Speleo Spiel 389

March - April 2012

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

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Front Cover: The Pleasure Dome, Kubla Khan. *Photo by Grant Elliot (Hills Speleos).*

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

We survived the AGM and we survived Easter in the JF. The perils of the AGM paled into insignificance when pitted against the weather experienced at Easter.

For those not on email (do these people exist anymore?) then this issue contains the various annual reports of the office bearers. As a result it's a pretty large issue and I've left a few submissions for the next issue, so I won't waste any more space with editorial. Enjoy.

Alan Jackson

Stuff 'n Stuff

JANINE SPROUTS FINS

Janine has been accepted as a full member of the ASF Cave Diving Group.

Her membership number is 34, so it's either very elite or very unpopular. Apparently, as far as ASF is concerned, she can now go anywhere as long as it's very dark and very wet.

Ric Tunney

LIFE MEMBERS AND ASF FEES

After much list server discussion and meeting action a motion was passed at the AGM to discontinue the practice of paying STC life member's ASF fees. If you're a life member and haven't seen the email banter or attended the meetings then contact the treasurer (Ric) and he'll get you up to speed with what this means for you.

29TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION INC.

6th – 11th January 2013 - Galong. NSW. Australia

Hosted by the New South Wales Speleological Council

If you have an interest in caves and caving the 29th Biennial Speleology Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) is an event not to be missed. The organising committee invites you to get along to TROGalong, at the St Clements Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong, NSW from Sunday 6th to Friday 11th January 2013.

This national conference provides an ideal forum for anyone with an interest in the science or exploration of caves to share in the knowledge, research and exploration experiences of Australia's caves and karst landforms. International presenters will also be most welcome. Presentations will be variable and nominally 20 minutes duration although longer presentations may be negotiated. Absentee presentations may also be accommodated. Posters are encouraged and will be displayed throughout the duration of the conference.

Artists are also welcome to present cave related artwork (commission applies to any sales).

Be sure to enter the cave photography competition, speleo sports and prusik events.

Experience some NSW tourist or wild caves on the pre and post conference field trips.

All accommodation, meals and conference events will be on-site so there will be lots of opportunity for socialising and relaxing. The venue has comfortable motel style accommodation with some limited camping options, an in-ground swimming pool and extensive gardens set on the peaceful 800 acre rural property with a rich pastoral history dating back to the 1820s. The venue was also a former Monastery and Minor Seminary.

Further details on costs, closing date for abstracts, program and events will be advised shortly. Please visit www.asfconference.org.au/2013

Students, researchers and speleological club members are strongly encouraged to submit presentations or workshops on any cave-related topic. The ASF administers a small grants scheme to encourage attendance at and active participation in ASF conferences by new ASF members who have not attended any previous ASF conference. The grant provides for whole or part remission of conference registration fees and travel costs etc., and personal attendance and an appropriate presentation is required. Enquiries to the conference organising committee are invited. Please contact the conference convenor, Bob Kershaw in the first instance (rkershaw@ozemail.com.au).

Trip Reports

JF-8 Junee Cave – Sump 1 Dive

Janine McKinnon

29 December 2011

Party: Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney

This was my second dive into the Junee Sump 1 since my previous dive in the 1980s. The first was March 2010 on my single tank back mount system. I didn't make it to the chamber "For Your Eyes Only" (FYEO) as I was going slowly and carefully, checking the fixed line, and reached thirds on my air about 30 m from the end of the sump.

After this trip I decided that I needed to upgrade equipment before I dived there again. Thus I spent the next six months buying gear and practicing with it. I was now twin tank sidemount. I had to wait until the lower water levels of summer to have another go though.

By late December the rain had eventually stopped for a couple of weeks after a very wet spring. Water levels had reduced to normal summer levels. Time to go again.

We started carting the first pack load of gear at 9:00 am, on a dry, sunny and warm day. We left it at the viewing platform and returned to the car for coffee and to dress.

This time Ric was in wet suit and warm thermals, and a book for the wait. We were back at the entrance by 10 am, and started in with a rucksack each containing a tank and kit. Only the BC didn't fit into the packs, so Ric returned for it as I started to organise at the beach. A walking pole would have been a good idea to help with stability on the walk up the streamway.

I was kitted up and ready to go by 11 am. Ric took a little video as I headed in.

Kitting up for the dive.

Final in-water checks.

The current took some effort to swim against but wasn't exhausting. I swam with visual on the line but not tethered to it. Visibility was about 2 m. The line was in good condition despite the very high flow rates over the summer. There were no breaks and it was taught. I had passed my point of last turn around and was just thinking the line would be fine all the way when it disappeared into the silt. I took it in one hand and was able to pull it back out, as I swam along. Then it wouldn't come up any more. I dug for a couple of minutes but it was well and truly buried. I tied the cord on my reel to it and kept going, paying out as I went. 5 m further on the line reappeared out of the silt, and I could see the end of the sump above me. I left the reel there and exited the sump. I had taken 24 minutes to this point.

It took a bit of effort to get settled on the bank. The mud/silt was soft and deep. I took off my tanks and fins in a small back eddy and went for a look around. It is as pleasant a chamber as I remembered. I walked upstream to about half way along but then decided to turn back. Ric didn't expect me to be more than 1.5 hours and time was disappearing.

I took a few photos of the formations but my underwater housing had fogged, so I didn't expect much from them (looking afterwards, they weren't too bad).

I then put my gear back on and headed back into the sump. I picked up the reel and decided to leave the line connecting the visible ends of the fixed line. It took a few minutes to cut and tie the reel line in. My very thick outer gloves make manipulating anything difficult, so I didn't do the best job with that. As I started the return swim from here my inflator on my BC suddenly started filling at maximum. I was breathing from the regulator on that side, and as the roof was only a few feet away, I put the other regulator in my mouth before turning off the air to the scuba feed. By this time I was wedged solidly against the roof with a fully inflated BC. I pushed the dump button and it emptied quickly and I descended back to the middle of the chamber. I thought for a minute and then decided to return to FYEO to check everything. This I did and I disconnected the scuba feed before turning the air back on to that side. I was happy to exit without the chance of that happening again. I used my drysuit as buoyancy.

The trip out was uneventful and took 20 minutes. The surface interval between the two dives was 45 minutes, which shows how long getting gear off and on takes as I hadn't spent more than half that time wandering around in FYEO.

Ric started packing gear as I went back to the car with some of the kit I was wearing (minus tanks, of course). I had started to get cold only in the last part of the exit. The water temperature was 8°C. I returned after changing to help carry the packs back to the car, which took one trip only.

We were organising lunch by 1:30 pm.

Kit: I had a camera in underwater housing, large reel, jump reel, helmet with four lights (one turned on) and a Light Monkey hand held light, twin sidemount tanks, 1 Apeks regulator and 1 Aqualung Regulator, Cold water sealed, first stage regulators on DIN fittings, Suunto Cobra computer, short SPG, Dive Rite Nomad BC, old rocket fins, DUI TLS 350 drysuit, two hoods, two pairs gloves, undersuit and two sets thermal tops, one long john bottoms, rock boots, two tethers, two cutting devices.

JF-8 Junee Cave – Sump 1 Dive

Janine McKinnon

13 January 2011

Party: Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney

We used the club key to the Junee Road to get to the original car park again. It is a nuisance that the council has closed access over the bridge to cars in the last 12 months.

After a few days of rain, the water levels coming out of the resurgence were higher than my last dive a couple of weeks ago. We decided that it wasn't too high to dive though and started putting the gear into packs at 9:30 am.

Ric carried one rucksack to the end of the track, returned, and carried a second one all the way to the sump, then returned to the car, whilst I got kitted up. He then got dressed in wetsuit and warm gear whilst I started into the cave with my BC. We met again in the streamway as I returned for a second load and found Ric coming in with the second pack, so I turned around and went back to the beach before the sump. Thus all the hard work getting to the sump was done by Ric.

We took some time getting the gear put together and attached to me; possibly 20 minutes to half an hour. I had a few problems with a free-flowing regulator but got that settled down. It didn't make me happy after the malfunctions with my BC last trip. I need to get a gauge and check the pressures on my first stages. The fine silt burden suspended in the water (hence the poor visibility all the time) gets into everything and plays "gremlins" with gear. Everything needs to be dismantled and cleaned after a dive.

As I started into the sump, at around 11 am, I found the current significantly stronger than last trip but not impossible to swim against, luckily. It did take effort though and I developed a headache after 10 minutes. Whether this was exertion, cold, or a combination of both, I don't know. Maybe I should have had a coffee before the dive.

The visibility was worse than last dive, at maybe half a metre. I felt the temperature to be colder too (there had been snow on the mountains in the previous days), however my computer still said 8°C, same as last time. I really question that though. They do quote a 2 degree error margin in measurements. I think the two degrees was on the down side this time.

I swam fairly purposefully to the location where the main line is buried. I was going to dig it out but decided that it was too big a job to bother with. The "quick and nasty" line replacement I did last time was still in place and looking secure. The length of buried line was longer than memory said. The current was strong and I was getting cold quicker than last trip. So I decided that a quick visit to the end was all I'd do.

Maybe my head just wasn't in it this day. The headache didn't help.

I surfaced after 22 minutes and spent 5 minutes looking around FYEO from the water. The stream that ran to the start of the sump last trip was missing. I was sitting in a lake instead. The backwater from the strong stream current that I had de-kitted in last time was under water. This explained why it was so muddy at the edge last time. It is usually under water.

I thought of getting out again and walking to Sump Two, and getting some more photos and having a better look at the chamber for wear by divers, but I was colder than last trip, and I didn't feel like taking the time and effort to get out of my gear, and then back into it again. It is quite slow and a hassle alone and in the cold water. I wasn't in the mood today, for some reason.

No need to push it, there will be other times. I turned around and started back into the sump.

The return dive took a third of the time of the ingress and a lot less of the effort. I had to be careful to not thump into rocks and projections too hard with the relatively fast trip in poor vis. The rocks and outcroppings loomed out of the gloom very quickly.

Eleven minutes after starting the return trip I surfaced at the downstream end of the sump, still suffering a thumping headache.

Ric wasn't expecting me so soon, and had his head in his ebook. He quickly came to assist and I was soon out of the bulky gear and starting towards the entrance of the cave, shivering. I went back to the car with BC and a few bits, and Ric stayed behind to pack the tanks, and paraphernalia, and bring it out. He carried one pack back to the car and I retrieved the other from the end of the walkway, after getting changed. I was back at the car before 12.30 pm.

My headache was gone by the time I had finished changing. So I am guessing it was cold and exertion related.

So, not the best trip I could have wished for, but a successful trip in and out, at any rate.

JF-36 (The Cave Formerly Known as) Growling Swallet – Not a Club Trip

Stephen Bunton

18 February 2012

Party: Stephen Bunton and Ken Hosking (STC), Scott Bacon (Minister for Tourism), Peter Pearce (his Advisor) and Richard Dowling (Advisor to the Premier, Lara Giddings).

It was about May last year that we noticed post holes being dug at the start of the Eight Rd. There was no doubt that the Eight Rd would be gated but was this development a permanent situation or just a temporary arrangement? It was definitely too soon to harvest the regrowth in the coupes along the side of the road and so we assumed it was not a Forestry ploy. We therefore wondered what moves were afoot in the secret world of karst management. Although this situation was discussed at STC General Meetings during 2011, nothing was recorded in the minutes so as not to alert any karst managers within the membership that we were onto what looked like their scheme. Over the following months we gradually saw the gate arise and take form. In the meantime Ken and I thought we should lobby a politician or two and try and make a stand for public access and commonsense management of Growling Swallet.

During this time Alan made a lot of phone calls to the ranger at Mt Field National Park and to Forestry Tasmania in order to determine the truth of the matter. There was a certain amount of self-interest in opposing this gate. STC members are one of the main user groups in this area and we would definitely be inconvenienced by the extra time it would take to walk the Eight Rd. Should a gate be built, we would really like a copy of the key but this was not necessarily guaranteed. For me it was a matter of public interest and my right to recreate in a National Park of my choosing.

Over the years I have taken friends, interstate and overseas visitors including exchange students, geology students and adventure education students to show them the entrance to Growling Swallet. It is a wonderful place, a geologically

significant place, one of Australia's most impressive cave entrances ... and it is an easy walk through lovely rainforest to get there. I have not had to plan and book ahead to take a trip to Growling Swallet; it was something that we could always have up our sleeve as a contingency plan. With the road closed back at the Florentine Rd it was no longer a short pleasant stroll through the bush but a slog along a road through shitty forest regrowth, that instead of giving visitors to this state a good feeling about our island's assets, leaves them wondering what is it with Tasmanians and forest practices?

Most people who travel in Australia do so to visit scenic wonders. All postcards and picture books showcase our natural assets and I feel we should be proud of them and people should be able to enjoy them freely. I don't believe that locking them away is an adequate or satisfactory management solution. Nor do I believe the fact that the state has not got enough money, represents an acceptable excuse for this form of management.

Over recent years there has been a number of incidents where people have got lost in the bush near Growling, been injured, there was the nasty incident of the pink arrows in the cave and now the cave is on the geocaching hit-list. Whilst these pose a management dilemma for the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, locking the cave away behind a gate is no solution. As an STC and an ASF member I am concerned for cave conservation and I hate the thought that the cave is being used and abused by less enlightened folk, and I would like to see it managed for conservation but also I believe that recreation in this area is a legitimate land use activity.

It was distressing to hear that just last weekend a fair amount of garbage was brought from the cave and surrounds. It now seems like the deadshits have discovered the cave as a place to go and just be yobbos. This development has left a number of STC members wavering about whether the gate is a good idea or not. Ken and I thought that a few people in a position of some power could see it for themselves.

The new F8 East Road gate.

We drove to the Florentine and inspected the gate. At the moment it is unlocked, possibly because there is some discussion over who buys the lock and administers the keys. At this point we talked about the history of ANM, gates and the vandalism of plant and gates as well as the fact that to walk from here would add 40 minutes each way to the day's outing.

At the end of the road we kitted out the non-cavers (with non-club gear since this was not a club trip). Normally in order to take people underground we would have to sign them up as prospective members to fulfil our public liability obligations. We decided that politicians are enough of a public liability anyway and no amount of insurance would reduce or cover the damage they cause to anything and so we proceeded anyway.

Scott, Peter and Richard at the Growling entrance.

The track to the cave is well marked in orange. Just as we were about to go underground and were mentioning the fact that we weren't the only ones to visit Growling Swallet, on cue, a couple of day-walkers strolled in for a look.

The flow into the cave was low and so we followed The Wet Way down as far as the Glow-worm Chamber. We used a rope handline on a few of the little climbs for reassurance. At a couple of places we took photos and after an hour began our return trip up the Dry Bypass. At one point I found another pink arrow and Peter said he saw two beer bottles. Ken also found one, which he removed.

At 68 Peter Pearce performed impressively. It was about ten years since we ground him into the ground in Exit Cave! For Ken and I this was a pretty cruisy trip, despite our advanced years, but for the younger politicians it was a bit more challenging; they were glad the trip was not any longer.

Ken and company underground.

From the Eight Rd we then travelled around to the Junee Resurgence where the road was now blocked just before the bridge over the Junee River. The track to the cave

follows the old road and is then well signposted to show the turn-off to the last bit of the walk in. Here we encountered another walker coming out after visiting a cave. On our way back to the car we met another more elderly couple walking in. The gentleman was carrying a large tripod and impressive looking camera. It seemed pretty obvious that a lot of people know about these features and are keen to appreciate them. We all concluded that attempting to lock up the caves and keep people out was not a viable management nor desirable solution.

It seems even more futile to me that the name Growling Swallet has been delisted with the Nomenclature Board and that such a brilliant feature is no longer a place. This move was probably made so that it no longer appears or can no longer appear on official maps. As a member of a cave group I also find it very disappointing that land managers are making decisions about caves and acting on these decisions without the courtesy of informing us. They know we exist, they know who we are and yet they choose not to inform us. Such a contemptuous attitude cannot breed a healthy working relationship for the future.

So there you have it. We went on a non-club trip, to a cave that no longer exists as an official place, in order to showcase somewhere that everyone has a right to visit; a place that we should be proud of and exhibit as a natural wonder.

Despite the fact that it was unashamedly a lobbying day, Ken and I did very little preaching. We took the softly-softly approach and let the experience speak for itself. Scott and Richard had not done anything like this before. They realised this was potentially dangerous but with some common sense a lot of people could visit the entrance to Growling Swallet and find it a safe and worthwhile experience.

Scott and Richard are young and impressionable but they are also in a position to make decisions about management of places such as this. No doubt there will be other people giving them advice that they need to consider and we are powerless to stop this but hopefully they now have a better understanding of what it is that makes natural wonders and adventure activities such powerful experiences and such great drawcards.

JF-14 Dwarrowdelf – Rigging Trip

Janine McKinnon

28 February 2012

Party: Peter Buzzacott, Mark Euston (NUCC), Janine McKinnon, Pat Seiser (NSS), Ric Tunney

Peter is a cave diver, and had made the mistake of contacting Alan and asking him if we had any sumps we wanted pushing. This was his answer.

Pat and Mark were refugees from the Exit surveying week project with some time to spare, and a desire to do a little vertical work in the Florentine.

Ric & I were the transport and local knowledge (like, where the cave was), gear supply and technical expertise.

We all fitted into the Subaru, just, and were organised and walking the KD track by 9:30 am.

The plan was that I would go first, rigging, Mark behind with the bottom pitch rope, Pat, Peter, then Ric with the last of the ropes. This wasn't the best plan for efficiency but we had a conflict of interest with one of us needing to be last as well as not giving Pat or Peter heavy packs.

10.30 am saw the entrance pitch rigged and I started down with the 120 m rope and gear to rig the next three pitches. All went smoothly and Mark caught up to me somewhere before the bottom of the third pitch with the others somewhere behind. We got the back-up boulder selected, and tape in place, and then waited for the next rope to appear.

Once this rope arrived I headed down to the top of the last pitch, got off rope, let Mark come down, and then got on the rope again as safety to rig the Y-hang over the final pitch. Ric arrived at the top of the previous pitch whilst I was rigging and had to wait until I had the pitch rigged and could get off rope before coming down.

He informed us that Pat and Peter had decided that they were going no further, and would have lunch and start heading out from the bottom of the 57 m pitch. Mark wanted to see the bottom, and we had a rope pack with stove, spare jumpers and food for the dive trip to take down, so Mark and I were going down. Ric put in the traverse rope at the 67 m pitch head and then planned to start out too, to be near Pat and Peter as they went out.

I descended first and then Mark and I went for a look at the big chamber at the bottom before starting up; Mark first and me at the back.

The trip out was fast and smooth. We caught the others at the entrance pitch, with Ric (the last of those three) just starting up. Good timing all around, I thought.

I was out of the entrance not long after 2:30 pm, so the trip had been quicker than we had expected.

We were now ready to go for the sump attempt the following Saturday.

Note: see *SS*350:12 for rigging notes.

JF-8 Junee Cave

Janine McKinnon

1 March 2012

Party: ***Divers:*** Janine McKinnon, Peter Buzzacott ***Sherpas:*** Ric Tunney, Pat Seiser

Peter was planning to dive the KD sump on the following Saturday but a fun tourist trip into JF-8 had been decided on as well. I was along as company and tourist guide on the dive, and Ric and Pat had kindly offered to help cart gear to the sump.

The day was dry and pleasant when we arrived at the car park (using the STC key to access the Junee Quarry Road gate direction to the old car park). We went for a look at the resurgence and found the water levels low, which they have been for a few weeks. We all carried one pack load of gear to the viewing platform and then decided to have a coffee before getting geared up and taking a load into the cave.

Our first tourist party of the day came by as we were organising coffee. The numbers visiting this cave really amaze me.

It was 10:30 am when we finished coffee and started putting on suits and organising to start the portage to the beach.

Ric did two runs into the cave, as usual, and I made my way in with one pack and started to get organised at the beach. We had decided to kit up at the first beach, which is a little further from the sump and requires a 20 m surface swim, but is more spacious and standing up straight is possible!

Ric also took some video footage of Peter as he walked up the streamway, for use in the promotional video he is doing for sponsorship applications.

It was decided that I would lead in, with Peter following about 5 minutes behind. We agreed that if he didn't arrive at For Your Eyes Only (FYEO) after 20 minutes I would assume he had turned back and exit myself. Likewise, if I decided to call the dive for any reason I could turn and pass him. This way, neither of us felt pressured to dive beyond what we felt happy with on the day.

I had an uneventful trip through, taking only 15 minutes, due to the low current. This time, I exited to the left and swam to the shingle bank to de-kit. This is much nicer than the mud wallow on the backwater on the right. It is in the flow of the stream into the sump however, and as the first person through, I had to get my tanks off with no assistance. Getting myself far enough out of the flow to take gear off without risking it being washed away was a little tricky. I took several minutes more than usual to get my gear off and safely stowed, and still managed to have the camera wash away into the sump. Luckily it sank to the bottom in 1m of water before the sump started, so I could retrieve it easily. I had just finished laying everything out neatly and safely when I saw Peter's lights coming through.

I went to help him de-kit and the first thing he said as he took his regulator out was that his fin strap had broken as he put it on and that Ric had given him a replacement shock cord. He also had a leaking connector on his regulator, which I just happened to have a tool that should fix it. How convenient that I had just added it to my kit.

I helped him de-kit and then we went for a walk to the second sump, taking photos and video along the way; or we thought we were taking video on Peter's "Gopro" helmet-mounted camera. We got to the second sump and found that it hadn't been turned on. So, it was on for the trip back.

Peter observed that the flow in the stream in For Your Eyes Only (FYEO) did not look anywhere near as much as exited the cave at the resurgence. This I confirmed. This was a very, very interesting observation that got us both thinking. We couldn't see any inflow in the chamber. More thinking ensued… to be discussed later about possible extra streams entering Sump 1 from undiscovered passages, how to measure flow rates, systematic searching for side passages and many other plans ...

We took more photos on the return walk and then started kitting up for the swim out. We had spent about an hour in FYEO.

I dived out first, taking 14 minutes to do the swim, and exited to find no sign of Ric and Pat but they had left two lights going which made it much easier for me to navigate to the beach. All had gone smoothly with the dive with no gear problems. My two new Apeks XTX 50 regulators performed well. I was just finished de-kitting when Peter's light appeared out of the sump.

We had both just finished packing the gear into the rucksacks when we heard Ric and Pat coming back in. I carried one pack out to the car, Pat took my BC, and Ric and Peter took a pack each. Ric returned for the second load and Peter went to help him. This managed to get all the gear back to the car.

It was now 2:15 pm, and we got changed and then had lunch before unpacking dive gear and sorting out the gear for the drive home. Most of the dive gear that was robust went into the tray of the truck, with the rest in the car.

Several more parties of tourists passed by as we lunched and packed.

I had used 40 bar, 30 from one tank, 10 from the other. Starting pressure 200 bar, 10.5 L tanks.

Peter used 100 bar, 50 from each, of my 72 cu ft tanks. Vis was good at about 2 m. Water temperature around 8°C. Line good, my jump still in place but starting to be lightly buried by silt in places. I expect it to be buried by next summer.

My gear again had fine silt throughout and I had to pull apart second stages, flush BC and Power Inflator, clean O ring on camera housing. Peter had two small stones jammed in his Power Inflator!

We did a side trip to Cauldron Pot to show Peter, Pat and Peter's wife Cheryl, the entrance doline.

Plans for the return expedition to survey and systematically explore are shaping up well.

KD Sump Push

Janine McKinnon

3 March 2012

Party: Peter Buzzacott, Alan Jackson, Janine McKinnon, Petr Smejkal, Ric Tunney

The cave was pre-rigged and now we were off to push the sump at the bottom of KD & Dwarrowdelf.

We picked up Peter and Petr in the city and then transferred to Alan's car at his place. With his flat tray we would be able to get all the gear back at the end of the day (given the strength in the party to get it all back to the car from the cave).

We started underground relatively early, around 10 am, and made a smooth and fast trip to the bottom of the pitches, with all gathered at the top of the rockpile in the final chamber a little over an hour from starting in.

Alan and Petr were carrying the 7 L tanks (borrowed from Stefan Eberhard via Rolan; thanks to them for that), as they are the young, fit, hard boys. The rest of the diving gear was spread between the remaining three of us. This

consisted of wetsuit, BC, fins, mask, reel, two weights and dive lights.

At the bottom of the chamber we headed straight into the "Depths of Moria" to get to the sump and get the dive underway. We didn't know how long the whole job would take and we were keen to get it going. Alan and Petr were at the front with Peter and Ric the last two. All went well through the early crawls and grovels. We dragged a pack each, with one extra pack being shared. It wasn't as hard as I had expected and I was just thinking that we would be on site quite quickly when we hit a snag; a big one. Or a small one really, depending on how you view it. Peter couldn't fit through a squeeze. We had most of the dive gear up at the front at this stage. He had a second go at it (under Alan's very encouraging supervision) and still couldn't fit. We hadn't allowed for his large chest dimensions in our plans. Bugger. Trip off. I thought about using his gear and doing the dive instead but his wetsuit and BC would be way, WAY too big to be of any use to me.

Petr and I went for a look at the sump anyway and I noted at least one other spot that would probably be tight for Peter, maybe two, on the rest of the route.

We rejoined the others and then started the somewhat demoralised trip back to the main chamber, dragging all the gear out again.

We stopped near Sump 1 for lunch and hot drinks (we had the stove there after all, so may as well use it). We decided to empty the gas out of the tanks to make them a little lighter for the trip out. Peter discovered that one of the tank valves had been turned on somehow and therefore the stainless steel airtight plug was under pressure. This was a surprise as the tanks had been in rope packs with foam wraps for protection.

Peter had had a previous incident where this had happened with plastic plugs, and he had received a minor injury to his hand when the plug exploded out under pressure. This could have been much worse and involved loss of fingers, or other permanent disfiguring damage. So the plugs were metal for this trip, and held the air inside the cylinder. How to open it without explosive discharge was now the issue. Peter and Ric discussed options and Peter tied a long line to a spanner attached to the plug and tried opening it from afar. This was a dismal failure and so plan "B" came into operation.

This was Ric's carefully thought out plan to open the cap slowly and hope for the best. It's really wonderful to see such a brilliant mind in action. Surprisingly, this actually worked, no one was killed or maimed and so disaster was averted, as was the extra effort of carrying a full tank up the cave.

Alan and Petr went for a look at some climbs Alan was interested in on the KD side of the chamber whilst Ric and Peter started out with the lighter diving gear. I followed Ric and Peter to the top of the rockpile and then waited.

Ric and Peter made their way out of the cave as a pair, and Alan and I gave Petr a ridiculously heavy pack to try to slow him down and sent him up the bottom pitch, and onward, on his own, following the other two.

Alan and I stayed together to take one tank (that would be Alan's load, of course), assorted gear, and de-rig the cave.

Petr caught the others half way up the cave and then waited at the top of the 57 m pitch to help us with the de-rig, which was a lovely surprise.

Alan and I did a combination rope stuffing and hauling to get the ropes up. For the bottom pitch (67 m) we tied two heavy packs to the bottom and then rigged a hauling system to get it all up the pitch. This worked really well. For the other pitches I had a pack with gear, and a rope attached to me that I hauled up manually to the top. Alan, at the back, would haul the rope he had just ascended up as I prusiked the next pitch. This worked well and meant we didn't have to wait for each other.

I leap-frogged past Petr at the top of the 57 m pitch and headed out with two packs, arriving at the bottom of the first pitch as Peter was passing the rebelay on it. So the timing on our exit had worked nicely. Not a lot of waiting for anyone (except maybe Petr when he caught the first two).

The only hold-up was a minor issue with a pack snag on the entrance pitch which Petr had to sort out. He had to re-rig the first pitch and descend three metres. Ric put on his Treasurer's hat and declared as punishment a special 2 cent rope fee for the extra wear and tear on the rope.

We managed to get all the gear back to the car and were ready to roll home by about 6.30 pm, still in dry weather despite a poor weather forecast for the day.

Another attempt for next summer is in the planning phase.

Cave Hill – Sort of an Anticlimax

Stephen Bunton

3 March 2012

Party: Stephen Bunton, Ken Hosking.

This trip was designed to finish off a few projects such that I can retire without leaving a legacy of loose odds and ends for the next generation to clear up. We failed!

We joined the Dwarrowdelf divers going through the gate but they outpaced us in the scrub and were gone by the time we got to Dwarrowdelf turnoff. We continued on to the Splash Pot dry valley with the intention of tagging and GPSing the two caves I found on Ric's birthday trip (*SS:381-16*). They are in the Splash Pot valley, they have orange flagging tape on them and we couldn't find them despite two trips up and down the valley to twice find JF-496, instead of JF-494 as previously encountered. There was no sign of the orange-taped track; it was as if someone had deliberately removed it! [*Don't underestimate your own lameness – Ed.*]

After wasting almost two hours we went back to the cars to relocate to Cave Hill. Here we followed our new track up towards Tarn Creek Swallet and then headed over towards our waypoint for Bobcat (D4? in the GPS). In the thick scrub we walked right past the features we discovered and rediscovered last trip, and only stopped at a promising-looking feature in a scrubby horizontal and young celery top pine-filled doline. A test rock confirmed that this was a significantly deep hole and we were glad we hadn't blundered into it too hastily. Just as I began wondering where it might have been tagged, Ken found the JF-67 tag on a 1.5 m high cliff on the North side of the entrance. We

had found Deefour, which was one of our objectives for the day.

Ken signals his intention to turn left at JF-67 Deefour (note the tag beside his left thigh).

After finding a mini-D4 and calling it Bobcat, Greg Middleton, whilst proofreading the last *Spiel*, made the following comment that it was not called Deefour because you could drive a bulldozer down it, as I was told by Bob Cockerill, but …

> *The irony is, of course, that Deefour was NOT named after a bulldozer. From my database: Cockerill thought it was either a bulldozer or a road name (pers.comm. 17.2.2006) but Goede declared "Named by John Chick [originally as "D4" in 1960 – SS Old Series No. 1, Dec. 1960, p.3] who was in the party that discovered the hole. He was a schoolteacher at the time and it was named after a class he was teaching." p.c. 22.2.06) So, of course, the new name 'Bobcat' is a nonsequeter and hence a nonsense!*
>
> *Has Bunty considered this may be "E3": "The next day, Frank Brown, Doug Turner, Frank Hasler, Clive Morris, Albert Goede and John Chick returned to D4 while the others went sight-seeing. On the way up, another pot was found, and named E3 (some of our names are really classy), this appeared to be about 100 ft. deep from the noise of falling stones."* (G. Middleton email 21.2.2012)

This is good to know because we now have another cave, E3, to find AND I too am a school teacher and I'd love to call a cave "10Science8", "VegeMaths" or even "Meat One" if you have read Tom Sharpe's classic farce *Wilt*.

Unfortunately we left the 50 m rope in the car, thinking that if we bashed around in the scrub with heavy packs, we would never find it. Murphy's Law has it that we walked straight to it. Bummer, we now have to come back.

Our next objective was to find said Bobcat and tag it but again we walked right past it and nearly fell down the other side of JF-128. We continued on to BK-2 where we stopped to get out the tags. Ken struggled to get the drill bit to stay in the chuck and then we realised that he had the wrong type of bit. We weren't tagging anything today!

Rather than return to Bobcat, which would have been a waste of time, we decided upon another objective for the day; to see if we could find Anticlimax (JF-58). We began heading down the ridge on the west side of the gully. At first the scrub and the visibility were good with plenty of exposed limestone. We quickly located a 5 m deep cave that Ken descended, we sketched, taped and GPS'd. I just had to name it Chuck-key Cave! Onward and downward again until Ken found another narrow cave down which rocks rattled for a lot longer than 10 m, which was the length of our rope. I called this one Log-waster Cave after the number of felled and sawn up log lengths that we had encountered en-route to this cave. If the ANM bastards could chop the trees down, surely they could have at least taken them out to make chip wrappers! It sounds like it could be 30m deep and possibly E3 but we will wait for a survey.

Ken prepares to descend Chuck-key Cave.

We had to leave this cave for another day also. Eventually the slope got steeper, the dogwood regrowth thicker, the ferns higher and the cutting grass more abundant. Needless to say that we did not find, not even unintentionally, the 20 m deep JF-58! We hit the road about 100 m downhill of the car. Next time we go looking for Anticlimax we will attempt to bash uphill towards Zulu Pot and hopefully intersect it. Before then we have a date with a drill, proper drill bit, some tags, a bit of ropework and a few more caves.

Easter 2012 – JF-382 Dissidence 'Expedition' (the bits Alan did)

Alan Jackson

5-9 April 2012

Party: Mark Euston, Alan Jackson, Andreas Klocker, Geoff Wise

Maybe it's too soon to be writing this trip report. Maybe if I leave it a few weeks the scarring will have healed …

The previous weekend Bunty and I carried a load each into the Serendipity area to find a suitable spot to establish a base camp. A reasonably open and flat area about 50 m upstream of Serendipity was selected. It is right on the old orange-taped track to Flick Mints Hole, where it crosses the creek (the traditional post-Dissidence washing spot from four years ago). Ric and Janine had done a good job with the track late last year so only minimal improvement had to be made.

Thursday 5th April

Andreas, Mark and I headed up in the morning and did two trips carrying gear in. We set up tents and the tarps and then headed into Dissidence to rig it. The weather was spectacular – sunny and warm. The cave was pleasant – dry. We rigged to the top of the 42 m pitch (Negative Reality Inversion). On our way out we knocked off one of the leads off Union Jack. During initial exploration we'd explored and surveyed a side passage (The Serpentine) which heads off at the showering aven (JF-381 water). Surveying had been abandoned when it got tight and shitty and exploration abandoned when we hit a 4 m pitch. It was assumed this water re-emerged at the bottom of the 42 m pitch so we didn't bother going back. The tight and shitty bit was still as such but two bolts were soon placed over the pitch and I dropped down. The passage below was quite spacious and a ~10 m pitch lay in one direction and an ascending rift in the other. Our 15 m rope wasn't long enough for both pitches so I checked the up lead. I found trog marks and my heart sank. I went back to the 'new' pitch and located the bolt we'd placed several years ago. What we'd achieved was a new indirect route into Yabby Creek/Paper Scissors Rock Pitch. Bummer. If we'd bothered to survey the nasty stuff in The Serpentine during initial exploration instead of just sketching it in then we'd have worked this out without having to drop the pitch (as my sketch wouldn't have ended up being 90° out).

We headed out to find Geoff had safely arrived in camp. We enjoyed dinner and retired to bed.

Friday 6th April

The four of us headed for the bowels of Dissidence. The weather was still delightful and sunny. While the other three made a start I popped over to Punishment Pot to insert some fluorescein to test my theory that this water heads to Vertical Euphoria which in turn flows to the stream in our 2011 extension. We started with the upstream passage I'd failed to get Chris Chad and Grant Rees to follow me through on my last trip to the cave in August last year. We picked up the survey from station 810 and surveyed our way in. The passage continued along a NW orientation but interestingly trended down instead of up. The passage was obviously of phreatic origin in this section and is only (mostly) dry now due to its fossil nature. If it had still been active it would have been a 70 m dive. We surveyed 75 m of crawling passage until it got too low for easy surveying. Andreas tried but failed to fit through, succeeding only in covering himself in vile sticky brown shit, but Mark is a proper mainland cave ferret and got himself up a narrow muddy slope/slot and pushed a few more tight muddy bits – all to no avail. This bit of new passage trended a bit more NNW than the previously surveyed NW-trending section so instead of heading in the JF-380 region of the Benson and Hedges series it ended up more in alignment with JF-353 Pitta Patta Pot, terminating adjacent to JF-355. We had hoped that this passage might provide access to one of the downstream continuations of the Serendipity sumps. It was not to be.

We retired to the chamber that Trent originally found and had a nibble. Mark and Geoff toddled off to the deepest point to see if they could find a way over the sump while Andreas and I checked the dig that I'd accessed on the last trip by placing a bolt and climbing an etrier. Andreas wasn't happy with the move required to get off the etrier, so I chimneyed up and set to work on the dig alone. It was ridiculously sticky clay that was difficult to work with but 20 minutes or so later I had popped through. It only went another 5 m and was filled to the roof with the same sticky stuff. I climbed down again, removed the etrier and abseiled off a knot jammed in the bolt hanger. The bolt and hanger remain in place.

Andreas and I then moved up the leads in the dry part of the extension which only Serena had investigated briefly before. We had completed three legs when the other two returned. Geoff was looking tired and indicated that he was keen to save all the energy he could for the trip out, so he sat and ate chocolate while the rest of us commenced the survey into the most downstream of the two side passages (Serena had indicated that they had connected anyway). The passage paralleled the main known passage and then popped out into a medium-sized but high chamber. An up lead doubled back on itself and lead to a high wide rift passage that terminated in a ~8 m high active inlet carrying a small dribble. We finished the survey here and headed out to Geoff – 67 m of data collected. I climbed a series of short steps up into the first high chamber we'd come across but found nothing interesting. Once back at Geoff, Mark quickly checked the other side passage and returned a few minutes later from the one we'd just finished surveying, confirming the connection. The survey would have to wait.

At the spot where the creek emerges from the rockfall I had a quick look and was surprised to find that the way on was quite open and easy and I found myself in solid stream passage again. Survey and exploration would have to wait though.

Back at the start of the 2011 extension (the first nice chamber) I commenced placing some bolts to access two inlets on the wall opposite the point where you first climb down into this chamber from the old part of the cave, while Mark and Geoff started out. Andreas provided me with moral and technical support. Two bolts provided access to the lower (left) inlet. It closed off fairly quickly but a small window was noted that would require inspection. I then placed a third bolt to commence a climb/traverse into the higher inlet to the right. I then climbed down the etriers

with the plan of finishing the bolting on a later trip. Andreas and I headed out behind the others, catching up to them at the start of the rope work at the top of Run Rabbit Run.

The trip out was smooth and steady with the exception of Geoff's antics at the top of the 42 m pitch. He managed to leave his hand ascender behind on the rebelay crossing and didn't have the strength left to pull himself over to retrieve it. I joined him at the rebelay and the problem was easily solved and no harm was done.

As we reached the surface (at about 9 pm after 12 hours underground) it was just starting to rain. As we reached camp it was just starting to absoloutely frigging bucket down. The stream transformed into a foaming brown torrent. Oh joy.

Saturday 7th April

We rose late and sat around under the dripping tarps eating breakfast and placed bets on how many extra people would actually turn up. To our surprise all six arrived looking surprisingly keen. I was caught off-guard and had to scramble to give them all jobs before they got bored and started entertaining thoughts of warm cars and commenced walking out again. Bunty, Andreas and Mark headed off in search of JF-385 and JF-386 Wherretts Swallets 1 and 2. Gavin, Ken and Sarah went off to JF-436, JF-380 and whatever else they could muster. Tony and Jane accompanied me into Dissidence to test some more dye tracing theories. Geoff sat looking deflated in camp recovering from the previous day's exertions, though he did later muster the energy to wander up to JF-295 to check an X-cave theory for me (GPSing JF-433 on the way).

No dye had turned up in the extension on the previous day, which had surprised me. I went and added more dye to Punishment Pot and then we sat at the bottom of Vertical Euphoria waiting for it to turn up. It never did. The Punishment Series may have to be renamed the Not Punishment Series.

On the way out I dropped Paper Scissors Rock Pitch to assess the undescended pitch down Yabby Creek. I confirmed that it was a definite capping job to gain access and that it looked so hideous at the bottom of the pitch that it was a very low priority.

Dissidence was gushing with water.

The night in camp was pretty grim – still wet but with the added bonus of cold. We made rough plans for the next day but they were all to change.

Sunday 8th April

My original plan had been to return to the JF-385/386 area with Bunty, Andreas and Mark while the other four did surface jobs in the Benson and Hedges area. But the weather was awful (constant rain instead of frequent showers) and Bunty informed us that the forecast was for worse, so I convinced Andreas and Mark that it would be nicer underground – so we should go and finish Dissidence. I abandoned the idea of finishing the bolt climb and left the drill on the surface.

The dye tracing attempt the previous day suggested that Punishment Pot didn't connect to VE, so my earlier attempt to trace from Punishment Pot to the extension (via VE) was doomed from the start. This time I cut out the middle man and placed dye in the Union Jack stream just above Battery Point pitch (which I know drops down VE, No Country for Old Men and beyond to Stockholm Syndrome. Hopefully this would turn up in the extension streamway.

Once back in the extension I quickly checked the small window up the etriers but it only went a few metres before getting too low. I stripped the three hangers, managing to drop and lose the nut and washer off the middle bolt (take spares if you plan to complete this lead in the future).

We opted for the upstream streamway lead first and found some good walking passage (beyond some low wet bits at first). Eventually the streamway became tight (in the horizontal plane, not the vertical one) so we used a larger dry bypass on the left. This branched into two: up into rockfall on the left and down back into the stream on the right. The streamway got very low and wet and was abandoned, however it could have been pushed by the super keen. Mark was prepared to give it a go if the plan was to head out of the cave immediately after but I insisted on finishing the survey that we'd not completed two days earlier further down the cave. We poked the rockpile too but it was pretty gnarly and didn't go all that far. We left a marker and a note on the third last survey station for future efforts in this area – it is worth a return in dry conditions with skinny cavers and a wrecking bar to shift the cobbles in the streambed.

We then completed the survey of the second lead further down the cave, completing the loop. No green water magically appeared so eventually we headed out, derigging as we went.

We had collected 120 m of data on the upstream lead and the passage proved to parallel the Stockholm Syndrome passage but overlap it by some 100 m, terminating in the vicinity of the top end of Run Rabbit Run (and essentially following the NE wall of Run Rabbit Run but some 80 m below it.)

So it would appear that drainage lines in this cave follow the strike of the limestone with little deviation. Punishment Pot water must sink and run parallel to Stockholm Syndrome passage and the 2011 extension. Stockholm Syndrome water appears to parallel the extension too and may or not join in. It is possible that it joins the extension stream in the vicinity of the junction with the chamber and side passage that we pushed on the Friday (where the water re-emerges from fill near station 788). In hindsight I should have quickly run down to this point on Sunday's trip to check this, but it didn't occur to me till I'd seen the survey data we collected on the day. The source of the extension streamway could well be from caves/sinks in the Warhol area.

Monday 9th April

Geoff had originally planned to stay until Monday but he'd walked out with the others on Sunday. We woke on Monday morning to about 15 mm of snow at camp. It was pretty miserable so we enacted our evacuation plan and headed for the car a day earlier than originally planned. A surface day in the snow didn't seem very attractive considering how wet all our gear already was. We got all the essential stuff out in two trips, leaving behind a couple of barrels of non-perishables and one of the tarps which we'll collect at some point in the future, once I've seen a therapist and repaired the damage.

Conclusions

- The weather at Easter is always crap
- We only gathered ~320 m of new survey data in Dissidence but we ticked off a number of leads and only created a couple of new ones. Total Dissidence length is about 2900 m now.
- Some good surface work was conducted
- All my dye tracing theories were shot to pieces
- What doesn't kill you makes you stronger (I hope)

Thanks to everyone who turned up, especially Mark, Andreas and Geoff. If they hadn't committed to the full time and the hard stuff in Dissidence then I would have called it off. I was impressed that everyone else still turned up and put in a good effort on Saturday/Sunday, considering the weather. I don't know if it was due to some sense of pity for me or if you're all just sadistic morons. I think it's time to accept that regular hard caving in the Junee-Florentine has come to an end until a new bunch of enthusiastic troglodytes come wandering onto the scene at an unknown time in the future. I think I'll stick to finding Z-caves and growing vegetables until they arrive, at which point I'll assess if I'm still young and fit enough to join them for hard trips.

A smattering of tents and even a patch of sunshine.

The central living space (also quite an effective snow collecting device on the last day…)

Day Trippers in the Hollow Hills (JF-436, JF-354 & JF-380)

Ken Hosking

7 April 2012

Party: Gavin Brett, Sarah Gilbert and Ken Hosking.

Easter Saturday 2012 arrived amid rain showers and with a substantially lower temperature than that of Good Friday. Gavin and I set out to join the happy campers in the Dissidence area of the Junee-Florentine, but only as day-trippers given that the pleasures of camping in the mud, cold temperatures, mud, rain, mud, snow and more mud were looking somewhat unattractive.

After the usual slog up the Serendipity valley, we came upon Camp Jackson, a regular little city, complete with power supply, running water and plenty of mud. Our instructions for the day were to check out JF-436 and any or all of the Benson and Hedges series to evaluate these for digging potential. Sarah, who had also walked in, in her case to stay for a day or two, came with us.

Having found JF-436, Gavin rigged the first pitch and descended, followed by Sarah and me. By the time I belatedly arrived, Gavin had managed to pass the previously capped obstruction at the top of pitch two and could be heard below, muttering about the vile conditions. He soon re-emerged with the sorry tale that another constriction was ahead and that more capping was required. Neither Sarah nor I felt the need to descend this enchanting little shaft, especially after watching Gavin's facial expressions as he emerged through the tight pitch-head.

After packing up, we headed uphill and came to a very impressive doline, with a 15-metre cliff at one side. We soon established that there was little promise of cave in the doline itself, but immediately adjacent to the doline, on the eastern side, there was a spectacular pothole, JF-354, down which a waterfall, no doubt enlarged by the overnight rain, fell. We gazed down into the mist in the pitch and estimated that our 23-metre rope was unlikely to reach the bottom and, in any case, it looked as though it would be a rather wet drop. Hey, we were only day-trippers, not dedicated explorers, so we moved on. We later found that the pitch was 25 metres, with a 4-metre handline climb to follow. It was reported in *Spiel* 181:5 that the water flows into a small hole with the potential for enlargement. It is probably worth another look given how much time has passed and how much water has been down this shaft since it was last descended.

However, we thought that we could see a possible cave entrance about halfway down the cliff on the southern side of the doline. Gavin had also found a hole that required a short abseil to enter from the edge of the cliff. He rigged a rope, did a little gardening and entered this rather tight and earthy-looking cavity. He found that it choked off after a

few metres. Sarah and I then rigged a rope down the face of the cliff, being guided from below by a very excited Gavin who apparently has wet dreams of finding a cave in a cliff that can only be entered via an abseil. Unfortunately, the supposed entrance was merely an alcove of very small proportions, but it was a pleasant abseil into the doline, made better by a rare period of sunlight.

Our next objective was to find JF-380, a cave that had been identified as having a good draft and digging potential by Stefan Eberhard (*Spiel* 221:10). Stefan had also surveyed the cave (published in *Spiel* 221:11). Serena Benjamin, Janine McKinnon and Amy Robertson had re-visited the cave in 2008 (*Spiel* 364:8) and had also reported a strong draft and a potential dig. Alan wanted Gavin, his capping buddy, to identify the size of the task involved in extending the cave.

Having found the cave, we set about rigging it, but without the insight that reading *Spiel* 221 would have given us. Once again our rope was too short (the pitch length is 28 metres) but by using a 10-metre length of rope that we happened to be carrying, we could go as far as the first rebelay, from where the 23-metre rope just reached the bottom, but only by having a very short loop on the second rebelay. At the bottom of the pitch, a series of very loose climbs over mobile rocks, of similar scariness to some of the climbs in Rescue Pot, led to a streamway, where a small stream chortled its way downward. Gavin, who was first down, squeezed into the stream passage, only to find that the way on became too tight after a few metres, but the draft was very strong. His conclusion was that it was too tight, but not by much and that a little modification to the floor plan of the cave might just result in opening a way on. He suggested that I was too tall, too old and too stiff in the joints to have a look myself. I was happy to agree with two of these objections, as the thought of getting into the water was not overly appealing. The next step will be to use Gavin's camera-on-a-stick technique to look around the corner to see if there is a reason to persist. The strong draft suggests that it is worthwhile spending more time in this cave. On the way up, we greatly enjoyed Gavin's economic rebelay technique, just as we had enjoyed the mobility of the rocks in the lower sections. In the meantime Sarah had been looking about on the surface, locating JF-379 Gash Pot and the upper entrance to JF-380 (looks like one of Trevor's grikes, thought Gavin).

We debated a name for the cave, as it clearly deserves one. We discussed Airbus, A380 or simply A, as preferred by Gavin who enjoys cryptic crosswords. Gavin won the naming contest on the basis of having rigged the cave, for having descended first, for having been the furthest and for getting the muddiest. A it is.

After a brief stop at la cittadina di Jacksono, we left for the comforts of the city, leaving the others to the rain, hail and potential snowfalls of the remainder of the weekend.

Where Warhol was and Wherretts Swallets are now

Stephen Bunton

7 April 2012

Party: Stephen Bunton, Andreas Klocker and Mark Euston (NUCC)

We arrived at Serendipity Camp to meet the hard men licking their wounds from yesterday. They were gradually coming to life and the realisation that today was going to be yucky drizzle, heavier showers and not just a pleasant rest day. Alan was surprised to see so many of us arrive given the forecast but wasted no time in allocating jobs to the various parties.

Our job was to contour around the contact to Warhol and GPS it and anything we found in between or beyond. We found nothing on the way around the spur until we encountered a small streamsink. In this weather everything would be a streamsink. This one was filled in with a bit of tree fall, which we promptly removed and even then it was only just inviting enough by virtue of the fact that it had a curtain of water across the crawl-in entrance.

I was the one with the trog-gear and so kitted up for a shower. I slid in and then stood up before excavating a little bridge of sediment from across the top of a knee-width canyon to make a keyhole squeeze. On the inside of this I could once again stand up at a place where the stream sank into the floor. A few gurgling holes swallowed a rock or two and I could tell from the noises that there was a void below. I named the cave Resonance. It was tagged JF-588, on the inside of the arch (pendant with rock below but touching it) that makes the entrance crawl, facing back to the outside world. The cave was GPS'd. *Survey – page 29.*

Bunty showing great dedication to the cause in JF-588.

Whilst I was inside, Mark went off to locate Sunny Cave Hole (JF-395) just below Resonance. Back at camp Alan said that when you descend Sunny Cave Hole water pours out of the roof. We now know where that water comes from. At home I discovered that JF-588 was formerly JF-Z85; another one bites the dust!

On our sketch there was also JF-394 and Warhol (JF-392) marked in the vicinity. We found JF-394, GPS'd and photo-tagged it, but we could not find Warhol despite numerous traverses between the two caves that are supposed to be either side of it. We did not find JF-393, which is a mystery even to Alan.

On Rolan's Z cave map (Eberhard, 1994) there are two JF-394s. The one closer to the head of the Serendipity Valley

is meant to be JF-374 and the adjacent point labelled JF-393 is actually Punishment Pot (JF-373).

We cut our losses and headed further afield. My aim was to get as far as the Wherretts Swallets and GPS them so that, in future, we could get to them via a shorter route from Four Road. In the horrible conditions this seemed like a big ask.

Halfway around the spur we found another small cave, just a circular chamber really, which was previously unknown. We were in a very obvious blank on the map. The cave was sketched, tagged JF-589 inside at head height on the right, GPS'd and called Conglomerate Cave after the rounded clasts (about 5-10 cm diameter) of river cobbles included infrequently in the limestone (several per square metre of exposed surface). They looked like ice-rafted "boulders" but were rounded not angular. *Survey – page 30.*

We were excited by the fact that we literally were in *terra incognita*. There were no caves at the head of the creek marked on the map. When we encountered this stream it was flowing and we followed it a long way down the hill before the large exposed sandstone boulders led me to believe that this was the result of a landslip. Eventually and abruptly the stream just stopped and sank into the leaf litter, when the slope angle eased. We then headed uphill to the contact on the south side of this stream until we encountered more promising-looking cave country.

Here we found the entrance to what might be another cave, given a bit of digging. At this stage it was only a stick-your-head-in size hole but around the corner was a descending crawl. A rolled rock, rolled and fell for a promising length of time. We tagged it JF-590, at head height slightly to the right of the hole, and noted that it had a reasonable draft. *Survey – page 30.* (Three tags, six holes is the limit of the new drill.)

As a result of research at home, I am convinced that JF-590 is JF-Z66.

Again Mark was busy whilst we were doing the documentation. Above the cave he discovered a very impressive feature and thence whilst trying to find the best way into it, he found an even better one, just to the south, with a nice waterfall tumbling into it. We didn't want to fall into this mantrap but eventually found a tree to rig off on the uphill, cliff side, of the hole and I kitted up again. This time I did not want to get back into my grotty trogsuit and I was so wet now there was hardly any point.

Mark was convinced that he could see a tag on the obvious wall at the bottom of the 4 m entrance pitch. I was not convinced, especially since there was nothing known in this area. Sure enough when I got down to the obvious place where I was going to put a tag, on the southwestern side of the chamber, there was one there already! JF-386, Wherretts Swallet Two! *Survey – page 29.*This was both good news and bad news. Good news because we didn't have to bash another 300 m each way in the rain to reach our objective. Bad news because we weren't in virgin cave territory! It was also good news because it means that the gully where Rolan's map erroneously places the Wherretts Swallets is now a prime target for investigation ... investigation best reached from Four Road.

I rued the fact that I didn't have my trogsuit on as the rest of the cave was quite drippy. I sketched it and we GPS'd it before abandoning the mission for fear of failing light. We did not find the JF-385 tag to confirm that the other void was in fact Wherretts Swallet One.

Bunty descends JF-386.

Once we'd found the Wheretts Swallets we assumed that it would be easy to find the nearby Z caves in the future. Z66 and Z65 were shown to be not far around the contour but according to the description of JF-Z66 it is west of Wherretts Swallet Two, which is why I believe it is now JF-590. The real mystery now is the possible location of Z67, Z68 and Z69. These are shown on a spur leading west down from the Wherretts Swallets but given that these are not located correctly, the Z caves could be on another spur also; the broad one leading north. Z69 is "adjacent to McCullums Track" (Eberhard 1996) and previous efforts to find it (Jackson 2009) proved fruitless.

I'd still like to do a big loop around from Serendipity to Warhol to Wherretts Swallets and down the ridge to pick up McCullums track hoping to find those Z caves on the way. Hopefully in better weather such that everything wasn't such an epic battle against the elements.

We contoured back to Serendipity Camp, Mark the GPS skeptic in the lead, and arrived right at the Liquorice Allsort Junction in fading light. We found nothing on the route home.

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EBERHARD, R. 1994 *Inventory and Management of Karst in the Florentine Valley Tasmania*, Forestry Tasmania, p. 125.

JACKSON, A. 2009 *Speleo Spiel #371* p. 8.

Head of the Valley GPS'ing

Stephen Bunton

8 April 2012

Party: Stephen Bunton, Sarah Gilbert, Jane Pulford, Tony Veness and Geoff Wise.

Besides developing an appreciation for the reasons why people, several millennia ago, gave up on caves and moved into houses that had walls, dry flat floors and hopefully a roof that didn't leak; our objective was to finish all the "bits and shits" that had not been done in the area. The most obvious of these was a GPS location for JF-382

(Dissidence). Yes, the star of the show was still floating around in the real world and could not yet be pinned down into the virtual!

Given that the weather was so awful the crew opted not go into a muddy drippy cave but elected to do muddy, drippy surface things for no other reason than the grass is always greener on the outside.

Alan had briefed us on an anti-clockwise route around the head of the valley starting at Dissidence but we elected to start the other way and follow his instructions in reverse to start at Flick Mints Hole. The track up to the cave is somewhat vaguer than we are, so it was that we missed this gaping 40 m mantrap. It also meant we missed Whistler (JF-293) and that left us without our references for finding our first objective, JF-435 (Kangaroo Cave).

We spread out and luckily we all regrouped at the waypoint RASCH, no one had discovered an accelerated journey towards the centre of the Earth. Rasch is indeed a cave but there is no bedrock accessible near the surface and it is a significant pit. It would require a rope for exploration and we were travelling light. We photographed the entrance, which sported a nice very rotten log with black baby bracket fungus with nice light edges.

From Rasch we spread out and combed uphill until we finally did find Whistler although we missed Kangaroo Cave again. We cut our losses and pressed on around the Benson and Hedges Series photo-tagging as we went.

The first thing we found was a small impenetrable streamsink about 10 m before JF-294. Tags without tape on them were retro-taped. This included first JF-294 then JF-295, Benson Pot (JF-348), JF-349, JF-350, JF-351. This section of the Benson and Hedges Series boasts an impressive collection of holes but it is a pity they don't really go anywhere. We photo-tagged JF-351 and JF-352 before sidling into the gully at Scrubwren Swallet (JF-296). This was placed in the GPS.

Further around the hill we stopped at JF-355 for morning tea in the torrential rain. Sarah knew JF-354 as the cave with the big waterfall that she had visited yesterday with Gavin and Ken. We then stood around for a group photo at the less than impressive JF-377. We then proceeded to JF-358 and got a photo, JF-357 likewise and finally Gunge Pot (JF-356) at which time the low light, rain and the mist were making photos impossible.

Between JF-357 and JF-358 we discovered a 2 m deep pit without a tag. I had tagged less significant things in the past and whilst I felt it deserved a tag, I deferred this action until after we had located the few caves we were still searching for, in order to avoid duplication.

We then sidled back to camp crossing a small stream, a slightly bigger stream and then the Serendipity stream. We located JF-374 and GPS'd it before descending into the Punishment Pot (JF-373) doline and GPS'd it. When we encountered the Dissidence track, I left the others to GPS Dissidence (JF-382) and the cave above it, JF-381. I descended to the intermittent streamsink beside, west of Serendipity (JF-344) and tagged it JF-591 (formerly JF-Z84), high on the right side of the cliff at the only spot without any moss. *Survey – page 31*.

The others were in camp when I returned. After eating anything we did not want to carry on our backs, for lunch, we packed up and headed home. Geoff GPS'd JF-591 on the way down the hill.

Other Exciting Stuff

Whatever Happened to the JF-107 Bugs?

Stephen Bunton

This article summarises the results of our bug hunting in JF-107 on 21st May 2011 (Chad 2011).

I have been in recent contact with Danilo Harms at the WA Museum and he has confirmed that the JF-107 **pseudoscorpion** specimens are the same species as he collected from Beginners Luck Cave (JF-79/80/81/82/576), 6 km away. Subsequently this species has been collected from Cashions Creek Cave (Bunton 2011a) and Frankcombes Cave (Bunton 2011b).

As for the JF-208 pseudoscorpions they collected in October 2010:

> *It turns out that some of the cave species we got in Tasmania are central to understanding the evolution of this arthropod group. Guess what, the cave species we got in JF-208 is closely related to species from Chile and does NOT group with other species from Australia. Bearing in mind that the origins of these pseudoscorpions pre-date the breakup of Gondwana, this is quite significant. This particular species must be old as the hills and could as well be crawling around somewhere in Chile! None of the surface species shows a similar pattern and that very much highlights the importance of studying caves and their fauna.* (D. Harms, Ph.D student, WA Museum, pers. comm. 2012)

I reckon this constitutes a good case for calling JF-208 Pseudoscorpion Cave.

All of these specimens will be returned to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) when Danilo finishes his study.

The interesting-looking JF-107 **millipedes** turned out to be *Tasmanodesmus hardyi*. This species was recorded in Eberhard (2011) as *Pseudoprionopeltis hardyi* but this name has no taxonomic status.

> *The '*Pseudoprionopeltis*' business arose when Stefan Eberhard was doing his Tasmania-wide cave surveys in the mid-1980s. He sent a specimen to Peter Johns in Christchurch, who at that time was planning to lump* Tasmanodesmus hardyi *with similar New Zealand species in the NZ genus* Pseudoprionopeltis*. Stefan used the name in his final report and it's been perpetuated that way ever since, but has no taxonomic standing. Johns didn't publish his revision formally, which is a good thing.* Pseudoprionopeltis *(NZ),* Tasmanodesmus *(Tas) and* Gephyrodesmus *(NSW and Vic) are closely related but have good genus-level diagnostic characters to keep them apart.* (R. Mesibov, Honorary Research Associate, pers. comm. 2011).

So now the pedantic ones of you can update page 117 of Rolan's Florentine report. *Tasmanodesmus* millipedes are widespread in damp forests and are therefore accidentals in the cave or even possibly trogloxenes as shown in the report. These specimens were donated to the TMAG.

The **centipedes** turned out to be *Craterostigmus tasmanianus* (an unfortunate suffix to the specific name!). Again these are common and widespread. The specimens found in the cave would have been accidentals also. These specimens were also donated to TMAG.

The **mites** were identified as *Microtrombidium sp.* by Dr Bruce Halliday who writes,

Microtrombidiidae is a large family of about 90 genera, 26 of which have been recorded in Australia. The six-legged larval stage of these mites is a parasite, which can be found attached to insect or spider hosts. The larvae of Australian Microtrombidiidae are parasites of flies, beetles, and moths. The eight-legged nymph and adult stages of Microtrombidiidae are predators that are found in moist habitats including soil, leaf litter, and moss. They probably feed on small invertebrates, including small soft-bodied insects. Eight species of Microtrombidium have been found in Australia. They are difficult to distinguish from each other, and very little research has been done on their classification in the last 50 years. Some species of Microtrombidium *are known only from the larval stage, and others only from the adult, and it is difficult to relate the larval and adult stages of any species. The species from Florentine Valley does not have any of the special morphological adaptations that are common in cave invertebrates, and it's possible that it also occurs on the floor of the forest surrounding the cave* (R.B. Halliday, Research Fellow (Acarology), pers. comm. 2011).

The specimens have been placed in the Australian National Insect Collection in Canberra.

I contacted Catherine (Cathy) Young at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for assistance in identifying the other species. She offered to get the specimens identified and promised to let me know the progress of any identification. She was grateful for the fact that we had good collecting records for the species with GPS data of their locations.

Cathy was able to identify the **ants** as *Prolasius sp*. Family Formicinae. These would not be troglobitic because ants are colonial and we didn't find ants' nests underground.

The main contenders for troglobitic status were the small **spiders**. Three of these were vaguely orange in colour and possessed eyes, which means that they were probably not troglobitic. (By a strange co-incidence Cathy asked Michael Rix of WA Museum to identify these specimens. Michael was Danilo Harm's field assistant when Danilo visited Tasmania looking for pseudoscorpions.) Michael identified these as female comb-spiders of the family Theridiidae, which are an undescribed group that are found in caves all over Tasmania. Another smaller specimen, a spiderling of the same species, was depigmented. A larger pigmented specimen was also identified as belonging to the family Theridiidae, genus *Theridion* or *Achaearanea* although he could not be entirely sure because this specimen was also female. These are fairly common epigean spiders. Michael will return these specimens to TMAG.

The black **bugs** (hemipterans) were sent to Gerry Cassis of University of NSW, formerly of the Australian Museum in Sydney. Again by a strange co-incidence, I did insect taxonomy with Gerry at Sydney University in 1977. I had met him once since then, at an Australian Entomological Conference when it was held in Hobart and I went to hear Arthur Clarke and Stefan Eberhard speak about their work. It is unlikely that the bugs were troglobitic since they fed on the tree roots at the site. As yet we have not heard back from Gerry Cassis.

The isopods Cathy could possibly identify from specimens in the TMAG at some later stage. At this stage I have not heard back from Cathy either despite me sending her a few reminder emails.

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Postscript. *I had never heard of Bob Mesibov before I contacted him about the millipede specimens but shortly afterwards (late July 2011) he received a bit of publicity about a "political border" between two millipede species in northwestern Tasmania.*

Protecting Caves From People III

Norman Poulter

Preamble

At various times, working through the auspices of the Speleological Research Group Western Australia [SRGWA] and the Cave Management Advisory Committee of what is now known as the Department of Environment and Conservation [DEC], I developed a method of in-cave marking initially utilising recycled reflective road signs and unique PVC "sticks" that were called TrackTags. Development began during the early 1980s and came to fruition during the early 1990s. An additional development several years later was the introduction of self-adhesive reflective markers. This paper is intended to appraise a new generation of cavers to the concept of in-cave marking – it has been adapted and up-dated from my initial paper "Protecting Caves From People" presented to the ASF TasTrog Conference in 1993.

Why?

A cave and its contents is a finite resource, generally quite happy to stay the way it is, subject to modifications by Nature. People, being the inquisitive and sometimes thoughtless creatures they are, can alter environmental patterns or destroy features and faunal regimes (this occurs through sheer weight of numbers although in caves, damage can occur from surprisingly low numbers of people) – in a short space of time.

Perusal of literature from the early part of last century suggests that cave visitation, with a few exceptions, was

relatively benign during this and earlier periods. With the upsurge of recreational caving since the late 1950s, damage in some caves accelerated at an alarming rate. Long cherished features disappeared while others became degraded and troglobitic regimes were placed under severe stress or threatened with extinction.

Although visitor safety is a consideration, caves need protection from the visitor. However, it is not relevant just "to protect a cave". It is necessary to state what is being protected, examples being:

- fauna,
- decoration,
- special features e.g. mud pavement, sediments, soil cones, bone deposits,
- maintain a cave or section of cave as near as possible in its original pristine condition,
- minimise further damage by restricting damage caused by human activity to one clearly defined area.

I advocated the use of in-cave marking (in various forms) in conjunction with educational signs, practised with Minimal Impact Caving (MIC) in mind and the awareness that a "feature", initially considered insignificant, may subsequently be found to be of the utmost importance.

An Abridged History of In-Cave Marking

In-cave marking in the first instance was employed purely as a means to find one's way into or out of a cave with little or no thought of protecting the cave. Early in-cave marking usually consisted of string, piles of rock or candle/carbide soot on cave walls. Such methods led to confusion as these marks could only be understood by those making them and this led to a proliferation (of marks) as different parties made their own marks, leading to further confusion, culminating with in-cave marking being associated with despoliation of caves (graffiti?) rather than protecting visitors.

During the late 1960s, attempts were made to protect some sections of cave, usually areas of high decorative value, the most notable being the Chevelier Extension in part of the Jenolan System (NSW) where I believe, flagging tape, artificial carpet, carpet protector and other methods were trialled. Route marking, mainly in the form of survey tape was employed in Tasmania's Kubla Khan Cave during the early 1970s to mark a path through a muddy section in order to keep visitors to one path and protect adjacent areas from despoliation. It didn't work very well due to the difficulty of seeing the tape in the prevailing low-light conditions.

In-cave marking seemed to be all but forgotten during the late 1970s to early 1980s and was not resurrected to any great extent until the Northern Caverneers began to restore and track mark parts of Kula Khan Cave in 1985 (Woolhouse 1985, 1988). This restoration work resulted in the first major appearance of my reflective discs manufactured from recycled road signs and led to the acquisition of more damaged signs from the WA Main Roads Authority, planning to produce discs for sale throughout Australia while attempting to create a standardised approach (Poulter 1987). Other control methods being trialled in Australia included that of "stringlines" by Ian Houshold (Tasmania) and Peter Bell (WA).

Types of In-Cave Marking

Track marking is a fairly loose term that has been universally applied to many different forms of in-cave marking including:

Route Marking

This is a desired trail employed by managing authorities and exploration parties to protect areas of caves and visitors.

It can also denote easier routes that are less obvious to future visitors.

Initial markers can be quite "primitive" in appearance (rock cairns) as laid down by exploration parties, until more sophisticated and visible materials are available.

Track Marking

Track Marking in its present context, defines not only the alignment of a given route, but more importantly – the width. While in most cases a track may be defined by some form of side markers, in other situations it may be defined by way of a laid or elevated "floor".

Barricades

Barricades are more substantial control measures designed to denote "No Go" areas and/or direction change while at the same time protecting features, including isolated ones such as skeletons/geologic features and defining protection zones such as entire chambers or extensions.

When to Route Mark

Route marking commonly follows a survey line initially put down by exploration teams but can be modified by subsequent visitors or management decisions. A marked route simplifies complex passages or rockpiles while at the same time minimising visitor impact on untrampled areas.

Route marking can also be used to minimise visitor impact in regions known to be hazardous or inhabited by fauna, or areas of delicate decoration.

Route marking simplifies visitation as well as potentially taking the least fragile route through a given area or cave.

When to Track Mark

The reasons for track marking are similar to those for route marking except that not only is the position of the trail defined, but also the width. The track width may be as little as a single foot to that approaching a metre or so.

Humans are social animals and it has been noted that where passage width confines exploration to single file transit – that is what occurs. Where passage width is less confined – and unless track marking takes place at an early stage or all visitors are aware of their destructive potential and behave accordingly – people walk side-by-side, eventually disturbing the entire floor space (Max Meth, CEGSA, pers. comm. 1993). Therefore, where passage width is wide, track marking may be considered desirable merely to maintain some of the floor structure in its original condition.

In some instances it may be considered necessary to completely remove visitors from contacting the floor e.g. sheet plastic or matting pathways across flowstone, elevated walkways across sand, mud, fauna regions. This action may be necessary not only to protect the immediate area but also to avoid carrying contaminants (on clothing, boots, equipment) to other, more fragile sections of cave.

When to barricade

Whereas route and track marking is generally as unobtrusive as possible, barricades are usually intended to be more intrusive in an effort to protect sensitive sites, areas, passages and fauna from human impact.

Barricades on the one hand can be a simple "low key" fence or stringline, rock containment wall or sign. At the other extreme, they can be in the form of a gate.

When to use

With the steady introduction of the concept of Minimal Impact Caving (MIC) into national speleological fraternities and the increase in recreational caving by commercial operators, corporations, casual groups and individuals (which includes formerly remote regions) all forms of cave protection need to be instated NOW.

How to use

There are no hard-and-fast rules as to what is to be done in a cave to protect it from (ill-informed) human interference or damage. What is done should be guided by common sense in addition to the desire to protect a cave environment as much as possible without destroying the "solitude or wilderness" effect. This "balancing act" may be difficult to achieve!

Materials

In all instances, materials used in a cave should be non-deteriorating (or near as possible to that state), neat and unobtrusive as possible – less so in the case of barricades or signs. What material/s are deemed appropriate, neat and maintenance-free for track, route marking or barricades in one cave or section of cave may be considered totally inappropriate in another cave or section of cave, depending on what is being protected.

Non-deteriorating:

- Plastics – posts, chain, tape, sheet, carpet protector, 'price tags'/TrackTags, reflectors, pipe, fishing line, recycled planking/posts.
- Boulderous – native rock, colour-matched cement.
- Adhesives – silicon-based only.
- Steel – stainless steel (preferably 316).

Deteriorating:

- Metals – galvanised steels (eventually rusts/stains), mild steel (guaranteed to rust/stain).
- Aluminium – subject to electrolysis and attack by leeching salts.
- Fibrous – wood, paper.

Why use plastic/stainless steel?

Appropriate plastic (preferably PVC) or stainless steel (316) are basically unaffected by a cave's often hostile environment, an environment that is very aggressive to the two traditionally used materials, wood and mild steel (plain or galvanised). Conversely, PVC plastic and stainless steel appear to have no ill-effect on a cave's environment, thus making them very cost-effective materials. Recycled plastic planks and stainless steel framework, railings and (tensioner) wires are now frequently used in many tourist areas, including caves.

Reflective markers

Reflective markers had been used in caves on a sporadic, ad-hoc basis ever since their development, probably restricted by lack of availability. Reflective material attached to thin brass foil nailed to rocks served as survey stations in Mullamullang Cave (6N-37) in the mid-1960s. Possibly due to the combined effect of electrolysis and salt action, by the late 1980s, most of the brass foil had decayed away. Aluminium-backed reflective material employed as track markers in Weelawadji Cave (6E-24) during the 1970s were, by 1993, severely corroded, most likely under the acidic action of massive guano deposits found throughout the cave. In both these cases, if the material backing the reflective layer could have been divorced from the damaging agent/s, the reflective materials could possibly have fulfilled their function indefinitely.

Following acquisition of grants in 1993 from various government and semi-government sources, SRGWA and I were able to establish facilities for the mass production of 30mm diameter aluminium-backed reflective discs, TrackTags and 30 mm plain aluminium cave number tags. These facilities have now been re-located to my new home in Tasmania. A recent addition has been the introduction of 20 mm diameter self-adhesive reflective discs. The use of the colour coding listed in the "Sales Pitch" below has been endorsed at an ASF Conference.

Stringlines

Stringlines, used either as track marking or barricades, are relative latecomers to the cave protection armoury. The first examples I saw in operation were in Exit Cave (7IB-14) and Moondyne (adventure) Cave (6AU-11) in 1993.

Sections of Exit Cave had unobtrusive low-level stringlines using what appeared to be 2 mm green cord (sash cord) strung between zinc-plated steel tent pegs. Being less than 100 mm above ground level and of low contrast, the lines were difficult to see. Where stringlines had been trodden on with muddied boots, the lines blended into the surrounding terrain, making them even more difficult to see.

The stringlines of Moondyne Cave utilised heavy gauge nylon fishing line interspersed with self-adhesive reflective tape (cut into squares), randomly wrapped over the line. These stringlines, because of the reflective tape and being higher off the ground, were easy to see and less prone to foot damage.

My personal preference for stringline material is "bright" heavy gauge fishing line as it does not absorb moisture, particulate matter or organisms. Just because it looks very bright on the spool, as a single strand in a cave, the colour is much "softer".

Signs

Signs play an important role in everyday life – in that they give out information where it is needed all day, every day. There are numerous occasions where signs can play an important role in protecting caves, sections of caves, their faunal inhabitants or other natural features – or warn of dangers.

In the past, signs have been written on whatever material was available and, left unprotected, have rapidly deteriorated although such signs serve as an important first

step – however, should be replaced at the earliest opportunity.

Sign barricades

Signs have been used as barricades in some caves, notably Western Australia and Victoria. In some sensitive Victorian caves, once a passage had been explored and mapped, if it was deemed undesirable by the VSA management committee (in the absence of land-owner expertise or presence) to allow further entry, a sign is placed across the passage informing visitors what is beyond and the reason for closure. Through SRGWA, I barricaded an entire passage system of Nurina Cave (6N-46) in 1988 with a single explanatory "No Entry Please" sign to protect the ecosystem beyond.

Professional signs are expensive, take time to produce and more expense is incurred if the sign needs to be replaced or altered due to changed circumstances, vandalism or theft. Depending on the materials used, they can also be susceptible to a cave's harsh environment. In this desktop computer age, coupled with printers and inexpensive laminators, high quality and informative signs can be manufactured "in-house" quickly and with minimum expense. Depending on the inks used in some printers, laminated signs appear impervious to a cave's humidity. It is best to lightly trim an A4 sheet prior to lamination in order to increase the lamination border.

TrackTags

One of the biggest headaches with the use of reflective markers – or signs – in caves, is what to affix them to! One possible solution trialled by several people throughout Australia were plastic "price tags" but these were expensive, had limited application but more importantly, were made from a brittle, inappropriate plastic.

With this in mind, I developed the multiple-use TrackTag system, made from PVC sheet, cut into 110 x 20 mm strips, "pointed & holed" each end in a separate operation using a custom-built press tool and power press purchased with grant monies. Each end is pointed so it is easier to press into sediments or rock cracks and with three holes in the form of a triangle enabling it to be hung or dangled from stringlines. The TrackTag can be cut in half with a hammer and chisel, thus making two shorter TrackTags. Aluminium-backed reflective discs and signs can be attached with silicon-based glues.

Sales pitch

As with my other papers pertaining to cave and troglobitic fauna protection through the use of in-cave marking techniques – a "soft sell" commercial is included advising of track marking materials I have available (with use guidelines) – prices DO NOT include postage.

<u>30 mm Aluminium-backed reflective discs:</u>

- Holey Yellow (IN) – $1/100 sold in lots of 200
- White (OUT) – $1/100 sold in lots of 200
- Red (NoGo, Caution) – $1/100 sold in lots of 200
- Blue (SURVEY) – $1/100 sold in lots of 200
- Colour+White (Temporary) – $1/100 sold in lots of 200

<u>20 mm Self-adhesive reflective markers:</u>

- Holey Yellow (IN])– $2/100 sold in lots of 100
- White (OUT) – $2/100 sold in lots of 100
- Red (NoGo, Caution])– $2/100 sold in lots of 100
- Blue (SURVEY) – $2/100 sold in lots of 100

<u>PVC TrackTags</u>

110 x 20 1.5 mm (grey), pointed ends with 3 fixing holes – $10/100 sold in lots of 200

Cave Number Tags

- 30 mm plain aluminium discs – $1/100 sold in lots of 100
- 50 mm plain aluminium discs – $3/100 sold in lots of 100
- 50 mm aluminium-back reflective yellow – $3/100 sold in lots of 100

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2011 Annual Reports

Various Artists

PRESIDENT (Geoff Wise)

It's been another good year for STC, the Exit mapping project continues to tick along and extensions to Dissidence have proved STC continues to keep the exploration caving thing going. From personal involvement, Exitravaganza 2012 was another success and thanks must go to Tony Veness for somehow managing to organise the whole thing without any glitches. Given the scale and some nutty people involved I'm amazed. I haven't seen all the numbers yet but some notables were linking the IB-190 survey into the Exit traverse and slope angles finally being measured for Conference Concourse after 40 years.

As president admittedly I just sit around like Dmitry Medvedev pretending I'm in charge while other people run the show. My thanks to all those who did something for the club this year, whether it was being an office bearer, dealing with land managers, hosting a BBQ or actually going caving. If anyone doesn't fit into one of those categories then thanks for turning up, paying your subs and generally making life interesting.

2012 has been declared the year of JF-Z cave eradication. There seems to be plenty happening already with Alan's Easter Dissidence mini expedition, continued mapping of the cave that never ends and I suspect some fireworks along the way. Time for everyone to get involved, put in and go caving.

VICE PRESIDENT (Steve Bunton)

You can't have leaders without followers so I am quite happy to continue to deputise at caving club meetings; chairing the rabble or writing the minutes as I have done on several occasions throughout the last year.

SECRETARY (Janine McKinnon)

It has been another uneventful year on the administrative side of my secretarial duties. A few permit requests have been sent. Journals collected. ASF agendas and minutes received.

I was absent for a couple of months again, and in that time the minutes of meetings were undertaken by Steve Bunton. I wish to thank him for doing an excellent job.

I am happy to nominate for the role in 2012.

SOCIAL SECRETARY (Guy Bannink)

2011 was a big year socially. The traditional Wednesday PM was frequently changed to Fridays to alleviate stress in young families and this worked reasonably well with many 'whole family' attendances. Several individuals kindly donated time and their residences for an evening of electrical and sometimes mechanical social engineering. The most notable and now traditional event is the Winter Solstice at AC's. This year SB hosted the Xmas doo which was well attended. NP also had a barbie round the back of the mountain which was very pleasant. A few sessions were also held at GB's. All were well attended and great food fun and general abuse was tolerated throughout the year.

There were several other members who were very helpful providing ideas, entertainment and food - you know who you are, the unsung heroes of the social engineering group. There were no incidents on the balcony this year which is a relief. On the negative side, despite years of trying to convince RT that he needs a Scurion he still does not have one. This is a specific failure. Thanks to all that helped through the year especially with the reminders. Happy to continue to cause havoc in 2012.

EDITOR (Alan Jackson)

2011 has seen another six issues of the *Speleo Spiel* produced. Costs should come down a bit further in 2012 as

I've managed to reduce the hard copy distribution to other clubs, although with Loretta no longer working my main source of recycled stamps has dried up so we might actually have to start paying for postage this year.

I've been doing this job since issue #340 (Jan-Feb 2004) – that's eight years and 48 issues; 1124 pages.

Similar to my sentiment last year, I think it's someone else's turn.

GEAR STORE (Gavin Brett)

The gear has been stored for another year. It looks like 2012 the gear store will move from Clutha Place to Alan or Geoff's house. This should bring on a stocktake. I am happy to continue storing until then.

ELECTRONIC ARCHIVE, SURVEY ARCHIVE AND MAP ARCHIVE OFFICER (Ric Tunney)

The electronic Archive now occupies 11.3GB storage (up about 0.3 GB on last year). Distribution is on an ad-hoc basis via portable hard drive.

Thank you to the surveyors and drawers, mainly Alan Jackson and Steve Bunton, who are sending me both scans and the original bookwork. It's good that your work is being preserved. 52 map numbers were issued in 2011.

I eagerly anticipate lots of survey data and scans from Tony Veness from the Exit 2012 week.

Data storage and back-up continues as I described in my 2009 report.

Paperwork is still at risk from a very large fire. All the paper records (occupying three filing cabinet drawers) still have not been digitised. A volunteer for this task would be appreciated.

A year has passed, but Arthur Clarke has not arranged for the ASF cave data records to move into our house. These will need digitising if they ever arrive.

In previous years, I asked taggers to actually tell me they have tagged a cave so I wouldn't have to extract the information from the *Spiel*. This still is not happening. As a result, I can't guarantee that the cave-number master lists are up-to-date.

I can't say how many caves have been tagged during the year, but Junee-Florentine is up to JF-586 and Ida Bay is up to IB-256. (Each with some gaps to be filled).

I am happy to continue in these positions.

LIBRARIAN (Greg Middleton)

The Library received 126 new hard-copy serials in 2011-12, apparently bucking the declining trend of recent years:

2010-11: 69, 2009-10: 89, 2008-09: 95, 2007-08: 113, 2006-07: 101, 2005-06: 168 and bringing our holding to 4,718 (not including many duplicates). The reversal is largely due to the accessioning of old serials, some from my own collection.

The library received 6 new books, bringing our holding to 311. These were from the Estate of the late Andrew Skinner, along with a number of duplicates of ones already held.

Three CDs were added to our CD/DVD collection, bringing it to 41. 751 papers/articles have been indexed but many remain to be accessioned.

It was agreed at the February meeting that as the Library is getting more and more material in digital format, it required a dedicated hard drive to store this material – and this should be backed-up off-site. A 2TB drive was purchased and so far 11.6 GB of data have been stored (principally pdfs of serials but also conference proceedings and other papers).

Since 2005 I have been producing *Southern Caver* in digital format, publishing otherwise unpublished or rare material. None was produced in 2011, but I have some material for future issues.

I am happy to continue in the position.

SCIENCE OFFICER (Arthur Clarke)

Once again another year has passed with little cave science activity by the club as a whole (i.e. no specific STC science projects). However, several STC members have been productive with their own scientific research, e.g. Rolan Eberhard's cave monitoring, karst exploration and WHA conservation projects for DPIPWE; Stefan Eberhard's new descriptions of Tasmanian cave beetles (plus the bio-monitoring studies of aquatic fauna in Western Australia); Arthur Clarke's continued studies of glow-worm bioluminescence at Ida Bay (together with cave fauna studies in southern and central China); and Matt Cracknell's studies in the Hastings karst. Other aspects of speleological (cave science) endeavour are engaged by various STC club members, e.g. those involved in cave surveys, production of cave maps or surveys, digitising these maps or surveys, archiving our records, plus of course the maintenance of published cave science records by the STC Librarian. The Science Account was also used to reimburse Alan Jackson ($249.00) for the purchase of a new rope cutter; see over, for more comment about finances.

Although little detail is known of Rolan's own karst science related activity, his brother Stefan combined with Pier Mauro Giachino (an Italian carabid beetle taxonomist) to describe several new Tasmanian cave beetle species. In their 72 page manuscript, published in December 2011, they also provide new cave records for previously known (described) surface species, recording *Pterocyrtus striatulus* and *Trechistus humicola* from Mount Arthur Cave, a dolerite cave on Mt. Wellington; *Tasmanorites flavipes* from two Junee-Florentine (JF) caves: Khazad Dûm and Growling Swallet; *Tasmanorites grossus* from Mystery Creek Cave at Ida Bay; and *Theprisa convexa* from Growling Swallet in the JF. One of the new Eberhard & Giachino surface species, *Trechistus gordoni* sp. *nov*., is also recorded from Growling Swallet. In this STC Science Report, the new Eberhard & Giachino cave species, most of which were collected by Stefan or Rolan Eberhard, are listed by their Type Locality (TL) cave collection site and the other principal collection sites. The new cave beetle species include: *Goedetrechus damperi* from Damper Cave (TL) at Precipitous Bluff; three new species of *Goedetrechus* from the JF: *G. florentinus* from Cauldron Pot (TL); *G. minutus* from Niggly Cave (TL); *G. rolani* from Pendant Cave (TL), Growling Swallet, Wherretts Cave and Threefortyone; *Tasmanorites microphthalmus* from Philrod Cave (TL) at Mt. Cripps; *Tasmanotrechus moorei* from Kubla Khan (TL) at Mole Creek (MC); *Tasmanotrechus rolani* from Little Trimmer (TL), Kubla and Genghis Khan (all at MC).

Reference: EBERHARD, S. AND GIACHINO, P.-M. (2011) Tasmanian Trechinae and Psydrinae (Coleoptera, Carabidae): a taxonomic and biogeographic synthesis, with description of new species and evaluation of the impact of Quaternary climate changes on evolution of the subterranean fauna. *Subterranean Biology*, 9 (2011): 1-72.

For almost ten years now, Arthur has been involved in Tasmanian glow-worm studies with Dr. David Merritt from the University of Queensland. Some interesting (and illuminating) results have emanated from the in-cave photo-monitoring studies in Marakoopa and Sassafras Caves at Mole Creek, plus in Mystery Creek Cave (MCC) and Arthurs Folly at Ida Bay, combined with laboratory experiments on collected glow-worm larvae, mainly from Ida Bay. The cave-dwelling larvae show a remarkable 24 hour rhythm generally displaying a synchronous bioluminescence, with the glows of those in the dark zone peaking in the early afternoon. However, in caves such as Sassafras Cave and MCC at Ida Bay, where glow-worms occur near daylight entrances, the synchronicity in bioluminescence between connected colonies results in some cave-dwelling species having a midnight peak, the same trend continuing further into the cave. In other parts of MCC, there are groups of glow-worms with distinctly different peaks in glowing times; although the reason for this variance in bioluminescence is still not fully understood, possible causes may include cave passage shape, reflected light from the cave stream or variable prey availability.

Also as a belated cave science report, I would like to make mention of the contributions by Matt Cracknell during his BSc (Honours) in 2009, part of which involved two small research projects in the Hastings karst area. Firstly, Matt examined the environmental impacts of a karst surface walk at Hastings and secondly undertook some experimentation with development of 3D cave models for display in Google Earth, using the recent survey and photography efforts in Wolf Hole as an example. During the course of subsequent exploration and survey work in Wolf Hole, Matt was able to demonstrate the presence of several former upper level lakes or pondages in the Catacombs region. Beyond the now gated extension of Wolf Hole, survey work revealed passages with palaeokarst deposits and preliminary results of samples collected from Strawberry Cascade have indicated the possible presence of Permian age plant fossils. In order to gain a more precise determination of this palaeokarst fossil material, it might be desirable to use some of our STC Science Account monies to engage a professional palaeontologist. Matt Cracknell is now in the final stages of completing the re-survey of Newdegate Cave, during which he and others have discovered previously unsurveyed passages in the Hells Half Acre region. Aside from the suggestion for STC to involve itself in some palaeokarst (cave science) studies, another worthwhile project might include some dye tracing work, perhaps at Hastings, Ida Bay or in the Junee-Florentine karst.

During the past year, particularly during the time when Chris Chad was Treasurer, there has been some nonsense and innuendo regarding the role and/or value of cave science within STC, with suggestions that the separate Science Account be wound back and amalgamated with the General Account. It is clear to me that most of the current members in STC are not aware of the historical beginnings of our club formed from the amalgamation of three flagging groups each with relatively large memberships, but each being inactive with just a few office bearers performing most of the active caving, research and editing/compiling of club publications. There were two recreational caving groups: Southern Caving Society and Tasmanian Caverneering Club, plus the cave science and research group: Tasmanian Cave and Karst Research Group (TCKRG). In order to effect a workable amalgamation, there had to be a number of compromises including acceptance of a name change and incorporating a dedicated and separate accounting system for the cave science component that would require an ongoing funding source. The basis for the latter related to the much larger bank balance (fixed term deposit) being brought forward from TCKRG and the relative inability for any cave science component to fund itself.

Unless, at some stage, we vote to change our Constitution, I would like to point out that STC should be mindful of the following items:

- Under “Objects of the Organisation” in the STC Constitution, the first object (Item 3.1) is: “To further caving as a recreation, and speleology as a science;”

- Item 8.4 of the STC Constitution states that: “Ten percent of all income shall be set aside in a separate account for scientific research purposes only.”

- Item 8.9 of the STC Constitution states in part that: “The Scientific Officer shall be invited to be a signatory for the account set aside for scientific purposes, along with the other members of the Executive.” - Under Item 11.10

“Scientific Officer Responsibilities” it states: “The Scientific Officer is responsible for coordinating all scientific research and recommending any expenditure of the dedicated funds set aside for scientific research.”

Having been the STC Science Officer for the past ten years or so, I would now like to pass the baton and stand down from this role. Given that Matt Cracknell is actively involved in his own academic pursuits and has indicated his preparedness to take on the role, I would like to nominate Matt for the position of STC Science Officer.

We still assume that Dr. Dave Merritt from the University of Queensland will be continuing his study into the behavioural ecology and bio-rhythmics of cave dwelling glow-worms at Ida Bay.

ASF REPRESENTATIVE (Steve Bunton)

As the most senior member of the club amongst those who attended the Chillagoe Conference April 2011, I said that I would "take one for the team" and attend the boring meetings.

As a representative I am hopelessly inept. I don't even know the difference between the Council Meeting and the Committee but I feel that I narrowly avoided being elected to the ASF Committee because I seemed like new blood, I speak my mind and I appear to get things done. However, I was not willing to compromise my fun-loving lifestyle and hard-earned Xmas holidays to go to another set of boring meetings the following January or even commit to going to the next Conference.

Most of the stuff at the meeting concerns money matters which I don't understand. I am blessed, not with a fortune but with sufficient that I see no problem with giving some

of it to a national body that attempts to promote speleology and conserve caves. I am therefore willing to trust the well-meaning officers of ASF that they are doing the best they can, as amateurs, to run such an organisation with about as little spare time as I have.

As such I seem to have rubber stamped some of the financial decisions that are now under scrutiny by more diligent, possibly less charitable or more impoverished members of the club. I don't subscribe to the theory that the fees are so huge that they offer a disincentive to people to go caving. Young people spend more on alcohol of a Saturday night or more on their internet and phone in a month than the cost of the ASF subscription. The true disincentive is that grovelling around in cold dark holes with a bunch of misfits that enjoy such stuff isn't very attractive. Whilst we are few in numbers I have a strange philosophical belief that we should stick together, though this probably reflects more emotion than reason.

STC members have been doing more than their share of the "work" to keep caving going in Australia by their efforts in exploration, writing articles for *Caves Australia* and raising the profile of the sport... not to mention Alan Jackson's herculean effort as Production Manager of *Caves Australia*. The truth is though, that we have not shown due diligence in attending meetings. If giving up holidays to go to the gabfest doesn't put you off then the cost of buying airline tickets to attend should. Finding enough willing and capable cavers to run our own little club is difficult without stepping up to help run the national organisation as well!

Greg Middleton represented us at the January 2012 Council meeting in Sydney and the club should thank him for his efforts ... he was in Sydney at the time!

The next ASF Council Meeting will be during the Conference at Galong in the Southern Highlands of NSW. STC will be looking for a conference attendee to represent us on this occasion, either that or we may no longer need to attend because we will have decided that the reasons to remain affiliated with ASF are so nebulous or spurious that we will part from their company.

SEARCH AND RESCUE (Jane Pulford)

Several rescue-related events took place in the past year, but fortunately no real cave rescues.

March

The club was called out to help in the search for a lost bushwalker on Bruny Island. Several STC members participated, using their abseiling skills to search the cliffs at Fluted Cape.

June

The club was again called by the SAR Police to help with a search for an elderly man in the Waterworks Reserve in Hobart. Unfortunately this was the STC Midwinter Weekend and most people were presumed to be busy / at Francistown. No STC members attended.

August

SAREX was held at Mt Field - 2 STC members participated, alongside other outdoors clubs, Police, SES and Ambulance personnel. The exercise involved searching along alpine walking trails, some people using snowshoes, and an overnight camp in the snow. The weather was realistic for the time of year – sleety and icy throughout.

September

Police SAR liaison meeting with representatives from various outdoors groups. STC's SAR Officer attended.

November

Cave Rescue Orientation Program (CROP) weekend was held at Mole Creek, and 3 STC members attended. Indoor and outdoor/underground sessions on horizontal cave rescue skills, first aid and cave conservation were presented by Jay Anderson and Iain Collette, for the Australian Cave Rescue Commission (ACRC), and hosted by Northern Caverneers and Mole Creek Caving Club. The exercises went well and highlighted cave rescue issues in the Mole Creek area.

December

STC invited by Police and local climbers to join in with rope rescue exercise at the Organ Pipes. The event ran on the same evening as the December business meeting, and no STC members attended.

March 2012

ACRC is planning to hold a vertical CROP weekend at Mole Creek.

I am happy to continue in this role in 2012.

PUBLIC OFFICER (Matt Cracknell)

Most cavers are private people. It is for this reason the Public Officer of a caving club does not do much. However, I did raise the lack of online trip forms being filled in and sent to my overflowing Inbox and that was about it. I am happy to keep the position for the coming year.

WEB MASTER (Alan Jackson)

The website is as outdated as ever. I really only update the *Spiel* distribution page with new *Spiels* and *Troglodytes*.

Sometimes Ric reminds that all the office bearers have changed after an AGM and then I update them too. Tony hijacked a secret section of the website for distributing his Exitravaganza propaganda recently. I think I (and LMRS) can manage the strain of continuing in this role for another year.

TREASURER (Ric Tunney - acting)

Summary

For those that only read the first sentence, STC has made a surplus of $398.14 for 2011, compared to a surplus of $289.19 in 2010. In reality, this is mostly due to a $250.00 Land Care grant to help cover administration costs. We have applied again for this grant in 2012.

For those who go a bit further and read the fourth sentence, I'm proposing abolishing the $33.00 subsidy of ASF fees for Life Members.

The 2011 income was slightly down from 2010, despite a $1164 grant from ASF for the Exit Project. This grant was reimbursement for money already spent. Chris Chad was Treasurer for the first part of the year until his untimely exile. I have been acting in the position since he left. I have been fortunate that Chris left the accounts in an excellent

position and all I had to do was maintain the same high standard.

I nominate for the position of Treasurer for 2012.

Membership

As usual STC had very few Introductory members in 2011 (total 7), with only one continuing on for a full membership. One prior member rejoined as a full member.

Overall the total membership has fallen by 19, or 27%. This will have a big impact on next year's income.

Membership Category	**At 31/12/2011**	**YE 31/12/2010**
Single, family and concession	33	45
Introductory	2	9
Life	8	8
Total membership	**43**	**62**
Friends	9	9
Total association	**52**	**71**

Note: In this table, I have counted Family Membership as two members.

Income

The following table shows the actual income from 2009 & 2010 and the expected income from 2011.

The estimated income for 2012 shows a significant decrease in membership fees.

These are calculated on 19 Single, 1 Active Life Member in Family, and 5 Family memberships. I anticipate the two concessional members will not renew in 2012.

I have not included any further Exit grant money (which would be balanced by Exit expenditure anyway).

Category	**2012 Estimated**	**2011**	**2010**
Memberships (incl. ASF component)	$2465	$2,801.00	$3,228.00
Speleo Spiel subscription	$60	$45.00	$100.00
Gear hire	$200	$194.00	$192.00
Gear sales	$0	$0.00	$0.00
Trip fees	$300	$343.00	$284.00
Donations	$0	$0.00	$35.00
Interest	$300	$302.25	$270.58
Sundries, incl grants	$500	$699.66	$1605.66
ASF Grant - Exit Project		$1164.75	
Total	**$3,825**	**$5,549.66**	**$5,715.24**

Membership Fees

The Membership Fees are designed so the STC finances break even. This was achieved in 2011, with help from grant money rather than solely from membership fees. I propose that the current Membership Fees remain unchanged for 2012

Category	**STC fee**
Life - inactive Life - active	Nil Nil
Single	$17.00
Concession (student/pensioner/junior)	$10.00
Household (annual)	$28.50
Household including Active Life Member	$11.50
Introductory (3 month, non-voting)	$10.00 (includes printed *Spiel*)
Friend of STC (non-member of STC & ASF)	Nil (includes printed *Spiel*)

• Late fee of $10.00 applies to all STC Single, Concession and Household memberships not renewed by 1 May each year.

• New members who join during the year will pay pro-rata for their annual category.

Trip Fees

Trip fees were up a little this year; partly due to fees from previous years! I propose that the current Trip Fees remain unchanged. I intend to monitor more closely the payment of fees in 2012.

Gear Hire Rates

Gear Hire receipts were unchanged for the year. I propose that the Gear Hire Rates remain the same.

Item	**Rate**
Trip fee (vertical caves where a rope was used)	$2
Light hire	$4
Helmet hire	$3
Full SRT kit	$6
Pack	$1
Trogsuit	$1
SRT kit, light, helmet, pack	$14
Descender only (depends on number of abseils)	$3-$5
Descender only (Midnight Hole)	$5
Harness & cowstail	$2
Miscellaneous (e.g. jammer, cowstail etc)	$1-$2

Expenditure

The flowing table details the expenditure from the General account during the last two years, and the expected expenditure next year.

Category	**2012 estimated**	**2011**	**2010**
Speleo Spiel production & supply	$350	$382.65	$498.79
STC subsidy of ASF fees for life members	$221	$184.00	$264.00
All other ASF membership fees	$1559	$2,199.66	$2,567.50
Gear purchases	$300	$643.12	$1387.61
Equipment Officer's Honorarium	$161	$57.60	$166.65
Audit fee	$83	$93.50	$78.00
Annual return fee	$56	$54.40	$53.20
PO Box rental	$150	$145.00	$137.00
Club admin & stationery	$100	$133.34	$65.60
Memberships	$93	$92.50	$110.00
Sundries	$10	$1.00	$97.70

Exit project - ASF grant		$1164.75	
Total expenditure	**$3,083**	**$5151.52**	**$5,426.05**

Speleo Spiel

Alan Jackson has advised he expects the cost of printing and of delivering each copy of *Speleo Spiel* will be higher this year. He has recommended an increase in the price and I accept his recommendation. Alan has managed to reduce the actual number of each edition to be posted; hence the reduction in estimated cost for the year. I propose that the subscription rates for printed *Speleo Spiel* be $25 per year for non-members and $20 per year for members (up from $15).

Final Summary

On the budget I have presented, we will make a $742 surplus in 2012. I expect in reality we will over-spend.

I have circulated a proposal to cease subsidising life members' ASF fees by $33.00 each. There has been a lot of discussion about this.

I propose that STC cease subsidising ASF fees for Life Members.

Summary of Motions

• I propose that the current Membership Fees remain unchanged.

• I propose that the ASF-fee subsidy for Life Members cease

• I propose that the current Trip Fees remain unchanged

• I propose the Gear Hire rates remain unchanged

• I propose that the subscription rates for printed *Speleo Spiel* be $25 per year for non-members and $20 per year for members.

2012 Membership fees

Fee if ASF-fee subsidy continues:

Category	**STC fee**	**ASF fee**	**STC subsidy**	**Total fee**
Life - inactive Life - active	Nil Nil	$33.00 $68.00	$33.00 $33.00	Nil $35.00
Single	$17.00	$68.00		$85.00
Concession (student/pensioner/junior)	$10.00	$61.00		$71.00
Household (annual)	$28.50	$121.50		$150.00
Household including Active Life Member	$11.50	$121.50	$33.00	$100.00
Introductory (3 month, non-voting)	$10.00 (includes printed *Spiel*)	$20.00		$30 .00
Friend of STC (non-member of STC & ASF)	Nil (includes printed *Spiel*)	Nil		Nil
Speleo Spiel subscription (printed *Spiels* delivered)	$25.00 (for non-members) $20.00 (for STC members)			

Fee if ASF-fee subsidy ceases:

Category	**STC fee**	**ASF fee**	**Total fee**
Life - inactive Life - active	Nil Nil	$33.00 $68.00	$33.00 $68.00
Single	$17.00	$68.00	$85.00
Concession (student/pensioner/junior)	$10.00	$61.00	$71.00
Household (annual)	$28.50	$121.50	$150.00
Household including Active Life Member	$11.50	$121.50	$133.00
Introductory (3 month, non-voting)	$10.00 (includes printed *Spiel*)	$20.00	$30.00
Friend of STC (non-member of STC & ASF)	Nil (includes printed *Spiel*)	Nil	Nil
Speleo Spiel subscription (printed *Spiels* delivered)	$25.00 (for non-members) $20.00 (for STC members)		

• Late fee of $10.00 applies to all membership fees not paid by 1 April each year.

• New members who join during the year will pay pro-rata for their annual category.

• Membership to STC automatically includes membership to the Australian Speleological Federation.

• Payment by EFT to STC's account BSB 067 000 Ac 10162123

TREASURER (Chris Chad)

The Other Treasurer's Report ...

I was pleased and honoured to find myself in an executive role of a club for which I had been a member for a relatively short time and after a AGM I didn't attend. Of course I didn't last long in the role before finding myself moving the family away to an area so devoid of caves as to make my role as Treasurer untenable. Sure, there are those that suggest that I was actually ousted by the faceless men of the club to be replaced by a girl, and that other factions are moving to put me into the position of Science Officer just to irritate Arthur, but I am just sad I can no long go caving as much.

First I must thank Ric for stepping into the role and doing a great job wading through the issues. I also would like to thank those who preceded me, particularly Sarah who made the job much easier.

A couple of things stood out to me when I examined the accounts. The first was that the club seemed to have a large chunk of money nominally invested but with no clear mandate for what the money should be used for. In my view, the club doesn't need to keep large reserves of money. If it does there should be a plan for how it's used. Currently we just sit on it and use the interest to subsidise life members. I managed to achieve nothing except to shuffle the money sideways into a Term Deposit.

The second was the Science Account, which constitutionally receives 10% of membership fees, has a comical history of administrative mistakes, expenditure that is clearly less than the income, and a lot of what money has been spent has only had a tenuous link to any particular science program. Contrary to what some of the touchier members would suggest I would be happy to see the club doing more science. Indeed I'd be happy to see half of my membership fee chewed up by useful and interesting science projects rather than insurance, and would donate my time and resources if I could, but the fact of the matter is the Science Account hasn't been utilised to any extent since its inception, and has just been an administrative nuisance to club treasurers ever since. I would simply merge the Science Account into the General Account. There is no reason why the executive can't just approve money to be spent on science related stuff the club thinks is worthwhile from the General Account. The whole argument about the origins of the account baffles me. Surely the club should be managed with the best interest of its members in mind rather than an intent forged in a tumultuous time that was apparently more designed to appease egos than produce a workable outcome. The Science Account compounds whilst in the meantime we require our keenest and most active members have to pay rope fees ... it just seems odd to me.

Whilst I would love to continue my circumstances prevent me from being able to fulfil the duties of treasurer, so I will not be running.

STC Financial Statement for Year Ending 31 December 2011

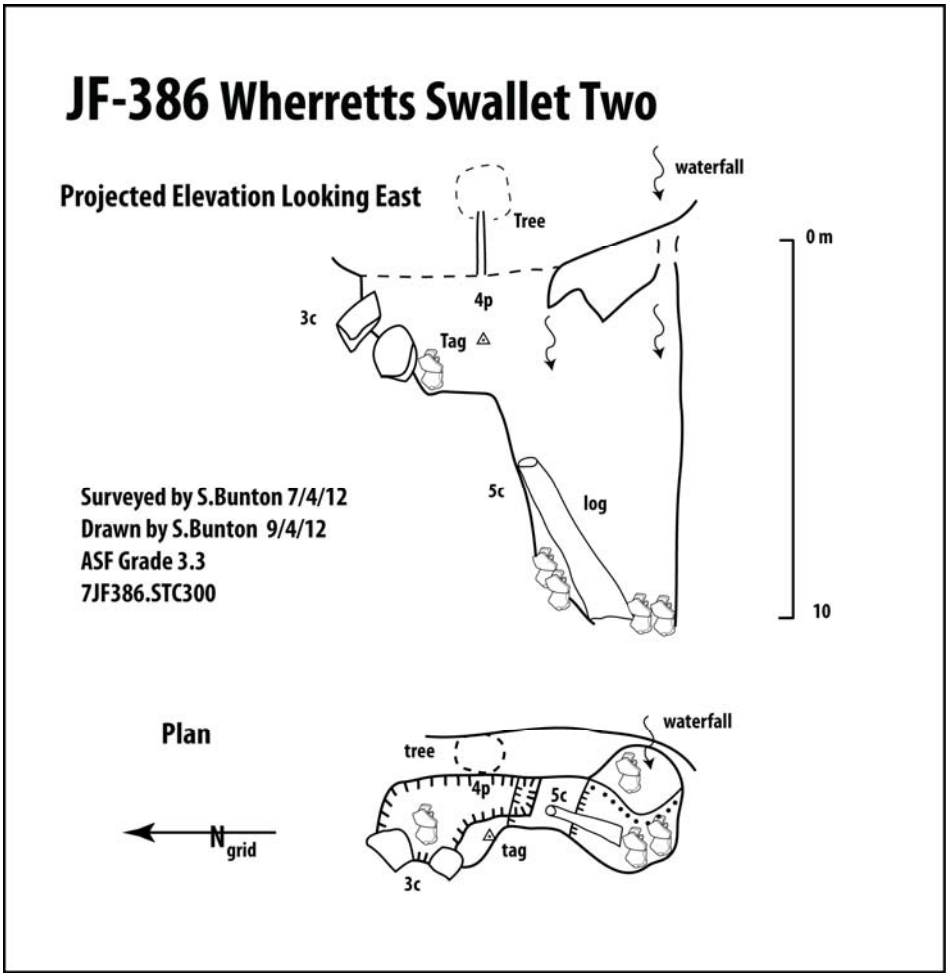
	This year	Last year
	2011	**2010**
Income		
Membership fees	$2,801.00	$3,228.00
Speleo Spiel subscriptions	$45.00	$100.00
Gear hire	$194.00	$192.00
Gear sales	$0.00	$0.00
Trip fees	$343.00	$284.00
Donations	$0.00	$35.00
Interest	$302.25	$270.58
Sundries[1]	$699.66	$1,605.66
ASF Grant - Exit Project	$1,164.75	
Total income	**$5,549.66**	**$5,715.24**
Expenditure		
Spiel Production	$382.65	$498.79
ASF Fees	$2,383.66	$2,831.50
Gear purchases	$394.12	$1,387.61
Science equipment	$249.00	$0.00
Equipment officer Honorarium	$57.60	$166.65
Audit fee	$93.50	$78.00
Annual return fee	$54.40	$53.20
PO Box Rental	$145.00	$137.00
Club Admin/Stationery	$133.34	$65.60
Memberships	$92.50	$110.00
Sundries[2]	$1.00	$97.70
Exit Project - ASF Grant	$1,164.75	
Total expenditure	**$5,151.52**	**$5,426.05**
Net surplus	$398.14	$289.19
Balance Sheet		
Petty cash	$26.80	$33.25
General Account	$2,997.53	$2,505.88
Science Account	$535.33	$1,610.39
Cash Management Trust	$0.00	$7,000.00
Fixed Term Deposit	$8,000.00	$0.00
Less unpresented cheques	$0.00	$0.00
Plus receipts to be deposited	$0.00	$12.00
Total cash position	**$11,559.66**	**$11,161.52**
Account Reconciliation		
Opening cash position	**$11,161.52**	**$10,871.33**
Add total receipts for the year	$5,549.66	$5,715.24
Less total payments for the year	-$5,151.52	-$5,426.05
Closing cash position	**$11,559.66**	**$11,160.52**
Reconciliation Error[2]	$0.00	$1.00
True closing cash position 2010		***$11,161.52***

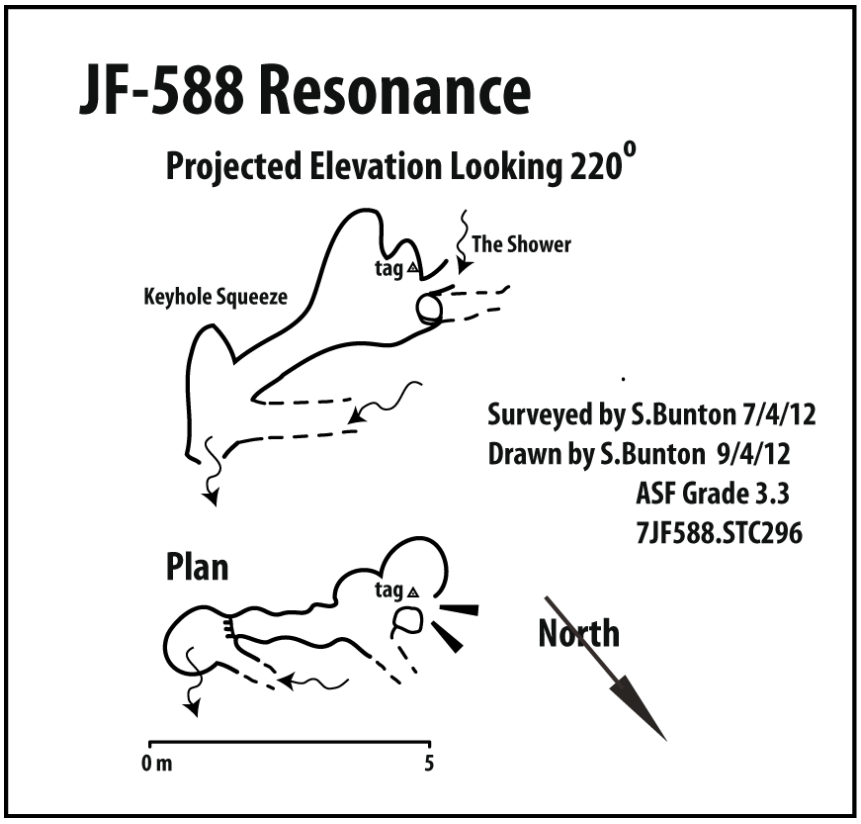
NOTE 1 $250.00 Landcare grant; $439.66 Wildcare grant

NOTE 2 $1 reconciliation error in 2010 from incorrectly processed cheque. Fixed by $1 payment from Petty Cash in 2011

Note Income & Expenditure do not include $1000.00 moved from Science Account to Cash Mgt Account and $8000.00 moved from Cash Mgt Acct to Fixed Term Deposit.

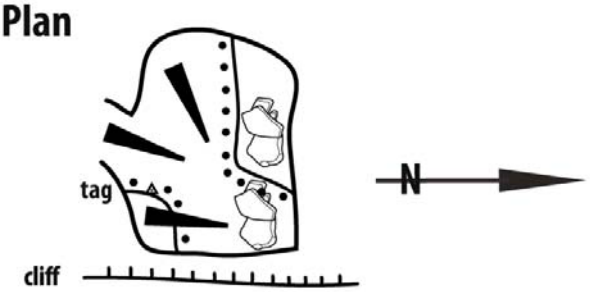
Surveys


JF-386 Wherretts Swallet Two
Projected Elevation Looking East
waterfall
Tree
0 m
4p
3c
Tag
5c
log
10
Surveyed by S.Bunton 7/4/12
Drawn by S.Bunton 9/4/12
ASF Grade 3.3
7JF386.STC300
Plan
N grid
waterfall
tree
4p
5c
tag
3c

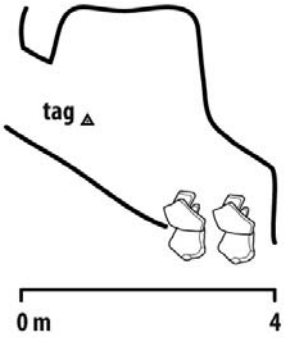

JF-588 Resonance
Projected Elevation Looking 220°
The Shower
tag
Keyhole Squeeze
Surveyed by S.Bunton 7/4/12
Drawn by S.Bunton 9/4/12
ASF Grade 3.3
7JF588.STC296
Plan
tag
North
0 m
5

JF-589 Conglomerate Cave

Plan



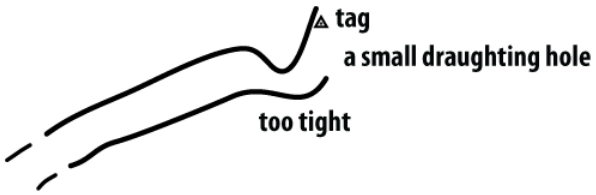
Projected Elevation Looking West



Surveyed by S.Bunton 7/4/12
Drawn by S.Bunton 9/4/12
ASF Grade 3.3
7JF589.STC297

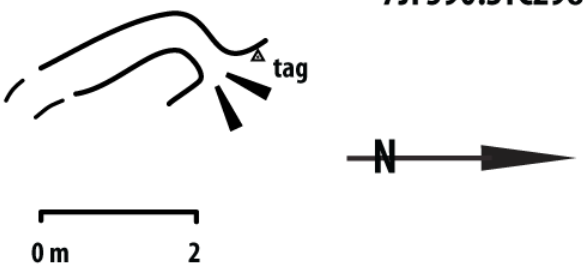
JF-590 (was JF-Z66)

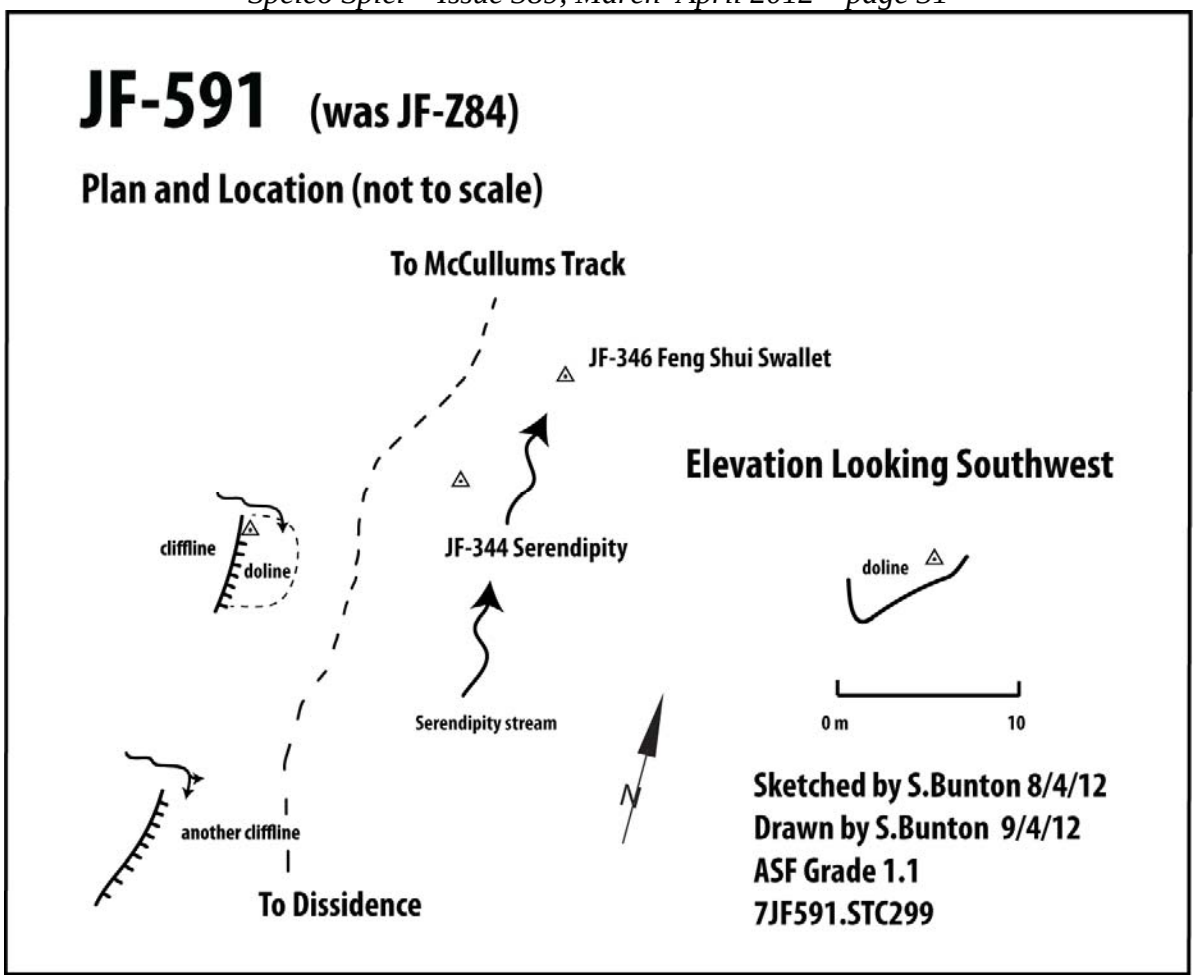
Developed Long Section



Surveyed by S.Bunton 7/4/12
Drawn by S.Bunton 9/4/12
ASF Grade 1.1
7JF590.STC298

Plan





Random Space-filling Photo

The Khan (right) and The Begum (left) in Kubla Khan.

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