judy & I helping to share the load. By the time we reached the entrance Judy's light was gone & I had progressed from the Micro to a mouth held Mini Mag light.

On the walk out I thought about the trip Rolan, Nick & I had made in 1988. I wondered where the little tube I got into and the passage beyond was in relation to all the subsequent discoveries.

Back at the car we quickly changed into dry clothing in the chilly night air. The drive to Maydena was slowed as Judy's car only had low beam *this was not a good day for lights*. We feasted at the Tyenna Valley Lodge café, It's a good idea to ring the café if you're planing to call by after a trip, the good food and warm fire were very soothing to the cave bashed body and they don't even mind the mud.

Thanks to Dave for an interesting and worthwhile trip.

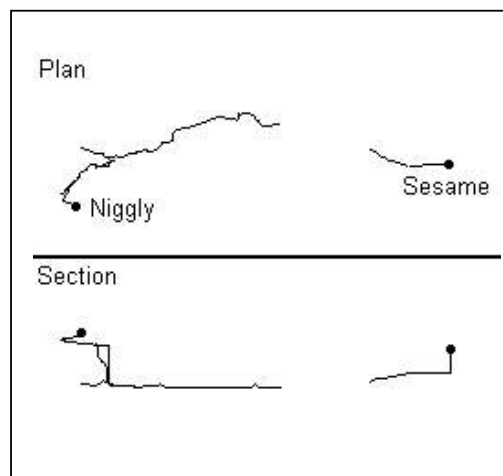
Leigh Douglas

### **Sesame JF-211: 15<sup>th</sup> June 1997**

**Party:** Trevor Wailes, Liz Canning, Hugh Fitzgerald, John H-S.

**Aim:** To survey from the bottom of the last pitch (end of old survey) to the start of Rolan's 1994 extension (se *Southern Caver #59*), and to field test a GPS unit for possible acquisition by the club.

The JF-221 entrance was located at about 11:00 am. Any previous track was completely overgrown and only one old blue tape was located, so we completely re-marked the route with pink tape. One GPS fix was taken at the car park on Crisps Rd, marked with 3 old pink tapes. A further 3 fix's were taken at the entrance over 8 hours, the total difference between these 3 fix's was only 5m.



The cave was quickly rigged and the survey commenced. The passage in question is a pleasantly spacious rift passing through occasional boulder floored chambers. Survey legs averaged 15m and in two hours we had surveyed 313.6m of passage. Mission completed we de-rigged our way out, and were back at the car by about 8:00pm. (A revised survey may make it into a future Spiel).

The insert shows the relationship between Sesame JF-210/211 An Niggly Cave JF-273. The original Sesame data dose not exist on computer so the distance, bearing and declination from the JF-211entrance to the start of the section we surveyed was re-calculated from the 1:1000 scale map draw by T Wailes, 1984. Hence the downstream end of the survey shown here is accurate to an estimated +/- 10m. The distance between Niggly and Sesame as shown above is

630m horizontal and 43m vertical. With the addition of Rolan's 1994 extension (unsurveyed) the distance between the 2 may be less than 300m Hmmm!

John H-S

### ***Niggly JF-237 Part 1: 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1997***

**Party:** Steve Bunton, Sue Baker, Paul , John Hawkins-Salt.

**Aim:** To rig the top pitches in preparation for a trip to the bottom.

A bright sunny day plus the late inclusion of Sue & Paul who had volunteered to help port gear saw us all keen and rearing to go. We left the cars at about 10:00 and reached the entrance by about 11:20. Steve's recent track marking efforts made navigation easy, though the track is still in very poor condition with plenty of windfall which could be cleared with a small chainsaw.

Without further ado the entrance pitch was rigged and our unpleasantly heavy packs shouldered. The passage down to P2 would have been pleasant without the packs, Sue wasn't feeling 100% and decided to stay at the top of the pitch. Paul continued with us through Tigertooth to the traverse.

With the gear re-packed into 2 packs, Steve & I set out gingerly along the traverse, we were both quite relieved to find the difficulty overrated though the exposure was still very real. The next 4 pitches were rigged without incident though a hanger shortage kept us from descending to the top of the big pitch.

On the way out, the lead Dean mentioned in the P2 aven was partially climbed, from a position a few moves off the floor it was obvious that what appeared from the ground to be a continuation of passage was only swirl hole on the wall.

Back at the car by 8:00 pm in a state of near exhaustion I resolved to do plenty of prussicking practice before our planned return in few weeks.

John H-S

### ***Niggly Pt2 Alias JF-341: 29<sup>th</sup> June 1987***

**Party:** Dave Rasch, John H-S. **Aim:** To look for leads and, the potential for leads heading WSW from up stream in the Enterprise Stream JF-341

9:00 am Saturday Phone call from SB "When are you coming to pick me up, you're an hour late" JS "No I'm 23 hours early" SB "Silence" both "oh s\*\*t". Morale don't assume anybody else knows what day you think you are doing a specific trip on without actually naming days and dates with them. Anyway Niggly Pt 2 is now postponed till Aug. Sorry Steve.

8:00 Sunday met Dave as usual all other starters had remembered they had promised to wash the cat , or something equally probable. 9:30 Let Bob Cockerill et al in the ANM gate (*Trip report next issue ED*) 11:00 Entered 341, 12:40 reached Enterprise stream, 3 hours bombing around the stream and many mud banks later we had confirmed our suspicions. There is good prospects for finding leads in this area however more **psyche**, a handline, mud stakes, crampons and mud axes may be required. One bank climbed lead into some spacious chamber and 100m+ of boulder floored muddy rifted phreatic passage muddy stuff , unfortunately probably not heading in the right direction. We both agreed that the area had good potential and a return should be made *some day*. A cairn and Orange tape was left at the base of the climb to this area very near the upstream end of the streamway.

5:00pm back at the bottom of the pitches Dave thought it was too early to make a respectable exit & so used the mud stakes to climb into the lead near the first pool, to no avail. 7:00pm back at the entrance, 8:30pm Pumpkin soup at the Lodge.

John H-S

---

## Net Stuff

After some discussion the STC web site has finally been revamped, the site is located at <http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/scaving/> The site contains general information about the club as well as a forward program and Speleo Spiel back issues. The site should be regularly maintained and any suggestions / submissions for future content are welcome.

### **STC Email list**

The club has finally set-up an Email list server, the server will function in the same way as OzCavers but is primarily for club and local caving business. Financial members can subscribe to the list automatically, non members must be approved by the committee.

To subscribe to the list send an Email to [Majordomo@postoffice.tased.edu.au](mailto:Majordomo@postoffice.tased.edu.au) with the first line of the body text saying, Subscribe stc

To send Email to the list, address it to [stc@postoffice.tased.edu.au](mailto:stc@postoffice.tased.edu.au) mail sent to this address will automatically be resent to all list subscribers.

### **OzCavers snippets:**

The following section includes the odd general interest item copied from the OzCavers mailing list.

**From:** Peter MATTHEWS <[matthews@melbpc.org.au](mailto:matthews@melbpc.org.au)>

**Subject:** New book

The following announcement is from George Moore <[mooreg@bcc.orst.edu](mailto:mooreg@bcc.orst.edu)> Speleology--Caves and the Cave Environment (1997) by George W. Moore and Nicholas Sullivan has now been printed and is available from Cave Books, 4700 Amberwood Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45424, 513-233-3561, [ROGMCCLURE@aol.com](mailto:ROGMCCLURE@aol.com). Prices are hardback \$21.95, paperback \$15.95, plus shipping and handling as follows: North America \$2.50; elsewhere, surface mail \$3.50, airmail \$16.00.

**From:** Wayne Shelley <[garndex@hutch.com.au](mailto:garndex@hutch.com.au)>

**Subject:** SSS has Moved !

Dear Fellow Cavers. In what can only be described as a FIRST for Australia. Sydney Speleological Society now has its OWN domain name. Our web site has been moved to. <http://www.sss.org.au> Please change your bookmarks, links etc. We will soon be hosting all the information on the NEW lead in Mammoth Cave.



## 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.