Speleo Spiel 415

July - August 2016

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

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Front Cover: Welcome Stranger Formation. *Photo by Dan Haley*

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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PO Box 416, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7006
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ABN: 73-381-060-862
ISSN 1832-6307

Issue No. 415, July – Aug. 2016

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Editorial

After successfully managing to produce a second *Spiel*, I feel that I am in the swing of things. I have continued to learn about computer crap, formatting photos and frigging around with file sizes. I continue to take solace from the fact that I am an old dog and these are new tricks, so I have no great expectations... and I am reassured anything that stretches my limited brainpower is supposed to keep Alzheimer's away.

Lots of good stuff this issue. We're still catching up on Greg Middleton's semi-recent exploits. One of our more senior members is still one of our most active. If only we could get him interested in the limestone caves in the Florentine, we would have everything done, documented and dusted! Another of our more senior figures reminisces in the second installment of Albert Goede's personal history of the club. For those of you who missed the first episode it can be found in *SS*400:23-25.

Stephen Bunton

Stuff 'n Stuff

SPIEL CORRECTION

I apologise to the readers of the hard copy edition of *Speleo Spiel* 414. Unfortunately it was printed from a file with Track Changes still switched on and so some of the text is a bit light. However, if your are reading the hardcopy edition, you probably don't know about Track Changes and are just a bit confused anyway.

DRAFT CAVE ZONING STATEMENTS

Anyone interested in commenting on this latest bit of NPWS cave bureaucracy should contact Sarah Gilbert and put in their contribution before the end of August.

IUS CONFERENCE FIELD TRIPS

Ric Tunney and Janine McKinnon have kindly volunteered to run field trips at Ida Bay and Junee-Florentine prior to the International Union of Speleology Conference hosted in Australia next July. They would love some help. Cathie Ploughman of NCC is also running trips and would likewise be grateful of some assistance.
A complete list of IUS field trips can be viewed at https://www.speleo2017.com/Excursions.html
NB registration for the Congress is now open at https://www.speleo2017.com/register.html

POLICE SAREX

Keep Sunday 11 September free for a combined Police, SES, Tas Fire Service, Climbers Club and cavers Search and Rescue practice at St Helens. Andreas our fearless S+R Officer won't be there but we can all commemorate that disastrous date with a few disasters of our own given that the SES use great big fat pulleys, the climbers have devised their own system and we won't be able to remember what we do with ours.

I LOVE A SUNBURNT COUNTRY A LAND OF SEEPING DRAINS

Last summer was the longest and driest for bloody ages and the state suffered outrageous bushfires in January. The dams almost dried up, Basslink broke down and Tasmanians seemed doomed to a life without electricity. Cave dwellers like us should have been better equipped to deal with the conditions that prevailed pre-civilization. When the cooler months arrived we were subjected to a record cold spell for the start of June. Then the penultimate irony was that an unseasonably warm, wet airmass descended from the NE and we were subjected to unbelievable floods. The ultimate irony was that on the day that most of Tasmania's NE was underwater, some arsonists added a final twist to the saga by setting fire to a bridge in the Florentine Valley. This was the same day that 17 other bridges were swept away by floods. The burnt bridge is at the far end of the Florentine Rd nearer to Wayatinah and so isn't of great concern to us but who knows when it will be repaired. We better watch out that burning bridges doesn't match road closures as a cave conservation strategy!

Trip Reports

King and Flinders Islands
February 2015

Greg Middleton

In February 2015 I had the pleasure of accompanying (British) Museum of Natural History palaeontologists Julian Hume and Lorna Steel on a trip to King and Flinders islands. This was a follow-up on their 2014 trip, which I didn't report on as it had no cave component. Julian and Lorna have a particular interest in extinct birds so beasts like the Tasmanian and King Island emus are of considerable interest to them. Kathryn Medlock, palaeontologist at the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery was also able to join us for the King Island part of the trip.

KING ISLAND

The four of us flew from Launceston, via Wynyard, to Currie on 9 February 2015. There we picked up a rental car and drove to our accommodation. During our stay we investigated a number of areas, particularly sand blows and eroded sand dunes, which have, in the past, yielded many bones, including those of extinct species. Our re-investigations of some of these sites where not entirely unrewarded.

Photo 1. The wild coast south of Cataraqui Point. Pity the poor passengers and crew of the* Cataraqui, *a migrant ship wrecked here on 4 August 1845. There were 9 survivors – 400 people drowned in Australia's worst maritime disaster.

Iron Monarch Cave

On 11th we drove across to Pearshape (like many places on the islands, more a locality than a village), got permission from the landowner, and then drove out towards the coast on progressively worse tracks. Eventually we left the car and continued in a 4WD ute. We drove down an airstrip, which doesn't appear to get much use these days (but was employed for access to this site by TCC members Douglas and Hume (1990)) to The Cliffs on the south side of Cataraqui (or Fitzmaurice) Point (Photo 1). From there we found our way down to an obvious parallel-sided deep inlet (described as 'a prominent geo' by Goede *et al.* 1979), which lies in front of Iron Monarch Cave (Photo 2). (The Dolphin 'Dictionary of geological terms' defines a *geo* as "In Iceland, a narrow inlet walled in by steep cliffs".)

The source of our information about this cave was a paper published in *Helictite* in 1979 by Goede, Harmon and Kiernan, supplemented by Jennings (1956), Douglas & Hume (1990) and Darby (2001). A detailed map of the cave was produced by Kiernan (Goede *et al.* 1979 – Fig. 1). The rocks of the cliffed coast in which the cave is developed are "strongly folded metamorphic rocks such as phyllites, schists and quartzites of presumed (?) Precambrian age. They are intruded by granitic rocks at Cataraqui Point a short distance north of Iron Monarch. In the area of the caves the metamorphic rocks dip steeply in an ESE to SSE direction" (Goede *et al.* 1979).

Photo 2. The geo in front of Iron Monarch Cave. It could be descended on ropes but we chose to scramble around and down to the left (south) side.

It was not easy to get down into this narrow inlet/geo. Having descended to sea level immediately to the south, we clambered around the very irregular shore platform and walked up the inlet to the entrance to the cave (Photo 3). Just inside the entrance we had to climb up a wall of breccia about 4 m high (or "cliffed debris cone" (Goede *et al.* 1979) – see Fig. 1), fortunately aided by a knotted rope, of who-knows-what vintage (Photo 4). It was then easy to proceed

deeper into the cave, which became quite damp and muddy. Particularly along the right wall as we entered there were numerous colourful stalagmites and stalactites, columns and lots of flowstone, evidently composed of calcite (Photo 5). At the end of the cave were many intensely red-brown coloured speleothems (Photo 6).

The cave has a total length of around 75 metres. Goede *et al.* (1979, p. 56) asserted that this cave "developed as a result of preferential wave erosion of a narrow sequence of steeply dipping massive beds of quartzite interbedded with much more highly contorted schistose beds." By Thorium/Uranium dating they determined an age of only 2000 years for a stalagmite sample, but believe the cave to date from the Last Interglacial (~125,000 BP).

Photo 3. Entrance to Iron Monarch Cave, at the back of 'a prominent geo'.

Joe Jennings investigated the geomorphology of coastal King Island in the 1950s and had been into this cave and another further south on this coast, neither of which he named (Jennings 1956). He explained the presence of the calcite speleothems in these clearly non-karst caves as being due to percolation of calcite-rich water through small calcareous cliff-top dunes directly above. (Jennings also described other interesting karst features to the north and south but time did not permit us to investigate them on this visit.)

We thoroughly examined the cave and left only when Julian and Lorna were satisfied that there were no apparent bone deposits; we undertook no excavations.

Julian and I then proceeded south along the shore, looking for Blister Cave, a second cave reported in each of the previous reports mentioned above. We found this a quite difficult coastline to traverse, being highly irregular with lots of inlets and steep cliffs. Having failed to locate the cave, although we believed we had gone far enough south, we climbed to the top of the cliffs where we had lunch. We walked back along the top of the cliffs to Cataraqui Point, meeting Lorna and Kathryn on the way. Blister Cave would have to wait for another day.

I have found no record of the naming of Iron Monarch Cave. Goede *et al.* (1979) state that the cave was discovered about 1960 and they use the name without explanation, despite claiming theirs is its first record in the literature. Darby (2001) says the cave was named "after the iron oxide staining of some calcite formations." While perfectly plausible, and even probable, this appears to be assumption, no source being cited.

Photo 4. Lorna ascending the old knotted rope up the 4 m breccia wall just inside the entrance to Iron Monarch Cave.

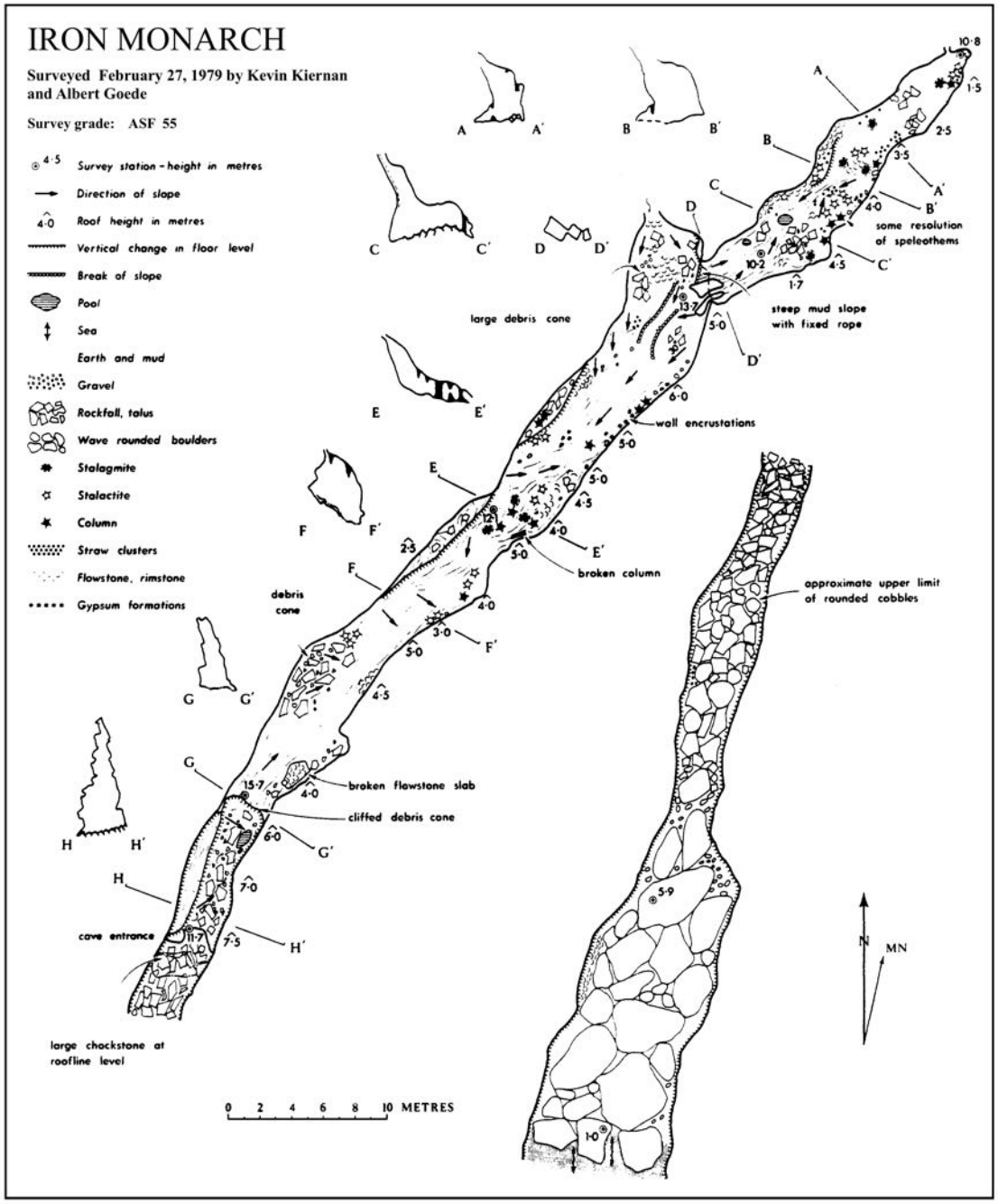

Fig. 1. Map of Iron Monarch Cave surveyed by Goede and Kiernan; drawn by Kiernan– from Goede et al. 1979.

FLINDERS ISLAND

On 13 February we flew back to Wynyard and on to Launceston where Kathryn had to leave us. Lorna, Julian and I later flew on to Whitemark, Flinders Island and moved to our accommodation between Whitemark and Lady Barron.

Ranga Cave

On 14 February we met with PWS Ranger, Wayne Dick, to discuss likely sites for finding ancient bone material – and caves. With Wayne's introduction, I rang Peter Blundstone, the owner of the property on which Ranga Cave is located and obtained his permission to visit. Striking while the iron was hot, we immediately got kitted up and drove to the Blundstone property. Peter kindly agreed to show us to the cave. He drove us through the adjoining property and up onto a ridge from where he pointed out the location of the cave – across a couple of paddocks and down a steep slope. In light rain we walked across the paddocks, finding calcarenite and then the steep slope down to a creek. Eventually Lorna spotted the entrance under a low calcarenite cliff (Photo 8). We immediately went in to have a look around (Photo 9).

I then carried out a survey of the cave, having earlier determined, despite the cave being known for decades, that it had not previously been surveyed (see Fig. 2). The cave is basically a large chamber (Photo 10) with a low breezy squeeze (Photo 11) (leading to metres of passage that has been dug out in the past – Hope 1973) at

the highest and most westerly point and a small passage at the lowest, dropping into a 2 m deep hole. There are many stalactites and columns, though there has been considerable vandalism over the years. Much of the cave's walls and ceiling are coated in a soft white substance, presumed to be moonmilk. After the survey we had a photographic session to get some images of the cave's speleothems and other features. There are no superficial bone deposits evident in the cave today (but see notes on excavations by Hope, below).

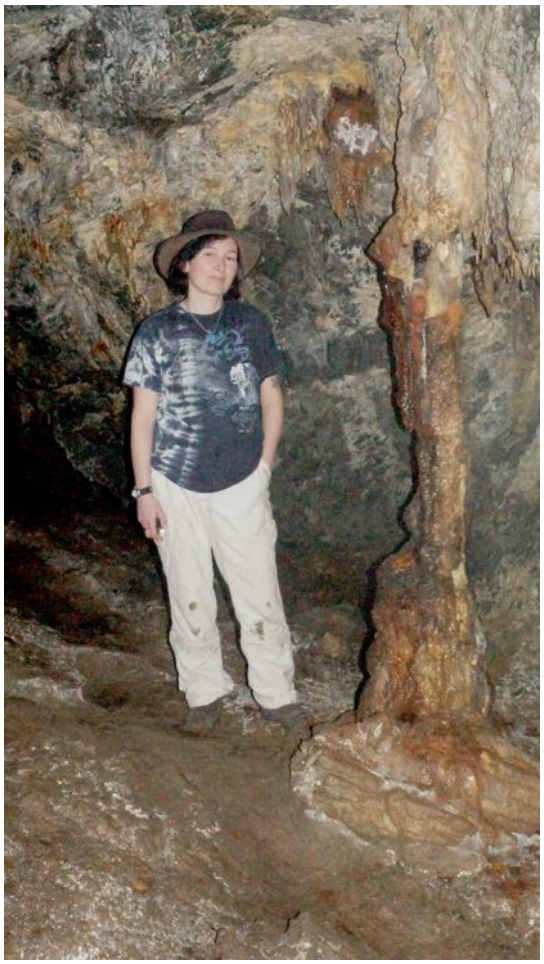

Photo 5. Lorna beside a colourful calcite column in the outer chamber of Iron Monarch Cave.

By 15:00 we had finished the survey and returned to our car for the trip back to our rented house.

Historical sidelights

The first record of scientific interest in this part of Flinders Island was made by Gabriel (1894) reporting on an 'expedition' to the Furneaux Group by four members of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria in November 1893. One day, climbing Mount Strzelecki, Gabriel recorded: "Weird cavernous openings were on either hand as we ascended". While this surely should not be interpreted as a reference to true caves, Richards (1967) quotes it, questioning whether cave crickets might have lived there, as Finlayson around 1930 collected the type specimen of *Speleotettix flindersensis* "from a cave on Strzelecki Peak". Richards, probably correctly, concluded, nevertheless, that it was most likely the rhaphidophorid was collected from a cave near Ranga "directly below Strzelecki Peaks". This seems to be the first record of the cave, though Richards does not actually use the name 'Ranga Cave'. (Richards, incidentally, reassigned the cave cricket, believed to exist only in this one cave, to the genus *Cavernotettix* Richards.)

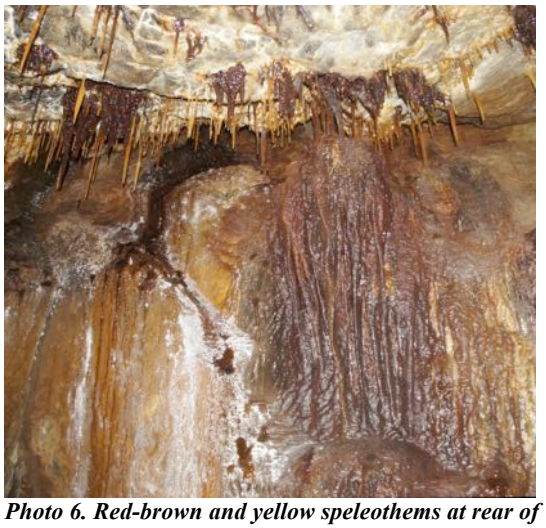

Photo 6. Red-brown and yellow speleothems at rear of Iron Monarch Cave.

Photo 7. One of the two species of cave cricket found in Ranga Cave.

In 1970 Richards described a further cave cricket from Ranga Cave, *Parvotettix rangaensis* (Richards 1970). This new species was collected by Albert and Therese Goede in January 1969. (Photo 7 shows one of the two identified cave crickets.)

In 1973 Jeanette Hope wrote "A cave is developed in the limestone of a dune at Barclays Hill, near Ranga in the south of Flinders Island. This cave, here called Ranga Cave, has long been known on Flinders Island" (Hope 1973). The implication of "here called Ranga Cave" is that the cave had not previously been referred to in the literature by that name – as appears to be the case. Hope notes that bones of a number of still extant species were collected in the cave in 1917 and sent to the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston. Hope described the cave in detail, no doubt from personal experience:

> Ranga Cave is about 45 m above sea level and 12 m above the present creek. It consists of a single domed chamber, extending in an E.-W. line for 22·5 m and it averages 9 m in width. At the eastern end an extension adds another 7·5

m in length. The extension appears to be a cavity amongst fallen blocks of limestone that is now isolated from the main cave by the formation of a wall and roof of calcite about 2 m high. Ranga Cave has a low narrow entrance at floor level on the S. side of the cave. Within the main chamber several large pillars extend from floor to ceiling, and stalactites and stalagmites are common. The walls and formations are covered with wet milk calcite ['moonmilk']. The floor of the cave is earthen, covered in places by a thin layer of calcite and large pieces of fallen stalactite. The floor slopes from W. to E., falling about 2 m in the length of the cave. Entry to the small extension is gained through a hole in the rock shelf acting as its roof, and beyond it the eastern end of the cave is blocked by fallen rocks. At the western end a narrow passage about half a metre high leads off from the cave. By excavating the floor it was possible to crawl about 10 m. The passage then expanded into small chambers and branched in all directions.

Hope (1973) describes where animal remains were collected on the surface and in the course of excavating four pits dug in the earthen floor. Most represented species still found on Flinders Island (8) but there were also bones of five species never recorded alive on Bass Strait islands (but still present in Tasmania) and two which have never been recorded alive from either the islands or Tasmania. Upper levels of the deposit yielded carbon dates of around 8,000 years BP but there was insufficient carbon to allow dating of the lower levels which probably extend back to when the island was connected to Tasmania as the 'Bassian Peninsula'.

Photo 8. Lorna at entrance to Ranga Cave RA1.

Calcareous Coastal Deposits

Informed and encouraged by Kiernan's 1992 paper on coastal calcarenite landforms, we spent a couple of days exploring parts of the west coast for caves and other possible bone accumulation sites. Access is readily available at only a few locations along the west coast and we had considerable difficulty reaching some sites we wanted to investigate.

Of particular interest are (1) a section of shoreline extending some 270 m in the south-west corner of Port Davies (once the island's main port) adjoining Caves Beach, at the south of Marshall Bay, (2) 310 m at the northern tip of Trousers Point, at the south of Fotheringate Bay and (3) the coast north of Mount Killiecrankie, particularly in the vicinity of "The Dock". See Fig. 3 for locations. (We also examined extensive sand blows to the south of Sellars Point and to the east of Palana.)

The coastal aeolian calcarenite is termed Palana Limestone by Sutherland & Kershaw (1971) who described it as "generally cream to buff, with fragments of mollusc shells, bryozoans, echinoid spines, holothurian remains, algal remains, poorly preserved foraminifera and quartz grains; secondary calcification is prominent and organic remains may be almost completely replaced." They found it had a maximum stratigraphic thickness of at least 9 m and outcropped from below sea level to ~150 m above sea level. They also recognised a "more siliceous younger dune member, which may represent a separate formation on very detailed mapping. This siliceous aeolian calcarenite, at least 3 m thick, is exposed south of Trousers Point overlying granite basement."

Photo 9. The entrance to Ranga cave requires a low scramble..

Photo 10. … which leads into a large chamber festooned with large stalactites, with a coating of what looks very much like moonmilk.

Photo 11. Entrance to the low squeezy passages at the western extremity of the cave.

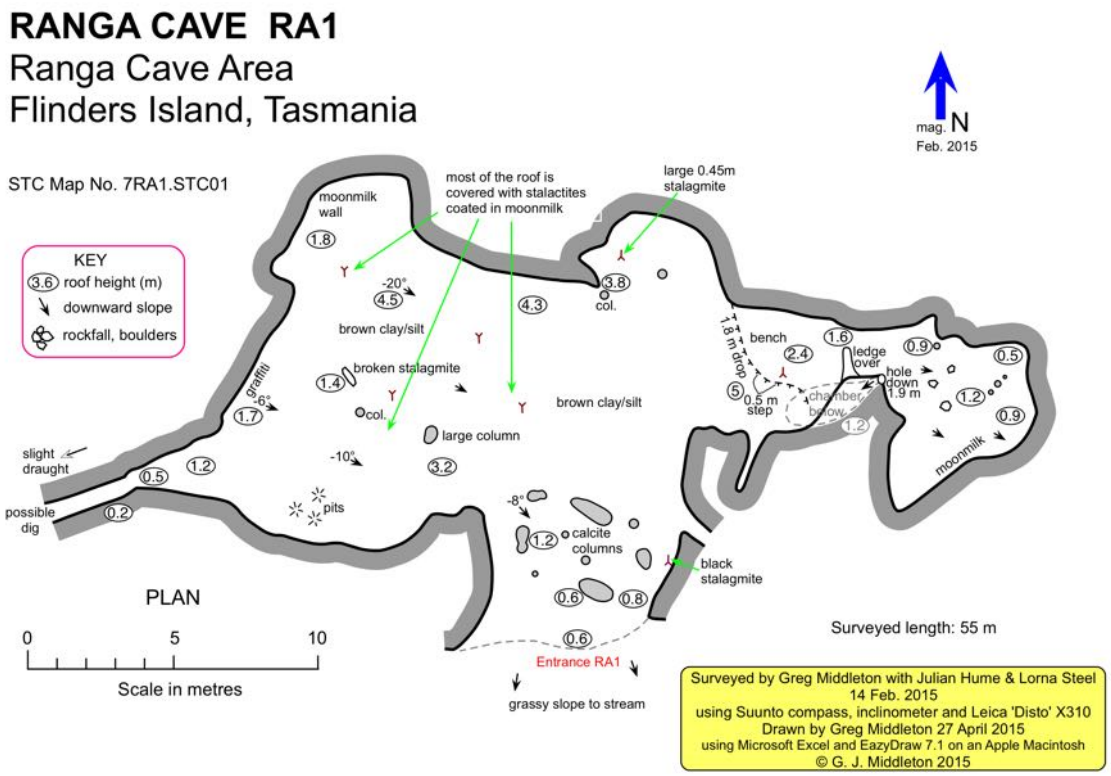

Fig. 2. Plan of Ranga Cave, formed in calcarenite on Flinders Island. Although the cave has been known for many years, we were surprised to learn that it had not previously been surveyed.

As to its age, Sutherland & Kershaw (1971) state:

> "The available evidence suggests that the calcareous dunes from which the Palana Limestone developed cover a range in time. Some of the dunes, as at Ranga possibly originated in the late Tertiary or early Pleistocene when lower sea-levels associated with glaciation would have exposed vast areas of Upper Tertiary calcareous marine beds. The limestone is cut by the 4.5m. level (MHWS), correlated with the later Riss/Würm Interglacial sea, and this with other geomorphological considerations suggests a Lower Pleistocene, pre-Riss/Würm age for most of it."

Photo 12. Arch in calcarenite, Caves Beach, looking SW towards granite and boat ramp. Note the undercutting of calcarenite ('intertidal notch') due to marine erosion.

The section of calcarenite coast at Port Davies (Cave Beach) has been well described and mapped by Kiernan (1992). The scramble from the boat ramp at Port Davies, initially over granite, is not easy but once the calcarenite is reached there is some beach sand and the shore is more accessible. At the time we were there the arch reported by Kiernan was unfortunately not very obvious due to high water (Photo 12). Further to the east there are a couple of quite impressive caves in the 5 or 6 m high calcarenite cliffs. The most easterly one has two skylights, one near the centre and one at the back, and a sandy floor (Photo 13). The next cave is quite short but the steep-sided trench in front suggests the roof of the former outer section may have collapsed (Photo 14). These caves were sketched by Kiernan (1992). He also suggested that their formation by marine processes had been assisted by outflowing groundwater and that their sandy floors indicates abrasion by wave-washed rocks and sand was probably important in their enlargement.

Later, after a quick sprint up Mt Strzelecki one morning, we visited nearby Trousers Point at the southern end of Fotheringate Bay. The calcarenite outcrop along this coast is quite dramatic, with undercut stacks rising from an extensive intertidal shore platform (Photo 15), many eroded vegomorphs (Photo 16) and a few small caves opening from the back of the prominent wave-cut notch (Photos 17, 18). Kiernan (1992) suggests that the deep intertidal notches (which may rival those of tropical and warm temperate zones) are the most spectacular features of the aeolianite coasts of Flinders. Some of the caves extending beyond the notches have calcarenite floors but others have cut through to the underlying granite.

Photo 13. Cave at Cave Beach with two skylights – one near centre and one at back.

Photo 14. Smaller cave at Cave Beach with likely collapsed outer section.

Photo 15. An undercut calcarenite stack rises from the intertidal platform at Trousers Point.

We also investigated the foreshore north of Mount Killiecrankie, particularly in the vicinity of 'The Dock' where we had a report of possible gizzard stones (maybe from an emu) weathering out of calcarenite. We were unable to verify this report but we did find a couple of small caves in the thin bed of Palana Limestone exposed over a length of a few hundred metres, high above the level of contemporary marine activity (Photo 19)

ADDENDUM. Unfortunately we missed a great double-arch a bit further south at Stackys Bight, immediately west of Mt Killiecrankie. Ross Ellis had sent me a photo of it in May 2015 but I had misplaced it when we went to Flinders (Photo 20). It was by the late well-known Tasmanian, Jack Thwaites, from the Tasmanian Archives (http://stors.tas.gov.au/N3195-1-4452) (Photo 20). As if to rub salt into the wound, a couple of months after I returned from Flinders Island, Rolan Eberhard sent me a snap he had taken on his recent visit to Flinders – of the very same feature! (Photo 21) A place that will be on top of my list of things to visit next time!

Photo 16. Vegomorphs exposed by erosion of enclosing calcarenite, Trousers Point.

Photo 17. Small caves have developed at the back of the prominent wave-cut notch at Trousers Pt.

Photo 18. In places the wave-cut notch has produced overhangs extending out a couple of metres.

Photo 19. Small cave in calcarenite, north of The Dock. The upper part of the calcarenite bed has been hardened by solution and redeposition of calcium carbonate; caves form below by solution, probably aided by wind action.

Photo 20. "Natural rock arches, north end of Killiecrankie Bay" – Jack Thwaites 1 Jan. 1968.

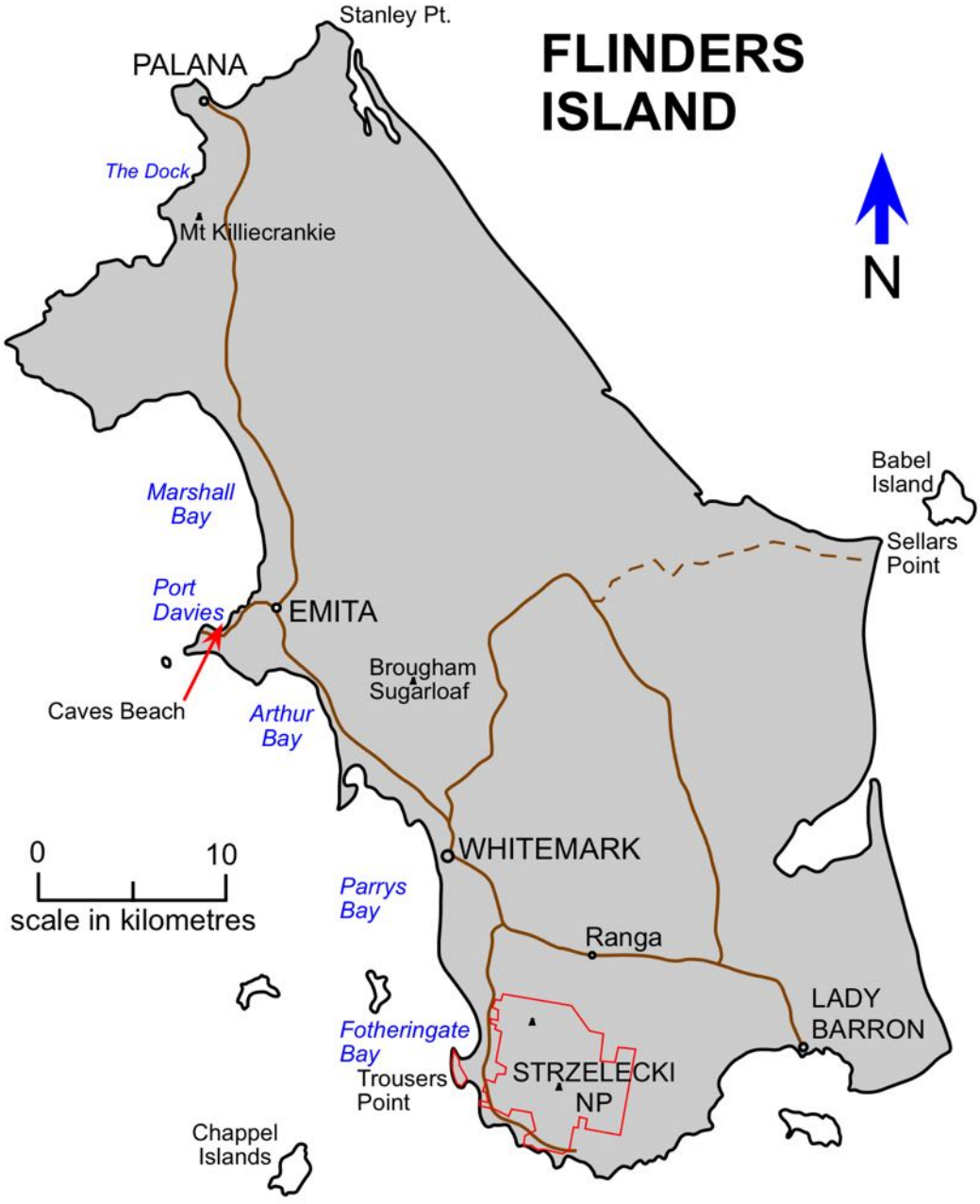

Fig. 3. Flinders Island, showing localities mentioned in report.

Photo 21. "Paired arch at Stackys Bight near Killecrankie" – Rolan Eberhard April 2016

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JF229 Welcome Stranger

Philip Jackson

21 May 2016

Party: Ben Armstrong, Erin Bannink, Guy Bannink, Yoav Bar-Ness, Phoebe Dalby, Laura Grainger, Dan Haley, Philip Jackson, Stewart Jackson, James Ridgers

Welcome Stranger passage detail. Dan Haley.

This trip was part of the new beginners caving trip roster initiated by Alan. It took a bit to convince some that the most gear they would need was a light and helmet. Since Yoav, Dan and Laura had some tree business to attend to in the Styx Valley the plan was to meet at the Maydena shop and travel in convoy to the cave.

After a bit of loitering at the shop, which is only closed for two weeks every two weeks, we had a call from Yoav & co. to say they had been trapped on the wrong side of a barricade in one of Forestry Tasmania's multi-use forests in the Styx area. In order to get to the shop they would have had to drive all the way back to Karanja so we collected them from the barricade via the Styx Road. It was touching that the forest contractors were concerned enough about their safety to follow them all the way down the road.

We then made our way to the cave parking area without further drama. Upon entering the cave we then meandered our way up to the sump. The sight of Janine's diving guideline caused some speculation on the sanity and wisdom of cave diving and divers. On the way back Dan and Yoav took a few photos, Ben had snooze and Erin, seemingly disappointed by the lack of sport in the cave, attempted a more difficult path to the surface. After about three hours underground we all returned to the surface safely and delivered Yoav, Dan and Laura back to the barricade.I volunteered to clean all the ropes so it's somebody else's turn next time. There are no references, whatever they are, because this is a trip report not a scientific paper.

JF206 and JF207 Voltera

Stephen Fordyce

22 May 2016

Party: Andreas Klocker, Stephen Fordyce, Dave Bardi, Sandy Varin, Ben Armstrong.

After a biggish day on Saturday in Porcupine, we decided to check out JF-206 - a doline/minor cave with inflow in a good area (near Voltera, etc.) and not visited for a long time. Armed with some previous trip reports of a minor cave with a drafting lead, we confidently packed a lot of

rigging gear, knowing that we would certainly need it.

We found the cave eventually and an impressive doline-with-stream it was, of similar scale to Ringhole or Voltera. Finding the tag was difficult, although it was eventually located up near the top of the doline - there is a photo of the tag location later for the record.

With a couple of dry leads near and below the tag (which all joined up), we were more or less able to reconcile with the old trip reports. Sadly after spending a good deal of enthusiasm, this lead was found to end after a few climbs and squeezes (perhaps 15m vertically and 25m horizontally) in a small crack with mild draft, but requiring a mining operation that exceeded even Andreas' ethical limit to achieve progress. The crack was about 15-25cm wide, and went for at least a metre before opening up.

Meanwhile the rest of us thoroughly scouted the slopes and bottom of the doline and then I reluctantly braved the stream (flowing quite hard after recent rains), which went into a log/rock pile with enough space for a person. After starting off with some promise, and similar to JF-633 Ring Hole Cave the stream ended in a small, wet chamber with a pool (no, not the faintest chance of diving it), totally choked with mud and crud and with no obvious place the water was going. Very low chance of that doing anything.

While in the area, Dave/Sandy and I also followed the gully downhill 100m or so but didn't find anything of interest. So sadly JF-206 was written off.

At a bit of a loss, we headed to nearby Voltera (JF-207) to check out the dry side - Andreas and Dickon had been digging this before finding the way through the stream and the extensive cave beyond. Well Dave and I got to the bottom and concluded that similar mining operations were necessary for progress, except that it was really small and awkward, there was no draft and generally that exercise could be saved for the next generation of cavers!

Looking back up the doline towards the location of the tag. Stephen Fordyce.

A bewildered retreat was made to the car at an absurdly early hour, and we stopped to look at a very fast-flowing Junee Cave on the way home.

(Ken Hosking and I had a good look at this cave ages ago when we put in the Voltera track. SS:376:12+13 and SS:379:6. It is an easy cave to find. The GPS co-ordinates are in the archive. It appears that we are fast losing our corporate memory. Editor.)

JF7 Francombes Cave

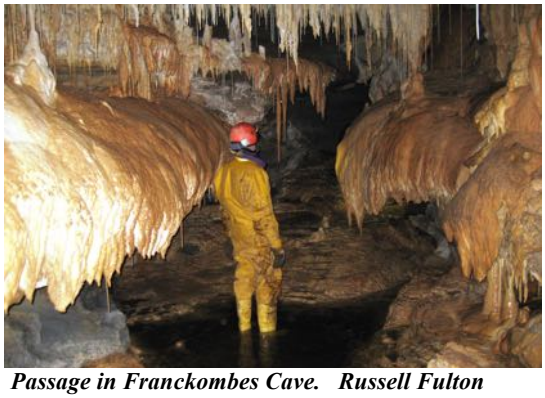
Philip Jackson

25 May 2016

Party: Russell Fulton, Philip Jackson.

Russell was between trips to Africa, I was on holidays and the forecast was for clear skies so the plan was for a picnic at Francombes. Armed with some directions from Chris and some goodies from Banjos we found the entrance without too much trouble.

Inside the cave the biggest problem was finding the dry stream passage. However after half an hour or so of grunting, grovelling and blasphemy we found it and had an hour or two of easy, enjoyable caving.



Passage in Franckombes Cave. Russell Fulton

On the way back down the Florentine Road we came across a barrier due to logging operations. Eventually we found our way around via Lawrence Creek and Westfield Roads and made our way back.

IB14 Exit Cave

Sarah Gilbert

28 May 2016

Party: Erin Bannink, Ana Gencic, Emilia Gencic, Sarah Gilbert, Grant Rees, Amy Robertson.

Well it's been far too long since I was last underground, so a nice tourist trip back to Exit Cave was in order. I had five keen punters within the week of advertising the trip plus several more hopefuls closer to the date. Sorry guys, too slow, but I might run another trip later in the year. We met down at Ida Bay carpark and headed for the cave at 9:30 and were underground an hour and a half later.

Ahhh! Underground again! I felt immediately back at home in Exit Cave. The water levels were surprisingly low considering the winter rains over

the past few weeks and I managed to keep my feet dry at the first water crossing. There were a few odd wet socks in the group though but not enough to dampen the spirits. The water levels had definitely been higher recently…

We took the classic tourist route with a bite to eat at the Beach, visited The Ballroom and Old Ditch Road to admire the views, clambered through the Rock Pile to Inner Baser Camp for a rest. We then went into Eddies Treasure to check out the amazing gypsum and aragonite crystals. I still marvel at how well preserved this section is considering the traffic it must have had in the good old days of camping within 50 m of it.

We then went back through the Rock Pile and across the river and out in daylight again. Just! At 4pm. Up and over the hill back to the car in the dark. A great, little day's caving was had by all and it wasn't even spoilt by the flat tyre on the way home.

JF154 Emu Cave, JF155 and JF263 Amazing Grace

Alan Jackson

13 June 2016

Party: Serena Benjamin, Alan Jackson, Anna Jackson

Rolan had been out playing in the Frizons Road area with Norske and FPA bods, chasing caves and bones in the Emu Cave region. Obviously feeling the need to manage the caves (they can't look after themselves, you know) he asked me to produce a survey. JF154 Emu Cave and JF155 were found by John Parker back in1978 (Parker 1978); both proved to contain interesting bone deposits. A new cave was found nearby by Norske Skog employee, Grace Kube, on 8 June 2016 (Rolan Eberhard pers. comm.), which Rolan named Amazing Grace in an attempt to get around the 'don't name caves after living people' rule but still crediting Grace's input. Amazing Grace was tagged JF653 by us on 13 June 2016.

We started in JF154, which is a moderately pleasant little cave, then surface surveyed to JF155 and surveyed it, which is a nasty muddy shit of a cave, then toddled down to Amazing Grace, tagged it, surveyed it then completed a surface survey back to JF155. Maps showing the three caves in relation to one another in plan and section have been produced (see page 22 of this *Spiel*).

Three down … hundreds to go.

Reference

Parker, J. 1978 Florentine Area – 23-9-78. *Speleo Spiel* 139: 3

JF4 Khazad-dum – Wet and Wild

Alan Jackson

18 June 2016

Party: Ben Armstrong, Serena Benjamin, Alan Jackson, Grant Rees

I was getting the guilts about leaving rope and hangers in Wet Way after my January trip with Janine while I run away overseas for three months. The plan was to re-rig the bits we'd done before then drop 'Animal Pitch' then derig it. The key thing was to see how the rigging performed in winter water levels.

Water levels weren't insanely high, but were pretty healthy. We could still use the wet access point at the entrance without drowning rather than being forced to use the drier Serpentine Bypass). The first little pitch was fine and dry. The second pitch was pretty good; the first section was out of the water but other inlets were active in the vicinity of the ledge/alcove part way down which made for unpleasant heavy rain. I placed some extra anchors in this alcove to fix up the crap access to the next set of bolts. The traverse and side pull rebelays on the second section of the pitch just kept you out of the worst of the water, so it was in the right part, the middle, of the dull-sporty-death wet pitch spectrum. At the third pitch I tasked Grant with swapping alloy hangers with stainless hangers on the traverse and also installing a bit of retired 11 mm Bluewater as a permanent access line. It was retired due to inflexibility, not weakness. The rope hang on the pitch itself remained out of the water. The tiny fourth pitch/climb was looking a bit tricky with all the water so we put a rope on it.

Pitch 5 (Animal) proved a challenge to rig. We started with two bolts up high on the left wall facing down cave and then dangled around the corner to assess the best way down. I placed a rebelay in some fairly shitty rock around an arête of rock where the wall heads back towards the dry alternative to pitches four and five. I then stuck in a second rebelay a few metres lower down and further to the left, to avoid the water. A combination of hanging in space, hard rock and a dying drill battery made this rebelay a tedious and exhausting process.

Ben and I touristed to the top of the next streamway pitch while Grant started out with all the heavy gear he could muster. Serena had turned around at the top of the third pitch. I derigged the cave, generally leaving bolts (without hangers) screwed in to one of each pair of bolt holes, so they could be found again. Where significant side-pull rebelays existed on pitches two and three I left a hanger installed so re-rigging wouldn't require skyhooks and acrobatics.

Now we just need the Parks bureaucracy to agree to some P-hangers and we have a summer project.

I also hope to do the bottom pitch the wet way over summer.

(Gee! I wished I'd known this trip was on. Count me in for the next one. Editor)

JF654 Bookend Cave, JF655 Weak Link Cave and JF656 No Place for the Portly. Upper Florentine Little Florentine River Region

Philip Jackson

19 June 2016

Party: Ben Armstrong, Serena Benjamin, Russell Fulton, Philip Jackson, Greg Jordan, Chris Sharples, John Webb

Some weeks ago we were provided with co-ordinates for the location of forty-six karst features collected by Andrew Hughes during his Bookend Trust Cave Search expedition. John Webb then produced a map with plots of these locations. Alan Jackson produced some more maps with these plus the previously numbered caves. Chris put another map into the mix with one of karst features he had located during some earlier work for Forestry Tasmania. This last map neatly abutted the south-western edge of the Cave Search area. All these maps had to be laminated as immunisation against drool.

We had planned to reconnoitre the area on 5 June but play had to be abandoned when Matthew Groom's energy policy of praying for rain came to fruition.

With play rescheduled to start on 19th we met at the Five Road gate to begin the reconnaissance. With Webbey's key and Chris's dextral flexibility we were through the gate in a few blinks and a modicum of cussing. Then armed with a bucket of GPS units and maps we began searching for the Adamsfield track. Unfortunately there seemed to be some variation between GPS, map and the reality on the ground but after some driving back and forth and consultation of Bunty's report on page 11 of *Speleo Spiel* 404 we nailed it. We did want to blame Bunty for this but Greg had previously insisted that he would be the trip's weak link thereby accepting all responsibility regardless of actual culpability.

Once on the Adamsfield Track we made good progress to the Little Florentine River. The track was in very good condition given the time of year and recent substantial rains. At the point where it meets the Little Florentine River the track, on the ground, differs somewhat from the track as shown on the 1:25000 Tiger Tasmap. On the Tasmap it is shown as veering south from the small boggy creek 200 metres before the Little Florentine River (LFR) then veering back to the LFR about 250 metres south. A second dead end track heads west from the boggy creek almost directly to Nanwoon Cave. The actual track is the one heading towards Nanwoon and crosses the LFR at a derelict bridge. It continues west for about 200 metres then veers south running parallel to the western side of the river. There doesn't seem to be any track continuing west towards Nanwoon. There is some flood debris and a few flood channels but the track is well taped and easy to follow.

Our plan, at this stage, was to locate CS1 (Cave Search 1) and start from there. Just after crossing the river we headed west across the river flats that terminate in a limestone rise of about 20 to 30 metres height. This rise appears to run in broken outcrops and cliffs for much of the way north towards the Florentine River and south to southwest parallel to the Adamsfield Track. At the place where the GPS showed CS1 to be there were a couple of cracks fitting the Cave Search description of "crack 500mm x 200mm… terminating". These were deemed to be inaccessible, hence not worthy of further investigation or tagging.

Now the team had the scent of limestone in their nostrils they were gambolling excitedly about the plateaux on top of the scarp. Within a few minutes Serena found a fine entrance under a small cliff in a doline. Greg, in an effort to be a stronger link in the chain, found another in a smaller doline about 10 metres to the east of Serena's find. Neither of these caves corresponded to any of the Cave Search finds. Meanwhile four members of the team had been swallowed by the first cave and were out of earshot giving it proper cave status. The number JF-654 was fixed to the rock face directly above the entrance. In recognition of the part played by the Bookend Trust in finding these caves JF-654 was named Bookend Cave. Greg's find was given the tag JF-655. This cave had a constriction about a metre in from the entrance preventing access to the larger void beyond. A large hammer or pinch bar may remedy this. The passage beyond this constriction heads towards the first cave. The name for this cave is Weak Link Cave.

This is Chris's description of Bookend Cave: A sloping entrance about 1 metre diameter opens into a spacious chamber about 15 m x 15m wide and up to 3 or 4 m high, which slopes downwards following the limestone bedding but is choked by breakdown boulders at its lower end. A small narrowing ceiling passage across the chamber from the entrance probably leads to a small hole observed on the surface but appears to be only enterable for a metre or two from within the cave. The main chamber has a number of moderate-sized stalactites and other speleothem coatings on the walls and ceiling.

Greg Jordan admiring the JF654 tag. Russell Fulton.

As the excitement of these discoveries died down the next part of this very fluid reconnaissance trip plan was to visit JF-333 Nanwoon Cave and surrounds which was about 150 metres north west of JF-654. On the way we passed several choked dolines including the region containing CS25. There were a few crevices and cracks in this area worthy of inspection at another time. After a bit of a poke about JF-333, JF-334 and JF-335 the next part of the plan was to find CS3, one of the more enticing descriptions on the cave search list, about 600 metres to the west. Chris, Greg and Russell headed north a couple of hundred metres and then to CS3 while the rest of us went directly across the plateaux. Both routes were littered with choked dolines.

Formations in JF654. Chris Sharples.

CS3 was tagged JF-656 and, at Chris's suggestion named "No Place for the Portly" a distant allusion to "No Country for Old Men" by Cormac McCarthy. Chris, Ben, Serena and Greg all wriggled in for a look.

Chris's description of this cave is: From a 0.5m high entrance to an inclined slide/crawl for about 10 metres down a passage 0.5 to 1.0 m wide flattening off for a metre or two before a rather low flattener which is likely to only be passable for the very slim and may lead to further passage, but was not attempted. Immediately before the flattener another narrow passage sharply to the right leads upwards but narrows after a couple of metres and does not look promising.

It was only about 3:00pm but with the sun low in the sky the forest was becoming dark and gloomy so we decided to take a southwesterly course to intersect the Adamsfield Track by the most direct route. On the way down we came across a large enticing depression containing several dolines, limestone pillars and outcrop. This was approximately the area of CS8 although none of what could be seen was a precise match of the Cave Search description. Ben, as irrepressible as ever, popped down one hole while Serena investigated another doline with a small streamway at the base of a cliff and no way in at either end.

Ben Armstrong climbing higher into the cave to look at more of the JF654 pretties. Chris Sharples.

Ben's description of his cave (unconfirmed but possibly CS8) is: Very tight entrance leading to a sloping chamber approximately 6 metres long and 4 metres deep with hundreds of crickets on the ceiling. A tight muddy streamway passage heading west for about 20 metres with the stream flowing east and too tight to follow. Ben has proposed the name Crusty Cave for this cave.

With this done we continued down the hill to the track and back to the car park. Looking at the GPS plot of the route down it seems that we were lucky nobody fell into CS42 since nobody noticed it.

Notes of Interest

1) Grid reference for the start of the Churchill's Hut/Adamsfield Track is AGD66 N:5271282, E:453610
2) When walking about the plateaux look up as well as down because there are a lot of widow makers and some massive rotten myrtles that defy gravity.
3) It was a great day of reconnoitring but we barely scratched the surface let alone what was beneath it. We'll be back.
4) Caves tagged were JF-654 Bookend Cave, JF-655 Weak Link and JF-656 (ex CS3) No Place for the Portly.
5) Find of the day JF-654 Bookend Cave.

JF387 Porcupine Pot

Gilly Elor

8th July 2016

Party: Gilly Elor, Andreas Klocker, Michael Packer, and Petr Smejkal

Andreas and I met in 2014 on an expedition in Sistema Huautla (Oaxaca, Mexico), and since then I have been hearing stories about how great Tassie is. So when I found out work was sending me to Melbourne I couldn't help but tag on a Tassie visit (especially when Andreas promised some cold, wet and miserable winter caving fun).

For our first trip, Andreas decided to go check out potential sump leads in preparation for a diving push in Porcupine Pot. We were joined by Pax and Petr and the four of us drove to the Junee Florentine together in Andreas' car. Andreas promised a 5-minute walk to the cave entrance, but upon turning off the main road we quickly came across a fallen tree. We toyed with the idea of trying to move it, and even attempted lifting it. Giving up was a good idea as only a couple dozen meters further we came across additional much bigger tree blocks that definitely would require a chain saw.

We made our way down Porcupine, re-rigging some of the drops with new stainless steel maillons (so that those pitches are now left rigged). Upon arriving at the stream level we shed our vertical gear and proceded through the stream crawl dubbed "the crawl that goes on for far too long", which we all agreed wasn't too bad as we managed not to get totally soaked. Once on the other side of the crawl we went upstream to look at a sump mentioned in an old trip report. However, the only thing we found that could maybe have been referred to as a sump looked more like a nose sniff, and we thought we could see the bank on the other side curve upwards.

At this point no one wanted to get fully soaked checking out the sump/nose-sniff. So we proceeded to climb to the upper level, where we encountered breakdown blocking the way on. Pax and Petr stayed in the upper level while Andreas and I went back down to the stream to see if we missed something. Andreas noticed a place between rocks to squeeze into and found a cairn beyond. This took us to the other side of the "sump" thereby bypassing the nose sniff. Still to continue upstream required stooping down and getting wet waste deep. I pushed ahead (because Andreas reminded me that I like misery) and followed the stream to a room where it disappeared into "nice", fresh-looking breakdown. I waded back to Andreas and we concluded that this was terminal. Returning to the main chamber, we made a voice connection with the others. Pax had gone downstream while Petr had found the route upward through the upper level breakdown and we were now talking to him through a hole in the ceiling. We re-grouped by the stream for a snack (I now am forever addicted to gummys as cave food!), and then followed Petr back to the upper level to see what he found. There were some nice decorations and two pits. I was able to free climb down the shorter of the two drops and concluded that it didn't go. The other drop would require rope. The whole area should probably be (re)surveyed.

Returning to the stream level we then headed downstream. After some more stream crawling the passage changed character dramatically into a very impressive borehole. We followed the water as it meandered through the borehole, passing sandy beaches and dome in-feeders, finally arriving at a seemingly terminal room with a large concentration of formations.

At this point, not remembering that the old trip report mentioned a "deep" sump downstream, I got confused although we had reached the end. So once in the decorated room, I told the others I was going back to the junction for my camera to take a few photos. Meanwhile the others continued to follow the water. Andreas pushed forward but Pax and Petr didn't feel like getting too wet. We re-grouped and headed back out of the cave exiting in daylight.

So while we killed one potential sump lead a second (and probably better) lead still remained. Andreas and I tried for a mid-week trip to make a quick run into Porcupine and check out the downstream sump, but (wisely) decided against this due to large quantity of rain.

JF387 Porcupine Pot Again

Gilly Elor

17th July 2016

Party: David Bardi, Gilly Elor, Stephen Fordyce, Andreas Klocker, and Sandy Varin

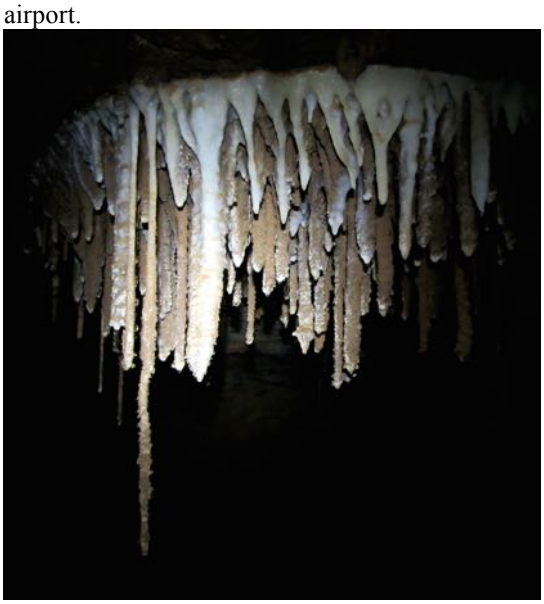
The next weekend we were joined by Sandy, David and Stephen, who flew in from Melbourne. After a Saturday trip to Niggly, that was cut short due to high water levels, we decided that surely an attempt to check out the downstream sump in Porcupine was now a good idea.

This time going downstream through the crawl left us totally soaked, although we did manage to keep our heads above the water. We also noted large quantities of foam deposited on the crawl's ceiling... slightly scary. So, upon reaching the other side, we decided not to hang around for too long; it was almost noon and soon snow melt could increase the water level even further. We took a quick tour around and headed back out, sadly gaining no new information about the sump lead.

Maybe it was snow melt that increased the water level, or perhaps it was simply going upstream

with the water rushing into your face that now turned the crawl into a proper ear and eye dip. We all emerged on the other side alive (but cold) and made a quick exit catching the last bit of daylight as we walked back to the car. We drove back to Hobart and celebrated our survival with large quantities of meat at The New Sydney before dropping off Sandy, David and Stephen at the airport.

Sassafrass, Sandy Varin and Andreas somewhere in the Florentine. Gilly Elor.



Above: Interesting Formation in Porcupine Pot. Gilly Elor.

Left: The main stream passage in Porcupine Pot. Gilly Elor.

It was a pleasure caving in Tassie!! Big thanks to Andreas for organizing the trips and to everyone else for joining in!

Beginning Cavers' Glossary

Stephen Bunton

I know that there have been many glossaries of cave related terms published over the years but few of them really tell a beginner what they need to know. So, given we have a good influx of beginners into the club at the moment, I thought I'd do them a favour.

Awkward – difficult.
Big – buy a Scurion.
Bottomless – you'll reach terminal velocity before you die (about 150 m!)
Cold – potentially hypothermic.
Crawly – you'll be flat out on your stomach most of the time.
Damp – you'll get wet.
Dangerous – life-threatening.
Difficult – nearly impossible.
Dirty – knee-deep mud.
Dry - you'll overheat.
Easy – why bother?
Exciting – even more life-threatening.
Exposed – thank God it's dark!
Forgotten – appropriate.
Horizontal cave – long and boring.
Interesting – you need a science degree to appreciate it.
Loose – bloody big boulders just balancing there waiting to fall on you or to roll off the edge taking you with them.
Long trip – you may not last that long; it could extend for the rest of your life.
Low – you'll have to crawl.
Muddy – neck deep mud.
Permit cave – not worth the bureaucratic requirements, conservation by ordeal.
Photographic trip – long, boring and disappointing when you see the results.
Pretty – a place to stop and eat something.
Promising – you'll be disappointed.
Rarely visited – with good reason.
Sketchy – suicidal.
Sporty – you'll come home knackered.
Squeezy – uncomfortably tight.
Stalactite – something to bash your head on.
Stalagmite – a handhold if no-one sees you.
Survey trip – take extra food and extra clothes.
Technical rigging – ropework so complicated you'll have trouble working out what you are attached to... if anything.
Tight – impossible to squeeze through.
Vertical cave – you'll spend at least eight hours hanging in a harness.
Wet - you'll drown.
Worthwhile – best enjoyed in retrospect.

Other Interesting Stuff

Reminiscences of a Tasmanian Caver – The Golden Years

Albert Goede

Following the breakaway of most of the active members from TCC in 1965 it was a very inactive year. On 1st April, 1966 I was elected President of TCC and the first action I took was to resurrect the publication of *Speleo Spiel* so that we would maintain a record of our activities. My second action was to persuade the club to re-join the ASF. Only a year later we were able to report a very successful year. During the year we were joined by Brian Collin, a hydrologist and engineer, who had previous caving experience in NSW. He was a great asset and subsequently became the equipment officer of TCC for a number of years.

In September 1966 the club celebrated its 20th birthday. In July of the same year a low-level track to Exit Cave was completed (Brooker Highway). With much easier access exploration began in earnest. A way through the talus at the end of the known cave was found in November it opened the way for the discovery of many more kilometres of passage. Unbelievably, the weekend before a major breakthrough had been made in Kubla Khan by accessing a high-level passage at the far end of Cairn Hall. On a follow-up trip in early December this led to spectacular new discoveries: a huge chamber The Khan, The Khan's Army, The Begum and The Helictite Dungeons (Photos 1, 2 and 3). It was a mind-blowing experience. Two visiting cavers from Canberra, Neil and Carol Anderson, could not believe their luck when they were involved in the two major discoveries at Kubla Khan and Exit Cave in consecutive weekends. At the AGM in March 1967 we celebrated the most successful year in our history. We had truly become of age.

In the middle of 1967 we began to plan an expedition to assess the cave potential at Mount Anne. In Exit Cave, after a breakthrough at Kellers Squeeze the traverse of the cave reached 6.4 km of passage. A log at the bottom of one shaft in Exit Cave suggested a high-level entrance and a survey of the old Kokoda Trail over the summit of Marble Hill indicated that the entrance of what became Mini Martin was close to the trail. A short scrub bash located the strongly drafting entrance shaft. In late July the first pitch of Mini Martin was descended on ladders and proved to be 110 metres in depth. At that time it was a new record for a single pitch in Australia. It terminated at the top of another shaft.

In August we marshalled all the ladders of TCC and its Northern Branch and the second and third shafts were descended and a connection made with the main stream passage in Exit Cave. The second and third shafts were respectively 30 and 24 metres deep. The connection with Exit Cave set a new Australian depth record of 220 metres. It was a fitting prelude to celebrating the 21st birthday of TCC in September 1967. In October the length of passages traversed in Exit Cave had reached 8.45 kms.

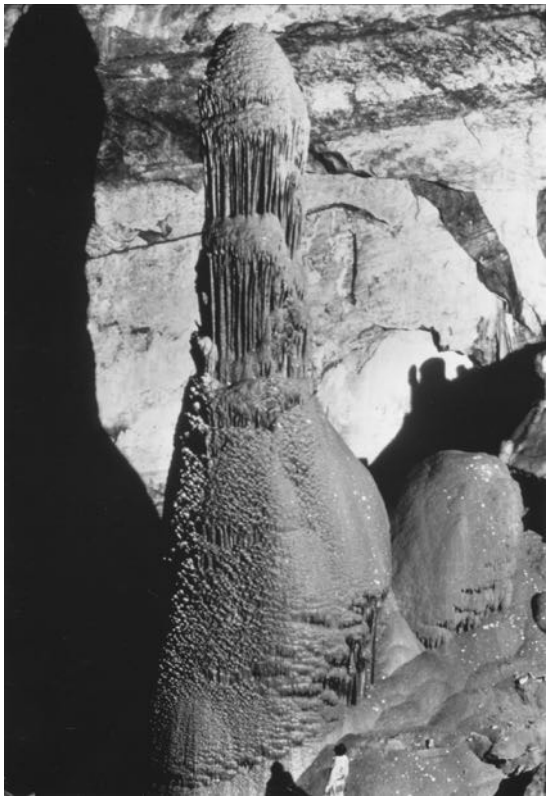


Photo 1 – The 25 metre high Khan in Kubla Khan. Photo: Unknown. Probably Bob Woolhouse.

In February 1968 we successfully used fluorescein dye to trace the hydrological connection between Mystery Creek Cave and Exit Cave although forty-eight years later the much searched-for physical connection between the two caves had still not been made. In June the length of Exit Cave passages traversed had grown to over 11.25 km and the cave was proclaimed both the longest and deepest cave in Australia. In the same month Brian and Jeanette Collin discovered the entrance to what became Midnight Hole on the north side of Marble Hill on the slopes above Mystery Creek Cave. By August a series of shafts had been descended and the hole bottomed to a tight horizontal squeeze (Matchbox Squeeze). One of the explorers left a matchbox in the hope of finding it from Mystery Creek Cave as a survey had shown that it was very close. A thorough search of the relevant part of Mystery Creek Cave discovered the other end

of the squeeze and also found that it could be negotiated by slender bodies. The physical connection was made and Mystery Creek Cave-Midnight Hole became Australia's second deepest cave at 177 metres.

This spurred intense exploration activity along the contact between the overlying Permian rocks and the limestone in 1969. In quick succession Chockstone Pot, Hobbit Hole and Revelation Cave were explored but none of them provided a hoped for connection with the underlying master system.

Photo 2: The Begum in Kubla Khan.
Photo: Unknown, probably Bob Woolhouse.

Photo 3: Peter Brabon in The Helictite Dungeons in Kubla Khan. Albert Goede

In October an exploratory trip was held to the NE ridge of Mount Anne (Photo 4). While successful in assessing the cave potential of the region it came to a tragic conclusion when during the descent from the ridge one member of the party, John Boyle, who had recently joined us from NSW, became separated from the party and was lost. Despite an extensive search under poor weather conditions his body was never found. An access track to the "Big Hole", later named Anne-A-Kananda, was completed later in the year.

Photo 4: Aerial view of the NE Ridge of Mount Anne with Anne-A-Kananda entrance doline. Albert Goede.

In 1970 both TCC and SCS became very much pre-occupied with hosting the ASF Conference in December. Bob Cockerill of SCS and I were appointed principal organisers with my first wife Therese Goede as administrative assistant. We were able to arrange accommodation and conference facilities at the Hutchins Boarding School at Sandy Bay. Being joint hosts brought the two clubs hosting the conference much closer together.

During the conference year TCC did some surface exploration along the limestone contact in the Junee area and discovered several new swallets: Khazad-dum and Cauldron Pot. A track was cut for easier access. Another promising pothole (Hairygoat Hole) was discovered in the same area and was duly numbered but ever since its location has been lost despite numerous attempts to relocate it. SCS was active in the Florentine Valley and completed the exploration of Tassy Pot to set a new Australian depth record of 231 metres.

The decision was made to concentrate ASF conference activities in four areas: Mole Creek, Junee-Florentine, Ida Bay and Mount Anne. The conference was held in late December 1970 and more than one hundred cavers enrolled. It was a great success perhaps because of the extremely wet weather. Subsequent field trips were highly successful. At Exit Cave a party camped underground for a number of days. They found and mapped a major extension (Conference Concourse) bringing the known extent of Exit Cave close to Mystery Creek Cave. Hopes were high that a connection between the two caves could be made but in never happened.

At Mount Anne Kellers Cellar was descended for the first time (on ladders) – a free drop of 128 metres and a total depth of 155 metres. In the Junee area parties exploring the multiple waterfall pitches of Khazad-dum reached a depth of 262 metres, a new Australian depth record and were stopped by lack of equipment at the top of another large waterfall pitch. At Mole Creek several new discoveries were made. The most significant find was Tailender Cave with a length of 427 metres.

On the Australia Day weekend of 1971 a large combined TCC-SCS party returned to Khazad-dum with an enormous quantity of ladders and ropes and reached an estimated depth of 296 metres, another new Australian depth record (Photo 5).

TCC members were becoming interested in the Cracroft area, a limestone area with a large outflow cave discovered by Henry Judd and party in 1881. Because of its remoteness it had never been re-visited. Equipment officer Brian Collin formed a small group (Manuka Club) to cut a track from the Hartz Mountains to Judds Cavern. The cave was partially explored in April 1971. Access promised to become a little easier with the Forestry Department building new roads in the Picton River Valley. One of these roads reached Farmhouse Creek and from there the track could be followed to the Cracroft area but it was still a hard day's walk.

In September 1971 TCC celebrated twenty-five years of caving. About the same time we were able to prove by dye tracing that the water flowing underground into Khazad-dum emerged at Junee Cave taking about eleven hours to complete the journey. In October a party reached a depth of 137 metres in Niagara Pot and the cave was found to continue. In December Khazad-dum was bottomed at a depth of 311 meters. Once again we had set a new Australian depth record. The cave was bottomed using ropes and ladders. It was the last deep cave in Tasmania to be bottomed in this way.

The year 1972 was another interesting year. The JF5 entrance was connected to Khazad-dum in May increasing its depth to 321 metres. In June TCC commenced to make the change from ladders to single rope techniques to descend long vertical pitches. The pioneers of the new technique in our club were Peter Shaw and Phil Robinson. It eventually made the exploration of deep vertical caves much easier because it was less demanding physically and reduced weight of equipment carried and waiting times at the top of pitches. August saw the exploration of Dwarrowdelf (JF14) and a depth of 244 metres was reached. It was the last time ladders were used on long pitches.

In February club members were ready to use their new SRT equipment. Khazad-dum was bottomed again by a much smaller party and in only a quarter of the time. Soon after Cauldron Pot was bottomed at a depth of 263 metres making it Australia's second deepest cave. SRT techniques made it easier to complete the exploration of Dwarrowdelf and connecting it to the final chamber at the bottom of Khazad-dum. It was now possible to make a very interesting through trip.

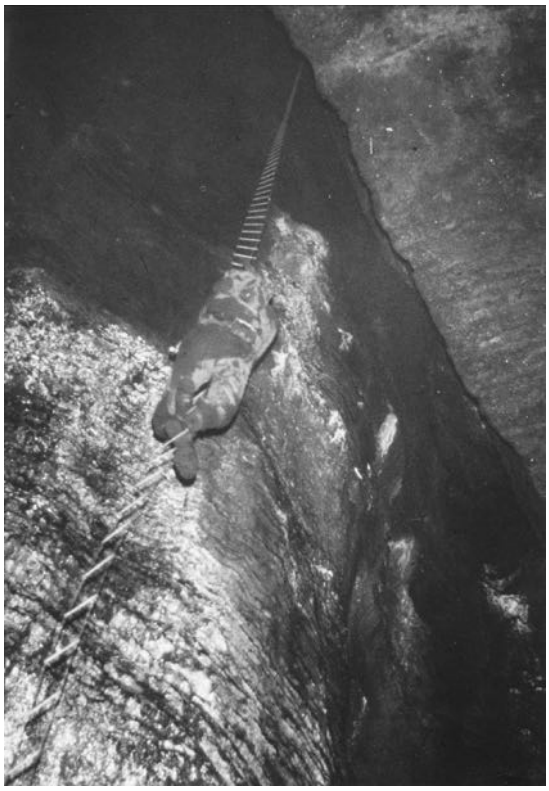


Photo 5: – Caver climbing 28 metres first shaft in Kazad-dum. Norm Poulter.

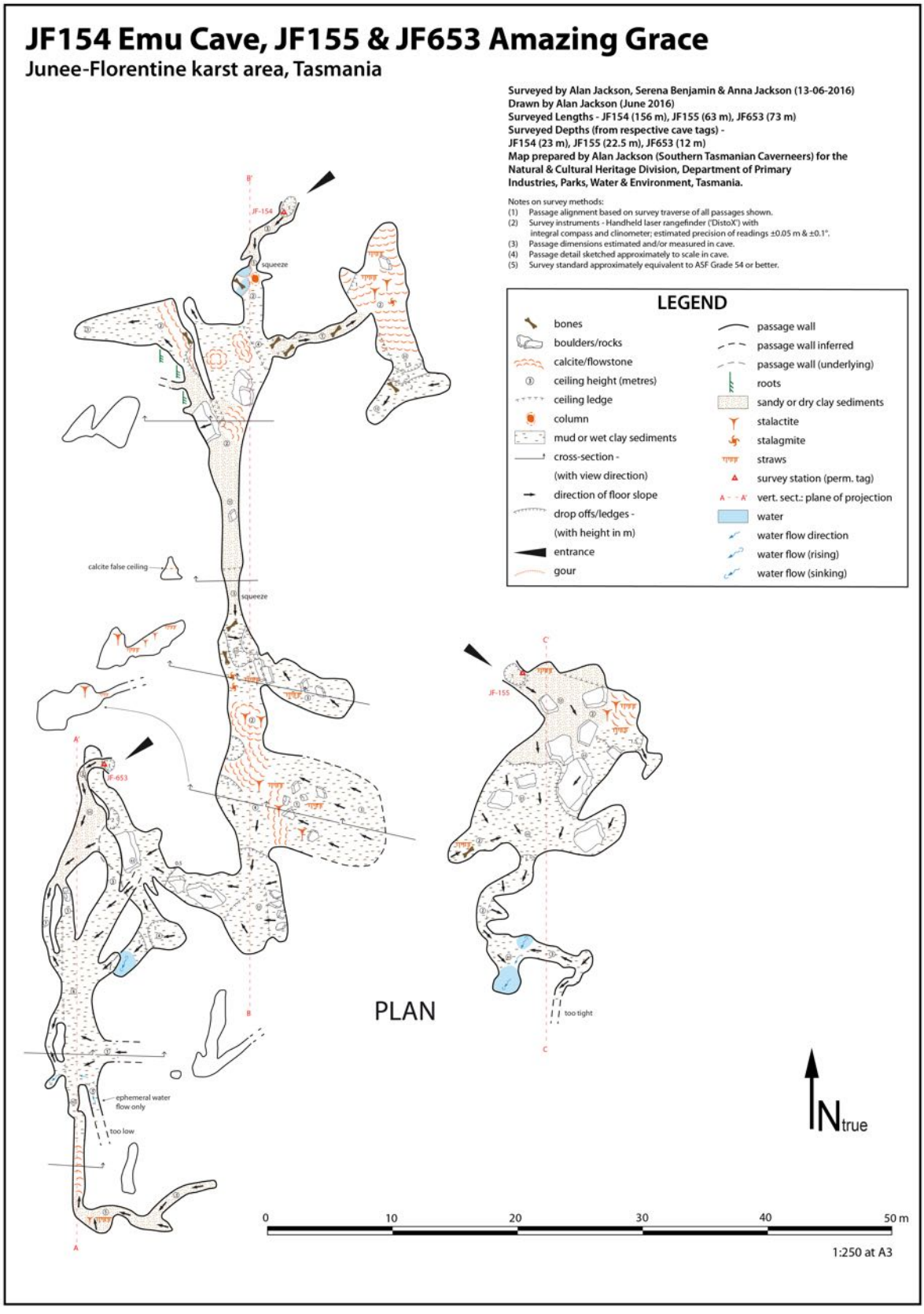
(Stuart Nicholas had a large, framed, colour print of this photograph on his wall at 7 Rupert Ave. After Stuart's death, Trevor Wailes found it at auction. I was told it was a Peter Shaw photo but I stand corrected. Editor.)

In March of 1973 I resigned as president of TCC after having held that position for six out of the last seven years. I found that more and more of my time was being taken up by university work commitments and the demands of a young family. I had bought my personal SRT gear but never found time to practice and become really competent using the equipment From that time onward I became interested mainly in the scientific aspects of caving ranging from hydrological studies to examinations of cave bone deposits and later to investigate the potential of stalagmites to yield information on past environmental conditions using analyses of stable isotope ratios and trace element compositions. But that is another story.

Surveys

JF154 Emu Cave, JF155 & JF653 Amazing Grace

Junee-Florentine karst area, Tasmania



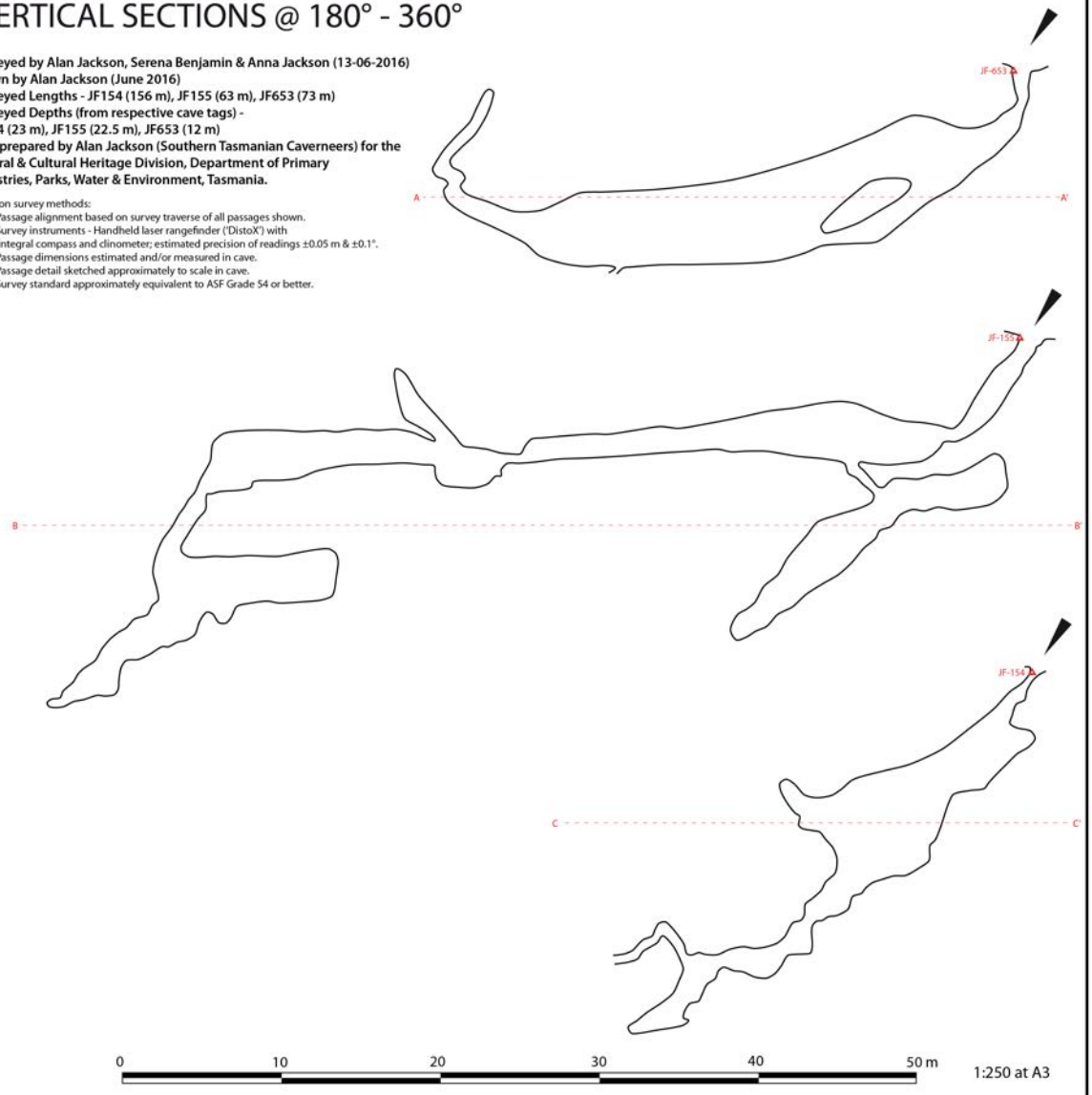
JF154 Emu Cave, JF155 & JF653 Amazing Grace

Junee-Florentine karst area, Tasmania

VERTICAL SECTIONS @ 180° - 360°

Surveyed by Alan Jackson, Serena Benjamin & Anna Jackson (13-06-2016)
Drawn by Alan Jackson (June 2016)
Surveyed Lengths - JF154 (156 m), JF155 (63 m), JF653 (73 m)
Surveyed Depths (from respective cave tags) -
JF154 (23 m), JF155 (22.5 m), JF653 (12 m)
Map prepared by Alan Jackson (Southern Tasmanian Caverneers) for the Natural & Cultural Heritage Division, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment, Tasmania.

Notes on survey methods:
(1) Passage alignment based on survey traverse of all passages shown.
(2) Survey instruments - Handheld laser rangefinder ('DistoX') with integral compass and clinometer; estimated precision of readings ±0.05 m & ±0.1°.
(3) Passage dimensions estimated and/or measured in cave.
(4) Passage detail sketched approximately to scale in cave.
(5) Survey standard approximately equivalent to ASF Grade 54 or better.



1:250 at A3

COMBINED VERTICAL SECTIONS @ 180° - 360°