Speleo Spiel 353

March - April 2006

Newsletter of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc, PO Box 416, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7006, AUSTRALIA ISSN 1832-6307

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Front Cover: Nature's wasteful way with wood; JF-2 Cauldron Pot entrance pitch and waterfall (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.

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Editorial

They say a change is as good as a holiday and since I've just cancelled my planned holiday for later this year I have decided to put the old saying to the test. I guess I'll let you know next issue how the results panned out. Numerous things were starting to shit me about the old template I inherited from the previous Editor (most of which I was warned about by Geoff). Almost every annoying feature of Microsoft Word had managed to infiltrate it and it quickly became apparent that I needed to start afresh if I was to maintain my sanity. It's only taken about ten issues since that quick realisation to actually do something about it, hence my largely insane behaviour since becoming Editor. Procrastination is alive and well. If you have any ideas on what would make the layout of the *Spiel* even better then let me know. If I agree with you then it just might be implemented.

The mob has stupidly voted to keep me on as Editor for another twelve months at the AGM held in March. Twelve months should be about all I need to work through my list of important people/groups to insult. On a more serious note, I really do enjoy chucking together this old slop, so thanks for the opportunity to do it a bit longer. Don't worry, I will let you down.

I got my first Letter to the Editor recently; how exciting. Keep them coming.

Turbulent times ahead some may say with the mooting of a few potentially sensitive issues being raised at the AGM. We haven't had a lively business meeting for a while now, so it'll be fun to wind it up again.

Alan Jackson

Stuff 'n Stuff

ERRATA: I was disappointed, particularly with Ric, that no-one noticed the mistake in *SS*351. In the solutions to my Pathetic Puzzles I expressed the shortest possible answer to the Madphil surveying puzzle correctly as $1+\sqrt{3}$, but I then incorrectly converted it to stupid people numbers as ~1.732. It should have been ~2.732. Clearly I am stupid too.

ON THE SUBJECT OF PUZZLES, I didn't receive a formal solution for Matt's contribution in *SS*351. From my own workings I would suggest that twelve of Steve's 'evacuations' would fit neatly into his bag but only nine tenths of his thirteenth crap would fit before it started overflowing. What you have to remember here is that most cave packs have a small eyelet in their base to let any water that enters the pack escape. I imagine the consistency of Steve's pack contents would be amenable to passing through the eyelets; hence, an alternative answer may well be infinity.

THANKS TO TONY for entertaining us all with his March business meeting minutes corrections. I'm sure everyone now has a much more thorough understanding of the verb *to electrocute*. As I read the email I could picture everyone else reading it and running to check what the definition of electrocute was in **their** dictionary. Perhaps we can move a motion that we conduct a study into the events surrounding Gavin and the light charger and settle this business once and for all. If we find the charger guilty of electrocution then how should it be punished? The electric chair perhaps …

NAME CHANGES would appear to be the flavour of the month. At our March General Meeting we changed the name of IB-97 Pseudocheirus to IB-97 Pseudocheirus Cave. I personally thought that Erik Halbert's suggestion via Ozcavers of Pseudocheirus Overhang had a better ring to it though. We can now all rest easy in the knowledge that cave fauna experts around the world aren't getting confused. Mind you, if they were getting confused by that then the mind boggles at all the other potential things that might be confusing them. I would have thought that if the text wasn't italicised or underlined then any discerning biologist could safely assume that it was a cave and not a species they were reading about.

ITALIAN CAVING. Some of us in STC have been lucky enough to get underground with a visiting Italian caver, Giorgio Pannuzzo. Giorgio is an active member of Gruppo Speleologico Bergamasco Le Nottole, a club based in central northern Italy (near Milan). We took him on a leisurely stroll through Ice Tube-Growling Swallet which I believe he enjoyed thoroughly. Giorgio left quite a bit of material on Italian Karst and his club's exploits (journals, videos, survey data/maps, a Powerpoint presentation and even a few stickers). If anyone is interested in viewing any of it then chase it down with Greg in the library (it would help if you speak Italian though). He is very keen to return the favour and take us caving with his club in Italy. Is there enough money in the science account to fund an STC expedition?

POLITICS. A particular piece of political propaganda that I received in the lead up to the recent state election caught my attention. Denison candidate Paul Glover's blurb describes him as *a committed family man with 8 children.* I'm not sure that 'committed' is strong enough a word to describe the situation you're in when you have eight children. Rolan's up to his eyeballs in them and he's only got three! I won't go into the details of Paul's political platform due to the risk of severely offending our readers. I'm not sure what his position on caving as a recreational pursuit was.

IB-113 BAADER-MEINHOFF POT AND IB-171 ROCKET RODS POT surveys appear on pages 29 and 30. IB-113 was extended and resurveyed in 2002 to a new depth of 198 m and IB-171 was discovered and pushed to 181 m deep during 2002-03. It's taken some time for these surveys to be published and I apologise to Madphil for taking so bloody long!

TASMANIA'S DEEPEST CAVES. The depth of JF-268 Pooshooter is 159 m, which puts it onto the deepest caves list at number 33. JF-270 Tachycardia is currently in spot 18 with 204 m of depth surveyed but yet to be surveyed sections are likely to push this cave in excess of 250 m. To get on the Deepest list, a cave has to be at least 150 m deep; there are 35 of these. The deepest cave on the Mainland is Mammoth Cave, Jenolan at 182 m, followed by Eagles Nest Cave, Yarrangobilly at 174 m. There are 26 caves in Tasmania deeper than Mammoth Cave. A list of Tasmania's deepest caves appears on page 27. *Ric Tunney* (Karst Index Officer).

SCS CAVE MAPS. The signatories to the deposition of some SCS original cave maps in the State Archives (1980) have recently expanded the list of authorised access right granters to include defined STC officers. Access to the material is still restricted to approved bona fide cave researchers and related authorities. Due to the sensitivity and detail of the material, general public access is denied for 75 years. More detail may be obtained from the STC Secretary. *Bob Cockerill*

MOUNT RONALD CROSS 'CAVE CHALLENGE'. Ref: email message posted on my behalf by Arthur Clarke.

Due to recent developments I must retract my offer of transport and support to Mt Arrowsmith for this possible expedition. However, I have precise memories and maps and am prepared to share knowledge, information and make marks on maps for any reliable, capable and adventurous teams of members who might be prepared to pick up my challenge and complete this unfinished business for me. Unexplored holes may be at your feet and I can give location to some caves that have never been seen before.

I have a new email address – which is rjsmcockerill@hotmail.com

Bob Cockerill

FOR SALE. Complete and original Oldham miner's light unit model 'G' with model 'T' battery – (circa 1970) plus extra battery (both stuffed), also key for easy connection recharging. Can be converted to quartz halogen or xenon globes with gel-cell power supply. Jeff Butt would have been able to help but maybe try Dave Rasch [*Does Dave still exist? Ed.*]. For sale to best reasonable offer or deserving cause – otherwise I will leave it hanging on the wall as a memento of my active caving years. *Bob Cockerill* ph: 03 6244 2439

Letter to the Editor

Contrary to the request and advice of one prominent STC member, Barry James and I have recently made (Feb. 2006) what we consider a very satisfactory PR trip to Mole Creek. If nothing we have retrieved our own personal reputations as cavers and have distanced ourselves from the current situation.

Our talk-fest with local farmers was scoldingly and scaldingly revealing. Our impression is that some so-called cavers and heavy-booted agency speleo experts have abused and destroyed the trust and friendly relationships we worked so hard to establish in the 1950s – 1980s. Well done, the damage may well be irreparable. Cave conservation is important and the local farmers understand and support that notion. If some people had spoken and acted differently the desired goals of cave conservation at Mole Creek would have been happily and mutually achieved a long time ago.

Too late – foot in mouth disease is rampant. How would you feel if a mob of country yahoos camped, rubbished and crapped on your front lawn, chased your budgies with their 4WD and then tried to tell you what flowers to grow?

Please do not insult these farmers any more – they are responsible and intelligent people even though they may not have a BA, BSc or Dip. Ed. They have however successfully and reliably husbanded their land and associated caves for generations. After all it is in their own interests to protect and nurture their livelihood, assets, incomes and expectations of the future.

So be it, but we suggest that unless you wish to sniff the working end of a shotgun it would be unwise to venture onto some Mole Creek farms without prior invitations.

Barry and I are disgusted with what has happened over recent years, but we have worked hard, faced a lot of ire, swallowed gall and tried to mend fences. We have done our best, so it is our advice to tread softly, communicate gently keeping loud mouths shut, negotiate and compromise, then perhaps eventually decent, proper and responsible cavers may regain the freedom of Mole Creek.

I am not holding my breath and yes, I am bitter. Certain people out there have betrayed me, us and the ideals we worked for – like the betterment of friendship, cooperation and speleology.

It is time for some introspection, constructive peer criticism and respect for the rights of others, just in case it is not too late.

I feel better now because I have vented my spleen – again, but the message is there and fully meant.

Bob Cockerill

Past member of TCC, LVCC, Past President and Honorary Life Member of SCS, Past President and current Friend of STC.

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

As foreshadowed at the February General Meeting, an Extraordinary General Meeting of STC is to be held on Wednesday 3 May 2006 in the Green Room, Ground Floor, Republic Hotel, 299 Elizabeth Street, Hobart at 8 pm.

The meeting is being called to consider two or three motions:

(1) to amend the Constitution to alter the name of the organisation to Tasmanian Caverneering Club Inc.; or, alternatively to alter the name to Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated (if the first motion is not passed) and

(2) to make sundry other corrections to the Constitution of a minor nature.

It is important that as many interested members as possible attend. To be a valid meeting there must be at least 10 financial members present. To be passed each motion must be supported by at least 3/4 of the financial members present. Voting by proxy at this meeting is not permitted either under our Constitution or the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964.* Note that financial members are Full, Household, Student

and Life Members, but not Junior or Honorary Members, Friends or Armchair Cavers. Household Members represent 2 votes.

Motion 1 - to be moved by Rolan Eberhard and seconded by Greg Middleton:

MOTION : That this Extraordinary General Meeting of Southern Tasmanian Caverneers resolves, by this special resolution:

1) to amend the Constitution of the organisation by omitting from clause 1 the words "Southern Tasmanian Caverneers" and substituting therefor the words "Tasmanian Caverneering Club Inc.";

2) to further amend the Constitution by replacing the letters "STC" wherever occurring in clause 5.12 (Friends of STC) with the letters "TCC";

3) to authorise the Public Officer to apply for a change of name under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964* to Tasmanian Caverneering Club Inc.;

4) to amend the Rules of the organisation to replace the words "Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated" with the words "Tasmanian Caverneering Club Inc." wherever occurring; and

5) to amend the logo of the organisation by substituting the letters "TCC" for the letters "STC" and the words "Tasmanian Caverneering Club" for the words "Southern Tasmanian Caverneers", and adding the words "Founded 1946".

Motion 1a - foreshadowed in the event Motion 1 is not passed by the necessary majority - to be moved by Matt Cracknell and seconded by Greg Middleton:

MOTION: That this Extraordinary General Meeting of Southern Tasmanian Caverneers resolves, by this special resolution:

To amend the Constitution of the organisation by adding the word "Incorporated" after the words "Southern Tasmanian Caverneers" in clause 1.

[Explanatory Note to Motion 1a - not forming part of the motion:

The current Constitution of STC does not comply with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964* in that it does not include within the formal name either the word "Incorporated" or the abbreviation "Inc." The Act requires explicitly that one of these be included at the end of the name of all incorporated associations. The organisation is, however, registered as "Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated".]

Motion 2 - to be moved by Matt Cracknell and seconded by Greg Middleton:

MOTION: That this Extraordinary General Meeting of Southern Tasmanian Caverneers resolves to amend the Constitution of the organisation as follows:

1) to replace the first sentence of clause 8.8 with "All cheques, and other withdrawals, from the general account shall be signed by the Treasurer and one of President, Vice President or Secretary."

2) to delete the third sentence of clause 8.8 and to insert a new clause 8.8.1: "The Treasurer shall maintain a separate Science Account into which shall be deposited such moneys as the Executive or a General Meeting shall decide should be held for scientific purposes and from which may be expended such monies as the Executive or a General Meeting shall decide should be expended for scientific purposes, provided that in every case the Scientific Officer agrees. The Scientific Officer shall be invited to be a signatory for the Science Account. All cheques, and other withdrawals, from the Science Account shall be signed by the Treasurer and one of President, Vice President, Secretary or Scientific Officer.

3) to add, before the full stop at the end of clause 8.10, the words "or as required by law";

4) to replace, in clause 9.3 the word "an" with the words "the same";

5) to add, in the first sentence of Clause 11.1, after the word "the", the words "end of the";

6) to replace, in clause 11.8, the word "Organisations" with the word "Organisation's";

7) to replace, in Clause 11.9, the third occurrence of the word "and" with the words "and/or".

[Explanatory Notes to Motion 2 - not forming part of the motion:

1) At present cheques and other payments can be made without the Treasurer being aware. This is undesirable. The change requires that the Treasurer must be one of the signatories.

2) While an "account for scientific purposes" is referred to in the existing wording, the Constitution does not explicitly say there should be a Science Account, nor why, nor how money gets into or out of it - just that the Scientific Officer can be a signatory in relation to it. The new sub-clause seeks to clarify this.

3) While the current wording accords with the present law, if the law changed we would need to change the Constitution. With this amendment we should avoid having to change the Constitution if the law changes.

4) The existing wording might be held to exclude a member of the Executive moving to a different position after 3 years in a position. This was not the intention of the clause and the change will make it clear that a person can move to another executive position after 3 years.

5) The change would make it clear that the new Committee takes up office following the close of an AGM.

6) This just corrects a typographical error.

7) This change simply makes it clear that the KIO can document caves explored by members, and not only those both discovered AND explored by members.]

The Extraordinary General Meeting will be followed immediately by the May General Meeting.

Matt Cracknell, Secretary

Trip Reports

JF-223 Tassy Pot

Alan Jackson

4 February 2006

Party: Serena Benjamin, David Chiam, Alan Jackson, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney

This was just a touristy trip with the aim of having a poke around the lower level streamway. We all sailed down uneventfully with the exception of Dave's light failure on the first pitch – he had a spare. Ric left us at the tight bit in the Morocl Passage and headed for the surface. The rest of us proceeded upstream past the weird circle in the mud. Janine had a blonde moment which partially contributed to our doing some misguided route finding in the rock-fall but eventually we reached the Mouse Trap. I made a few feeble attempts to negotiate it but I needed some healthy competition (i.e. extra testosterone in the company – no offence, Dave) to spur me on.

We headed back, checking side passages as we went. Back at the Morocl Passage intersection we decided to give the downstream stuff a miss. I'd been there before and it was hideously muddy. We headed out and de-rigged.

Ric had entertained himself by doing some pruning on the Nine Road. I found a domestic cat skeleton (*Felis cattus*) on the track between the road and the cave. Its skull has been added to my collection of dead animals on my bookshelf. The dog is concerned that his skull will end up there one day too.

Track clearing and good old Eagle Pot (JF-384)

Alan Jackson

13 February 2006

Party: Serena Benjamin, Alan Jackson, Dion Robertson, Amy Ware

The Government had given us a day off so we went to the JF to tidy up some tracks. First stop was the KD track. We dispatched two of the old faithful mega logs and also removed the new one that had fallen down since Bunty and I cleared the track for Stu's ashes sprinkling session last year.

The F8 Road was next and the track to Growling is now in much better nick. We also continued round to the Serendipity valley as a couple of enormous eucalypts had come down over the McCallums Track there in the last month or two. Amy relocated Eagle Pot and we had a bit of a look. I got a GPS fix and photographed the entrance. It was plain to see the naming origin of this cave as the rock projection just inside the entrance really does resemble the beak of an eagle or similar raptor (Trevor Wailes had explained this to Gavin et al. on their visit to the entrance the previous weekend).

Thanks to Dion for his help with the bigger stuff.

Three freaks in front of Eagle Pot. ***Photo by Alan Jackson***

IB-9 Big Tree Pot

Alan Jackson

23 February 2006

Party: Serena Benjamin, Alan Jackson, Janine McKinnon

The purpose of this trip was primarily to allow Serena some practice at natural rigging and non p-hanger bolts. The 'dangerous' rock (that Gavin dislodged at the entrance on our last trip there) hadn't moved and looked much safer (especially if you weren't looking at it). Serena and I bottomed the cave, while Janine turned around at the bottom of the 90 m to save waiting around time. I showed off and ascended the 90 m pitch in ~8 minutes (but couldn't move afterwards). Excellent cave, rigging was done well and the 90 m shaft would have to be one of the most magical pitches in the state.

While waiting at the entrance I fashioned a new natural anchor. There is a narrow projection of bedrock about two metres above the top of the entrance pitch proper. It angles the wrong way to be used as a back-up anchor, but I noticed that the middle of the projection was very thin (less than 3 mm) in a small section. With the help of the hammer I punched a small hole through that will now act as a beautifully positioned back-up for the first pitch (thread for a tape). You can't miss it. We also installed two new 8 mm through-bolts on the big pitch (90 m). The old style rigging

off one very low spit (which has a shocking edge rub) and the old bit of broken decoration never instilled much confidence. The new bolts were placed about one metre further out along the rift above the pitch and at about head height on either side. With a carefully placed knot a rub free y-belay can be affected. Both bolts just need a plate (nut and washer are in place) and were marked with a long piece of pink survey tape.

This is a good cave – go there.

H-X8 Wolf Hole

Arthur Clarke

26 February 2006

Party: Serena Benjamin, Arthur Clarke, Stefan Richter, Christian Wirkner (both from the Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena in central Germany). Special Guest Star: Matt Cracknell

During their flying visit to Tasmania and a brief stint sharing laboratory space with me in the UTAS School of Zoology, Drs. Stefan Richter and Christian Wirkner expressed some considerable interest in getting to Wolf Hole at Hastings. Based at the Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena in central Germany, these two scientists – who are both world renowned experts on syncarids, e.g., *Anaspides* – were here in Tasmania as part of an Australia-wide visit to collect cave and surface dwelling specimens for their continuing studies. The blind forms of *Anaspides* from Wolf Hole are apparently known worldwide amongst the limited zoological fraternity that study this group of animals, especially since the anaspidacean syncarids from Tasmania are recognised as a very primitive group and the *Anaspides tasmaniae* are sometimes referred to as "living fossils". So, at very short notice, a visit to Wolf Hole was mooted!

I had not been to Wolf Hole for 3-4 years and combined with the reports of tree falls on site, my absence from the vertical caving department in recent years, and taking beginners into a relatively serious cave, I was keen to get some assistance. So thankfully and fortunately, Serena answered the call and to ensure her availability I arranged some transport to and from Hobart. The proposed plan of action was to rig the pitch with a mix of ladders and two SRT ropes, so we could abseil down in tandem on separate ropes and the two German visitors could ladder out on self belay. After seeing my attempts to rig the first rope with a bowline knot, Serena insisted on taking over and dutifully and professionally rigged both ropes using more conventional figure-of-eight knots. I rigged the electron wire ladders from two wire tracers off a Y-belay, using three ladders in total: connecting a 30 foot ladder to the two (top) joined 50 foot ladders. The top rung of the ladders was almost perfectly positioned, a fraction below the flat section of the lip above the slope that leads down to the vertical section.

Despite the fact that both Stefan and Christian had abseiled before and used wire ladders to descend/ascend a short pitch into a cave in South Africa, it appeared they had never previously worn a proper harness before, let alone a full SRT harness. Some time was spent getting them both kitted up and adjusting their waist harnesses for the descent.

It was obvious that no one had been into Wolf Hole for a fair while, judging by the amount of debris on the sloping ramp above the vertical section on the southern (entry) approach side: lots of small twigs and branches, stringy bark and leaves. The unrolled ladder had become caught up in some of this debris, along with the two ropes. The so-called problem of the fallen trees did not seem to be an issue, but there appeared to be a few more trees and branches lying over the edge around the northern, eastern and western perimeter of the Wolf Hole rim, mostly all still alive and some now growing upwards.

Stefan Richter and Arthur Clarke commencing their descent into the lush entrance of Wolf Hole. *Photo by Christian Wirkner*

Serena descended first, to the bottom of the sloping ramp above the vertical drop, about 7-8 m down from the top in order to untangle the ladder and ensure that the ropes were hanging free and separated, and then Christian followed slowly. As they both stopped briefly, before going over the lip, AC placed a rope protector on each rope at the top of the ramp. Serena and Christian continued their abseil together on separate ropes. After we had the all clear, I took Stefan in hand so to speak, but he was understandably very nervous, checking and re-checking that the rope was correctly threaded through his Petzl Stop and then very reluctant to

squeeze the handle. As we got to the bottom of the ramp, where he could now see the drop below, Stefan's voice lowered and he began to repeatedly tell me that he was feeling ill. Presuming it to be case of "nerves" brought on by unfounded fear and trepidation, I let him rest for a bit, then coaxed him into just making short moves, getting down on to his knees so he was closer to the rock face, descending half a metre to a metre at a time and holding on to the ladder rungs when he was resting to catch his breath. All went well until we reached the short free hang section of the drop and then instead of talking to me or following my technique, he got into a panic and started conversing/yelling in German (Deutsch) to Christian Wirkner below. Eventually, with three of us conversing and Christian translating back to Stefan, he was able to complete the abseil. Showing Stefan (and Christian) a fine crop of glow-worms underneath the log at the base of the pitch, helped bring his biological instincts to the forefront again.

We were down at the bottom by around 1415. Serena kept her harness on, because she was planning an earlier exit. After the three of us had un-kitted ourselves, we all moved from daylight into darkness, going the long way round, doing the 270 degree circumference circuit along the crawl-ways and walking passage that lead into the main drag to Lake Pluto. En route we admired more cave fauna: a few glow-worms, *Hickmania* cave spiders, a harvestman, millipedes and isopods, and then Christian took out his camera to photograph speleothems and a self-portrait of the four of us. Marching further on I accidentally went too far to the left where there is an undescended pitch leading to an unexplored streamway section. After some more photo taking in the chamber with the stal bosses and splayed straws (see front cover *Speleo Spiel* #318), we eventually got to Lake Pluto around 1500.

Arthur, Serena, Christian and Stefan pose for the automatic shutter release. *Photo by Christian Wirkner*

Despite a reasonable amount of rain in the two weeks prior to this trip, the lake level was quite low and the overflow channel was no longer running. Walking around the fine chopped gravel banks on the southern shoreline, there were quite a few *Anaspides* seen, all grazing or scuttling across the silty lake bottom. Considering that anaspidacean syncarids are known to be algal feeders, you have to wonder what sustains a population like this in the darkened cave environment. A large hapless (dead) amphinectid spider was seen floating on the lake surface, but it was completely ignored by the *Anaspides*. Christian unpacked his equipment and soon netted 6-7 specimens within easy reach of the gravel bank. While Christian was viewing another cluster of *Anaspides* amongst the submerged boulders on the far north-eastern side of the lake – perhaps pondering whether to catch some more – Serena did a brief spot of exploring in some side passages and a rockfall section, then said her goodbyes in order to make an early exit to catch a lift back to Hobart with Matt Cracknell, who was working at the Hastings Caves Visitor Centre.

Christian pauses for reflection at Lake Pluto before a spot of fishing. *Photo by Arthur Clarke*

In the vague hope of finding another separate collection site for *Anaspides*, I took Stefan and Christian up the Cub Hole side passage to locate the plunge pool below the waterfall. It was completely dry, and although there was a little water downstream, there were no pools deep enough to sample. It was about 1615 when we started heading out. En route I showed Christian another one of my fauna study sites where we saw some terricolan terrestrial flatworms, a few spiders, isopods and three specimens of the large cave adapted symphylan: *Hanseniella magna*. Not previously recorded outside of its Type Locality in King George V Cave and another site in Newdegate Cave, this was the first sighting since 1991; Christian could not help himself and collected a specimen. We then took the short cut route directly into the collapse doline entrance which was now minus one rope that Serena had pulled up and de-rigged after her exit.

While kitting up for the exit, we discovered that the yellow chest strap for one of the STC chest harnesses (formerly a Jeff Butt chest strap) was too short for both Stefan and Christian; they would both need to use the same chest strap. At the base of the pitch I noted that the top of the bottom connected ladder was about 10-12 rungs above the base of the pitch (on top of the mulch pile where you start ascending). Assuming the rungs are a foot apart, this would make the ladder climb 110 feet from bottom to top. When asked how much height was in the ascent, I decided to keep the knowledge to myself; after all, you could easily see to the base of the ramp, just below the top! I had previously suggested to both Stefan and Christian that they should ignore the apparent distance above, focus on the piece of ladder and cave wall immediately in front of them and climb slowly; then if they started getting tired, they should engage one of their cowstail krabs into a rung above when wanting to take a rest. Christian started ascending the ladder first; on self-belay with the SRT rope running through his chest ascender. He was going really well; perhaps almost ascending too fast, while I was tugging on the rope to make it easier for his self-belay. Despite the fact that Christian was laddering, I was getting pelted by falling debris while standing at the base of the pitch and when he was about 10 m off the deck, I told him I would have to release his bottom belay.

Retiring to the back side of the doline, I began taking a series of photos of the sky framed tree-lined entrance in order to compare with photos taken a few years back before the reported tree falls. A short time later, Christian had started talking to Stefan in their native language. Not really knowing what his problem was, I shouted back some encouragement, reminding him to use his cowstail if he wanted to rest. (Sometime later after the exit, I discovered that Christian had not understood my instruction about using his cowstail safety lines and had been really struggling and tiring, using his arms to climb and pull down the rope below his chest ascender.) As Christian slowly started up again, it was then a very pleasant surprise to hear some familiar voices (speaking English) at the top; Serena had returned, along with Matt. Together, our combined words of encouragement helped Christian to make his exit; it had taken him about 45 minutes to do the 35 m ladder ascent.

Stefan was the next cab off the rank. With the shared chest strap now retrieved from Christian and engaged in Stefan's chest ascender, he started up, more slowly than his predecessor had and with AC once again performing bottom belay. After he had barely moved up about 5-6 m, when what now seemed like an avalanche of debris showering down on me, I had to let go the bottom belay and once again there were ladder ascent problems. Fortunately, Stefan had remembered to engage his cowstail krabs when resting but his progress was becoming painfully slow, one rung at a time and then resting. Since Stefan was attached to the rope with his chest ascender, a decision was made to haul the rope up. This worked fairly well except that Stefan kept engaging his safety line cowstail krabs into the ladder rungs, so the hauling party above were also dragging up the ladder and there were numerous pauses while he stopped to lift up the ladder and unclip his krabs, then re-attached them further up.

After Stefan's eventual exit, AC went up by SRT, but also had his problems due to an overly slack non-adjustable chest harness and kept stopping to bunch up the ladder below, attaching it to the SRT rope to create some bottom belay weight.

About three quarters of the way up the vertical part of the pitch, there is an 8-10 m long, 15 cm diameter log that was lying diagonally against and semi-embedded into the fern and mulch covered pitch wall (see front cover of *Speleo Spiel* #317); it was formerly used as a good resting spot during descent and ascent. The LHS upper end of this log had now been dislodged and looked to be very loose, having already moved down about 30 cm, as a result of somebody not treading lightly! I was tempted to let it go completely, but concerned about the rope and ladder below me, so I gingerly stepped over it. However, I would suggest that if it hasn't already been dislodged by gravitational forces when the next party enters Wolf Hole, whoever is descending first should consider feeding their descent rope from their back pack, then use their feet or arms to give the now dangerously positioned log a little urging to plummet below out of harms way. It might even pay to take in a pinch bar (small crowbar) to assist in this endeavour.

There is a lesson to be learnt from this trip to Wolf Hole. No matter how significant a cave may be in terms of its biology or other exciting contents, it is all too easy to over estimate the abilities of rookie cavers or those who don't cave regularly. As Alan Jackson said to me after this trip, you don't realise how difficult caves that we regulars consider as 'easy', actually are.

Finally, I need to say another very big thank you to Serena for assisting, because there is no way I could have taken these guys on my own. Plus, of course, a very big thank you to Matt who came back with Serena to check that we had safely exited, then with Christian as well the three of them were able to haul Stefan up. Similarly, I would like to say another thank you to Matt and Serena for hauling up the ropes and ladder, de-rigging the pitch, then packing up the gear while AC shed his harness and overalls, rested a bit, had a few rollies and stood around taking pics. Matt was quite surprised and initially very concerned when he saw the ladder coming up as a jumbled, seemingly tangled knot! Christian and Stefan also helped Matt to roll the ladders while Serena coiled the ropes. A great day in all and hopefully some new revelations about the Wolf Hole *Anaspides* will be forthcoming in the scientific literature in the not too distant future.

PS: I'm not sure what has happened to all that cave survey data on Wolf Hole that Jeff Butt was collating and/or what the state of the revised cave survey map is. From my last conversation with Jeff about Wolf Hole... some 5-6 months before he died, he told me the total length of survey data was around 4.2 km.

[*I would suggest the best way to get around the problems described above would have been to have an experienced person ascending the second rope line with SRT beside the laddering Germans. This person can then offer advice without having to shout it from 20 m away and can also check that the advice is being followed. However I*

understand Serena had removed this second rope after her earlier departure from the cave. Also belay ropes can be tied off to some natural anchor on the floor to provide bottom weight when it is too dangerous to stand directly below the ascending caver. As Arthur points out this is a good lesson in how easy it is to over estimate others' abilities. It is always a good idea to test them out first on a less committing pitch (like Freuhauf Quarry). Ed.]

JF-270 Tachycardia

Alan Jackson

4 March 2006

Party: Gavin Brett, Alan Jackson

After many months of 'extreme savoring' (Rolan would be impressed) we headed back to our little hole on the hill. The intention was to survey what we found but it turned out Matt hadn't returned the survey gear so the instruments of torture were left behind. There was almost no water at all in the cave, a marked change from our last trip which was aborted due to high water levels (oh, and the rock that nearly broke my ankle …) The dig site and the climb-down following it was as unpleasant as we had remembered and the limit of Gavin's exploration on the previous trip was even worse. Lots of constricted rockfall in really water damaged and rotten rock. We followed the obvious and most open ways down until we intercepted 'solid' rock walls and things started to look good; but it choked off. I turned around to climb out again but an awkward horizontal constriction beckoned. It soon opened in to a largish chamber with plenty of solid surfaces. We were through the breakdown and back into proper cave again.

Gavin and I headed in opposite directions to check all our leads. He found a 5 m pitch but mine was bigger at 13 m so I won. I craftily tried to palm the rigging and descent of the new pitch on to Gavin but he was too smart. A back-up line and a y-belay on a couple of naturals had me swinging nervously on the rope. Gavin reminded me that I was caving for two now and needed to be extra careful! At the bottom of this pitch the small trickle of water tumbling down the pitch disappeared into a ten centimetre wide channel which opened up into a further 4 m pitch (but this was virtually impossible to access and obviously narrowed down even further at its base). A few metres further along and the passage intersected a perpendicular rift liberally coated in vile sticky mud. Down was tight and bad looking; left was tight and worse looking; right was open but a three metre climb was required. I legged it up, climbed around and down back under where I had been until I was directly below Gavin at the rift intersection and things were looking good. Gavin's legs weren't long enough to bridge the climb up, so I ascended and fixed the tail of the rope for him to climb.

Back down in the rift the water from the pitches above had reappeared and soon plummeted down a ~30 m pitch. Our remaining 19 m of rope wasn't going to be of much use here. We traversed over this drop and continued along the rift as the passage got progressively larger and larger. The passage also started heading down (too steep and muddy to free-climb) and an enormous aven and chamber lay ahead. With the undescended sections we've easily cracked 150 m. We decided that due to our lack of rope we would retire to the surface and recommence the savoring process. The rockfall was hideous and was somewhat hampered by my body still recovering from the squirting wog that had knocked me around in the previous couple of days. I managed to not soil my long-johns (something Rolan has previously failed to do in the caves in this area) and the surface was gained after a paltry five hours underground. It's amazing what you can achieve as a fast moving two member party!

Next trip will see us surveying down (lots of fun in all that mud and rockfall) and then push on. All the mud made us think we should change its name to Satans Arsehole but Greg has already complained about our apparent fixation with poo when naming caves. On the subject of names; we called the new 13 m pitch *On the Rope Again* as it was such a joy to be back on rope and out of the rock fall (much Willie Nelson was sung) and the rockfall zone itself has been dubbed *Gypsyland* (a thorough knowledge of Willie Nelson's aforementioned song and Madphil's dad is required to explain this one).

Tachycardia is still maintaining elevated heartbeats. [*We later discovered that the Italian caver Giorgio who visited us and caved with us recently had named a large passage Tachycardia in a new cave he was exploring in Italy. Ed.*]

JF-2 Cauldron Pot – Bolt Farming

Janine McKinnon & Ric Tunney

4 March 2006

Party: Serena Benjamin, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney, Amy Ware

Surface Party: Tony Culberg, Pat Culberg.

The underground party met at the usual spot (J&R Bakery) at 0745 and rendezvoused with the Culbergs at Maydena at 0900. Tony and Pat came along for the walk to the cave and had a good view, and photo opportunity, of everyone passing the rebelay on the entrance pitch. I started down the first pitch at 1030, and after a bit of fiddling with the rebelay (I had rigged the loop a bit too long on the way out on the previous trip) was planning to head off down the cave to where we had turned back on the previous trip. [*Actually it was me who would have made the loop too big when I retied the primary anchor. Remember? Ed.*] Serena was coming down next and was going to do the same. I then remembered that Ric had not been on the last trip and may not have remembered where the Bypass started (he hadn't been there for over twenty years) so I waited to tell Serena to hang around to show Ric the entrance to Bills Bypass, and then started down.

Serena and I met up near the bottom of Bills Bypass, collected the spare ropes left on the second cascade pitch on

the previous trip, and moved to the head of the Eleven Metre Pitch to start assessing the rigging.

There was a very rusty carrot on the true left hand wall about half a metre back from the lip and an equally dodgy looking rusty carrot and keyhole bracket on the true right hand wall one metre past the lip. These definitely needed replacing and we started getting organised (I had the drill, Serena a battery) and discussed bolt placement options whilst we waited for Ric, who had the hammer and bag with drill bits and bolts.

This distribution of gear proved to have been a bad decision in terms of time efficiency as we waited quite a while, unable to start. Apparently Ric had been just behind Serena down the Bypass but had waited at the climb near the bottom of the bypass for Amy, in case she needed help with her pack. She had had a gear problem on the rebelay and was some time behind Ric.

So, a lesson learned: keep as much of the gear needed for rigging as far to the front of the party as possible (I should already know that one shouldn't I?). Serena or I could easily have managed to carry the hammer and bolt bag down with us. Anyway, it was no great drama and Serena was soon merrily drilling away.

There are limited bands of horizontally dipping good rock, and lots of flaky crud rock (I hope this technical, geological terminology is not too difficult for you all) down the whole streamway, with less and less good stuff (other than on the floor of the streamway) as you go down. The positions for bolt placement were therefore fairly limited, and became more so as we descended.

We placed one bolt on the true left one metre back from the lip in the same good rock band as the existing carrot and the second bolt on the true right just past the existing carrot and hanger. This gives a good free-hang and keeps pretty well out of the water, at least in moderate flow rates.

Amy arrived whilst all this work was happening (by Serena at least) and started taking the "happy snaps" for the trip.

The Diagonal Pitch (14 m) has an eyebolt on the true left two metres back from the lip and we opined that this was in the same excellent condition as the eyebolts further up the cave and so used this as our initial anchor.

This pitch was traditionally rigged down a sloping rift on the LHS of the watercourse. We followed the same line but placed two bolts in the roof; one at the top and the other half way down the pitch, to give "free-hangs" all the way. Serena was having such a good time with the drill that she placed these as well. [*It's addictive. Ed.*]

The next pitch (4 m) is belayed from an "extremely dangerous looking boulder". I climbed down it before I realized that I was at it and started looking for the "dangerous boulder" at the top of the obvious drop below me. I was thinking this drop looked a bit far for a four metre pitch from what I could see from the spot I was prepared to climb down to, when the others arrived and pointed out that I had passed the cascade and was looking into the void of the Bolt Traverse Pitch (35 m). Oh. Another "blonde" moment methinks. Maybe it's time to change my hair colour.

We put a short safety line around said "dangerous boulder" (it can't be too bad as it's still sitting there in the streamway after more than 30 years) and started organising for the re-rigging of the bolt traverse.

The eyebolt in the floor of the passage on the RHS looked good again, even though it had surface rust, and we again used this as the primary anchor, with a back-up to the "dangerous boulder" (let's hope the eye bolt doesn't go!)

As time was getting on we decided that Ric would place the bolts for this pitch, leave the rope coiled at the rebelay he would have to place at the rub point ten metres down, and come back up. We would then head out. Amy started out of the cave as Ric headed down. Serena and I stayed.

Farmer Ric's agricultural notes:

I abseiled down a bit, looking for the first bolt on the traverse. There were two. Both were carrots and one had a keyhole bracket with a piece of abraded one cm tape dangling. It took some time to pick the correct height to swing around at - I didn't want to go too low and end up at a bad height to drill at. It was easy to swing and grab the tape. Once I had my cowstail clipped into the bracket, it was easy to hang and drill a hole. One has to be impressed with the original bolter's work as he would have used a hand-held drill and bashed it with a hammer.

I then realised I had left the bolts and spanner above. The drill was getting sluggish so I prussiked up for a new battery and the forgotten gear.

And so, back to the hole. I hammered the new bolt in. Unfortunately, I didn't notice the nut had unscrewed a bit. So my bashing damaged the threads a bit. When I tried to turn the nut it jammed and the shaft turned too. I tried to hold the shaft by levering the bracket away from the rock, without success. I didn't know whether to cry or swear.

Abandoning the bolt, I drilled another hole and fixed an 8 x 90 mm 316 stainless steel bolt and stainless steel hanger. There's now a nice crop of four (count them, four!) bolts there. The bottom left bolt is a nice stainless, unsafe bolt and hanger.

Proceeding down the pitch, I couldn't find the next bolt. I looked and looked without success. So I abseiled to the lip and put in a bolt to give a nice free hang just missing a protrusion 20 m further down. The rope was well away from the waterfall, but I suspect I'm a few metres closer to the waterfall than the traditional spot. I tied the rope to the bolt and prussiked back.

Back to Janine:

The 30 m rope for the Au Cheval pitch was left in the chamber above the 4 m cascade, well out of reach of water, for our return trip. Serena headed up first and moved at her own pace out of the cave, Ric and I stayed in earshot (well, almost) with Ric pulling ropes up out of the water (as well as possible) behind him.

I eventually emerged from the bypass to find "someone" a short distance up the entrance pitch. This turned out to be Amy, whom Serena had apparently overtaken! Does this qualify as "competitive caving?" We were all up and out by 1745.

IB-4, 5, 6 Bradley-Chesterman Cave – Examining Owl Roost and Collecting Aquatic Species

Arthur Clarke

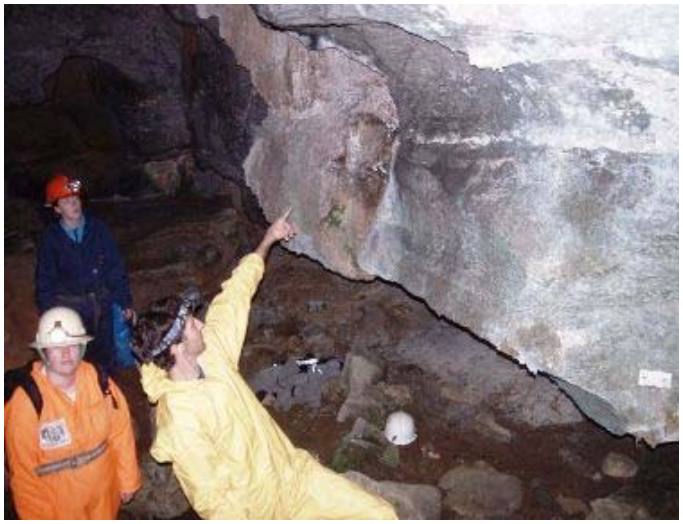
5 March 2006

Party: Arthur Clarke, Petreanna Clarke, Rebecca Woolley and David Young.

Three of the cave guides from Hastings: Matt Cracknell, Jason Gardner and Alice Liddell had told me about seeing an owl in Bradley-Chesterman Cave at Ida Bay, so locating an owl roost was one of two aims for this trip. We approached the cave as I always have, from the eastern side of the efflux stream; this route along the once well established cavers track was now a bit of a hassle due to tree falls. We entered the downstream IB-4 entrance, near where the new Registration Station has been installed; a sturdy aluminium box on a pole with registration book inside, giving six options to tick to describe the main purpose of your trip. We chose to tick the "Scientific" category. It was noted that the last party to register was a group of eleven people with Project Hahn; they had been into the cave in mid-February.

David Young is doing an Honours thesis at the School of Zoology at UTAS, looking at the diet of the masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*) and other related aspects of raptor owl predation on small mammal species. Owls characteristically consume their prey whole, prey which is typically small mammals such as rodents, antechinus and pygmy possums (Clarke 2000), plus sometimes birds and/or other large invertebrate species such as beetles. While sitting at their roost site during the day, owls regurgitate a pellet composed of undigested matter: skull and mandible bones, leg bones, sometimes fur and feathers, plus – depending on species – the hard shiny chitinous elytra or exoskeleton (shells) of beetles. (It should be noted that their roost site is not their nest site; owls typically nest inside the hollows of trees, e.g. entering via a rotted out "knot" hole or site of an old branch hole. To date, there are only 18 recorded nest sites in Tasmania for the Masked Owl, but quite a few more known roost sites, several in caves.)

The four of us spent about an hour examining the remains of pellets and the owl roost on the LHS wall near the IB-5 entrance. Beetle casings and small mammal bones in decaying owl pellets were being preyed on by other invertebrates. Based on the small size of the regurgitated pellets, their content (including remains of beetles) and some feathers found at the roost site, this raptor species was tentatively determined by David as being the Southern Boobook Owl and he states that it may in fact be the first recorded roost for this species from a Tasmanian cave.



Bec, Petreanna and Dave at the owl roost site. *Photo by Arthur Clarke*

Continuing upstream via the IB-5/IB-6 karst window (i.e. the cave roof collapse zone), some quite high (deep) water was noted in the upstream IB-6 section of cave. Some small springtails, flies and isopods were noted grazing near white fungi growing on tree roots in the dark zone of the cave. Two species of aquatic fauna were collected from the streamway, upstream from IB-6 entrance: anaspidacean syncarid (preserved in Absolute Ethanol, i.e. supposedly 100% ethanol) and given next day (Monday March 6) to Stefan Richter (visiting scientist from the University of Jena in central Germany) for DNA analysis, plus 4 x crangonyctoid amphipods from a shallow pool, including a mating pair in copula; these were all preserved in 70% ethanol.

On exit from the cave, we discovered a substantial well worn track on the western side of the efflux stream, taped with pink survey markers near the cave entrance and yellow tape markers near the road. David is still very keen to examine any cave sites in Tasmania where owl roosts are known – easily seen by the presence of these small pellets (at base of active roosts) or the accumulation mounds of small mammal bones underneath long established and possibly quite ancient owl roost sites. David Young can be contacted via email at: dayoung@utas.edu.au

REFERENCE

CLARKE, A. 2000 Owl pellet remains in Newdegate Cave (H-X7) southern Tasmania. *Cave Queensland 22nd Biennial Conference - Australian Speleological Federation 1999 Conference Proceedings*, pp. 26-36.

JF-337 – JF-36 Slaughterhouse Pot – Growling Swallet

Alan Jackson

5 March 2006

Party: Cath Ingman, Alan Jackson

A very sedate and low profile beginner trip to Slaughterhouse for Cath. It was all rather enjoyable and uneventful with nothing of particular note to report. I think Cath enjoyed herself and proved herself ready for more difficult trips. [*And who ever said writing trip reports was difficult? Ed.*]

JF-345 – JF-36 Ice Tube – Growling Swallet

Alan Jackson

12 March 2006

Party: Serena Benjamin, Gavin Brett, Matt Cracknell, Alan Jackson, Giorgio Pannuzzo

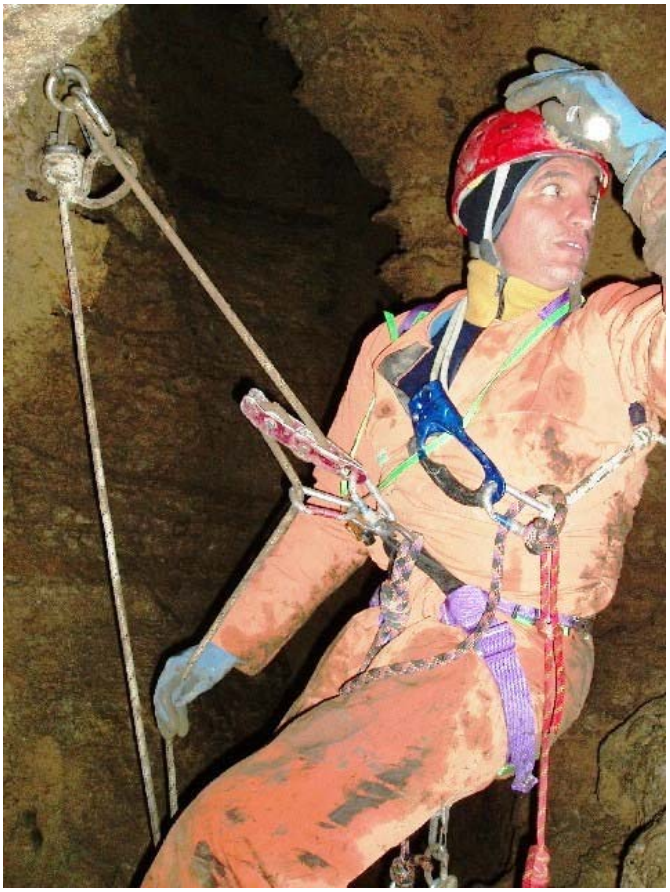
Surface Party: Lorano Agostonelli

Giorgio was a 44 year old visiting caver from Gruppo Speleologico Bergamasco Le Nottole in Italy who had expressed an interest to do a good Australian caving trip or two. After the exchange of a few emails I soon realised that we were dealing with an experienced caver. He had recently been exploring new systems in Northern Italy between 400 and 630 metres deep, so a Midnight Hole trip or a casual jaunt through Welcome Stranger wasn't going to cut it. We had to go to one of Tasmania's top five and we decided that an Ice Tube through trip would provide suitable challenge and entertainment for a caver of Giorgio's caliber.

Gavin and Alan enter the Ice Tube doline. *Photo by Matt Cracknell*

Laurie (a potential new member) tagged along from Maydena and joined us for the walk to the entrance. He had already been out this way looking around and had located the Ice Tube doline previously. We got changed, Giorgio ate some smelly cheese (stinky cheese and salami type meats are all these Italians need by the looks of it) and we headed in at about 1030.

Progress down the vertical system was fairly smooth. Giorgio broke Janine's record for fast abseiling (we almost had to enforce the 'replace all divots' rule at the bottom of Maelstrom). Gavin and I discussed the placing of a hand-line for the Placebo Effect traverse but we decided it would be unethical to downgrade the sporting nature of the cave in this section. Historically this section was traversed and down-climbed without the aid of rope but when Madphil upgraded the old bolts recently he installed bolts and rings on the down-climb as an extra option. The second part to Fabulous Spangley pitch on the other hand could do with an approach line. There is no problem if the cave is rigged for SRT as you would tie it back into the previous pitch but once the rope is pulled down from the previous pitch then the second pitch head is quite exposed. This should be fixed up next trip (whenever that may be!)



Giorgio on-rope at Placebo Effect. *Photo by Matt Cracknell*

Fallopian Rift was nowhere near as nasty as I remembered it. I think I found a better spot to get through this time. Last time we had to negotiate a squeeze with our bodies positioned horizontally but this time I managed the whole thing standing more or less upright. It was a walk in the park! Mothers Passage, Mainline, Necrosis, Herpes III, Trapdoor, Windy Rift, and Growling were taken in our stride and we regained the surface at about 1830 – 8 hours underground. Not an overly fast trip but far from sedate. A great deal of gear washing ensued and we headed home.

Giorgio was a fine caver and enjoyed the trip immensely. He is very keen to return the favour to any STC members who might find themselves in Italy hoping to get underground. Just watch out for his underground burping (we think it was the cheese!)

JF-2 Cauldron Pot

Janine McKinnon

13 March 2006

Party: Serena Benjamin, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney, Amy Ware

Surface Party: Lorano Agostonelli

Having completed the rebolting last weekend, we were back to have a look around the bottom and derig the cave this trip.

Ric and I headed in first and made a fairly quick descent to the Bolt Traverse pitch, reaching the top of the pitch in well under an hour. The going downhill bit is easy! There was about twice the volume of water in the cave as last trip but it was still only "summer" flow rates. Serena caught up whilst Ric was rigging the rebelay at the lip and Amy arrived at the top not long after Serena descended.

We found a rope already in situ on the climb up to the Au Cheval pitch, which made this potentially difficult manoeuvre very easy. I don't know who or when this rope was left in place as it is not mentioned in any of the old *Spiel* trip reports. It looked in fine condition so we happily prussiked up it to rig the 15 m pitch the other side from the same natural that this existing rope was belayed off. After some lunch and a regrouping we headed off to see what we could find.

The passage and chambers found on the original explorations were soon exhausted and we were a little perplexed as to where the "new" extensions started from. We had seen a very low, tight muddy crawl at the beginning of our wanderings but had left it to investigate more promising (i.e. easier) leads. We finally returned to this as a last resort and Serena pushed it a bit harder. It was the way on and Amy and I followed her through.

We emerged into a breakdown chamber, soon found the stream again and headed upstream. This fairly quickly became low, wet and grovelly. We were in a large rock pile but the only way through was at water level. Serena pushed past an obstruction that Amy couldn't fit through and continued to grovel upstream for 10 m or so alone. She returned after several minutes to report that it did continue but, as reported in earlier *Spiels*, it was very wet and tight and would need a wetsuit to push (or a much tougher/madder caver. Ah, of course, a job for Madphil!).

We retreated and decided to have a quick look downstream before heading out. We were not interested in doing any serious, wet grovelling as we knew the prospects in this direction were very poor.

We followed large breakdown passage for several tens of metres before reaching a terminating chamber. Serena and I had a good look around for any leads and I made my way back down to stream level for a look. There was a section of beautiful black marble with the white striations uncommonly found in the Florentine limestone. A pity more of the caves weren't metamorphosed like this. This stream closed in again after 20 m and required crawling through foot deep water to progress further. I declined the opportunity.

I found Serena and Amy further back along the passage and we headed back through the crawl and rejoined Ric. We had spent two and a half hours down the bottom and decided it was about time to head out.

Amy went up first, was given our spare 15 m rope and the 30 m Au Cheval pitch rope and then headed out of the cave.

Serena waited at the top of the Traverse pitch for its derig and then left the cave with that (40 m) rope. Ric and I followed last derigging the rest.

We removed all brackets (except the stainless bracket on a stainless steel bolt on the Bolt Traverse pitch) and placed markers on the bolts to make them easy to find in the future. Unfortunately the rebelay on the Chute Pitch was recessed into the rock a bit and our marker wouldn't fit, so that is the only new bolt unmarked. Ric tried to remove the stuffed bolt he put in on the Bolt Traverse Pitch but he was unable to budge it or remove its nut. A sign was left on it warning that it is not fit to be used. We left the Entrance Pitch rigged for some photography soon.

Ric and I tried a new technique of pack hauling up the bypass which seemed a bit less strenuous, but I don't expect to put it to use again for some time!

The last person arrived at the top of the entrance pitch around 1900 making an eight hour trip from first in to last out.

P.S. Serena had apparently overtaken Amy in the Bypass AGAIN and was out something like an hour before the last person. It looks very like we didn't give her enough to carry out! Note to self: Give Serena more weight next time. Maybe 100 m of rope might slow her down a bit. [*I find that a constant verbal berating and vicious bullying breaks her spirit suitably to take the pace off her. Ed.*]

JF-270 Tachycardia – Survey Trip

Alan Jackson

25 March 2006

Party: Serena Benjamin, Alan Jackson

Gavin and I couldn't keep our minds off Tachycardia but lame boy was still recovering from his tendonitis (too much repetitive movement in his elbow … the mind boggles). I conned Serena into an 'I'll teach you how to survey' trip so we could work out where the hell we were going. Wet muddy rockfall is not the most fun place to learn surveying.

Surveying the horrible short and cramped legs through the rockfall was pretty nasty. We managed to sneak in two legs longer than ten metres and about 40 less than five metres! We surveyed to the top of the short pitch Gavin had found on the previous trip and Serena dropped it on some classic exploration rigging to have a look while I caught up on some

book work. Serena was dragged out kicking and screaming soon after she uttered the words 'oh my God'. She had her ticket to check if the lead went but only Gavin has the ticket to explore in this section.

We then surveyed over to the top of On the Rope Again pitch and called it quits because I was getting grumpy. Surveying is tedious at the best of times but when you're in tight muddy cave, doing both instruments and book and simultaneously teaching someone about good station selection (particularly when that person is not familiar with the cave and therefore unable to instinctively know where a good station would be based on their knowledge of the next bit of passage) it all becomes a little demoralising. I thank Serena for her efforts and tolerance!

Including an estimate of the pitch length (of 13 metres) we added about 180 metres of length to the cave. This has more than doubled the previous amount of surveyed passage (about 170 metres). An appreciation of the difference in character of the first 170 metres compared to the second lot can be clearly seen in the survey data. The first lot comprised of 11 legs and the second lot comprised of 40 legs. So total passage length is in the vicinity of 250 metres and current depth is around 145 metres (but we still have an undescended pitch estimated at ~30 m and some down-climbing above that, so a better estimate would be about 180 m. Previous depth to the dig site was 80 m. Bring on the next 200!

JF-2 Cauldron Pot - Derig

Janine McKinnon

26 March 2006

Party: Ric Tunney, Janine McKinnon

Ric and I were doing the final trip into Cauldron on our recent rebolting exercise to do some photos in the entrance chamber and de-rig the entrance pitch. No-one else was interested in coming, which was a pity I thought as it would have been an excellent trip for those in the club building up their SRT skills. It was not a physically demanding trip either and this has to be one of (if not the) most beautiful entrance pitches in Tassie (and thus Australia). A missed opportunity, really. Maybe you were all scared away by the word "photography"; in which case you obviously don't know me very well and my notoriously poor patience skills.

Anyway, it was a glorious day, we started "underground" at 1130, took photos for an hour or so, derigged the cave and were back at the car by about 1400.

Does Tassie caving come any easier than that?

JF-270 Tachycardia – Fools in Paradise

Alan Jackson

1 April 2006

Party: Serena Benjamin, Gavin Brett, Alan Jackson

It was hard to get motivated and out of the car in the horrible wet weather that greeted us in the Florentine Valley. Only a fool would choose to go walking in this weather. Only a moron would go caving in it.

The intense low pressure system ensured that Tachy was drafting out strongly (blowing your hair at over four metres from the entrance). It's always nice when the 7-8 degrees Celsius in the cave is noticeably warmer than the outside temperature! As feared, the large amount of rain the night before had created very wet conditions in the cave.

We installed a hand-line for approaching the first pitch as the ledge we walk along is progressively disintegrating. The climbs and grovels through the Gypsyland rockfall were horrible, drippy and just that little bit looser as a result of all the water. The chamber before the pitches was filled with the sound of cascading water. The normal trickle down On the Rope Again pitch was now a babbling brook. It added a whole new sense of adventure and excitement to the trip. It also caused us to sail straight past the last survey station without a thought.

We rearranged ropes and reached the top of the new pitch (previously estimated at ~30 m) armed with a 7 m and 38 m 10.5 mm ropes and a 44 m 9 mm rope. Two natural back-ups and a natural primary were put in and we reassembled down under the rigging (you can climb over the pitch head and climb down several metres in the branch passage). Another rock test and a look around with Gavin's new mega-beam (he now has a 10 W globe on his helmet) indicated that our ~30 m estimate was way off. We had started with the 7 m rope and joined in the 44 m. It now looked like we wouldn't have enough rope so the 38 m was attached to Gavin before he descended. Two 8 mm through bolts were placed to create a y-hang over the rift at the same height as the ledge you can down-climb to and Gavin descended. About 25 metres down Gavin encountered a slight narrowing and placed another two bolts for a y-hang across the rift. The 38 m rope was started here and there was less than 6 metres on the ground at the bottom. We had ourselves a fifty something metre pitch that rivalled the form of Fabulous Spangley in Ice Tube.

While Gavin was rigging Serena and I had been trying to sort out Serena's new Petzl light. There was something desperately wrong in the battery pack and connections which resulted in a disco light show every time she moved. Note: Petzl is French for 'crap'. I bombed down next and admired this spectacular pitch. At one end of the rift a fairly large stream cascaded down the wall. Active streamway passage (albeit a small one) is always good for raising excitement levels. Gavin reported a horizontal continuation with a sketchy climb down into a possible continuation. He ate while I surged off to investigate. Serena was whining from up above but water noise rendered her indecipherable. I figured her light had failed and that she had aborted her descent. With Serena shivering and alone in intermittent darkness Gavin and I turned our attention to more important things; exploration. I was down the climb by now and

looking about. The water disappeared into breakdown and a few large side avens came in. A really spotty down-climb beckoned to the reappearance of the water and a possible pitch. Due to our underestimate of the previous pitch we had no rope left; we were meant to still have a 44 m length at our disposal. Gavin didn't like the climb and neither did I to be frank. I wasn't going to let this stop me though as we still had some rigging tape and traces left if I couldn't get back up! I went down, confirmed the presence of a pitch and tested the climb back up. Easy; so Gavin joined me. Climbing out over an exposed rift above the pitch we threw plenty of Watts of light into the inky void and a large number of rocks too. Neither seemed to be able to find a bottom and we retreated scratching our heads on just what was going on. Gavin preemptively christened the pitch 'Bermuda Triangle' and we've been fantasising about it ever since. Rocks first glance a wall at about 30 + metres down and then sometimes can be heard glancing walls at one second intervals after that for a few seconds but there is never any resounding boom of a bottom. This pitch could be anywhere between 40 and 100+ metres. I guess we'll find out next time.

Serena had indeed had light problems and had waited it out (and probably punched a few walls). The exit from the cave was made a little more exciting when Serena peeled off a short climb and landed sprawled on the ground beside the top of On the Rope Again pitch. A good lesson in why it's good to hang on. She was bruised but ok and hopefully a little more diligence will be displayed in the future.

With the previous survey depth of around 140 metres plus several metres of down-climbing and a 50 something metre pitch then we have surged past the 200 m mark and are dreaming of at least a bit more. Depending on Bermuda Triangle we may already have 250 cracked too. It pains me to be writing about Tachy and not pushing her. It's going to be a long week … (or indeed fortnight since some idiot went and organised a weekend at Ida Bay!)

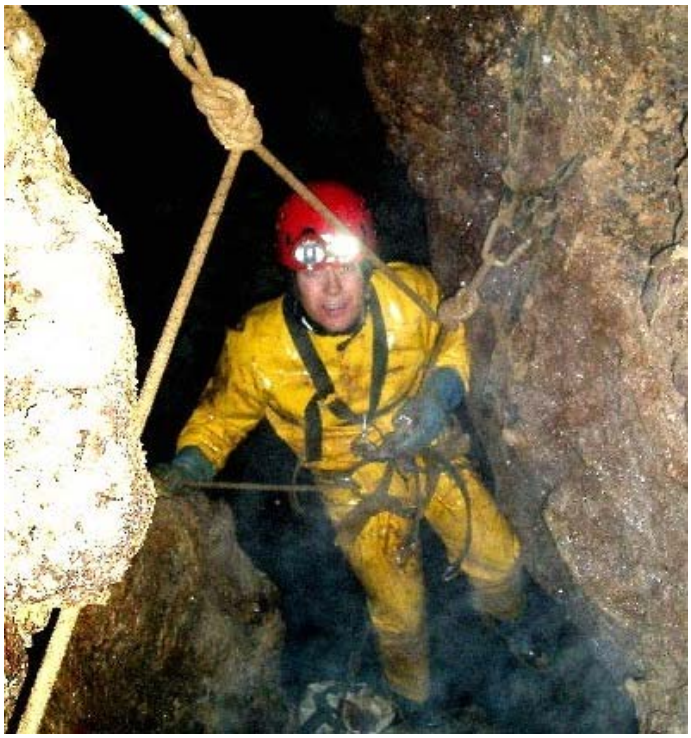
JF-270 Tachycardia – 100% Humidity

Matt Cracknell

8 April 2006

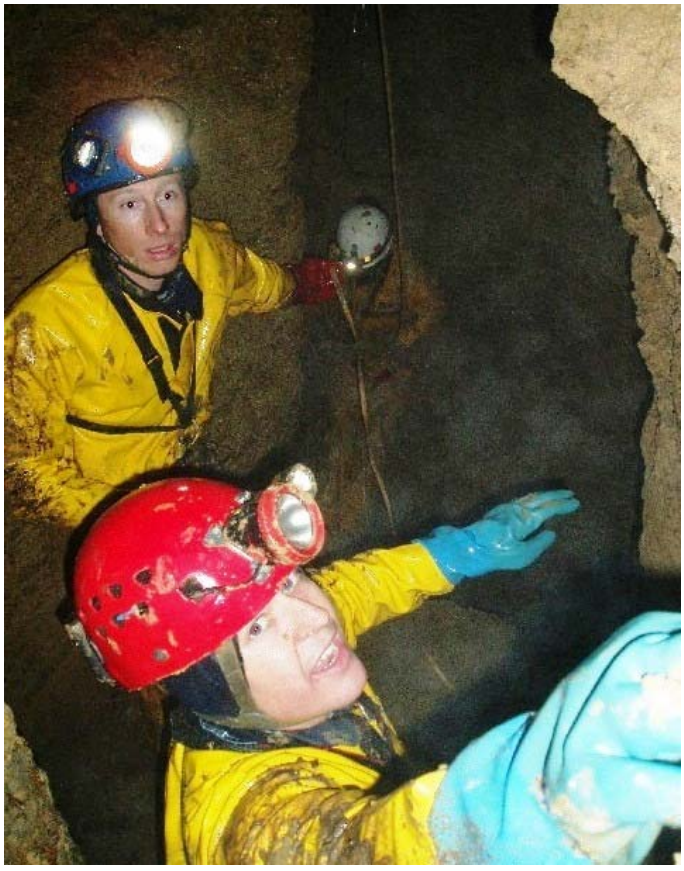
Party: Gavin Brett, Matt Cracknell, Alan Jackson, Janine McKinnon

A wet trudge up the hill to the cave ended at 10 am. We entered the warmth (?) of the underground and proceeded carefully to the muddy confines of 'Gypsyland'. Things were getting wetter by the minute.

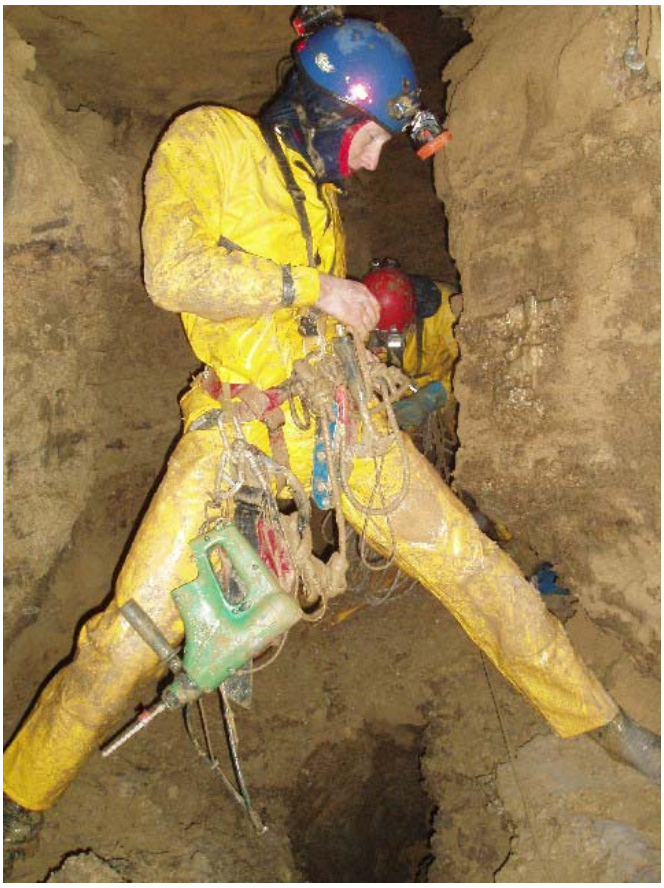


Gavin commences descent of the 16 m On the Rope Again pitch. *Photo by Matt Cracknell*

The precariously unstable climbs were treacherous with the increased water pore pressure in the slurry. The waterfalls were spurting water and the odd rock, while it seemed that the rest of the chambers and shafts were doing the same. We were being rained on in all parts of the cave with no respite from the wet.



Janine commences descent of the 45 m Art Deco pitch (background) while Gavin and Alan survey. *Photo by Matt Cracknell*



'Fetch me my hammer drill'. Alan places bolts at the head of Bermuda Triangle pitch. *Photo by Matt Cracknell*

The surveying was difficult and slow. Gavin at one stage almost got to survey the 'Art Deco' pitch the fast way, he eventually surveyed it the slow way but was hampered by the short 30 m measuring tape. The last few legs got us to 'Bermuda Triangle' during which Matt put his muddy boot on some unusual abraded circles on the limestone pavement. Everyone was cold and wet at this stage from stop/start surveying and the 100% humidity. Alan bolted and rigged the pitch into the abyss, the waterfall below was cranking….time to go.

We stayed relatively warm up the 200 m climb out, the splendid 'Art Deco' pitch briefly took our minds off the sogginess. Thankfully Alan and Gavin were there to navigate the group through the ultra confusing 'Gypsy Series'; it is amazing how narrow squeezes above exposed traverses, complete with mobile boulders and matrix, takes your mind off things.

[*I got about 15 m down Bermuda Triangle before getting way too wet. I then traversed and rebelayed a further 10 m and whined for permission to do the next 30 m. Permission didn't come. Current depth is 204 metres to top of Bermuda pitch with an estimated 50 m to come before who knows what. Ed*]

What's in a Name?

Rolan Eberhard

1. I raised the possibility of changing the club name at the February business meeting because it seemed to me that the 60th anniversary of organised speleology in Australia, as marked by the formation of TCC in 1946, was a good time to consider the possibility of resuming the name TCC. At that time I was unsure as to whether this possibility would be of interest to members.
2. In fact the response has been quite vigorous, indicating strong views on both sides of the fence. People obviously care a great deal about the club's name; it is therefore right and proper that the members decide on this by voting. Accordingly, Greg Middleton and I have taken the next step and framed a motion to this effect, which will be moved at the forthcoming EGM.
3. This discussion has nothing to do with caving, as defined as an activity involving entering caves for exploration, recreation, photography or any other purpose. Whether or not the motion is passed will have no bearing whatsoever on the caving activities of this group, which reflects the level of motivation of the members. If you feel that this issue is a distraction, then switch off and go caving instead.
4. Any caver who wishes to express a point of view on this should feel free to do so. This includes all present and former members of STC, TCC, SCS and TC&KRG. We are all part of the tradition that underpins the discussion, regardless of whether we last went caving a few days ago or a few decades ago.
5. People are passionate about the club name – that much is clear. But let's keep things in perspective. STC will not split apart if the vote goes one way or the other. The reasons that informed the series of splits that resulted in the earlier three clubs are no longer relevant.
6. I should say also that those involved in making the decision to amalgamate TCC, STC and TC&KRG, which created STC in 1996, did what they believed was necessary at that time to keep caving alive in southern Tasmania. The suggestion that we should change the name does not reflect upon the earlier decision, as circumstances are now different.
7. Each of the three original clubs had a distinct personality related to the interests of the members at the time. Thus, whereas the TCC of the 1980s was very focused on deep cave exploration, some periods of its history were characterised by a stronger focus on speleology as a science. The point being that a club name does not bind the members to particular ways of doing or thinking. It is merely a motif that can assist people with shared interests in maintaining a group identity. Nevertheless, names have powerful associations and we hold great store by them.

8. For the record, I was involved in each of the three earlier clubs. I started caving with SCS, the source of my early caving mentors, in about 1979. Later, I joined TCC, at that time a small but very active club. Later still, I participated in the activities of the TC&KRG. My preference for the name TCC is based on its historical connotations; I am completely disinterested in questions concerning pre-eminence amongst the clubs, except to the extent that I recognise a special place for TCC in Australia's caving tradition.
9. So, why change the name? The answer is simple: TCC was the first caving club in Australia. No other name has the same depth of history that goes with TCC. No other name clearly links modern caving with what happened in 1946, when the forming of TCC marked the initiation in this country of speleology as a group activity. The when and how had much to do with Sam Carey, a free-thinking character of the first order and the apparent inventor of that wonderful term 'caverneering'. The forthcoming vote is an opportunity to acknowledge in a very public way the continuity that exists between what we do now and in the future, and things done by Sam Carey and others in 1946.

JF-2 Cauldron Pot Updated Rigging Guide

Ric Tunney

Note: All directions are facing downstream.

Note: Eyebolts are originals from early exploration. All other bolts are 8 mm Powers Throughbolts. Except where stated, all bolts have had hangers removed and are marked with plastic tags.

Pitch 1 Entrance Pitch(41 m):

Belay on tree on ledge on LHS of waterfall. Rebelay off two bolts at lip 8 m down. Redirection (1 m tape over small projection) on LHS about 3 m higher than rub point above final free-hang. (Ensure redirection always pulls down a bit so it doesn't come off projection). [*A nut/chock would probably provide a more suitable option for a redirection. It took a long time for me to find that one spot where a tape would stay in place. I also suggest using a maillion rapide on the lower of the two bolts as a standard size carabiner is a little too long in the spine and creates a bit of bad leverage on the bolt due to its proximity to the edge. Ed.*]

2 x 8 mm hangers required.

Pitch 2a first Cascade Pitch (14 m):

Eyebolt on LHS as back-up. There is an excellent natural above bolt on LHS for main anchor.

Pitch 2b second and third Cascades (2 m & 4 m):

Two bolts on LHS.

2 x 8 mm hangers required.

Pitch 3 Chute Pitch (15 m):

Belay on eyebolt on LHS at top of pitch. Tie in to previous pitch rope if back-up desired. Rebelay on bolt RHS around corner 5 m down. There is no plastic tag on this bolt and it may be a bit hard to find.

1 x 8 mm hanger required.

Pitch 4 Eleven Metre Pitch (11 m):

Bolt on LHS 2 m back from lip. Rebelay on bolt on RHS 1 m past lip.

2 x 8 mm hangers required.

Pitch 5 Diagonal Pitch (14 m):

Belay on eyebolt 2 m back from edge on LHS. Rebelay on bolt in roof on LHS at lip. Second rebelay bolt in roof approx. 8 m further down to left gives freehang to bottom.

2 x 8 mm hangers required.

Pitch 6 Four Metre Cascade (4 m):

This can be easily free-climbed or a short rope can be belayed around the "extremely dangerous looking boulder" at the top of the climb.

Pitch 7 Bolt Traverse Pitch (35 m):

Belay off eyebolt in floor on RHS. Descend and traverse around right hand wall. There is an unnecessary rusty carrot and keyhole hanger about 3 m around and 3 m down. A further 3 m round and 3 m down (away from waterfall!) are four bolts. Facing the rock, the top two are old carrots. The bottom left has a loose hanger and should not be used. Rebelay from the bottom right, an 8 mm stainless throughbolt with stainless hanger and a hero loop. This one is safe! Rebelay on bolt about 10 m further down at lip of free hang. Drop to bottom is not totally dry!

1 x 8 mm hanger required.

Pitch 8 Au Cheval Pitch (5 m up, 15 m down):

Fixed 5 m rope in situ on up climb. Rig descent rope off same natural as fixed rope.

Tinys Watch Hole (BH-X1), Bubs Hill

Arthur Clarke

Over time, a number of caves have become "lost" at Bubs Hill, including Tinys Watch Hole - a 30 m deep vertical cave - which I discovered and first explored, along with Michael Esling and my terrier dog named "Tiny" (standing watch at the surface), early in 1971. During the Houshold and Clarke study of the Bubs Hill karst area in 1988, this cave was not relocated despite a fairly thorough search. Although the vegetation cover over the limestone on Bubs Hill is predominantly dry sclerophyll forest with native pear and other small tree species, the forest is quite dense and the only clear access is in the broad (20-25 m) wide strip that the HEC used to maintain underneath the high tension power lines that traverse Bubs Hill. Located in the near vicinity of the metalliferous West Coast Range, the area around Bubs Hill including the limestone itself has been prospected for

many years, mainly by amateurs seeking quartz crystals and panning for heavy metals.

Over the last 35-40 years, a number of mining companies have been working Bubs Hill, investigating "anomalies" determined by geophysical prospecting methods. In the course of the geological fieldwork by various mineral exploration companies, there have been 3-4 different sets of gridlines established in different locations over Bubs Hill, with metre wide tracks cut through the forest using a slash hook. Tinys Watch Hole was on one of these gridlines, but in 1988 the regrowth forest had obliterated all signs of the old gridlines that were apparent in 1971.

The first descent of Tinys Watch Hole was published in *Speleo Spiel* 57:3-4. This terrier dog named Tiny was a sort of community dog, shared by several households, so when one household was away, another household looked after him. Tiny used to go everywhere with me, including walking into Lake Pedder (when Lake Pedder was Lake Pedder and not 'Fake Pedder' as it is now) and he also came into horizontal caves with me. Tiny literally followed me everywhere; I couldn't keep him out of a cave if I tried! Hence when I was at Bubs Hill, going down this vertical cave, there was no way he could follow me, so he just stayed at the entrance: watched and waited.

Anaspidacean Syncarids from Tasmanian Caves, Especially Wolf Hole

Arthur Clarke

In late February/early March this year, Drs. Stefan Richter and Christian Wirkner from the Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena in central Germany, were visiting Tasmania to study two groups of aquatic crustaceans. They were particularly interested in our syncarids, the most commonly known species being the Tasmanian Mountain Shrimp (*Anaspides tasmaniae*). Although more generally found in alpine streams or mountain lakes and tarns, *Anaspides tasmaniae* are also found in caves in several parts of Tasmania (Eberhard *et al*. 1991; Clarke 2006). As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the cave species are often depigmented (white) or translucent.

*Figure 1: Translucent form of the anaspidacean syncarid (*Anaspides tasmaniae*), with algal plant matter in its gut tract, browsing across the substrate of a clear water pool upstream from the efflux entrance of Marakoopa Cave at Mole Creek (Figure 1.13 in Clarke, 2006).*

The cave and surface dwelling forms of *Anaspides tasmaniae* and similar genera in Family Anaspididae, plus the species of Koonungidae and Psammaspididae are all referred to as anaspidacean syncarids, based on their classification within the group of animals known as crustaceans, i.e. Class Crustacea: Sub-Class Malacostraca: Super-Order Syncarida: Order Anaspidacea. As experts in this field, Stefan Richter and Christian Wirkner were keen to collect several different anaspidacean species from a mix of cave and surface sites in Tasmania for a continuing study of the syncarid circulatory system, their variable morphology and their phylogenetic differences (i.e. their variable DNA or genetic makeup in relationship to other similar species).

In addition to *Anaspides tasmaniae*, three other syncarid species from the same family (i.e. Family Anaspididae) are recorded from Tasmanian caves: a solitary specimen collected by Chris Davies in Growling Swallet in February 1981 is recorded as *Anaspides* ?*spinula*e; an un-named species of *Paranaspides* is recorded from Exit Cave (collected by Alan Keller and Tim Walkden-Brown); and a similar un-named species of *Allanaspides* is recorded amongst collections by Stefan Eberhard from Trowutta (Clarke 2006). Species of *Eucrenonaspides* (F. Psammaspididae) are recorded from several cave areas, plus *Koonunga* and *Micraspides* (both F. Koonungidae) recorded from caves in western and NW Tasmania (Eberhard *et al*. 1991).

Figure 2: The anophthalmic (blind) anaspidacean syncarid from Wolf Hole at Hastings, presently recorded as Anaspides tasmaniae *(blind form), but likely to be a new and distinct stygobiont species (Eberhard et al. 1991); this live specimen photographed in a petrie dish at Francistown: 27-2-2006 (Figure 5.8 in Clarke 2006).*

The first records of cave dwelling *Anaspides* in Tasmania were from sites at Mole Creek (Clarke 2006). The earliest record comes from a single specimen collected by A. Rafferty in Marakoopa Cave on 28-Apr-1938 (Clarke 2006) and the second record for a "cave dwelling" *Anaspides* is

from another solitary 33 mm long specimen found (undigested) in the stomach of a pale coloured, almost white trout; determined as *Salmo fario*, this fish was collected by Albert Goede and John Wanless on 22-Feb-1958 in the River Alph of Kubla Khan (Scott 1960). The cave dwelling *Anaspides* were first reported by Bill Williams based on eight specimens collected by Elery Hamilton-Smith in mid-November 1963 from two caves at Mole Creek: Sassafras Cave and Marakoopa Cave (Williams 1965; Clarke 2006). Williams stated that the cave species were noticeably depigmented or paler than the surface species of *Anaspides tasmaniae* but otherwise appeared to have a similar morphology, including eyes.

In late May 1964 Bill Williams collected specimens of *Anaspides tasmaniae* from Newdegate Cave at Hastings and subsequent sightings in Exit Cave at Ida Bay were also reported (Goede 1967; Hamilton-Smith 1967). Three years later, during a 12 month period in 1968-1969, additional specimens with "normal" eyes were collected from three caves at Ida Bay: Exit Cave, Bradley-Chesterman Cave and Revelation Cave, plus Mersey Hill Cave at Mole Creek (Clarke 2006). During this same period Albert Goede and Alan Dartnall collected six *Anaspides* specimens on 10-Aug-1968 from the small clear water stream flowing out from Lake Pluto (Goede 1968); see Figure 2. The specimens were forwarded to Bill Williams in Dept. of Zoology at Monash University and on subsequent examination it was determined that these were blind (see Figure 3), having no discernable eye structures on the end of their eye stalks (Goede 1972; Lake and Coleman 1977). Four additional specimens of this blind *Anaspides* species (three males and a female) were collected from Lake Pluto by Peter Murray on 22-Jun-1975; these were subsequently recorded by Lake and Coleman (1977) in their report on the subterranean syncarids of Tasmania, detailing the morphology of these eyeless cave dwelling forms.

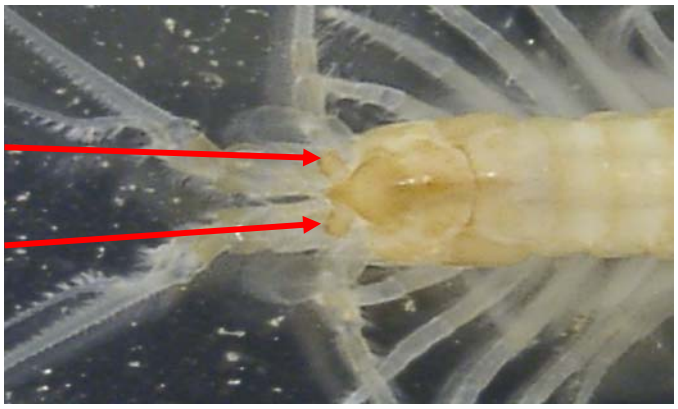


Figure 3: Dorsal view of anterior (head) region of the anophthalmic (blind) Anaspides tasmaniae *from Wolf Hole at Hastings, showing eyeless eye stalks (arrowed), the setose (hairy) and spinose (spiney) antennae, antennules and thoracic appendages; live specimen photographed in a petrie dish at Francistown: 27-2-2006 (Figure 5.9 in Clarke 2006).*

Prior to the advent of DNA studies most invertebrate species were systematically described simply on the basis of their morphology or anatomical structure; sometimes referred to as characters these "body parts" are often quite variable between the different classes, orders, family groups, genera and species of animals. Amongst the known characters that define anaspidacean syncarids, there are several features or characters that contribute much of the variability between cave dwelling species and to some extent, between cave and surface species. Two of these characters are the eye stalks on their heads and the presence (or absence) of eyes, and secondly the shape or form of their telson, a protuberance from the rear of the *Anaspides* that sits beneath the two pairs of splayed paddle-like uropods (Figure 4).

In the case of the telson morphology of *Anaspides tasmaniae*, Lake and Coleman (1977) reported that the cave forms are known to have varying telson spination, i.e. different numbers and lengths of spines, that are arranged symmetrically or irregularly around the outer perimeter of the telson (see Figure 4). Based on a further and more detailed analysis of telson size and spination of the telson amongst cave species, Eberhard (1990) and Eberhard *et al*. (1991) suggest the presence of four types of cave dwelling *Anaspides*: Normal telson: *A. tasmaniae* type; Telson intermediate; Telson cave type (including the "blind" species from Wolf Hole); and an Undetermined type. One of the few cave type forms known to have a symmetrically arranged group of short telson spines are the specimens found at Lake Pluto in Wolf Hole (see Figures 2 and 4). In her recent thesis study on the molecular phylogeny, biogeography and systematics of the Tasmanian Mountain shrimps, in discussion of the variability of telson spination, Andrew (2005) suggests that "…*it is by no means clear that this character is phylogenetically useful rather than merely highly variable*". These remarks appear to be based on comments by Eberhard (1990) who reports the variation of telson morphology amongst the populations of epigean species recorded as *Anaspides spinulae* in the Central Plateau lakes and tarns and a further recommendation in Eberhard (*et al*., 1991), that cautions against the use of telson morphology variation as an indicator of species diversity.

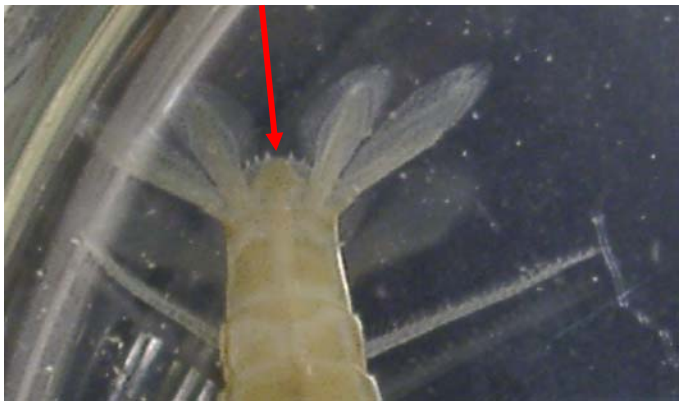


Figure 4: Dorsal view of posterior of the anophthalmic Anaspides tasmaniae *from Wolf Hole at Hastings, showing the telson (arrowed, between splayed uropods) with symmetrically arranged short spines; live specimen photographed in a petrie dish at Francistown: 27-2-2006 (Figure 5.10 in Clarke 2006).*

Clarke (2006) reports his observations of the considerable variation in the appearance of cave dwelling *Anaspides tasmaniae* within local, and between regional, populations. The variability is expressed in different ways. The degree of pigmentation is quite noticeable, from slight to dark colouration, particularly in cave specimens from northern

Tasmania, to species that are completely depigmented, white (often with pearly lustre), translucent and almost transparent, mainly from caves in southern Tasmania (see Figures 2, 3 and 4). There are varying degrees of eye reduction amongst specimens from caves other than Wolf Hole, including variations in eye size and degree of ocelli pigmentation (Clarke 2006). Apart from the variation in spination (position, length and number of spines) on the telson as previously noted (Lake & Coleman 1977; Eberhard 1990), there is considerable variation in the development (length, position and density) of setae on antennae and legs, or thoracic appendages and pleopods (Clarke 2006). Although the most marked variability occurs between different karst regions, in some areas, e.g. at Mole Creek, three different forms are known with the elongated (5-7 cm long) markedly pigmented epigean forms washed into Honeycomb 1 Cave where they become stranded in the deep final sump pool, the smaller (2-3 cm long) white forms in the nearby Wet Cave and the 3-4 cm long translucent forms in Marakoopa Cave (see Figure 1). It is unclear if this variability represents possible troglomorphic adaptations, some degree of speciation or development of ecotype varieties (Clarke 2006).

In a final analysis of her molecular studies on the systematics of Tasmanian species, Andrew (2005) concludes that the cave populations of *Anaspides tasmaniae* do not form a distinct group despite the common loss of pigmentation; her conclusions are supported by the fact that all the cave populations sampled shared genotypes with the nearest epigean populations. However, Appendix 3 in Andrew (2005), listing the 33 collection sites used for her study of *Anaspides tasmaniae* in Tasmania, indicates that her conclusions have been based on the results of very limited cave species/specimen sampling and analysis from just three caves in two karst areas: Wolf Hole and Newdegate Cave at Hastings and Wet Cave at Mole Creek, the latter being a site fed by three surface streams. The Wet Cave specimens used for the DNA analysis were the large pigmented epigean-like types, like those commonly found in Honeycomb 1 Cave (Clarke 2006).

Nonetheless, the anaspidacean syncarids from Lake Pluto in Wolf Hole are considered very highly in the role of aiding some better understanding of the systematics of this group, hence the reason for the recent visit by Stefan Richter and Christian Wirkner.

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2005/06 Office Bearers' Reports (in no particular order) [*Gavin appears to have been unable to bear the pain of reporting on his offices; thus there are no reports for President nor Gear Store Officer. Lame. Ed.*]

Electronic Archive – Ric Tunney

The master copy of the Archive lives on a Network Drive on our home LAN, with a backup copy on one of our PCs. It occupies 5 Gb storage, unfortunately that's a little bigger than a single-layer DVD. I anticipate there'll be another gigabyte when the Archive is fully up to date.

Scanning, OCRing and PDFing of publications is slowly being done. Through the year Heather Nichols (and her child labour force) scanned the bulk of *Southern Cavers* and these have been processed, Hugh Fitzgerald gave me electronic versions of all the TCKRG publications and Damien Bidgood scanned a lot of *Speleo Spiels*. Unfortunately, Damien's hard disk crashed, he lost all the scans and fled to Antarctica to avoid recriminations. I'd like to thank these three for their help.

The Archive now contains:

All *Southern Caver* (except 52)

All TCKRG publications

All *Speleo Spiel* (except 11-50, 53-75, 299 & TCC Bulletin 1-4)

Lots of survey data and other stuff

The work to do is:

Process the missing publications

Process a pile of miscellaneous stuff 30 cm high (much from Jeff Butt and Stuart Nicholas)

Obtain useful reports from mainland caving clubs

I'm hoping for bad weather in autumn and early winter so I'm forced to do this.

Last year, I said I'd try for an updated version for January. That didn't eventuate as there was insufficient change to the archive to warrant the work. But now there have been lots of changes, so I'll try for a new version this June.

Map Library – Ric Tunney

Big maps live in the map cabinet in our garage. A master copy of the Map Numbers database is in the Archive. There are currently 442 issued map numbers (from TCC, TCKRG, SCS & STC).

As part of the Archive activity, I have been printing paper copies of maps from publications and giving them map numbers where necessary. These A4 copies are slowly filling a three-draw filing cabinet.

Quantities of missing maps and original survey data arrived from Stuart Nicholas' estate.

Greg Middleton has been sourcing copies of Tasmanian cave maps from his mainland friends.

Unfortunately, it seems that large numbers of our maps are missing from the map library. I haven't been keeping the library contents list up to date (while I've been extracting maps from the publications), but my feeling is that around 100 maps are missing. Sometime later in the year, I hope to have a definitive list, but this will have to be after we've processed all publications.

Karst Index – Ric Tunney

We in STC have responsibility for issuing cave numbers for Southern Tasmania. In practice, this means Ida Bay and Junee-Florentine. From lists in various publications, I've created in the Archive separate cave number lists for most Tasmanian karst areas. The lists for IB and JF produced by Arthur Clarke were particularly useful. As I've been processing publications, I've been updating the cave lists with the first reference I could find to each cave.

If anyone needs a new cave number, they take a tag from the gear store, tag a cave and tell me. This is working smoothly.

We in STC also have responsibility for cave naming in Southern Tasmania. In the early days of TCC, names were submitted to the club committee for approval. Over the past 30 - 40 years, this committee involvement seems to have become minimal to non-existent, and caves were named by the discoverer referring to the name in one of the club's publications. I think my role is one of being a recorder rather than a controller and I agree with this practice. I think that only in exceptional situations should the club be involved in cave naming. In one or two cases, I have queried a name with the discoverer, but have recorded the name without raising the matter with the club. (I certainly don't have the authority to "approve", "reject" or "rename" a cave; that's the club's prerogative.) I intend to continue in this way.

The most recent published version of "Tasmania's Longest and Deepest Caves" list was produced by Jeff Butt (*Speleo Spiel* 322 & 323) in 2001 and I've been maintaining it. Again, I have tried to annotate the list with a reference to the publication reporting the length or depth. There has been no change to the relative order of caves since 2001. [*But there have been some changes since Ric wrote this report. See p. 27 this issue – Ed.*]

Vice-President – Amy Ware

Despite starting my term as an absentee VP (not even being Tasmanian!), I now find myself very much a part of 'the caving state'.

I chaired two meetings during the year, and contributed to discussions and committee decisions on issues such as archive distribution, nominated trip leaders and ASF involvement. With a rather light workload, and as an opportunity to gain better background on the operation of the club, this has been an enjoyable and rewarding job this year.

I am looking forward to continued involvement in club issues next year as debate continues, and STC's position evolves, on matters including ASF involvement, local cave management, and STC projects. Thanks to the other committee members for supporting and putting up with me in the job!

Secretary Report – Matt Cracknell

I will keep this short and sweet in accordance with other recent Secretary Reports. As the STC Secretary for 2005-06 I have been subjected to a brutal but rewarding initiation into club Executive matters. This has consisted in part, collecting and distributing club minutes from all of the meetings held, opening and reading letters and journals, sending letters to various people/organizations and general correspondence via email. I have learnt a great deal about the protocols of the public domain whilst attempting the duties that one expects from 'the secretary'. I am happy to continue next year as STC Secretary.

Editor – Alan Jackson

The past year has seen another six issues of the *Speleo Spiel* produced (347-352). It always feels like more than six, and more than thirteen since I've been Editor. I think the quality has generally been pretty good (I've received much support and praise over the past year, so I guess my opinion of myself is correct – what I don't understand is why people continue to be nice to me when I consistently fail to return the favour in any way, shape or form). There has been a fair bit of activity in the Club so this all leads to plenty of material and interesting reading. Producing number 350 is worthy of mention – let's hope the Club continues on to achieve many more multiples of 50.

A flying visit from Madphil and an otherwise generally active year has resulted in quite a few pages of *Spiel* going through the printers in the last twelve months. Obviously we pay Xerox (who still give us our 10% discount, which is nice) per page copied, so a bigger spiel means a bigger expense. Also, theoretically, the postage should also increase over and above a certain *Spiel* thickness – fat letters cost $1.00, instead of 50 cents. By being devious I have avoided this 'optional' charge. I haven't had any complaints of posted issues not arriving, so I assume I'm getting away with it!

To offset the increased production costs I have attempted to hand deliver the *Spiel* to as many subscribers as possible. I usually fit this in when I'm out doing field work and in the company car (no cost to me or STC!) On average we produce about 50 hard copies each issue (it varies a bit, but is usually less than 60) and of these 50 I hand deliver about 20. This would save about $11 (including envelope cost) each issue, or $66 a year (mind you, envelope cost has been considerably subsidised by a number of Hobart businesses, which will remain nameless for legal reasons). I then came up with another way to save a few dollars per year. It started when I decided that I would hate to receive a hard copy *Spiel* folded in two places and shoved into a standard DL envelope. I investigated the additional costs of posting them in C4 envelopes (big flat ones), which negate the need to fold my beautifully crafted *Spiel*. The larger envelopes only cost about 2 cents extra each, but the postage doubled from 50 cents to $1. Despite arguing that the price hike was offset by my hand delivering I couldn't convince the Club. What I realised though was that I could fit many more issues into one C4 envelope (where only one just fits in a DL at times). With those issues that we send to other caving clubs, bodies and libraries around the country and world I decided that they didn't need to get

their issues on a two monthly basis. Instead I now hold off posting them until I have the whole twelve months worth, or the envelope fills up. Once again I rip off Australia Post and only pay $1 to send the Australian ones instead of God only knows what they'd charge me for such a fat and heavy C4 envelope. I do this for about 14 copies, so ultimately these cost about $20 a year instead of over $50. No one has complained that they don't get their regular copies (let's face it, the person at the other end who gets it will just be some freak the equivalent of our Librarian, who doesn't let anyone else see the damn thing anyway and files it away for ever in the recesses of his library). I think the availability of the electronic version satisfies most interstate readers anyway. So, if the Treasurer tries to raise the subs this year then don't blame me and the *Spiel* production costs – blame Claire (but remember, she actually reduced subscription costs last year), so instead blame our good old pals at ASF who somehow manage to justify charging us some ludicrous amount of money each year so we can rest easy in the knowledge that we are paying for an insurance policy which doesn't appear to cover us for anything that's likely to happen to us and that we occasionally receive a belated issue of Australia's best national caving magazine (it is the only one, so is therefore the best …) Sorry, is this off topic and a bit rude? Oh well, I feel better for saying it. I really must enroll in that 'How to win friends and influence people' course I saw offered at TAFE the other day. Actually, ASF have recently shown me a great way to reduce production costs. All I need to do in this next year (should I be returned to the position of Editor) is put out all six issues in twelve months time, call it *Speleo Spiel* 353-4-5-6-7-8, and reduce costs by more than 80%.

Back on topic. The other thing I've done this year is to introduce the option of colour covers. The quality of cover photos recently submitted has been excellent and it's a real shame to print them out in black and white. Only Arthur, Bunty and Gavin took me up on the offer, but if anyone else wants them then let me know. I charge an extra $1 per colour page, which goes to me as I print them out on my colour laser printer at home.

I should thank a few people:

1) first and foremost I must thank Greg Middleton (our freaky Librarian that I mentioned earlier). It started out with Greg having the odd whine here and there about formatting or the like, so I turned it round on him and made him Sub-Editor of the *Spiel*. He now scours through the first draft looking for mistakes (of which there are often many) before I send it to the masses. To be honest, if Greg didn't sub-edit and if people didn't submit trip reports, articles and photos then we'd have some very short *Spiels* full of spelling mistakes! I think the true role of the Editor is to fill the Editorial and Stuff n' Stuff section with ludicrous, rude and vicious statements about members of this and other clubs

2) thank you to the contributors, without whom there wouldn't be much to edit at all

3) And a big thank you to those who have complimented me on my efforts throughout the year. It makes one feel all warm and fuzzy to know your work is being appreciated. To those who have complained – be warned, complain enough times and you'll end up with a job on the production line (just ask Greg)

All this thanking makes me realise I should also do some apologising to the myriad of people I have offended during the year. However, the concept of apologising is against my principles, so I won't do anything of the kind.

I am more than happy to continue on as Editor for another year, if you'll have me (it gives me a good excuse to not be talked into being Treasurer!), but I am also just as happy to step aside for anyone else who'd like to have a go (on the condition that I am exempt from being Treasurer). I think the Treasurer's position is voted on before the Editor's, so I should be safe.

Search and Rescue – Alan Jackson

It's been another relatively quiet year on the SAR front – which is always a good thing. We went a little low key with our CAVEX this year (see *Speleo Spiel* 351 if you're really all that interested). A few minor accidents occurred for Club members, such as Matt's school beginners in Mystery Creek, the Owl Pot cock-up and Janine's attempt to kill the Editor in Lost Pot, but all events ended well. Matt is to be commended on his handling of the Mystery Creek episode – all that taxpayer funded training must be doing its job.

The Owl Pot drama was a valuable learning experience for me. It confirmed that I was capable of getting the ball rolling and initiating an SAR response, and I also learnt to look under tree-falls for car keys before I cleared them. With a bit of luck I'll never have to use my skills again!

I received a disappointing response to my SAR questionnaire that I distributed with *Speleo Spiel* 349. I think I got five responses! Those people who did respond have been placed on a VIP list and will be rescued promptly in the event of an accident. Everyone else has been placed on a 'no helicopters' list and earmarked for 'self rescue only' if no one can really be bothered going out to look for them. It's not too late to get your form in and move to the VIP list. The form is now on the website, so download it and fill it in!

Thanks to Damian Bidgood for his efforts in organising CAVEX and general grooming of the relationship between the Club and SAR.

I will continue on as SAR rep if you'll have me.

Social Secretary – Alan Jackson

I can't remember when I took over being Social Secretary. I can vaguely remember deciding that a club weekend was needed and the next thing I knew I was Social Secretary. That's the trouble with being in a club – if you don't watch yourself you never know what positions you'll go home with. I was astounded when I filled in as Secretary for a few months and didn't get paddled into that one at the last AGM. Good on you Matt.

To be perfectly honest I can't remember much of what I've organised this last twelve months. I can remember a Mole Creek weekend, which was pretty successful (if you measure the success of the weekend as achieving a combination of caving trips and sitting round the 'fire' chatting – I use the term fire loosely in this instance).

There was a Christmas BBQ at Gavin and Claire's house, because the Hobart City Council where going to charge us some hideous number of dollars to have it at the Waterworks Reserve. Thanks to the Bretts for letting us in.

The Midwinter Extravaganza down at Francistown/Ida Bay was good. Unfortunately for all attending I lost my voice and couldn't berate you all with insults. Thanks to Arthur and Robyn for the venue – and the bonfire that actually burned this year without the aid of sump oil. Watching Gavin kill a Blackwood was probably more fun than any of the caving we did that weekend. I believe the ME was also the venue for the inaugural STC Quiz, compiled by Geoff Wise and myself. I thought it was fun.

The resounding success of the first quiz led me to compile an upgraded second version – complete with visual aids, PowerPoint presentation and beer on tap (at the Republic Bar). All my work was apparently worthy of supplying me with a chocolate treat – and who says volunteering for a club has no rewards?

Oh yeah, and there was a video night at the Culberg's place too. Most of the old videos from Stu Nick's collection turned out to be a bit scungey, but the Incredible Caves movie thing was a good

(although a little too Americanised) look at some cave stuff. Once Gavin gets his latest engineering brain child manufactured then we can start making our own masterpieces!

Continuing as Social Secretary doesn't really phase me, although I know that Janine is hanging out to have a go, so I'm more than happy to hand it over if she likes.

STC Librarian / Archivist – Greg Middleton

The library's collections continue to grow slowly. As previously, the major users have been those doing the scanning for the digital archive.

In 2005-06 I accessioned 168 new journals (142 2003-04, 191 2004-05), bringing our holding to 4,125; and 24 new books/monographs/CDs (6 2003-04; 62 2004-05), bringing our holding to 271. I need a better way to store CDs.

I have continued to collect reprints and photocopies, adding 98 cave-related papers and magazine articles to the binders (216 2003-04; 288 2004-05) to now total 602. These are catalogued in a database. I still have over 100 to add.

These holdings are shelved on around 42 m of shelf space (up from 25 in 2003-04); of this STC owns 15.4 m. I have aquired a further 10.5 m of shelving.

Lists of our holdings are available; members are welcome to borrow at no charge – and at any time I'm here. [Contrary to rumours spread by certain mischievous individuals, the Library welcomes borrowers! Call me on 6223 1400 to arrange a time.] Anyone who can contribute copies of journals that we are missing is very welcome to do so. The journals list also indicates duplicates of the Spiel and some other Australian newsletters which are available at negotiable prices. The archives of the three constituent clubs and some from STC are still in boxes. While I have started a database, these have not been catalogued or shelved. Additional papers were added during the year from the late Stuart Nicholas.

The most exciting event of the year in the Library was a visit from the President – a first!

In September 2004 the Club approved my proposal to produce a digital version of *Southern Caver* incorporating unpublished TCC material. Issue #60 was produced in April 2005 and #61 in September. These are distributed digitally through the same website as *Speleo Spiel*. A few hard copies are produced for libraries. More will appear when I can do the scanning.

I'm happy to carry on as librarian … [*and doesn't he love to carry on. Ed.*]

Treasurer – Claire Brett

Summary

I am pleased to report that STC has made a surplus of $2,243.42. This is higher than the surplus for 2004 which was $508.33.

This is partially explained due to the higher than expected income related to Cavemania trips and accommodation. Also, the Gear Store Officer has been very busy, with $1,306 collected from gear hire. This was well above the budgeted income of $750. Gear sales also provided some extra income and the income from trip fees was above budget.

On the expenditure side, due to Alan's excellent work, the cost of supplying the *Speleo Spiel* was slightly under budget at $579.06. The club also spent $972.04 on new equipment. This included:

- 200 metres of rope;
- one descender;
- two chest ascenders; and
- two hand ascenders.

Due to other commitments, I am unable to continue in the role of Treasurer. It has been an interesting and rewarding job for the last two years. I thank Steve Phipps for having the books in such a good state when I took over. I thank the club members for putting up with the boring Treasurer's report at each meeting. However, I do not apologise for chasing down every $2 trip fee!

Membership

The membership numbers have increased again in 2005 which is a good sign. The numbers have been bolstered by nine new prospective members. Time will tell whether these new members decide to continue their membership.

Category	31/12/2005	31/12/2004	31/12/2003
Household/full/student	39	35	30
Prospective	9	2	1
Life	9	9	10
Total membership	**57**	**46**	**41**
Friends	10	11	11
Armchair cavers	2	2	0
Total association	**69**	**59**	**52**

Gear Hire Rates

The club received $1306 from gear hire. Of this, $1,081 was received from external organizations using club helmets and lights. Given the increase in revenue from gear hire, **I propose that gear hire costs remain unchanged**.

Speleo Spiel

The costs of producing the *Speleo Spiel* dropped slightly this year to $579.06. As at 31 December 2004, there were 53 hard copies printed. These include:

- 19 paying members and armchair cavers;
- 2 paying subscribers;
- 7 life members provided for free;
- 5 friends provided for free;
- 19 donations provided for free; and
- 1 for the STC library.

There are currently two people subscribing to the *Speleo Spiel* at a cost of $25 per year. The production cost was approximately $15 per year per person, and this has probably reduced slightly this year.

I propose to retain the *Speleo Spiel* subscription rate for non-members at $25 per year.

[*Please enjoy the following section of wasted space. It is brought to you in the interests of formatting on the following page. Ed.*]

Income

The following table summarises the expected income for the General Account for 2006.

Category	2006 Estimate	2005 actual	2004 actual
Speleo Spiel subscriptions	$50.00	$50.00	$100.00
Internal gear hire	$200.00	$225.00	$325.00
External gear hire	$850.00	$1081.00	$458.00
Gear sales	$0.00	$780.20	$104.00
Trip fees	$275.00	$323.00	$253.00
Donations	$50.00	$138.00	$285.00
Interest (bank and cash mgt trust)	$260.00	$267.84	$250.94
Sundries	$150.00	$202.00	$168.05
Cavemania	$0.00	$1190.00	$0.00
Total income	**$1835.00**	**$4257.04**	**$1943.99**

Expenditure

The following table details the estimated expenditure from the General Account for 2006.

Category	2006 Estimate	2005 actual	2004 actual
Supplying *Speleo Spiel* to life members, friends, subscribers, donations	$580.00	$579.06	$646.31
Stationery	$0.00	$0.00	$3.35
ASF fees for inactive life members	$138.00	$138.00	$138.00
Gear purchases	$200.00	$972.04	$662.72
Bank charges	$10.00	$7.90	$51.90
Equipment Officer Honorarium	$391.80	$209.70	$157.80
Audit fee	$50.00	$49.50	$44.00
Annual return fee	$50.00	$45.60	$44.40
PO Box rental	$105.00	$102.00	$100.00
ACKMA membership	$50.00	$50.00	$45.00
Publications	$50.00	$0.00	$47.28
Transfer to Science Account	$220.00	$201.40	$323.49
Other	$300	$787.57	$318.90
Sub total	$2144.80		
10% Contingency	$214.00		
Total	**$2358.80**	**$3142.77**	**$2583.15**

Membership Fees

The membership fees are set to allow the General Account to break even. The difference in the estimated expenditure and income for 2006 is $523.80. The difference is approximately the same difference for 2005 ($495.50). The number of members in 2006 is expected to be similar to 2005. Hence if the membership fees remain the same, then the revenue from membership fees should cover the difference between the estimated expenditure and income.

Therefore I propose that membership fees remain unchanged for 2006. I note that ASF membership fees will also remain unchanged.

The proposed membership fees for 2006 are outlined in the table below (identical to 2005).

Category	Rate with electronic *Spiel*	Rate with hard copy *Spiel*
Household	$150 (early bird) $160	$165 (early bird) $175
Single	$85 (early bird) $95	$100 (early bird) $110
Student/junior	$65 (early bird) $75	$80 (early bird) $90
Prospective (3 month)	$30 (includes free hard copy *Spiel*)	N/a
ASF-exempt single	$15 (early bird) $25	$30 (early bird) $40
ASF-exempt Prospective (3 month)	$10 (includes free hard copy *Spiel*)	N/a
Armchair caver	$15 (early bird) $25	$30 (early bird) $40
Active life member	$68 (includes free hard copy *Spiel*)	N/a

Notes:

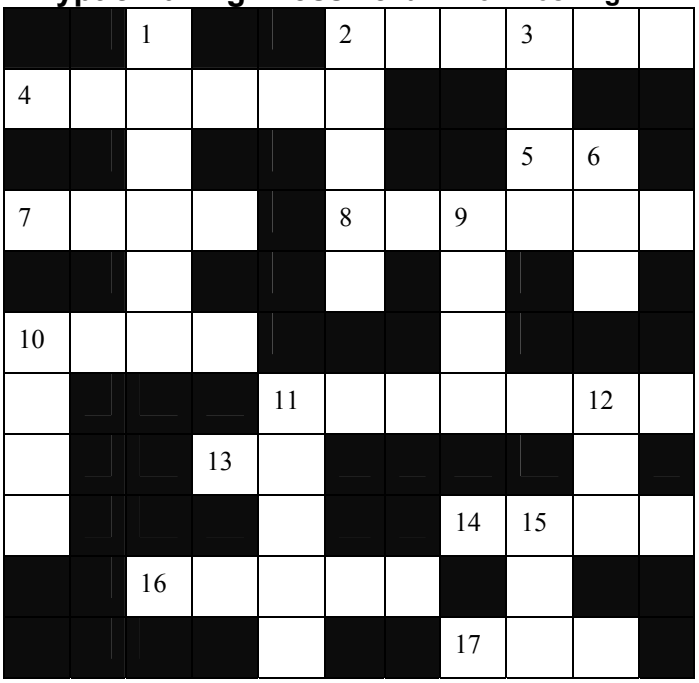
Early bird rate – members must pay on or before 1 June 2006 to be eligible for a discount.

New members who join during the year will pay the pro-rata rate based on the early bird rate.

Summary of Motions

- That the gear hire fees for 2005 remain unchanged for 2006;
- That the *Speleo Spiel* subscription rate for non-members remain unchanged (at $25 per year); and
- That STC membership fees remain unchanged for 2006.

Cryptic Caving Crossword – Ken Hosking



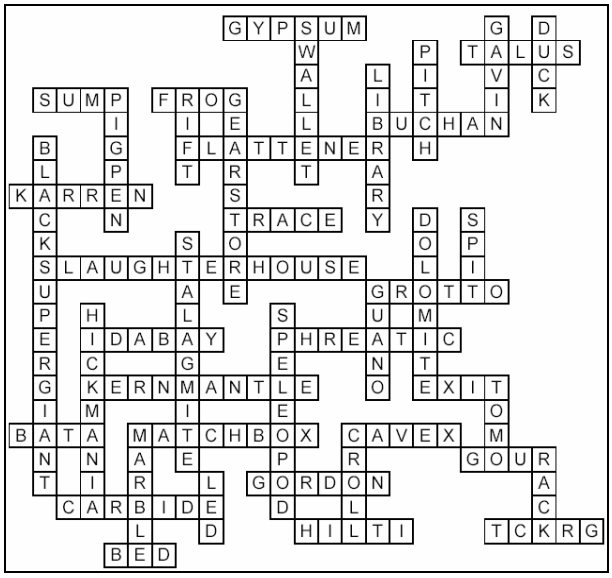
Across

2. The underground explorers are in frantic aversion (6)
4. It sounds as though the sailor is sailing but he is really going down (6)
5. Initially Ita Buttrose leads to a caving region (2)
7. A knave needs to contain a rising shaft (4)
8. He may be small, but the boy is a deep one, even though he spoils the can (6)
10. He may not have much gloss, but he is very safety minded (4)
11. (6 down and 11 across) It's a large tall plant with the top reversed (3,4,3)
13. Much ado initially about this caving area (2)
14. Does it sprint if it is spilt? (4)
16. (10 down and 16 across) Sounds as though this caving area is an animal in need of oiling (4,5)
17. (15 down and 17 across) Sounds more like a place to anchor than to find dark places (3,3)

Down

1. It sounds like a smell but is actually the way up (6)
2. One hundred gains a body part and almost becomes a pitch (5)
3. It may sound like the way out, but it is the way in to this place (4)
6. See 11 across
9. Cavers often call out that it is free, but the club charges a fee for it (4)
10. See 16 across
11. Audio aids to descending (5)
12. This bird uses a cooking utensil to make a cave (3)
15. See 17 across

Lame Caving Crossword #1 – Solution
(from *SS*350:15)



Tintin take two. Same place (bottom of Maelstrom pitch in Ice Tube), same person but new witness (Giorgio). What is it with Matt and his Tintin obsession? *Photo by Matt Cracknell*

Tasmania's Deepest Cave List

Rank	Cave Name	Depth (m)	Area	Data Source
1	Niggly Cave	375	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
2	Anne-A-Kananda	373	MA	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 2
3	Growling Swallet System (Ice Tube)	360	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
4	Splash Pot	306	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
5	Cauldron Pot	305	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
6	Khazad-Dum System	292	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 352: 7
7	Serendipity	278	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
8	Threefortyone - Rift Cave System	249	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
9	Shooting Star	247	MC	*Speleo Spiel* 333: 12
10	Tassy Pot	238	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
11	Arrakis	235	MW	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
12	Niagara Pot	230	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
13	Owl Pot	225	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
14	Exit Cave (Mini Martin)*	220	IB	*Speleo Spiel* 208
15	Milk Run	208	IB	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
16	Sesame Cave	207	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
17	Flick Mints Hole	204	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
18	Tachycardia**	204	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 353: 17
19	Mystery Creek Cave (Midnight Hole)	203	IB	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
20	Porcupine Pot	202	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
21	Baader-Meinhoff Pot	198	IB	*Speleo Spiel* 353: 29
22	The Chairman	197	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
23	Cyclops Pot	192	IB	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
24	Big Tree Pot	190	IB	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
25	Peanut Brittle Pot	186	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
26	Deep Thought	183	MA	*Speleo Spiel* 322: 12
27	Rocket Rods Pot***	181	IB	*Speleo Spiel* 353: 30
28	Udensala	181	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
29	Lost Pot	175	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
30	Croesus Cave	174	MC	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
31	Dribblespit Swallet	168	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 314: 21
32	Little Grunt	165	IB	*Speleo Spiel* 277: 3-4
33	Pooshooter	159	JF	Survey (STC Archive)
34	Three Falls Cave	158	JF	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3
35	Kellers Cellar	155	MA	*Speleo Spiel* 213: 3

Ric Tunney

*Depth of Mini Martin to stream. Cave will be a little deeper to resurgence.

**Tachycardia is currently undergoing exploration. It is currently surveyed to 203.8 m with a partially descended ~40-50 m pitch as yet not surveyed. It is likely that this cave is at least 250 m deep.

***Rocket Rods Pot has been placed ahead of Udensala as depth according to the survey is 181.2 m and theoretically deeper than the 181 m that appears on the Udensala survey.

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Rolan	Eberhard	18 Fergusson Ave, Tinderbox 7054	6229 3039	6233 6455		rolane@dpiwe.tas.gov.au
Stefan	Eberhard	2 Churchill Ave, Margaret River, WA 6285		08 9757 7411		scientist@westnet.com.au
Joe	Farrell	157 Bathurst St, Hobart 7000	6231 5133		0427 320 501	joefarrell@intas.net.au
Hugh	Fitzgerald	124 Wentworth St, South Hobart 7004	6223 7088	6226 1740		Hugh.Fitzgerald@utas.edu.au
Albert	Goede	69 Esplanade, Rose Bay 7015	6243 7319			goede@tassie.net.au
Cath	Gyr	179 Wyre Forest Road, Molesworth 7140	6261 1456			cathgyr@yahoo.com.au
Phil	Harris	PO Box 413, Glenorchy 7010		6273 7722	0408 127 714	phil@aardvarkadventures.com.au
Kent	Henderson	PO Box 332, Williamstown, VIC 3016	9398 0598	9398 0598	0407 039 887	kenthen@optushome.com.au
Fran	Hosking	PO Box 558, Sandy Bay 7006	6223 8031	6231 2434	0418 122 009	fhosking@utas.edu.au
Kenneth	Hosking	PO Box 558, Sandy Bay 7006	6224 7744	6231 2434	0418 122 009	hosking@netspace.net.au
Alan	Jackson	207 Albion Heights Drive, Kingston 7050	6229 8365	6231 5474	0419 245 418	ajackson@lmrs.com.au
Max	Jeffries	18 South St, Maydena 7140				
Briony	Jones	PO Box 380, Glenorchy 7010			0427 854 732	brionyturtle@yahoo.com.au
Simon	Kendrick	1 Wellington St, Huonville 7109	6264 1273	6234 7877	0414 908 466	kend_sim@yahoo.com.au
Ron	Mann	10 Swinton Pl, Rose Bay 7015	6243 0060	6220 5246		
Janine	McKinnon	PO Box 1440, Lindisfarne 7015	6243 5415			jmckinnon@tassie.net.au
Greg	Middleton	PO Box 269, Sandy Bay 7006	6223 1400			ozspeleo@bigpond.net.au
Dean	Morgan	15 Cades Dve, Kingston 7050	6229 4405	6228 0350	0438 294 405	dean.morgan@tesagroup.com.au
Heather	Nichols	13 Willow Ave, Kingston 7050	6229 4362		0414 294 362	nichols5@iprimus.com.au
John	Oxley	10 Atunga St, Taroona 7053	6227 9560		0409 129 908	joxley@telstra.com
Steve	Phipps	207a Strickland Ave, South Hobart 7004	6223 3939	6226 2251	0422 460 695	sjphipps@utas.edu.au
Tom	Porritt	PO Box 60, Millaa Millaa, QLD	07 4056 5921	07 4056 5921		
Dion	Robertson	101 Sorell St, Geeveston 7116			0428 326 062	dion.robertson@forestrytas.com.au
Phil	Rowsell	C/o Alan Jackson				pj.rowsell@virgin.net
Aleks	Terauds	60 Belair St, Howrah 7018	6244 3406	6244 3406		aleks.terauds@optusnet.com.au
Richard	Tunney	PO Box 1440, Lindisfarne 7015	6243 5415			rtunney@tassie.net.au
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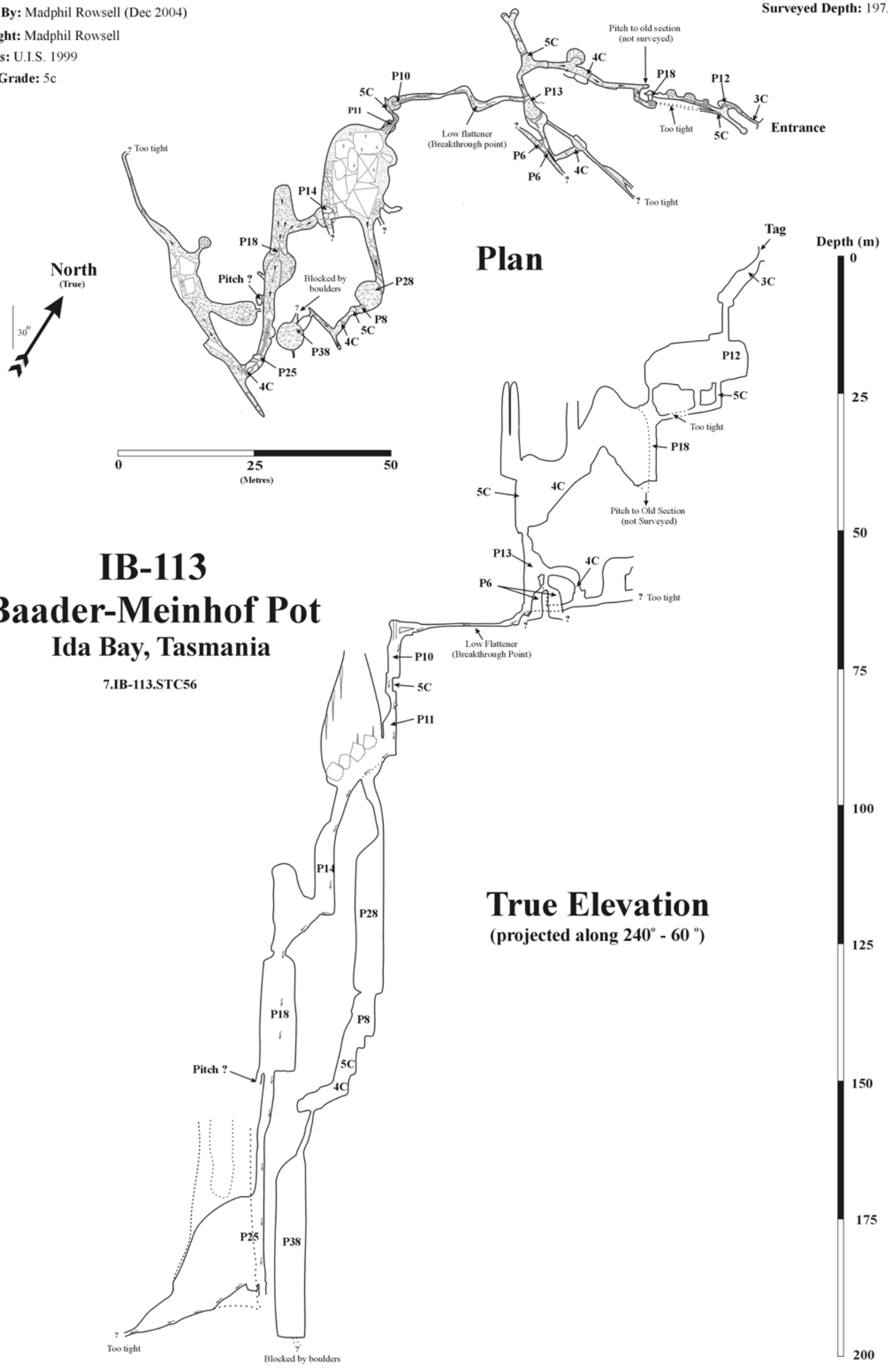
Tony	Veness		6231 1921		0417 100 320	
Trevor	Wailes	214 Summerleas Rd, Kingston 7054	6229 1382	6229 1382		trite@ozemail.com.au
Amy	Ware	PO Box 177, Geeveston 7116	6297 9999		0407 651 200	amyware@yahoo.com
Mick	Williams	PO Box 288, Geeveston 7116	6297 6368			
Geoffrey	Wise	117 Upper Maud St, Ulverstone 7315	6425 3645		0408 108 984	Geoff.Wise@don.tased.edu.au
Friends of STC						
Bob	Cockerill	14 Aruma St, Mornington Heights 7018	6244 2439	6233 6832		
Mike	Cole	1/17 Twentysecond Ave, Sawtell, NSW 2425	02 9544 0207		0408 500 053	mikecole@tpg.com.au
Brian	Collin	66 Wentworth St, South Hobart 7004	6223 1920			
Chris	Davies	3 Alfred St, New Town 7008	6228 0228			
Therese	Gatenby	PO Box 153, Orford 7190			0428 391 432	pelicansrest@yahoo.com.au
Steve	Harris	17 Derwentwater Ave, Sandy Bay 7005				
Nick	Hume	202A Nelson Rd, Mt. Nelson 7007				
Phil	Jackson	8 Malunna Rd, Lindisfarne 7015	6243 7038			
Barry	James	52 Edge Rd, Lenah Valley 7008	6228 4787			
Kevin	Kiernan		6239 1494	6226 2461		Kevin.Kiernan@utas.edu.au
Armchair Cavers						
Robyn	Claire	c/o 17 Darling Pde, Mt Stuart 7000	62282099	62981107		c/o arthurc@southcom.com.au
Geoff	Crossley	44 Pradham St. Farrer ACT 2607	02 6286 1113		0417 437 931	gkcrossley@bigpond.com

Surveyed By: Jeff Butt, Alan Jackson, Madphil Rowsell (April 2002)
Drawn By: Madphil Rowsell (Dec 2004)
Copyright: Madphil Rowsell
Symbols: U.I.S. 1999
BCRA Grade: 5c

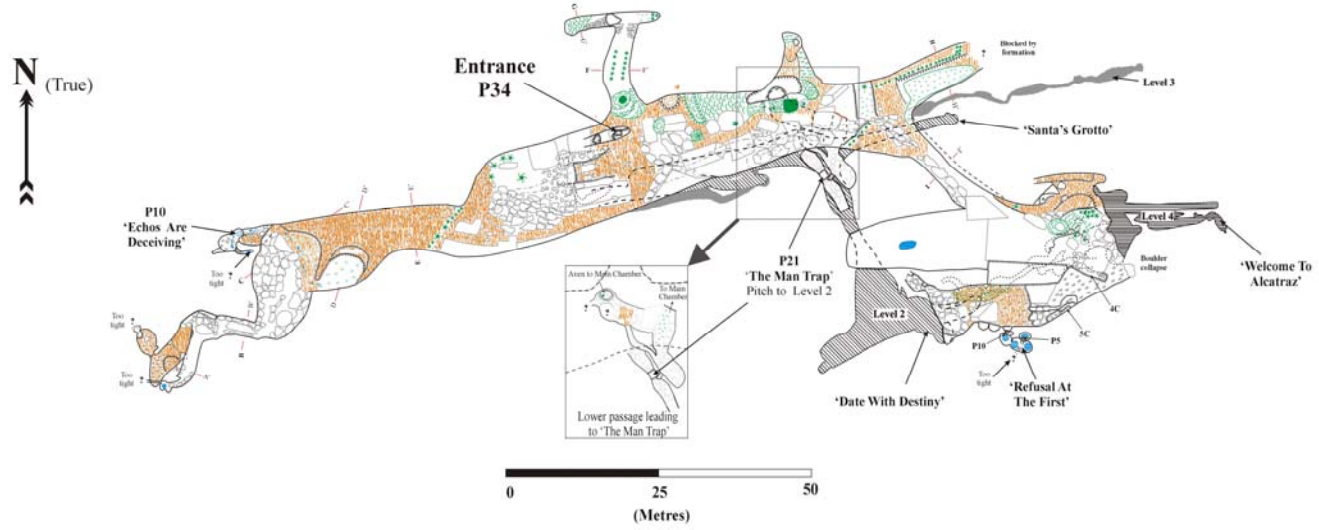
Surveyed Length: 689.0 m
Surveyed Depth: 197.7 m

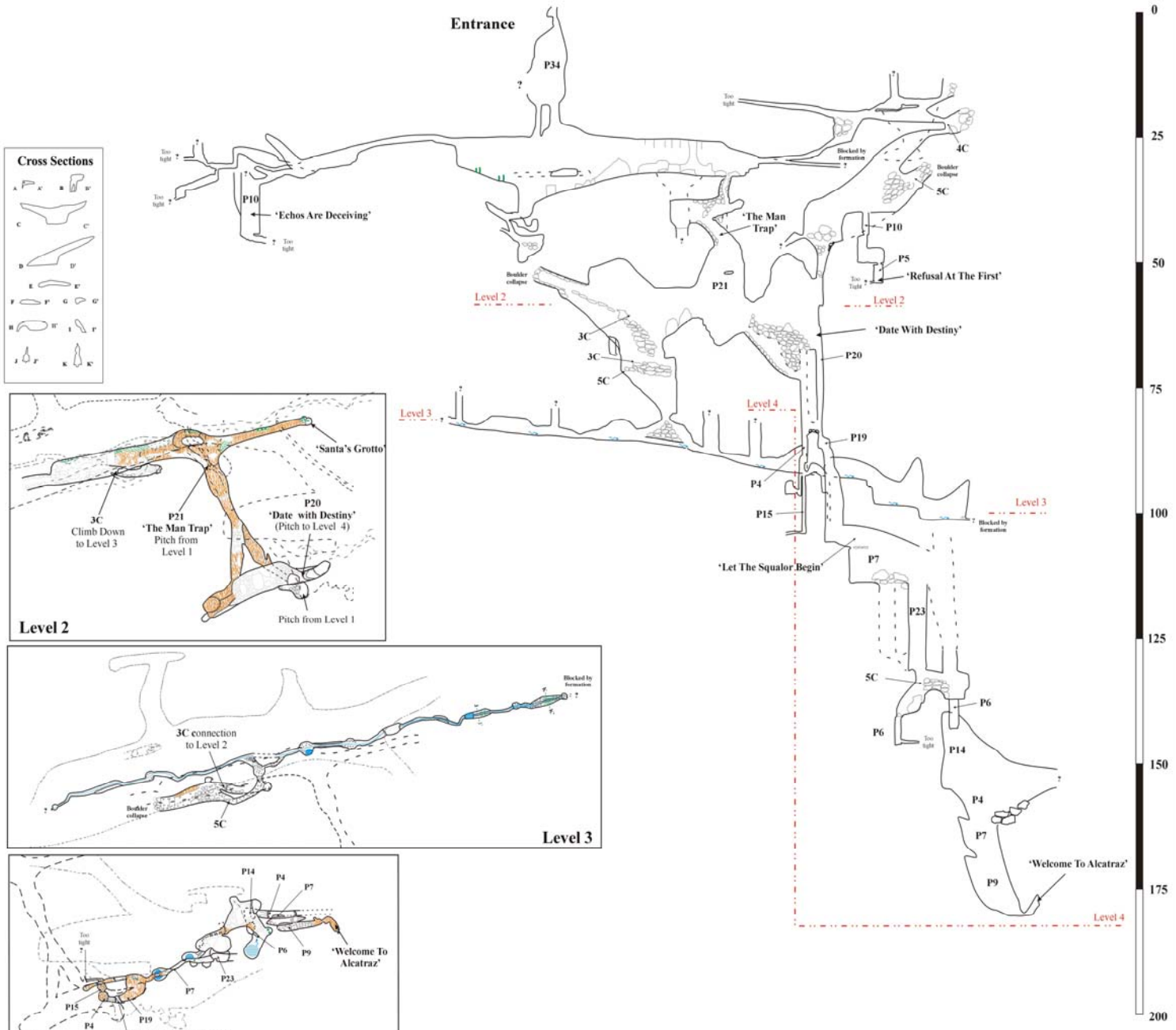


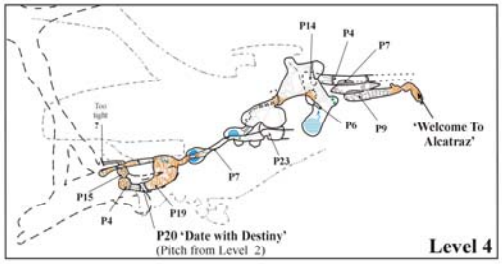
IB-113
Baader-Meinhof Pot
Ida Bay, Tasmania

7.IB-113.STC56

IB -171 Rocket Rods Pot







STC Map No : 7.IB171.STC54
Survey Grade: ASF 54
Survey Depth From Tag = 181.2 m
Survey Length from Tag = 1537m

Exploration and Survey History

Personnel	Surveyed Distance	Trips
Madphil Rowsell	1537	13
Alan Jackson	1135	12
Geoff Wise	524	2
Jeff Butt	278	3
Wayne Tyrill	108	1

Surveyed: Nov 02-Mar 03

Drawn by: Madphil Rowsell (Nov 03)