

SPEIEO SPIEI 370

January - February 2009

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Front Cover: A digger's view, JF-422 Andycap Cave. *Photo by Alan Jackson (using Geoff Wise's camera ...)*

STC was formed in December 1996 by the amalgamation of three former southern Tasmanian clubs: 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.



Speleo Spiel

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Editorial

What a pleasure it has been putting this *Spiel* together; over twenty contributions from seven different contributors (and only four from me). People are going caving! There are a few reasons for this; Wolf Hole has Matt mesmerised, the Exit Cave Project is up and running, and Ric and Janine have spent more than two weeks in the State before traipsing overseas again (the GFC must be biting!) All this activity makes me feel much better about the fact that I'm not seeing as much underground action as I would consider 'ideal'.

There are a couple of important notices in this issue. The AGM is coming up, Amy has tabled some constitutional changes to be proposed at the AGM and the general meeting venue will be changed from the April meeting. Don't just chuck this issue aside to mature for a few weeks – read the first few pages at least.

Go caving. We've only got 11 months left to find and explore a suitable cave to fill the '2009' cell in Bunty's Cave of the Year table!

Alan Jackson

Stuff 'n Stuff

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – The AGM is scheduled for March 4th 2009 at Alan's house, 45 Gormanston Road, Moonah (opposite No Frills). The meeting will start at 7:30 pm (half an hour before the normal meeting 'departure' time of 8 pm). The March general business meeting will follow the AGM.

Please bring a plate of food to share or donate to Alan's compost bin.

OFFICE BEARERS' REPORTS – all office bearers are reminded to circulate their annual report via the List-Server prior to the AGM. This allows the 45 minutes of people reading reports at the meeting to be replaced with 15 seconds of "taken as read (circulated via STC List Server – email)"

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS – As is the norm at AGMs, all positions (both executive and non-executive) will be thrown open. Under section 9.3 of the constitution – *No person shall hold the same executive position for more than three consecutive years*. That means that Amy's time as treasurer is up. Matt has a year left as president (if he wishes to continue on in the role), as does Alan as secretary. Sarah has served one year as vice president. Gazing into the editor's crystal ball suggests that: our esteemed leader will carry on; Amy is unlikely to call an EGM to change section 9.3 of the constitution so she can stay on; Alan will not be continuing as Secretary (nor make himself available for any other executive position) due to difficulty attending meetings. The crystal ball is blurry in Sarah's corner, so what she might do is anyone's guess – treasurer hopefully ... Basically, we need some people to step up to the plate in 2009!

CHANGE OF GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING VENUE – Following a good six months of solid whining from everyone about the unsuitability of the Waratah Hotel as a meeting venue (since it was overrun by gamblers), a decision has finally been made! The April GBM (Wednesday April 1st, 8 pm) will be held at Sublime

Pizzeria, 175 Elizabeth St, Hobart. (No, this is not an April Fool's joke).

WOLF HOLE GOES – Like many a survey project before it, Matt's crusade to 'finish' Wolf Hole and produce the survey that Jeff Butt started all those years ago has run into a common hurdle – the discovery of new passage. Significant finds have allegedly been made and it must be refreshing to see some parts of Wolf Hole that haven't been trashed to within an inch of their life by marauding scout groups. Good job, Matt and co.

JEFF BUTT AWARD FOR EXPLORATION – ASF has a number of awards which are presented for significant contributions to caving. The award which recognises the most active cave explorer of each two year period is named in honour of Jeff Butt. At the recent ASF biennial conference our own Alan Jackson was named the recipient of this award as a result of his efforts in Owl Pot, Lost Pot, Mystery Creek Cave, Dissidence and of course Tachycardia. It's not everyone who is the driving force behind the discovery and exploration of Australia's deepest cave. Further to this he has surveyed, mapped and published his discoveries which should set an example to all cavers. Well done, Alan!

Steve Bunton

CAVE HISTORY BOOK ON THE HORIZON – Arthur Clarke is reporting that the long-awaited (overdue) book on the history of caves, cave discovery and cave tourism in Tasmania, being co-written with historian Nic Haygarth is nearing its final stages of preparation and is planned to be available as a book in early May 2009. Arthur and Nic have just completed recent interviews with Rein de Vries and Max Banks, plus the last two surviving TCC Foundation Members (Jesse Luckman and Ken Iredale), but are still keen to acquire scanned or digitised images from the early days of organised caving in Tasmania (late 1940s to early 1960s), particularly any photographs of the Flowery Gully Caves, June-Florentine caves and also Ida Bay. If you think you can help or know someone who could potentially assist with early caving photos, please email Arthur <arthurc@southcom.com.au> and/ or Nic lakelea22@yahoo.com.au

KEN'S BEEN BACK TO THE HOMELAND

He never writes any trips reports, but sometimes sends me photos of New Zealand caves. Here's one to fill the gap:



K. Hosking

Moria Arch, near Karamea, New Zealand.

Updates to STC membership structure

Amy Ware (Treasurer)

It has come to my attention that there are some inconsistencies between the structure of membership classes in STC's constitution, ASF's membership database, and the way I have been implementing them.

The issues include:

- Naming conventions (e.g. STC's "Prospective" membership links to ASF's "Introductory" membership).
- Administration issues (e.g. STC's Constitution regards Armchair Cavers as non-members receiving free *Spiels* – essentially a *Spiel* subscriber - but I've been using this category to join people wanting to be members without joining ASF).

- Redundancy issues (e.g. Honorary members don't need to have been members, but are made non-voting members for a year, and must be re-elected as such at AGMs – this seems like the membership you have when you're not really having a membership, and could be covered by waiving or sponsoring a membership fee in the same way that STC sponsors Life members for their "inactive" ASF memberships).

For background, the following extracts document the current arrangements:

- Membership categories as per the 2007 Treasurer's report tabled at the March 2008 AGM;
- Section 5. *Membership* from the current STC constitution;
- The current ASF membership categories as they appear in the online membership database.

STC TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2007

The proposed annual membership fees for 2008 are outlined in the table below (identical to 2007).

Category	Rate with electronic <i>Spiel</i>	Rate with printed <i>Spiel</i>	Including ASF component
Household	\$150 (early bird) \$160	\$165 (early bird) \$175	\$121.50
Single	\$85 (early bird) \$95	\$100 (early bird) \$110	\$68.00
Student/junior	\$65 (early bird) \$75	\$80 (early bird) \$90	\$61.00
Prospective (3 month)	\$30 (includes free printed <i>Spiel</i>)	N/a	\$20.00
ASF-exempt single	\$15 (early bird) \$25	\$30 (early bird) \$40	-
ASF-exempt prospective (3 month)	\$10 (includes free printed <i>Spiel</i>)	N/a	-
Armchair caver	\$15 (early bird) \$25	\$30 (early bird) \$40	-
Active life member	\$68 (includes free printed <i>Spiels</i>)	N/a	\$68.00
Inactive life member	\$0 (includes free printed <i>Spiels</i>)	N/a	\$23.00

Notes:

- Early bird rate – members must pay on or before 1st June 2008 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.
- Friends of STC are non-members but receive free printed *Spiels* without a subscription fee (i.e. \$25 value). In 2007 there were 10 Friends.
- Printed *Spiels* available for an additional \$15 to annual non-life members.

Constitution of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated

5. Membership

5.1 Classes of membership:

The following classes of Membership are available:

- 5.1.1 Full Membership;
- 5.1.2 Junior Membership;
- 5.1.3 Household Membership;
- 5.1.4 Student Membership
- 5.1.5 Life Membership;
- 5.1.6 Honorary Membership;
- 5.1.7 Prospective Membership;

5.2 Full Membership: Persons who have attained the age of eighteen years shall be eligible for Full Membership.

5.3 Junior Membership: Persons under the age of eighteen years shall be eligible for Junior Membership, but shall have no voting rights.

5.4 Household Membership: Married or de-facto partners and the children in their care are entitled to Household Membership. These members have all the rights of Full Members, but the children in their care do not have voting rights.

5.5 Student Membership: Full time students or those receiving a pension or social security benefits.

5.6 Life Membership: Life Membership may be conferred upon members of not less than five years standing, in recognition of outstanding services rendered by such persons to the Organisation. They shall be deemed financial without the payment of a subscription, but shall be liable for their personal insurance and affiliation costs if so required.

5.7 Honorary Membership: Honorary Membership may be conferred on persons in recognition of services rendered by such persons to the Organisation. Such members shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. Honorary Members shall not be liable to pay a subscription, but shall be liable for their personal insurance and affiliation costs if so required, and shall not be eligible to vote.

5.8 Prospective Membership: Persons may be eligible for Prospective Membership for a period of no longer than three months from the date of acceptance. Prospective members shall have all the rights of a Full member, but shall have no voting rights.

5.12 Friends of STC: A member of not less than five years' standing may be made a Friend of STC, in recognition of outstanding services rendered by such persons to the Organisation. Friends of STC are entitled to receive free copies of any newsletter produced by the Organisation; however, they are not members of the Organisation.

Friends of STC are not required to pay a subscription; neither shall they incur any personal insurance or affiliation costs. The procedure for the resignation or expulsion of a Friend of STC shall be the same as that for a member.

5.13 Armchair Caver: Persons who have attained the age of eighteen years shall be eligible to become an Armchair Caver. They are entitled to receive free copies of any newsletter produced by the Organisation; however they are not members of the Organisation. The procedure for the resignation or expulsion of an Armchair Caver shall be the same as for a member.

ASF Membership Database

Admins		Fields		Member Types		Email Templates	Email Lists
No	Name	Price	Contact	Duration	Renew as	Linked to (or from)	
1	Single					ASF Single	Edit
2	Student					ASF Student/ Concession	Edit
3	Family					ASF Family	Edit
4	Active Honorary Life Member					ASF Single	Edit
5	In-active Honorary Life					ASF HLM- Inactive	Edit
6	Introductory			3m		ASF Introductory (3 month)	Edit
7	STC Armchair (non-ASF)						Edit

Proposal

I propose amendments to the STC Constitution to implement a membership structure that looks like the following table (using \$ amounts from last year's fees) – *the red text in the Concession row indicate possible fee increases to make the annual Concession fee equal to or greater than the Introductory category. Membership fees become due after 31 March of each year.*

Category	STC membership	ASF membership	Total STC & ASF
Single (annual)	\$17.00	\$68.00	\$85.00
Concession (annual single student/pensioner/junior)	\$4.00 ↘ \$10.00?	\$61.00	\$65.00 ↘ \$71.00?
Household (annual)	\$28.50	\$121.50	\$150.00
Introductory (3 month, non-voting)	\$10.00 (includes free printed <i>Spiel</i>)	\$20.00	\$30.00
Life (conferred)	Nil	\$23.00 – inactive* \$68.00 – active*	\$23.00 – inactive* \$68.00 – active*
Friend (conferred non-member)	Nil (includes free printed <i>Spiel</i>)		
<i>Spiel</i> subscription (printed <i>Spiels</i> delivered)	\$25.00 (for non-members) \$15.00 (for STC members)		

*in previous years this cost has been reduced by \$23 as sponsored by STC.

Note: Late fee of \$10.00 applies to all STC Single, Concession and Household memberships not renewed by 1 June each year.

A summary of the changes:

- Re-name “Full” to “Single” Membership.
- Merge “Junior” and “Student” to become “Concession” Membership.
- Re-name “Prospective” to “Introductory”.
- Delete Honorary Membership – I believe this only affects two members, who also have Life Membership anyway, so wouldn't actually decrease their rights.
- Delete Armchair Caver category – only affects two current members, who would transfer over to the STC-only component of Full/Single Membership anyway.
- To add a “Newsletter Subscriber” category of Non-Member to the constitution.
- To clarify that only “Single”, “Concession”, adult “Household” and “Life” Members may be considered as part of a quorum and able to vote.

- To make minor wording changes to membership categories to create consistency of interpretation (e.g. “shall be eligible” and “are entitled” are merged).

Additional proposals have been made to delete or alter the “Friends” category of membership, which would affect 10 former members. These Friends were conferred as a lesser alternative to conferring Life Memberships when STC was established. Wording could be added to identify the Friend category as “no new Friends should be conferred”. Discussion on this topic should continue on the List Server.

To progress this, an amendment to the Constitution would need to be moved at the AGM and passed by a majority of not less than three-quarters of voting members present. The motion would look something like the following:

This Annual General Meeting of Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated resolves, by this special resolution:

1. To add the words “and Non-Member Provisions” after the title “Membership” in clause 5.
2. To delete clause 5.1 and replace it with:
“5.1 Classes of membership:
The following classes of Membership are available:
5.1.1 Single Membership
5.1.2 Concession Membership
5.1.3 Household Membership
5.1.4 Introductory Membership
5.1.5 Life Membership”
3. To delete clauses 5.2 through to 5.8, inclusive, and replace these with:
“5.2 Single Membership: A person who has attained the age of eighteen years shall be eligible for Single Membership.
5.3 Concession Membership: A full-time student, person under the age of eighteen years, or person receiving a pension or social security benefits, shall be eligible for Concession Membership.
5.4 Household Membership: Married or de-facto partners and the children in their care are eligible for Household Membership. The children in their care do not have voting rights and shall not be considered as part of a quorum.
5.5 Introductory Membership: A person may be eligible for Introductory Membership for a period of no longer than three months. An Introductory Member does not have voting rights and shall not be considered as part of a quorum.
5.6 Life Membership: Life Membership may be conferred upon a member of not less than five years standing, in recognition of outstanding services rendered by that member to the Organisation. They shall be deemed financial without payment of a subscription, but shall be liable for their personal insurance and affiliation costs if so required.”
4. To add a new clause:
“5.7 Friend of STC: A member of not less than five years’ standing may be made a Friend of STC, in recognition of outstanding services rendered by that member to the Organisation. Friends of STC are entitled to receive free copies of any newsletter produced by the Organisation, however they are not members of the Organisation. Friends of STC are not required to pay a subscription, neither shall they incur any personal insurance or affiliation costs. The procedure for the resignation or expulsion of a Friend of STC shall be the same as that for a member.”
5. To add a new clause:
“5.8 Newsletter Subscriber: A person or organisation may receive printed copies of any newsletter produced by the Organisation, upon payment of a subscription.”
6. To delete clauses 5.12 and 5.13.
7. To replace the words “full, life, student and household” in clause 7.1 with the words “Single, Concession, adult Household and Life”.
8. To insert the word “voting” in clause 7.5 between the words “financial” and “members” and in clause 7.6 between the words “financial” and “members”.

I welcome your comments.

Amy Robertson, Treasurer.

And while we’re changing the constitution ...

Tony Culberg has suggested that Clause 8.9 could be changed while we are at it. 8.9 currently reads: *The accounts of the Organisation shall be balanced and audited annually by an independent Auditor.* Tony thinks it would read better as: *8.9 The accounts of the Organisation for the financial year shall be prepared by the Treasurer. The accounts will then be audited by an independent auditor. The audited accounts will be presented to the members at the AGM.* Tony is concerned that the present wording could be interpreted as the Auditor having to balance the accounts.

Trip Reports

JF-99 The Chairman – Spelunkers' Day Out

Matt Cracknell

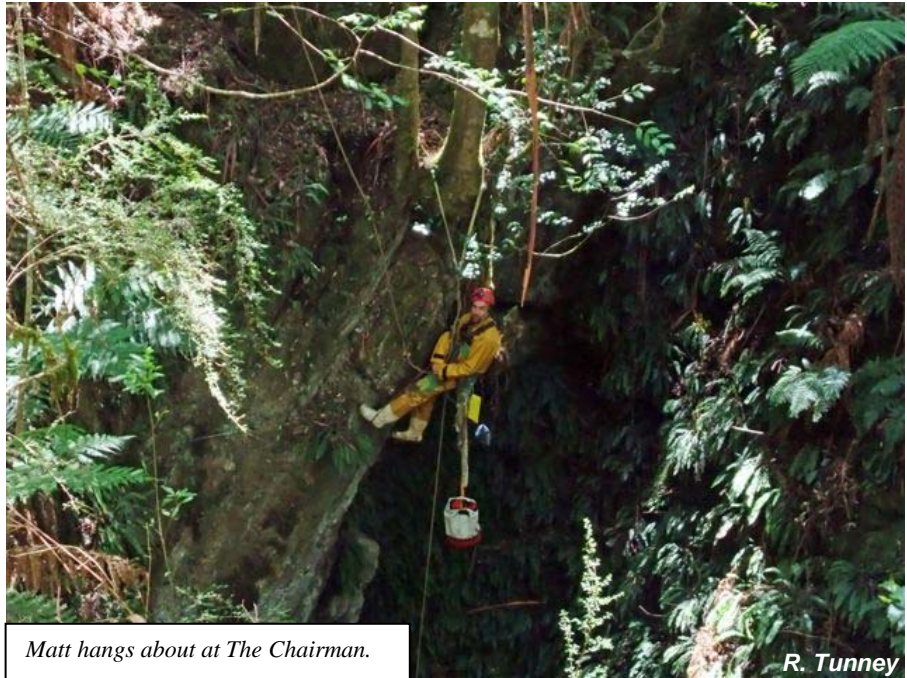
26 November 2008

Party: Serena Benjamin, Matt Cracknell, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney

The day started with a few wrong turns after the Junee Quarry Rd gate; things were not looking good. The walk to the cave, past the Threefortyone turn-off, went without a hitch. We sat down beside the impressive JF-99 entrance pit and waited patiently for Ric to faff around with the rigging. After experimenting with a few main anchor rigging points Ric gingerly clambered over the pit lip, losing confidence with every step while the gallery shouted 'encouragement' from the sidelines. Something was up, Ric had psyched himself out. Phase one aborted.

Matt was given the tool kit of mass destruction and popped over the edge. After what seemed like hours, in fact it was hours, Matt had succeeded in poorly placing one bolt (was it really necessary?) and descending to within 15-20 m of the pit floor. Another bolt was needed. Matt just couldn't bring himself to drill a hole so close to the floor with the potential for 50-60 m of free hang with better anchor placement. There must be another way? Much swearing and cursing ensued. A bit of a prusik here, a pendulum there and Matt had tired himself out. His office chair butt, typing fingers and mouse control muscles just aren't cut out for this kind of thing. Phase two aborted.

The fun and games were not over yet. As Matt crossed the re-belay at the pit lip something got stuck. Nothing a big heave couldn't fix... 'Pop' and he was away again. A



Matt hangs about at The Chairman.

R. Tunney

second or two later a small thump was heard below. The offending obstruction was his camera bag (with camera), now dropped down the hole! Janine and Serena, just so they could say that they had been caving, went down the partially rigged pitch. Serena spotted the camera bag. It had come to rest on a muddy ledge ~25 m from where it was dropped. Very surprising that it had not fallen the entire ~80 m!

On the surface Ric, Janine and Serena went for a stroll in the forest while Matt had a 'nanna nap' in the sun. On the way back to the car the group took a detour to have a look at the Threefortyone entrance. Then in the car on the way out another detour was made to Junee Quarry. Matt started drooling over the parasitic antiform hinge fault and the numerous bedding plane slickensides, the others just ignored him.

H-8 Wolf Hole – Unfinished Business

Matt Cracknell

3 December 2008

Party: Matt Cracknell, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney

Now that exams were over I had time to draw up Jeff Butt's Wolf Hole surveys. However, I was aware of a few spots that needed surveying before the drawing began. The first dozen legs or so yielded ~20 m in a series of deepening holes below the large chambers and passages I call 'The Catacombs'. We were using a Disto. It's so easy and efficient as there is no running back and forth unwinding and winding up the tape measure.

Then Ric and Janine cruised around exploring 'The Catacombs'. Ric had not been there before and was understandably impressed with the silica boxwork and expansive passages. I poked my head into a few spots

sketching and scribbling notes onto my base map as I went. The eastern-most limits of these passages have formed along a major weakness in the dolostone, consisting of a continuous layer of soft greenish clay 2-5 cm thick and striking east/west and dipping at 30° to the north. This structure is definitely not a primary bedding plane, observed as zebra banded dolomitic sands striking northwest/southeast dipping at ~50° to the northeast. My first thought was that it represented the plane of a thrust fault but there is no obvious evidence of fracturing or displacement. The structure is more likely to be clay alteration associated with the emplacement of quartz veins (silica boxwork) via hydrothermal fluids – but then again I am not really sure.

After lunch a large side passage was spotted to the north of the main chamber in 'The Catacombs'. How was this missed in the original survey!? Maybe it was because of the old doctrine of leaving something for the next

generation. Initially a steep ramp down to a ~3 m climb was avoided due to a lack of secure handholds and the surveying proceeded up into a series of interconnected passages. A couple of hours later an extra 100 m of passage had been surveyed. We placed a permanent survey marker on a large interbedded gravel-silt-clay bank in a chamber with at least three ways on. The most exciting

discovery for the afternoon was a large open boxwork vug filled with euhedral quartz crystals.

On the way out we investigated an area that is named 'The Vermillion Room' in Jeff's survey sketches, and you can see why. The walls and stals of this small chamber are coated in a bright pink substance. We headed to the surface, leaving ourselves enough time to get to the GBM later that evening.

H-8 Wolf Hole – More Unfinished Business

Matt Cracknell

6 December 2008

Party: Serena Benjamin, Matt Cracknell, Andreas Klocker

The aim of the day was to negotiate the 3 m climb spotted on the previous trip and continue the survey beyond 'The Catacombs'. About 20 m of rope was needed for the climb as the only secure anchor was a large block some distance away. I carefully made my way down, all the while thinking about wanting to be attached to the rope. The others followed me down, Andreas with his short legs suffering the most. Not far from the base of the climb I peered down another drop. This one needs a secure anchor or two and at least 15 m of rope. Water could be heard. Was this the fabled lower stream access Trevor whispered into my ear about?

Plan B ...We resumed the survey where it was aborted last week. The first option took us through ~80 m of constricted passages. Desiccated mud cracks (the hexagonal ones) made up most of the floor in this area and

the tracks of one or two cavers who had preceded us were seen. The next option only yielded ~15 m of passage.

The last option looked good. A small climb took us into a series of tight interconnected passages with no footprints. Numerous junctions were encountered. At each one we investigated as far as we could in a particular direction and then surveyed back. In one of the passages a very large boxwork vug (~2 m long and 40 cm wide) filled with quartz crystals was encountered (after the survey was plotted up back at home this spot was found to be directly adjacent to the similar feature found on the prior trip). Eventually, we ended up in a chamber with a low roof (plus more moderately dipping soft green clay filled structures) and at least three choices for more cave. Serena disappeared into one of them for a few minutes eventually calling back excitedly "it goes!"

We placed a permanent station on the ceiling of the chamber and surveyed out, linking this section back into the main survey network. Before making our way to the surface I wanted to have a quick peek at a few spots I hadn't been to before. Lofty ceilings, massive blocks, trogged mud floors and a potential lead or two, this cave has got it all except a few 100 m shafts ... but hey, who cares?

JF-99 The Chairman

Janine McKinnon

10 December 2008

Party: Ric Tunney, Janine McKinnon.

This is the follow-on from Matt's (Cracknell) report of our trip a week earlier.

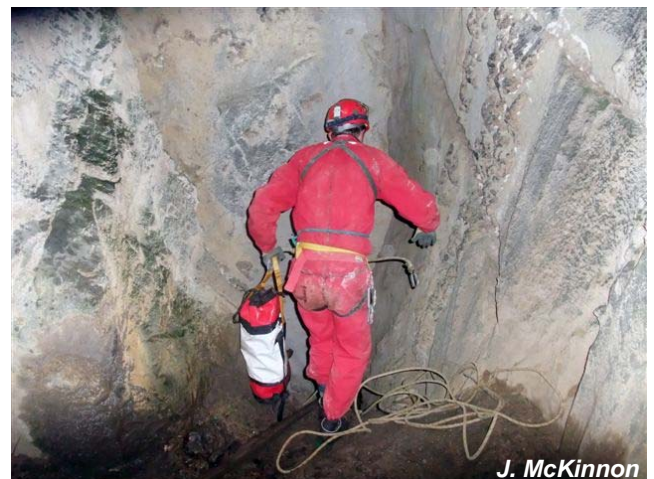
Ric started down first and we continued the rigging of the cave. We poked around at the bottom for a while, reminding ourselves what the streamway was like (we hadn't been there since somewhere around 1982). Then it was crunch time: to de-rig or not to de-rig. We decided that we didn't really want to come back again to attempt the long and hard trip to the end downstream without a strong party, for camaraderie and extra motivation. Serena was the only other caver to have shown any interest in coming, so we opted to de-rig.

Everything went as smoothly on the outward trip as it had on the way down. The Chimney Pitch proved as much of a bitch to get up as we had anticipated on the way down it. Tight and (quite literally!) with knobs on it. Funny how we had totally forgotten it. I've long noted that the people who continue to do activities like caving and bushwalking well past their best years have very poor memories for the shitty bits.

Ric tried to get to Matt's camera bag (see 26 Nov. trip report) after de-rigging the top rebelay, but it was too far

off the line of the drop, particularly as he had a very heavy pack dangling below him (full of the drill gear) and the end of the rope attached to himself to remove any chance of it snagging as we pulled it up.

As we walked back to the car with heavy packs (normal personal caving stuff, drilling gear, rigging gear and 250 m of rope) we pondered whether we maybe should have left the cave rigged after all, and tried a little harder to inspire some other bods to come along for a look (and thus help with the carry-out).



Ric at the Chimney Pitch.

J. McKinnon

H-8 Wolf Hole

Matt Cracknell

14 December 2008

Party: Serena Benjamin, Matt Bruers, Matt Cracknell, Sarah Gilbert

Another trip to Wolf Hole, the extraordinary ever-expanding cave. The aim of this trip was to drop the ~15 m pitch discovered during the last visit. Serena, Sarah and I, weighed down with way too much gear including the dreaded club drill and 12V battery, made our way to the large chamber of “The Catacombs”. A couple of bomb-proof anchors were selected above the 4 m climb/pitch. Then Matt spent a while choosing some more anchors above the ~15 m pitch. This included some tricky rigging using very long tie-backs and one enormous nut. Eventually ~50 m of rope and NO bolts (damn drills are still a pain even when you don’t use them!) got us to the bottom.

We dropped into a narrowing rift, its walls coated with a sludgy mixture of organic material, silt and clay. A small trickle of water issuing from a crack in the wall flowed down the rift to a “lake” approximately 10 m long and 3-5 m wide. On the survey this lake/sump sits directly below “The Catacombs” chamber. The water is deep (over head height?) and tannin stained although a dive could be possible for those who dare. This uninviting area is currently the deepest point in the cave 68.7 m below the entrance and about 30 m below Lake Pluto. It has been named “Lake Acheron”. Acheron in Greek mythology is the lake/swamp that condemned souls are ferried across by Charon, the boatman, on their way to hell where they are greeted by Pluto, god of the underworld.

Back upstairs Big Matt had kept himself occupied astral travelling. Serena took the others to see the awesome quartz crystals in the section discovered on the last trip while Matt disappeared with his pencils and paper to do some sketching. We all rendezvoused back at the base of the entrance pitch and headed out.

H-8 Wolf Hole

Matt Cracknell

21 December 2008

Party: Serena Benjamin, Matt Cracknell, Marc Fauvet (NUCC), Jane Pulford, Tony Veness

Once again I found myself peering into Wolf Hole’s entrance pit. The fourth time this month to be exact. With clipboard and sketch book in hand I had made a decision not to survey any more ‘new’ stuff but get on with the job of sketching the ‘old’ stuff, otherwise I may never finish the damn thing. However, my girlfriend reminded me the other day that I should accept that it may always ‘keep going’. Ah ... caverns measureless to man!?

The rest of the group, including Marc from NUCC, pottered around and kept themselves occupied while I

poked my head into most of the nooks and crannies that I could find. I explored the multitude of interconnected passages running parallel to the main Entrance-Lake Pluto route – the area Jeff called “A-mazing”.

Eventually, I met up with the others at Lake Pluto for a bit of lunch. They went off to explore the Cub-Hole side passage and I crept carefully around the massive rockpile situated on the southern flank of Lake Pluto. Oh no ... more cave to survey!

While the others spent time ascending the entrance pitch I took a quick look at a spot that Jeff and Dave affectionately named “Oh No ... it’s like Splash Pot!”. After a couple of dodgy free climbs I thought it best if I retraced my steps. One more trip and all the ‘old’ stuff will be done.

IB-27 Chicken Bone Pot

Janine McKinnon

28 December 2008

Party: Serena Benjamin, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney

On our previous trip to this cave we followed the route that descends to the right at the bottom of the entrance pitch. This is the route used on the original exploration in 1984 (see *Speleo Spiel* 199). The descent to the left was done as far as the Chicken Roost and the drop below this descent has never been done (to our knowledge); this was what we were back to do.

I entered first and stopped at the bottom of the first pitch. Serena followed next and continued her abseil to the bottom of the 4 m climb immediately below the first pitch. Ric followed last and joined Serena. There are lots of loose rocks on the floor and there wasn’t really space for me with them, so I decided to stay where I was until we all moved a bit further down the cave.

Ric got the drill gear organised, rigged a rope and then started around the corner down the slope towards the

undescended pitch. I had ventured part-way down this steep slope on the last trip, before I decided it all looked too unstable and steep to go any further unbelayed, and so I gave Ric some idea of what to expect. He wasn’t very impressed with what he was finding as he progressed. There was a steady noise of rocks crashing down the pitch and Ric cursing about crappy rock once he reached the pitch proper.

Whilst Ric made his way down, putting in rigging, Serena and I tried to sit as motionless as possible. The floor was a rockpile just waiting to be mobile with nowhere to get out of the avalanche zone. As I was sitting above Serena I had two people to hit with anything I dislodged and I had only to think about flexing a buttock muscle and a small cascade of stones fell onto Serena. Ric took an hour to get to the bottom and yell the “all clear” (which was only partly true) and by that time we were both getting quite numb from trying not to move at all. We both took great care as we descended as there were a frightening number of head-sized, and larger, rocks perched precariously on the slope to the true pitch-head. Even so, the people at the

bottom were exposed to many falling rocks but only got hit a few times.

When we had both joined Ric we dropped a rope down the 8 m pitch below us, which Serena descended. As she went exploring along a passage at the bottom Ric looked around the corner above this small pitch to discover that the bottom of this pitch joined into the bottom of the “Chicken Roost” pitch we descended on our last trip. At the same time Serena called up that she had followed a short grovel to a 2 m vertical squeeze. Bugger. From the original, memory-sketch, map we had hoped our pitch would bypass Masons Rock Squeeze and lead to a drop down Echidna Aven. But no.

Serena and I went through the squeeze and had a look down the next pitch. There were no decent natural rigging points and we weren’t happy with the 24 year old bolt and didn’t want to put in a new bolt just to drop 14 m and then come straight back up, so we decided to turn back.

The retreat again required great care by the first two up to avoid rockfalls, but it was reasonably quick nonetheless and we were all back on the surface not much more than an hour after starting out.

We tried to take Disto readings of the pitch heights as we ascended. The first (8 m) measurement worked well but I was unable to get a reading on the main pitch. I think it was too far not to have a proper “white board” to aim at (Serena’s hand in a blue glove just wasn’t good enough). The height of this pitch on our sketch is thus an estimate.

The current map is in error in quite a few places (it is only a grade 2 memory sketch) and we have redrawn it to reflect our observations (page 14). This is only a memory sketch

too, of course, and if anyone feels the need to record the cave more accurately they can return and survey it.

Because of all the loose rocks, our route was not very pleasant, although we did all enjoy the free-hang part of P2a. I would recommend future parties use the original route. It was not an unpleasant day’s caving but I doubt I will go back.

Rigging Notes (from *Speleo Spiel* 367):

- *P1 [24 m] (29 m rope used)*. Belay from rock spike 2 m above pitch head. Redirection 5 m down on LHS avoids rub-point where pitch constricts at 7 m. Extra rope can be used to climb around into phreatic tube.
- *P2 [32 m] (40 m rope used)* Belay to rock spike 5 m above Chicken Roost. Rebelay to bolt LHS just below lip of Roost.
- *P3 [14 m]* (From *Speleo Spiel* 199) Bolt (spit?) gives “almost freehang”.
- *P4 [7 m]* (From *Speleo Spiel* 199) climb
- *P5 [8 m]* (From *Speleo Spiel* 199)

Notes: All directions looking down. Bolt on P2 is 8 mm x 90 mm SS Throughbolt, hanger removed.

More rigging notes:

- *P1*. Can put rebelay on RH wall at base of pitch proper for 4 m climb.
- *P2a [39 m]*. Small keyhole in rock on LH wall just before climb around into phreatic tube leading to real P2. Rebelay on left 5 m around corner. Bolt at lip of vertical drop, 8 mm hanger required.

P2b 8 m. Long tape around boulder on RHS. This pitch can be bypassed by climbing around to base of real P2.

IB-10 Mystery Creek Cave - Derig

Alan Jackson

1 January 2009

Party: Serena Benjamin, Rolan Eberhard, Stefan Eberhard, Alan Jackson (and a couple of others)

Stefan was back in town for the holidays and had been away from the Tasmanian caving scene long enough to be under the illusion that he still enjoyed it. It was New Year’s Day, so a sedate start time of 9 am was implemented. Stef’s girlfriend (Jacqui) and mother (Jo) were tagging along for the first bit of the trip to admire the glowworms and spot a few other invertebrates. With the tourists satiated, we headed further into the cave but were soon pausing to sift through piles of stream debris looking for beetles (Serena was being educated in how to kill cave fauna). A few *Idacrabus* later we managed to drag ourselves to the climb up to Matchbox Squeeze, where Stefan and Serena promptly disappeared again, chasing *Goedotrechus* this time. Working with ethanol clearly addles one’s mind. Finally the bug collecting tools were put down and we started our assault on Plague and Pestilence. Needless to say, it was awful.

We all made our way up to the highest of the new passages (the phreatic mega-passage) and had a poke around. The Eberhards theorised on the nature of the passage and its likely origin for a bit. Stef and Serena departed for a scenic tour of Diathesis while Rolan and I tried our hands at

photography. Despite flashing about enough light to give a small star a run for its money, the results didn’t seem to be very good. We pulled the pin on photography and started the derig. The top pitch was easy enough, with its lovely large stalagmite anchor at the top to pass the rope behind. At the second pitch I replaced the krabs with steel maillons (the ones recently retired from service in Midnight Hole) and pulled through on them (i.e. the hangers and maillons were left behind). A similar setup was used on the main drop from Diathesis down into Expletive Hall (except these ones might last a bit longer because they’re 10 mm stainless, as opposed to 8 mm steel for the others). By now the other two had departed with the camera gear. I quickly shot up Nutburn and stripped that rope too and then stuffed our packs with vast quantities of vile muddy rope. We essentially removed everything from the cave (with the exception of a few sacrificial hangers and maillons) including the bits of flagging tape used to mark the route through Diathesis and the upper phreatic passage. Raschy and Hugh’s troll and laminated Exit Cave joke were also removed. I think I might award the troll as the “Dave Rasch Passage Pirating Award” to an aspiring pirate of the future one day.

The packs were horrendously heavy and awkward through the crawl. We caught up to the exterminators out in the main passage and wandered back to the car in dribs and drabs. Back at the car Stefan produced a bottle of gin and began swigging from it. Between slugs he started weaving his excuses for why he’s clearly too old and soft to cave in

Tasmania anymore and that he couldn't possibly entertain the idea of joining us on our trip to Dissidence a few days later. Isn't it a shame when your heroes, whose exploits

you've pored over in countless *Spiels*, turn into flabby middle-aged men?



A not overly well lit nor well focussed photo of the upper level phreatic passage in Mystery Creek Cave, but you get the idea of what a large and interesting passage it is (considering it is 150 m above the current water table). Photo: R. Eberhard

JF-382 Dissidence

Alan Jackson

4 January 2009

Party: Serena Benjamin, Alan Jackson

Stefan had bailed and Andreas was chasing blue sky on the east coast, so Serena and I headed to Stockholm Syndrome on our lonesome. The commute in was pleasant enough. The crawl was shocking (first time I'd done it with a bag). The 'new stuff' was despicable. Tight, muddy and

downright nasty pretty much covers it. We made it about 10 m past the point I'd reached the previous year before it got really nasty (so about 30 m + past the last survey station). About an extra 6-7 m of depth was attained. We didn't survey it but I did a quick memory sketch in the lofty surrounds of Respite on the way out. Shit hole.

I derigged the 'Punishment Series' and rigged the rope down Negative Reality Inversion while Serena trundled out. We'll come back and have a final fling in the dig beyond Smooth Operator at some stage.

W-X13 Weld Arch – Attempt 2

Janine McKinnon

10 January 2009

Party: Serena Benjamin, Gavin Brett, Janine McKinnon, Jane Pulford, Ric Tunney, Tony Veness, Rob ? (friend of Gavin)

Our second attempt to walk to Weld Arch this summer, but this time we had a key from Forestry for the gate that had mysteriously appeared on the Mueller Road since our last visit in 2001. Is this progress I wonder, or just "pain in the arse" bureaucracy? It is open to opinion I suppose.

Gavin joined Ric and me at Jackman & McRoss at 7.30 am, having picked up Serena (who rode her bike up from Taroon) & Rob, and we all piled into the 'cruiser for the trip up to the Florentine. We met Jane & Tony at the junction of the Styx road and convoyed to the start of the walk. It was a beautiful morning (and turned out to be

excellent weather all day) and we headed off into the bush at 9:45 am.

The track was originally cut in 1981 for mining exploration. We first walked it around '82 -'83 and it was a lovely, fast, easy to follow, well-taped track with all the tree trunks, horizontal scrub and tree-falls cleared by chainsaw. No cutting work has been done on it since, however, and only some extra taping of indefinite age (we did some on our last visit in '01) has been added to aid route finding. Thus our progress was not as fast as on earlier trips. There have been quite a lot of tree-falls in the intervening 25 years and it's surprising how quickly some branches have grown across the track in the sections of horizontal scrub. Still, we were expecting this, and our '01 trip had given us experience of the rate at which the track was deteriorating, so we were quite pleased at the state of the track as we made our way along it.

We had estimated that it would take 4 hours each way and we were pleased to reach the Weld River for the second

time after 3.5 hours. (It is first met about 1 hour 10 minutes into the walk.) We had lost some time to route finding (where tapes had disappeared), and scrambling over fallen stuff, but generally it had been a smooth run.

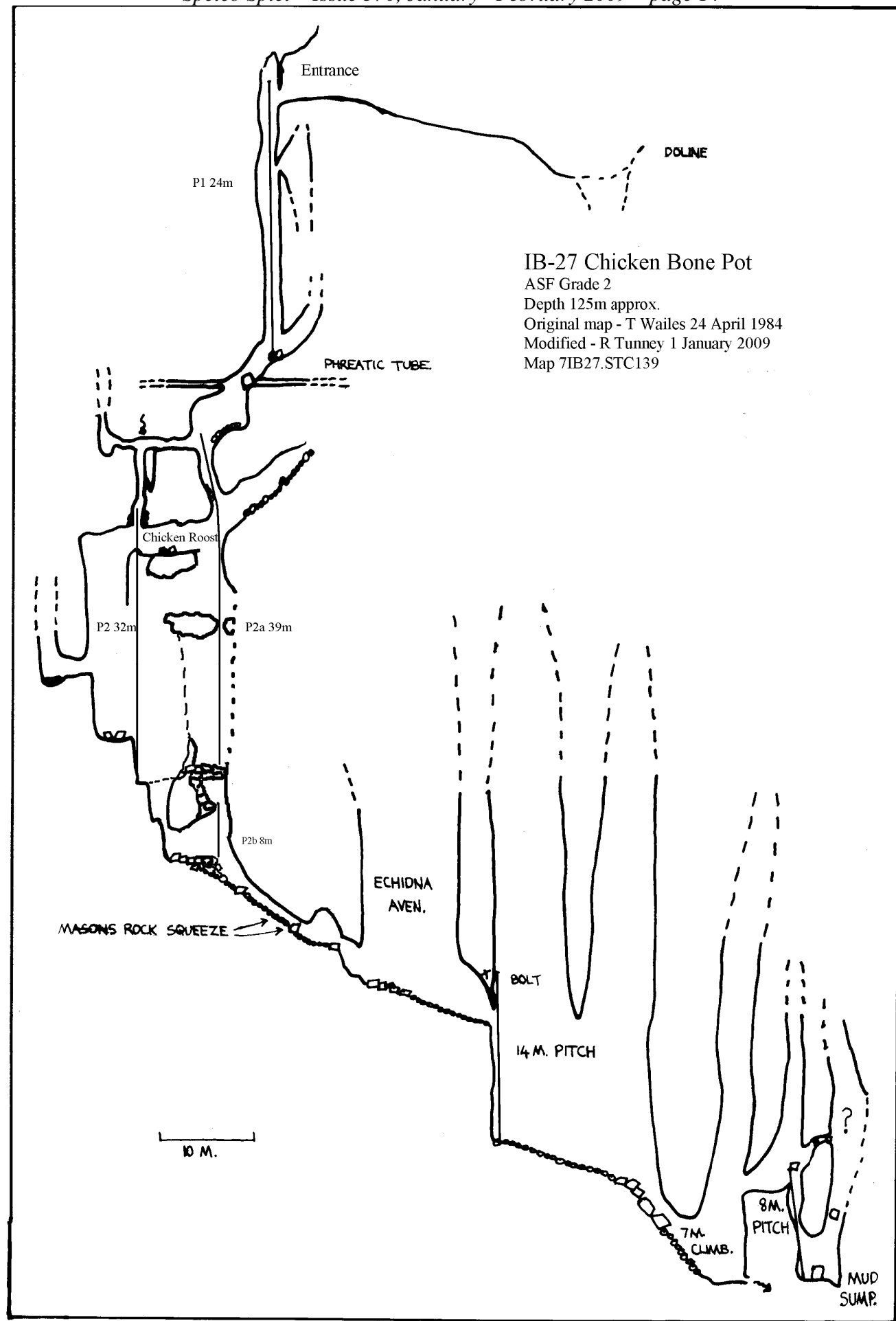
We had lunch at the river and then started the 20 minute walk upstream to the Arch.

The Arch was as stunning as I remembered and this time we had a camera to take some photos! We spent an hour here, clambering into the Arch at river level, and then up and over the top for a different perspective.

The walk out took the same time as on the way in and we were back at the cars by 7:15 pm.



**Weld
Arch**



JF-99 The Chairman – Camera Retrieval

Serena Benjamin

11 January 2009

Party: Serena Benjamin, Matt Cracknell

Bangers for breakfast weren't enough to restoke the fires of Tony and Jane from the previous day's escapades. They handed us the key and GPS at the turnoff to the Styx Road before trundling off to pick raspberries on the way home. Loaded up with stupid amounts of gear (training weight) Matt and I went to the Chairman to retrieve his camera. Result = the camera's not looking too good! Mission number one accomplished, we then proceeded to search for JF-124. After what seemed an eternity of going round in circles we still hadn't located the entrance. So I figure that either: a) the grid co-ordinates that we have are wrong; b) it has been covered by one of the numerous tree falls in the area or; c) we were missing the bleeding obvious supposedly large cave entrance. Abandoning the packs, we decided to find the Victory 75 entrance. Matt seemed to have an aversion to any taped track so we ended up bashing through thick scrub in the gully then up a dry ridge peppered with fire shattered limestone and charred trees. Distracted by some enticing tree highways I was a ways off when Matt eventually located the entrance. After GPSing the location we followed the taped line back to the packs via several large dolines. Attempt number two at finding JF 124, and this time JF 112 and 113 as well, then

ensued. More crazy circles all over the place, the result of which were two new cave entrances which I creatively GPS'd as Cave No Tag #1 and Cave No Tag #2, plus of course Matt also startled a Tiger Snake basking in the sun. Continually frustrated in our attempts to locate the caves, we managed to end the day by locating at least one that we were looking for – Slot Cave. Relocating our packs we then got back to the Carla Mobile just before the cracker of a day was interrupted by an unexpected front of rain.



One very unhappy Olympus digital camera.

JF-382 Dissidence

Alan Jackson

17 January 2009

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

We progressed rapidly to the For Everhard Series, pausing only to rig Smooth Operator. Serena and I then commenced on the dig, doing alternate shifts. Ric and Janine had a look around and then headed out with the intention of rigging the short pitch down into Run Rabbit Run to view this vast chamber.

Serena and I made good progress in the clay/mud-bottomed dig. I got a little sick of digging prematurely and decided to see if I could fit through. I did, but only by a whisker. With no room to turn round and another intimidating squeeze ahead of me I started getting nervous. I was flat on my back, head resting on the ground and the tip of my nose was scraping the ceiling (yes, yes, laugh it up Damian and Gavin). Not feeling terribly happy with the situation I asked Serena to scrape away some more from the lip of the dig to make my reversing a little easier. With great difficulty I moved out millimetre by millimetre, much to my relief.

Next job was to try to put a positive spin on it so Serena would head back in and push it. She obliged, easily

slipping her dainty frame through both constrictions, but only got another 5 or so metres round the corner to the end of humanly navigable passage. The draft issued from an up-trending slot.

On the way out I noticed what could be a continuation of the narrow vadose canyon that precedes the Smooth Operator pitch on the opposite side of the chamber. It was difficult to tell if it was a fossil downstream continuation or a relic of the water/aven that enters from that side of the chamber. It's 50/50 at best. We noted it as a project for the long-term future, not the immediate one. The best way to access it would be to climb up into the vadose canyon back at "The Bum Stal", like Gavin and I did when we first surveyed this passage. This climb eventually led us out in the same final chamber but about 20 m higher than the current pitch start. This would allow a pendulum traverse rather than an almost horizontal traverse.

Back at the 42 m pitch we caught up with the others. Always worried that they're holding someone up, Ric and Janine had chosen to head straight out rather than investigate Run Rabbit Run. Janine was already up and Ric was the best part there. They continued out while Serena and I derigged the rest of the cave.

In all it was a pleasant and relatively short day (back in Hobart by 7ish). Dissidence deserves classic status and should be on everyone's "to do" list.

Skinner Track Recce

Amy Robertson

24 January 2009

Party: Guy Bannink, Serena Benjamin, Jane Pulford, Amy Robertson, Dion Robertson, Linda Robertson, Tony Veness.

It was drizzling as we pulled up at the carpark, but the forecast was for it to clear so we kitted up at a leisurely pace for our day's reconnaissance. We started up through the quarry at a leisurely pace, stopping at odd spots on the way in to comment on the track's condition or look at features along the way. Linda, travelling backwards in her frontpack, was introduced to her first cave entrance at IB-211: she wasn't that impressed, but then again Track Cutters Cave isn't really inspiring.



Amy and Linda enjoy a sit-down on the Skinner Track.

At the big log across the track, we stopped for a lunch break and to check the situation of the log. It wasn't quite as big as Dion had thought from his recce last year, but it was soon apparent that it had slipped even lower down the slope. After lunch and a play for Linda, we proceeded along the track and down the beautiful rainforest incline to the D'Entrecasteaux River. Here we sat and ate again, with

Jane and Tony providing entertainment on the log bridge as they balanced, close to falling in several times. The water level was very low, and part of the entertainment involved dunking the old ropes in the water to de-stiffen them as we re-tied various supports to make a safer crossing point. After a quick trip up to the Exit efflux with its broad sandbanks in the low-water conditions, we turned around and headed back up the track.



Tony tests the new improved handrails at the Exit efflux log-bridge.

An odd thing continued as we travelled along, we seemed to hear a lyrebird somewhere in the forest behind us, with a call like a chainsaw. We never saw the bird - bits of evidence in the disturbed litter and soil - but perhaps it has been socialising around one of the forestry coupes back in the State Forest. The trip out seemed much easier than the trip in, and we confirmed that indeed most of the big log that had lain on the track had slipped to lie further down the hill. This conveniently made its crossing much safer and easier. Travel time for Amy and Linda was 1.5 hours from river to carpark.

IB-11 Midnight Hole

Ric Tunney

25 January 2009

Party: Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney, Geoff Umbers, Kelly Umbers, Gemma Umbers

We had freeloaders (oops, "houseguests") visiting in the form of Janine's sister and her family, so we decided to

take them to Midnight Hole. Over the years the nieces (now 18 & 16) have done quite a bit of caving, including Old Ditch Road a year ago, but the 49 m bottom pitch was to be their longest abseil. We did some abseiling familiarisation at Freuhauf Quarry the day before.

The whole trip was straight-forward and uneventful. The nieces took the big drops in their stride. We had lunch before the Matchbox Squeeze. Janine was silly enough to offer to go a short way along Plague and Pestilence. This

of course became a go-right-to-the-end trip. Janine is now officially a hero as she did this without knee pads!

We installed a new sign at the cave entrance to reflect the re-rigging which had been done in October (see page 19). Also, we removed the redundant P-hanger at the top of P2. This hanger was very solid, but was easily removed when the glue was drilled out. The secret seems to be not to rotate the hanger much; just enough to break the glue to rock bond. This stops the end of the hanger deforming and jamming.

Kelly Umbers commences descent of the second pitch in Midnight Hole on the lovely new shiny chains. Photo – Ric Tunney.



JF-337/JF-36 Slaughterhouse Pot – Growling Swallet thru trip

Janine McKinnon

29 January 2009

Party: Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney, Geoff Umbers, Kelly Umbers, Gemma Umbers

This was the second family caving trip for the week. After a very easy Midnight Hole descent my brother-in-law and nieces were keen for some more caving. The girls had done the GS streamway to the sump on last year's visit so we thought it was a good time to do the circuit. Their dad was along for the trip this year.

We had practiced passing redirections at the Fruehauf Quarry on the previous Saturday and all went smoothly on the first two pitches. It was going very slowly though and Ric and I were a bit concerned that 2 hours had passed by the time we were all at the bottom of pitch two. No going back though and so onward we went.

The rockpile caused no-one any problems either and I was feeling happy with everything when we all reached the

bottom of pitch 3, after 3 hours underground. Everyone was cheery and comfortable and so we debated the option of visiting the Trapdoor waterfall before heading into the Windy Rift series.

We finally decided to do it and Ric belayed the Umbers family down and back up the ladder as a precaution.

The Windy Rift series went slowly too, but with no dramas. The Umbers all coped well with the ladders and found the Windy Rift itself an interesting experience. I didn't hear any swearing at all so they can't have found it too bad. We belayed them down the initial drop, before the sideways traverse over the chock stones, as a precaution again.

The rest of the streamway was a pleasant stroll. The water levels were low. The only other places we belayed them were the climbs up the Keyhole and the Jug Handle.

It did take us 7.5 hours to complete the trip, which is about 1.5 hours longer than I had anticipated, but everyone was still bouncy and happy at the end so it didn't really matter that it was so slow.

A Lovely Day for a Dig

Alan Jackson

1 February 2009

Party: Serena Benjamin, Gavin Brett, Stephen Bunton, Alan Jackson, Geoff Wise

The day was to be dedicated to digging and a good social occasion. We started with a drinks break at Serendipity and then the slog up to Dissidence and JF-381. I quickly showed Gavin my proposed (when and if times get lean) dig in JF-381. The water in JF-381 is almost certainly the water that comes in from the south near the top of Union Jack in JF-382 and connecting the two would add ~11 m to the depth of the system, making it deeper than KD. As suspected, it was considered by Gavin to be an extensive project and probably best left until much later.

Next we moved around the contact to JF-436; a hole Serena located a year and a bit ago. Initially it had received a poor review, but a second visit indicated a good draft and easy digging. We made light work of the offending obstacle to reveal an unexpected ~5 m drop. Feeling like a well muscled American amateur spelunker, I opted to hand

over hand the rope we had with us to investigate (there was no SRT gear among the party, nor ladders – as I said at the start, this was a dedicated digging trip). At the bottom there was a continuing tight slot carrying the draft which flared out again about a metre down in a wide ~5 m pitch. This dig, while quite simple and pleasant, will consume a lot of joules so we departed.

The hit-list indicated that JF-433, near Flick Mints Hole, was our next target. This was a nice dig right at the entrance, so things were clean. We make quick progress through the initial obstacle to allow a proper head insertion and look around. This look around suggested that pursuing the cave further would be futile, despite the good draft. We were now at a loss for what to do next. Bunty was suffering from prolonged exposure to me (he commented that caving with me is normally much easier because there's generally a pitch between the two of us), so we needed a plan and quickly. We decided to head toward JF-422 Andycap Cave to retrieve the article left in the rock many months before.

On the way we found a few minor little cave-like things, but nothing overly exciting. Gavin received much praise for his 'interesting karst development' spotting abilities. A

new ASF award to adequately acknowledge his efforts was mooted. Serena disappeared down a small hole on the contact halfway between Mongrel Pot and JF-292 which sounded cavey enough to warrant a tag in the future. Below Lost Pot we located JF-369. I'd been past it heaps of times but had never been into it. We tied up an improvised rope-ladder and once Bunty got his bowline sorted I headed down. The initial slot is about 5 m deep and sported several dead animals; mostly possums and a large creature of the bouncing variety. Descent of the entrance soil-cone into a lower chamber revealed a surprisingly pretty cave – lots of moonmilk, pretty encrusted walls/floor and a single straw around 2.5 m in length. No draft and no leads however.

Further down the hill Gavin called out, "There's a cave here. What's 422?" Why, that would be just the cave we were looking for!

It didn't look much more appealing than last time, but we eventually mustered the enthusiasm and made good progress. It is probably now enterable, with the right gear (ladder or rope). We think we'll leave it till Andy comes back so he can be rewarded for his initial enthusiasm for this hole (this hole sounds at least 15 m deep judging by dropped rocks, but carries no draft).

The day was getting on so we headed for home. We deviated slightly to the Wait Cave/Ethical Dilemma area and then went straight downhill from there. Close to the McCullums track I located a small limestone cliff face with a phreatic tube winding in. Serena and I followed it to its conclusion about 7 metres in. With its rounded phreatic

profile, soft earthen floor and cool damp air, it was a lovely refuge from the heat and prickly vegetation of the outside world. Serena thought it was all very Alice in Wonderlandish (white rabbits and all those things) while Bunty, suffering an extreme case of apathy by this stage in the day, was being less enlightened in his suggestions for naming the cave. I think it may be best to leave it unnamed. We sparsely taped a pink track down to the McCullums Track so we could find it again later for tagging. We intersected the track right where the latest giant tree has fallen (you can't miss it).



The upturned root-ball of the flipping enormous tree that has recently fallen over the McCullums Track, with Alan for scale.

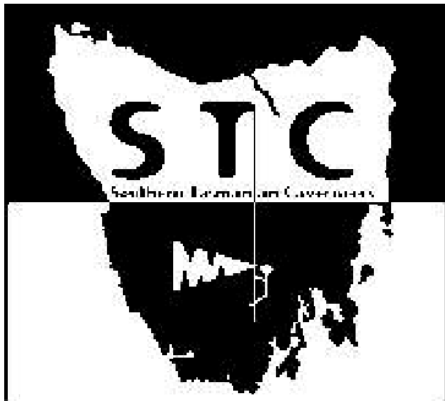


Apples can be very hazardous. Gavin demonstrates the appropriate PPE to be worn while engaging in high risk fruit consumption. Photo – Geoff Wise.



Alan inspecting the dig in JF-422 Andycap Cave. The view from Alan's perspective is on the front cover. Photo – Geoff Wise.

The new sign recently installed in Midnight Hole



Midnight Hole P-hangers

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers, with funding from Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service, has installed P-hangers, maillons, chains and rings in Midnight Hole.

BEFORE EACH USE TEST:

This test should be conducted by the party using the anchor EVERY time an anchor is used. The following points must be checked.

- 1 The surface of the resin/mortar breaking away from the rock (indicating possible internal fracture of the resin/mortar, or a poor chemical bond).
- 2 Fracturing of the rock within 200 mm of the anchor placement.
- 3 Looseness of the anchor placement in the rock (this should not be confused with flexing, as a 0.06 mm deflection occurs when an anchor is loaded in line with its axis with 85 kg, and a deflection of 0.13 mm occurs when an anchor is loaded against its axis with 85 kg). Looseness should be defined as actual rotational movement in excess of 1 mm.
- 4 Egress of the anchor from the resin/mortar, or the anchor and resin/mortar from the drilled hole.
- 5 Significant reduction in the thickness of the anchor or any attached ring or maillon used for pull-through trips.

If any hanger fails test, please report to Southern Tasmanian Caverneers.

If you are abseiling on one side of your pull-down rope, please note the rings are large. Use a knot that will not pull through the ring under load. Check this, to be sure you are safe.

Enjoy your trip!

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers PO Box 416 Sandy Bay 7006 (February 2009)

Other Exciting Stuff

Cave of the Year – the “Academy Awards” for Tasmanian Caving

Stephen Bunton

What were you doing when Growling was being pushed or Exit Cave was the longest in Australia? This is just a brief glimpse back at the caves that consumed the imaginations of cave-neers in Tasmania since the start of organised speleology with the formation of TCC in 1946. There is

only one winner like in the academy awards and I haven't bothered to include the other nominations except in a few certain years where those lucky bastards scooped several lots of booty.

This is not meant to be anything serious nor entirely accurate; it is just a lightweight potted history. The most interesting thing you could do with this would be to look up your birth year!

Year	Cave	Year	Cave	Year	Cave
1946	Ross Walker Cave	1967	Mini Martin*	1988	Yodellers Pot
1947	Newdegate Cave (Rift Cave)	1968	Midnight Hole	1989	BDTH?
1948	Kubla Khan	1969	Hairygoat Hole? (Welcome Stranger)	1990	Niggly Cave*
1949	Pillingers Creek Cave*	1970	Tassy Pot*	1991	
1950		1971	Khazad-dum	1992	JF-226-227
1951		1972	Khazad-dum* (Cauldron Pot)	1993	
1952		1973	Three Falls Cave	1994	Threefortyone – Rift Cave
1953		1974	Thun Junction	1995	
1954	Exit Cave	1975	Victory 75	1996	
1955		1976	The Chairman	1997	
1956		1977		1998	Toblerone Pot
1957	Growling Swallet*	1978	Emu Cave	1999	Dribblespit Swallet (Scratch Pot)?
1958		1979	Big Tree Pot	2000	Splash Pot
1959	Pygmy Cave	1980	Owl Pot	2001	
1960	Bone Pit	1981	Growling Swallet (Serendipity)	2002	Rocket Rods Pot
1961		1982	Ice Tube / Anna Kananda*	2003	Garage Door
1962		1983	Ice Tube – Growling Swallet*	2004	Pooshooter
1963		1984	Pendant Pot (Flick Mints Hole)	2005	Lost Pot
1964	Herberts Pot	1985	Arrakis	2006	Tachycardia*
1965		1986	Burning Down the House?	2007	Dissidence
1966	Satans Lair	1987	Bauhaus?	2008	Mystery Creek Cave

* indicates the cave in that year broke the Australian depth record

Folly, Madness and the Final Cowpat

Serena Benjamin

How does one get to the stage where you are bounding among a rock-strewn, rain-slickened cow paddock halfway around the world with your sister lying in pain somewhere behind? On one side the near 2000 year old Hadrian's Wall. The other a wind-swept moor as far as the eye can see. Actually this isn't far considering the rain is being pushed horizontal by a wind so strong it would be unwise to avert your eyes from the terrain beneath your feet. An invitation for disaster really as the slope is more reminiscent of a large, slick and muddy stream than of any paddock. Seven layers of clothing are almost enough (but not quite) to stave off the creeping chill and damp. Caves are vague remembrances of the past. The focus is on the here and now.

But I digress from my original question. Up until this point things had gone well. In April I'd arrived in London 'fresh' off the plane from the hot-box of Bangkok. Meeting up with my sister here I spent five weeks doing as many free museums, art galleries, walks and such as I could. The nearest I got to anything remotely cave like was a couple

of books in the library and The Underground (Mind the Gap!) Almost an antonym of caving in Tasmania, the novelty of the London Tube began to wear thin in the last week I was there as the heat, invariably pushy crowds and occasional dodgy person took their toll.

Escaping to the north we came to Edinburgh where I found a city as charming as it is beautiful. Working there for five months I came to do almost everything except sleep much. Castles, bat hunts, museums, gardens, cemeteries, walking tours, a palace, the zoo, pub-crawls, bridges, historic buildings and the festival. Oh ... The Festival! That was a glut of theatre, street performances, comedy shows, music and just all out fun. We dragged our feet at having to leave. But the next adventure was the greatest: walking the three hundred kilometres or so from Milngavie (pronounced Mull-guy) just outside Glasgow up to Inverness along the West Highland Way and Great Glen Way. Halfway, we rested at Fort William for two days, enjoying a quick trip up UK's highest peak, Ben Nevis, coming in at 1344 metres. The two things I remember most from that are a fine view of clouds for about 700 metres and the remarkable speed at which I lost feeling in my fingers when I needed to take my gloves off on the summit. The

minor blizzard we were in might have had something to do with this. A marked change in weather conditions came as we left Fort William. Gone were the seven days of crisp autumn sunshine. Replaced by seven days of cold, wet and the occasional snowfall.



S. Benjamin

Isle of Skye

We did see a couple of wee caves along the way. These were historical landmarks rather than anything substantial. One on the shores of Loch Lomond is Rob Roys Cave, formed in a large boulder pile, and was used as a hideout. Another, called Stone Cave near Loch Ness, was barely big enough to fit into and is in fact a built structure taking advantage of a natural overhang. Most scenic however were the four north-facing Bone Caves of the Inchnadamph National Nature Reserve. These look out from the base of the limestone Creag nan Uamh over the Allt nan Uamh glen and are significant for the deposits of animal bones found there which provide a unique glimpse of the last 45 000 years.



S. Benjamin

A cave on a hill somewhere.



S. Benjamin collection

Serena in Stone Cave.

Castles. Now they are a bit like caving ... dark, dank in parts, with little passages leading off invitingly in all directions. Occasionally these might open up into large rooms with jaw-dropping vaulted ceilings. Of the two thousand castles in the UK alone, we managed to see just twenty.

That brings us to Newcastle-on-Tyne where the fateful decision was made to walk along Hadrians Wall rather than bothering with the bus. Where Cynthia stepped through one cow pat too many and landed in a heap accompanied by an ominous snapping sound from her ankle. A frenzied dash to the hospital ensued and after that everything dissolved into how to manage the logistical difficulty of getting back to London with one person on crutches. All's well that ends well so they say. We made it back to Tassie more or less in one piece. Now what's next on the horizon?



S. Benjamin

An exciting resurgence. Bone Caves in cliff-line in background.

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