STC Officers

(as of 4/11/98)

President:
Trevor Wailes
Ph: (03) 62 291382 (h)
Email: trite@ozemail.com.au

Vice President:
Hugh Fitzgerald
Ph: (03) 62 343035 (h)

Secretary:
Liz Canning
Ph: (03) 62 242035 (h)
Email: Liz@delm.tas.gov.au

Treasurer:
Arthur Clarke
Ph: (03) 62 282099 (h)
Email:
arthurc@southcom.com.au

Equipment Officer:
Jeff Butt
Ph: (03) 62 238620 (h)
Email:
jeffbutt@netspace.net.au

Librarian:
Greg Middleton
Ph: (03) 62 231400 (h)
Email:
gregmi@delm.tas.gov.au

S & R officer:
Jeff Butt

Public officer:
Steve Bunton
Ph: (03) 62 782398 (h)
Email: sbunton@postoffice.
friends.tas.edu.au

Editor:
Jeff Butt

Webmaster:
Hans Benisch
Ph: (03) 62 396899 (h)
or via the Website.

Web Site:
http://www.tased.edu.au/
tasonline/scaving/

Cover Photo:
Descending the 68 m "Gom Jabar" (test of awareness) pitch in Arrakis (MW-X1), photo: Tom Porritt.

The Speleo Spiel

Newsletter of the
Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated
PO Box 416, Sandy Bay, Tas 7006
http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/scaving/

Issue No. 310, Sep-Oct 1998

CONTENTS

Editorial

Being an Editor isn't easy; do a good job and no-one tells you so; make a slip-up and you are certain to know.

In the last issue, regrettably, I made a major slip-up in that I didn't formally and/or completely acknowledge the sources of all graphics (i.e. surveys, diagrams, artwork and photographs). Some people were quite put-out by this, so in an attempt to redress this problem, below you will find a formal acknowledgement for all surveys, diagrams and photographs included in Spiel 309. I apologise to Arthur Clarke, Rolan Eberhard and anyone else who has feels like their work has been taken for granted and/or that they didn't receive due acknowledgement for their work. In the future I shall make every effort to ensure that everything is suitably acknowledged. Any articles presented to the Editor for publication that do not contain this information will not be published.

Acknowledgements for graphics published in Speleo Spiel 309.

pages 5-6. Photographs by Arthur Clarke; Original artwork by June MacLucas.
page 7. Survey drawn by Rolan Eberhard, (Australian Caver 115, 1987); Data collected by Rolan & Stefan Eberhard, Martyn Carnes & Trevor Wailes,
page 9. UIAA diagram from the UIAA, (as published on the Internet).
page 12. Line surveys produced by John Hawkins-Salt; Data collected by John Palmer, Andras Galambos and John Hawkins-Salt.
page 13. Photograph by Arthur Clarke.
page 14. Upper photograph by Tim Rudman; Lower photograph by Arthur Clarke (digitally modified by the Editor).
Apart from the STC logo, all other graphics and all electronic manipulation thereof, by the Editor.

I hope that bygones will be bygones.

Changing note, the 3rd STC AGM has just gone, and there has been some exchanging of hats. Our new President wants to "put the Caverneering back into STC"! Good luck to all for the 53rd year of caving in Tasmania.

By the way, this will be the last Spiel for the year; the first for 1999 will come to you in late January. All the best for the coming festive season. Safe and happy times to all.

Jeff Butt

Club Matters

RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on Wed. 4/11/98, many thanks to all who attended-the Gear Store has never before seen so many people at once!

Outgoing Officers Reports are included in this issue of the Spiel, many thanks to everyone (including those who had to retire from their positions mid-year, e.g. Kelly Miller, John Hawkins-Salt) for all your hard work over the year.

New Officers are listed below; everyone who was at the AGM got at least one position!!

EXECUTIVE:
PRESIDENT: Trevor Wailes;
VICE-PRESIDENT: Hugh Fitzgerald;
SECRETARY: Liz Canning;
TREASURER: Arthur Clarke;
MINUTE SECRETARY: Liz Canning.

COMMITTEE:
SCIENTIFIC OFFICER: Albert Goede;
PUBLIC OFFICER: Stephen Bunton;
SEARCH & RESCUE OFFICER: Jeff Butt;
EDITOR: Jeff Butt;
SUB-EDITORS: Peter Verwey and Arthur Clarke;
KARST INDEX OFFICER: Arthur Clarke;
EQUIPMENT OFFICER: Jeff Butt;
ARCHIVIST/ LIBRARIAN: Greg Middleton;
MAP ARCHIVIST: Trevor Wailes;
WEBMASTER: Hans Benisch;
LIST SERVER MANAGER: Arthur Clarke;
ELECTRONIC ARCHIVIST: Dave Rasch;
GENERAL COMMITTEE PERSONS: Andrew Briggs, Peter Verwey, Sue Baker and Jol Desmarchelier.

NEW ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Fees were amended as per the Treasurers suggestions (but not without some discussion), the new fee structure is outlined below. Note that this is the first fee rise in over ten years and still represents extremely good value; as far as we know, our fees are still lower than most other Caving clubs in Australia!

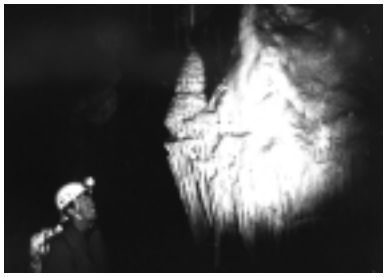
•Full Members: $45.00 ($35.00 PPD*)
•Household Membership: $65.00 ($52.50 PPD*)
•Student/Concessional/Unemployed Members: $35.00 ($27.50 PPD*)
•Prospective/New Introductory Members: $15.00 (no PPD*)
•Life members (with full ASF Membership) $20.00 ($15.00 PPD*)
•Life members (with Aust. Caver only) $15.00 (no PPD*).

The following category is for non-members who may wish to subscribe to the Speleo Spiel.
•Spiel Subscription $20.00 (no PPD*).
[* PPD=Prompt Payment Discount, to receive this you must pay your subs within 3 months of the AGM.]

Note that **ANNUAL FEES ARE NOW DUE**--if payments are made to the Treasurer **PRIOR TO 4/2/99**, then the **PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNT** is applicable. Please take advantage of this offer.

Congratulations

- to **Bob and Susan Cockerill** on their recent marriage.
- to **Hugh Fitzgerald and Liz Canning** on their rapidly approaching marriage. Incidentally, this ceremony is taking place in Newdegate Cave, at Hastings. Should be a trip report with a difference!



Hugh Fitzgerald checking out formations in Wolf Hole for 'Wedding Cake' Ideas. Photo: Sarah Boyle.

ANNUAL DINNER AND PERIOD CAVING TRIP

The STC **Annual Dinner** (ALL CAVERS WELCOME!) will be held on the evening of Saturday December 5th, at Arthur Clarkes abode, Francistown. from 7 p.m. If you need a map of how to get there, then ask Arthur (contact details below).

This will be a fully catered affair (via Robyn Claire and helpers), based upon BBQ cuisine, with Salads. Vegetarians will be suitably catered for. The cost is $15 per head, Bring your own drinks. Any left-over money will be donated back to STC.

Accommodation is available at Arthur's, the damage being $5 for staying in the house (there are ~8 beds and mattresses available), or if you prefer, $3 for camping (plenty of grass) and use of all facilities in the house.

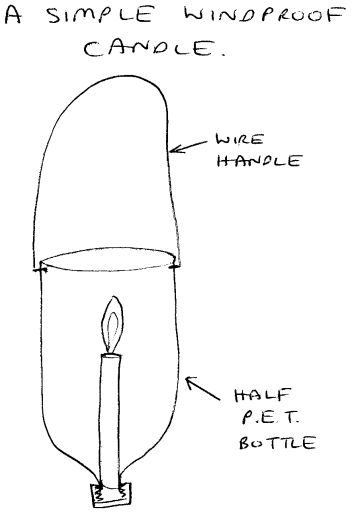
If you are coming (and please do!!), then PLEASE CONFIRM (BY PAYING UP) with either ARTHUR or ROBYN **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, Preferably by the end of November.** THE ABSOLUTE CUT OFF DATE IS THE STC MEETING ON Wednesday Dec. 2nd. Arthur can be contacted on phone: 62 282099 (H-Hobart), or 62 981107 (H-Francistown) or via email: arthurc@ southcom.com.au. Robyn can be contacted on 62 281029 (h).

The associated **Period Caving Trip** will be held on Saturday, prior to the Dinner. There are two options; Mystery Creek Cave (horizontal version) and Midnight Hole (vertical version). The plan is for the bottom pitch of Midnight Hole (49 m) to be done on ladders (yep, we've got enough); those doing the horizontal trip who wish to view this spectacle will have to pass the Matchbox Squeeze. The rigging party will be making an early start, but other participants can basically turn up when they like...anyone who wants a go on the ladders should be able to be accommodated. We hope to get some good photographs with Andrew Briggs as M.C.

A group photograph will be taken in Mystery Creek Cave, in the Broken Column Chamber at 4:15 p.m., please be there by 4 p.m.

One aim of the trip is for participants (if possible) to bring and use 'old-time' caving gear, e.g. hand-held carbide lamps (some carbide will be supplied for the purpose), candles in wind-proof containers (see a sketch of how to make such a device below). [Laid rope, old helmets or similar are photographic props only!] This will give present day cavers a feel for what caving used to be like, give old timers some memories and hopefully be a bit of fun for all.

Also, for those who don't overdo it at the Dinner, there will be some caving on Sunday.



ANNUAL CAVEX

The Annual Caving Search and Rescue Exercise is planned to be held on the weekend of February 6/7, 1999; in the Junee-Florentine. Mark this date in your diaries now! Full details will come in the next Spiel. Cavers from all around the State are invited.

The format of this weekend is going to be a series of mini-workshops/problem solving exercises that people can rotate around, learning new skills at each. The skills checklist used in the Search and Rescue Questionnaires (have you submitted yours??) will be used to devise appropriate scenarios for the workshops.

TRAINING EVENINGS

With Daylight Savings here, the evenings are long and light. The 'off meeting Wednesdays' are being used for mini-training sessions at Fruehauf Quarry (see Forward Program Below). If you're not doing anything, then why not come on down and learn a few new skills, or practise something you do know. It's all good fun, and new-found technical skills learned on the surface will assist with your caving.

FORWARD PROGRAM:

Meetings: (held at the Shipwright Arms Hotel, Battery Point)

Wed Nov 18th	Social gathering from 8 p.m.
Wed Dec 2nd	General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE TO BOOK INTO THE ANNUAL DINNER!
Wed Dec 16th	Social Gathering from 8 p.m.
Wed Jan 4th	Social Gathering from 8 p.m. NB. Due to Xmas hols, the General Meeting will be held on Jan 20th.
Wed Jan 20	General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Training Sessions: (held at Fruehauf Quarry on the 'off meeting Wednesdays' provided it's not raining!! From 4 p.m. till dark, contact Jeff for details 62 238620.

Wed Nov 11th	Rope rescue, how to pluck someone off a rope.
Wed Nov 25th	Hauling systems, Assisted Hoists, Z-pulleys. Also, Laddering-some practise for the Midnight Hole trip on Dec 5th.
Wed Dec 9th	Tyrolean Traverses.

Trips: (Please contact the Organiser of any trip for more details.)

Sat Nov 14-Mon Nov 16th.	A Francistown based mini-expedition. Contact Arthur on 62 282099. The plan is Sat:Mystery Creek Cave, a thorough look around the back-end; Sun:North Lune, exploration/track-work/gps'ing-something for everyone, Mon: Ida Bay-checking out some new vertical holes.	
Sat Dec. 5th.	PERIOD CAVING TRIP-(Mystery Creek Cave/Laddering Midnight Hole) held prior to the **ANNUAL DINNER**. Contact Jeff 62238620 or Arthur 62282099.	
Dates to be fixed in Nov/Dec	•Growling Swallet-install the new rope ladders •Mt. Weld weekend (or longer), exploration. •Flick Mints Hole-bottoming and derig.	Contact Jeff 62 238620

Presidents Report

Bob Cockerill presented a verbal report to the AGM, however a hard-copy is not available for publication.

Treasurers Report

See the accompanying Balance Sheet for complete details of our Income and Expenditure. The main point to note is that over the last STC financial year we had a substantial deficit, i.e.

Total Income $ 3462.43
Total Expenditure 6015.79
DEFICIT $ 2553.36

which is the main reason that I recommended subscriptions be increased.

By the way, the new subscription rates are still lower most other caving clubs in Australia and this increase is the first increase in over a decade. Membership of STC is still very good value for money (considering the amount of gear STC provides) and even more so if the Prompt Payment Discount is taken advantage of!

During the year (ended 3/09/98), our major expenditure items were: ASF Fees $1017, Equipment Purchases & Maintenance $1053, GPS purchase $789, the Spiel Printing & Postage $958. Major Income items were: Light Hire $1078, Membership Fees $952, Bank Interest $330 and Equipment Hire $195.

Current membership subscriptions are totally consumed by maintaining full ASF membership. Equipment Purchases and Maintenance costs are approximately balanced by income from Light and Equipment hire. The other costs have thus been covered by reducing our Bank Balance.

End of year Balances:

	(30/9/98)	(30/9/97)
General Account	$240.33	($3033.07)
Science Account	1805.68	(2113.30)
Investment Ac.	5000.00	(5000.00)
Total Funds	$7046.01	($9559.42)

Arthur Clarke, Treasurer

Auditors Report

The Auditors (Diane Hext) Report is shown opposite. In an attached covering letter she has made some recommendations about ensuring all expenditure and reimbursements are accurately approved in advance at meetings and suggested improvements to how hire moneys are recorded (this has now been implemented). All in all satisfactory result.

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

Income & Expenditure from 1/10/97 to 30/9/98

1997		1998
	Income	
$ 108.00	Membership fees	$ 952.00
$ 12.00	ASF m/ship & insurance	$ 108.00
$ 687.00	Light hire	$ 1,078.00
$ 21.00	Gear hire	$ 195.00
$ 40.00	Journal sales	
$ 88.00	Equipment sales	$ 235.00
$ 30.39	Bank interest	$ 327.68
	Science account	
	Bank interest	$ 2.39
	Contribution from STC income	$ 389.86
	Journal sales	$ 44.50
	Deposit transfers	$ 130.00
$ 986.39	***Total income***	**$ 3,462.43**
	Expenses	
$ 107.65	Stationery	$ 116.40
$ 100.00	Meeting hall hire	$ 70.00
$ 141.49	Equipment purchase/maint(1)	$ 1,052.95
$ 397.09	Printing/photocopying	$ 502.72
$ 120.20	Postage/phone	$ 455.10
$ 533.00	Subs/affiliations/insurance	$ 1,195.74
$ 13.63	Govt.duties/bank fees	$ 16.25
$ 147.00	Bookeeping/incorp fees	$ 75.00
$ 197.30	Socials	$ 306.35
	PO Box rent	$ 78.00
	Tfr. to Science a/c	$ 519.86
	Rep. to ASF Council	$ 350.00
	Quartermaster honorarium	$ 381.90
	Key cutting	$ 9.00
	Surplus petty cash drawn	$ 12.15
	Science account	
	Copying,printing,publication	$ 12.00
	Scientific equipment	$ 789.00
	Scientific projects	$ 71.70
	Govt. fees	1.67
$ 1,757.36	***Total Expenses***	**$ 6,015.79**
$ (770.97)	***Net Operating Deficit***	**$ (2,553.36)**
$ 10,330.39	Plus a/c transfers in (1997)	
$ 9,559.42	Net income/expenses	**$ (2,553.36)**
	Plus last years funds c/f	$ 9,559.42
	Plus o/s cheques written off(2)	$ 39.95
		$ 7,046.01
	Represented by :	
$ 3,033.07	CBA operating a/c	$ 240.33
$ 2,113.30	CBA Science a/c	$ 1,805.68
$ 5,000.00	Esanda debenture stock	$ 5,000.00
$ 10,146.37		$ 7,046.01
$ 50.00	O/s deposit 1997	
$ (636.95)	U/p cheques 1997	
$ 9,559.42	**Total Funds**	**$ 7,046.01**

Note (1) - Equipment
Not detailed this year

Note (2) - 1997 o/s cheques written off

545	$	13.00
934	$	26.95
	$	**39.95**

Verified by:
Treasurer
President

Audited by :
Di Hext

Auditor's Report

*I have inspected and audited the accounting records kept by **Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated** in respect of the year ended 30th September 1998 and have received all the information and explanations as required for the purpose of my audit.*

In my opinion -

(I) there were kept by the organisation in respect of the year, satisfactory accounting records detailing the sources and nature and purposes of expenditure; and

(ii) the attached accounts and statements are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of :

(a) the financial affairs of the club as at 30/9/98, and
(b) the income and expenditure, and surplus of the club for the year ended 30/9/98.

Hobart, Tasmania

27th October 1998

Diane Hext

STC Karst Index Officer's Report

There is very little to report! There was only one number-tagged cave reported to STC Karst Index Officer and hence only one ASF cave summary form completed for caves in southern Tasmania: IB-163 at Ida Bay. Similarly, there were no ASF Map Numbers assigned for new cave surveys. STC now has its initials "STC" installed in the national list of map source codes within the ASF Karst Index national database maintained by Convenor of the ASF Documentation Commission (Peter Matthews).

Since STC began in late 1996, there have only been a few published reports of new caves and almost all of these remain as un-number tagged entrances and for Karst Index purposes, these are recorded as untagged "X-" number caves, as listed in the following brief summary.

Ida Bay:
-IB-12, formerly an un-named cave, has now been named as "*Crip Hole*" by Dave Rasch and Kelly Miller; it is located 20m from Midnight Hole (IB-11) see *Speleo Spiel*, #306: 7-8;
-IB-89 (*Lost Lens Doline*): the impenetrable vertical cave entrance located in cliff wall of this doline has been named as "*Toblerone Pot*" (in *Speleo Spiel*, #306: 9);
-IB-X68: an un-named cave explored and surveyed by Mick Williams and two SUSS members (Ian Cooper & Phil Maynard) and incorrectly described in *Bulletin of SUSS* (Vol. 34) as "IB-162" along with a cave survey bearing the same wrong cave number;
-IB-X69: on the dissected karst ridge between Bottleneck (IB-48) and Hooks Hole (IB-26) (see *Speleo Spiel* #308: 12);
-IB-126: this massive cliff-walled doline (known as "*Big Doline*") was originally numbered as a karst feature - this contains a previously unknown vertical cave entrance recently discovered during GPS testing (see *Speleo Spiel* #308: 12);
-IB-163: un-named cave, connecting to IB-41 entrance (see *Speleo Spiel* #308: 12).

Junee-Florentine:
-JF-X57: un-named cave above *Washout Cave* (JF-129) in *Speleo Spiel*, #303: 5-6;
-JF-X58 (named "*Cleobora Cave*") in *Speleo Spiel*, #303: 8;
-JF-X59 (named "*Untagged Cave*") in *Speleo Spiel*, #305:8;
-JF-X60 (named "*Tiny Hole*") in *Speleo Spiel*, #305:8;
-JF-63, JF-64 and JF-65 are the three entrances of *Ross Walker Cave* reported in *Speleo Spiel* #307 (pp. 14-15) as "JF-??";
-JF-X61 and JF-X62 are two new un-named cave entrances (flagged with pink tape) found near the Benson and Hedges series (*Speleo Spiel* #308: 9);
-JF-X63, reported as "JF-X??? near Flick Mints Hole" (*Speleo Spiel* #309: 6) which could possibly be named as "*Kangaroo Cave*", since a large leg-bone retrieved from the cave has been reportedly identified as being that of an extinct kangaroo (not a wallaby).

North Lune:
-NL-X6 (named *Slippery Hole*) reported in *Speleo Spiel* #308: 6;
-NL-X7: an un-named cave, incorrectly reported as "NL-X5" in *Speleo Spiel* #308: 6; NL-X5 has now been number tagged as NL-9 ("*Top Sink*").

Risbys Basin:
(previously considered part of Junee-Florentine karst, but is clearly a separate block of limestone with different hydrology):
-Includes Pillingers Creek Cave (now RB-X1), which was previously included in the Junee-Florentine karst and listed in the ASF Karst Index as JF-66; plus Risbys Basin Cave (RB-X4), also referred to as Ray Benders Cave. (See detailed report of caves and their "RB-X" numbers elsewhere in this edition of *Speleo Spiel* #310.)

Savage River:
(magnesite karst beside Main Rivulet and Bowry Creek):
-SR-X1: named as *Pendant Cave* in *Speleo Spiel* #303:10-11;
-SR-X2: named as *Flat Arch Cave.*

Timbs Creek (a dolomite karst area in NW Tasmania, previously referred to as "Savage River" in the 1985 ASF Karst Index):
-TC-X1: named as *Crusty Cave* in *Speleo Spiel* #303:10-11, but also referred to as *Chris Sharp Hole* (T1) in Chris Sharples (1997) report to the Australian Heritage Commission and Tasmanian Conservation Trust, titled "*Karst Geomorphology and values of the Tarkine*";
-TC-X2: named as *Cricket Hole*, but incorrectly referred to as "Cricket Cave" in *Speleo Spiel* #303:10-11 and listed as "T2" in Sharples report;
-TC-X3: un-named cave, listed as "T3" in Sharples report;
-TC-X4: named as *Ferncliff Cave* and listed as "T4" in Sharples report;
-TC-X5: named as *Haltons Hole* in *Speleo Spiel* #303:10-11, "T5" in Sharples report;
-TC-X6: named as *Carport Cave*, listed as "T6" in Sharples report.

Arthur Clarke
Karst Index Officer

List Server Manager's Report

The STC List Server was designed to be an information service to all STC members, providing a medium for distribution of meeting notices, minutes of meetings, caving trip notices, relevant information about caves, and/or other caving related topics or debates of local interest. The List Server is a cost-free service provided to Tasmanian community-based organisations by the Information Management Branch of the Department of Education in Tasmania. It is an unmoderated (un-edited) List which operates according to the pre-programmed "majordomo" software programming commands. The List Server manager controls the email address subscription list.

The STC List Server is available free of charge to all financial members (including life members) and all currently, STC members with known email addresses are included on the list. However, the current list of 49 subscribers includes nine other non-STC caving members: two from Hobart, one from Burnie, two from Sydney, one from Cape Range (Western Australia) and three others from places unknown. In view of our (STC) stated position of this list being only for STC financial members, we need to consider the following:

1. Do we want to maintain the list for STC members only?
2. Do we want to open up the list as free-to-all Tasmanian caving list, which includes STC business affairs?
3. Do we want to incorporate access to the list for non-STC members as part of a subscription membership rate to STC for *Speleo Spiel* and access to the STC electronic archive?

4. Do we want to have a separate charge (say $5.00 per annum) for List Server access to non-STC

members, which could include access to the STC electronic archive?

It is pertinent to give a reminder of how to send messages to the List Server.

1. If you want to send a message to everyone on the STC list, send messages to:
   stc@postoffice.tased.edu.au
2. If you want to find out more information about how the "Majordomo" List Server operates and the commands that it responds to, then send the following message to
Majordomo@postoffice.tased.edu.au
   help
   end
3. To change your address, you need to send a the following message to
Majordomo@postoffice.tased.edu.au
   unsubscribe stc <your previous email address>
   subscribe stc <your current or preferred email address>
   end
4. If you want to unsubscribe altogether or be taken off the list while you are away on holidays etc., simply send the following message.
   unsubscribe stc
   end

Arthur Clarke
List Server Manager

Equipment Officers Report

STC's second year has been somewhat more dynamic than the first year, there has been about 60% more caving this year (132 recorded loans) than in our first year (83 recorded loans). In addition, the gear has been safety audited, items in the gear store have been well organised and an inventory has been made (see at the end of this report).

The major addition for the year was a Garmin 12 XL GPS unit with external antenna. Lesser additions included one Petzl Harness and stainless steel bolting hardware.

The major subtraction during the year was about 500 m of old and unsafe rope.

Gear present in the store and recorded in the Gear Loans book accounts for all inventoried equipment.

LAMPS
According to the Gear Loans book, over the last financial year (Oct '97-Sep '98) there were around 200 light hires.

During the year one Oldham battery ("E") failed and five new gel-cells were installed. Battery capacities (in terms of hours of operation on High Beam) of all lamps was last measured in late August/early September (see table below).

Currently there are 19 serviceable lamps, 11 Gel-cell and 8 Oldhams (Oldham "I" failed in October). Oldhams "J", "L" and gel-cell "13" are nearing the end of their lives.

The ancient 6-Volt charger has an intermittent fault and at times is problematic; probably par for the course for a piece of ~25 year old electronic equipment. It needs replacing.

The Oldham (4 Volt) charger works well, though one of the six circuits has fried components and needs some new parts.

No-one has made use of the Sewer pipe lights over the year. These need some work to make them more reliable.

A bad batch of 6 Volt bulbs from Tandy Electronics caused some problems during the year; these bulbs were lucky to last one trip! Indeed, on a couple of trips there were multiple light failures. The club lights are now being fitted with more expensive and reliable Eveready bulbs.

Recommendations:
- New Gel-cells be purchased for installation in STC lights on an 'as needed' basis (i.e. when an Oldham battery fails, or when a gel-cell needs replacing).
- The 6 volt charger be replaced with a more reliable unit during the year.

	4 Volt Oldhams										6 Volt Gel-Cells										
Lamp	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	J	L	1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Capacity*											NB			NB		NB				NB	
Nov '97	>7	>7	>7	>7	>7	>7	>7	>7	6	5	>7	>7	>7	>7	6	>7	>7	>7	6	>7	6
Capacity*																			NB		
Aug/Sep '98	>11	>11	>11	>11	SC	>11	>11	7	4	5	10	11	>11	11	>11	>11	>11	>11	>11	>11	6

* Capacity in terms of hours on High Beam. > indicates battery still had reserve.
NT=Not yet Tested SC=Scrapped NB=New Battery since last test.

HELMETS
There are 22 serviceable Construction Workers Helmets which are only suitable for horizontal caving. The recommended serviceable life of these type of helmets is around three years. Some of the helmets are a little bit older than this, but have been retained. Two helmets over 10 years old were discarded.

There are 2 SRT suitable helmets. The recommended life of these helmets is 5 years maximum. Both are fine. Fibreglass helmets reputedly have a life of 2 to 3 times that of the plastic variety, and thus it would be better to move into this style of helmet; (which costs about the same). If we purchase one more SRT helmet then we will have three SRT sets.

Recommendations:
- Consider purchasing one more SRT helmet.
- In time, replace the existing plastic SRT helmets with fibreglass SRT helmets.

ROPES

All ropes were safety audited during the year (as outlined in Speleo Spiel #307) and about 500 m of rope was retired. A log book for all serviceable ropes is now being kept.

Also, a couple of lengths of serviceable rope were used to construct the replacement ladders to go into Growling Swallet. That leaves us with a total of 1421 metres of serviceable rope.

A new modular rope rack was built and the ropes are now well stored and selecting ropes for use is easy.

Recommendations:

- Progressively bring some of new stored ropes into service.
- Continue with annual drop testing of any older ropes, or any suspect ropes and use the results of these tests to make an informed decision about the retirement of our ropes.

GEAR BAGS

We have a small collection of gear bags, three close to new and some close to tatters. Most regular cavers have there own gear-bag, so the need for club bags is reduced.

LADDERS AND TRACES

We have 5 serviceable ladders (1 by 50', 4 by 30'). We have a number of traces, most in good condition, though several are rather old.

Recommendations:

- Affix a 'date-tag' to all ladders and traces, so that we accurately know their age.

SRT GEAR

During the year one new harness was purchased and two new cowstails and safety loops were made. Replacement bars for the 'long' rack were also made. The two serviceable Whaletails are virtually worn out. A donated Whaletail and Rack (see below) are timely additions and can replace the two worn-out Whaletails.

Overall we have two complete sets of SRT gear. If we purchase one more harness and helmet then we will have three complete sets. The level of demand, however is such that maybe this is not necessary at the moment.

Recommendations:

- Replace gear as it wears so that we maintain two complete sets of club SRT gear.
- If demand increases, then consider purchasing the necessary items to allow us to have three sets.

BOLTING GEAR/POWER DRILL

The power drill has seen a small amount of use with the rebolting in Ice Tube. The gel-cell purchased to beef up the internal battery did not survive the year. This partly, was due to a low quality brand of battery and also the fact that the battery size is not large enough to give it longevity; the sizing has been done to be convenient and transportable. A new, higher quality battery has been purchased. If it proves to also be short-lived, then we should consider alternatives.

Fifteen 9 cm long, 1 cm diameter double expansion stainless steel bolts were purchased during the year for rebolting high priority caves with long-lasting easy to use hardware. Ice-Tube has been mostly done (using 7 of these). According to reports, the power drill works well for placing these (but we need to purchase a new 10 mm bit).

Some research [to be published soon!] was done about the glue-in Eco hangers as used in the UK, however these require an 18 mm diameter hole, which is beyond our drill (rated at 15 mm maximum). However, there are other types of glue-in bolts (e.g. Fixe), that only require a 12 mm diameter hole, and so it might be worth investigating this option for appropriate situations (e.g. softer rock, where expansion bolts are not as secure).

The hand-bolting gear was used several times during the year, mostly in low-use caves. As a matter of policy, relatively short lived spits should not be placed in caves that are going to receive heavier use, the stronger and longer lasting stainless steel hardware we are moving to should be used.

Recommendations:

- the power drill not be left underground longer than 9 days (i.e. in one weekend, out the next), and when left underground in the short term should be stored in as clean and dry as possible environment.
- we try out some glue-in bolts somewhere. A mini-workshop in a quarry environment might provide a valuable learning experience to interested persons.

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.

A GARMIN GPS 12XL unit was purchased and is available for club members to use on a "provide your own batteries (4*AA gives 15 hours use), and return the data to the club" basis. This unit works very well in Tasmanian forests. Since purchasing this unit there has been little demand to use it.

ROPE PROTECTORS

We have more than enough for our needs, some need restringing.

DONATIONS

Albert Goede and Vicky Bonwick donated some of their caving gear to STC. Many of these items are unfortunately too old/antiquated (e.g. harnesses, helmets, Original Jumars) to be safely put into service, however several non-ageing components (Whaletail, Rack, carabiners, hangers) have been placed into the gear store. Many thanks to Albert and Vicky.

STC WAREHOUSE SALES

See the back of a Spiel for what we have and current prices. There is only a low demand for items held (apart from dynamic rope), and relatively little money is generated for STC from this source. Perhaps it is not worth continuing on with this. What do members think?

So that's the status of the Equipment Store at the end of STC's second year. The gear store and the equipment there-in is probably in the most organised and in the safest condition that it has ever been over the last ten years!

Jeff Butt
Equipment Officer

LIGHT EMITTING GIZMO'S

Some info. about some high tech. toys that may be of interest.

•**LED LASER**, runs off 3 button cell (LR44) batteries; the total size is as big as an AA battery! Has a spread of about 1 cm over 10 m. Available from Chickenfeed for $14.95. A bit of a toy, but useful for pointing out features in caves, and may have survey applications.

•**HIGH INTENSITY LED's** for ~$1 (red), ~$3 (yellow), ~$7 (green or blue), ~$8 (white) from many electronics shops. These are mostly bright enough to use as Low Beam on your caving lamp, but suck only about 25 mA. The technology for Green/Blue/White LED's isn't quite there yet, costs are higher and intensities are down, but they are always improving.

•**BLITZING CAVING LAMP**-there's no battery saving here, just buckets of light. 12 Volt, 20 or 50 Watt QH dichroic lights really show you the cave like nothing else will. And the bulb/reflectors are only $4.95 each. Mount one on your helmet if you dare!

STC GEAR INVENTORY 30/9/98					NOTE: Additions this STC year have the date shown in BOLD TYPE				
Item	**Quantity**	**Purchased/ made/ put into service**	**Condition**	**Location**	**Item**	**Quantity**	**Purchased/ made/ put into service**	**Condition**	**Location**
LIGHTING					**BOLTING GEAR-HAND**				
4 Volt charger	1	n/a	good, but one clip U/S	store	Petzl Bolting kit pouch	1	n/a	good	store
6 Volt charger	1	n/a	intermittent fault	store	Petzl Bolting hammer	1	n/a	good	store
4 Volt Oldham lamps	9	n/a	good	store	Petzl Bolting Driver	1	n/a	good	store
6 Volt Gel-cell lamps	11	n/a	good	store	Petzl 10 mm self drive spits and cones	3 sets	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
Belts	24	n/a	good	store	Container of grease	1	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
Oldham headpieces (complete)	3	n/a	good	store	Troll hanger	1	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
Box of assorted lamp spares	1	n/a	various	store	Petzl Twist hangers	9	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
Sewer-pipe lamps	2	n/a	springs need attention	store	Petzl Twist hangers	3	n/a	poor (corrosion)	store (bolt kit)
Sewer-pipe spare battery carriers	3	n/a	good	store	Petzl Twist hangers-old style	2	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
plastic fish crate	1	n/a	good	store	**BOLTING GEAR-SPARES**				
Container of spare 4V bulbs	1	n/a	new	store	Fixe stainless steel expansion bolts (90 mm by 10 mm)	8	**May-98**	new	store
Container of spare 6V bulbs	1	**last in Aug-98**	new	store	Fixe stainless steel hangers with captive rings	8	**May-98**	new	store
Spare 6 Volt gel-cells	0		out of stock		Petzl 10 mm self drive spits	36	n/a	most good	store
HELMETS (Total 24)					Cones for 10 mm spits	34	n/a	most good	store
Edelrid Ultralite Helmet	1	Jul-96	good	store	Petzl 15 mm self drive spits	2	n/a	good	store
Petzl Vertical Helmet	1	Sep-95	good	store	Cones for 15 mm spits	2	n/a	good	store
Safety Helmets-white	10	**Feb-98**	good	store	Petzl Twist hangers	3	n/a	new	store
Safety Helmets-white	8	Aug-95	good	store	Petzl hangers	4	n/a	new	store
Safety Helmets-green	3	~1994	good	store	Nylon bolts (for markers)	24	n/a	new	store
Safety Helmets-miscellaneous	1	n/a	fair	store	**CAVE NUMBERING GEAR**				
STATIC ROPES					Box of Blank number tags	1 box	n/a	good	store
Serviceable ropes-see attached Ropes list	1421 m	various	various	store	Metal punches, set of 10 numerals	1	n/a	good	store
Retired ropes	quantity	n/a	u/s	store	Ida Bay number tags (207, 214-220, 227-269)	51	n/a	new	store
ROPE PROTECTORS (Total 23)					Mt. Weld number tags (1-10)	10	n/a	new	store
red PVC	5	n/a	good	store	Nylon sleeves and nails (for number tags)	27	n/a	new	store
yellow PVC	10	n/a	good	store	**GPS GEAR**				
canvas (firehose)	8	n/a	mostly good	store	Garmin 12 XL GPS unit (Serial No. 35324575)	1	**Jun-98**	good	store
SRT GEAR					External Antenna	1	**Jun-98**	good	store
Petzl Rapide harness and alloy D-Maillon	1	Sep-95	good	store	**SURVEY GEAR**				
Petzl Super Avanti harness and steel D-Maillon	1	**Apr-98**	good		50 m fibreglass tapes-open reel	1	**Nov-97**	good	store
Stuff sacks for SRT gear sets	2	**Apr-98**	good		30 m fibreglass tapes-open reel	1	n/a	good	store
Rappel rack (long)	1	n/a	good	store	30 m fibreglass tapes-open reel	1	n/a	ok, but only 20 m length	store
Whaletails	3	2 Jun-95, 1 n/a	1 good, 2 poor	store	50 m fibreglass tape-closed reel	1	n/a	good	store
Petzl Expedition ascenders	2	Jun-90	good	store	50 m fibreglass tape-closed reel	2	n/a	ok, but 30-40 m length	store
Petzl Croll ascenders	3	2 in Jun-90	2 good, 1 medium	store	Suunto compass #333530(3)	1	n/a	good	store
Cowstails (each with 2 snaplink carabiners)	3	**2 in 98**, 1 in 96	3 good	store	Suunto compass-no number (repaired unit)	1	n/a	good	store
Jumars-yellow	2	n/a	good	store	Suunto compass #438188(25)	1	n/a	fair-blue oil	store
CMI handled ascender	1	n/a	medium	store	Suunto compass #811154(25)	1	n/a	u/s	store
CMI chest ascender	1	n/a	poor	store	Suunto compass #438122(25)	1	n/a	u/s	store
SRT medium ascender	1	n/a	poor	store	Suunto clinometer #033141	1	n/a	good	store
Gibbs ascender	1	n/a	good	store	Suunto clinometer #423770	1	n/a	good	store
Screwgate D Carabiners	3	n/a	good	store	Suunto clinometer #510520	1	n/a	u/s	store
Screwgate Carabiners	3	n/a	good	store	Box assorted Suunto components	1	n/a	mostly u/s	store
Snaplink Carabiners	3	n/a	good	store	**FURNITURE**				
Harness tapes (6 m * 2" white tape)	2	1995	good	store	long wooden box with 2 lids	1	n/a	good	store
Box of Unserviceable/old ascenders/descenders	1	n/a	poor or unserviceable	store	wooden cupboards	2	n/a	ok	1 at store, 1 at Greg
PACKS					metal rope racks	2	n/a	not used	store
Medium-yellow	2	Feb-96	good	store	wooden rope rack	1	**Mar-98**	new	store
Extra large-white	1	n/a	good	store	**DROP TEST RIG**				
Small-green	1	n/a	poor	store	80 kg weight	1	**Mar-98**	heavy!	store
Small-red	1	n/a	good	store	Zennit maillons	3	**Mar-98**	ok	store
Small-red/blue	1	n/a	fair	store	Screwgate Carabiner	1	n/a	poor	store
"Dead" packs	3	n/a	u/s, suitable for patches	store	**MISCELLANEOUS**				
LADDERS & TRACES					Rope cutting knife	1	n/a	good	store
15m (50') Bonwick ladder	1	Sep-95	good	store	Ropewasher	1	n/a	good	store
9 m (30') Bonwick ladders	4	2 in Apr-91	3 good, 1 fair	store	quantity old fire hose	1	n/a	ok	store
3 mm wire traces-long length (6.1 m/20')	2	1 in Sep-95	good	store	sack metal ladder rungs	1	n/a	ok	store
3 mm wire traces-medium length (2.4 m/8')	7	n/a	medium	store	Metal adjustable squeeze	1	n/a	ok	store
3 mm wire traces-short length (1.3 m/4')	2	n/a	ok	store	Transparent heatshrink	1 length	**Aug-98**	new	store
PVC rung ladders (to be installed in Growling Swallet)	3	**made Jul-98**	good	store	Aluminium rod (for making rack bars)	1 piece	**Jun-98**	new	store
BOLTING GEAR-ELECTRIC					part roll Donaghys 2" flat tape-red	~20 m	n/a	new	store
Hitachi DH15DV Hammer Drill-complete	1	1996	good	store	part roll Donaghys 1" flat tape-white	~10 m	~1990	new	store
12 Volt Gel-cell (Yuasa)	1	**Aug-98**	new	store	space blankets	11	Dec-95	new	store
Gel-cell pouch	1	1997	good	store	Duracell flat pack batteries	0		out of stock	
Arlec 12 Volt Gel-cell charger	1	1997	good	store	Petzl 21 litre carbide jets	2	n/a	new	store
Drill bits-1/4	1	1996	good	store	Beal 9 mm Dynamic rope (for Cowstails/Safety loops)	~15 m	Dec-95	new	store
Drill bit-5 mm	1	1996	good	store					***Jeff Butt. Equipment Officer.***

STATIC ROPE INVENTORY-30/9/98

Rope No.	Brand	Type	Diam (mm)	Purchased	Label	Shrunk length (m)	Into Service	Condition G/M/F	Notes
2	Beal	Static	9	?	R2-?	200		unused	still on roll
36	Beal	Static	9	?	R36-?	62	?	good	
53	Beal	Static	9	?	R53-?	49	?	good	Rat's tail added
40	Bluewater II	Static	9	?	R40-90	30	1995	good	
15	Bluewater II	Static	9	1986	R15-86	14	1986	medium	
14	Bluewater II	Static	9	?	R14-90	11	1995	good	
16	Bluewater II	Static	9	1986	R16-86	9	1986	medium	
34	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R34-89	30	1989	good	
7	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R7-89	22	1991	medium	many melt streaks
8	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R8-89	16	1991	medium	
13	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R13-91	16	1991	medium	
9	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R9-89	15	1989	medium	
10	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R10-89	14	1991	medium	
11	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R11-89	11	1991	medium	
SH	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	SH-89	9	1989	medium	
SH	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	SH-89	8	1989	medium	
SH	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	SH-89	5	1989	medium	
5	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	R5-92	109	1992	good	
4	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	R4-92	69	1992	good	
19	Bluewater II	Static	11	1983	R19-83	38	1983	medium	
26	Bluewater II	Static	11	1986	R26-86	30	1986	fair	stiff
25	Bluewater II	Static	11	1986	R25-86	25	1986	fair	stiff
24	Bluewater II	Static	11	1985	R24-85	25	1985	medium	
21	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R21-?	23	?	medium	
27	Bluewater II	Static	11	1986	R27-86	22	1986	fair	stiff
28	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R28-?	18	?	fair	stiff
22	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R22-?	17	?	medium	
30	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R30-?	15	?	medium	
32	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R32-?	12	?	medium	
33	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R33-?	12	?	medium	
35	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R35-?	12	?	medium	
23	Bluewater II plus	Static	11	?	R23-?	11	?	medium	furry sheath
20	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R20-?	10	?	medium	
SH	Bluewater II	Static	11	1983	SH-83	9	1983	medium	
SH	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	SH-?	7	?	medium	
SH	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	SH-?	5	?	medium	
1	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1994	R1-94	125		unused	still on roll
31	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	?	R31-?	80	?	medium	
6	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1994	R6-94	67	1994	good	
12	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1988	R12-88	17	1988	fair	many melt streaks
46	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1988	R46-88	15	1988	fair	
41	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1988	R41-88	12	1988	medium	
SH	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1988	SH-88	8	1988	medium	
SH	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1988	SH-88	7	1988	medium	
SH	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1988	SH-88	5	1988	fair	part of rope 12
38	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	?	R38-?	29	?	good	
39	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	?	R39-?	11	?	good	
45	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	?	R45-?	10	?	good	
49	Edelrid	Softstatic	10.5	?	R48-?	22	?	medium	
50	Edelrid	Softstatic	10.5	?	R49-?	10	?	medium	
48	Edelrid	Superstatic	11	?	R48-?	13	?	good	
					Total length	**1421 m**			

Notes:

1. All ropes of at least 10 m in length have been allocated a number. All shorter ropes have been given a "SH" (i.e. short) identifier.
2. All ropes have a label (beneath clear heatshrink), this label consists of three lines, "STC"; "Rn-yy"; "mm"
   where "STC" denotes ownership by STC; "n" is Rope number; "yy" is the year of purchase (if known) and "mm" is the length (m).
3. All these ropes have been inspected and assessed for safety. A detailed report on this process, including subjecting test pieces to Fall Factor 1 drop tests with an 80 kg was published in Speleo-Spiel 308.
4. Rope log sheets are now being kept for all ropes. As old ropes are replaced with new ones, histories for all ropes will become complete.

Jeff Butt, Equipment Officer

Editors Report

When STC formed, the membership decided that the Speleo Spiel was going to be the regular bi-monthly magazine (containing current news/trip reports and the like) and that the Southern Caver would come out as an annual magazine (containing more in-depth articles and reports).

During the year, six Speleo Spiels (304-309) were produced on a regular basis. The production of these was a bit of a team effort with Dean Morgan producing 304, John Hawkins-Salt producing 305-308 and myself producing 309. Each issue has been well filled with club news, a forward program, trip reports and some more lengthy articles. Actually, the current Spiel looks like a hybridisation of the TCC Spiel of old, the SCS Southern Caver and the TCKRG Journal, which is no surprise really, it just reflects the writing style and origins of the STC membership.

To date, a Southern Caver has not (yet) been produced; all the writing/editing energy has been directed towards articles for the Spiel, the philosophy being that it is good to have one regular interesting magazine than trying to stretch resources too thinly to produce more. In reality, it doesn't matter where things are published, as long as they are so that useful information doesn't get lost.

At present, the amount of copy coming in for the Spiel is such that a selection of the more substantial articles could easily be kept over for a Southern Caver, without diminishing the content of the Spiel too much. This is something that the new Editors can address. Anyone who feels like writing a more substantial article is encouraged to do so.

Currently, our print run is 100 copies and the mailing list takes about 96 of them, leaving some spares for distribution to prospective members and other interested persons. Each Spiel costs around $150 (~$90 to photocopy, ~$10 to envelope, ~$50 to post). With six issues a year that amounts to about $900 in total. With about 60 members that amounts to around $15 of each persons $25 membership, quite a significant proportion (and with $24.50 of each membership going to the ASF, it's no wonder the Treasurer is seeking to increase subscriptions!) To try and address this issue the format of Spiel 309 was changed to fit more into less pages and to keep the mailing costs down to a maximum of 45 cents for each issue to anywhere in Australia. These changes are having the desired effects.

Anyway, that's enough. I'd like to encourage all potential authors of articles out there to put fingers to keyboard/pen to paper and write up your activities, even though they might not seem like anything much, they do at least give an indication of the activities of STC.

Jeff Butt
Editor

Search & Rescue Officers Report

The year just gone has not been without incident! Two potentially serious accidents occurred on club trips (see Ice Tube trip report, pages 10-11 Spiel 307 and Flick Mints Incident report, pages 7-11 Spiel 309).

The lessons here are that "Shit does happen", and that "it can happen to anyone". Overall, anyone going caving needs to be well prepared, carry enough emergency equipment to be able to treat an injury, and be have the necessary skills and training to be able to react appropriately if an accident does happen. Often in the past, some people have been a bit slack in carrying emergency equipment-the time for complacency is over. Everyone must be prepared just in case something does happen! Don't leave it to someone else!

On a positive note, the Annual Caving Search and Rescue Exercise weekend (held at Hastings In Dec 97) was one of the most successful ever held. Everyone got the chance to be involved and valuable learning experiences were obtained.

The next Exercise weekend will be happening on Feb 6/7 next year, this will be a statewide affair--please attend if you can.

The Caving Search and Rescue Call-out list was updated this year (via a Questionnaire in Spiel 308, pages 2-3. If per chance you haven't completed yours, then please do so and return it to me as soon as possible. This particular Questionnaire had a skills checklist which was intended to make individuals assess their own skills.

A summary of the results appears in the Table below.

No. respondents	13
Type of Caver	
Multi-pitch	9
Single-pitch	4
Ex-Caver	1
No. trips in	
3 months	0-15
1 year	1->40
3 years	2->100
Own Equipment	
SRT Gear	YES-11/NO-2
Light	YES-11/NO-2
First Aid Certificate	
Current	10
Expired	2
Never	1
Camping Gear	YES-13/NO-0
Caving Skills	
Rigging	YES-8/SOME-3 /NO-2
Bolting	YES-7/NO-6
Rescue Skills	
Rope Rescue	YES-5/NO-8
Stretcher Carry	YES-11/NO-2
Stretcher Haul	YES-8/NO-5
Hauling systems	YES-8/NO-5
Communications	
Mole Phone	YES-4/NO-9
VHF radio	YES-12/NO-1
Other skills	
Chainsaw	YES-6/NO-7
Digging	YES-2/NO-11
Navigation	
Day	YES-13/NO-0
Night	YES-10/NO-3
GPS	YES-6/NO-7
Helicopter Use	YES-9/NO-4
Callout time-Work	0:30-3:00
Callout time-Home	0:30-2:00

Recognising weaknesses is the first step in strengthening them. It is apparent that many of our club members who regularly go caving simply don't have enough skills to be able to self-help (e.g. pluck someone off a rope.) The next CAVEX will attempt to work on these skills. In addition, a series of "off meeting Wednesday nights" training/skills enhancements nights are detailed in the Forward Program on page 3 of this Spiel. Please attend if you can.

Jeff Butt
Search & Rescue Officer

Exploring the magnificent magnesite karst east of Arthur River in NW Tasmania - 8/8/98

Party: Robyn Claire, Arthur Clarke and Dave Heap (Savage River Caving Club).

Dave Heap lives out "in the sticks", near Moorleah - up from the Flowerdale Emu Farm - about half an hour's drive west of Burnie. Being an ex-patriot Yorkshire caver, like Trevor Wailes, he still maintains his passion for caving - mid-week or on weekends. The nearest karst (caving) areas to Dave's place are the Tertiary Limestone caves at Fossil Bluff near Wynyard and the Pre-Cambrian Magnesite caves about 30-40 minutes drive south, near the Arthur River. Robyn Claire and I attended the opening of the June MacLucas cave art exhibition in Burnie on Friday night (August 7th) and had been invited by Dave Heap to check out the caves and karst in both these areas: Fossil Bluff limestone and the Keith River magnesite. Unfortunately, the tide was inshore when we tried to inspect the numerous Fossil Bluff caves, so we headed south to the magnesite.

Lenticular bodies of Pre-Cambrian magnesite rock (an iron/ magnesium/ calcium carbonate) form part of a narrow band of metamorphosed carbonate rocks within the Timbs Group of rocks known as the Arthur Metamorphic Complex (Sharples, 1997). Located within the so-called "Tarkine" area, the magnesite karsts form part of a linear body of rock, running from the Central Creek/ Southern Creek area northeast of the Arthur River and extending SSW down to the Pieman River, including the magnesite solution caves and karst near the Savage River (see *Speleo Spiel #*303, pp. 10-11).

At the northern end, near the Arthur River, there is a 7-8 kilometre section of magnesite outcrop including the area proposed as a mine site by Crest Resources N/L. The magnesite appears to only be karstified in isolated "pockets" where it has been intersected by the Arthur River and its tributary streams: Central Creek/ Southern Creek, Keith River and Lyons River. Dave Heap and other members of the Savage River Caving Club (SRCC) have recorded and number-tagged a dozen small caves in this area referred to as the "Keith River" karst: most of the smaller caves are located within the magnesite karst of the Central Creek Karst Complex (Sharples, 1997); there are another two known larger caves on the banks of the Lyons River. In addition to these caves there are several warm springs including "*Victory Springs*" in the magnesite outcrop beside the Arthur River: these springs are described by Kevin Kiernan as being "globally significant" karst features.

We accessed the magnesite karst via the Oldina Native Plant Nursery (run by two other members of SRCC), then drove south to the Arthur River, via Farqhuars Road - a former forestry access road. Most of our time was spent exploring the magnesite karst of the Central Creek Karst Complex, located about 400-500 m east of the Arthur River - Central Creek is a relatively wide flat-floored dry valley (with a streamsink at its head) which runs through the magnesite passing some truly magnificent 10-15 m high fern and bryophyte covered solution pinnacles. These solution pinnacles are also intersected by the active Southern Creek which flows through small magnesite grikes, canyons, arches and undercuts into the lower reaches of Central Creek There were a few small (8-10m deep) vertical rifts or shaft features in some of the magnesite pinnacles which looked vaguely like solutional karst features. Most of the small caves are located in boulder collapses or in Southern Creek itself where they have formed in boulder encased undercuts along the streamway. The very few cave invertebrates seen were epigean (surface-dwelling) species, including the Tasmanian Cave Spider (*Hickmania troglodytes*) with its egg sac and terrestrial land snails such as *Tasmaphena sinclairi*.

Dave Heap inserted fluorescein dye into the streamsink at the head of Central Creek and we spent about an hour or so waiting at a known fissured resurgence site beside the Southern Creek streamway downstream from the dry Central Creek valley, about 275-300 m from the streamsink. The fluorescein did not come through. During close examination of this resurgence feature, I noticed that it was actually a "bubbling-up" resurgence spring, with water up-welling in surges. The water was also slightly warmer in this resurgence - around 8.0 °C (48 °F), compared to slightly cooler 7.2 °C (45 °F) water of nearby Southern Creek. On the inside walls of this fissured resurgence spring, there were some unusual grey-coloured rhaphidophorids (cave crickets) - probably new species of the genus: *Micropathus*.

The temperature of the spring water in the *Victory Springs* site, at the base of the steep-sided river bank in magnesite beside the Arthur River, was recorded at 67 degrees F (19.5°C) on this Saturday (August 8th, 1998). This was formerly a commercial water bottling operation - as indicated by the infrastructure and a discarded sign reading: "*Thomas Natural Cascading Mineral Spring Water*". The site appears to be largely abandoned: although the two inch polythene pipe is in place with new pipe-end connectors disconnected, the generator and pump is gone along with the pump switching apparatus and at least one of the storage tanks has been removed. Water from the *Victory Springs* is still channelled into a storage tank, but present overflow goes directly into the Arthur River. If in fact the operation has ceased, SRCC members have indicated that they would

be happy to contribute with the work effort to remove the remaining equipment and help restore or rehabilitate the site back to its original condition. There are at least two other warm springs in the magnesite near this *Victory Springs* site, but we did not record their water temperatures.

Despite the fact that the magnesite karst area is not pristine (due to forestry and roading activity, including road metal quarries), the present remaining karst is quite magnificent: truly unique from a global perspective, but probably only in terms of geoconservation of the karst features, not the caves. Most of the caves in the Central Creek Karst Complex are short and narrow dry or stream passages amongst collapse boulders, collapsed pinnacles and undercut magnesite pinnacles - but the magnesite spires or pinnacles (some 10-15m high), the fissures, grikes and canyons, arches, overhangs and undercuts, dry valleys, cold and warm springs are all highly significant (as magnesite karst) and desirable for protection by some small State Reserves (as well as World Heritage Listing).

Reference:

Sharples, C. (1997) "*Karst Geomorphology and Values of the Tarkine: limestone, dolomite and magnesite karst systems of the Arthur-Pieman region of Tasmania*." Australian Heritage Commission and Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc. 176 pp.

Arthur Clarke
(text & photograph)

Risby's Basin Cave-14/09/98

Party: Jol Desmarchelier, Arthur Clarke, Johny Tasirin

Ever get the feeling its going to be one of those days?

A party of three headed out to the Risbys Basin karst area to retrieve some water sampling containers and investigate the cave fauna. Two containers (2 litre glass bottles) had been strategically placed under dripping straw stalactites in Risbys Basin Cave (RB-X4) about 2 years ago in order to collect water for analysis to detect the presence of radioactive elements. The results will be used in an age estimation model for several straw stalactites dated from this cave. It was hoped that the 2 litre containers of water would be collected within a few weeks ... mmm...

Sunday, September 14th was a reasonable day if you closed your eyes and blocked your ears in order to hide the fact that it was pissing down with rain. Whilst not a particularly eventful drive out from Hobart, we would like to point out to the "fagging" lady in the car who pulled out onto the Lyell Highway without stopping (just past the Bridgewater turnoff at Granton): yes, you provoked a huge adrenaline rush from both Jol (and passengers) and the driver coming the other way. Jol reckoned that if he had been driving a semi-trailer, he would not have stopped: survival of the fittest, smartest and all that. At least the cigarette she had in her mouth would have been the last, but being hit by a semi-trailer (or a Subaru station wagon rapidly decelerating from 80 km/h) is probably not the best way to give up smoking!

The area of Risbys Basin limestone karst is situated in a valley almost directly behind the Maydena township, in previously logged wet eucalypt forest bounded by Roberts Hill Road and Risbys Basin Road, on the southern side of the Strathgordon Road. Caves in this area have been known for over 50 years; TCC members first explored Pillingers Creek Cave in May, 1947 and with a surveyed depth of 120 metres, it was the deepest known cave in Australia for many years. Pillingers Creek sinks and emerges several times along the main Risbys Basin valley with several caves and dolines found along its length. More recent exploration of this karst area occurred from 1992 onwards, when the limestone area was being quality tested as a possible alternate site for limestone extraction and being offered to Ray Bender as compensation for loss of the Ida Bay (Benders Quarry) site. Several drill holes have been sunk in the first part of the bulldozed track (coming from Roberts Hill Road) and it takes about 9 seconds for stones to reach the water at the bottom of these bore holes. Drill cores taken from the holes were used to assess the calcium carbonate content at various depths to determine its suitability as a source of limestone for agricultural lime and metallurgical purposes in the electrolytic zinc refining process at Risdon.

The walk to Risbys Basin Cave initially follows the bulldozed track from Roberts Hill Road; this was carved into the forest across the limestone to drag in the drilling rigs. About 300 metres down the left hand side of the bulldozed track there is a vertical cave shaft (RB-X2), now covered by rotting logs and branches; this was initially explored by cavers to a depth of 20 metres, but despite the fact that the cave was widening with a further pitch below, to our knowledge, it has not been further explored. There have been several attempts to drive down this track but along with fallen trees, the forest is gradually reclaiming the road. An easier route both in time and effort would be via Risbys Basin Road but a fair bit of clearing of fallen trees would be necessary, unless this has already been done by the local 4WD "mafia". From the bottom corner of the drill rig track, the Risbys Basin Cave track continues along a taped track to the valley floor and along the top of a cliff line. Solutional surface features such as karren are well developed and present quite a hazard when walking on the track. There is a small lightly decorated cave about 150 metres southeast of Risbys Basin Cave and this can be located by following a series of tapes off the main track down to the valley floor.

Although this small cave was not in the day's plan it was decided to have a "quick" look. After trogging up Johny and Jol decided to enter the cave after Arthur lit up the obligatory pre-caving "rollie" and with suitably cryptic directions regarding route finding communicated to Arthur, they entered the cave. The entrance requires a little rock scrambling and an upclimb to the right, after which there is a downclimb into a large chamber which can be done without a handline. Just before the down climb there are a couple of places where hundreds of land snail shells (*Caryodes dufresnii*) have accumulated; you need to keep to the right hand side wall (facing into the cave), so that you don't tread all over these snail shell deposits. Appropriately, it was decided to call the cave: "*Caryodes Cavern*" (RB-X3). A little rock grooming ("gardening") was called for further down as Jol managed to find the loose handhold but thankfully did not pull the large rock onto himself. From the bottom of the climb you crawl through a couple of

sandy and rock ledge squeezes until you reach the stream. Following the stream for several metres you reach a small chamber and the way further on involves a grovel through the stream in order to avoid trashing a number of straws and thin columns. This had been done by "Bear" (Andrew McNeill) on a previous trip and not feeling particularly keen on wet undies, Jol turned back to locate Arthur. This description of the cave leaves out a detour at the beginning of the climb which takes you into an upper level of the cave which has some decoration consisting of mainly flowstone, several tens of stalactites (both straw and conical) and a few stalagmites. To get there requires walking over very soft sediment which in places is calcified; this lead was followed for a while but it was getting very tricky finding places to tread without leaving a calling card of massive muddy footprints so we turned back.

The cryptic directions ("just follow our mud prints, you can't go wrong") given by Jol to Arthur inadvertently led to him in another direction, exploring a previously unknown section of the cave. Following the stream in from the entrance, he grovelled his way along a cobble strewn downward sloping stream passage, following through narrow fissures and jagged limestone; this probably connects below to the main streamway. Arthur describes it as NOT somewhere you choose to go on purpose! The steeply inclined streambed was a flowing streamway and waterfall in places, floored with well-rounded, unconsolidated cobbles and gravels that didn't give you much traction, let alone support when trying to climb back out! A thought occurred to Arthur as he was grovelling in this passage "Jol's got really keen since he's been away in Canberra!". However, there was one saving grace: the streambed cobbles did yield a few hydrobiids (aquatic snails) and while exiting, Arthur found another new superbly decorated upper level part of the cave. After "re-uniting", Jol showed Arthur the "right way" in, and we all went back down to the main streamway and collected some cave fauna including more aquatic snails and saw several crangonyctoid (aquatic) amphipods. The aquatic snails had a long spiral shell of between 1 - 4 mm long and were found on the undersides of smooth rounded cobbles immersed in the relatively slow flowing water.

RISBYS BASIN KARST-Untagged cave "X" numbers & cave names:

RB-X1: "Pillingers Creek Cave"- (this cave was formerly recorded as JF-66);
RB-X2: "Vertical Shaft"- (in vicinity of drill hole sites, on LHS of bulldozed sidetrack off Roberts Hill Road; not fully explored-includes unexplored(?) pitch, still going(?) at -20 metres);
RB-X3: "Caryodes Cavern"- (streamsink cave, 150m SE of Risbys Basin Cave);
RB-X4: "Risbys Basin Cave"-(also previously referred to as "Ray Bender Cave");
RB-X5: "Snail Grave Cave"- (fissured cave entrance, NW of Risby Basin Cave);
RB-X6: "The 1300N Streamsink"- (in blind valley to north of Risby Basin karst);
RB-X7: Un-named cave/ karst feature -(streamsink above Pillingers Creek Cave).

From Caryodes Cavern, we walked back up to the main track, veering left to Risbys Basin Cave. This cave entrance is located approximately 10 metres to the left of another Pillingers Creek streamsink and has a large log straddling the entrance. Descending into the cave after Arthur's obligatory rollie cigarette required a fair amount of motivation on Jol's part due to the inclement weather conditions and the time factor. Jol showed Johny some of the moonmilk deposits in the first chamber and then we climbed up the wooden ladder into the cave; this was put in after one of the first trips to the cave in order to bypass a difficult short climb over a large boulder. At the top of the ladder you walk along the top of a grotty boulder pile into a chamber with a steeply sloping floor, close to the base of the slope is a constricted hole through which you have to slip into and descend to the bottom in two basic stages. At the bottom of this is a short crawly bit followed by a short squeeze through a limestone block into a small, boulder filled chamber. To get through this you must crawl up and into a very small chamber and then feet first through another squeeze before crawling into a decorated fossil stream passage chamber (with straw stalactites, stalagmites and flowstone) which joins onto the main streamway. Some care must be taken when passing through here to avoid damaging the delicate decoration. The first water bottle in this fossil passage was still only half full but Jol was confident that the second bottle located further downstream in a chamber beside the main streamway was going to be full, and it was! We reached the main streamway which was in partial flood and decided to go downstream first, wading through cold water where you notice several features of the cave including a couple of fairly large chambers and an upper level passage: so where does that go, maybe it leads to a vertical entrance? We reached the downstream water collection site via a dry bypass, which required a little "grooming" as the trip leader (Jol) managed to find a few loose rocks which then loosened other rocks, etc.

After collecting the now full bottle (YAY!) we moved further downstream to look at an interesting sediment bank resembling a glacial varve deposit, which has been partially excavated by high stream levels in the present day stream channel. This probable relict karst sediment deposit from glacial times (??) is approximately 1.5 metre high and consists of finely laminated grey to orange clay laminae with some layers or lenses consisting of sand sized particles and evidence of ferric leaching from iron-rich components in the sediment. Leaves, twigs, and possibly charcoal fragments are also present in some layers. Two adult cave harvestmen (*Nuncioides sp.*) were collected by Arthur from a large rock close by the sediment bank. Moving upstream we passed another large cave fill consisting of boulders of various sizes and shape, with sand and clay: its appearance suggesting possible glacial origin, with little disturbance since emplacement. In a large stream chamber upstream of the cave fill, within 50 metres of the Pillingers Creek sink, we had a good fossick around for cave fauna and found a variety of species including aquatic snails, aquatic amphipods, a 4-5 cm long Anaspidean syncarid; aquatic larvae of various insects, several cave spiders and troglobitic looking carabid beetle. The aquatic snails located in this fast flowing stream were the small rounded varieties, found on the undersides and in crevices of the irregularly shaped, rough surfaced rocks in calmer waters near the streamside banks. These little snails never stood a chance with three sets of eyes scanning the rocks!

With time getting on we made a speedy exit from the cave and emerged into a still rain-soaked rainforest, but underneath a rapidly darkening sky. Although losing the taped walking route, we didn't get too lost in the dark and with only a few large zig-zags across the hill, we managed to find the dozer track (via a "green" taped track route) and walked back up the hill to the car. An uneventful drive home topped off a good day.

Cave fauna observations/ collections from the Risbys Basin karst on 14/9/1998:

***"CARYODES CAVERN"* (RB-X3):**

•Land Snails: *Caryodes dufresnii* - Hundreds of specimens seen in several large accumulations of "dead" shells (2 large, double-banded 3-4 cm long shells collected);
•Hydrobiid (aquatic) snails - slow flowing stream species, long spiral shell type from smooth, rounded rock cobbles in streamway (approx. 25-30 specimens collected, including a few longer 3-4 mm length specimens-possibly 2 species);
•Crangonyctoid (aquatic) amphipods (not collected);
•Styloniscid (terrestrial) isopods (not collected);
•Tasmanian Cave Spider: *Hickmania troglodytes* (not collected);
•Amaurobiid hunting spider: New Genus/ new species (not collected);
•Cave crickets: *Micropathus sp*. (not collected);
•Mycetophilid glow-worms: *Arachnocampa tasmaniensis* (not collected);
•Millipedes (not collected).

***"RISBYS BASIN CAVE"* (RB-X4):**

•Land Snail: *Caryodes dufresnii* (not collected);
•Land Snail: *Tasmaphena sinclairi* (not collected);
•White segmented (terrestrial) oligochaet earthworms (not collected);
•White aquatic flatworms (not collected);
•Hydrobiid (aquatic) snails-fast turbulent flowing stream species, rounded shell type from rough surfaces of irregular shaped rock cobbles in streamway; also several longer specimens (approx. 30-35 specimens collected)-possibly 2 species;
•Crangonyctoid (aquatic) amphipods (approx. 8-10 specimens collected, including one 1.5-2.0 cm long specimen-all specimens have eyes, probably only one species);
•Anaspidean syncarid-greyish pigment -*Anaspides tasmaniae* (1 large specimen collected - approx. 4-5 cm long from under large irregular shaped boulder in streamway);
•Epigean (terrestrial) isopod - 1 cm long, black specimen with yellow stripes-Unidentified species, probably not a styloniscid type (1 specimen collected);
•Cave millipedes-pinkish pigmented species (not collected);
•Carabid beetle, similar to *Goedetrechus sp.*, with distinct eye lense (omnatidia) structures (1 specimen collected);
•Exoskeleton of epigean ("ladybird") beetle (1 specimen collected);
•Troglobitic cave harvestman- *Nuncioides sp. nov* (3 specimens collected including juvenile);
•Tasmanian Cave Spider: *Hickmania troglodytes* (Several male & female specimens seen well into cave near main streamway; webs seen, but no egg sacs observed; not collected);
•Troglobitic amaurobiid hunting spider: Probable new genus/ new species (4 adult specimens collected, including 1 x penultimate male);
•Small 1-2 mm white spider, possibly *Icona sp.* (not collected);
•Depigmented pinkish, tan spiders (approx. 1.0-1.5 cm) - possibly Family Stiphidiidae (not collected);
•Aquatic larvae of eustheniid stone flies (3 specimens collected from irregular shaped boulder in main streamway);
•Aquatic larvae of odonata (dragon fly) from boulder in streamway (1 specimen collected);
•Aquatic larvae of trichopteran caddis fly (2 specimens collected);
•Unidentified aquatic larvae of insects, probably Diptera (2 specimens collected);
•Adult tipulid (crane fly): (1 specimen collected);
•Numerous dipteran flies (not collected);
•Mycetophilid glow-worms: *Arachnocampa tasmaniensis* (not collected);
•Cave crickets: *Micropathus sp.* (not collected).

Jol Desmarchelier and Arthur Clarke

Rules of the Urban Underground

After a recent Draining Trip, I took time out to seek out the well advertised (via graffiti) Cave Clan on the Web. Their Web pages (http://www.squonk.net/users/kriste/drains) are quite interesting; indeed there are many parallels (see below) between their Etiquette/Precautions to our Minimal Impact and Safety Codes. The one notable exception is Graffiti. Ed.

Drain Etiquette

Drains are public-funded property so remember two things. Leave everything as you find it (manhole covers, grilles, gates, safety bars, water monitoring equipment and the like) and be considerate to the fauna which live in drains such as eels, bats, cockies, turtles, birds, etc. Do not break any of the stalictites, crystal growths, termite nest lobes or bird nests if youcan help it. **Graffiti is optional** but it is preferable if you don't slash other works. And don't litter, there is enough crap in the rivers as is.

Draining Precautions

Drain exploration, or urban speleology as it is also known, has certain risks implicit in its makeup. The first of these is water...lots of it moving very fast as a result of rain. Avoid this by doing drains on sunny days. Another is the darkness, so take multiple torches in case one or two go wrong in the drain. There are risks associated with illegal trade waste dumping, so if you smell anything offensive, or the water starts looking strange (fizzing, milky, coloured or luminescent) then leave. Methane, an organic decomposition product from rubbish in drains, tends to flow on the ceiling so naturally no naked flames. And always travel in numbers and tell someone where you are going so if anything goes wrong there is likely to be help. Drains are slippery and it is easy to fall over. We also stress that you keep out of sewers and Telecom tunnels; the operators of these systems are understandably anti-exploration.

BTW, drain exploring is usually illegal or in breach of such laws as trespass, confined spaces legislation or maritime speed limits (We Kid Thee Not). Since by exploring drains you do not do them any damage, and since these were often once natural public river systems which anyone could explore until the Town Planners drowned them in cement and built a city on them and then made it arbitrarily illegal to inspect them, not to mention that a law which cannot be policed is no law at all...it follows that you should feel free to explore. After all...Public Access to Public Works. You paid for them!

Some observations of Caving around the World- Part 2, the UK.

This follows on from Part 1, published in Speleo-Spiel 309.

After a few months in the USA I had just a few weeks in the UK. I was fortunate in this short time to be able to visit three caving areas (Mendips, South Wales and the Yorkshire Dales), visit 7 caves, including several classics (Swildon's Hole, Ogof Ffynnon Dhu, Gaping Gill), stay in several caving club huts and visit several of the numerous 'Cavers watering holes'. Thus, despite my brief visit I think I got a pretty good idea of the local caving scene.

Firstly, the major difference to here, is that caving in the UK is an acceptable and popular activity. Caving clubs have lots of members, are very organised, many have their own caving huts (usually near pubs) and information is freely available; guide books/rigging guides proliferate. Some of the popular caves have up to a dozen parties at once in them!!! My observations include:

- Conditions underground are similar to here, but there's generally more water, less mud, it's slightly colder and the dimensions of passages smaller. A lot more crawling and thrutching happens. Most cavers wear external knee (and sometimes elbow) pads. Wet suits are often worn, they make free diving sumps and flat-out wet crawls a lot more pleasant!
- Guide books, cave maps, rigging information, tackle lists proliferate. There's no secrecy here. Most caves have well worn highways leading to the entrances. Getting to a cave is a stroll in the country side, hopping over ubiquitous stone fences and greeting walkers and farmers as you pass by.
- Because of the popularity of caving, you are lucky to have a cave to yourself! On weekends the traffic in some caves resembles that found in ant-nests.
- One learns about queues at pitches and the etiquette of queuing rigging gear, e.g. when I was at Swildon's Hole, 5 p.m. (i.e. late to try and miss the crowds) on a Sunday, there was at least 5 other parties still in the cave. We were last in, so our ladder (there is one pitch) was placed in a line behind the other 4 'ladders in waiting', we then used the 'ladder in use'. When the owners of the 'ladder in use' leave the cave, they derig their own ladder and rig the first of the 'ladders in waiting'. If you are lucky, you can do a trip without using your own gear, indeed on weekends many parties just chance it and don't take any gear-they just rely on using someone else's.
- There are many specialist caving gear shops; in Ingleton, there were three big shops virtually next door to each other. Some of the shops even have Caver's Cafes and/or SRT gyms. These are great places to visit, it beats the heck out of mail ordering things unseen and you can decide upon your purchases over a coffee/cake or a hearty meal.

Gaping Gill-Yorkshire Dales

- Many caving clubs have their own huts and often their own caves. Sometimes the hut is over the cave, so

commuting is just a short stroll! Sometimes a club controls access (via a locked gate) to a cave; and may stipulate that a local guide is required for a visit. Thus the caves are well looked after, and despite high visitation levels are still in good condition; this being further aided by frequent flushing.

- Coupled with caving club huts are tackle rooms, gear washing facilities (e.g. wall mounted rope-washers) and even drying rooms. At the end of a day you can hose down your gear (out of the rain), wash your ropes and hang them up in the drying room. The next day you start off with clean and dry gear; a luxury!
- The local cavers are very social people, apres caving involves drinking pints at the local pub (often next door, or over the road from the club hut). Amazingly, there always seems to be some nice person who brings a cup of tea around for the masses in the morning--the first part of the hang-over cure.
- English breakfasts are substantial high calorie and cholesterol affairs, they literally keep you warm and well fuelled for a full day of tough, cold caving. Quite a good idea.
- Some caves contain fixed rigging, e.g. short ladders, scaffolding through deep pools etc. Most clubs who install this rigging are responsible for it's safety, and ladders etc. are often adorned with medallions indicating the last date of inspection.
- Most caves are bolted to the eyeballs, fortunately with long-lasting stainless steel P hangers. [This rebolting avoids the development of bolt-farms at pitch heads; at one pitch head I counted 24 bolts in various states of decay etc. The three well sited P hangers obviate the need for the rest!] There are many on-rope traverses to avoid water hazards. Rigging some caves is more like a mindless joining the dots (i.e. clipping hangers) than the normal careful thinking/selecting anchors/rigging process.
- Along with the popularity of caving, comes the need for Rescue Groups. They seem to spend a large amount of their time pulling sheep out of caves, this provides them with good practise and keeps them on-side with the land-owners.
- The large number of cavers means that exploration and new finds are fairly rare; or only occur after many, many hours of hard work digging/mining. Each club seems to have their own dig(s), and many cavers are adept at digging/mining/shoring. Some entrances to caves are only kept open by many pieces of carefully placed scaffolding.
- Many clubs are steeped in tradition and history. One club has only just started using SRT; they steadfastly believe that real cavers only use ladders!
- There is quite a large interaction between cavers and the public. Many clubs hold so called "Winch meets", where members of the public are winched in and out of Gaping Gill (98 m pitch, into a large chamber, with multiple water falls!) via a bosuns chair on a wire cable. The trip down is for free and a donation gets you a ride out!

Jeff Butt (text & photograph)

A summary list of the caves in three southern Tasmanian karst areas: Hastings, Ida Bay and North Lune.

Introduction:
In preparation for the impending release of the electronic version of the ASF Karst Index documentation software, and in my role as the ASF (Tasmanian) State Area Co-Ordinator, I have been updating (and databasing) the presently known cave records for many of the 85 karst and 39 non-karst cave areas in Tasmania (Clarke, 1998c). Since I have been concentrating most of my own personal caving, cave documentation and research, including bio-speleology efforts in three karst areas of southern Tasmania over the last twenty years or so, it seems appropriate to firstly provide a list of the known caves in these areas: Hastings, Ida Bay and North Lune. A number of these cave records have not been previously published in caving magazines.

Some of cave records for Hastings and Ida Bay will probably be incomplete, because a number of new discoveries in recent years in both these areas have not been documented. Similarly, in the case of both Hastings and Ida Bay, some of the records relating to caves in the former SCS number allocations are unpublished or missing, and have not been forwarded to the State Area Co-Ordinator.

The summary list of caves at Hastings, Ida Bay and North Lune:
The following table lists for each area are divided into five columns: Cave (Number), "was number", cave name/s, caving group and information source. In the first "cave" column, listing the numbered caves in each karst area, the list also includes all the presently untagged (un-numbered) caves in each area: recorded as "X-" number caves. A single-letter symbol follows after some of the cave numbers: "(D)" = "doline; "(E)" = "entrance" (to another known cave); "(F)" = a karst "feature", other than doline etc. The second "was" number column relates to those formerly un-tagged "X-" number caves etc. which have now been number-tagged. The "cave name" column is self-explanatory; it also lists (in brackets) alternate name/s for the same cave plus the name of the main cave (or its cave number) where there are connecting entrance/s ("E"). The "group" column gives the initials of the caving group accredited with the first discovery or exploration of the cave (or the group who cave numbers were allocated to) and the "info. source" column relates to the major source of published information or other source data pertaining to that cave.

A list of the caves in the Hastings (H) karst of southern Tasmania:
The following table lists the 21 known caves (and allocated cave numbers), plus two numbered karst features for the Hastings karst area. I am unable to locate any recorded (published) information relating to the allocated caves numbers: H-209 to H-213 which SCS were using to number caves in this Hastings karst area. One minor anomaly in the present 1985 Karst Index relates to the allocation of ASF map numbers, where Wolf Hole is recorded with two "X-" numbers: both H-X5 and H-X8.

A list of the caves in the Ida Bay (IB) karst of southern Tasmania:
The following list of 231 (172 number tagged and 59 untagged "X-" number) caves represents the first complete published list in a caving magazine of all the known and recorded caves at Ida Bay. Cave numbers: IB-1 to IB-24 were detailed in *Speleo Spiel* #219 (Clarke, 1986a) and IB-25 to IB-42 were in *Speleo Spiel* #221 (Clarke, 1986b). In a subsequent (1990) report to the former Tasmanian Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, a database of the Ida Bay caves known as at August, 1990 was published including cave numbers: IB-1 to IB-133, plus the nine SCS numbered caves and 14 untagged "X-" number caves to IB-X24 (Clarke, 1990b). Thirty or so of these caves and another 38 untagged caves (in a list of 41 caves recorded as "Cave 1" to "Cave 41") were also described by Stefan Eberhard in an "Ida Bay Quarry Special Issue" edition of *Speleo Spiel* #263 (Eberhard, 1990b). The information source for the subsequently numbered caves IB-134 to IB-163 comes from the completed ASF Karst Index cave summary forms and/or published reports in *Southern Caver*.

Cave	"was" number	Cave Name	Group	Info. Source
H-201		Un-named	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-202		Un-named	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-203		Flag Locker	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-204		Beattie Cave	TCC	1985 Karst Index
H-205		Lyons Den	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-206		Padre Pot	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-207		Trafalgar Pot	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-208	was H-X2	Aqua Mire	SCS	Southern Caver
H-209		** Status Unknown **	SCS	
H-210		** Status Unknown **	SCS	
H-211		** Status Unknown **	SCS	
H-212		** Status Unknown **	SCS	
H-213		** Status Unknown **	SCS	
H-214	was H-X6	King George V Cave	TCC	SCS
H-215(D)		Un-named Doline	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-216		Bell Chamber	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-X1		Alan Chesterman's Cave	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-X3		Cub Hole	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-X4(E)		Erebus (Waterloo Swallet) into H-207	TCC	1985 Karst Index
H-X5		Fossil Creek Swallet	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-X7		Newdegate Cave (Tourist Cave)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
H-X8		Wolf Hole (Wolfs Lair)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
H-X9		Un-named	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-X10		Un-named	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-X11		Un-named	SCS	1985 Karst Index
H-X12		The Minerets	SCS	Southern Caver
H-X13(F)		Thermal Springs (Thermal Pool)	TCKRG	Clarke, 1987
H-X14(F)		Jack Daltons Blue Lake	SCS	Southern Caver

The present list of "X-" number caves at Ida Bay includes all of the above-mentioned untagged caves initially recorded by Stefan Eberhard during his early 1990 cave biology studies in the "Potholes Region", south of the saddle between Lune Sugarloaf/ Marble Hill, prior to the closure of Benders Quarry. These particular caves and their cave fauna were detailed in a report to Parks, Wildlife and Heritage (Eberhard, 1990a).

Cave	"was" number	Cave Name	Group	Info. Source
IB-1		Revelation Cave	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-2		Loons Cave (efflux)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-3(E)		Loons Cave (vertical entrance)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-4		Bradley-Chesterman Cave (downstream efflux)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-5(E)		Bradley-Chesterman Cave (central inflow)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-(E)		Bradley-Chesterman Cave (upstream efflux)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-7	was IB-X8	Log Rift	NUCC	Speleo Spiel 219
IB-8(E)		Mini Martin (Exit Cave)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-9		Big Tree Pot	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-10		Mystery Creek Cave (Entrance Cave; IB Caves)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-11(E)		Midnight Hole (Mystery Creek Cave)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-12		Crip Hole	TCC	Speleo Spiel 306
IB-13		Chockstone Pot	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-14		Exit Cave	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-15		Hobbit Hole	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-16		Un-named Cave	TCC	Speleo Spiel 219
IB-17		Un-named Cave	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-18		Western Creek Swallet	TCC	Speleo Spiel 219
IB-19		Un-named Cave	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-20(E)		Thun Junction (Exit Cave)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-21		Un-named Cave	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-22	was IB-X7	Con Cave (Disappointment Pot)	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-23(E?)		Little Grunt (Exit Cave?)	TCC	Speleo Spiel 219
IB-24		Hang-About Hole	TCC	Speleo Spiel 219
IB-25		Yodellers Pot	TCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-26		Hooks Hole	TCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-27		Chicken Bone Pot	TCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-28		Gollums Grovel	TCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-29		Smelly Cave	Police S & R	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-30		Un-named Cave	TCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-31	was IB-X1001	Un-named Cave	NUCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-32	was IB-X1002	Un-named Cave	NUCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-33	was IB-X1003	Not-Machete Pot	NUCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-34(E)	was IB-X1004	Sky Hook Pot (Exit Cave, via Mini Martin)	NUCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-35		Coffee Pot	VSA	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-36		Un-named Cave	VSA	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-37		Crud Pot	VSA	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-38		Milk Run	VSA & TCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-39		Skeleton Pot	TCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-40		Un-named Cave	TCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-41(E)		Leech Pot (connects to Hooks Hole: IB-26)	TCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-42(E)		Mudraker (connects to Leech Pot: IB-41)	TCC	Speleo Spiel 221
IB-43		Rotten Log Hole	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-44		Un-named Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-45	was IB-X10	Holocaust (Ratsac Pot)	SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-46		March Fly Pot	SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-47		National Gallery	SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-48	Was IB-X2	Bottleneck	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-49		Shell Hole	CCC & VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-50	Unrecorded IB-225	Un-named Cave	VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-51		Un-named Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-52	Unrecorded IB-223	Gendarme	VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-53		Un-named Cave	SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-54		Arthurs Pass (A Rash Thing To Do)	SCS	KI Cave Summary
IB-55		Un-named Cave	SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-56	Unrecorded IB-222	Frog Pot	VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-57		Cyclops Pot	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-58		Un-named Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-59		Un-named Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-60		Un-named Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-61		Mini Master	TCC & SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-62		Un-named Cave	TCC & SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-63		Shortie	VSA & SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-64		Marred Pile	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-65		Un-named Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-66		Large Hole	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-67		Un-named Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b

IB-68		Fissure Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-69		Un-named Cave	SUSS & TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-70		Weta-Bix	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-71		Un-named Cave	WASG	Clarke, 1990b
IB-72		Kens Hole	WASG	Clarke, 1990b
IB-73		Lime Rock Pot	TCC	KI Cave Summary
IB-74		More Than A Drip	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-75		Ibid	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-76		Contact Cavern	TCC & VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-77		Conglomerate Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-78		"H"	TCC & SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-79		Un-named Cave	TCC & VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-80		Fissure Choke	TCC & SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-81		Un-named Cave	TCC & SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-82		Membrane	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-83		Nurklim	TCC & VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-84		Draughting	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-85		Un-named Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-86(E)		Slip-In (Exit Cave)	TCC & VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-87(E)		Drop-In (Exit Cave)	TCC & VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-88		Eye Drop	TCC & VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-89		Lost Lens Doline (Toblerone Pot)	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-90		Un-named Cave	VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-91		Straw Cave	VSA & TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-92		Change of Character	VSA & TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-93		Just A Pot	VSA & TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-94		Tumbledown	VSA & TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-95		Mammal Trap	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-96(E)		Root Pot (Pseudocheirus)	VSA & TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-97		Pseudocheirus	TCC & VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-98		Comet Pot	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-99		Salt And Pepper	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-100	Was IB-X23	Centenary Cave	SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-101		Fly Wire	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-102(E)		Comet Dust (Comet Pot)	SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-103		Un-named Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-104		Giotto Pot	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-105		Un-named Cave	SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-106		Coralline Cleft	SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-107	Was IB-X4	Machete Pot	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-108		Un-named Cave	SCS & TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-109		Un-named Cave	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990b
IB-110		Arthurs Folly	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990b
IB-111		Tram Stop Cave	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-112		Fly Pot	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-113		Baader-Meinhof Pot	SCS	Southern Caver
IB-114		Un-named Cave	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990b
IB-115		Un-named Cave	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990b
IB-116		Un-named Cave	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990b
IB-117	Cave 23 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-118		Un-named Cave	VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-119		Twin Bins	VSA	Clarke, 1990b
IB-120(E)		Valley Entrance (Rear Entry; Exit Cave)	VSA	Nargun & TCKRG
IB-121		Un-named Cave	VSA	Nargun
IB-122		Mudstone Cavern	SMSS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-123		Un-named Cave	SMSS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-124	Cave 2 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-125	Cave 17 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-126(F)		Big Doline	SCS & MSS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-127(E)		North Creek Swallet (Sewer Pot) into IB-6	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990b
IB-128	As "IB-130" in S. Spiel	Dismal Hill Pot	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-129	Was IB-X9	Great Expectation Cave	TCC	Speleo Spiel
IB-130		Gastropod Grotto	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990b
IB-131(E)		Old Ditch Road (Exit Cave)	TCC	TCKRG & S. Spiel
IB-132	Was IB-X13	Loo Lane	TCC	Clarke, 1990b
IB-133(D)		Nested Dolines	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990b
IB-134		Un-named Cave	TCC	KI Cave Summary
IB-135		Beetlemania	TCC	KI Cave Summary
IB-136(E)		Halfway Hole (Exit Cave)	SCS	Southern Caver
IB-137		Un-named Cave	SCS	Southern Caver
IB-138		Un-named Cave	SCS	Southern Caver
IB-139		YMIWATWFTC	SCS	Southern Caver
IB-140		Un-named Cave	SCS	Southern Caver
IB-141		Fluted Pot	SCS & VSA	Southern Caver

IB-142		Melancholy Cave	SCS & VSA	Southern Caver
IB-143		EMP Pot	TCKRG	Southern Caver
IB-144		Gross Cave	SMSS	KI Cave Summary
IB-145		Cliff Cave	TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-146		Quarry Sitters Track Cave	TCKRG & WASG	KI Cave Summary
IB-147		Large Sink Hole	TCKRG & WASG	KI Cave Summary
IB-148		Un-named Cave	TCKRG & SUSS	KI Cave Summary
IB-149		Un-named Cave	SMSS	KI Cave Summary
IB-150		Bush Bash Cave	TCKRG & SUSS	KI Cave Summary
IB-151		Un-named Cave	TCKRG & SUSS	KI Cave Summary
IB-152		Slug Inn Cave	SMSS	KI Cave Summary
IB-153		Un-named Cave	SMSS	KI Cave Summary
IB-154		Arthropod Alley	TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-155(E)		Connected Cave (Arthropod Alley)	TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-156		Impressive Entrance	TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-157		Un-named Cave	TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-158		Promising Hole	SCS & TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-159		Un-named Cave	TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-160		Un-named Cave	TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-161(E)		Bobs Hole (Exit Cave)	TCC	KI Cave Summary
IB-162		Chiton; Daniels Hole	SCS	Southern Caver
IB-163(E)		Un-named Cave (connects to IB-41)	STC	KI Cave Summary
IB-201		Ventolin	SCS	Clarke, 1990b
IB-202		ASF Pot (Quarried Cave)	ASF Field Trip	1985 Karst Index
IB-203		Un-named Cave	SCS	1985 Karst Index
IB-204		Un-named Cave	SCS	1985 Karst Index
IB-205		Moonlight Cavern	SCS	A. Skinner
IB-206		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-207		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-208		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-209		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-210		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-211		Trackcutters Cave (Most-Looked-Into-Cave)	NPWS	Southern Caver
IB-212		Wot Pot (Waste-Of-Time Pot)	NPWS	Southern Caver
IB-213		Regatta Day Pot	SCS	Southern Caver
IB-214		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-215		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-216		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-217		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-218		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-219		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-220		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-221		** UNRECORDED**	SCS	
IB-222		** UNRECORDED** (See IB-56)		KI Cave Summary
IB-223		** UNRECORDED** (See IB-52)		KI Cave Summary
IB-224		Hissing Sid Hole	TCC	Southern Caver
IB-225		** UNRECORDED** (See IB-50)		KI Cave Summary
IB-X3		Hammer Hole	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-X6		Salvation Cave	TCC	1985 Karst Index
IB-X11		Excavation Pot	SCS	1985 Karst Index
IB-X12		Exits Nostrils	TCC	KI Cave Summary
IB-X14		Chicken Hole	TCC	KI Cave Summary
IB-X15		Coles Cave	VSA	KI Cave Summary
IB-X16		Safeway Slot	VSA	KI Cave Summary
IB-X17		Pooh Pot	VSA	KI Cave Summary
IB-X18		KB Kaboom	VSA	KI Cave Summary
IB-X19		D'Entrecasteaux Fossil Cave	TCC	KI Cave Summary
IB-X20		Un-named Cave	TCC	KI Cave Summary
IB-X21		Un-named Cave	TCC	KI Cave Summary
IB-X22		Un-named Cave	VSA	KI Cave Summary
IB-X24		Gelcave	VSA	KI Cave Summary
IB-X25	"Cave 1" in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X26	"Cave 3" in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X27	"Cave 4" in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X28	"Cave 5" in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X29	"Cave 6" in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X30	"Cave 7" in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X31	"Cave 8" in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X32	"Cave 9" in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X33	Cave 10 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X34	Cave 11 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X35	Cave 12 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X36	Cave 13 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X37	Cave 14 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b

IB-X38	Cave 15 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X39	Cave 16 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X40	Cave 19 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X41	Cave 20 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X42	Cave 21 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X43	Cave 22 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X44	Cave 24 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X45	Cave 25 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X46	Cave 26 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X47	Cave 27 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X48	Cave 28 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X49	Cave 29 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X50	Cave 30 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X51	Cave 31 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X52	Cave 32 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X53	Cave 33 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X54	Cave 34 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X55	Cave 35 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X56	Cave 36 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X57	Cave 37 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X58	Cave 38 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X59	Cave 39 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X60	Cave 40 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X61	Cave 41 in SE, 1990	Palaeo Delight	TCC	KI Cave Summary
IB-X62	Cave 18 in SE, 1990	Un-named Cave	TCC	Eberhard, 1990b
IB-X63		Un-named Cave	TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-X64		Un-named Cave	TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-X65		Un-named Cave	TCKRG	KI Cave Summary
IB-X66		Crisper Pot	SCS	Southern Caver
IB-X67		Un-named Cave	SCS	Southern Caver
IB-X68	"IB-162" in SUSS	Un-named Cave	SUSS	Speleo Spiel 310
IB-X69		Un-named Cave	STC	Speleo Spiel 308:12

A list of the caves in the North Lune (NL) karst of southern Tasmania:

The North Lune karst area is a relatively "new" area, located about 2-3 km SSW of the Hastings karst and accessed via the Mesa Creek track from the Hastings Caves car park. Most of the data relating to these 14 known caves is sourced from a consultancy report to the Forestry Commission of Tasmania (Clarke, 1990a).

The karst area has been cursorily explored since 1988: mainly in the limestone and rundkarren pinnacles karst area bordering along the Mesa Creek track and further upstream in Mesa Creek itself. Mesa Creek runs dry for most of the year and contains several un-numbered karst features including creek bed collapse dolines, swallets and aqua-blue water-filled streambed fissures. At least two swallet caves (NL-6 and NL-9) have not been explored: when Mesa Creek is in flood, Top Sink (NL-9) appears to carry in almost as much water as Growling Swallet and, similarly, the fissured swallet entrance of Mesa Creek Cave (NL-6) takes a similar flow. It is possible that some of this sinking water contributes to source waters for the numerous warm springs on the Lune River plains, including those in the Hastings Thermal Pool area (Clarke, 1998a). Spider Den (NL-3) is a small, but significant cave - rich in cave fauna: 47 invertebrate species are known from here, including several site specific species and troglobites; the cave and its surrounding karst have been the subject of a recent National Estate nomination (Clarke, 1998b).

Cave	"was" number	Cave Name	Group	Info. Source
NL-1		Track Cave	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-2		North Lune Efflux	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-3		Spider Den	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-4		Gloveless Grotto	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-5		Lance Water Fern Cave	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-6	Was NL-X1	Mesa Creek Cave	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-7		Cave Coral Cave	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-8		Cricket Metropolis	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-9	Was NL-X5	Top Sink	TCKRG	Clarke & Sharples
NL-X2		Fissure Cave	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-X3		Un-named	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-X4(K)		Un-named (Blind Valley)	TCKRG	Clarke, 1990a
NL-X6		Slippery Hole	STC	Clarke, 1998b
NL-X7		Un-named Cave	STC	Clarke, 1998b

Afterword:

The compilation of the database of Tasmanian caves is a fairly time consuming task, largely because there are numerous published records of caves and caving areas in Tasmania, where no ASF documentation has been forwarded to the ASF State Area Co-Ordinator (Clarke, 1998c), so these cave records have to be followed up and documented.

A few of the other major karst areas of Tasmania, e.g., Mole Creek and Junee-Florentine have been relatively well documented, but apart from the efforts of Rolan Eberhard in the Junee-Florentine karst during early to mid-1990's (Eberhard, 1994; 1996), there have been very few if any ASF Cave Summary forms completed and/or forwarded to the State Area Co-Ordinator in recent years (and even fewer ASF Map Number forms). However, some of the "newer" karst areas and caves in western and NW Tasmania, along with the previously known areas of Gunns Plains, Loongana and Mount Cripps, have all been well documented and recorded in recent years by members of the Savage River Caving Club (Gray, 1998).

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Arthur Clarke

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

Lighting

Duracell 4.5 Volt flatpack batteries. ALL SOLD!! IF YOU WANT ME TO GET MORE, THEN ASK.

- Metal light brackets (used and no fittings) for helmet — $1.00 each
- Jets (21 litres/hr) for Petzl kaboom — $5.00 each
- Miscellaneous second hand pieces for Oldham headpieces. — Contact us for details

Tow Ropes/trailer tie downs/yacht mooring lines etc.

- RETIRED CAVING ROPE, no longer safe enough to use for caving purposes (ADORNED WITH PAINT SO THAT YOU WONT BE TEMPTED!!), but more than adequate for many other purposes. Available in lengths up to 10 m. — $1.00 per m, less for the stiffer stuff

If you need any of the above please contact Jeff Butt on (03) 62 238620 (H), or jeffbutt@netspace.net.au, 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.

For sale

• **TROLL waterproof Trog-suit.** Used, but in a well cared for condition. There's a lot of good caving left in it! Small (size 2). $50 or near offer and it's yours.

• **Two Gell Cell Chargers**. Through the headpiece charging, one is AC only ($55); the other is AC/DC, i.e. use the mains or plugs into a lighter socket ($85). Both have LED's to indicate charging progress.

contact the Editor

4 sale

• **TSA PVC Oversuit.**
Recently patched and in excellent order. Selling, because it's too small. Contact Andy on 6267 9877 (h), or via email: Robertsa@tafe.tas.edu.au