

Speleo Spiel 334



January – February 2003

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Front Cover:

That's me, under the mud! (Left to Right)
Phil Rowsell, Sarah Joyce, Monica
Osuchowski and Geoff Wise after a trip to
Wolf Hole (photo by Emma Watt)

Back Cover:

Formation in Rocket Rods Pot (IB-171)
(Photo by Geoff Wise)

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, Tasmania 7006

<http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/stcaving/>

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The views expressed in the
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necessarily the views of
the Editor, or of the
Southern Tasmanian
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Editorial

This Spiel mainly covers the reports from AGM held on 5th March 2003 (*Yes I know this Spiel is supposed to cover January and February... Deal with it*). That's not to say there wasn't any caving happening during this period, much of the work done at Ida Bay over that last several months is being held for the next Spiel (or Spiels) to keep it altogether.

I note in the forward program that the search and rescue exercise is coming up soon, it would be good to have a reasonable turn out this year after only three STC members attended last years exercise.

Hopefully I will have the backlog cleared up soon and will get around to producing a Spiel close to the cover date!!

Geoff Wise

Stuff 'n Stuff

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE!

It's time to renew your membership. See the membership renewal form on page 16 for details

The Electronic Archive Needs You

Phil has made a call to arms to get data into the archive. The main task at the moment is the proof reading of OCR'ed Spiels and Southern Cavers and converting to HTML documents. This is a large task and needs as many people as possible to get the job done.

A workshop will be organised soon to show everyone just what is involved in this process.

Once there is sufficient data input a testing phase will begin

Forward Program

Next General Meeting..... June 4

Gormenghast..... May 18

Horizontal cave with some climbs.

Contact Steve Phipps

Cavex..... June 7/8

Cave rescue exercise, be there

Exit Cave June 14

Send Ric (rtunney@tassie.net.au) an email if you're interested

Re-bolting Program TBA

Contact Jeff if you're keen to help out

Mt Anne mystery solved and another created.

By Stephen Buntton

In his trip reports about the recent expeditions up Mt Anne (Speleo Spiel 333), Jeff Butt mentioned something about a half drilled bolt hole and a fully drilled bolt hole which contained no spit. I believe I can shine a little light on the subject.

For my trip to Tasmania over Christmas 1983 and January 1984, Alan Warild had made up a prototype of a lightweight aluminium bolt driver. It was a beautiful thing but unfortunately it wasn't up to the hardness of the Mt Anne dolomite. The driver began to bend on first hole I attempted to drill so I stopped, hence the half hole. I did manage to completely drill the next hole but got the driver stuck and due to the bend couldn't rotate it properly to extricate it. As such I descended the pitch, belayed off the said driver, attached to the stuck spit with no spreader cone inside. I know I was pretty gutsy in those days, and I might have abseiled off this single fixture but can't imagine Dale was sufficiently crazy to follow me. We must have rigged a second

anchor but I can't remember what it was. It was this pitch which Dale and I descended to find Rocky Mountain Way. Sadly we left the driver in place during the derig.

This trip report wasn't really written up anywhere. Dale then returned with VSA at Easter but I have no idea where he descended to push Rocky Mountain Way. I assume he managed to extricate the driver or it was discovered and souvenired by either the Czechs or the SUSS people on subsequent expeditions. The Czechs could not have bottomed the cave via this route, however, because the squeeze at the top of the Liquidator was not pushed.

Jeff is right, in 1984 we descended a 9m pitch as we should have (probably the one that he put a bolt in) because we didn't find the next 5m pitch. So we must have trogged down the well worn way he described.

Presidents Report 2002-2003

When I first nominated for the position of President I outlined that I could commit to chairing meetings once a month and probably little else. I realised that I had become what I despised in my youth; an armchair caver. In practice I have managed a few good caving trips each year. As for the administration, little did I realise the President's commitment to club far exceeds chairing the monthly meeting. My aim in becoming President was to ensure that, when I retired, I left Tasmanian caving in a better state than what it was when I started caving here. To this aim I can say that there has been some progress.

There have been major distractions from this course throughout the year but overall the trend is positive. The greatest of these has been the ongoing saga of Public Liability Insurance and its implications on fees, ASF levies and membership. Nevertheless we have made positive gains in this area, with the practical solutions offered by STC being adopted at the recent ASF Conference in Bunbury WA. Another change was to move the AGM and increase the membership year for STC by three months. At this stage I feel as though I have certainly done overtime. The positive developments in these areas have mostly been as a result of the incredible diligence of Steve Phipps and I thank him for his efforts.

STC has committed to the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Wildcare programme by setting up a Southern Cavecare group with the specific purpose at this stage of installing p-hangers in caves. This project was described as being analogous to "duckboarding for caves". Wildcare has recently made us a grant of \$1500 to undertake the projects we see fit. Currently this is the rebolting of Khazad-dum and a list of subsequent caves. As part of this project I enjoyed a few trips down KD earlier in the year, even celebrating my twenty fifth anniversary of caving in Tassy by revisiting the place where it all started.

Last year STC committed to remain a member of ASF and this year I committed the club to hosting the January 2005 ASF Conference. These biennial conferences are the showpiece of ASF endeavour and allow cavers from interstate to more easily visit the renowned caves of each state. I have enjoyed these conferences in the past, particularly the previous WA conference and I therefore encouraged a number of people to attend the Bunbury conference to experience some WA caves. I am sure that next year many cavers will be very keen to come to Tasmania, "the caving state". I am therefore convinced that our commitment is a considerable one. To this end we need to enlist the help and support of all STC members to some degree. Our chosen venue is Dover for its facilities, its setting and proximity to many good caves. The recent visit by the Croatian cavers has highlighted a number of things we need to consider in our organisation.

During the course of the year STC was plunged head first into a conservation battle over the Hustling Creek Karst Area which was threatened by logging operations on the south bank of the Huon River. Whilst various cavers have their own opinions on the issue of Tasmanian forestry and Green politics our primary concern was the protection, future management and wellbeing of the caves. To this end STC members handled themselves very professionally. I was involved personally in many of the negotiations and found myself making innumerable phonecalls and emails to a wide range of people. At this stage I am confident that the caves are safe from logging operations although they are not formally reserved and there is no management plan in place. With respect to the management of caves in other areas, I have spent a considerable amount of time reading management plans and RPDC reports and discussing them with various officials.

The spin-off from these discussions is that I have been able to establish some quite cordial relations within various Government departments and other instrumentalities and this has been to the mutual good. I feel such relations will have a very positive affect on caver relations in terms of management of caves, in considerations of access and involvement in cave exploration and documentation. To this end I feel we have had to guarantee a more professional approach to caving in the future. We do need to be more aware of caving with minimum impact and to more methodically document our activities.

Last year I was personally involved with Forestry Tasmania in repairing the gate to Welcome Stranger Cave and this year I ran a trip to Eden Creek at the invitation of the Forest Practices Board. There has been mention of formal representation for cavers on Cave Management Committees at Welcome Stranger and more recently at Mole Creek. To this end cavers need to present a united front to the authorities offering positive solutions to management problems. To achieve this I intend to enter into closer dialogue with Northern Caverneers, Savage River caving Club and Mole Creek caving Club. ASF has encouraged us to form a state liaison council similar to those which meet in other states in order to present a united front.

STC has suddenly gone from a club complaining of no ongoing projects to one with more potential projects than personnel to achieve them. Membership is therefore an issue for the club. Recently we have had a huge influx of Prospective Members, more in the last six weeks than for the previous year! This is good because it may see the club's average age suddenly decrease rather than steadily increase. To this end we need to ensure that a Prospective Member's initial experiences of the club are positive. At present we are working on a means by which General Meetings can become less boring and tedious. I would certainly welcome this! We also need to see that there are future trips

advertised, beginner trips for them to attend and projects for them to become involved in. On the other hand secret trips, by splinter groups and other such selfish notions, have no place in this club. They are particular harmful and divisive for the club. The main motivation for a reinvigorating my caving career after the amalgamation of the various clubs to form STC was that it was important to me to have a united group of cavers in Hobart, there are too few of us to be anything but fully united.

An advantage of uniting the clubs to form STC was that it also enabled the amalgamation of the cave records of the various clubs, for the sake of complete documentation of our cave heritage. In this electronic age we also have the potential for an electronic archive and this issue has consumed a great deal of the club's time and energy throughout this year. Whilst production of the Archive has stalled temporarily, the Cave Data and Information Policy, which hopefully will encourage all club members to contribute to the Archive, is almost complete. Hopefully it will be ratified at the next General Meeting.

With an increase in membership, the improved method of bolting in caves using stainless steel p-hangers to reduce caver impact, improved relations with land owners and managers, liaison with other Tasmanian clubs, more caving projects and the prospect of developing a truly comprehensive electronic cave Archive, we have made great steps towards ensuring that caving is in a better state now than it ever was.

I would like, therefore to take this opportunity to give my personal thanks to all members of the club for their positive contributions to both the club and speleology in general, throughout the past fifteen months.

It is with confidence that I feel that I am able to serve as STC president for yet another year. If elected it will be my third year as President and the maximum allowable under the constitution. Following that I imagine I will be consumed by the demands of the organisation of the ASF Conference. Should I be elected I consider that my main aim for the year would be implementing ways of expediting STC business. With the greater share of business being done by the Executive it is hoped that we can make general meetings more fun and therefore more appealing to new members and not such the turnoff they have may been in the past. The other big task will be in determining the copyright on material owned by the Club such that it can legally be incorporated into the Archive. I trust that everyone will support this major project.

Stephen Bunton

March 2003

Secretary's Report

The Secretary has three main tasks - recording the minutes of our formal meetings, clearing our mailbox and answering correspondence.

The first task was ably taken over by Arthur Clarke by the creation of a Minute Secretary position at our previous AGM. Arthur's minutes are much more comprehensive than mine. Members should have noticed the difference when I had to do the minutes during Arthur's absences. I hope the position of Minutes Secretary will be continued at this AGM.

I carry out the second task on the way to our meetings. Most of our mail is periodicals from other clubs. A perk of the job is to get to read these before passing them on to Greg Middleton for our library. I pass real mail (letters and such) to whoever in the club is handling the matter.

I have managed to avoid most of the third task by getting others to write answering correspondence. For instance, Steve Bunton has handled most of our written communication with Parks & Wildlife and with Forestry Tasmania as he has been handling conservation issues. Generally, any letters being sent from the club are circulated amongst the Executive for comment before sending. This allows a club opinion to be expressed, rather than the writer's.

Much of the club's communications are now done by email. We use the listserver for fast communication within the club and various executive members receive emails from outside the club. These latter are answered immediately by whoever receives them unless the answer could be controversial.

Quite a bit of work for the Secretary was generated by the planned visit by the Croatian cavers (who are at present camped a kilometre upstream of Exit Cave). There were numerous emails full of questions about Tasmania and Tasmanian caving areas. These required long replies. Fortunately, other members of the executive were able to answer some of these questions.

I am happy to stand for secretary again this year, with the caveat I shall be away for about four months at various times throughout the coming year.

Ric Tunney

Treasurer's Report to 2003

1. Introduction

It has been another exceptional year for STC, thanks once again to the public liability insurance crisis.

The bad news is that the club lost \$1860.36 during the 2001/2 financial year.

However, a number of liabilities were held over from the previous year - specifically, ASF fees for 2001 and the cost of producing a couple of issues of *Speleo Spiel* - and so a significant loss was expected.

The good news is that, looking at the past two financial years as a whole, STC sustained an overall loss of just \$138.70. This means that the club has weathered the insurance crisis extremely well, emerging with almost as much money in the bank as it had beforehand.

So can we say that STC is in good shape? Not quite. Firstly, it should be noted that our financial situation arises in no small part from the generosity of our members, who have contributed \$1048.25 in donations over the past two years. It is a great shame that this money was used merely to keep the club afloat, when it should have been used to increase the value of the club's assets.

Secondly, the General Account has lost \$1054.18 over the past two years, while the Science Account has gained \$915.48. So the club's overall financial performance obscures the fact that the General Account is continuing to run out of money. Since the club's formation in 1996, it has lost a total of \$4652.62. As the General Account is our operating account, it has to break even if the club is to survive in the long term.

STC needs to do better, having now lost almost half of the funds that it inherited from its predecessor clubs. As in my last report, I have proposed subscription rates for the coming year that should ensure that the General Account, and not just the club as a whole, will break even. Owing to the upheavals of the past two years, I have once again had to resort to carrying out an analysis of the club's running costs.

There have been two large increases in ASF fees since our last AGM, and so the proposed subscriptions for 2003 are much higher the previous rates. However, members should bear in mind that this is due not only to the impact of the insurance crisis, but also to the fact that STC subscriptions have always been at unrealistically low levels.

On a more positive note, I would like to emphasise that the reforms to the club's finances that have taken place over the past two years are reflected in subscription rates that are considerably lower than they would be otherwise.

2. Club membership

There was a considerable fall in the club's membership during 2001/2, from 61 to 43.

Although this was partly due to a reduction in the number of life members, the number of subscription-paying members also fell by 9. The steady downward trend in the number of full members (i.e. Household, Full and Concession) is a source of particular concern.

The large increase in subscriptions that is proposed for 2003 is unlikely to help the situation. I would therefore like to emphasise once again that the club needs to try harder both to attract new members and to ensure that existing members remain within the club.

An encouraging sign is that 9 new members joined the club during January and February 2003 - let's hope that this represents the beginning of better times ahead.

Number of members	30 Sep 2000	30 Sep 2001	31 Dec 2002
Household/Full/Concession	37	33	29
Prospective	1	6	1
Life	22	22	13
Total membership	60	61	43
Friends of STC	-	-	8
Total association	60	61	51

3. Estimated running costs

In this section, estimated income and expenditure for the General Account during 2003 are presented. These estimates will be used to determine how much money needs to be raised via subscriptions.

It should be emphasised that the estimates only cover the club's basic running costs - subscriptions, donations and the costs of ASF fees and *Speleo Spiels* for subscription-paying members are excluded at this point.

3.1. Gear

The trip fee has been a spectacular success. Combined with increased gear hire charges, the gear store contributed a net profit of \$332.81 to the General Account during 2001/2, despite the purchase of a considerable amount of new gear.

The Equipment Officer advises that relatively little purchase of new equipment will be necessary during 2003, and it is estimated that the gear store will contribute a net profit of \$690 to the General Account during the year. This is a considerable sum and will go a long way towards covering the club's running costs.

However, as it is arguably not the role of the gear store to generate a profit, it is proposed that the trip fee and gear hire charges be held at their current levels.

3.2. *Speleo Spiel*

The discounted subscription rates for members that receive *Speleo Spiel* electronically have been very popular, with just 12 members still receiving paper *Spiels* by 31 December 2002. Combined with the reduction in the number of exchanges in 2001, the number of paper copies of the *Spiel* being distributed has fallen from around 105 on 30 September 2000 to just 57 by 31 December 2002. This represents a considerable cost saving to the club, although there is scope for further savings to be made by encouraging life members and Friends of STC to receive the *Spiel* electronically.

The downside of the reduced print run has been an increase in the estimated cost of supplying one year's worth of *Speleo Spiels*, from \$10.08 in 2001 to \$15.48 in 2002. Despite this, it is proposed to leave the *Speleo Spiel* subscription rate unchanged at \$25.

It is encouraging to note that, despite the electronic version of *Speleo Spiel* being made freely available, the number of paying subscribers fell only slightly during 2001/2, from 9 to 8.

3.3. Estimated income for 2003

	2000/1 actual	2001/2 actual	2003 estimated	Remains in General A/c
<i>Speleo Spiel</i> subscriptions	220.00	200.00	200	180
Light hire	293.00	669.00	499	299
Gear hire	173.00	326.00	251	151
Gear Sales	502.00	749.00	200	180
Trip fees	0.00	519.00	540	486
CCMT interest	255.07	235.88	218	44
Bank Interest	2.70	2.20	2	2
Sale of surplus items	0.00	45.00	20	18
Total			1930	1360

3.4. Estimated expenditure for 2003

	2000/1 actual	2001/2 actual	2003 estimated
Supplying <i>Speleo Spiel</i> to life members, Friends of STC, subscribers and exchanges (45 copies)			697
ASF fees for inactive life members	0.00	107.50	138
ACKMA membership	90.00	45.00	45
Gear purchases	1054.64	1345.03	400
Audit fee	44.00	44.00	40
Fee for lodging annual return	40.80	42.00	43
Bank charges	11.34	11.20	10
Insurance for gear store	0.00	50.51	26
Publication purchases	0.00	197.42	88
PO Box rental	90.20	95.00	95
Sub-total			1582
Add 10% contingency			158
Total			1740

3.5. Estimated basic running cost for 2003

Based on the above estimates, the net basic running cost of STC for 2003 is \$1740 - \$1360 = \$380. This amount must be raised via subscriptions.

4. Proposed subscription rates

4.1. Base fee

In order to divide the club's basic running cost amongst the membership, it is proposed that members pay the following multiple of a base fee:

Membership category	Multiple
Household	1.5
Full	1.0
Concession/Junior	0.5
Prospective	0.25

Assuming that membership remains at 2001/2 levels, this gives a base fee of \$14.79.

4.2. Total cost of servicing members

First, add the cost of *Speleo Spiel* to the base fee. The subtotal is then multiplied by 1.111 to take account of the fact that 10% of subscription income - excluding ASF fees – is transferred to the Science Account at the end of each financial year. ASF fees are then added to give the total cost of servicing members.

These figures give us the total amount that needs to be raised via subscriptions for each category.

Membership category	Base fee	<i>Speleo Spiel</i>	Subtotal	Multiply by 1.111	ASF	Total
Household	22.19	15.48	37.67	41.86	121.50	163.36
Full	14.79	15.48	30.27	33.63	68.00	101.63
Concession/Junior	7.40	15.48	22.88	25.42	61.00	86.42
Prospective	3.70	3.87	7.57	8.41	20.00	28.41
Active life members	-	-	-	-	68.00	68.00

4.3. Proposed subscription rates for 2003

The proposed subscription rates are obtained by rounding the above totals to the nearest \$5 (except for the fee for active life members). As a result of the increase in the cost of *Speleo Spiel*, it is proposed to increase the discount for receiving the *Spiel* electronically to \$15.

It is also proposed to introduce an ASF-exempt Full membership category in addition to the existing ASF-exempt Prospective category. By making discounted subscription rates available to individuals who are already members of the ASF, it is hoped to encourage members of other caving clubs to join STC.

Membership category	2001/2 actual		2003 proposed	
	Full rate	Discounted	Full rate	Discounted
Household	90	80	165	150
Full	65	55	100	85
Concession/Junior	45	35	85	70
Prospective	25		30	
Active life members	50		68	
<i>ASF-exempt Full</i>	-		40	
<i>ASF-exempt Prospective</i>	7		10	

Steve Phipps
Treasurer
3 March 2003

Public Officer's Report

Apart from the various documentation notifying the Corporate Affairs Commission of changes to the rules, changes to the constitution and the notification of the annual meeting there is nothing to report. As the author of the Data and Information Policy I have worded it such that the Public Officer is the person responsible for ensuring that the policy is adhered to. Since much of this will involve keeping a legal and computer aware, eye on the club's electronic archive, I would feel inadequate in this position and notify in advance that I will not be standing for this position at the coming AGM. I have held this position out of loyalty to STC since its formation. I felt it was the least I could do... and really I have done the least! It is now time for somebody else to fulfil this role.

Stephen Bunton

March 2003

**If you've got something to flog then don't forget the Spiel might help you shift it.
It cost's members nothing so have a go.**

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated
Financial statement for period 1 October 2001 to 31 December 2002

	2002	2001¹
	\$	\$
Income		
Subscriptions	2025.00	1442.50
<i>Speleo Spiel</i> subscriptions	200.00	220.00
Light hire	669.00 ²	293.00
Gear hire	326.00 ³	173.00
Gear sales	749.00	502.00
Trip fees ⁴	519.00	0.00
Interest	239.84	264.83
Donations	258.00	790.25
Sale of surplus items	45.00	0.00
Grants	0.00	500.00
Science projects	224.87	0.00
Total income	5255.71	4185.58
Expenditure		
Printing and photocopying	977.23	466.80
Postage and phone	343.15	273.65
Stationery	62.88	11.40
ASF fees	3319.25 ⁵	0.00
ACKMA membership	45.00	90.00 ⁶
Gear purchases	1345.03	1054.64
Social functions	0.00	72.52
Audit fee	44.00	44.00
Fee for lodging annual return	42.00	40.80
Bank charges	14.70	12.21
Equipment Officer honorarium	139.80	182.70
Insurance for gear store	50.51 ⁷	0.00
Publication purchases	197.42	0.00
PO Box rental	95.00	90.20
Death notice for Sam Carey	60.20	0.00
Payment of hire money to Jeff Butt	57.00	0.00
Key deposit	0.00	100.00
Science equipment	198.90	0.00
Science projects	29.00	25.00
Science publications	95.00	0.00
Total expenditure	7116.07	2463.92
Net surplus (deficit)	(1860.36)	1721.66
Balance sheet		
Petty cash	19.95	7.30
General Account	570.97	1345.58
Science Account	708.53	1788.68
Cash Management Trust	5000.00	5000.00
Less unrepresented cheques	(18.25)	(0.00)
Total cash position	6281.20	8141.56
Account reconciliation		
Opening cash position	8141.56	6419.90
Add total receipts for the period	5255.71	4185.58
Less total payments for the period	(7116.07)	(2463.92)
Closing cash position	6281.20	8141.56

Notes

1. 2001 figures are for the twelve months ending 30 September 2001
2. Includes \$45 collected on behalf of Jeff Butt
3. Includes \$12 collected on behalf of Jeff Butt
4. Trip fee introduced on 7 November 2001
5. Includes membership fees for 2001 and 2002
6. Membership fees for 2000/1 and 2001/2
7. Insurance for 2001/2 and 2002/3

Editor's Report

I would like to thank everyone involved with producing the Speleo Spiel during the last long financial year. They include:

- a.. the writers of trip reports,
- b.. the writers of scientific articles,
- c.. the donators of cover photos,
- d.. the providers of feedback on correct publishing protocol,
- e.. the offerers of help if I got stuck producing an issue (which I did, but didn't take up),
- f.. the people who listened to me rant and whinge about page numbering problems - especially Steve Phipps. It is always a team effort and each effort produces a zine the club can be proud of.

I have really enjoyed being Speleo Spiel editor but now wish to stand down due to lack of time with Uni.

Six Speleo Spiels were produced last financial year. They were numbers 327 to 332. Number 332 covered three months August, September, October. Each Spiel reports primarily on happenings during the period indicated on the cover. They were all bonza publications.

The issue for November/December 2002 is way overdue and no Spiels have yet been produced in 2003. I apologise humbly for this. I have found the last 3 months particularly difficult. However, I am keen to assist the new editor with the first Spiel of the new year.

Some good news is that enough material exists for two small Spiels in quick succession. One with stuff people have given me since the last issue, and one containing Mad Phil's proposed contribution on the work he's been doing at Ida Bay. It is desired that this be an issue in itself.

Finally a word of encouragement to would-be trip reporters. It is actually fun to spend half an hour writing a journal style account of your most recent caving trip. You get to relive it all again without the cleaning up. It can also be written in whatever literary style flows from your brain that day - so it turns into creative therapy. Best of all, for it to be a bona-fide speleological report, (which makes you a bona-fide speleologist) there only needs to be four vital facts:

- a.. who was on the trip
- b.. where you went
- c.. travelling times and caving times
- d.. any damage to the cave or gear

Good luck to the new editor,

Joe Farrell.

Search & Rescue Officers Report

The level of caving activity after being a bit "light on" over 2000/1 has returned to more normal levels over 2001/2. It is pleasing to say that there have been no incidents over the past 15 months.

A Caving Search and Rescue Exercise (CAVEX-2002) was held in May (whilst I was overseas) in the Junee-Florentine. Numbers of cavers attending was very low, but nevertheless some useful practise was obtained by all who attended.

Currently, in both the Police Search and Rescue Team and the Caving Club there are many newer members amongst the ranks. These people have less experience than others in the different facets of both Caving and Search and Rescue in a Caving context. To address this, we are planning to make CAVEX-2003 much more of a SAR training experience than a SAR exercise. It is envisaged that we will have about half a dozen Workshops (e.g. Patient Care, Stretcher types/loading/carrying, Hauling Systems, Underground/Surface Communications, Underground/Surface Navigation, SAR Incident Structure), each run by competent instructors. Teams of participants will rotate around the different workshops over the course of the weekend. Each Workshop will include extensive 'hands-on' experience for participants. At this stage, it is envisaged that CAVEX-2003 will occur on the weekend of June 7/8...Please Mark this in your Diary now. The actual venue is yet to be decided. Further details will be forthcoming in the near future.

Jeff Butt
Search & Rescue Officer

Librarian's Report

I was elected Librarian/Archivist on 1 April 1998 and over the next few days took delivery of numerous boxes of books, journals and other papers from the former SCS, TCKRG and TCC libraries. I instigated a database and set about integrating the three libraries and accessioning the journals and books. New journals and newsletters are added each month. To date I have accessioned - 3,430 journals and 148 books and monographs. We also have a series of binders containing reprints and photocopies of hundreds of cave-related papers and magazine articles.

These holdings are shelved on around 25 m of shelf space.

Loans have totalled 434 journals to 11 members; a further 12 books have been loaned. This doesn't include numerous duplicate copies of the Spiel loaned to Phil Rowsell and others to scan for the STC Archive.

In May 2001, thanks to the generosity of Albert Goede, we had a book auction which raised \$615 for STC funds; probably our biggest fundraiser ever. We also obtained a number of valuable donations from Albert's library. Since then he has also donated a large number of journals, conference proceedings, etc.

The club now has a near complete set of all publications from TCC, SCS and TCKRG. It also has a large holding of other Australian and overseas newsletters and journals, including NSS Bulletins back to 1943 (incomplete). Lists of our holdings are available; members are welcome to borrow at no charge and are invited to contribute copies of journals that we are missing! The journals list also indicates duplicates of the Spiel and other Australian newsletters which are available at negotiable prices. I can also provide access to my own extensive collection of worldwide speleological abstracts back to 1970.

The archives of the three constituent clubs are held in the library, in boxes. Unfortunately they have not been catalogued or shelved. There has been little interest in this material.

I'm prepared to stand again as Librarian but it is possible that I may be away for extended periods in the latter part of the year.

Greg Middleton Sandy Bay 21 February 2003

Convenor, ASF Commission on Bibliography; Australasian Coordinator for IUS Speleological Abstracts

Equipment Officer's Report

The Gear Store has been quite busy over the last 'year', however, when you look at the number of gear loans one can see that the level of caving is not abnormally high, it has just returned to a more normal level after an 'off' year over the 2000/1 year. The number the number of gear loans over the last year (15 months long due to the change in our financial year) period was 134 (equivalent to 107 in 12 months), almost double 2000/1 (65 loans) and commensurate with prior years (103 and 109 loans in 1999/2000 and 1998/9 respectively).

The return to a normal level of caving and the introduction of trip fees has meant that the gear store is providing a steady stream of income. This income is of sufficient magnitude to be able to allow us to replace gear as it wears out.

The annual rope drop testing session occurred in August; this annual session is essential for assessing the safety of our older ropes. P-hanger work has continued; with installations in Owl Pot (JF221) and Mini Martin (IB8) being completed. A start on installation in Khazad Dum (JF4) has been made. However, the project has currently halted, awaiting funds from Wildcare.

All gear is either present in the gear store, or accounted for in the Gear Loans book. Some 'highlights' in the various departments are outlined below.

Lamps/Charger

During the year four lamps failed, 2 Oldhams and 2 Gell-cells. The 2 gell-cells were replaced, bringing us up to having 13 serviceable lamps; comprising 9 Gel-cells and 4 Oldhams. All lamps were tested for capacity during the year and most lamps are '8 hours plus'. This is the smallest number of lamps we have had for some time; however this number is satisfactory for the current level of demand. We can expect the other aging Oldhams to begin to fail in the near future; as this occurs, these lamps will be converted over to Gell-cells. I aim to have a minimum of 12 serviceable lamps. The bits of the failed lamps are providing a good source for spare parts for the working lamps.

Helmets

Two SRT helmets and the older Construction workers helmets were retired during the year. One Joe Brown helmet was lost (money for this loss was paid to STC), leaving us with 5 Joe Browns. The remaining Construction workers helmets still in service are basically at the end of their life, and will need to be replaced shortly.

Ropes

In August the main Rope drop-testing session was held. All our remaining 9 mm Beal rope (X-TCC) has now been retired. During the year we purchased a 200 m roll of 10 mm diameter Roca Static rope. Also, we gained access to 360 m of private Mt. Anne Expedition rope (9 mm Edelrid); this rope has been added to the STC store. So, all up we have 1264 m of serviceable rope in the store. Over the coming year I expect to retire ~250 m of rope leaving us with about 1 km. I don't expect us to need to purchase any new rope this coming year (or perhaps for the next two years), as all our ropes (apart from the 250 m I plan to retire) are now well within their "use-by" periods. A table of serviceable rope is included below. We have a good range of lengths available; though I expect some of the longer ropes will be shortened over the year to give us some more useful lengths.

Gear Bags

We are down one rope-pack, and one of the SRT packs is on its last legs. I would expect us to need one new rope pack shortly.

Ladders and Traces

All ladders and traces are serviceable and we have more than enough for our needs. Indeed the ladders rarely get an outing; the traces get out more often, being handy for rigging.

SRT Gear

We have two complete SRT sets in good order, although one of the harnesses is now getting on in years. The cowstails were renewed during the year. With a current influx of new members the SRT gear is regularly getting used. Occasionally there is demand for a third set; but buying and maintaining a third set for occasional use is probably not justified.

Bolting Gear/Power Drill

The power-drill has been used quite a bit to affix number tags; it is perfectly suited to this job.

Survey Gear

The survey gear has seen considerable use over the last year, and we are basically down to having three serviceable units (2 compass, 1 clinometer). If the current level of surveying activity is to continue, then we can expect to have to buy at least one clinometer in the coming year. The GARMIN GPS 12XL unit has been used sporadically, the external antenna never gets used.

Rope Protectors

We have more than enough for our needs.

STC Warehouse Sales

Due to the lack of demand, this venture has been scaled right down. The main demand is for dynamic rope for cowstails/safety attachment for the hand-jammer, and this service will continue.

SUMMARY

The club equipment (a complete inventory follows) is well maintained and the Equipment Store remains in a well organised state. An inventory of our gear follows; it is likely that this will remain fairly constant from now on, with items just being placed as they are retired.

Jeff Butt

Equipment Officer

STC GEAR INVENTORY 31/12/2002				
Item	Quantity	Purchased/ made/ put into service	Condition	Location
Lighting				
4 Volt charger	1	n/a	fair	store
6 Volt charger	1	2001	good	store
4 Volt Oldham lamps	4	n/a	good	store
6 Volt Gel-cell lamps	9	n/a	good	store
Belts	24	n/a	good	store
spare Oldham headpieces	10	n/a	good	store
Box of assorted lamp spares	1	n/a	various	store
Sewer-pipe lamps	2	n/a	poor	store
Sewer-pipe spare battery carriers	3	n/a	good	store
plastic fish crate	1	n/a	fair	store
Container of spare 4V bulbs	1	n/a	new	store
Container of spare 6V bulbs	1	last in Jul-00	new	store
HELMETS				
Joe Brown Helmets	5	Jan-01	good	store
Safety Helmets-white	10	Feb-98	shortly to be retired	store
Total number	15			

STATIC ROPES				
Serviceable ropes-see attached Ropes list	1264m	various	various	store
Retired ropes	quantity	n/a	u/s	store
ROPE PROTECTORS				
red PVC	5	n/a	good	store
yellow PVC	10	n/a	good	store
canvas (firehose)	8	n/a	mostly good	store
Total number	23			
SRT GEAR				
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	fair	store
Petzl Stop descender	1	Nov-99	good	store
Petzl Expedition ascenders	2	Jun-90	good	store
Petzl Croll ascenders	2	Jun-90	good	store
Cowstails (each with 2 snaplink krabs)	3	2-2002, 1-1998	2 good, 1 medium	store
Jumar-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
Box of Unserviceable/old ascenders/descenders	1	n/a	poor or unserviceable	store
PACKS				
Large (Rope) -yellow	1	Jul-01	medium	store
Small (SRT)-yellow	2	Feb-96	1 medium, 1 poor	store
Extra large-white	1	n/a	medium	store
Small-red	1	n/a	poor	store
LADDERS & TRACES				
15m (50') Electron ladder	1	Sep-95	good	store
9 m (30') Electron 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 Cave
ACCESS KEYS				
Junee Quarry Road key	1	n/a	n/a	store
BOLTING GEAR-ELECTRIC				
Hitachi DH15DV Hammer Drill-complete	1	1996	medium	store
12 Volt Gel-cell (Yuasa)	3	1-1998, 2-2001	1 medium, 2 good	store
Gel-cell pouch	1	1997	good	store
Arlec 12 Volt Gel-cell charger	1	1997	medium	store
Drill bits-1/4	1	1996	good	store
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
Drill bit-18 mm	1	Sep-01	good	store
BOLTING GEAR-HAND				
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	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
Container of grease	1	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
Petzl Twist hangers	12	n/a	good	store (bolt kit)
BOLTING GEAR-SPARES				
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	4	n/a	good	store
Cones for 10 mm spits	4	n/a	good	store
Petzl hangers (Straight)	7	n/a	new	store
Nylon bolts (for markers)	20	n/a	new	store
GLUING GEAR				
Glue dispensing gun	1	2000	good	store
Hole cleaning brush	1	Sep-01	good	store
CAVE NUMBERING GEAR				
Box of Blank number tags	1 box	n/a	good	store
Metal punches, set of 10 numerals	1	n/a	good	store
Nylon sleeves and nails (for number tags)	~80	n/a	new	store
GPS GEAR				
Garmin 12 XL GPS unit (S.N. 35324575)	1	Jun-98	good	store
External Antenna	1	Jun-98	good	store
SURVEY GEAR				
50 m fibreglass tapes-open reel	1	Nov-97	medium	store
30 m fibreglass tapes-open reel	1	n/a	medium	store
30 m fibreglass tapes-open reel	1	n/a	only 20 m long	store
50 m fibreglass tape-closed reel	1	n/a	only 30 m long	store
Suunto compass #333530(3)	1	n/a	medium	store
Suunto compass #438188(25)	1	n/a	medium-blue oil	store
Suunto clinometer #424155	1	n/a	fair	store
Suunto clinometer #423770	1	n/a	poor-no line	store
Box assorted U/S Suunto's & part	1	n/a	u/s	store

FURNITURE				
long wooden box with 2 lids	1	n/a	good	store
wooden cupboards	2	n/a	ok	1 at store, 1 at Greg Middleton's
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	good	Greg Middleton's
DROP TEST RIG				
80 kg weight	1	Mar-98	the 'spacers' need replacing	store
Zennit maillons	3	Mar-98	ok	store
Screwgate Carabiner	1	n/a	poor	store
MISCELLANEOUS				
Rope cutting knife	1	n/a	good	store
Ropewasher	1	n/a	needs a rebuild	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
Aluminium rod (for making rack bars)	1 piece	Jun-98	new	store
STC WAREHOUSE SALES-gear for Sale				
space blankets	1	Dec-95	new	store
Petzl 21 litre carbide jets	2	n/a	new	store
Jeff Butt, STC Equipment Officer.				

ROPE INVENTORY - CURRENT					
Rope No.	Brand	Type	Diameter (mm)	Year made	Length (m)
34	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	14
13	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	13
51	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	12
9	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	11
SH	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	9
10	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	8
SH	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	8
67	Bluewater II	Static	10	1989	6
65	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	39
5	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	35
82	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	32
4	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	23
21	Bluewater II	Static	11	1991	23
64	Bluewater II	Static	11	1992	22
77	Bluewater II	Static	11	1985	21
24	Bluewater II	Static	11	1985	21
72	Bluewater II	Static	11	1983	20
19	Bluewater II	Static	11	1983	18
22	Bluewater II	Static	11	1991	17
20	Bluewater II	Static	11	?	10
SH	Bluewater II	Static	11	1983	6
A8	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1999	121
A4	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1999	66
1	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1994	53
80	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1994	48
A9	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1999	45
A6	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1999	32
A7	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1999	24
A5	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1999	19
A10	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1999	19
A3	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1999	17
A2	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1999	13
63	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1995	12
A1	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1999	11
SH	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1995	7
SH	Edelrid	Superstatic	9	1995	5
B75	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	2001	50
B81	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	2001	49
B76	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	2001	40
B79	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	2001	32
38	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	1995	9
39	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	1995	8
SH	Edelrid	Superstatic	10	1995	6
48	Edelrid	Superstatic	11	1984	10
C1	Roca	Static	10	2001	200
TOTAL 1264m					

Jeff Butt

*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*

Slaughterhouse Pot-Growling Swallet 7 February 2003

By Janine McKinnon

Party: Phil Rowsell, Sarah Joyce, Monica Osuchowski, Luke Wallace, Rik Tunney Janine McKinnon

This evergreen sporting trip was being run to give new members Luke, Sarah and Monica the "post-beginners-trip intro to what caving in Tas (STC-style) is all about". They were all keen and ready to go. After all, Luke had already had 1 hours caving experience! Plenty of prior experience for this trip (!). He wasn't sure if he suffered from claustrophobia at all but we said "no problem, you'll soon find out in the first half hour".

All went smoothly on the downward trip, with lots of laughter and chatter, and we did the brief diversion to look at the trapdoor stream way waterfall. Always worth the effort I think with beginners (If they're coping well so far) as it's quite an impressive sight.

Our passage through to the growling stream way went very smoothly and remarkably quickly. Even the windy rift didn't faze the recruits. They were still laughing and chattering on the other side, and as we went up the stream way.

The water levels were as low as I've ever seen them so passage up the stream way was pretty easy. We stopped for the obligatory look at the glowworms en-route.

Time underground was 6 hours and as the troops were still laughing and chattering as we got unchanged at the cars I think they'd had a good day. I certainly did. A fun day's caving with great company all round. Thanks guys.

Hell in the Garden of Eden 22nd February 2003

By Stephen Bunton

Party: Stephen Bunton, Greg Middleton, Serena Benjamin, Tristan? Olivier?

Nathan Duhig of Forest Practices Board asked me if the club was willing to explore and map some caves discovered during recent activities in the Eden Creek area of the Junee Florentine. Newly discovered unexplored caves sounded too good to be true, there had to be a catch and there was; stinging nettles. I advertised the trip as a bit of a lottery; there may be "caverns measureless to man" or nothing much either way I didn't play down the threat of the stinging nettles. Tristan provided the appropriate technology with a slash hook and a machete but it was not sufficient to prevent all of us getting well and truly stung.

The caves were in a series of gently sloping broad valleys which were part of the streamside reserves in the area. Although Forestry Tasmania doesn't advertise it, these streamside reserves account for a large proportion of the old growth forest reserved in Tasmania. In this case I'm not surprised they don't mention it since these streams follow valley which are meadows of neck deep thistles and nettles. Why the valleys are not full of ti-tree, cutting grass and bauera, I'm not sure but Greg proposed the hypothesis that they could be due to frost. From end of the new road on the left of Westfield before the Welcome Stranger turnoff we walked west through a bit of forest and out into the meadow.

We located two collapses with no exposed rock. The third doline had a large boulder like chunk of bedrock exposed which now sports the JF 266 tag. Beneath this was a small hole which lead around to connect with the vertical solution tube entrance. The cave was explored one person at a time and eventually named Thistlebed.

A small solution tube at the lowest point was choked with cobbles at a depth of 10m. The next doline over looked more promising with an 8m deep rift. It was tagged JF 267 and named Wormhole due to the couple of native earthworms dug out by Tristan. Olivier got even keener and dug more stuff out before getting down to water level. Undeterred he tried pushing a very tight squeeze in an attempt to break through into the promised parallel universe before admitting defeat.

By this time we were all feeling the heat from bashing around trogged up as defence against the nettles. Next we went in search of a known streamsink further south. On the way we investigated anything that looked like a doline in this nondescript landscape. It was Serena who located Eden Creek Swallet much closer to where we were investigating than we'd thought. The streamsink was just a small stream which flowed along under a log into a muddy pool with no exposed limestone. We all grabbed a drink and then retired to the shade of trees to have lunch. (There is another streamsink further south as marked on the Forest Practices Board Map.)

After lunch we adjourned to some caves also known to Forest practices Board, a few hundred metres further north but for this we relocated the cars. We still had to descend through a few hundred metres of nice forest which had suffered from some manfern plundering. We again emerged into a garden of thistles and nettles arriving spot on at one of two caves marked on our map. This was just another dirt doline. We then found the other, although it wasn't exactly where it should have been. This feature had a small pool in it almost at the level of the surface. We named it Dog Puddle. After a bit of half hearted searching for any other holes in the area and climbing trees for a better view, we finally aborted the mission. We wasted a bit of time

optimistically bashing down the gully of another streamside reserve to no effect.

I was surprised when Greg mentioned he hadn't visited Growling Swallet and suggest that we visit it on the way home. This was an offer that the new members

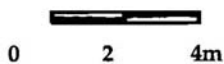
were keen to take up. We spent a little time scrambling down into the cool of the entrance. The flow was as low as I had ever seen which put the other area in perspective. Effectively all the aquifers in the Eden Creek system were effectively still quite full.

JF 266 Thisltlebed

Depth 10m
Length 21m



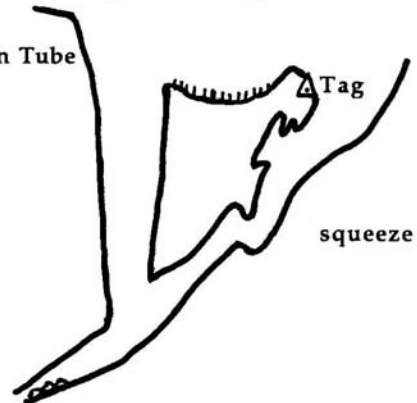
Scale 1:200



Plan



Developed Long Section



Surveyed by S.Bunton, G.Middleton, S.Benjamin, Tristan. Olivier.
ASF Grade 4

Drawn by S.Bunton 18.3.2003

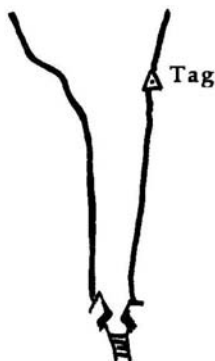
STC Map No 7JF266.STC32

JF 267 Wormhole

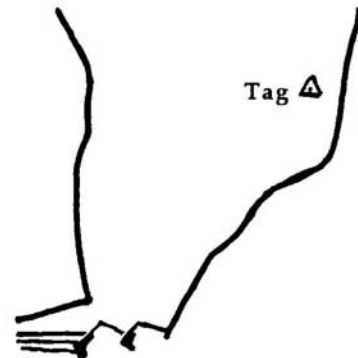
Depth 9m
Length 6m

Projected Long Section looking 340°

Projected Long Section looking 70°



Scale 1:200



Surveyed and Drawn by S. Bunton 18.2.2003
ASF Grade 4

STC Map No 7JF267.STC33

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc
Membership Renewal Form
(1 April 2003 - 31 March 2004)

Name(s) _____

Postal address _____

Phone (AH) _____ (BH) _____ (mob) _____

E-mail _____

Membership category (please tick one):

Category	Standard rate		Discounted rate ⁽¹⁾	
Household	\$165		\$150	
Full	\$100		\$85	
Concession / Junior	\$85		\$70	
Active life members ⁽²⁾	\$68			
ASF-exempt ⁽³⁾	\$40			

Please forward payment to The Treasurer, STC, PO Box 416, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7006. Cheques and money orders should be made payable to "Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc".

Notes: (1) The discounted rates are available to those who opt to receive Speleo Spiel in electronic form only AND who pay their membership fee by 30 June 2003. (2) Only those life members who intend to undertake one or more caving trips during the course of the year are required to pay a fee. (3) The ASF-exempt rate is available to those who are already members of the ASF, either individually or through membership of another ASF-affiliated club.

Wolf Hole 23 February 2003

By Geoff Wise

Party: Sarah Joyce, Monica Osuchowski, Phil Rowsell, Emma Watt, Geoff Wise

Phil and I needed a break from the work at Ida Bay so we decided to take the girls to Wolf Hole. This was my eighth trip to this cave, so I figured I knew the route. How wrong was I!

We met at the gear store, grabbed the necessities and were on our way. The usual stop at the Dover stop prompted panic from Phil as there was only one bacon bun and another bloke in the queue before him. Luckily the other bloke didn't buy it so disaster was avoided and the world did not come to a halt.

Another stop at the Hastings visitor centre to drop off a bunk bed and then onto the cave. Here was my first error, we drove right past the start of the

track and had to turn around and come back. A short walk to the cave and we rigged the pitch and headed down. We entered the main entrance, only the second time in this way for me, and began by exploring the rift directly across from the entrance. We then had a bit more of a look around before deciding to head to Lake Pluto for a look. This would be my next mistake.

I remembered the way roughly, but missed the turn off so we explored more and eventually found the connection to the other entrance (the one I usually enter). The others found a passage leading off this that I had never seen before. We followed this narrow winding passage until we came to a steep climb/scramble that connected back to the main drag. I'm sure there was whispering behind my back about mutiny but I ignored it and led on. Then we headed straight to the lake for a bite.

The water level is still down and while the others were finishing lunch I went around the edge on the immediate right of where you enter the chamber to investigate. There was not a lot around there but there was a survey station so others had been there. It was a bit of an epic not to fall in while getting back to the others.

We then went to the far end of the lake and crossed over to the other side. We crawled / slid up to Lake Charon, our wet trog suits provided lubrication against the floor but got muddy in the process. We

didn't go across, in my opinion it's not advisable without floatation or a line as the banks are very steep and the water is deep and very cold.

That done we headed out, I got the envious task of hanging off the rope at the edge of the drop to reset the rope protector for the others. Am I a nice bloke or what?

It was a great trip finished off with obligatory posing for photos and a trip to the thermal springs pool.

Caves List for the North East Ridge of Mt Anne

By Rolan Eberhard and Arthur Clarke

This list was compiled several years ago with assistance from Martin Scott of the Sydney University Speleological Society (SUSS) who corresponded with both of us. Martin was involved in the SUSS Mt Anne Expedition in January 1987 (sponsored by *Australian Geographic*), which explored and number tagged many new caves. Arthur Clarke has provided additional information that he has collated for ASF karst index record purposes from other published and unpublished records. (A detailed summary of referenced exploration or expeditions to Mt. Anne will be published as another article.)

To the best of our knowledge all caves with ASF numbers have been physically tagged, though MA-26 and MA-27 are reported as only being number tagged with flagging tape. Another possible exception to this are the three caves reported by Martin as: MA-46, MA-47 and MA-48. Since these three caves are not recorded in the SUSS Expedition Diary and there is some confusion as to whether or not these caves were actually tagged (M. Scott, pers. comm.), these are included here as “untagged” MA-X caves.

In accordance with ASF practice as described in the ASF Karst Index (Matthews 1985), “X-” numbers have been applied to the various known and reported caves at Mt. Anne that do not have number tags. As listed in the ASF Karst Index, in 1985 there were nine untagged MA-X caves at Mt. Anne, shown as numbers MA-X1 to MA-X9. The ASF Karst Index was the principal source of information for most these caves. Three of these caves were subsequently number tagged by SUSS in January 1987: MA-1 (*Col-In-Cavern*), MA-2 (*Keller Cellar*) and MA-9 (*Anne-A-Kananda*). With the exception of the *Timk Swallet* feature (MA-X3F), it is possible that the remaining untagged caves (MA-X4, MA-X5, MA-X6, MA-X8) plus MA-X10 – all discovered on early TCC trips to Mt Anne – have subsequently been recorded under different names and possibly number tagged. However, until this can be confirmed or otherwise, these MA-X numbers should be retained.

(Arthur considers that it was unfortunate that SUSS members misunderstood the practice of assigning “X-” numbers to untagged caves, believing that permanent number tags could only be applied to those caves with the respective MA-X numbers, e.g., MA-1 for MA-X1, MA-2 for MA-X2 and MA-9 for MA-X9. Consequently, this is another cave area in Tasmania where there is a gap in the sequentially number tagged caves.)

Amongst the additional MA-X numbers, there are the “MA-CS” numbers in brackets referring to caves documented by the Czech Speleological Society expedition in March 1987 (Tasler 1989). Although the Czechoslovakian cavers were quite meticulous in their documentation, they unfortunately only used paint to place their allocated cave numbers at cave entrances and even less than a month later it was noted that the painted numbers were fading! For this reason and aesthetic considerations we advocate that cavers should not paint numbers on caves.

Following the summary list of Mt. Anne caves below, there is an expanded list describing all the known and recorded caves for Mt. Anne. The information follows the format of: ASF cave number (including “X-” number); cave name (and other alternate name); and a brief description of the cave and other relevant information including, where possible, details of when and who explored it; a general indication of the cave's location (unless considered obvious); and a list of selected references. In terms of locations, the northeast ridge of Mt. Anne has been described as being “Y” shaped, with the LHS fork of the “Y” going to “Sodom” and the RHS fork going to “Gomorrhah”.

Cave	Previous	Cave Name	Other Name	Discovery	Exploration Date
MA-1	MA-X1	Col-In-Cavern		B. Collin (Dec. 1966)	Jan 1971
MA-2	MA-X2	Keller Cellar		A. Keller (Jan.1967)	Jan. 1971
MA-9	MA-X9	Anne-A-Kananda	Hole 1 (TCC-1966)	TCC (Dec.1966)	Nov. 1981
MA-10		Deep Thought		SUSS (7-1-1987)	Jan. 7th 1987
MA-11		Dungeon	Castle Cave	SUSS (7-1-1987)	Jan. 10th 1987
MA-12		Teddy Bears Picnic		SUSS (10-1-1987)	Jan. 11th 1987
MA-13		The Dirty Elf		SUSS (10-1-1987)	Jan. 14th 1987
MA-14		Lewis Rift		SUSS (10-1-1987)	Jan. 19th 1987
MA-15		Humusungus Hole		SUSS (10-1-1987)	Jan. 11th 1987
MA-16		Perhaps		SUSS (11-1-1987)	Jan. 11th 1987
MA-17		Cone of Silence		SUSS (6-1-1987)	Jan. 11th 1987
MA-18		Godzone	TCC #1 (1987)	TCC (13-1-1987)	Jan. 14th 1987
MA-19		Un-named		TCC&SUSS (21-1-87)	Jan. 21st 1987
MA-20		Meltwater Pot		TCC&SUSS (21-1-87)	Jan. 24th 1987
MA-21		Potatoes	Cave C	SUSS (17-1-1986)	Jan. 18th 1987
MA-22		Wombats Demise	Friend	SUSS (20-1-1987)	Jan. 20th 1987
MA-23		Cave D	TCC #3 (?) 1987	SUSS (17-1-1986)	Jan. 14th 1987
MA-24		Un-named		SUSS (25-1-1987)	Jan. 25th 1987
MA-25		Un-named		SUSS (23-1-1987)	Jan. 23rd 1987
MA-26		Un-named (Tape Tag)		SUSS (23-1-1987)	Jan. 23rd 1987
MA-27		Un-named (Tape Tag)		SUSS (23-1-1987)	Jan. 23rd 1987
MA-28		Lunar Pot		SUSS (26-1-1987)	Jan. 26th 1987
MA-29	MA-X5??	Damocles	Well of Loneliness	TCC: Nov. '71; 20-11-83	Oct. 83; 15-1-87
MA-3F		Timk Swallet (in ASF KI)		TCC	
MA-X4		Un-named (in ASF KI)		TCC	
MA-X5		Un-named (in ASF KI)	Damocles?	TCC	
MA-X6		Un-named (in ASF KI)		TCC	
MA-7R		Un-named Rising (in KI)		TCC (23-4-1972)	23-4-1972
MA-X8		Un-named (in ASF KI)		TCC	
MA-X10		Un-named		TCC (9-1-1968)	9-1-1968
MA-X11		False Floor Rift	Rift	TCC (23-10-1983)	23-10-1983
MA-X12	MA-CS/9	Posturepaedic Bivvi Cave	Posturepaedic Bivvy	TCC (19-11-1983)	19-11-1983
MA-X13		Un-named		TCC (20-11-1983)	20-11-1983
MA-X14		Nemesis		TCC (20-11-1983)	20-11-1983
MA-X15		Cave A	TCC #2 ??	SUSS (17-1-1986)/ TCC	17-1-1986
MA-X16		Cave B		SUSS (17-1-1986)	17-1-1986
MA-X17		Dereks Cave		SUSS (15-1-1987)	15-1-1987
MA-X18		Blue Pirate		TCC?/ SUSS (17-1-87)	20-1-1987
MA-X19		Devils Eye		TCKRG (31-1-1987)	TCC: 12-4-1987
MA-X20	"MA-46"	Un-Named	MA-46 in Scott list	SUSS January 1987	January1987
MA-X21	"MA-47"	Un-Named	MA-46 in Scott list	SUSS January 1987	January1987
MA-X22	"MA-48"	Un-Named	MA-46 in Scott list	SUSS January 1987	January1987
MA-X23	MA-CS/1	Un-Named		Czechs: March 1987	March 1987
MA-X24	MA-CS/2	Un-Named		Czechs: March 1987	March 1987
MA-X25	MA-CS/3	Un-Named		Czechs: March 1987	March 1987
MA-X26	MA-CS/4	Un-Named		Czechs: March 1987	March 1987
MA-X27	MA-CS/5	Un-Named		Czechs: March 1987	March 1987
MA-X28	MA-CS/6	Un-Named		Czechs: March 1987	March 1987
MA-X29	MA-CS/7	Un-Named		Czechs: 15-3-1987	March 15th 1987
MA-X30	MA-CS/8	Un-Named		Czechs: 17-3-1987	March 17th 1987
MA-X31	MA-S/10	Goggled Eyes	Goggle Eyes	Czechs: March 1987	March 24th 1987
MA-X32	MA-S/11	Un-Named		Czechs: March 1987	March 25th 1987
MA-X33	MA-S/12	Goggled Eyes	Goggle Eyes	Czechs: March 1987	March 27th 1987

MA-1 (was MA-X1): Col-In-Cavern

Massive sinkhole entrance with 55 m pitch to a large descending tunnel that reaches a depth of 119 m below the top of the pitch. A natural bridge (col) spans the entrance. Explored in 1971 on an ASF Conference field trip. The name is a play of words on TCC member Brian Collin's name and the natural bridge at the entrance. Brian led some of the first caving trips to Mt Anne by TCC in the 1960s, when the entrance to MA-1 was found. References: 1, 2, 3, 14, 30 & 34.

MA-2 (was MA-X2): Keller Cellar

Spectacular shaft entrance with a pitch of about 120 m to a large chamber with a rubble choke. Total depth is 155 m. First descended by TCC member Alan Keller using ladders in 1971, on an ASF Conference field trip. References: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 30, 32 & 34.

MA-9 (was MA-X9): Anne-A-Kananda (also known as "Hole 1" by TCC, 1966)

Massive doline leads to spacious entrance chamber used as a campsite by cavers. A small passage below the chamber leads to a complex cave containing more than 50 explored pitches up to 118 m deep. The surveyed depth of the cave is 373 m from the lower lip of the doline according to the 1982-83 survey, or 371 m according to a 2002 survey. About 3 km of passages have been mapped. The entrance was evidently found by TCC in December 1966, when it was also known as "Hole 1". The small passage below the entrance was explored in 1967, but a squeeze leading to Organ Grinder passage was not explored till November 1981 and the main part of the cave was not found until a TCC trip in 1982. Various other groups contributed to exploration of MA-9, notably Northern Caverneers and the Victorian Speleological Association, who explored parts of the Desiccator pitch series between 1983 and 1985. Additional explorations were made by STC in 2002. References: 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 25, 29, 30 & 32.

MA-10: Deep Thought

Cave with pitches of 32 m, 45 m, 8 m, 8 m and 32 m. Contains numerous small converging streamways with small waterfalls. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Depth is 183 m; length is 435+ m. Located near MA-2. References: 2, 4, 14, 32 & 34.

MA-11: Dungeon (originally named as "Castle Cave" during SUSS expedition)

Cave with pitches of 10 m and 8 m. Depth is about 25 m; length is 38 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near MA-2. References: 2 & 32.

MA-12: Teddy Bears Picnic

Three shafts of about 18 m converge at the bottom of the cave. Depth is about 18 m; length is about 20 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near route from MA-1 to MA-2. References: 2 & 32.

MA-13: The Dirty Elf

Doline entrance with squeezes leading to descending canyon containing a stream. The stream sinks in gravels and the cave terminates in impenetrable rifts. Depth is about 20 m; length is about 20 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near MA-2. References: 2, 19 & 32.

MA-14: Lewis Rift

This cave comprises three closely situated entrance shafts ranging from 30 to 37 m in length. At the base of the middle shaft there are two ways on: a 7 m pitch to a chamber with a clear sump pool at a depth of 41 m, or an 18 m pitch to a chamber with a small muddy sump at a depth of 56 m. The cave is 82 m long. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near MA-1. References: 2, 20 & 32.

MA-15: Humusungus Hole

Shaft choked by humus (hence name) at a depth of 20 m. Wallaby skeleton at the bottom. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located between MA-1 and MA-2. References: 2 & 32.

MA-16: Perhaps

Contains pitches of 17 m, 13 m and 7 m. Depth is 57 m; length is 119 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located between MA-1 and MA-2. References: 2 & 32.

MA-17: Cone of Silence

Large sinkhole with entry via a rubble slope at one end or a pitch of about 50 m at the other. Overhanging at one end, but no cave per se. Depth is 59 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near MA-2. References: 2, 4, 21 & 32.

MA-18: Godzone (referred to as "TCC #1" in SUSS diary)

Contains pitches of 10 m and 8 m, ending in a chamber with a small waterfall. Depth is about 5 m; length is about 100 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near MA-2. References: 2 & 32.

MA-19: Un-named cave

Doline contains a shaft of 46 m to a rockpile floor and small waterfalls. Depth is about 50 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near Gomorrah. References: 2 & 32.

MA-20: Melt Water Pot

Contains pitches of 16 m and 7 m. Depth is 64 m; length is 91 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near Gomorrah. References: 2 & 32.

MA-21: Potatoes (first recorded as “Cave C” during SUSS 1986 expedition)

Contains pitches (31 m, 7 m, 4 m, 15 m, 18 m and 34 m) and climbs to a small stream. Martin Scott has suggested that the stream in this cave flows to MA-10, as only about 5 m separates the two caves. Depth is 116 m; length is 188 m. Explored by SUSS in January 1986. Located near MA-2. References: 2, 14, 22, 32 & 33.

MA-22: Wombats Demise (also referred to as “Friend” in SUSS diary)

Depth is about 20 m. Located near MA-2. References: 2 & 32.

MA-23: Cave D

Contains pitches of 12 m and 23 m. Depth is 64 m; length is 82 m. Explored by SUSS in 1986. Originally referred to as “Cave D”. Located near MA-2. References: 2, 22 & 33.

MA-24: Un-named cave

Rubble floored rift about 15 m deep. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near MA-2. References: 2 & 32.

MA-25: Un-named cave

Contains pitches of 20 m and 4 m in a rift with a small stream. Depth is about 40 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near Gomorrah. References: 2 and 32.

MA-26: Un-named cave

Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near Gomorrah. (Only number tagged with flagging tape.) References: 2 & 32.

MA-27: Un-named cave

Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near Gomorrah. (Only number tagged with flagging tape.) References: 2 & 32.

MA-28: Lunar Pot

Two entrances with 25 m pitches converge to a rubble floored sink. Depth is about 45 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near Sodom. References: 2 & 32.

MA-29: Damocles

Cave at the bottom of a large doline: named “*Well of Loneliness*” by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Mapped by SUSS in 1987, but apparently explored by an earlier TCC trip. Length is 61 m. Located near Sodom. References: 2, 4, 8, 32 & 34.

MA-X3: Timk Swallet

Constricted slot on the edge of Lake Timk. A climb down leads to a descending rift passage. Can only be entered in very dry conditions as the slot is very close to lake level, which drains into it. Discovered by TCC in about 1970. References: 3, 14, 23, 24 & 30.

MA-X4: Un-named cave

A large vertical doline located at the contact between the dolomite and overlying conglomerate. The doline leads to short passage and has an estimated vertical range of 90 m. This feature was discovered by TCC (1960s or 1970s?). The description in ASF KI suggests that it may be synonymous with MA-9. References: 3.

MA-X5: Un-named cave

Pothole discovered by TCC (1960s or 1970s?). Contains several short passages and a 30 m pitch. References: 3.

MA-X6: Un-named cave

Pothole discovered by TCC (1960s or 1970s?). Contains two 4 m pitches in a small cave. References: 3..

MA-X7: Un-named spring

Perennially active outflow discovered by TCC in 1972. Probable resurgence of the Lake Timk outflow. References: 3, 23, 24.

MA-X8: Un-named cave

Unexplored pothole discovered by TCC (1960s or 1970s?). References: 3.

MA-X10: Un-named cave

Explored by TCC on 9/1/1968. References: 30.

MA-X11: False Floor Rift

Explored by TCC on 23/10/1983. References: 30 & 35.

MA-X12: Posturepaedic Bivvi Cave (MA-CS-9)

Overhang used as a bivouac site by cavers. Found by TCC in November 1983. Located near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18, 28 & 30.

MA-X13: Un-named cave

Explored by TCC on 20/11/1983. References: 28 & 30.

MA-X14: Nemesis

Contains pitches of 7 m, 22 m and 10 m. Explored by TCC on 20/11/1983. Located near Sodom. References: 17, 26, 28 & 30.

MA-X15: Cave A

Pothole with a 1.5 m diameter entrance and containing an 8 m pitch. Depth of 10 m. Explored by SUSS in January 1986. Located near MA-2? References: 2, 22 & 33.

MA-X16: Cave B

Pothole with a 3 m x 2 m diameter upper entrance and a 2 m diameter lower entrance. The entrances are connected by a passage containing pitches of 12 m and 5 m. Explored by SUSS in January 1986. Located near MA-2? References: 2, 22 & 33.

MA-X17: Dereks Cave

Explored by SUSS on 15/1/1987. Small entrance with 10m pitch leading to impenetrable rift. Located in low relief doline “pandanni hollow” near MA-10 below track to Sodom. Reference: 30 & 32.

MA-X18: Blue Pirate Cave

Explored by SUSS on 20/1/1987. Found with 1m of “blue tape” surrounding entrance, possibly one of Phil Hill’s “Other Eyes of AAK”. 20m deep with free-climb pitches, leading to rubble base. Located near MA-9. Reference: 30 & 32.

MA-X19: Devils Eye

Very large horizontal entrance in side of ridge. Explored by TCC in 1987 following discovery during helicopter reconnaissance by Bob Davies of the University of Tasmania’s Department of Surveying. 40m x 40m entrance, narrowing to 20m wide and 6m high, leading to steep floored spacious chamber estimated at 40-50m high; ends with two ascending rifts. Located near Sodom. References: 17, 27 & 31.

MA-X20: Un-named cave (recorded as “MA-46” in Scott list)

Small cave. Length is about 30 m. Explored by the 1987 SUSS Mt Anne Expedition. Located near Gomorrah. References: 2.

MA-X21: Un-named cave (recorded as “MA-47” in Scott list)

Depth is about 10 m. Located near Gomorrah. References: 2.

MA-X22: Un-named cave (recorded as “MA-48” in Scott list)

Depth is about 10 m. Located near Gomorrah. References: 2.

MA-X23: Un-named cave (MA-CS-1)

Steeply descending passage to a 10 m pitch. Depth is 21 m; length is 90 m. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Located near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

MA-X24: Un-named cave (MA-CS-2)

Shaft with a diameter of 3 m contains pitches of 12 m, 7 m and 2 m. Depth is 25.5 m; length is 60 m. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

MA-X25: Un-named cave (MA-CS-3)

Small fissure cave. Depth is 8 m; length is 12 m. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

MA-X26: Un-named cave (MA-CS-4)

Feature is a 5.5 m deep shaft and horizontal passage, with an air connection to MA-X15. Depth is 8 m; length is 25 m. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

MA-X27: Un-named cave (MA-CS-5)

Three entrance shafts lead to a fossil canyon with abundant scree at the bottom. Depth is 19 m; length is 40 m. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

MA-X28: Un-named cave (MA-CS-6)

An entrance shaft 5 m deep connects to a chamber with several short passages branching off. Depth is 10 m; length is 35 m. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

MA-X29: Un-named cave (MA-CS-7)

Three entrances in the wall of a large sinkhole. The cave is complex in form with horizontal and descending passages. Depth is 59 m; length is 230 m. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

MA-X30: Un-named cave (MA-CS-8)

Entrance is below a low overhanging wall in the slope of a depression. The cave contains short pitches and high canyon-like passages with a large pool of water. Depth is 43 m; length is 180 m. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

MA-X31: Goggled Eyes Cave (MA-CS-10)

Comprises generally spacious chambers and passages with abundant rockfall. Depth is 76 m; length is 575 m. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

MA-X32: Un-named cave (MA-CS-11)

A steep and high canyon leads to small chamber with rockfall. Carries water in times of rain. Depth is 39 m; length is 90 m. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

MA-X33: Goggled Eyes Cave (MA-CS-12)

Second entrance to Goggled Eyes Cave. Approximately 120 m from MA-X23 entrance. Explored by Czech Speleological Society in 1987. Near Sodom. References: 8, 17, 18 & 30.

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