

# SPEIEO SPIEI 388

January - February 2012

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**Front Cover:** Fifty Dollar Falls,  
Standard Hill. *Photo by Damian  
Bidgood.*

**Back Cover:** Waterfall, Standard  
Hill Canyon. *Photo by Damian  
Bidgood.*

**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

Newsletter of the

**Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated**

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## Editorial

My mum always told me that if I had nothing nice to say then say nothing at all. Don't know why I say as much as I do.

Alan Jackson

## Stuff 'n Stuff

### MORE BLOODY BABIES

Benjamin Charles Jackson arrived kicking and screaming on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The jury is still out as to how much he'll affect my caving in 2012.

### DISSIDENCE MINI-EXPEDITION

Only vague levels of interest and low levels of commitment have been indicated for this event. Looks like I'll be doing most of it on my own – what's new?

### STC GUNNEDAH BRANCH

Chris Chad filed the following report detailing some recent activity by the STC-GB on an Australia Day family excursion to Dripping Rock, out past Boggabri NSW:

*"Well actually I found a cave, explored it, noted it smelt like goats, and marvelled how sandstone had formed something that looked awfully like a stal. The really exciting part is the opportunity to bodge together a 30 m pitch (admittedly down the cliff to the easily accessible horizontal entrance). If I manage to convince Lou to wear sensible shoes next time, there may even be a photo."*

We look forward to more exciting details of what the mainland has to offer.

### SPELEOLOGICAL NEW YEAR

I've decided that 2012 is the year of JF-Z cave eradication. There are 92 in total and we've already accounted for 26 of them. That's a mere 66 to go. I have 13 more lined up for potential eradication during the Easter expedition. Please join me in arms against this scourge of the JF.

### CAVE GEAR CACHES

A few caves have caches of emergency gear in them. Jane has provided an inventory of where they are and what they contain. I assume the bubble wrap is for relieving the boredom of waiting out a flood by popping the bubbles.

#### *Slaughterhouse Pot Gear Cache:*

- Foam mats x 2
- Bubble wrap x 2
- Bivvy/body bags x 2
- Socks (wool) x 2 pairs
- Balaclava (wool) x 1
- Beanie (wool) x 1
- Emergency blankets x 2
- Candles x 6
- Matches (waterproof) x 2 boxes

#### *Exit Inner Base Camp Gear Cache - the 'gourmet' version:*

- Sleeping bag x 1
- Sleeping mat x 1
- Lollies
- Freeze dried food

- Jacket
- Camp stove x 1
- Methylated spirits
- Emergency ponchos
- First aid kit
- Tea light candles
- Cutlery

#### *Exit Camp One Gear Cache (pinched from Rolan's email):*

- Trangia stove (including pots)
- Methylated spirits 1 L
- Cigarette lighters x 2
- Space blankets (small) x 5
- Candles (long life) x 12
- Space blanket/ground sheet 1.5 x 2.1 m
- Foam sleeping mats x 2
- Sleeping bag (lightweight, synthetic)
- Thermals x 6 sets
- Beanies x 6
- First aid kit (basic)

### CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Thanks to the Buntons for putting us up at their home for the Christmas BBQ (and not taking us all out with food poisoning or the like). For the 35 seconds I was there everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves.



S. Buntun



S. Buntun

## Trip Reports

### MC-1 Kubla Khan

**Ric Tunney**

**3 December 2011**

**Party:** Grant Elliot (Hills Speleos), Trent Ford, Janine McKinnon, Petr Smejkal, Ric Tunney

We entered the top entrance at 8.30 am. The trip through was standard and uneventful. Grant had brought his camera and four flashes, so we stopped at the usual places - Opium Den, Watergate, Forbidden City, Silk Shop and Khan Chamber. Grant's cave and canyon photography experience minimised delay. He soon had his minions rushing hither and thither, flashing wildly. The photography was helped by relatively clear air, despite there being a lot of water around. Water was still pulsing down the column in the Silk Shop. There had been 68 mm of rain in the previous week!

The River Alph was a little high. About half the Pleasure Dome pools were filled, although the big lake near the top was almost empty.

All but Trent donned wet suits for the wet bit. Trent was experimenting with new lycra/neoprene clothing under his trog suit. He had worn these through the cave and reported feeling quite comfortable. He had no more complaints than the rest of us in the water, too. [*Trent doesn't complain – he's too hard – Ed.*]

On a previous trip we had been trapped by a jammed padlock on the bottom gate. We had exited by breaking a shawl in a small passage nearby, which allowed us to slip past the ironwork. The padlock had been subsequently replaced on a trip with Parks staff, discussions had been held about a mechanism to allow the gate to be opened from the inside even if the padlock failed, and repairing the bypass had been discussed. While the party started up the bottom pitch, I blocked the bypass with more ironwork. This repair won't withstand an angle grinder, but neither will the gate!

We were all out and walking back to the cars at 6.30 pm. It was a pleasure to visit this time with a party that can take time to get good photographs and spend a while actually looking at the cave, but can move efficiently so the whole trip doesn't become tedious.

### IB-1 Revelation Cave

**Janine McKinnon**

**27 December 2011**

**Party:** Serena Benjamin (briefly), Ken Hosking, Janine McKinnon, Petr Smejkal, Ric Tunney and the Robertson family (to the entrance).

Ric and I had had two attempts to tie the new vertical entrance into the old survey, in 2006. We still couldn't get it to make sense so we decided the easiest thing to do was to resurvey the cave.

The survey party was five strong and it was decided to take two cars down from Hobart for the comfort of the passengers. Amy had expressed an interest in joining us for the walk in, given good weather, and so we all rendezvoused at the car park at Ida Bay (after the Hobart contingent had met up at Banjo's in Huonville). The whole Robertson family came for the walk, including brand new bub, Ray. We had a pleasant chatting walk to the entrance, with the chat slowing a bit on the steep slog up the hill.

The Robertsons headed away as we started to enter at 11 am. Serena went first as she was planning on being the survey point scout. I came last. Whilst they sorted out survey stations, I rigged the approach line and put in the hangers and rope for the drop. We started surveying again (I was on instruments, so they had to wait for me) when Serena unexpectedly declared herself unwell and aborted her caving day. We quickly re-sorted jobs and continued on, whilst Serena exited, to wait for us at the cars.

We remaining four surveyed down to the junction with the old entrance, and then packed up survey kit and headed to the end of the cave. We started surveying out from there. The survey in the stream goes to the corner in the crawl but

not around the corner where Amy is reported to have squeezed. This is the same terminus of the old survey and is short of the true end by only a few, very nasty, metres, according to Ken who was with Amy on the relevant trip. If the cave can be pushed beyond there then it will be worth the horrible job of surveying the extra bit.



*A couple of rangas in their natural habitat.*

The dry branch to the dig was surveyed from the end.

We surveyed the side passages on the way out to the bottom pitch, and stopped the surveying at the top of the bottom pitch.

Forward and back bearings were taken on all legs. Disto was used for lengths.

The bottom pitch was derigged and the other two left rigged for a return to complete the job soon.

We were all out by 5 pm.

## East Side of Cave Hill - Not JF-67 but JF-68, 217, 218, 441, 442, 443 and more!

Stephen Bunton

29 December 2011

Party: Stephen Bunton, Ken Hosking

With our new track to Rescue Pot in place we were now able to access the long lost caves of yesteryear on the east side of Cave Hill. We followed the new track virtually to Tarn Creek Swallet (JF-364) and then contoured around the hill to the southwest aiming for JF-68 near Zulu Pot (JF-215) This was in the GPS from our earlier visit on the day we descended Zulu Pot (SS376:8). Almost immediately we found JF-218 and got stuck into the rigging, exploration, surveying and recording. This cave is merely a 12 m pitch but previous records mention a short climb to a passage with calcified tree roots [SC2(4):25]. This is merely an alcove on the far side of the pitch. It is a difficult climb without aid and so we couldn't be bothered, although it could be entered by some gutsy commando move across from where you would rig a ladder.

We then moved on to JF-68. This cave is in an area of exposed limestone pavements with some eucalypt and dogwood regrowth that is nowhere near as dense as the western side of Cave Hill or the stuff higher up around the Bone Pit (JF-203) to Voltera (JF-207) area. Even so it took us a moment to find the cave as there were lots of likely looking depressions.

JF-68 was recorded as 15 m deep with an 11 m pitch and a 4 m pitch. In reality it is just an 11 m pitch to two slots in the floor; the proximal one is 4 m deep and the distal one about 6 m deep. Interestingly enough light shone down the former is not seen in the latter and so Ken thought there was a chance that the cave could continue. I knew I didn't fit but Ken had to measure his girth in relation to the passage. The problem was that he still had his SRT gear on when really it would be better done without the extra hindrance. The main problem was that Ken had forgotten his suit this day and his thermal legs and cheap raincoat were more prone to snagging than a racy trogsuit. After reading the report of the original exploration by prospective member Philip Voss (SS96:3), I am definitely not going back, the continuation narrows to the "same diameter as his arm"!

Near JF-68 we found another small solution feature that Ken was willing to push if he had his trogsuit but not today. I knew it was not for me. Nevertheless we GPS'd it and entered it as BK1. There is a BK2 nearby as well. This is a 2 m deep garbage bin-sized hole that Ken stood in. We know, we should have carried tags and a drill with us but Gavin the Gear Store Man was not at home for us to collect them. Yes, I know, we should have planned ahead. Yes I know, Alan's going to be rude to us and give us a hard time about it, so we called the first cave Rudeland Cave. Rudeland is a rough, tough place where nasty people live, a bit like the slopes of Cave Hill. *[Judging by those descriptions I'd suggest that not tagging them was the best course of action – Ed.]*



*The alleged cave BK1.*

Now we began heading back to Tarn Creek Swallet. Almost immediately we found a rather impressive feature that we thought had to be Deefour (JF-67) but we couldn't be certain because we could not find a tag. The tag should have been one of the nice rectangular TCC ones rather than the thin flimsy "guttering strap" SCS ones. From the recollections of my research [SC2(4):25] there was some possibility that Deefour and JF-217 may have been the same cave. Finding either tag would have been good. Nevertheless we descended the cave and surveyed it. We rigged from the southern side with a long redirection from the northern side. This cave goes down a 13 m pitch and then reaches some short, horizontal passages floored with the same soft, typical Cave Hill flowstone. Unfortunately the pitch into Deefour is supposed to be 40 m. Whilst you could drive a bulldozer into this cave, we decided that it was not Deefour and this explains the absence of a tag. We therefore called the new cave Bobcat; it's a mini-bulldozer. We couldn't be certain whether the lower reaches had been trogged or not and my suspicion is that the marks on the flowstone in this cave were made by the animals whose skeletons grace the chamber at the bottom of the pitch.



*Bunty descends into Bobcat.*

The gods were definitely smiling on us this day because shortly after leaving Bobcat we found JF-217, a mere 10 m from JF-218. This cleared up the confusion about Deefour and JF-217 being the same cave, or that JF-217 was another entrance to Zulu Pot. If only SCS had published trip reports, not just a summary of their endeavours as secondhand "Area Reports", a lot of this confusion would

not have eventuated! The presence of JF-217 also confirmed our thoughts that on the day these were tagged they did come over the hill from the west, from Dementia Den (JF-216), and then tagged these two next.

The other objective for the day was to determine if Ping Cave (JF-442) and Pong Cave (JF-443) could in fact be JF-219 and JF-220. The two pairs of caves each connect and the descriptions of them almost match. I wanted to see if we could locate the JF-219 and JF-220 tags to clear up this confusion.

We found Ping Cave and Pong Cave by going to the GPS fix for nearby Index Pot (JF-441). We found and photographed all these caves, although looking at the photo-tags, I forgot to put flagging tape on the JF-442 and JF-443 tags. Unfortunately we did not find any old number tags there, so they still might be (they are in the right place to be) JF-219/220 but we will never know until we find separate caves with those numbers. Not finding them won't help. Optimistically there are still these two, tagged caves

to find on this side of the hill ... and the great lurking 40 m pitch of Deefour!

We then headed cross-country towards our new track and intersected it at the point I initially thought we should leave it. It was a mere 10 minutes back to the car.

In summary, work still to be done in this area:

- 1) Survey Index Cave (JF-441), Ping and Pong Caves (JF-442/3) and put tape on the tags. [*Sounds like a job for the slackarse cavers who tagged the frigging things – Ed.*]
- 2) Find JF-219/220 and Deefour (JF-67).
- 3) Tag Rudeland Cave (BK1) and BK2.
- 4) Tag Bobcat.
- 5) If we thought that there was any importance to the relative positions of these caves we could do a surface survey but that might be too conscientious!

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## **IB-1 Revelation Cave**

**Janine McKinnon**

**21 January 2012**

**Party:** Ken Hosking, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney

This was a trip to complete the survey we started on our previous trip a few weeks ago. We had left the top half of the cave rigged, thus we got down and were surveying within half an hour of the first person (me) starting in.

We surveyed all side passages and I had a go at climbing a narrow rift off a small side passage. I couldn't move enough to get up and then Ken had a go by building a pile of rocks. After some time struggling, he managed to climb about 5 m up and determined that the passage closed off. This was a pity as we were high enough up the cave that we thought it might be another entrance, although there was no draft.

We surveyed up the passage to the old entrance, and it was here that Ken had a nasty fall off a ledge, 2 m to the floor. The ledge was very slippery and he was contorted in an odd position to get a Disto shot, when his boot suddenly slipped off. He fell hard onto the rocks in the passage and was very lucky not to have done serious damage. As it was he badly bruised an elbow and jarred his neck.

Valiant trooper that he is, once we had determined that he was going to live, we continued on with the surveying.

When we reached the rift that Ric and Petr looked up last trip, Ken had a go at climbing up. He got a short way up, could see daylight, but didn't think the way was climbable. He thought it fitted Amy's description of the old route in she had taken before the landslip. I had gone in that route once too, many years ago and before the landslip but (typically some might say) didn't recognize the rift. We did a couple of shots part way in and then retreated out of the cave.

I was first out and so I went around to the old entrance tag and climbed down as far as I was game. I was looking down a rift that looked a dare-devil climbing job to me. Maybe bridgeable but you would have to be desperate.

When Ken came out he went to inspect the view of the rift from the top and was certain it was the one he had been looking up. So we have determined that is the old way in and we have surveyed to the correct spot. We are a couple of legs short of tying the two together though.

On closer inspection we think that the old entrance was a walk down slope (which is what I remember) near the tag which has been filled in by the landslide, leaving the vertical rift at the end the only opening.

We have completed the survey. Forward and back bearings were taken and a Disto used.

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## **Standard Hill Canyon – Southern Tasmanian Canyoneers?**

**Alan Jackson**

**28 January 2012**

**Party:** Damian Bidgood, Gavin Brett, Alan Jackson, Graeme Jackson, Mark Nelson

Before I was obsessive compulsive about caving I was obsessive compulsive about whitewater kayaking. Sometime in the mid-1990s, as a pimply-faced teenager, I paddled the 'Standard Hill Run' section of the Mersey River (Liena Bridge to Union Bridge). I remember turning the corner at the top of the big rapid and having my eye

caught by a sizeable tributary that entered on river left via a steep and incised canyon. I made a mental note to myself that I should explore that tributary one day. With the recent advent of commercial canyoning in the Dove River my mind was returned to this fleeting teenage moment and I decided to check the maps to assess the feasibility of such a trip. The 1:25 k map (Cethana 4240) showed a conveniently-located forestry road, two (unnamed) waterfalls in the (unnamed) creek and some exciting-looking contours. Google satellite and aerial photography also provided incentive. The first of the two waterfalls stood out like dog's balls on the imagery – with two obvious parallel cascades of water down a large face. The second waterfall was just visible, if you knew where to

look from the 1:25 k map, and the lower section of the creek looked suitably shadowy and steep to keep spirits high. An impending baby made planning difficult but a date in January was finally set.

I checked with a friend in Forestry Tasmania if the access road was locked and he confirmed it was but a key was sorted without any hassle. The road proved to be in good nick as there is actually what appears to be a permanent residence located on a private block at the spot we left the cars. The first bit of track was simple going (old logging track in good condition) but once this turned to the west we headed into the scrub. It was pretty ordinary in spots but Gavin and the Damian (the human bulldozer) did all the grunt work and created a tunnel in the bauera. The approach to the creek was very steep and slippery but around an hour or so after leaving the cars we stumbled across the creek. It was a lot bigger than we had imagined (it does have a large catchment – in excess of 16 km<sup>2</sup>) and would be deserving of rivulet status rather than just creek. About 50 m downstream was a very obvious horizon line and it was evident that the top waterfall was going to be as impressive as the Google imagery suggested. Upon poking our heads over the edge we began wondering if our two 50 m ropes were going to be enough to get us down.



*The vegetation situation ...*

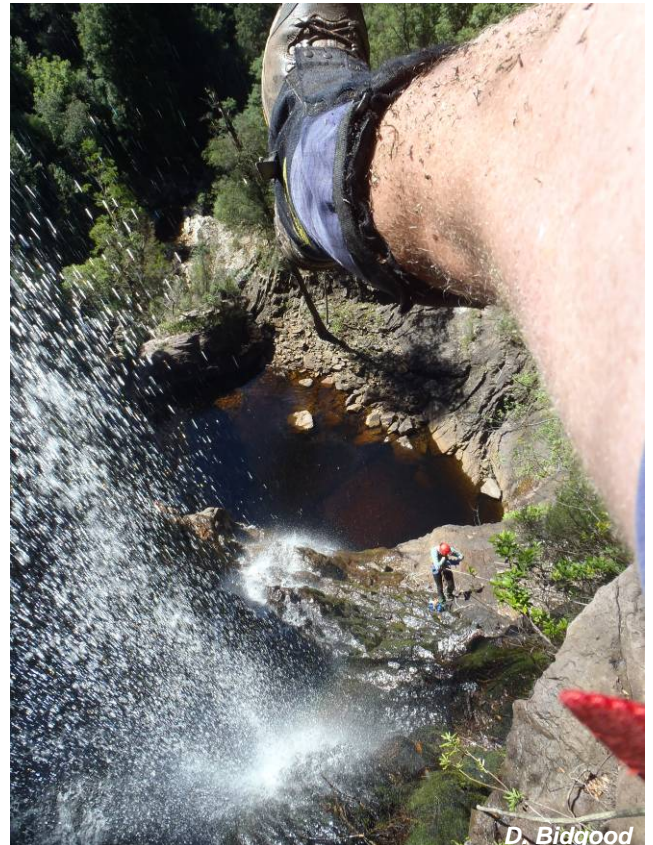
There were a few blue, yellow and pink tapes in the vicinity and a crappy bit of old laid rope stretched between two trees 10 m upstream of the waterfall, so others have obviously been there. There may be a more established route to the falls, which would make future attempts more enjoyable. Getting to the bottom of the falls from this point without rope would be a large undertaking though, with a long traverse around and down the large waterfall bowl required. [I have later talked to a friend who has visited these falls by following a taped route from Olivers Road

somewhere near the Lorinna (Cockatoo) road junction which essentially follows the creek.]



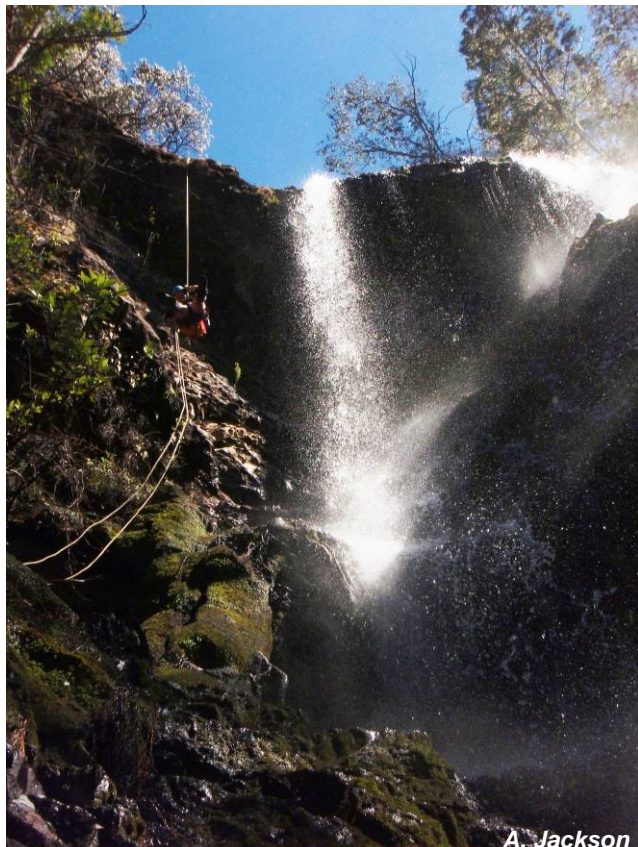
*Mind the step!*

The first 10-15 m of the fall is overhanging and the following ~30-35 m is a near-vertical slab. The water spreads beautifully over the slab and pours into a large plunge pool. We chose a couple of suitably solid-looking trees several metres back from the lip and abseiled the overhanging section to a large sassafras tree, which provided a good anchor for the remaining portion of the falls. Mark created a spectacle while abseiling the first section by failing to zip up his shorts pocket – at first a \$20 note fluttered down and stopped on a ledge above me. Then a second \$20 and a \$10 note followed. I caught the second \$20 but the \$10 passed out of reach. At the bottom of the rope, floating in the plunge pool, I found the missing \$10. Gavin later suggested the name Fifty Dollar Falls.



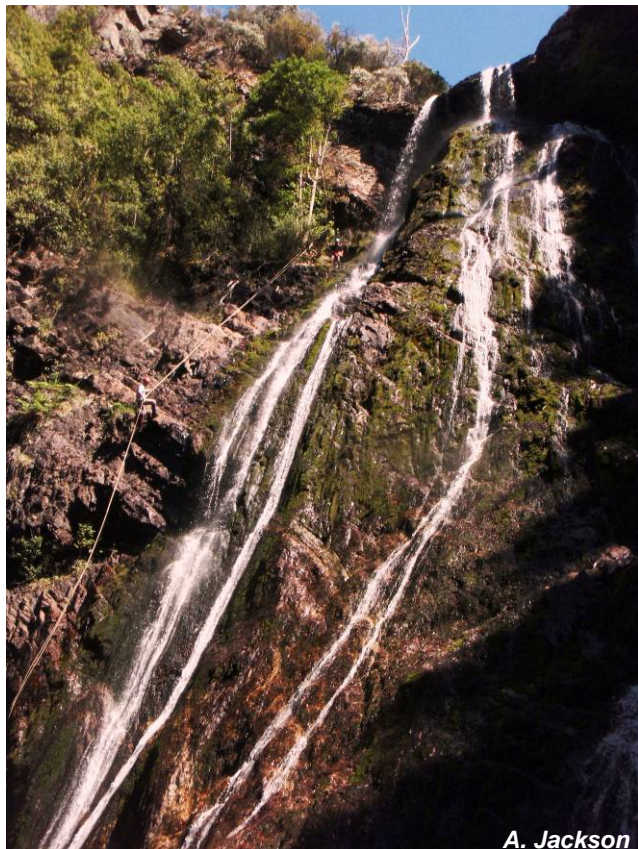
*Sexy legs and waterfalls.*

The pool at the bottom had to be swum and the water temperature was surprisingly mild. A few moments were taken to admire the stunning beauty of the waterfall.



**A. Jackson**

*Damian on the top section of the falls.*



**A. Jackson**

*\$50 Falls with abseilers for scale.*

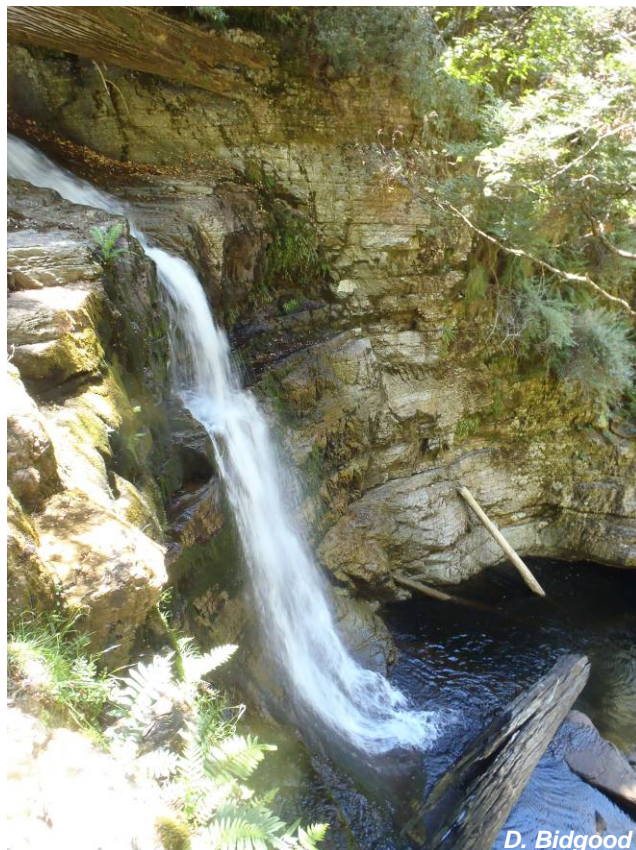
The map and contours suggested that the section below the falls would be reasonably steep (and with at least one more waterfall), which would then be followed by a relatively

flat section between for several hundred metres and then the bottom section to the Mersey should be pretty steep again. This, more-or-less, is how it panned out. The first bit consisted of a series of short drops and cascades (up to ~5 m). Most of these could be reasonably easily skirted around by heading into the scrub adjacent to the drops but a couple had to be roped. Some of the bypasses were a bit sketchy and would have been safer on rope. The banks were steep in this section but not vertical or canyon-like. It was very pleasant.



**D. Bidgood**

*Scouting another waterfall.*



**D. Bidgood**

*A delightful little waterfall.*

The middle section was as expected – fairly low gradient with the occasional ~2-3 m drop, none of which needed rope. We stopped for lunch near the end of this section and were visited by a passing tiger snake.

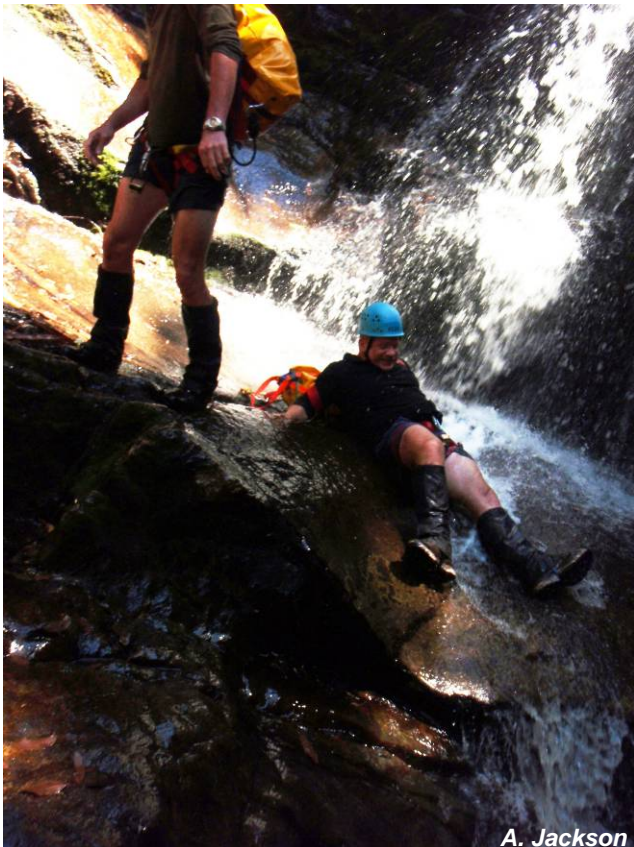
The bottom section was better than expected. It started as a ~10-15 m wide sheer-sided canyon with a series of short falls and plunge pools. The canyon then narrowed somewhat and a classic slippery dip channel was found. A

well-positioned tree on the right bank past the chute allowed a clean abseil down by the final drop and a short swim across the plunge pool. While the others negotiated this Gavin was checking the next section. He called back something about a long swim. When we joined him he was toying with the idea of jumping into deep water over a ~3 m drop but we were in the shadows and the water was heavily tannin-stained so we decided to err on the side of caution and use a rope. This was a good decision as a submerged log was found to extend out 3 m from the base of the drop at about 1 m depth! A ~30 m swim round a corner followed before the canyon widened and opened out into glorious sunshine. Fairly easy going followed and before long we could see the hills on the other side of the Mersey River.



**A. Jackson**

*Gavin manages a controlled slide.*



**A. Jackson**

*Damian manages an uncontrolled slide.*

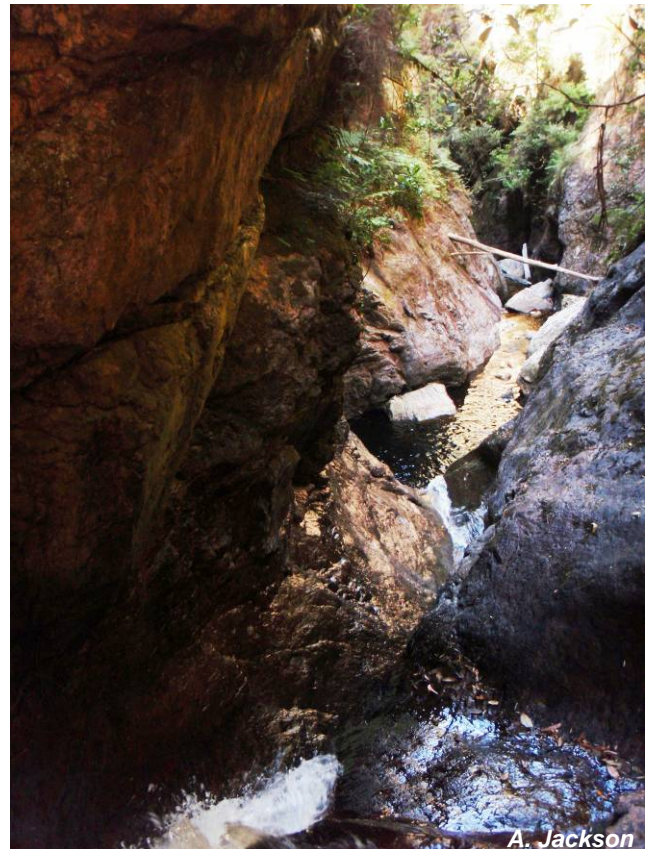
The creek had one last surprise for us – an ~8 m cascade into a deep pool about 50 m from the Mersey. This was the first drop that we used any rigging gear on – a couple of

tapes were left on a blade of rock. All the other drops had been easily rigged off trees with little friction, allowing easy rope retrieval. This last drop didn't have a convenient ledge to stand on while unthreading one's descender so it had to be done while swimming – not the easiest of manoeuvres. In future, once the first person has established that there are no submerged logs in the pool, it may be possible to get off the rope above the last 2 m drop and jump in but the rock is bloody slippery here and it may prove a challenge. A short swim later and we were sitting by the Mersey River. Everyone was ecstatic with the quality of the day's events so far but we all knew that we weren't out yet and that the worst was to come.



**A. Jackson**

*Delightful box canyon with cascades.*



**A. Jackson**

*No escaping the canyon now!*

The Mersey is at about 250 m elevation at this point and our cars were at ~700 m elevation and on the other side of a 750 m high hill but only ~2 km away in the horizontal plane. It was going to be a steep slog back to the cars. We headed up the bank of the Mersey for about 50 m before

spotting a potential line of weakness in the cliffs. Our initial attempt to access it failed when we intersected an unclimbable cliff face but we managed to bypass this a few metres further along and regain the weakness. With the cliff on our right we scrambled up a ridiculously steep slope to the top of the main ridge running from the river/creek junction and the cars. Thankfully the vegetation wasn't as bad as it could have been and it didn't slow us down too much. The unrelenting steepness took its toll on the legs though. Upon reaching the top of the hill we were disheartened to find that the logging track marked on the map had 30-something years of regrowth on it and couldn't be found. We zigzagged from clearing to clearing and finally picked up a rudimentary vehicular track that seemed to match the location of the mapped track. The track was just starting to seem like the correct option when it ran into a ~10 year old nitens plantation and stopped dead. We opted to follow the coupe boundary track to the right (north) and a slightly circuitous (but easy) route had us back on the track we'd followed earlier in the day and finally the cars came into view.

- the route out could be tricky to spot but with half a brain you should find your way out eventually
- don't forget to contact Forestry Tasmania as locked gates can lead to disappointment.

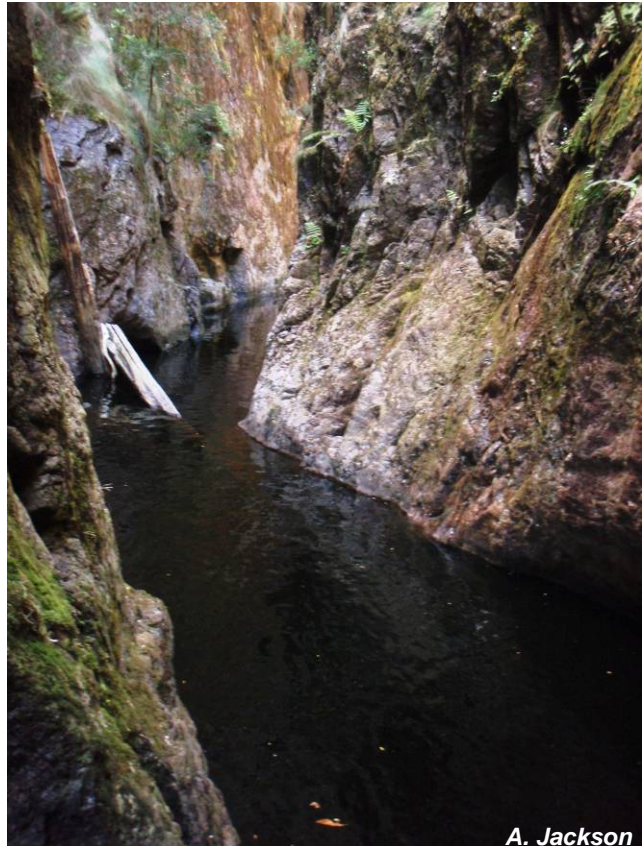


*Abseiling the side of the slippery dip waterfall.*

It was a bloody good day out and I'd thoroughly recommend it to anyone with an adventurous demeanor.

I don't think I need to bother providing detailed rigging notes other than:

- you'll need two 50 m lengths of rope (could get away with 40s)
- there are heaps of trees in good spots for rigging off with the exception of the last drop (where we used a couple of tapes to be certain of rope retrieval)
- wear Dunlop Volleys as the wet rock is outrageously slippery



*A. Jackson*

*Anyone fancy a swim?*



*A. Jackson*

*Did I mention the exit route was steep?*

---

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

Alan Jackson

13 February 2012

**Party:** Ken Hosking, Alan Jackson, Janine McKinnon, Peter Brady (UTSSS), Andrew Baker (UTSSS), Rob and Barb (WASG)

There was an unnaturally high number of mainland cavers in the state thanks to Tony's Exit Cave expedition. Since I refuse to assist with any Exit Cave activities it is only fair that I assist with pre-Exit entertainment. Ken and Janine came too.

The Slaughterhouse-Growling component of the trip wasn't overly noteworthy, suffice to say it happened. What interested me more was the bit of sleuthing I did in the area while waiting for the backlog to clear in Slaughterhouse.

First I had a look for JF-39. I'm pretty happy that I found it (it is well marked on the sketch map in SS69:2). Chris Chad had found it recently too so it was never going to be a big challenge. I didn't find the tag but there is about 60 m<sup>2</sup> of potential rock face in the general vicinity and half an hour of moss-scraping is probably required to locate it. 'Tag, explore and sketch' will all come in good time for this cave.

At Slaughterhouse Pot I set about looking for JF-343. This cave was mistakenly tagged by Albert while attempting to tag Slaughterhouse Pot in March 1983. His initial notes appear in SS185:3. Albert was truly ahead of his time – not only did he tag caves (when no one else seemed to) but he also published descriptions of where he placed the tags. The JF-337 tag, on the correct entrance to Slaughterhouse, wasn't placed until February 1984. Again, by Albert, who gives a clear description of the where, how and why. He was also astute enough to point out his earlier mistake; Saint Albert strikes again.

I suspected that JF-343 was going to be the more inviting-looking and larger entrance five metres to the right of the JF-337 entrance. I was right. Tick – another old cave relocated with confidence. GPS and photo will have to wait till some other time though.

My two other targets for the day were JF-Z64 and JF-Z87. I soon realised I had little hope of finding Z87 as the area was drier than I'd ever seen it before and the chances of finding a 'small stream sink[ing] underground near JF-37 doline' were slim. Z64 was another matter though. My theory is that JF-Z64 was created based purely on desktop review. Rolan obviously did a lot of *Speleo Spiel* and *Southern Caver* reading during his Forestry study and assigned Z numbers to anything mentioned in the text that he didn't think had ever been assigned an X number or a proper tag. It would appear Rolan created JF-Z64 based on a rough sketch that appeared in SS69:2. This sketch accompanied the trip report detailing the club's first ever foray into the Pendant Pot/Slaughterhouse Pot/Trapdoor Swallet region, which was published in the previous *Spiel*. The trip report in SS68:6 doesn't specifically mention the

feature, which is depicted in SS69:2 as a circular doline labelled 'Contains crevice with draught'.

I had a good look around the Pendant doline and in the side closest to Slaughterhouse Pot I found a narrowing crack/crevice which initially had me excited but there was no draft evident and technically it was located within the Pendant doline, not in a disjunct, circular doline as is indicated on the map. The (approximate) scale on the map suggests the drafting crevice and associated doline sits about 50 'yards' from Pendant Pot. The only doline matching the size, location and presence of a drafting entrance is Slaughterhouse Pot itself. There is only one other minor, blind doline located between Slaughterhouse and Trapdoor.

The first confirmed trip report for Slaughterhouse Pot appears in SS70:3-5. Its author, Peter Shaw, was present on the trip that discovered Pendant Pot *et al.* described earlier (SS68:2). After failing to penetrate Trapdoor Swallet, Peter directs Bill Lehmann to 'a hole which was draughting but too small to enter ... in a nearby doline.' Bill proceeds to crawl in, hammer annoying bits off and find himself at the top of the first pitch in Slaughterhouse Pot. It seems reasonable to me that Peter would have known about the 'draughting crack' from the first trip (I even suspect he drew the map, since he authored both trip reports) and if it was interesting enough to map in the first place then surely it would have been on his mind for a second look only two months later.

The upshot of all this is that I'm 95% confident that JF-Z64 is synonymous with JF-337 Slaughterhouse Pot. Some may suggest that Rolan knew of the existence and location of Slaughterhouse Pot when he assigned JF-Z64 to this feature and would have come to the same conclusion I just did and not create the Z cave. But one must consider that Rolan's aim was not to tidy up X caves or minimise the proliferation of Z caves. The whole report was based on providing evidence to support his claims for high, medium and low sensitivity zones for logging. Rolan is a karst conservationist at heart and the more caves, sinkholes, swallets and random karst features he could find/create and identify the more evidence he had to argue that particular areas were high sensitivity. Rolan can write in if he disagrees with this analysis, but I suspect I'm right.

The only other noteworthy event of the day was the amount of rubbish we collected from around and within the Growling entrance. Inside the cave we found four beer cans and one beer bottle – some as far in as the bottom of the Dry Bypass. Outside the entrance we found two Coke cans, a Freddo Frog wrapper, some toilet tissue and one broken beer bottle. Up at the old hut site we found a newly constructed fire place with a cardboard carton (apricot box), two long life milk containers, another beer can and a few other odd bits of plastic. It looks like the fuckwits of society are frequenting Growling Swallet these days and maybe that gate of Rolan's isn't as bad as we initially thought. I also noticed that the red and white star picket at the 8 Road/McCullums Track junction was missing, as was the Parks sign that was installed here a year or two ago.

I have contacted Parks and they have confirmed that they haven't removed the star picket and the sign.

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## Other Exciting Stuff

### JF-Z Cave Situation

#### Alan Jackson

As previously mentioned on many occasions, I hate JF-Z caves. Here is a table of the ones we've accounted for so far, what they are now and a reference for the report where

the realisation of successful eradication was theorised. Some didn't have satisfactory previously published reasons, so I've provided my reasoning below the table where required.

JF-Z number	JF number	Name	References
JF-Z5	JF-561	Cheap Vasectomy	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 381:19-20
JF-Z6	JF-509	Blue Frog Hole	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 378:27 <sup>1</sup>
JF-Z7	JF-474	Conspiracy	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 375:5-6
JF-Z8	JF-447	Pitfall Pot (Frog Pot)	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 376:23-24
JF-Z9	JF-563		<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 377:10-11 & <i>Speleo Spiel</i> 383:10-11
JF-Z10	JF-476	Coitus Interruptus	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 375:5-6 & <i>Speleo Spiel</i> 377:10-11
JF-Z13	JF-540	Johns Blast Hole	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 380:13-14
JF-Z14	JF-561	Cheap Vasectomy	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 381:19-20
JF-Z20	JF-481	Waist Deep	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 378:18 <sup>2</sup>
JF-Z21	JF-487	Platypus Pot	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 376:17-18 & <i>Speleo Spiel</i> 376:18-19
JF-Z34	JF-489	Perfect Pitch Pot	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 377:5-6
JF-Z36	JF-269	Toss Pot	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 354:6-7
JF-Z37	JF-279		<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 354:6-7
JF-Z38	JF-276	Hairball Hole	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 354:6-7
JF-Z56	JF-270	Tachycardia (Wherretts Cave)	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 354:6-7
JF-Z57	JF-470	Munted Tag Cave	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 374:6-8 <sup>3</sup>
JF-Z59	JF-288		<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 352:13-14 <sup>4</sup>
JF-Z63	JF-292		<sup>5</sup>
JF-Z64	JF-337	Slaughterhouse Pot	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 388:11
JF-Z70	JF-451	Wind Hole	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 362:4
JF-Z71	JF-564		<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 381:11-13 & <i>Speleo Spiel</i> 383:12-14
JF-Z76	JF-568	Chrisps Creek Swallet	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 381:16-19 & <i>Speleo Spiel</i> 384:13-14
JF-Z77	JF-274	Suck It and See Swallet	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 354:6-7
JF-Z78	JF-277		<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 354:6-7
JF-Z86	JF-296	Scrubwren Swallet	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 363:3
JF-Z89	JF-471	Ice Lake	<i>Speleo Spiel</i> 374:6-8

<sup>1</sup>This reference is the cave map only, as no previous mention was made in the text of our theory. The main reason we thought this cave was synonymous with JF-Z6 is that Rolan created this entry based on a description given by Stefan in SS222:4. Jeff Butt reports the presence of blue tape on the ground when he found this hole (in SS317:5). We also found this tape and it was the dark blue stuff that turns up next to every hole found during the 1980s, particularly those found by Stefan. Stefan's description of the vegetation boundary and cave depth matches perfectly and the blue tape just caps it all off.

<sup>2</sup>This reference is the cave map only, as no previous mention was made in the text of our theory. Essentially the decision has been based on where Rolan plots the cave on his 'Z-map' (unpublished) and the description. Basically, it's in the right place and the description matches.

<sup>3</sup>This reference doesn't explicitly state that JF-470 is JF-Z57, but it does infer that it is synonymous with the cave in SS220:3-4, which is the reference Rolan supplies in his JF-Z cave list in his 1994 report for JF-Z57. And the description matches perfectly.

<sup>4</sup>As above: This reference doesn't explicitly state that JF-288 is JF-Z59, but it does infer that it is synonymous with the cave in SS209:8, which is the reference Rolan supplies in his JF-Z cave list in his 1994 report for JF-Z59. And the description matches perfectly.

<sup>5</sup>There is no previously published detail for my theory on this one. Rolan sites SS215:7 as his source for creating this Z Cave. Chris Davies describes the feature and the fact that he ran yellow tapes from JF-338 Lost Pot to the feature (located above Lost Pot). I first found this feature as described in SS344:4-5. I remember noticing a line of yellow tapes between Lost Pot and the un-numbered cave. Serena and I subsequently tagged this cave JF-292 (SS352:14-15).

## Journey to the Centre – Video Review

**Stephen Bunton**

Inflight entertainment is a contradiction in terms. It is usually sufficient to prompt me to find the parachutes and the nearest exit. So it was ironic that a 50-minute documentary on BASE jumping had me riveted to my seat.

This is a story of three of the world's leading BASE jumpers, one of them an Australian, doing the first jump into China's 700 m deep Tian Keng (The Heavenly Pit). They actually start from a steel cable strung out over the shaft by some previous looney that had tight-roped across it.

I view BASE jumping, like cave-diving, as some form of ritualized suicide. You go through an elaborate gearing up ceremony and then kill yourself. I could, however, tell

from the thrust of the documentary that nobody died and they were successful in their mission. This always leaves me thinking so why don't they "cut to the chase" and show us the few moments of exciting footage and let us go off to sleep? Actually it was a good story and a well-presented feature, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

For those of you with the concentration span of a gnat, the good bits are available as film clips on the internet. Check it out!

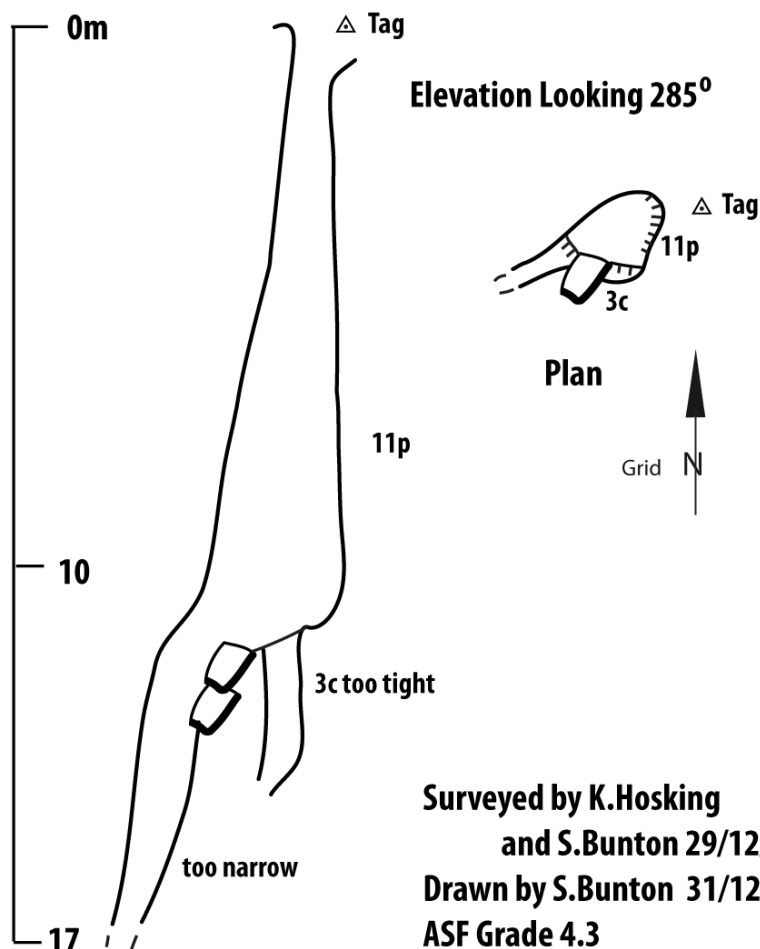
And for all those who want to better Alan's Chinese cave depth record there is a set of stone stairs all the way to the bottom.

## Surveys

### JF-68

Junee-Florentine, Tasmania

Depth 17m Length 23 m



Surveyed by K.Hosking

and S.Bunton 29/12/11

Drawn by S.Bunton 31/12/11

ASF Grade 4.3

7JF68.STC290

## JF-217

Junee-Florentine, Tasmania

Depth 1m Length 2 m

Plan

0m  
2

Elevation

Surveyed by K.Hosking  
and S.Bunton 29/12/11

Drawn by S.Bunton 31/12/11

ASF Grade 2.2

7JF217.STC291

## JF-218

Junee-Florentine, Tasmania

Depth 13m Length 20 m

Developed Long Section

0m

△ Tag

12p

5c  
gutsy climb

15

Plan

5c

12p

△ Tag

Surveyed by K.Hosking  
and S.Bunton 29/12/11

Drawn by S.Bunton 31/12/11

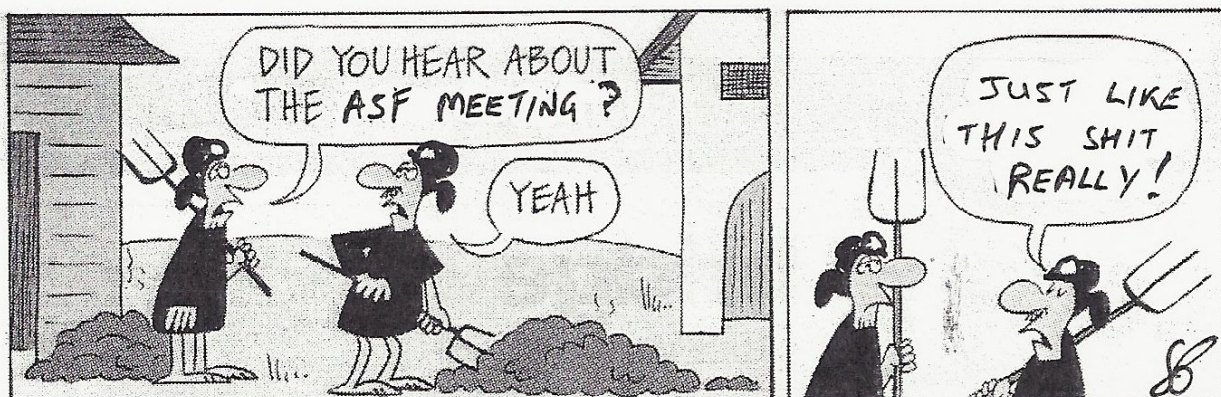
ASF Grade 4.3

7JF218.STC292

Grid



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