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**Cover Photo:**  
Arthur Clarke emerging from a North Lune Swallet (NL6).  
Photo by Ric Tunney.

**STC** was formed from the *Tasmanian Caverneering Club*, the *Southern Caving Society* and the *Tasmanian Cave and Karst Research Group*. **STC** is the modern variant of the Oldest Caving Club in Australia.



# The Speleo Spiel

Newsletter of the  
**Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated**  
PO Box 416, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7006  
<http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/scaving/>  
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The views expressed in the Speleo Spiel are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated.

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## Editorial

You have probably been wondering "What has happened to the Spiel?" , "Wasn't it due out in early February?" Well unfortunately our new Editor has had some unexpected developments in his life, and Peter is now on the mainland "picking cotton" to earn some dollars. So, mid-March I've picked up the pieces and here it is! With the next Spiel due out at the end of this month and Peter still away, I'm not sure what the score is. Anyone out there want to take up the job for Spiel 324?? Peter should be back after that.

Jeff Butt

## Club Matters

# ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are NOW OVERDUE



### NOTICE TO STC MEMBERS.

The following is the list of books that Albert Goede is donating to the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers to be auctioned off to the highest bidder in order to raise funds for the society. All offers will be considered. Any or the highest offer will not necessarily be accepted.

Any successful bid from outside Hobart will require handling and freight to be paid in addition to the bid.

Please e-mail or (mail if you don't have email) your bids to Greg Middleton BY 2 APRIL, 2001.

If you wish you may indicate a minimum and maximum bid. If yours is the only bid (and we accept it as reasonable) you'll get it for the min. but if someone else bids between your min. and max., you'll get it for \$2 more than their (max.) bid. Of course, if someone else bids over your max., they'll get it for \$2 more than your max.

Any bids will be considered at the next meeting and decisions made as to what goes to the library, what is sold and what will be offered through Ozcavers.

- (1) Bauer, Ernst 1971. The Mysterious World of Caves. Collins, London, 129 pp.
- (2) Bögli, Alfred & Franke, H. W. 1967. Radiant Darkness - The Wonderful World of Caves. Harrap & Co. Ltd, London, 84 pp. [I think the library should get this.]
- (3) Cadoux, Jean and others 1957. One Thousand Metres Down. Allen & Unwin Ltd, London, 179 pp.
- (4) Casteret, Norbert 1940. Ten Years under the Earth. Readers' Union Ltd, London, 240 pp.
- (5) Casteret, Norbert 1954. The Darkness under the Earth. Dent & Sons Ltd, London, 168 pp.
- (6) Casteret, Norbert 1955 The Descent of Pierre Saint Martin. Dent & Sons Ltd, London, 160 pp. [Library]
- (7) Casteret, Norbert 1962. More Years under the Earth. Neville Spearman, London, 164 pp. [Library]
- (8) Chapman, Philip 1993. Caves & Cave Life. Harper Collins, London, 219 pp. [Library?]

- (9) Chevalier, Pierre. pre 1965 Subterranean Climbers. Faber & Faber Ltd, London, 223 pp.
- (10) Cons, David 1966. Cavecraft - An Introduction to Caving and Potholing. Harrap & Co. Ltd, London, 184 pp.
- (11) De Lavour, Guy 1958 Caves and Cave Diving. Crown Publishers Inc., New York, 175 pp.
- (12) Eyre, Jim 1981 The Cave Explorers. The Stalactite Press, Calgary, Canada, 264 pp.
- (13) Folsom, Franklin 1962 Exploring American Caves. Collier Books, New York, 319 pp.
- (14) Grigson, Geoffrey 1957 The Painted Caves. Phoenix House Ltd, London, 223 pp.
- (15) Gurnee, Russell & Jeanne 1974. Discovery at the Rio Camuy. Crown Publishers, New York, 183 pp.
- (16) Judson, David 1973. Ghar Parau. Cassell, London, 216 pp.
- (17) Kahrau, Wolfgang 1972. Australian Caves and Caving. Periwinkle Books, Landsdowne Press, Melbourne, 111 pp.
- (18) Mason, Edmund 1977. Caves and Caving in Britain. Hale, London, 208 pp.
- (19) Matthews, P. Ed. 1968. Speleo Handbook. ASF, Broadway, NSW, 322 pp.
- (20) Montgomery, Neil 1977. Single Rope Techniques - a guide for vertical cavers. SSS, Sydney, 122 pp. [Library?]
- (21) Nougier, Louis-René & Robert, Romain 1958. The Cave of Rouffignac. George Newnes Ltd, London, 230 pp.
- (22) Robinson, Donald & Greenbank, Anthony 1964. Caving & Potholing. Costable, London, 171 pp.
- (23) Rose, David & Gregson, Richard 1987. Beneath the Mountains - Exploring the deep caves of Asturias. Hodder & Stoughton, London, 192 pp.
- (24) Siffre, Michel 1964. Beyond Time. Chatto & Windus Ltd, London, 228 pp. [Library?]
- (25) Waltham, Tony 1974. Caves. Macmillan, London, 240 pp.
- (26) Waltham, Tony 1976. The World of Caves. Orbis, London, 128 pp. [Library?]
- (27) Jimenez, A. Nunez 1967 Cuevas y Pictografias (Cuban cave art)

We also have some spare copies of the Proceedings of the 8th Biennial Conf. of ASF, Hobart, 1970 - a collector's item - at just \$5 each.

Greg Middleton (STC Librarian),  
gregmid@one.net.au,  
P.O. Box 416, Sandy Bay 7006.

*STC has Caving lamps and  
helmets available  
for hire to Schools, Scouts and  
other groups with responsible  
Caving leaders.  
Contact the Equipment Officer for  
details.*

## FORWARD PROGRAM:

**Meetings:** are held at the Shipwright Arms Hotel, Battery Point on the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday's of each month. The First meeting is a Business meeting, starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. The Second meeting is a Social gathering, starts around 8:00 p.m.

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

Sat/Sun 31 Mar/1 Apr-Mt Anne-Annakananda, Jeff Butt  
Walk in to Mt Anne NE ridge. Vertical caving for the experienced. If you can't do vertical caving, the walk in is terrific and the karst topography of the NE Ridge is unique in Tasmania.

Sat/Sun 21-22 Apr-Mole Creek, Steve Bunton  
Lots of easy horizontal caving and some harder vertical caving. Highly decorated caves. Steve will adjust the caving to suit the attendees. Camping for the weekend, possibly at a hut. (If this trip falls through, Arthur Clarke will arrange an Exit Cave - Ida Bay trip. Long rather easy horizontal cave.)

Sat 28 Apr-Mystery Creek Cave-Ida Bay, Jeff Butt  
Designed to give a caving experience to junior members. Easy horizontal cave.

Sat/Sun 5-6 May: CAVEX 2001- Cave Rescue Exercise-Junee-Florentine, Jeff Butt  
Join Police, State Emergency and Ambulance to practice cave rescue techniques. A cave with pitches will be used, but there is scope for horizontal cavers too, so don't be put off if you don't SRT!

Sat 19 May, Rift Cave-Junee-Florentine, Ric Tunney  
The leader has never been to this cave. A largely horizontal cave with some small climbs and pitches. Could be a good cave for those who want to do a little vertical work.

Sat 2 Jun, Gormenghast - Junee-Florentine, Janine McKinnon  
A horizontal cave with lots of little climby bits. Ends with a long duck waddle passage. Good back exercise. Suitable for those who have been caving before (but we've taken beginners, too).

Sat/Sun 23/24 Jun, Winter Solstice Extravaganza, Liz Canning  
Based at Tyenna Valley Lodge, Maydena. Caving both days with dinner at the lodge Sat evening. There will be caving trips for all types. Sunday's caving is usually easier than Saturday's as we are constrained by alcohol and stuffed stomachs.

Sat 14 Jul, Exit Cave - Ida Bay, Arthur Clarke.  
Long, rather easy horizontal cave. Can be tiring due to the large underground distances. Large passages. Some grovelling.

***Keep an eye on the STC list-server for trips!, they do happen, but often at short notice!***

## RESULTS OF THE FOURTH STC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Wednesday December 6th, 2000.

The following persons were elected to the Executive and Committee of STC. Congratulations to all.

PRESIDENT: Stephen Bunton

VICE-PRESIDENT: Liz Canning

SECRETARY and MINUTE SECRETARY: Ric Tunney

TREASURER: Steve Phipps

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER: Albert Goede

PUBLIC OFFICER: Stephen Bunton

SEARCH & RESCUE OFFICER: Jeff Butt

EDITOR: Peter Verwey

KARST INDEX OFFICER: Arthur Clarke

EQUIPMENT OFFICER: Jeff Butt

ARCHIVIST/ LIBRARIAN: Greg Middleton

MAP ARCHIVIST: Trevor Wailes

WEBMASTER: Hans Benisch and Peter Verwey, the two to share the position in a manner sorted out by themselves.

LIST SERVER MANAGER: Arthur Clarke

ELECTRONIC ARCHIVIST: Dave Rasch

SOCIAL SECRETARY (new position): Robyn Claire

### **SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE**

The motion proposed by Arthur Clarke to raise the Subscriptions by \$5.00 across the board for all membership categories, except for household membership, which will increase by \$7.50 was passed. The new membership subscriptions are thus:

Full Member: \$50.00, (\$40.00 PPD),

Concession: \$40.00, (\$30.00 PPD),

Junior: \$30.00, (\$25.00 PPD),

Household: \$72.50, (\$62.50 PPD),

Life-with ASF: \$25.00, (\$20.00 PPD),

Life-non active: \$20.00, (no PPD available),

Spiel Subscription: \$25.00, (no PPD available).

(PPD is Prompt Payment Discount, available if fees are paid within 3 months of the AGM.)

### **OUTGOING OFFICERS REPORTS**

Outgoing officers presented either verbal or written reports; a summary of the verbal reports and the written reports are included below:

#### **President's Report-Trevor Wailes**

Trevor pointed out that STC has run at a loss for the third year running, and emphasised the need for more income. He was pleased to note the lack of political intrigue and factionalism within STC, stating the club focuses on speleology first and foremost. He noted the previous year has been marked by good exploration discoveries; although he suggested Little Grunt still requires a survey to increase exploration potential. Trevor concluded by

thanking all the office bearers for the efforts over the past year.

#### **Acting Treasurer's Annual Report-Jeff Butt**

Jeff presented an audited report with detail of the 1999-2000 Income and Expenditure at the meeting; this was published in Speleo Spiel #322 (p.3).

See written report below:

#### **Librarian's Report-Greg Middleton**

Greg provided a report of the library activities for the year to December 2000. Expect to see it in a future Speleo Spiel. Storage space has been increased over the past year to accommodate the large volume of material.

#### **Secretary's Report-Liz Canning**

Liz informed the meeting that she had written several items of correspondence over the course of the year.

#### **Equipment officer's Report-Jeff Butt**

See written report below:

#### **Search & Rescue Officer's Report-Jeff Butt**

See written report below:

#### **Speleo Spiel Editor's Report-Jamie Allison**

Since Jamie Allison's resignation after completing Speleo Spiel 321, Jeff Butt produced Spiel 322 as a one off effort. Jeff pointed out Jamie's fantastic job as editor. Well done, Jamie!

## **Treasurers Report**

Our elected Treasurer, Arthur Clarke was out of the country (caving in China) during the end of our financial and so I took over the role of Acting Treasurer. In this capacity, I finalised the STC financial books for the 1999/2000 STC year and have had them audited. A copy of the Financial statement appeared in Speleo-Spiel 322. Both the Financial Statement and the Auditors Reports were presented to the Annual General Meeting. Both Reports were accepted.

The Financial Statement is largely self explanatory, the bottom line is that last year we had a deficit of \$538.82: we have been living beyond our means. The General Account has been floundering around zero much of the year and the funds do not exist to repay the \$500 loan from the Science Account that was made in the previous year. Our total cash reserves are \$6419.90.

Arthur obviously was aware of our deficit; to this end he advised everyone that he planned to propose a motion to increase the fees at the AGM to counter increased costs associated with the imposition of the GST and also to try and arrest our deficit. This motion was passed at the AGM. However, it appears that even with this modest fee increase, the General Account may be struggling to keep in the black. Obviously this situation can't continue as it is. STC needs to actively raise some extra funds or we will be faced with some hard financial decisions during the coming year.

Jeff Butt, Acting Treasurer

## **Search & Rescue Officers Report**

There was only one incident over the past year; when two 'geographically embarrassed' cavers spent 78 hours in Mystery Creek Cave after failing to find the route through from Midnight Hole (details in Speleo-Spiel 319, p20-22).

CAVEX-2000, was held in April (as reported in Spiel 319, pages 10-12) and was attended by forty-something people from the south of the state. It was pleasing to see so many cavers, Police, SES, Parks and Forestry people come along and get involved. The exercise involved the extrication of a casualty from the far end of Mystery Creek Cave; this was accomplished very smoothly and all concerned are to be congratulated on a smooth and timely evacuation of the patient from the cave.

Prior to CAVEX an informative video/practise night was held at Police SAR HQ and a separate practise stretcher haul/lower was held at Fruehauf Quarry. Thus by the time CAVEX came along everyone had lots of recent practise with hauling and had overcome the confusion that often occurs, e.g. such as when half the people are trying to build an 'integral' Z-pulley system and the other half are trying to build a 'bolt-on' system! These couple of practise sessions were considered to be very valuable preparation for CAVEX and well worth the effort in setting them up.

At this stage the details of CAVEX 2001 are yet to be planned, but a date has been fixed for this event; May 5/6. It is likely that CAVEX 2001 will be a more technical exercise involving a multi-pitch cave. So, it is time to get your skills up to scratch if they're not they're already!

By the way, Daylight savings and long-evenings are here again, so "off meeting Wednesday nights" training/skills enhancements nights are being held at Fruehauf Quarry, as advertised in the Forward Program in the Speleo-Spiel, so please attend if you can!

Jeff Butt, Search & Rescue Officer

## **Erratum: Lists of The Longest and Deepest Caves.**

Jeff Butt

In Speleo-Spiel 322 I put together a list of the Longest and Deepest caves in Tasmania. As I suspected, this list is not 100 % accurate. At this present time the following corrections should be made:

- Croesus Cave is ~90 m deep, not 174 m and so should not be on the Deepest List.
- due to recent surveying in the Depths of Moria, Khazad Dum is now ~4500 m in length, thus KD moves up to 5th longest cave.
- Marakoopa Cave is another long cave that should perhaps be on the Longest list, does anyone out there have it's current length?

If anyone knows of any other deficiencies with this list, then please let me know...that way a future version will be more accurate.



## Equipment Officers Report

Over the last year 109 loans were recorded in the Gear Store Book (for comparison, there were 103 loans in '98/'99 and 132 in '97/'98); so there is still caving happening but not as much as there used to be in years gone by. Most of the borrowers in recent times are 'familiar names' reflecting the keenness of a few individuals rather than a healthy general level of caving activity.

There has been a notable decline in the number of external groups (e.g. Scouts, commercial operators, schools, or even members taking groups of friends caving) hiring lamps/helmets which means a reduced income for the club from this source.

Small rope testing sessions were held in December and June (see Spiel 320, p7) to assess some of our older ropes.

During the year a considerable amount of our ropes spent time underground; we simultaneously had Niggly, Khazad Dum and Splash Pot rigged, in addition to the permanent rigging in Growling Swallet. It is good to see gear being used; it is much better value to replace gear that is worn out than gear that is 'unused' but 'out of date'! Towards the end of the year much of the rope in these caves was returned to the store.

During the year major gear expenses were the purchase of a new dynamic rope for cowstails and a new Petzl Stop for one of the SRT gear sets.

All gear is either present in the gear store, or accounted for in the Gear Loans book.

### LAMPS

Currently there are 17 serviceable lamps, 10 Gel-cell and 7 Oldhams. This number of lamps is more than adequate for current usage.

All lamps have been maintained in good condition, but some of the ~1994/5 vintage gel-cells now only have about 50% of rated capacity; these gel-cells will be replaced in the near future.

### HELMETS

There are 21 serviceable helmets in total. Nineteen of these are Construction Workers Helmets which are only suitable for horizontal caving. Of these 19 helmets, 9 are nearing the end of their life.

During the year a Grant application for the replacement of helmets was made to the Office of Sport of Recreation. We have recently been advised that this application was successful and we have been awarded \$500 (on a dollar for dollar basis) for the purchase of helmets. In the near future new helmets will be purchased and we will have a dozen SRT suitable helmets; these will be superior to Construction Workers helmets.

### ROPES

Our ropes are aging (and shortening) fast, at present we have 1115 m (see table below) of serviceable rope (all in active service), but over the next year about 200-300 m of rope will need to be culled (for the age distribution of our ropes, see the Table in Speleo-Spiel 320, page 6). In the near future (~2002) we will need to purchase

some new ropes (10 mm diameter is suggested as the best option)....but finding the money for this is going to stretch our currently stressed finances even further. It would be good to actively try and sell some of our old ropes; the income derived from this would ideally be set aside for new rope.

### GEAR BAGS

We have a small collection of serviceable gear-bags. Most regular cavers have their 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') and a number of serviceable traces. The ladders are only occasionally used and we have sufficient for current needs.

### SRT GEAR

Descender wise, we are down to one Whaletail, one rack and a new Petzl Stop. The harnesses, ascenders and cowstails are in good condition and we have two fully functional sets of SRT gear for people to use.

### BOLTING GEAR/POWER DRILL

The only use the power drill has seen during the year was for installing some test glue-in bolts.

The hand-bolting gear was used in Splash Pot, 7 spits were installed.

### SURVEY GEAR

The survey gear has seen a good amount of use over the last year, with major survey projects occurring in Splash Pot, Khazad Dum and Wolf Hole. One clinometer has been taken out of service for cleaning. We have 2.5 sets of serviceable survey gear.

The GARMIN GPS 12XL unit has been used regularly and there are about 200 cave positions recorded in it.

### ROPE PROTECTORS

We have more than enough for our needs.

### STC WAREHOUSE SALES

See the back of a Spiel for what we have and current prices. There is a continuous demand for dynamic rope and 4.5 volt flat-pack batteries, which keeps stocks turning over.

### SUMMARY

The club equipment (a complete inventory follows) is well maintained and the Equipment Store remains in a well organised state. The contents are gradually shrinking due to the retirement of old rope. New rope is going to be needed in the next couple of years; finding the finances for this is a potential problem.

Jeff Butt, Equipment Officer

*Did you know that STC members can use much of the equipment from the Gear Store for free; this is a privilege of membership. There are small hire charges for some items (lights, SRT gear and packs). If you want more information, then contact the Equipment Officer.*

# STC GEAR INVENTORY 30/9/2000

		NOTE: Additions this STC year have the date shown in BOLD TYPE		
Item	Quantity	Purchased/ made/ put into service	Condition	Location
<b>LIGHTING</b>				
4 Volt charger	1	n/a	good, but two out of six circuits U/S	store
6 Volt charger	1	n/a	intermittent fault	store
4 Volt Oldham lamps	7	n/a	good	store
6 Volt Gel-cell lamps	10	n/a	good	store
Belts	24	n/a	good	store
Oldham headpieces (complete)	5	n/a	good	store
Box of assorted lamp spares	1	n/a	various	store
Sewer-pipe lamps	2	n/a	springs need attention	store
Sewer-pipe spare battery carriers	3	n/a	good	store
plastic fish crate	1	n/a	good	store
Container of spare 4V bulbs	1	n/a	new	store
Container of spare 6V bulbs	1	last in Jul-00	new	store
<b>HELMETS</b>				
Edelrid Ultralite Helmet	1	Jul-96	good	store
Petzl Vertical Helmet	1	Sep-95	good	store
Safety Helmets-white	10	Feb-98	good	store
Safety Helmets-white	7	Feb-96	good	store
Safety Helmets-white	2	Feb-95	good	store
<b>STATIC ROPES</b>				
Serviceable ropes-see attached Ropes list	1115 m	various	various	store
Retired ropes	quantity	n/a	u/s	store
<b>ROPE PROTECTORS</b>				
red PVC	5	n/a	good	store
yellow PVC	10	n/a	good	store
canvas (firehose)	8	n/a	mostly good	store
<b>SRT GEAR</b>				
Petzl Rapide harness and alloy D-Maillon	1	Sep-95	good	store
Petzl Super Avanti harness and steel D-Maillon	1	Apr-98	good	store
Stuff sacks for SRT gear sets	2	Apr-98	good	store
Rappel rack (long)	1	n/a	good	store
Whaletails	1	n/a	fair	store
Petzl Stop descender	1	Nov-99	good	store
Petzl Expedition ascenders	2	Jun-90	good	store
Pezl Croll ascenders	3	2 in Jun-90	2 good, 1 fair	store
Cowstails (each with 2 snaplink carabiners)	3	2 in 1998, 1 in 1996	3 good	store
Jumars-yellow	1	n/a	good	store
CMI handled ascender	1	n/a	medium	store
CMI chest ascender	1	n/a	poor	store
SRT medium ascender	1	n/a	poor	store
Gibbs ascender	1	n/a	good	store
Screwgate D Carabiners	3	n/a	good	store
Screwgate Carabiners	3	n/a	good	store
Snaplink Carabiners	3	n/a	good	store
Harness tapes (6 m * 2" tape)	3	1 in 95, 2 in 97	good	store
Box of Unserviceable/old ascenders/descenders	1	n/a	poor or unserviceable	store
<b>PACKS</b>				
Medium-yellow	2	Feb-96	medium	store
Extra large-white	1	n/a	medium	store
Small-green	1	n/a	poor	store
Small-red	1	n/a	fair	store
Small-red/blue	1	n/a	poor	store
"Dead" packs	3	n/a	u/s, suitable for patches	store
<b>LADDERS &amp; TRACES</b>				
15m (50') Bonwick ladder	1	Sep-95	good	store
9 m (30') Bonwick ladders	4	2 in Apr-91	3 good, 1 fair	store
3 mm wire traces-long length (6.1 m/20')	2	1 in Sep-95	good	store
3 mm wire traces-medium length (2.4 m/8')	6	n/a	medium	store
3 mm wire traces-short length (1.3 m/4')	1	n/a	ok	store
PVC rung ladders	5	3-1998, 2-1999	good	4 Growling Swallet, 1 Exit
<b>ACCESS KEYS</b>				
June-Florentine key 1	1	n/a	n/a	store
June-Florentine key 2	1	n/a	n/a	Lost (J. H-S)
<b>BOLTING GEAR-ELECTRIC</b>				
Hitachi DH15DV Hammer Drill-complete	1	1996	good	store
12 Volt Gel-cell (Yuasa)	1	Aug-98	good	store
Gel-cell pouch	1	1997	good	store
Arlec 12 Volt Gel-cell charger	1	1997	good	store
Drill bits-1/4	1	1996	good	store

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Drill bit-5 mm	1	1996	good	store
Drill bit-6.5 mm	1	n/a	fair	store
Drill bit-8 mm	1	Dec-98	good	store
Drill bit-10 mm	1	Dec-98	good	store
<b>BOLTING GEAR-HAND</b>				
Petzl Bolting kit pouch	1	n/a	good	store
Petzl Bolting hammer	1	n/a	good	store
Petzl Bolting Driver	1	n/a	good	store
Petzl 10 mm self drive spits and cones	3 sets	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
Container of grease	1	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
Troll hanger	1	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
Petzl Twist hangers	6	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
Petzl Twist hangers	4	n/a	poor (corrosion)	store
Petzl Twist hangers-old style	2	n/a	good	store
<b>BOLTING GEAR-SPARES</b>				
Fixe stainless steel expansion bolts (90 mm by 10 mm)	8	May-98	new	store
Fixe stainless steel hangers with captive rings	8	May-98	new	store
Petzl 10 mm self drive spits	28	n/a	most good	store
Cones for 10 mm spits	26	n/a	most good	store
Petzl 15 mm self drive spits	1	n/a	good	store
Cones for 15 mm spits	1	n/a	good	store
Petzl Twist hangers	3	n/a	new	store
Petzl hangers	4	n/a	new	store
Nylon bolts (for markers)	15	n/a	new	store
<b>CAVE NUMBERING GEAR</b>				
Box of Blank number tags	1 box	n/a	good	store
Metal punches, set of 10 numerals	1	n/a	good	store
Mt. Weld number tags (1-10)	10	n/a	new	store
Nylon sleeves and nails (for number tags)	27	n/a	new	store
<b>GPS GEAR</b>				
Garmin 12 XL GPS unit (Serial No. 35324575)	1	Jun-98	good	store
External Antenna	1	Jun-98	good	store
<b>SURVEY GEAR</b>				
50 m fibreglass tapes-open reel	1	Nov-97	good	store
30 m fibreglass tapes-open reel	1	n/a	good	store
30 m fibreglass tapes-open reel	1	n/a	ok, but only 20 m length	store
50 m fibreglass tape-closed reel	1	n/a	good	store
50 m fibreglass tape-closed reel	2	n/a	ok, but 30-40 m length	store
Suunto compass #333530(3)	1	n/a	good	store
Suunto compass-no number (repaired unit)	1	n/a	good	store
Suunto compass #438188(25)	1	n/a	fair-blue oil	store
Suunto compass #811154(25)	1	n/a	u/s	store
Suunto compass #438122(25)	1	n/a	u/s	store
Suunto clinometer #033141	1	n/a	fair, dirty lens	store
Suunto clinometer #423770	1	n/a	good	store
Suunto clinometer #510520	1	n/a	u/s	store
Box assorted Suunto components	1	n/a	mostly u/s	store
<b>FURNITURE</b>				
long wooden box with 2 lids	1	n/a	good	store
wooden cupboards	2	n/a	ok	1 Gear Store, 1 Library
metal rope racks	2	n/a	not used	store
Two-tier wooden rope rack	1	Mar-98	new	store
Shelving for library	quantity	May-00	new	Library
<b>DROP TEST RIG</b>				
80 kg weight	1	Mar-98	heavy!	store
Zennit maillons	3	Mar-98	ok	store
Screwgate Carabiner	1	n/a	poor	store
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
Rope cutting knife	1	n/a	good	store
Ropewasher	1	n/a	good	store
quantity old fire hose	1	n/a	ok	store
sack metal ladder rungs	1	n/a	ok	store
Metal adjustable squeeze	1	n/a	ok	store
Transparent heatshrink	1 length	Aug-98	new	store
Aluminium rod (for making rack bars)	1 piece	Jun-98	new	store
<b>STC WAREHOUSE SALES-gear for Sale</b>				
part roll Edelrid 1" tubular tape	~50 m	Oct-95	new	store
part roll Donaghy's 2" flat tape-blue	~10 m	Jun-95	new	store
space blankets	3	Dec-95	new	store
Alkaline flat pack batteries	5	Jul-99	new	store
Petzl 21 litre carbide jets	2	n/a	new	store
Rivory 10 mm Dynamic rope (for Cowstails)	~42 m	Apr-00	new	store

*Jeff Butt, STC Equipment Officer.*

# STATIC ROPE INVENTORY-30/9/2000

Rope No.	Brand	Type	Diameter (mm)	Purchased	Label	Shrunk length (m)	Into Service	Condition G/M/F	Notes
2	Beal	Static	9	~1990	R2-90	82	2000	good	
69	Beal	Static	9	~1990	R2-90	53	2000	good	
70	Beal	Static	9	~1990	R2-90	48	2000	good	
40	Bluewater II	Static	9	?	R40-90	14	1995	good	
14	Bluewater II	Static	9	?	R14-90	11	1995	good	
8	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R8-89	16	1991	medium	
9	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R9-89	15	1989	medium	
34	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R34-89	14	1989	good	
13	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R13-91	13	1991	medium	
51	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R51-89	12	1991	medium	
67	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R67-89	11	1989	medium	
11	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R11-89	11	1991	medium	
SH	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	SH-89	9	1989	medium	
10	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	R10-89	8	1991	medium	
SH	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	SH-89	8	1989	medium	
5	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	R5-92	70	1992	good	
4	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	R4-92	47	1992	good	
65	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	R65-92	39	1992	good	
19	Bluewater II	Static	11	1983	R19-83	38	1983	medium	in S.H. Pot 11/99
24	Bluewater II	Static	11	1985	R24-85	23	1985	medium	in S.H. Pot 11/99
21	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R21-?	23	?	medium	in Avon's Aven 5/99
64	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	R64-92	22	1992	good	
60	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R60-?	22	?	fair	
28	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R28-?	18	?	fair	in S.H. Pot 11/99
22	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R22-?	17	?	medium	
26	Bluewater II	Static	11	1991?	R26-91	15	1991?	medium	
30	Bluewater II	Static	11	1986	R30-?	13	?	medium	
32	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R32-?	12	?	medium	
33	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R33-?	12	?	medium	
61	Bluewater II	Static	11	1983	R61-83	12	?	stiff	
20	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	R20-?	10	?	medium	
SH	Bluewater II	Static	11	1983	SH-83	7	1983	medium	
SH	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	SH-?	5	?	medium	
1	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1994	R1-94	115	2000	good	
6	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1994	R6-94	67	1994	good	
62	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1995?	R62-95	37	1995?	melt streaks	
54	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1995?	R54-95	28	1995?	melt streaks	
31	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1995?	R31-?	21	1995?	melt streaks	
68	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1995?	R68-95	16	1995?	medium	
63	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1995?	R63-95	14	1995?	melt streaks	
55	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1995?	R55-95	13	1995?	medium	
SH	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1995?	SH-95	7	1995?	fair	
38	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	?	R38-?	13	?	medium	
39	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	?	R39-?	11	?	good	
SH	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	?	SH-?	6	?	medium	
SH	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	?	SH-?	6	?	medium	
49	Edelrid	Softstatic	10.5	?	R48-?	10	?	medium	
58	Edelrid	Softstatic	10.5	?	R49-?	9	?	medium	
48	Edelrid	Superstatic	11	?	R48-?	13	?	good	
					<b>Total length</b>	<b>1115 m</b>			

## Another mediation session results in go-ahead for the Mt. Cripps Exploration Licence.

Arthur Clarke



Arthur Clarke at the meeting; photo by Robyn Claire.

At the recent Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) Conference in Bathurst, members of the ASF Executive spent several hours discussing the future of our ASF (and STC) objection to the limestone quarrying exploration license (EL) at Mt. Cripps. The ASF Executive invited Henry Shannon, Ken Grimes, Nick and Sue White to attend this meeting to determine a way forward. Apart from the fact that the ASF cannot presently afford to be involved in any more expensive cave conservation litigations, it was suggested that despite ASF having some legal advice on standing (being able to present our case to the courts), we might do a dis-favour to ourselves in future hearings if we were unsuccessful in gaining standing this time round. ASF took the view that we should support the EL, but ensure there were adequate karst related guidelines and safeguards incorporated into the EL and to also maintain an option to oppose any future or subsequent limestone-mining proposal in the Mt. Cripps area.

As reported in Speleo Spiel #322: 4-5, the objections to the Mt. Cripps EL were heard in the Mining Tribunal in Hobart on December 4th 2000, when the issue was 'Listed for Mention'. The magistrate of the Mining Tribunal recommended that the objectors should partake in another mediation session with the EL proponents: Western Metals, to discuss the outstanding or unresolved issues and concerns to speleologists. (The company owns the now closed Hellyer Mine and are seeking a limestone source to neutralise an acidification process involved in the extraction of millions of dollars worth of heavy precious metals from their mine tailings

dumps.) If this next course in mediation were unsuccessful, the case would be listed for mention again and brought before the Mining Tribunal on March 22nd this year when the objectors would have to prove standing for their case to be heard.

On Thursday morning - January 11th 2001; barely one hour after David Wools-Cobb and I drove off the Spirit of Tasmania en route home from the ASF Conference and post-conference field trips; I was in the Wivenhoe (Burnie) offices of Western Metals. There were four of us present: the new acting manager for Western Metals in Tasmania (Andrew Platt), the Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) Registrar (Dennis Burgess), Frank Salt (representing Savage River Caving Club (SRCC) and myself (for ASF and STC). Although Western Metals are considering some alternative supply options including limestone via rail from Goliath at Railton, their main concern relates to transportation costs; hence their preference to establish a limestone quarry site with short distance road haulage in the Mt. Cripps area that adjoins their present mining lease. ASF (STC) and SRCC agreed to support the EL on the proviso that the following points of agreement or resolutions are included in the EL conditions.

As stated in the letter from MRT; dated January 19th 2001 - the general agreements and resolutions of the meeting were:

Western metals Resources Limited may carry out activities involving the use of hand tools only over the whole license area prior to independent karst studies on target sites. Access to be by existing tracks and/or foot (including access via boat on Lake Mackintosh);

Prior to the carrying out of any ground breaking disturbing activity the licensee shall arrange for an independent karst study of the area(s) where the disturbance is planned. Disturbance includes sampling (other than hand collecting), drilling, costeaning, track construction and track upgrading;

The licensee shall liaise with the Savage River Caving Club and the Australian Speleological Federation before carrying out any activity on the license; and

The caving clubs reserve the right to comment if the project moves to a mine feasibility and development approval phase.

It was also stated at the meeting in Wivenhoe, that if a mining lease is to be taken out within the EL area, a number of other issues including haul road construction would have to be addressed by Development and Environmental Management Plan via a public process. Assuming that the EL now goes ahead, Western Metals will be seeking to employ a contract geologist to do the initial geological assessment, prior to engaging any consultant to perform the independent karst assessment. It is assumed that the Mineral Exploration Working Group (from MRT) may also conduct its own separate 'independent' multi-departmental level study.

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## **Mole Creek Karst Care Meeting-Deloraine-Oct. 28th.**

**Stephen Bunton**

Present; Steve and Kathy Bunton, Chris Leitch NPWS, Dick Dwyer Chief Ranger Mole Creek Karst National Park and numerous members of Northern Caverneers.

Chris Leitch is the Executive Officer for Wildcare which is the co-ordinated arm of volunteers working in National Parks. He is a self-confessed BBQ master. His job is to get people together and convince them that volunteer work in Nat Parks can be fun. So we met at Deloraine for a Barbie and we all had a long enough to chat and for me to realise that I'd forgotten everyone's name.

We then had a more formal meeting where Chris proposed that we form a Karstcare group for cavers to work voluntarily on various projects in the Mole Creek area. This suggestion was warmly welcomed by all present. The Bunton's already belong to Wildcare and I was involved in some step building at Whitewater Wall.

The Northern Caverneers were members through their interest in skiing at Ben Lomond. Most of us were just waiting to be given suggestions of a project to be involved in. Both Chris and Dick Dwyer were impressed by the fact that they were preaching to the converted. In the new year Dick is likely to nominate some projects that cavers could become involved in and all STC members are welcome. The only proviso is that volunteers join Wildcare and in so doing they are covered for Workers Compensation.

After the meeting I talked to Dick about the need for more Kubla Khan leaders and he suggested that there would be a training and accreditation weekend possibly about April 2001. All in all a good meeting. There's no substitute for talking to people face to face.

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## **Kelly's Pot - Mole Creek-26th November 2000**

**Stephen Bunton**

Party: Rolan Eberhard and Stephen Bunton

One of the hardest things about caving is often psyching up to ask for permission. Too often landowners are reluctant to let cavers on their property. It was therefore a refreshing change when Rolan phoned me to say that Pat Kelly was more than happy to have us visit Kelly's Pot. In fact he and his wife were former Honorary Members of SCS.

We met Pat on the Sunday morning and parked the car at the bottom of the top paddock and he drove us up almost to the start of the track through the bush. A short walk through a small field of Tassy Bluegums led into the forest and before long we heard the water flowing into the cave's lower entrance.

The aim of the exercise was to investigate a climb near the terminal sump which was potentially a hot lead. The water from Kelly's Pot next appears in Herbert's Pot (named after Herbert Howe, Pat Kelly's uncle). A breakthrough here would be brilliant. It would lead to several hundred metres of new passage and a back door in Herbert's, thereby circumventing the access problems in visiting that cave. It was sufficient to motivate me out of idling on the couch and get my ever widening arse into caving gear. Surprisingly enough it still fits! It's fitting all the climbing paraphernalia into the pack that presents the initial problem. Hauling through low yukky crawls provided the second and possibly the greatest threat to my motivation.

The entrance is a bit Niggly and then the cave descends a 5m pitch for which we had a ladder but no convenient belay points. This meant the ladder went straight down the water. With a short push rope we were able to abseil and stay dry for the descent. Beyond this the cave descends steeply through rockfall debris with no sign of footprints which possible indicates it may have fallen during the earthquake of a few years back. Eventually we reached the low crawls and I wasn't quite sure why I was so fussed about being showered on the ladder. I was soaked by the first munchy stop.

The second crawl was even lower and Rolan excavated a few rocks to allow my barrel chest to scrape through. Finally the passage ascends out of the water up to the chamber with the climb. It is a fine looking place. Rolan prepared to do battle with gravity and managed the rope. With appropriate technology he had made significant progress that he retreated for a bit of reorganisation. By this time I was quite cold and had to put on the extra layers and eat some more tucker. Eventually I had to do those dubious things that you only do underground when your on the scent of a big breakthrough. I spent sometime on a hanging belay which was a directional sling around a muddy flake connected with a single quick-draw and non-locking krabs but somehow it all felt safe enough. Rolan was happy considering he was on the sharp end. About the time that my legs started to go to sleep the aven clapped out and he pronounced it dead. Bummer!

Without sacrificing too much gear; a bolt, hanger and krab Rolan beat a controlled retreat and with a bit of frigging around I was lowered off and then he used the tail as a handline to get down too. The climb was about 35m which initially was attempted as on double rope using the two ends of a 9 mm rope. Hence the need to elevate the belayer and use a bit of creativity getting down. I love this kind of stuff! For Rolan caving is a bit like work. In fact it is his work. Aid climbing anywhere is also a bit like working on a construction site but somehow it's kinda fascinating and quite rewarding even if the lead doesn't go.

We packed the now glutinous globs of gear into our packs, I delayed and after another nibble it was back into the coldwater crawls going upstream this time. The climb up through the collapse chamber had me wondering about the depth of the cave it must be close to 100m? The climb up the ladder was quite refreshing. Surprisingly the water didn't seem as cold as expected and with only a little bit of gear to pack we were out into the daylight.

Rolan lead us East from the entrance up to the ridge and out of the bush at the very top of the top paddock. The views from here are magnificent! The car seemed a long way downhill and we knew there was an ugly bull between us and our transport. It didn't take us on so we

had to settle for Tuna Mornay for dinner. Adrienne had spent the afternoon baking and I recommend her Bread and Butter Pudding. It's good having someone who lives in Mole Creek at least part of the time!

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## The ASF Web-based Karst Index Database.

Jeff Butt

At the recent ASF Conference, held in Bathurst it was revealed that the 1985 version of the ASF Karst Index (that big black book some of you may have) is now available on the World Wide Web.

Check out <http://www.caves.org.au> which is the new ASF Website and follow the links to the Karst Index Database (KID), or go direct to the KID via <http://www.caves.org.au/kid>

You have to log on as "guest", and the password is "kranki" (the KID homepage tells you all of this anyway!) You can do your own searches (options for Simple, Standard or Advanced searches are available) using the Search Engine there, or you can select commonly sought after lists like "The Top Ten", "Longest and Deepest".

Note that only the data (no location data, in case you were wondering) that was in the 1985 Karst Index is currently in the KID, that's about 6500 caves. In the future it is planned for State Data Co-ordinators to be able to update the KID through the web, which will then mean that the KID will be much more up to date. It is estimated that there are around 9000 additional caves to be added to the KID, there has been a lot of new finds since 1985! Additionally many of the 1985 records are very much in need of being updated. So, what is on the web now is a good start, it can only get better in the future!

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## Farmhouse Creek track dolines-a visit: 5/12/2000.

Jeff Butt

**Party:** SAR team: Paul Steane, Richard MacMillan, Mal Budd, John Cherry, Peter Brockhurst, Kate Chambers, and Jeff Butt.

This was an outing with the Police SAR team, with the aim of having a play with GPS units. We targeted four dolines (GR's: 686117, 687117, 686120, 685106) on the Burgess 1:25000 map to have a look at. I had suspected that cavers had been to these before, but probably not for many years. In my opinion it is always good to revisit places once a decade, as things to change, e.g. holes open up, collapses occur etc.

As we headed along the track, the GPS's soon told us that we were much further from our target dolines than the map suggested. The story is that in the vicinity of 687113 the Farmhouse Creek track is poorly marked on the map, it actually lies about 300 m Southeast of where it is shown. This meant that our target dolines were much further from the track than time allowed, so we decided to go and look at the Big One, GR 685106.

The GPS led us straight to the doline and gravity assisted in us getting to the bottom. There we found a small drafting, impenetrable swallet from which issued a considerable amount of cold air. The draft suggested that the swallet connects to a large system. [Albert Goede indicated that years ago this was dye-traced to Judd's Cavern, some 2.5 km to the west.] We did locate an old blue tape on the way out of the doline.

We also found another small cave near the perimeter of the doline, this was not much more than a cavity behind a large pillar, but it was definitely dark and home to many cave beasts. Its length would have been about 10 m and its depth about 3 m.

Quite an enjoyable little day. The GPS is a great tool and prevented us from a fruitless scrub-bash looking for the first of our target dolines.

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## Dwarrowdelf-revisiting old leads: 12/12/2000

Jeff Butt

**Party:** Damian Bidgood, Jeff Butt.

In Speleo-Spiels 69 and 70 there is some information from the original exploration of Dwarrowdelf. At the base of the second pitch, there were three leads, one (the dry tunnel) of which became the 'trade route' down. The second dry way was more recently explored by Dave Rasch in 1989, see Southern Caver 58, p11. The third, the hole that the water disappears down was said to be a 15' drop, then there was a squeeze to another 10' drop; a 200' drop quickly followed, landing one on a boulder slope and 30-40' away was another (undescended) drop estimated to be 80'.

Anyway, as far as I know nobody has been back to seriously check out the 200' and 80' drops. One assumes that these just lead you back into Dwarrowdelf further down (e.g. at the top of the final pitch there are several avens, one of which carries a stream, which may be the stream from higher up the cave), but going and having a look is far more certain than conjecture and so on 12/12th we headed down Dwarrowdelf to check this out (and to add to our current re-survey project). [A visual dye trace on 14/1/01 confirmed that this stream is the stream that feeds the pool opposite the bolts for the final pitch.]

Starting from the base of the second pitch we surveyed our way down to 'Dave Rasch's inverted "L" squeeze' surveying beyond this is a job for thin Dave! We then headed back to the water and continued on down, getting somewhat wet in the process. Damian headed down the 15' pitch into a chamber and didn't like what he saw, a squeeze in the streamway. I headed down for a look, and didn't really like it either, but thought I may as well try it for size. Anyway, to get through I needed to de-gear and lie in the water-yuk! Once through, the passage widened

enough to see that my feet were over the top of the next drop....obviously it would be wise to have at least a harness, descender and rope to continue! So, I retreated. We did have all the gear we needed right there, but an attack of the 'slacks' occurred, assisted by the fact that I was cold and soaked from lying in the stream, so we retreated to the surface. Looks like we must return on a dryer day to find what lies below.

We added 55 m to the surveyed length....to be continued!



## Hastings-surveying the 'new' holes, H2/H3-17/12/2000

Jeff Butt

**Party:** Charlie Crofts, Mick Williams, Arthur Clarke, Hugh Fitzgerald, Jeff Butt. This was a post-STC Annual dinner trip.



*Hugh about to tackle the pitch at Vanderstaay's Vault; photo by Arthur Clarke.*

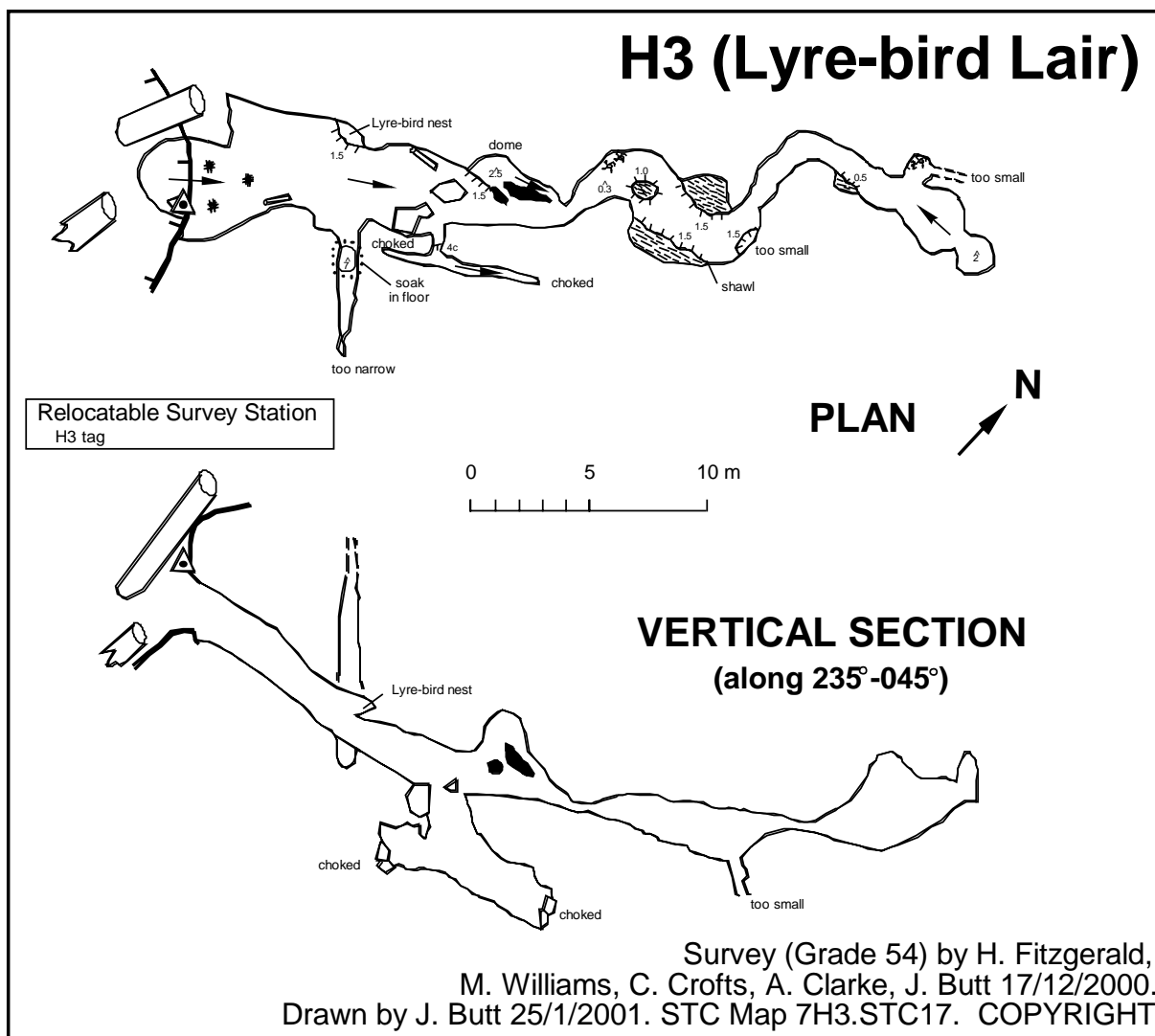
Basically it was a slack sort of day on the surface in the vicinity of King George Vth Cave (KGV). First up we had a bit of a thrash looking for the Cub Hole entrance of Wolf Hole, but without success. So we wandered around the hill till we found 'Vanderstaay's Vault' (H2). We were ill-equipped for this cave with just a 14 m rope and a 10 m ladder. Arthur tagged the cave, and we made a start at surveying it. The first part of the cave is a very steep ramp, which turns into a ~12 m pitch. The rope allowed us to get to the lip of the vertical drop, but the ladder was too short. Hugh went down ladder, but it didn't reach the bottom. On his return the stretch in the rope put the top of the ladder level with the lip of the pitch and a very strenuous bit of arm work was required for him to surmount the lip of the



*Charlie, Jeff and Hugh conferring over the survey; photo by Arthur Clarke.*



*The Lyre-bird nest; photo by Arthur Clarke.*



pitch. All up the whole arrangement was a bit dodgy and so we pulled the pin; this cave is best done with a 30 m rope and SRT gear! So the survey waits for another day.

So, we continued back around the hill until we found



Looking out the entrance of Lyre-bird Lair; photo by Arthur Clarke

H3, which was surprisingly close to KGV. H3, which Arthur referred to as "Fern Drapery" in Speleo-Spiel 318, is a small cave with a Lyre Bird nest on a ledge, just inside the entrance slope. Arthur attempted to number this cave, but the drill battery went flat. So, we started our survey from the part-drilled hole. The cave proved to be about 60 m long and 15 m deep. Up on the hill there is a shaft which virtually overlies a narrow aven in the cave, they probably connect. The survey of this cave is shown above. On the day we decided that perhaps "Lyre-bird Lair" was a better name for this cave than "Fern Drapery" as the Lyre-bird nest is a more significant feature than the ferns at the entrance. I have thus taken the liberty of using Lyre-bird Lair as the name on the survey.

We then surface surveyed our way back to KGV, tying the survey in to the bolt used to hold the KGV gate open. From H3 to the KGV entrance it is only 34 m East, 61 m South and 12 m down. It is likely that H3 is very close to KGV.

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## Mesa Creek Cave, STC Xmas dinner, caves at Hastings & Exit Cave

Arthur Clarke

Saturday December 16th Mesa Creek team: Alaric Bennett, Albert Goede, Arthur Clarke, Janine McKinnon, Jeff Butt and Ric Tunney.

Saturday night STC Xmas Dinner fund-raising party at Francistown: Alaric Bennett, Albert Goede, Anna Greenham, Arthur Clarke, Charlie Crofts, Greg Middleton, Hugh Fitzgerald, Janine McKinnon, Jeff Butt, Liz Canning, Mick Williams, Ric Tunney, Robyn Claire, Steve Phipps, and Trevor Wailes.

Sunday December 17th Hastings team: Arthur Clarke, Charlie Crofts, Jeff Butt, Hugh Fitzgerald and Mick Williams.

Sunday December 17th Exit Cave team: Alaric Bennett, Anna Greenham, Greg Middleton, Liz Canning, Steve Phipps and Trevor Wailes.

So where were you if you weren't there - (unless you were in Antarctica or under the Nullarbor Plain); it was one of the best/ largest turn-outs of STC members on any one weekend event!

Saturday's trip involved a walk out along the Mesa Creek track in the North Lune karst area; along the track that had been recently cleared (Speleo Spiel #318: 18), but inevitably there were now four sections blocked by substantial tree falls. At least the Gahnia cutting grass had not recovered from the hedge trimmer! The aim of the day was to show STC members what some of the North Lune limestone karst looks like and to locate the unexplored swallet: Mesa Creek Cave (NL-6) upstream in the otherwise dry creek bed, checking its potential (if any) for a future trip.

The walk south from the Hastings Caves car park took just over an hour. After a brief lunch stop and GPS reading by Jeff - where the North Lune track met Mesa Creek - we headed up the relatively dry streambed, passing a few large boulders (or glacial erratics??) of limestone and dolerite along the way. Just past the first major log jam, Arthur showed Albert the site of a recently collapsed glacial moraine with its orange-coloured weathering clays surrounding irregularly sized and shaped massive dolerite boulders with thick weathering rinds. About 35 minutes upstream from our lunch spot, we were amongst the creek side cliffs of limestone, creek bed dolines and then at Mesa Creek Cave; a fissure entrance in cliffs on the northern side; it was partially choked with small myrtle branches and leaves. There were lots of cave crickets and a few glow-worms. Judging by the remnants of froth on the walls, it obviously takes a fair flow of swallet water at times, but despite some digging and removal of branches with the feel of a cool draughty breeze, the way on looked fairly narrow and squeezey and less appealing than sitting outside in the warm sun!

Alaric headed up-valley and inland on the northern side and found another small cave with a larger entrance in a section of sassafras forest near a quite specky waterfall in a side gully. Jeff and Ric went up the main stream to check out Top Sink (NL-9); where water tumbles down through large (small house sized) dolerite

boulders, but there was no obvious way in for cavers. Albert started heading out at a leisurely pace followed shortly by the rest of us, via a brief inspection of some tufa banks en route and a large swarm of bees on top and underneath rocks in the dry bed of Mesa Creek.

*[A selection of images from the STC dinner are included on the following page. These were all taken on Arthurs digital camera. Ed.]*

'Come as your favourite cave critter' was the theme for the evening's entertainment: the STC Christmas Party fund-raiser extravaganza. Most STC members simply came as 'cave animals'; just as themselves! Others came as bats, including Hugh with his batwings umbrella and Steve who practised his origami skills to produce an instant bat mask. The ladies stole the show: Liz appeared very appropriately as a Blind Cave Fish; complete with dark glasses, walking stick and mermaid suit, while Robyn glowed in her sparkling glow-worm suit with silvery snare thread fishing line beads!

The afternoon/ evening festivities began with a few tinnies on the front verandah and a brief slide show of digital images of the recent Chinese caving expedition by AC. This was followed by a wine-tasting session: home-made natural (preservative-free) non-fortified wines from the Francistown cellars; starting with a rosé, then fruit and flower wines - while the entrees were served: Mick cooking up a feast of freshly caught marinated abalone. The soup and main course was served smorgasbord style amidst leaf litter, complete with its own set of live cave critter bugs! The walnut and blue vein Camembert soup was followed by mains; a choice of wallaby steaks or freshly caught Trevalla (thanks Mick). A 'create your own caving dessert' included options for portions of the chocolate-coated home-made whisky liquor flavoured ice cream flowstone stalagmite, chocolate fudge cave mud, flowstone covered boulders from the meringue rock pile (complete with plastic and rubber mould models of cavers and cave critters), plus the multi-coloured berry fruit cave pearls with lacings of cave cream. Although a few wines were still happening, only six of the ten bottles on offer were had (where was Hans?); perhaps something to do with starting off strong on the 23% alcohol rosé and the 22% mulberry & blackberry blend! Toxy (the cat) joined in, perching beside Albert, eyeing his creamy dessert. Talking about kitty, the fund-raising dinner was a real success, boosting STC coffers by \$124.75. (Many thanks to the new STC Social Secretary; Robyn Claire; for all the food preparation and culinary delights.)

Surprisingly, there weren't too many (if any) hangovers the following morning. STC bods arose at various times on the Sunday for the choice of two caving options: a trip with Trevor into Exit Cave or checking out some new caves at Hastings.

Elsewhere in this Spiel is a report of the Hastings Trip. The going-on of the Exit trip are another story.

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## The Depths of Moria-a Surveying Campaign completed.

Jeff Butt

The need to completely survey the Depths of Moria has been talked about for quite a while, but over the last couple of months we've put in some effort and now have completed the surveying component of the job.

### Background:

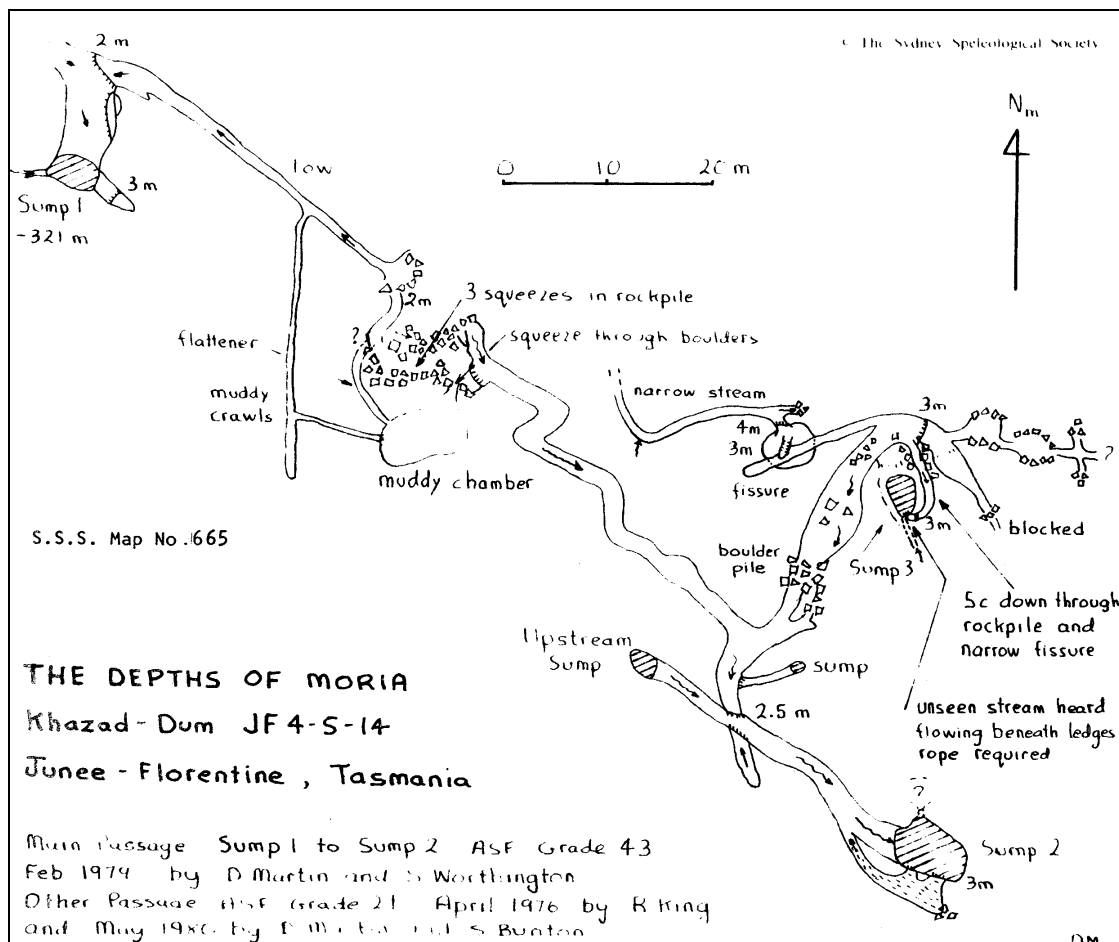
Prior to our campaign the most complete survey of the area was one produced by Martin and Worthington (1979), they surveyed the main drag (but they did not have a clinometer) and used side-passage information from an earlier survey done by King (1976). Their survey is reproduced below, this has been a 'place-holder' for the last couple of decades.

### The Trips:

This mini-campaign took four trips; the details of each trip follow:

**Trip 1: 19/11/00.** Party: Rolan Eberhard, Andras Galambos, Jeff Butt.

A trip report for this was written up in Speleo-Spiel 322, p 15. In summary, we rigged Dwarrowdelf, headed to the Depths of Moria and surveyed the 'backbone' from Sump 1 to Sump 2. This was a shorter trip, our surveying efforts amounted to 155 m of passage.



Several important questions remained unanswered, like; Which is the most downstream sump, Sump 2 or Sump 3? have remained. Also, from some of my earlier visits to the area, I knew of side-passages that weren't shown on this survey....what secrets did they hold?

Another carrot was that Cauldron Pot lies only about 70 m away from the Depths of Moria....perhaps something was missed....perhaps it was even closer. A thorough survey was needed to determine this.

With our current re-survey of Khazad Dum, (this project being driven by the proximity of new discoveries in Splash Pot to Khazad Dum) the time was right to answer these questions by fully surveying the Depths of Moria.

**Trip 2: 7/12/00.** Party: Mark Wright, Jeff Butt.

After giving Mark some training with the Instruments we linked the KD survey to the Depths of Moria Survey by surveying from the final KD waterfall to Sump 1. With this done, we made a start on fleshing out all the 'ribs' along the 'backbone survey'.

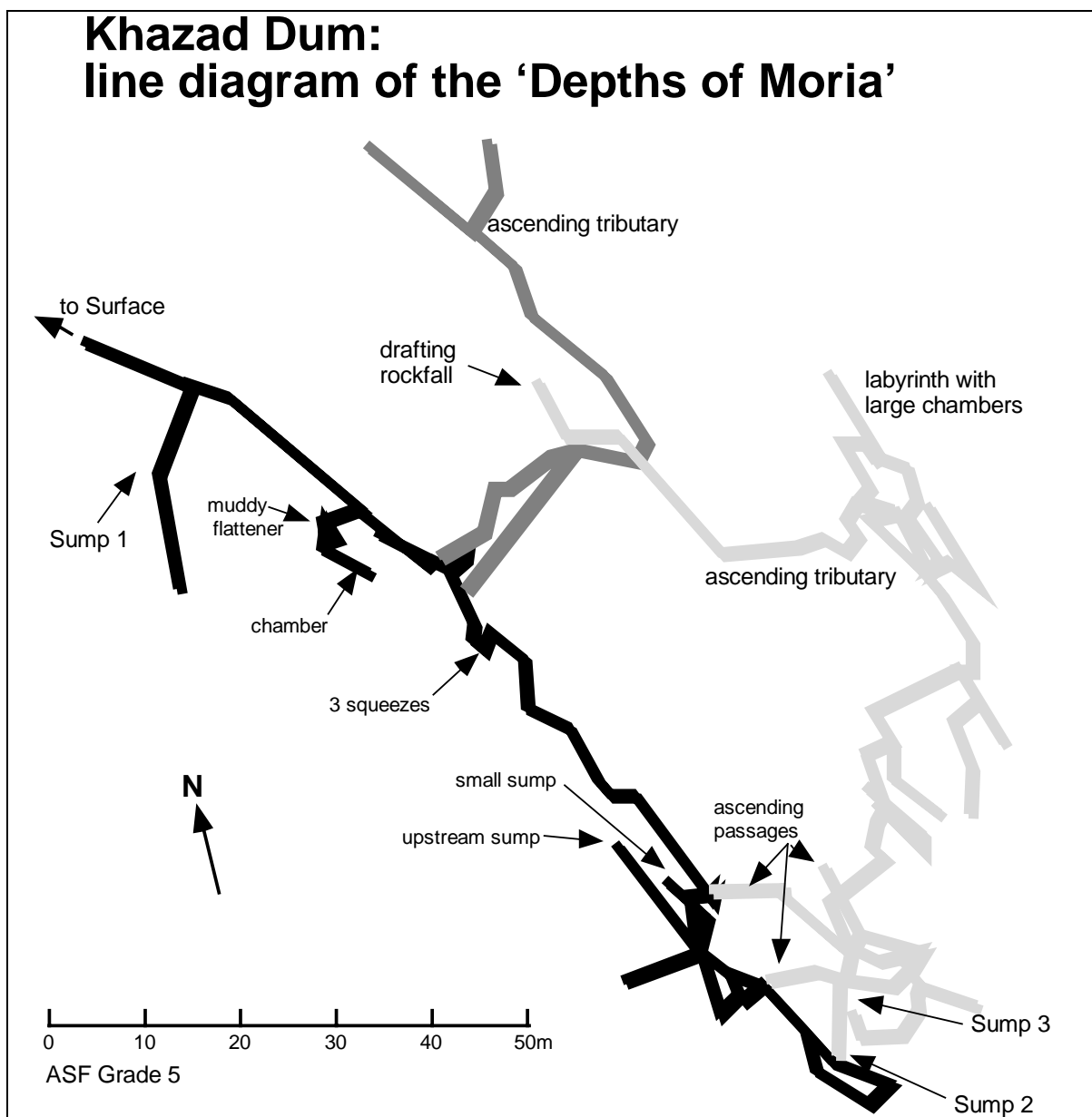
We grovelled here and grovelled there, slowly collecting data as we went. The small serpentine stream (inflow) passage (on the left just before the 2 m climb down prior to the squeezes; but not shown on the survey above) that I had know about for some years proved to be quite surprising. The first part of this passage is quite tight and care must be taken to avoid damaging formations.

The passage opens up into an aven with a 4 m waterfall. This was the 'limit of exploration' until our return with survey gear. Above the climb, the narrow rift, carrying a small stream was initially tight, but gradually widened as we progressed upstream. The ceiling gradually lowered as well and eventually merged, leaving only a small hole that water emerged from. The survey showed we were virtually directly below the bottom pitch of Dwarrowdelf, about 23 m beneath the rockpile you land upon when getting off the rope. One hundred metres of new cave was surveyed here, and the survey tally for the day was 330 m.

**Trip 3: 14/1/01.** Party: Andras Galambos, Jol Desmarchelier, Jeff Butt.

With the cave rigged our descent was smooth. After lunch at Sump 2 (where incidentally there are 4 small dive weights....so if anyone is planning a dive that's something less to carry down) we surveyed the side-

passages of the 'backbone' in this area. We then headed to the Sump 3 area and found a labyrinth of passage in this area, with many passages ascending into muddy and rockfall regions. Sump 3 is like a 'well', a circular pool of water about 6 m down a shaft. We surveyed to the water surface here, though didn't actually get to the surface ourselves as a rope or ladder is needed to be able to reverse the last few metres. As noted by earlier explorers, a small stream can be heard, but not seen, as it is under ledges down near the sump. Our survey data shows that the water level of Sump 3 is 1.3 m above the level in Sump 2; but surprisingly Sump 3 is only 6 m away from Sump 2, through the wall. Obviously with different levels they Sumps 2 and 3 can't be directly connected, but maybe Sump 3 spills over to feed Sump 2? It really is worth taking in a rope/ladder to Sump 3 (and perhaps a wetsuit) to check out this 'unseen' stream and to get a better idea of what's actually down near water level.



We then headed to the 'narrow stream' NW of Sump 3; this steeply ascending streamway continued, bifurcated and continued some more. We stuck to the main streamway, but did not get to the end of it before it was time to head out. Our trip out was smooth; we emerged on the surface 10.5 hours after heading in. The survey tally for the day was 280 m, taking the surveyed length of KD over the 4 km mark.

**Trip 4: 18/1/01.** Party: Hans Benisch, Jason Adams, Jeff Butt.

The main aim for the day was to complete the surveying of the Depths of Moria. Jason was getting his 'biggest-ever dose' of SRT and I also hoped that we might be able to do at least a partial derig as well. For this purpose new bolt markers were made up to mark all those 'hard to find' bolt casings.

Our descent was smooth and we were soon at the base of the bottom pitch in Dwarrowdelf, where a small quantity of Fluorescein dye was added to the stream that sinks into the boulder pile; we had hoped to pick this up somewhere in the Depths of Moria, but this was not successful. We moved back to the 'new ground'. As we surveyed, we kept finding more virgin passage, large chambers and many leads. We found that most leads, which were generally ascending leads, seemed to end in either rockpiles, digs or dodgy climbs. A couple of the rockpiles were drafting quite strongly and are perhaps worth pursuing some time in the future. We managed to find an 'end' to our last passage, and then started heading out to pick up remaining leads as we went. Our efforts were thorough and we added another 200 m to the survey, though it felt like there should have been more as there were many frustrating short legs! Most of the passage explored lies directly underneath Troll Hole and the distant end of the KD-Dwarrowdelf connecting tunnel.

The trip out was smooth, although Jason found it a little wearing. Time dictated that we dispensed with derigging, although I did install some bolt markers. It was yet another 10.5 hour trip and a midnight arrival in Hobart.

#### **The Results:**

Surveying the Depths of Moria proved to be a larger job than initially imagined (always the way!), in the end this area amounted to ~750 m of surveyed passage. Khazad Dum now is ~4500 m in length and once KD the 'Wet Way', KD 'the 'Old Way' and the 'alternative Dwarrowdelf' are surveyed it will be pushing the 5 km mark. I haven't finished drawing up the Survey, so as a place-holder for this Spiel, here is a line diagram of the Depths of Moria.

I've annotated the major features. Generally the darker the line the deeper the passage.

In terms of the side-passages, there are some differences between this survey and the old one. One should note that in the old survey only the main traverse was done to Grade 4, whilst the side-passages were Grade 2, i.e. without instruments, but sketched in the cave. For the new survey, all legs were surveyed to Grade 5 standard and we were quite thorough.

#### **The Next Step:**

Unfortunately at the end of the day we are no closer to Cauldron Pot, it still lies some 70 m to the Southeast of the end of the Depths of Moria. But, we have amassed a large amount of passage beneath both Troll Hole and the Dwarrowdelf region. Here are some thoughts for future work:

- In Troll Hole, the large basal chamber's floor is littered with large blocks with slots between them. To my knowledge, the slots between these have not been investigated.
- With the approaching dry season it is perhaps a good time to have a look from the Cauldron Pot side as I believe that most of the work in Cauldron concentrated on heading downstream. The point of closest approach between KD and Cauldron is about 30 m above the level of the upstream Cauldron streamway.
- If there are any keen cave divers out there, then diving KD Sump 2 is a worthy project. This very diveable looking sump has been dived once before, but during flood conditions and so the dive was very cursory.
- Sump 3 should be properly checked out too, perhaps it is even a candidate for a dive, but the first thing would be to take in a rope/ladder for a good look. [*This was looked at on the derig trip-11/2/2001. Ed.*]
- There is a good climbing lead at the distant end of the Dwarrowdelf-Khazad Dum connecting tunnel, this is heading up towards Troll Hole.
- and there are several drafting rockpiles in the Depths of Moria....which go somewhere new.

#### **References:**

Martin D., Worthington S. (1979) 'Depths of Moria Survey. JSSS, V23(7), p167-169.  
King R., (1976). 'A New Australian Depth Record - Down the Big Three'. *Australian Speleological Federation, Newsletter*, 73 3-5

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## **Ultra-reliable Secondary Bulb for 6V Gel-cell caving lamps-a variant.**

**Jeff Butt**

In the last Spiel, Dave Rasch told us about using high intensity white LED's in his caving lamp. At the recent ASF conference I had the pleasure of caving with some main-landers. Several of these cavers were also using High Intensity LED's as Pilot bulbs in their headpieces, but instead of using two LED's in series, they were using three matched LED's in parallel (running at 20 mA each)

with a small dropping resistor. Note that unless you match the LED's, each should have it's own dropping resistor to guard against slight differences in each of the LED's. This bulb produced enough light to cave by and fitted neatly into a MES bulb base, just like the Dave Rasch version.

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## ASF Conference and ASF Council: A Brief Note.

Arthur Clarke

Following is a brief synopsis of the recent 23rd ASF Conference (including 45th ASF Council meeting). It was quite a successful event; the second largest conference ever held in Australia with over 100 participants from all States and one caver from USA. Held at the All Saints College in Bathurst (NSW) over six days from December 29th 2000 to January 3rd 2001, the crammed programme alternated between karst area visits and 'home' days in Bathurst for the many concurrent presentation sessions of forty or more papers and workshops, plus poster presentations, photographic competitions, cave art show, Speleo Sports, prussik challenge (and the biennial kidnap of 'VicTim'), ASF Executive meetings and ASF Council. All credit should go to Jodie Rutledge who acted as site manager, secretary and treasurer for the conference, plus the convenor: Angus Macoun who gave presentations, ran workshops and organised the photo competition while acting as convenor.

Pat Larkin; a practising environmental lawyer and the most recent 'Fellow' of ASF - opened the ASF conference on the old wooden dance floor in Abercrombie Arch on the morning of Friday December 29th. After listening to the echoing melodic sounds of the voice of our chorister; Domino; we briefly toured the Abercrombie Arch and nearby Bushrangers Cave before heading back for the opening of the Speleo Art Exhibition on a hot afternoon in Bathurst. Creative Caving; including cave art and photography; was one of the six conference themes and Stefan Eberhard won the coveted title as Cave Photographer of the Year as a result of his superb collection of photographic prints of cave fauna. Arthur Clarke won three other photography awards First Prize for the best slide in Cave Humour and a First and Third in the 'How-To'(caving equipment and techniques) section; another one of the Conference themes. The four other conference themes were Caving History, Caving Why-For (cave science), Cave Management and Cave Exploration. Jeff Butt presented an excellent paper on recent exploration and survey mapping of caves in the Junee-Florentine, plus gave a separate presentation providing a brief overview and appraisal of bolting techniques for cavers. We will look forward to seeing the published conference proceedings some time in the future.

Tasmania (and STC) was quite well represented at the ASF Conference. Apart from Jeff and myself, the Culberg family of four attended along with David Wools-Cobb and Henry Shannon (from Northern Caverneers). Sunday December 31st was our day at Jenolan Caves, and there was another field trip day to Borenore Arch and other caves on Tuesday January 2nd for those not attending the ASF Council meeting.

On New Years Eve, Arthur did a slide presentation of his recent caving expedition in western Guangxi Province of southwestern China and following, there was a 'New Millennium' (?) fireworks display at a local sports club in Bathurst, if you didn't get lost on the way trying to find it. Then back at All Saints College, there was the ASF 'come dressed as a bat' Bacardi Bash party; where the Hugh and Liz bats-wings umbrella (from the STC Xmas Dinner) enabled yours truly to win the best-dressed bat

costume prize; a bottle of Bacardi rum with bat emblem! The bat party continued into the night with dancing and music - and there was the usual fun and games of conferences including body massage, skinny-dipping and losing your clothes!

At ASF Council, there was a presentation of the results from the ASF Karst Index Database (KID) Working Group that met the day before the conference started. The new ASF website is up and running with the various state-based KID's online and preparations are being made to enable State Co-ordinators to commence data updates using web-based software. Some significant changes were made to the ASF Constitution - these will enable ASF to apply to become registered as an environmental organisation and if successful in turn will permit Tax Deductible donations to be made to ASF. There was some heated discussion at the Council meeting about the ACKMA CD ROM; this was produced without the specific written consent of ASF and does not acknowledge ASF. This CD is a compilation of all the cave management conference proceedings in Australasia (copied from the various publications): the first seven of which were conducted under the auspices of ASF. Some concern was also expressed about Arthur Clarke being an ASF Executive member as well as being on the ACKMA Committee. The ASF budget discussions centred on rises in capitation fees, now going up to \$37.00 (from \$35) for individual members, so the ASF corporate (club) member rate (0.7% of single rate) will be \$26.00 and the student rate will be \$18.50. Our STC motion about a discounted 'Prompt Payment Discount' for ASF corporate membership fees was defeated.

Three new faces were elected to the ASF Executive. The ASF office bearers are:

Peter Berrill (QLD); President;  
Chris Bradley (ACT); Senior Vice-President;  
Grace Matts (NSW); Treasurer;  
Kath Rowsell (NT & VIC); General Secretary;  
Jodie Rutledge (NSW); Membership Secretary;  
Arthur Clarke (TAS); Executive Secretary;  
John Dunkley (ACT); Vice President;  
Joe Sydney (NSW); Vice President;  
Wayne Tyson (WA); Vice President.

The Conference Dinner on Tuesday evening January 2nd; after the ASF Council meeting - was the final item on the conference programme, prior to the post-conference field trips starting on Wednesday. Julia James gave a brief pre-dinner presentation and talk about the forthcoming UIS international Speleo Congress in Brazil in July this year. The dinner was used to officially launch the new ASF Website: [www.caves.org.au](http://www.caves.org.au) and was also the time for many speeches. Tony Culberg (a former ASF Secretary) gave one of opening dinner speeches relating the caving exploits of Henry Shannon and discovery of Conference Concourse in Exit Cave after the 1970 ASF Conference, but he mistakenly accorded Kubla Khan as the deepest cave in Australia!! Al Warild delivered the guest speaker address on the delights of cave exploration around the world with accompanying slides from caving expeditions in New Guinea and Mexico. Brett Wakeman and Kath Rowsell used some of Arthur's digital

camera images taken during the conference to give a Powerpoint Presentation: these images featured conference cavers in their bat party costumes and some of the imagery or tricks that can be achieved by using Photoshop or Powerpoint. A number of ASF Certificate of Merit awards were presented to various cavers; some

of these somewhat overdue in their delivery time! The dinner night ended with a game of Speleo Bingo followed by the usual Dutch Auction of leftover prizes and donated items including numerous bottles of Bacardi Bat rum enough for now!



## STC WaReHoUsE SaLeS

### Publications

- "Caving Safety 1 Manual", 92 pages, covers Planning, Safety, Maps, Gear, Rigging, Emergencies etc. \$20.00
- Back Issues of Southern Caver, Speleo-Spiel. There are various issues available. Please contact the Librarian, Greg Middleton (gregmid@one.net.au) with your requirements. ~\$1 each

### Gear

- CAVE PACKS, 25 litre volume, made from Heavy duty yellow PVC material, double thickness material at wear points, strong seams, drain holes, large diameter eyelet's, adjustable straps. Good Value. \$55.00 each
- Aluminium Bars for Rappel Racks. \$5.00 each
- 5 cm (2") plastic Tri-glide buckles, ideal for battery belts, cave packs etc.) \$0.80 each
- BATA full-length Gumboots, Size 9, Green with Orange Sole, and steel toecaps. **LAST PAIR >>** \$25.00

### Tape

- Edelrid 25 mm tubular tape. Ideal for rigging, chest harnesses etc. (White) \$2.00 per m
- 5 cm (2") flat tape (ideal for harnesses, rigging, gear bags, belts etc.) (Blue) \$1.50 per m

### Safety

- Rivory 10 mm dynamic rope (for cows tails, safety loop) **NEW STOCK >>** \$4.00 per m, e.g. Cowstail \$11
- Space Blankets (don't be caught underground without one!) \$4.00 each
- Miracle Body Heat Packs (20 hours of portable heat, 50 gm sachets, carry a couple) **NEW ITEM >>** \$2.00 each

### Lighting

- Yuasa Gel-cells, 6 Volt, 7 Amp-Hour \$24.00 each
- Metal Lamp Brackets, complete with fixing rivets and cable keeper \$7.50 each
- Plastic Lamp Brackets, used but in good condition. comes with fixing screws \$2.00 each
- Alkaline 4.5 Volt 'flat-pack' batteries (for Petzl Zoom's etc.) **SPECIAL >>> \$7.00 each**
- Eveready 6 Volt, 0.5 Amp Flange Mount Bulbs #1417 (for HIGH Beam) \$2.00 each
- Tandy 6 Volt, 0.3 Amp Screw Base Bulbs #50 (for LOW Beam), blister packs of 2 \$2.00 each
- Jets (21 litres/hr) for Petzl kaboom (just a couple left) \$5.00 each

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

- RETIRED CAVING ROPE, no longer safe enough to use for caving purposes, but more than adequate for many other purposes. Available in various lengths. \$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 7006.

*If you've got something to flog  
(Caving related) then don't forget that the Spiel might be  
one way to sell it. (Try the List Server too!)  
It cost's members nothing to have a go, so why not!*