

STC Office Bearers

President:

Geoff Wise Ph: 0408 108 984 (m) geoff.p.wise@gmail.com

Vice President:

Jane Pulford Ph: 0437 662 599 (m) jlpulford@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Janine McKinnon Ph: (03) 6243 5415 (h) jmckinnon@tassie.net.au

Treasurer:

Sarah Gilbert Ph: (03) 6234 2302 (h) sgilbert@utas.edu.au

Equipment Officer:

Gavin Brett

Ph: (03) 6223 1717 (h) gavinbrett@iinet.com.au

Librarian:

Greg Middleton Ph: (03) 6223 1400 (h) ozspeleo@iinet.net.au

Editor:

Alan Jackson Ph: 0419 245 418 (m) alan.jackson@lmrs.com.au

Search & Rescue Officer:

Matt Cracknell Ph: 0409 438 924 (m) crowdang@yahoo.co.uk

Webmaster:

Alan Jackson Ph: 0419 245 418 (m) alan.jackson@lmrs.com.au

Web Site:

http://www.lmrs.com.au/stc

Front Cover: Trevor Wailes in the entrance series crawl of JF-344 Serendipity, circa mid 1980s. *Photo by R. Eberhard*

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.



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Editorial

This issue is a bit of a survey spectacular. This is not to say to that there are many spectacular surveys but rather a spectacularly large number of them. Most of them are little grot-holes from assorted corners of the JF but Splash Pot and Mystery Creek Cave are also tacked onto the end. For those electronic subscribers — you can zoom in to your heart's delight and enjoy the detail of these two large maps. Hard copy subscribers won't experience the same level of enjoyment or detail — the *Spiel* budget only extends to A3. There are large printed versions of both these maps at Ric and Janine's house.

Alan Jackson

Stuff 'n Stuff

TREV TURNS 60

Life Member and all round hard caver of days gone by, Trevor Wailes, turned 60 in May. A birthday bash was held at the Civic Club in Davey Street on Friday 14th May. Among the heaving crowd of Hash House Harriers and Eight Ball clubbers were a selection of the finest old Tasmanian caving scabs that have been seen together since the club's 60th anniversary back in 2006. Some I'd met before, others proved to be a fresher source of regret. As far as I can remember I saw Rolan, Bunty, Jacko, Jeff Watson, Chris Davies, Arthur and Siobhan. Jacko and Watto were arguably the worst behaved - at least when Watto had a handful of Rolan's testicles he wasn't bothering me ... Jacko went to great lengths to sell me on the concept of some pyramid scheme that would see STC own a club house in Maydena while he retired to Majorca to smoke joints and get treatment for emphysema.

It's always good to attend events like this as they're a great source of future ammunition for stirring past and current club members – watch out Ken!

Happy (now belated) birthday to Trevor. It was obvious from the number of attendees and the tone of the party that Trev has a lot of mates (at least until the tab ran out) and has added much richness and colour to the lives of many. Here's to the next 18 or so years that we can expect Trev to be enlightening our lives (based on average life expectancy of the Australian male – technically Trev isn't Australian and he certainly isn't average, so just how long he'll live is anyone's guess). You're a legend, Trev.

ALAN JACKSON AS POPULAR AS EVER!

Judging by this advertisement seen at Agfest 2010, it is fair to suggest that my popularity is soaring. If anyone wants a signed copy then just let me know.



ROPE TESTING

On the 6th of June we had a working bee at the gear store to prepare the ropes for future shock-load testing. We visually checked all the ropes for damage and cut out damaged sections for testing. We have just over 900 m of serviceable rope in the store, but this may change if we condemn any ropes based on testing. All ropes have been remeasured and relabelled (as required) and hung up in order of shortest to longest length for each diameter of rope (9.5, 10.5 and 11 mm). Below is a list of the current rope stocks. You can use this list to choose what ropes you want to take before you even get to the store (we're working on an online ordering service that delivers selected ropes to your door). Anyone found not returning ropes to their correct/labelled position will be severely chastised. Shock-load testing is scheduled for 17th July at Police SAR – 76 Federal St, North Hobart.

Rope	Diameter (mm)	Length (m)
K1	9.5	18
K2	9.5	15
K3	9.5	27
K4	9.5	10
K5	9.5	46
K6	9.5	42
K7	9.5	7
N1	9.5	120
N2	9.5	76
B1	10.5	7
B11	10.5	10
B20	10.5	8
B75-a	10.5	6
B76	10.5	23
B81	10.5	40
C1	10.5	24
C2	10.5	32
C3	10.5	31
C4	10.5	11
C5	10.5	9
C6	10.5	4
C7	10.5	6
C9	10.5	6
D1	10.5	97
D2	10.5	32
D5	10.5	6
E1	11	48
E2	11	65
E3	11	7
E4	11	28
No 'R' Label BWII	11	20
R65	11	21

SERENA PHILOSOPHY 101

Feeling a bit befuddled about things? Well here's a potential remedy. Bend over, touch your toes and have a look at the world from between your knees. Feeling a bit ridiculous? Absurd perhaps? Maybe a bit of pain? Observe things such as the curvature of the Earth and how buildings seem to cling on. Things may appear smaller and less significant. This change of perspective may make the world look different but it hasn't actually changed – we've just changed our perspective. Everyone's perception of things may be different according to what our preconceived expectations might be and it can change if we are aware enough and willing to do so. Perhaps as cavers we are, in part, challenging our perceptions of the world and our place in it. If nothing else, this activity is good for learning to laugh at ourselves.

LOST & FOUND

LOST

- 1 Field compass belonging to the gear store officer.
- 1 Annual report belonging to the gear store officer (another lost report belonging to the public officer has been found).
- 1 Cave, Hairy Goat Hole (JF-15) Last seen in 1970
- 1 Award for not sending long pointless emails at 3 am in the morning. Last seen in possession of Arthur Clarke.
- 1 Party of cavers in Southern passage of Exit cave. Believed to be following Janine's survey.
 They may be 8 degrees CCW from their intended position.
- 1 Group of cavers surface trogging around Marble Hill. Believed to be using waypoints supplied by Ric.

FOUND

- 1 Cave tag 'IB-121' found at the bottom of IB-121. Has been relocated to the entrance of IB-121.
- 1 Jumper in a secret area of Exit that Arthur doesn't know about. For a full report see page 10.
- 1 Jumper in the Woolly Jumper Room, Eastern passage in Exit. Believed to have been left there so the name makes sense.
- 1 Pack haul cord with carabiner at the base of the Thun Junction connection in Exit.
- 1 Small mattock and two blue buckets at a dig site in Exit. Believed to have been left there hoping the cave fauna would use them to finish the job.

Geoff Wise

STC BOWLING

We went bowling. It was tops (mainly 'cos of the shoes).



It's all about the sexy shoes ...



... and the sexy onlookers.

SERENA'S CAVING CROSSWORD - SOLUTIONS (FROM SS376:26)

The Editor takes no responsibility for the connection (or lack thereof) between clues and solutions for crosswords submitted by Serena.

ACROSS

- 1. It sounds appealingly overseas (TIMOR)
- 4. An expression of excitement (FMD)
- 5. TCC, SCS &_____ (TCKRG)
- 7. A trusty caving companion (PING)
- 8. Useful type of splint (SAM)
- 9. A big low (POLJE)
- 10. Pertaining to caves (SPELEAN)
- 11. Pink Floyd's drink of choice perhaps (MOONMILK)
- 12. A national park and person? (GREGORY)
- 13. The seeds of change may sometimes be seen (ETIOLATION)
- 16. There is more to explore is my motto (SCURION)
- 17. One of the first to cave dive using scuba in 1946 (COUSTEAU) $\,$
- 19. Reputed to be found outside cave entrances (STINGINGNETTLE)

DOWN

- 2. Noise sometimes heard when alone in a squeeze (CHIRPING)
- 3. Antibiotics may be useful for this congregation (PARASITIC FOLD)
- 6. Number of caves on STC trips this year (FIFTY)
- 11. One of the carbs (MAGNESITE)
- 14. Only a muppet on drugs would grovel through such crap (GONZOGUANOGEAR)
- 15. Evaluate inside. Tee off (UVALA)
- 18. A 'cave guest' (TROGLOXENE)

ACKMA AGM - MULU

Several STC members attended. Serena's interpretation of events will appear in the next *Spiel*, as this one is too full of crap maps. Even the spiders live in caves over there!



Trip Reports

JF-237 Niggly Cave

Chris Chad

6 February 2010

Party: Alan Jackson, Chris Chad, Sarah Gilbert, Stuart Reedman, Trent Ford

After watching with amusement, Stuart sorting out his gear from his well packed Landcruiser, we had a sociable walk up the Niggly track with Gavin and Ken. Alan took off like a startled rabbit as usual, but luckily Gavin was crippled and thus provided a more moderated pace. We made it to the cave in excellent time, and Alan took off ahead to start retrieving gear from the far reaches of the cave. The rest of us bumbled around and Stuart amused us further by discovering that he had forgotten his trog suit, despite his endless fussing back at the cars. He would have to cave in his undies today.

We proceeded into the cave without incident, with my new Santa suit finding every snag on the cheese grater like walls of the narrow passage. It was a very pleasant trip in without bags. We arrived at the muster point as evidenced by the pile of bags, but Alan was nowhere to be seen, so Trent and I continued on. We discovered the nasty traverse, and part way along, a dislodged rock boomed up at us after a disturbingly long fall, which caused me to decide I needed to re-tie my shoelaces. Trent carried on

unperturbed. Happily, as I pretended to tie my shoelaces, Alan returned with the final bag so I busied myself helping divvy up the gear, whilst Trent returned exclaiming something to the effect of "that wasn't so bad" (I hate him), and Stuart took the opportunity to amuse himself with long drops and wee.

Stuart watched patiently as I hammered his bag into mine with a rock. I later discovered that Stuart's camera was in there taking the brunt of it. He needs to be more assertive! The trip out was much less pleasant with heavy bags, particularly at one point with Alan behind me unhelpfully pointing out the deficiencies of my body shape. We left the first two 10 m pitches rigged so that Rolan could come back later and tinker around should he wish.

Out of the cave, Alan once again bounded off with unnatural energy whilst the rest of us enjoyed lunch. We joined up with Gavin and Ken and got in their way, and amused ourselves with a fruitless dig requiring a big rock to be moved. I learnt that even big logs picked off the forest floor can't be relied upon as levers. Actually it was Sarah who got the lesson as she copped the full impact. Surprisingly Sarah neither yelled at me nor broke into tears (I would of), so Sarah and STC girls should be commended for their toughness and general emotional stability.

We had a pleasant walk back to the cars with heavier packs, and a good day all up.

JF-455 Warrens Warren

Rolan Eberhard

March 2010

Warrens Warren is a cave in the Lawrence Rivulet area, Florentine Valley. The feature was found by Chris Sharples and Sarah Joyce in Aug-Sept 2005 during the course of a geomorphic assessment for Forestry Tasmania. Chris provides the following description (Sharples 2005):

"A relatively large cave with a large entrance passage up to 3 m wide x 3 m high sloping downwards at about 30 degrees towards the west for about 15 m, then narrowing to a 1 m wide passage that continues out of sight but was not explored. A side passage at least 10 m long leads to a passage 2 m high x 1.5 m wide which continues downwards at 45 degrees but has not been explored."

On the strength of Chris' encouraging words, Brett Warren, Adrian Slee and I visited the cave whilst in the area in March 2010. Sadly, it proved somewhat underwhelming in terms of prospects for further exploration. The leads marked "continues" on the sketch map closed down rapidly to wombat-sized grovels, with wombat turds to match. I wouldn't say the leads absolutely don't go because none of us were fired up enough to push them to the bitter end.

The number tag was placed on the right wall facing into the cave, partway down the sloping ramp into the entrance and 0.5 m above floor level. Unfortunately, the drill wasn't up to a second hole, so the tag only got one fastener. The name is a nod to Brett - bushman, forester and sometimes caverneer. Brett takes a keen interest in caves and has been

instrumental in limiting the harm done to karst systems by forest operations in the Valley, irrespective of Bunty's delicately worded remarks in earlier *Spiels*. Sticklers for protocol who have trouble with the fact that Brett is still alive and therefore shouldn't have a cave named after him would probably also object to the informal name for this cave used by Sharples and Joyce, which was Sarahs Tight Crack!

A cave map appears on page 15.



Brett Warren 'feels the vibe' in JF-455 Warrens Warren.

Reference:

SHARPLES, C. 2005. Geomorphic Assessment: Coupe FO021Z & Adjoining Areas, unpublished report to Forestry Tasmania.

JF-344 Serendipity

Alan Jackson

8 May 2010

Party: Serena Benjamin, Chris Chad, Ken Hosking, Alan Jackson

WHY?

Serena had "always wanted to go there"; Ken had a new Scurion and was keen to see if he could make cave crickets spontaneously combust from twelve paces; Chris was looking for any way to escape the social isolation that the combined effects of being an engineer AND having a second child have on you; and me? Well, I was still kind of entertaining the prospect of aid climbing the aven under Asteroid Pot at the back end.

THE COMMUTE

Ken, between phone calls to Gavin, Christine and anyone else he happened to know the number of, discussed fungus and how uncomfortable his zero-cost chauffeur-driven ride was – gift horses, mouths and all that. Once out of phone range and the car, i.e. walking to the cave entrance, he redoubled his efforts on the fungus.

THE CAVE

It hadn't changed much since I was last there. Water levels were surprisingly low. Ken and Chris turned around at the top of Deluge Pitch while Serena and I headed down to rig the final pitches – the inevitable knot crossing at one metre from the floor occurred.

THE COMMUTE - STAGE 2

Ken, between phone calls to Gavin, Christine and anyone else he happened to know the number of, discussed fungus and how uncomfortable his zero-cost chauffeur-driven ride was – gift horses, mouths and all that.

JF-344 Serendipity

Alan Jackson 15 May 2010

Party: Serena Benjamin, Matt Cracknell, Alan Jackson

No phone calls, no fungus and no complaining. Things were looking up.

I adjusted the rigging on the last pitch (Phobos) to squeeze out some extra rope to better place the annoying knot crossing. We headed to the deepest point first so Serena and Matt could tick that box. My plan was to then look at the Marmalade passages to bypass the Headbanger I Series. We couldn't find a way through, so I assumed I'd misinterpreted the survey (I later discovered that it did go through; we were just too lame). We forged our way along the normal route to Serendipity Chamber and Pernickity Drop. Serena didn't like it, but with some 30 year-old rope and peer pressure we got her through it. I told them to look out for the right hand bend at an upcoming junction. Serena spotted it but I ignored her somehow and led them up the wrong passage. It got horrendous, small, loose and grotty. I pushed it beyond the last survey cairn into virgin rockfall for 30 m or so before getting the willies and turning around.

Back at the junction Matt decided that he wanted to head out of the cave slowly, making geological observations in his nerd book. Serena and I made a dash for the end. It is still a surprisingly long way from the junction. We assessed the aven adjacent to the Great Big Room, observing the femurs of a large bouncing creature that had been placed on a rock by initial explorers. The aven looks very climbable – good, clean rock; a rifty continuation at the top; several lines of weakness that could be exploited without having to do too much vertical bolt climbing. It's the commute that puts it dangerously close to the Too Hard Basket.

We caught up to Matt near the main (deepest) sump, took some photographs and headed out. I bounded down Conduit Crawl while the other two got a start on the pitches. It wasn't as nasty as I had anticipated, but water levels were lower than I'd ever seen them.

We almost got Serena back in time for the Uni Revue ...



Streamway passage above the main sump (deepest point)

MC-64 Tailender

Alan Jackson 23 May 2010

Party: Serena Benjamin, Paul Darby, Alan Jackson, Geoff Wise, David Wools-Cobb

We were up for the TSLC meeting in Mole Creek the night before. On Saturday we'd done some cave rescue stuff with Joe Sydney at Honeycomb Cave (Joe was over to brief MCCC on the national cave rescue situation and draft procedures). Sunday was 'slave labour day' for Dave in Tailender. Geoff and I scrubbed rocks and installed the final boot wash station while Dave installed signs and took photographs. Paul and Serena mostly just touristed – slackers. The bulk of the cleaning is now done in this cave and it now moves into a 'care and maintenance' period. If you visit this cave in the future then take care, obey signs and don't make it bloody muddy again!







TOP LEFT – No amount of hot air from Joe could warm us up in the sunless Honeycomb Cave carpark.

LEFT – Pretties in Tailender.

ABOVE - More pretties in Tailender.

JF-510, 511, 512 – Not Quite the Serendipity Valley Chris Chad

23 May 2010

Party: Chris Chad, Amy Robertson

No-one was going caving it seemed so I was forced to make my own fun. Luckily Amy tagged along to save me from total humiliation. The goal was to thrash around in the scrub, and tag three caves previously found in the Serendipity area. There were also a few other things I had hoped to achieve, but were not realised.

After a late but frosty start, we marched down the Growling track and attacked a large Sassafras that had fallen over the track. I should have left my implements of destruction there, but I didn't want to look stupid in the event there was another tree further along the track. Instead we looked stupid carting unnecessary stuff around all day.

We found our way along the McCullums track to the brightly marked Serendipity turnoff, where we turned off and promptly got lost. We soon came across a hole that Amy announced was not in the GPS, and despite having an orange tape hanging from a tree nearby, no tag was evident. My maps and notes were safe back in the car, so it was a bit of a mystery. As we were rigging to investigate further, I took a look at the GPS and realised after centring the screen on our actual position the cave was actually JF-367 The Dungeon. I quietly took over the GPS and changed plans. Instead of heading over to Serendipity as planned, we decided to head straight to our untagged holes.

These caves are listed as HOL41-43 in the Club GPS and are Hole 7, 8 & 9 as described in SS344:5-6. There are a number of other HOL artefacts in the area, but it seems these have been cleaned up and merely not deleted (SS352:14 & SS362:9).

We found Hole 9 right where it was supposed to be, and I tagged it on an obvious clean chunk of limestone over the lip on the eastern side. I then proceeded down the 7 m pitch for a look, observing no leads but a very healthy cave cricket convention being held under a ledge. The hole was dutifully photo-tagged and GPSed, and we took advantage of a fallen tree which had made a sunny spot and enjoyed our lunch on this beautiful day.



Chris hangs about in JF-510.

We then bumbled along to the next cave (Hole 8) where we were challenged finding a spot to put a tag as the cave is pretty mossy most of the way down the pitch. Rock was found, and a tag was applied on the northern lip, but I suspect this will be covered in moss in a few years time. I dropped the slightly less pleasant 9 m pitch and had a look. There is a bit of a hole largely filled in with soil and organic matter that heads off to the north, which was drafting out very lightly. I was able to poke a stick around in there to confirm it continues for a couple of metres at least but it did not motivate me to dig around. I came back

up to the surface at which point Amy managed to dislodge a large rock which rolled into the cave and landed on the rope. I couldn't pull it up, so had to drop the pitch again (Amy had conveniently left her SRT kit at home) and roll the rock off. It had landed neatly on the coil at the bottom, and I learnt to take a club rope next time. Now I have two ropes.

Back to the surface and we headed off to the last cave. We overshot the mark and ended up at JF-297 and JF-422 Andycap Cave. JF-422 wasn't in the GPS, so we took care of that. We didn't photo-tag it though on the assumption that this would have been done. A fair representation appears in SS370:18 but happily the cave did not contain Alan making vulgar gestures today. Hole 7 was found nearby and was as described. Amy was able to get underground for this one, and it was indeed an interesting little cave. There is a fist-sized hole in the floor that disappears somewhere, but is guarded by formation. The tag was placed just above the entrance.

Amy was keen to head back, but I could have continued with my little projects as she was pretty lost. In any case we bumbled down the gully following some old blue tapes, and found ourselves back at The Dungeon again. Remarkably, Amy was still lost, but we managed to stumble back onto the Serendipity track. When we got to the big tree fall we made some use of our destructive tools and did a little more taping to make myself feel better. We arrived back at the car to discover we had missed the STC Fungi Appreciation Splinter Group by a matter of minutes.

Surveys appear on page 29.

[It's great to see that while I'm out cleaning up the untagged caves legacy of Rasch and Butt in the Hairy Goat Hole area, Chris is out cleaning up my untagged caves legacy in the Armadillo Pot area – Ed.]

JF-344 Serendipity Janine McKinnon

27 May 2010

Party: Ric Tunney, Janine McKinnon.

Some kind souls had left the cave rigged for a couple of weeks, so we weren't about to let the opportunity for a free ride pass us by. Thus we set off on a fine Thursday morning to wander down the cave a few pitches, and take some photos on the top two pitches.

We started underground at 11 am and made a leisurely journey to the top of the third pitch. Ric decided to go and start setting up the camera for photos on the second pitch whilst I ambled down the third pitch, along the stream way a short distance, then back to the bottom of the second pitch.

I noted the beautifully judged length of the rope for the third pitch. Ah, memories of Jeff Butt rigging – JUST long enough for tall, 60 kg plus, people to get their descenders off. Luckily there was a handy 2 ft high rock nearby for me to stand on to get off the rope. Of course the brilliantly planned rope lengths had allowed for this rock too ...

Ric was organised when I arrived back so I started straight up to be photo model. Photography went smoothly on both pitches, apart from the firefly quitting on the first pitch. I got it going again by the time Ric got to the top of the first pitch. How annoying.

We were out of the cave at 4 pm.

[So where are the photos? Janine sent me the results of the day's exploits but I accidentally deleted them and now she's overseas. Next time, maybe – Ed.]

JF-344 Serendipity - derig

Alan Jackson

29 May 2010

Party: Serena Benjamin, Ken Hosking, Alan Jackson

I'd pulled the pin on attempting the aid climb – there simply wasn't enough man power to pull it off. The derig

went smoothly and we were back on the surface at 1:30 pm. I failed to take bolt markers with me (the three bolts in the cave were unmarked) so I had to improvise. I used disposable earplugs, so each bolt casing should have a small orange plastic earplug with a short length of white (brown?) string on the end.

On the walk out we took a side trip to JF-391 Gelignite Pot so I could try to relocate the little hole I'd found in October

2009 (SS374:10-11). I thought it might be JF-393. Serena found it, about 30 m down and right of Gelignite Pot. I scoured the walls for a tag but found nothing. It is also only 2.5 m deep, not the 4 m quoted in the tagging report.

It would appear that JF-393 will remain lost for a little longer and after re-reading the relevant literature I think it is located where I first thought it was ...

A Grand Day Out – surface exploration SW of Marble Hill, Ida Bay

Tony Veness 30 May 2010

Party: most of STC (except Alan)

As most of the upwardly mobile members of STC were heading north for winter during June, an Ida Bay surface day was planned as a farewell for those who would miss the midwinter's extravaganza. The theme of the day was food, as opposed to caves, but we managed to visit a few ye olde caves / wombat holes, as well as finding a few more for good measure.

Western Creek Swallet (IB-18) was visited first, heading off from the VE track. Geoff donned the rubberware and rattled in for a brief look down the obvious wet way. Others oohed and aahed at the stream sink, before we all had a selection of Amy's pumpkin scones, Serena's cucumber sandwiches and Sarah's cheese platter. All agreed to keep IB-18 on the 'to-do' list for summer when the water was a few degrees warmer and after we'd pumped Arthur for more information. Then it was off to IB-189, where Serena and Sarah started a detailed inspection of the wombat hole (sized) cave before being thwarted by a spider that had set-up residence across the crawl a little way in. A small entrance 20 m SW of IB-189 (and located under the same bluff) was tagged and briefly explored (IB-254).

The IB-121 / IB-19 double banger was next on the list. After lashings of Tony's Guinness mud muffins and Kate's scones (and jams and cream), Geoff and Tony dropped the IB-121 entrance using a single 35 m rope whilst the rest of the team lay about on the surface sweating sugar or exploring the IB-19 crawl-in entrance. Geoff recovered the IB-121 tag from the base of the pitch before Tony attached the tag immediately below the belay tree above the small entrance. Theory was, the tag was either dropped down the pitch by past amateur taggers or it came away from a temporary position on the tree. [In Nargun 20(7):56-61, it seems that IB-121 was already tagged when they visited it in 1987. The tag is indicated on the survey on page 60, not on the tree. Madphil, however, in SS347:8-9, couldn't find the tag. So it would seem that it fell off sometime between 1987 and 2005 – Ed.]



How many cavers does it take to tag a cave?



Tony retags IB-121.

On the way to IB-17, another slightly more extensive wombat hole was found. After Sarah had confirmed she could get her body wholly out of the sunlight, the cave was tagged IB-255. After a mid-afternoon pick-me-up from Geoff's chocolate fudge, and the joining of a couple of nearby small horizontal entrances to IB-17 proper, a downhill retreat was made to the VE Track. Along the way, the one and only new non-wombat hole-sized cave for the day was found and tagged.

Serena, Amy and Tony confirmed the existence of a decent 10 m or more deep pitch out, of view through a short horizontal rifty slot just inside the drop-in entrance. The cave's position, horizontally offset from the back-end of Exit Cave by about 50 m, and its likely user-friendly first pitch means a survey is warranted on a few long summer days, rather than in fading light in the middle of winter. This new cave was tagged IB-256 (16 squared according to Geoff). "Sixteensquared", now that's a good name for a cave.

In fading light, the nine well-fed cavers returned via the VE track to the Southern Ranges track and back to the vehicles. And onto pizza and lashings of beer on the way home ...

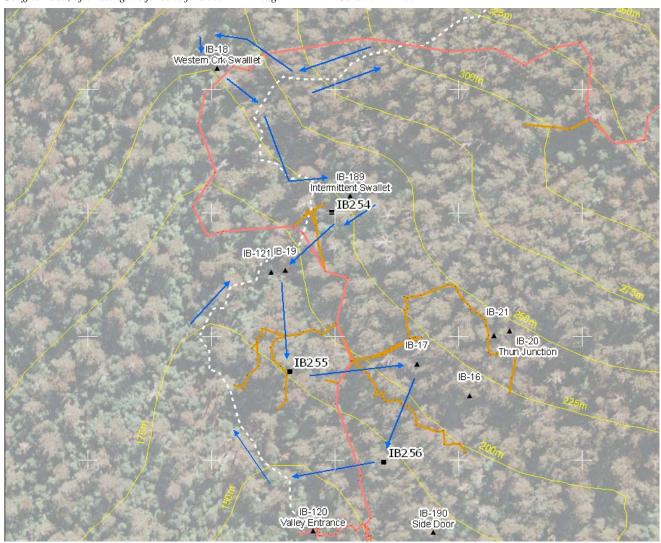
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Geoff is Yoda, after using the force to find the IB-121 tag.

Sarah in IB-17.



Map showing route taken (blue arrows), VE track (white dashed), Exit main passage (red) and Exit side passages (orange), along with existing and new tagged cave locations. 100 metre tick spacing.

Other Exciting Stuff

Edie Smith outed as a Cave Litterbug after 50 years –Exit Cave History

Geoff Wise

Exit Cave has a truly remarkable history of exploration as many of us who have been involved in the mapping project have found. There is no better example than the discovery by Matt and I of an old jumper on March 27 this year, which Matt reported in SS377. At the time we found it I wondered how long it had been there and whether we would be able to identify the owner. I theorised that it had been left by the party doing the theodolite survey as it wasn't far from exTh06 which is off the trade route in this area. I attributed the advanced state of decay to the damp environment of the cave. Boy was I wrong.

STC members would have read the following email Albert Goede sent (21/05/2010) to the list server which cleared up the jumper mystery. It makes a fascinating read for anyone interested in the history of our club. (That should be everyone!)

"I was fascinated to read in the latest Spiel (377) that Matt and survey party had discovered the remains of a decayed jumper in a passage in Exit Cave. I know exactly when it was left there (long weekend, January 1954) and who it belonged to (Edie Smith). I remember it very well because it was my very first caving trip. We were a party of nine with Leo Luckman as party leader. Leo and Jessie Luckman provided transport for me in their truck. A party of nine followed up an abandoned tramway from the Ida Bay Railway and than contoured around Marble Hill and down towards the plains. We arrived at the Exit Cvae entrance quite late in the day and set up camp. I shared a tent with two visiting cavers from WA: Jim Cartright and Bill Gilbert who were spending some time in Tasmania riding their motor bikes. Edie Smith was also a member of the party. Leo had been shown the cave entrance some years earlier by a local resident but it remained totally unexplored because of the deep water just inside the entrance. The following morning Leo got to work constructing a log bridge but before he could finish it another caver Neil Swifte discovered the Windtunnel and that was the obvious way to go. It took us some time to find a way through the big slabs of rock 200 m upstream from the entrance and meanwhile Edie set off to explore an upper level passage. She got a bit warm and took off the jumper she was wearing underneath her trogsuit. Later on she forgot to come back for it and there it stayed until now! Three of us found a way through the slabs and explored the main passage as far as the rockfall. For someone on his first caving trip it was a tremendous experience. The glowworms were very impressive but with only an old battery-powered bicycle lamp as a light source I did not see a lot of the cave except that it was obviously huge. From that day onwards I was hooked on caving! The following night it started to rain heavily and our tent was virtually flooded - everything was soaked! There was no way we could get back into the cave to rescue Edie's jumper. We had a very wet walk back to Ida Bay climbing over lots of very slippery logs. When we got back to the Ida Bay huts a fire was lit and I frantically dried to dry my underwear with the result that it got rather scorched. I did not get back to our home in Claremont until nearly midnight on Monday. My mother was frantic and about to call the police but I was able to persuade her that I had enjoyed the experience and wanted to go again. In the 1960s, after we had successfully cut an access track to Exit Cave, Edie jokingly asked us to look for her lost jumper but we were all too eager to explore the further recesses of the cave and the jumper stayed where it was. If Edie were still alive she would be mortified to learn that her jumper had stained the formations!"

After reading the email I thought if I had known that at the time, would we have attempted to remove the jumper. When does an item stop becoming something that has been discarded (accidentally or otherwise) and become an historical artefact? We tend to leave things if they have been there 'forever' and if there is a story behind it but should we? Should we remove items like the camp pie tin as well?

I suggested (initially jokingly) we name this part of the cave Edies Trash, a word play on another area of the cave, Edies Treasure. Everyone I've talked to so far thinks it is a great name that indicates some history of the cave. Names are a better way of preserving these stories (in addition to documenting them in the *Spiel!*) than leaving the item *in situ*.

I'm constantly amazed at the things that seem a side note to one person spark a marvellous story from someone else. The jumper mystery shows that the knowledge locked up in our elders' heads is priceless. Hopefully a few more metaphorical decaying jumpers are turned up during the mapping project.



Edies Trash.

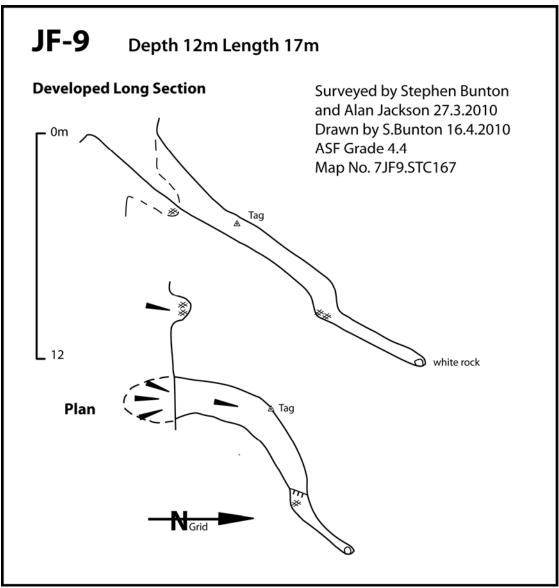
Surveys

101 Surveys

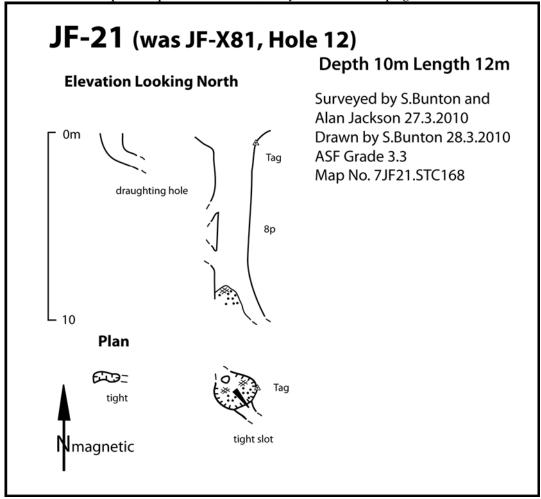
Alan Jackson

A large number of surveys of piddly little shit-holes have been completed recently during the course of the Hairy Goat Hole area clean-up over the last year or so. Only a small number of these have actually been published. Here they are, plus a few extra shit-holes by Chris Chad, the map to accompany Rolan's report on page 5, a Cave Hill hole and then two masterpieces to finish it off! I've tried to insert relevant references and important information where possible, but all maps are dated so finding relevant trip

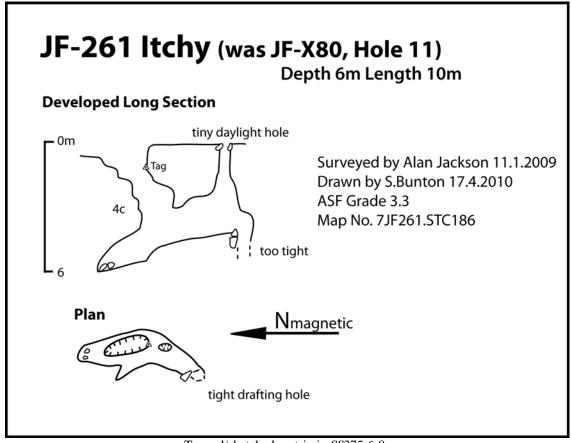
reports shouldn't be difficult. I have listed the reference for the trip that the survey data/sketches were collected for each of the caves. Some of these 'caves' are pathetically insignificant but all X caves must go! They have been placed in numerical order (lowest number to biggest number) so formatting is a bit ugly in spots – I could have spent hours resizing and tiling maps to make them fit perfectly and save a few sheets of paper but I figured that Gunns and FT need all the support they can get at the moment. "Hole" references follow the naming system that Jeff, Dave and Jol used in their trip reports and survey notes.



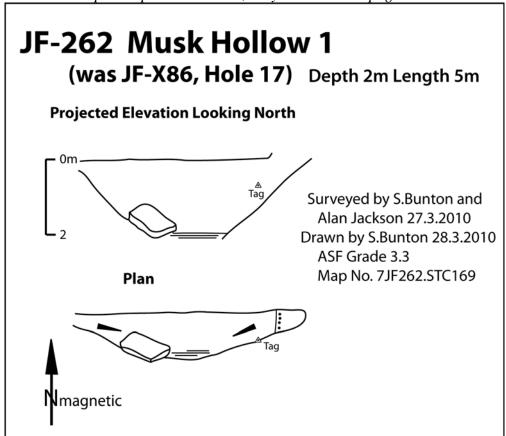
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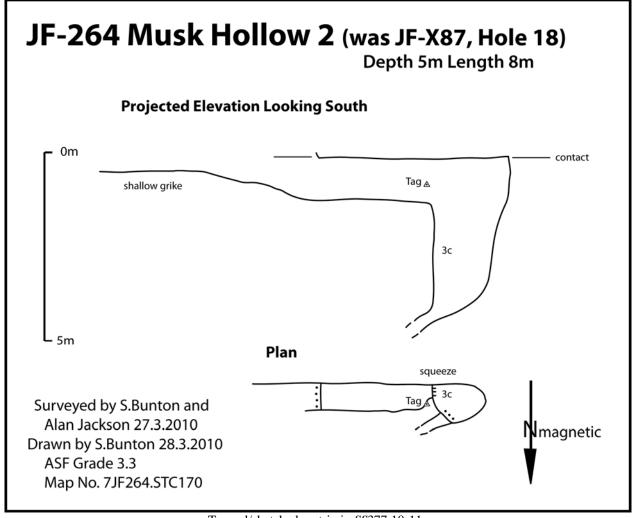
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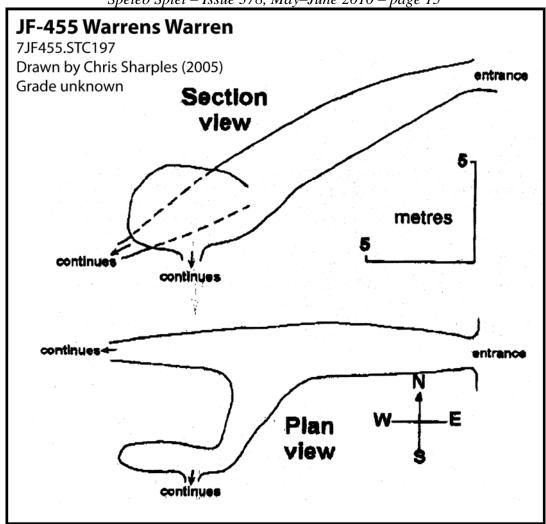
Tagged/sketched on trip in SS375:6-8.



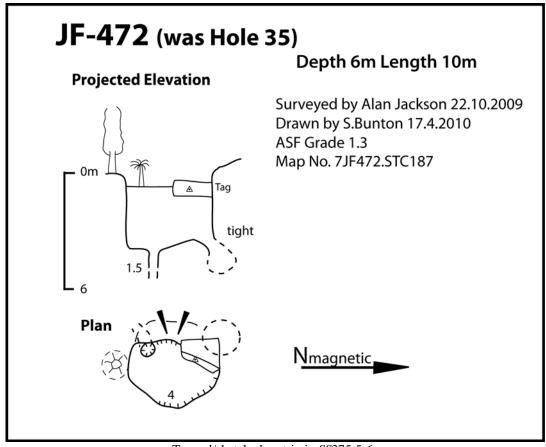
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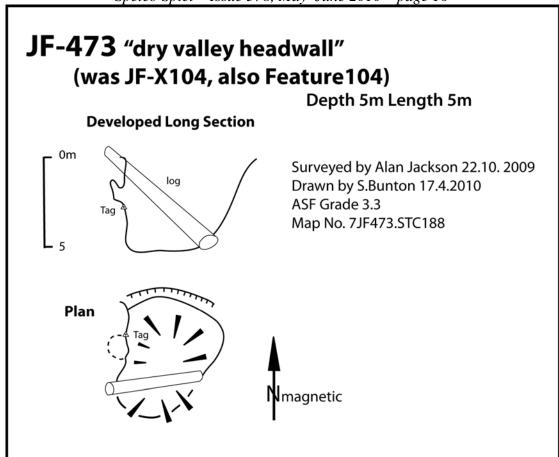
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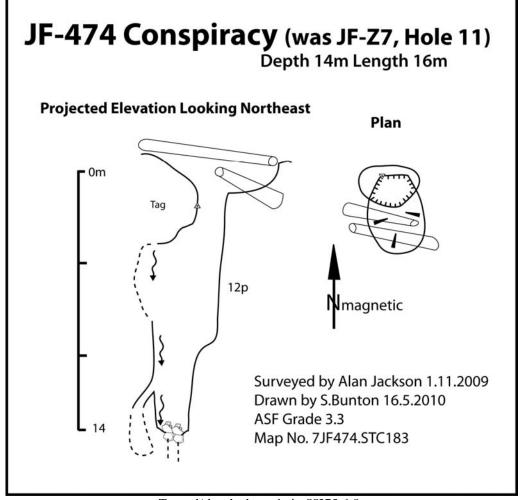
See page 5 of this issue.



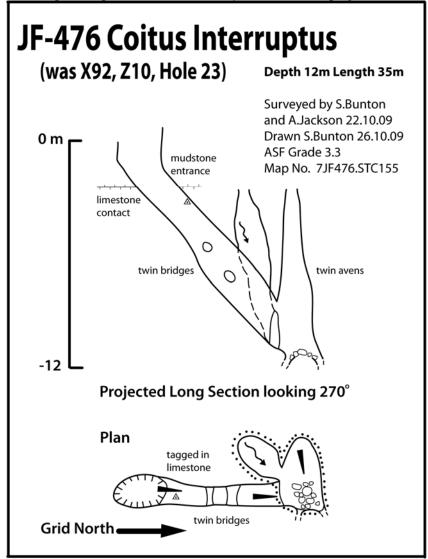
Tagged/sketched on trip in SS375:5-6.



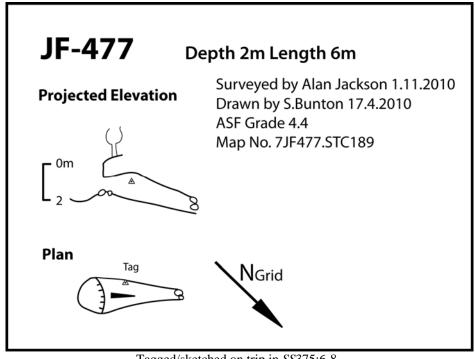
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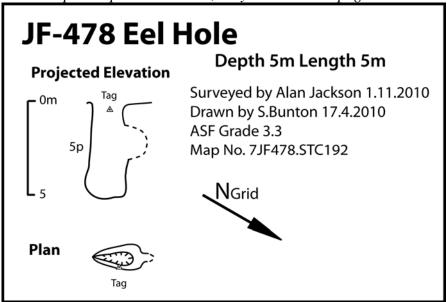
Tagged/sketched on trip in SS375:6-8.



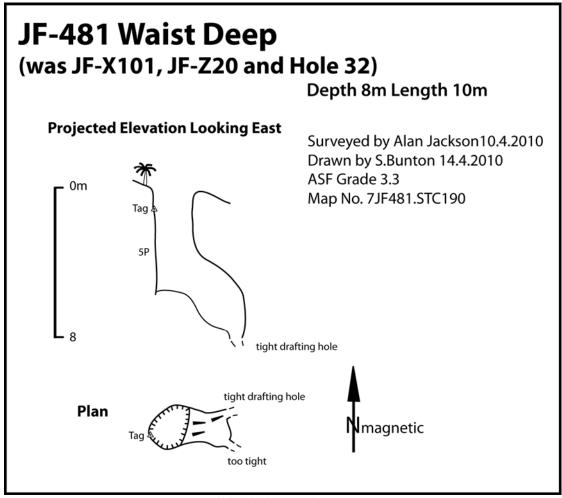
This map was published in SS376:22 but without the name, Coitus Interruptus. It was tagged/sketched in SS375:5-6 and named in SS377:10-11.



Tagged/sketched on trip in SS375:6-8.



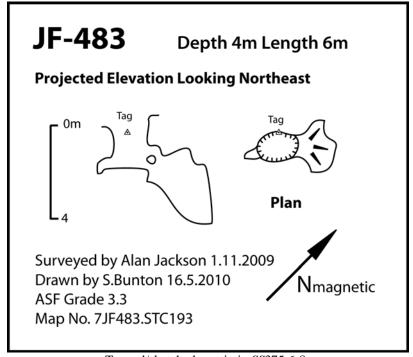
Tagged/sketched on trip in SS375:6-8. The name origin has not been previously published. Bunty called it this because Andras Galambos found/explored it and his sometime nickname was 'Andras the Eel' (and it's a fairly tight cave).



Tagged/sketched on trip in SS375:6-8.

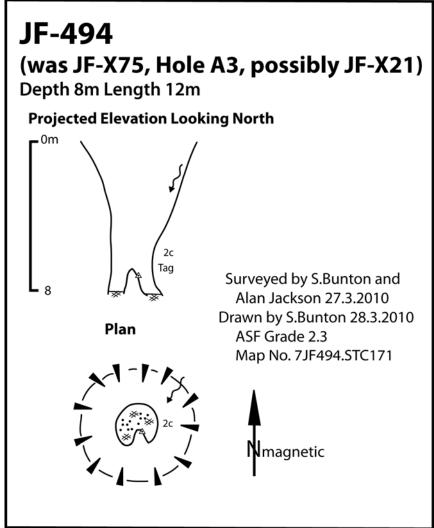
Projected Elevation Surveyed by Alan Jackson1.11.2009 Drawn by S.Bunton 17.4.2010 ASF Grade 1.2 Map No. 7JF482.STC191 Plan Nmagnetic pitch approx. 10m

Tagged/sketched on trip in SS375:6-8.

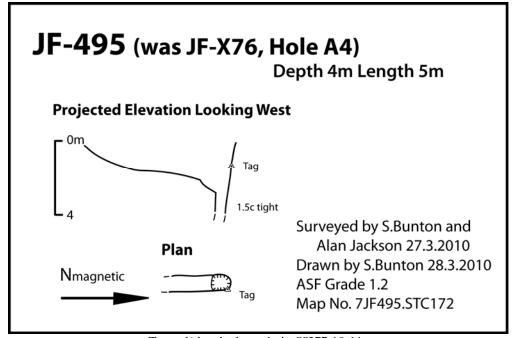


Tagged/sketched on trip in SS375:6-8.

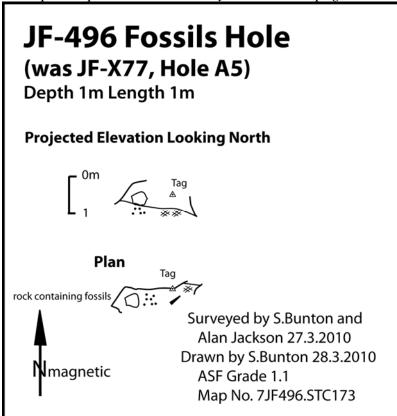
Platypus Pot JF-487 (was JF-Z21) / JF-488 Depth 23 m JF-487 Tag 0 m Length 70 m squeeze JF-488 Tag alcove 22 P 13 P 10 large, leaning boulder humic talus slope **Elevation Looking SW** 20 23 platypus floor of snailshells and small mammal bones skull cairn cemented in thin flowstone Plan Grid 1 talus slope JF-488 Tag Scale platypus skull cairn 4 m 22 P mud sump Surveyed 30.1.2010 by S.Bunton and K. Hosking. JF-487 Tag Drawn 11.2.2010 by S Bunton. flowstone "column" ASF Grade 4.4 7JF487.STC165



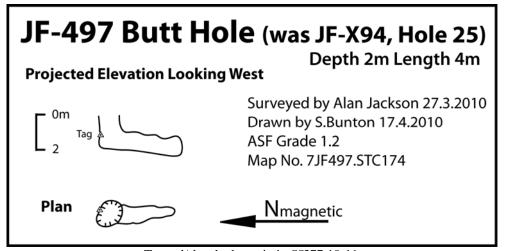
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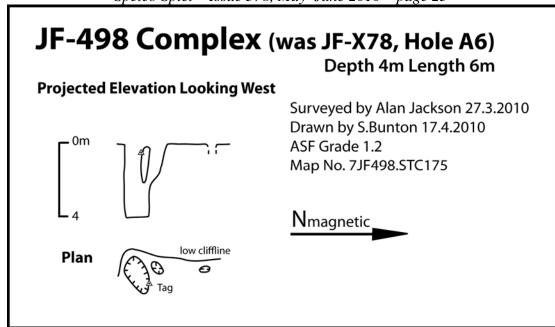
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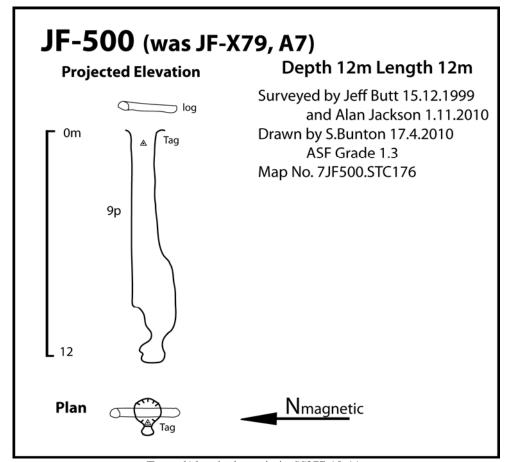
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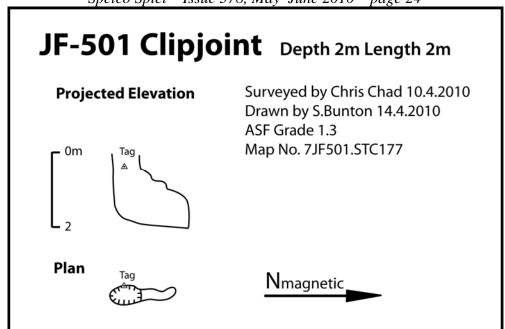
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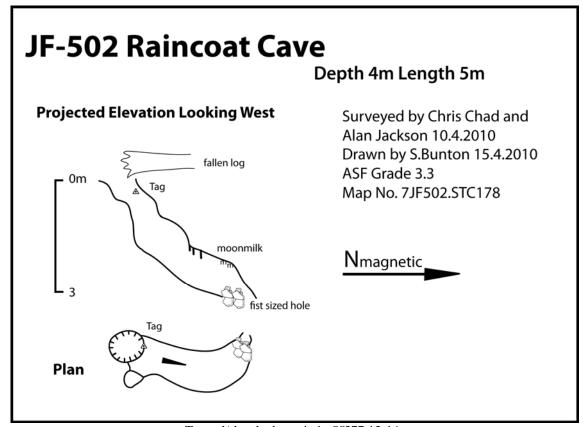
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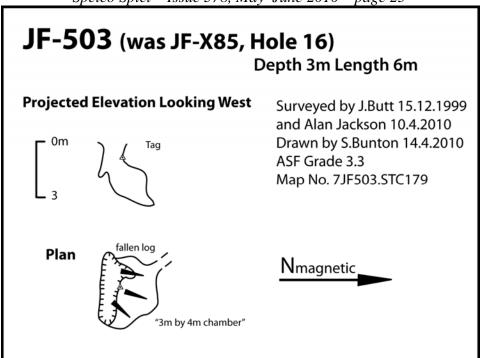
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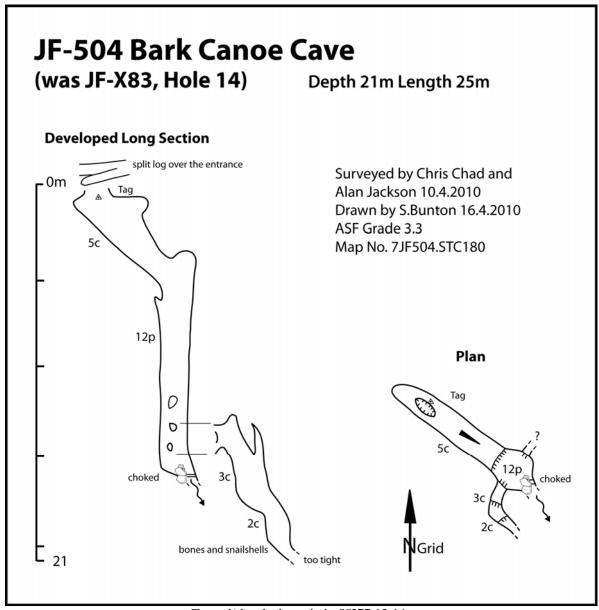
Tagged/sketched on trip in SS377:10-11.



Tagged/sketched on trip in SS377:13-14.



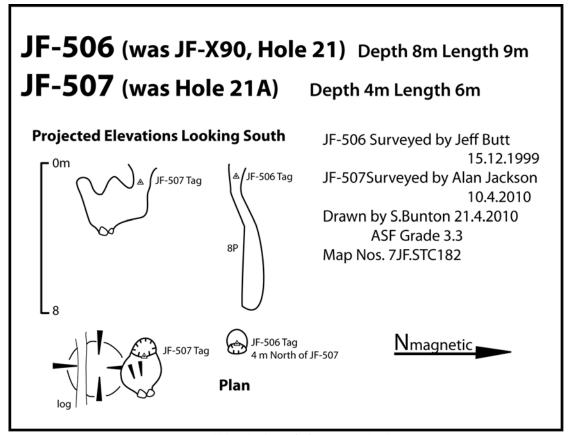
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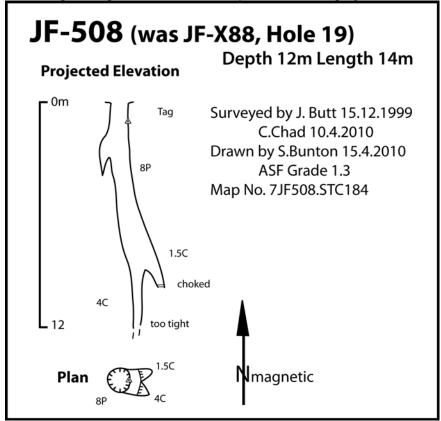
Tagged/sketched on trip in SS377:13-14.

JF-505 (was JF-X82, Hole 13) Depth 2.5m Length 5m Projected Elevation Om Tag ASF Grade 3.3 Map No. 7JF505.STC181 Nmagnetic

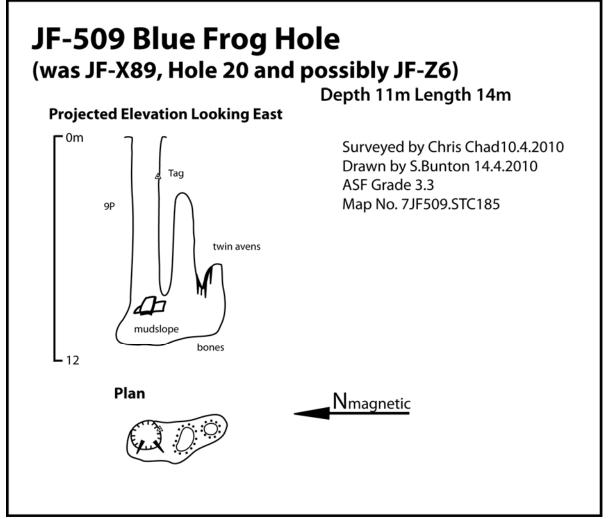
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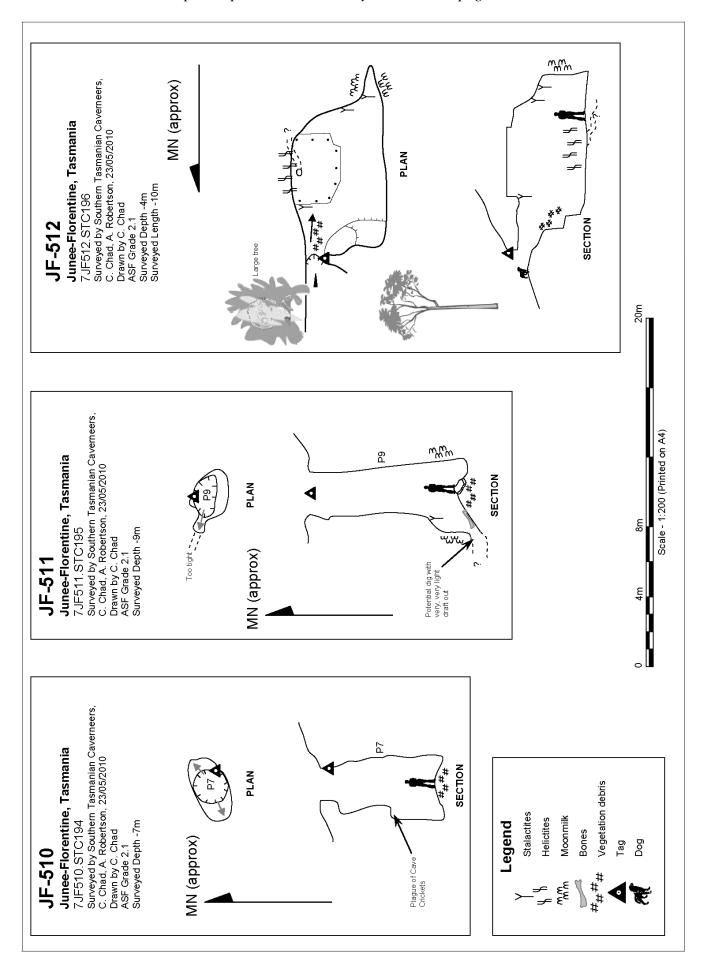
Tagged/sketched on trip in SS377:13-14.



Tagged/sketched on trip in SS377:13-14.



Tagged/sketched on trip in SS377:13-14. The name Blue Frog Hole is taken from Jeff Butt's field notes. We have been unable to find any reference that may reveal the origin of this name.



JF-510-JF-512: See pages 7-8 of this issue.

