

SPELEO SPIEL 416

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2016



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Front Cover: Alum Pot, Yorkshire
UK. *Photo by Tony Veness*



Speleo Spiel

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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

Well I survived another *Spiel* and it seems like it was well received. I even have a phone groupie who rang me up to congratulate me heartily on my efforts.

It's winter in Tasmania and the torpor has set in. There aren't so many trip reports this issue but I have managed to include one that is long overdue: Last summer Rick, Janine and Greg went to Hawaii to attend the 17th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology. In Hawaii it is always summer and so hopefully reading this will warm the inner thighs of your trogsuit. I have sat on this trip report for a while not because it concerns lava caves and nobody cares much about but just in case there were a few lean times as at the moment.

It is unfortunate that this edition also contains two obituaries: Rien de Vries who was active in the 1950s and a prominent contemporary Australian caver Ken Grimes. Whilst Ken was not a member of the club his contributions to Australian caving were profound, so I bring these to the club's attention. Rien's obituary has provided the opportunity to view some more of Albert's wonderful old black and white photographs.

Stephen Bunton

Stuff 'n Stuff

DARKER AND DEEPER

Andreas "Action-Man" Klocker achieved some sort of celebrity in late August when the media ran a story on the discovery of Freycinet Reef at a depth of 80 m off Tasmania's East Coast. This was notable for the discovery of previously unknown species of coral. Andreas was shown on ABC television in his diving gear, giving a piece to camera as well as further media coverage in *The Mercury*. Now all he has to do is find some new life in the club to follow him to great depths in our caves. He currently seems to be the main protagonist.



Andreas and his dive partner, James Parkinson with their camera gear at IMAS. *The Mercury* (25/8/16).

MOLE CREEK DISASTER

In the last *Spiel* I mentioned the fire that occurred on the same day as the horrendous floods in the north of the state. Since then we have been able to evaluate the impact of those floods on the caves in the north of the state. The road to Marakoopa Cave and the Northern Caverneers hut was damaged and is unlikely to be repaired until the New Year. Meantime there will be no

Marakoopa Cave tours until next year. The scheduled SAREX, which was to be undertaken in Honeycomb Cave, was cancelled as a result of the flooding which caused the collapse of several entrances and filled the cave with large trees, silt and other debris. There was also some subsidence adjacent to the caves. The TPWS has closed the caves reserve whilst it takes measures to ameliorate the impact. It has also taken the opportunity to do some improvements. There is now a composting dunny, the road has been graded, large rocks have been placed to direct traffic so that it doesn't meander across what now appears to be walk-in campsites and a number, more than twenty, white gums have been felled. I am not sure whether this is as a result of flood damage or just for thinning. When Kathy and I visited there, on 8 October, the stream was well and truly in spate.



Flood debris, felled trees and subsidence at the upstream entrance to Honeycomb Cave. Stephen Bunton

Gradually we are realising that change is normal, the pace of change is increasing and managing for the status quo is not a realistic 21st Century option. The Mole Creek cavers have in the past voiced their concern about the general public and miscellaneous bumbles entering the cave and having an impact upon it. Mother nature has had the last laugh here. "You call that impact! I'll show you impact." Perhaps she's had enough and has refilled her own cave just to keep us bumbles out?



The current look of the Wet Caves and Honeycomb Cave area. Stephen Bunton

Trip Reports

17th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology

Hawai'i Island, Hawai'i

Janine McKinnon

– with input from Greg Middleton

6 to 13 February 2016

Well, Ric and I missed the previous 16 of these, but we made this one. In our defence (is it needed?), we ALMOST went to the last two. (Greg, on the other hand, has attended every one since Kenya in 1998.)

So this was our first venture into lava tubes (or should that be “pyroducts”? Sorry, bit of an in-joke from the meeting), apart from a couple of very old, short ones, in Northern California in the mid '80s. They didn't impress us much, but these ones did. (There is a serious push by some people who have thought about it, to reintroduce the term “pyroduct”, which does well describe a lava tube. In 1844, the word was first coined by the Rev. Titus Coan, after observing subterranean lava rivers on Mauna Loa.)

Let's not get ahead of ourselves though.

Firstly, a brief run down on the location of the venue. This was on “The Big Island”, as all the locals call it, to avoid confusion with the name of the collection of islands that comprise the state of Hawai'i, I assume. This is a big island (really?), and we were at a place called Ocean View in the far south (in fact, the most southerly point in the USA). The airport we flew into at Kailua Kona was on the west coast. This is quite a large town and major tourist hub. Ocean View was an hour and a half drive away and was NOT a hub of anything really.

The locals told us that there are about 6,000 residents in the area, served by a very small shopping centre. There are no schools, doctor, rubbish collection, sewerage or water supply for the residents. They have to collectively pay for road repairs. There are over 150 miles (250 km) of roads in the development. They are classed as a “non conforming subdivision” by the county, and the county won't provide services to these areas. It is said to be the largest subdivision area in the whole of the USA, comprised of over 11,500 parcels, less than 10% of which are occupied.

The history of this real estate development is fascinating. The development was started in the 1950s by an oil company and at one stage the Real Estate Institute of California (I may not have their name completely accurate) sued the developer for false advertising. Remember some of those Queensland developments a couple of decades ago? Russell Island pops to mind. Similar thing.

The landscape was certainly different. This area has some relatively recent lava flows – some from the early 20th C. Scrappy Ohia trees (*Metrosideros polymorpha*), grow out of the black lava in some areas (it's amazing they survive at all given the lack of soil

and very dry conditions), but others are too recent, and many square kilometres are just lava and nothing else. House sites have been bulldozed out of this black morass, and so the occupants have sweeping views of black rock to the ocean, kilometres away.

Earthquakes are frequent as it is still an active volcanic zone. The local experts told us that more eruptions, sending lava their way, will happen. Sometime. Geologically soon. But they can't say when. The authorities are carefully monitoring seismic activity and will, probably, be able to give residents 2 hours notice of an eruption. An interesting place to live!

It was an interesting place sociologically too, but we won't go into that here.

An enthusiastic band of maybe a dozen cavers have bought, built, and moved here to live so they can explore the hundreds of kilometres of lava tubes in the area and protect the caves they've purchased through the Hawaiian Cave Conservancy. These people – primarily Ann and Peter Bosted organised the meeting, and the whole week. It was a big job, as there were 80 attendees. Ann and Peter did very well.

On to the actual Symposium:

The first full day (Sunday 6 Feb.) was a field trip, however we didn't do the one for the masses. We did a trip into one of the local lava tubes, with a smallish group of 10. We were surprised at how interesting the formations were. The cave itself was only about 100 years old but it had speleothems. There were a lot of bacterial colonies on the walls too. Later we were told, by cave microbiologist Dr Dianna Northup, who gave a paper, that they have described 25 totally new orders of bacteria in these caves, and they have only just scratched the surface [literally!] of what's there.

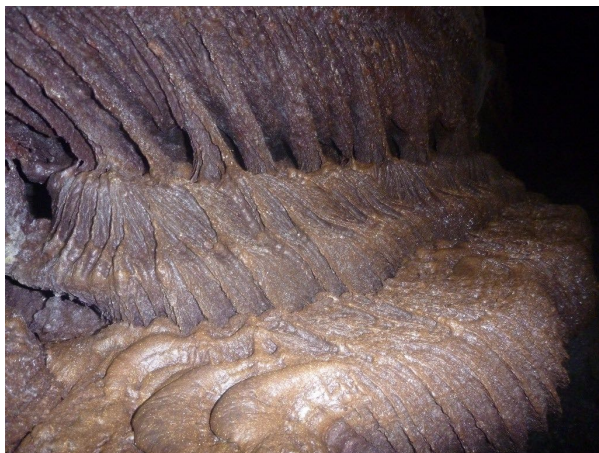


Crossing a'a lava to access a cave. The nasty type so named because of the cries of pain from the barefooted indigenes. Janine McKinnon.

The rest of the week (apart from the mid-week field trip) set a pattern of morning talks (in the local community centre), and afternoon field trips. The field trips were from two to four hours long and party sizes were kept down to a maximum of ten. All these afternoon trips were into caves in the neighbourhood, usually involving a maximum 10-minute drive from the

venue and less than a 10-minute walk from the cars. The pace of caving can best be described as very leisurely, but we did have a lot to look at.

These lava caves have similarities to limestone caves, in that they are holes in the ground, and they do have some formations (lava and sometimes calcite speleothems) and bacteria similar to karst caves. Most of the flow patterns and formations are unique to lava caves though. The clearly visible flow of the lava rivers is amazing. Things like lava balls, a'a (lumpy lava) floors and shelves from the pahoehoe flows (ropey lava) - just showing off the two words I learnt in the week here - left no doubt as to what sort of cave you were in. They were fascinating and beautiful.



Ropey lava. Janine McKinnon.

The morning presentations were by a variety of people, many experts in their fields. Microbiology, geology and vulcanology were, of course, the main areas addressed, but there were also talks on exploration on Hawai'i, and other lava caves around the world. We learnt a lot, hopefully some of which I will remember.

We didn't go on the mid-week field trip either, but rather chose to do the offered option of a 4 hour private tour of a section of Kazamura Cave (the longest lava cave known – over 65 km), an entrance of which is owned by the family of Harry Shick who runs the tours. Cathy Plowman and Dave Butler were also booked on this trip. The last member of the trip was one of the Americans at the symposium. Poor fellow, stuck with

four Aussies who know each other! Luckily he was a good sport.



Lava speleothems. Janine McKinnon.

The day after the organised week finished about 30 of us did a bus tour back to Volcanoes National Park (third visit that week for Ric and I). This was a field trip to look at lava beds guided by the head Vulcanologist at the Park, Don Swanson. This was such an honour as this guy is a world authority. We started the day with an hour and a half bus ride ... in a classic American school bus! Yes, one of those canary yellow ones. I can now say I have travelled in one. Another first! I have to say, though, it wasn't very comfortable.

Anyway, Don spent about five hours with us, and we moved about the park looking at different features and with Don explaining the processes to us. Fascinating stuff.

This was an excellent end to a very enjoyable, and informative, week. We learnt heaps, visited fascinating caves, met new people, caught up with others, and had great social times.

A very brief video of a sample of the caves is found here: <https://vimeo.com/173314741>

We will definitely be going to the next one (which may be either in the Canary Islands or northern California).

JF237 Niggly Cave - visiting a sump under Mount Niggly

Petr Smejkal

3 Aug 2016

Party: Serena Benjamin, Petr Smejkal

It is about a month since Andreas, Serena and Steven located the Growling Swallet inlet sump under Mount Niggly. Since then we have started planning on a survey, photographic documentation and also a dive of the sump to hopefully discover the connection between Growling Swallet and Niggly.

Serena walking through the passage under Mt. Niggly. The photo was taken not far from the inlet sump looking down stream. Petr Smejkal





Serena posing at the top of rockpile that hides the passage to the sump. Petr Smejkal

The aim of this trip was to carry some diving weights down to Mt. Niggly, do a bit of photography and get a bit fitter in preparation for carrying the diving gear that we will need when Andreas is back from UK.

It was an early start to the day. We left Hobart at 7am and got to the Niggly entrance at 9:45am. We abseiled to the bottom, via the original route, thus avoiding the Black Supergiant pitch. We left the diving weights at the head of the last pitch. At the bottom, we visited the sump under Mt. Niggly and took a few photos. After that, we began the long climb back up the ropes. This route is easier than Black Supergiant. It's still long and difficult but at least the rope bounces less.

To our surprise, we were able to get out of the cave after only five hours. We got back to the car at 4:15pm and drove safely back home still in daylight.

JF7 Frankcombe Cave - After birthday trip

Petr Smejkal

7 August 2016

Party: Patrick (Buddy) Smejkal, Jakub Seiler, Jonas Seiler, Jan Seiler, Stefan Seiler and Petr Smejkal

Frankcombe Cave had been on my horizontal caves list for a while but despite this I never managed to organize a visit until now. Last week Buddy turned four and I thought: "Let's do a birthday caving trip?" As the weather is insanely wet this year JF7 seemed to be a wise choice.



Aint kids cute! Petr Smejkal

Buddy was excited about the idea of a birthday caving trip and he invited his friends to join him on his little adventure.

On Sunday morning we met at our place and started sorting lights. Fortunately my collection of reserve lights is large enough so we could head up to Juneeflorentine. Florentine Road has been cleared well up to Westfield Road but from there on there were a few trees lying on the road. Luckily we only had to take out the chain saw for one of them.

Buddy patting the wombat and Jan Seiler. Petr Smejkal.



Hickmania troglodytes. Petr Smejkal.

When we reached the car park we went for a little exploration to find the entrance and a few leeches managed to find us. After we found the JF7 entrance, we returned for our gear. I have to admit JF7 has a rather nice entrance and good decoration right from the very beginning. We climbed down to the streamway where we lost the decoration but discovered the largest *Hickmania* ever. All three kids were excited to see such a large spider. From there we explored upstream but that ended up in a rockpile. We tried to go downstream but that ended in a sump after few metres. I suppose the water flow is rather negligible in summer and this sump must be a semi-dry crawl as the cave has a total of almost a kilometre of known passages and we hardly saw 15% of that.



On the way home the kids were lucky to see a young (and alive) wombat sitting motionless on the side of the road. What a great trip! I would like to return to

Frankcombe Cave sometime in summer and organize beginners mapping exercise.

Eurospeleo 2016

5th European Speleological Congress

Yorkshire Dales, England

<http://www.eurospeleo.uk/>

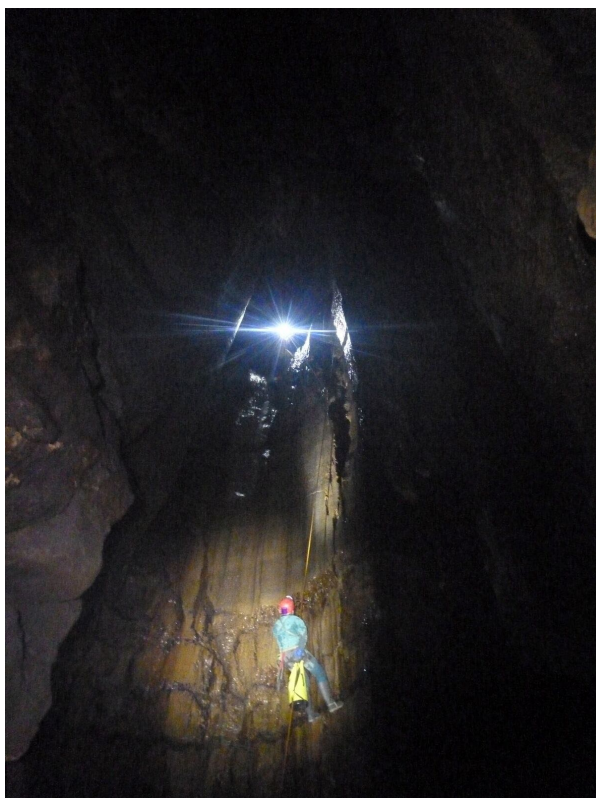
Janine McKinnon

13-20 August 2016.

Party: Janine McKinnon, Jane Pulford, Ric Tunney and Tony Veness

Every four years the cavers of Europe have a meet somewhere. Last time it was Vercours, France. This time it was the UK. We just missed going to the one in France, mainly because we didn't know it was on. This one we were determined to "do" particularly as it was in The Dales, which as Trevor Wailes, Madphil Rowsell, and Andy McKenzie, amongst other Pommy cavers who have passed this way (and in several cases stayed), would tell you is the best caving anywhere (maybe I exaggerate their caving patriotism JUST a little).

Ric and I had wanted to cave there for a long time. The Yorkshire Dales are arguably (and not many would argue against) the premier caving area in the UK. It is certainly the main vertical caving area. The area is riddled with pots, long horizontal systems, multiple entrances, and many multi pitch caves, many joining in to horizontal systems at water table level. It is a vertical caver's paradise.



Tony in Sell Gill (Goblin Route). Janine McKinnon

The caves aren't particularly deep, typically 100-150m, so for aging, vertical cavers, it is even better.

Pre Trips:

The general plan is somewhat similar to the ICS (International Congress of Speleology) conferences. There are pre- and post-conference field trips, usually lasting a week. Several will be on offer, to various caving areas around the region. These trips are run by the local clubs.

We joined the pre-conference trip to Llangatok, in SE Wales. It was a good opportunity to have a bit of a look in that area of the UK. We stayed at White Walls, the Chelsea Spelæological Society's hut, which was basic, but well appointed with power, two bunk rooms for about 20, a grass area outside to put up tents if desired, a living room, good cooking facilities, fridges etc. It has two showers and a big gear area inside. There is a gear cleaning area outside.

The cleaning facilities are necessary as the caves are muddy, VERY muddy and they have a lot of crawling, squeezes and grovels. There are some big walking passages too and a few pretties but nothing vertical. The caves are frequently visited and the general wear reminded me of my old days of NSW caving. The crew we had for the week hailed from England, Switzerland, Belgium and The Netherlands as well as three other (mainland) Australians. They were a delightful bunch. The local guides put in a huge job for the week.

How it works:

Eurospeleo is unlike the International Congress of Speleology, which is all talks. *Eurospeleo* is run in an area with caves, so cavers have the option of attending talks and workshops, or going caving.

The venues have rooms for exhibitions of photography, mapping, cave art, and other cave related themes. As well there are venues for talks, dining, and evening entertainment. For this meet these were large marquees in a field, adjacent to Dalesbridge, a large stone building with conference rooms and some accommodation. Speleo challenges are set up and large areas for camping provided on site.

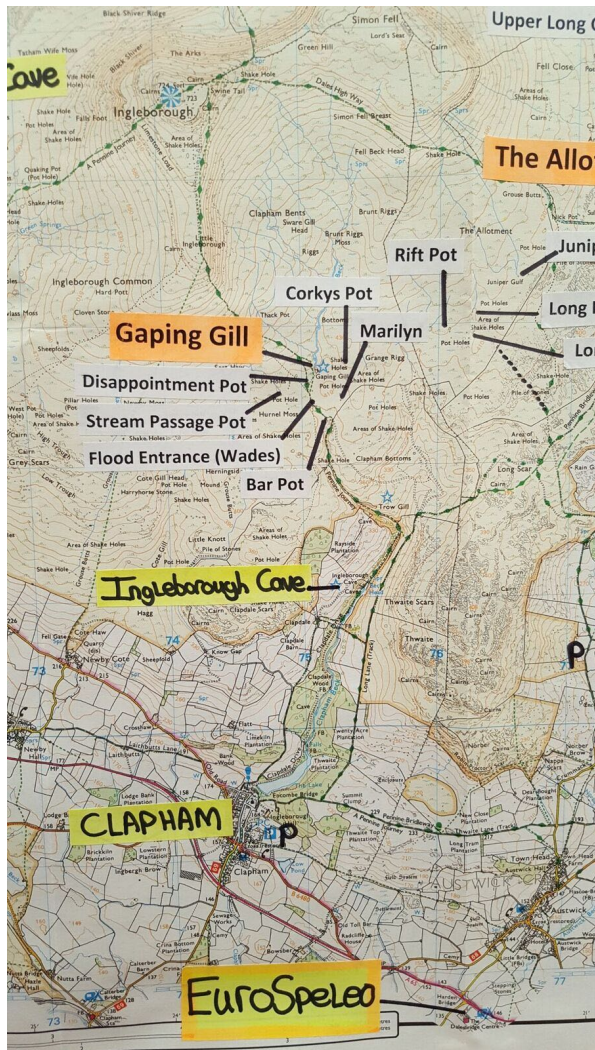
It is a BIG affair. There were 1300 people in attendance for this. The organisation was massive.

Whilst there was a lot happening around the site each day and evening, Ric and I were there to go caving. So I will just concentrate on that aspect of this multifaceted meet.

Caving planning:

The organisers had done a brilliant job in all aspects of the physical caving. They had managed to acquire a donation of 3 km of new rope. This all went into caves. They had pre-rigged a couple of dozen caves (don't hold me to specifics on stats here) with multiple routes in most caves. All the entrances had signs identifying the cave.

The website had had a detailed guide to the rigged caves available for many months. This included a rating for weather dependence (rain), technical difficulty, physical caving difficulty and trip duration. So it was easy to read about each trip beforehand and make some decisions about the caves we wanted to do.



The low down on the local caves. Janine McKinnon

A guidebook was given to each attendee upon registration. This included, amongst lots of other stuff about the meet, the same guide to the caves.

Back at the main venue, there was a marquee for going caving. It had a long table with a booking system, where you marked off which cave you were going to, date, and a starting time. For several hours, in the morning and evening, this table was manned by very knowledgeable volunteers. They knew their caves, the conditions we would find depending on rainfall and basically anything we needed to know about doing a cave. There were maps on the walls of all the cave locations, books with detailed notes on each cave, maps and hand-outs with information for doing each cave.

There was also a (non-compulsory) emergency call-out system. You could leave a call-out time at the desk, and just check back in at the end of the day, personally or by text. They even had teams of cavers going underground at night to fix ropes and rigging that day trippers had reported damaged, so the cave would be

fixed and safe by the next day. It was REALLY well organised and well run.



Jane in the Registration Tent. Tony Veness

Actually going caving:

Jane and Tony had driven across from their current home in The Netherlands. They had a few fellow Dutch cavers in tow, but ultimately spent 4 of the 6 days of caving doing trips with us. It was old home week for STC.

Actually getting to these caves is a bit different to here in Southern Tasmania. For a start, all involve farms in one way or another. It's a bit like caving at Mole Creek, but the locals are more caver-friendly (I think they were). We parked either in villages, or along narrow roads in the countryside, near farms. The walk to the cave was usually short, across a field, except for Gaping Gill system, which was about an hour uphill on proper paths, through farms. It was all very civilised, and certainly not wild at all. Sheep seemed to feature a lot. Parking in a way not to obstruct traffic was important and not always easy.

Almost all these caves are very water sensitive. It rains a lot here and with all the grass fields the rain runs straight down the nearest hole (i.e. cave). When it rains, the caves flood very quickly. This was something the organisers were very concerned about. Summer is not renowned for being particularly dry.



Preparing to cave in Yorkshire. Janine McKinnon

Luckily for us, we had fine weather from Sunday, our first caving day, until Friday afternoon. Caving went until Saturday evening. Apparently we were very fortunate.

As an interesting note on the weather, Friday we had planned to do Simpsons Pot exchange with Swinsto Hole. This is very rain dependent. The weather report talked of rain arriving Friday morning and when we arrived to sign in to go caving, the organizers were really, really worried about the coming rain. They strongly advised us not to do it, so we changed venue. It started drizzling in the morning and raining in the late afternoon. It didn't stop all night, and was still bucketing down as we drove away, north on Saturday. A video was posted a couple of days later of the entrance to Lost Johns Cave almost sumped with the volume of water pouring down it. The local tourist cave had water resurging up the entrance and flooding down the steps to the road below.

When it rains there, it rains!



A typical Yorkshire pitch in Lost Johns. Janine McKinnon

I won't describe each trip in detail. I don't see the point when few of you know the caves. I will just make a few comments on the caving in general. Firstly, it was great fun. Really, really fun! The caves (we chose at least) were beautifully washed rock. They were clean with magnificent sculpting. The pitches were delightful generally airy, scenic and nicely rigged. Mostly they were streamway pitches, so a week without rain proved useful.

Most of the trips were about 2-4 hours for a moderately sized (4), and efficient party (remember, they were all rigged we just go down and up). So a couple of caves per day was easily feasible. There were a couple of longer through trips (6-8 hours) but as they involved complex navigation and we didn't have a local guide, or detailed maps, we decided not to do them. We had serious fun with what we did anyway.

Caving with Tony and Jane again was brilliant. I want to thank them for making it such a great week's caving for us.

This really was an excellent way to go tourist caving overseas. Pre-rigged caves, lots of old caving friends to catch up with, new friends to make, and other entertainments added in.

I'll be keeping a lookout for the next one. Optimistically thinking I will still be fit enough to go caving in four years.

A little birdy tells me that it is being done in Ebensee, Austria. That is a lovely area, and we did a little caving there with some locals a couple of years ago. The caves are not large, or extensive, so does that mean caving up in the Dachstein? Who knows? Here's hoping.

For the record, the caves we did were:

(Ric and Janine)

Sunday 14/8: Top part- Rumbling Hole

Bottomed- Death's Head Hole

Monday 15/8: Marilyn to Main Chamber Gaping Gill

Up via winch

(Tony, Jane, Janine, Ric)

Tuesday 16/8: AM. Little Hull Pot

PM. Hunt Pot

Wednesday 17/8: Rowten Pot

Thursday 18/8: AM. Alum Pot West Route

Alum Pot from Long Churn

Long Churn Caves to Dolly Tubs

PM: Tony, Jane and Janine

Sell Gill Dry route

Sell Gill wet route

Friday 19/8: AM. Lost John's Cave to bottom of Valhalla pitch



Tent city at the entrance to Gaping Gill. Tony Veness



The winching gear at Gaping Gill. Tony Veness



The 98m main pitch in Gaping Gill. Stephen Bunton

JF221 Owl Pot beginners trip

Petr Smejkal

28 August 2016

Party: Fraser Johnston, Andrew Terhell, Petr Smejkal

Fraser and Andy are photographers and documentary film-makers who are interested in telling the story of the exploration of Niggly Cave. Andreas is planning on diving the sump under Mt. Niggly and Fraser would like to be there when it's happening. Given we did not have much time to prepare them for caving in Niggly, I decided to introduce them to vertical caving immediately. So, we did a couple of SRT practices and planned a trip into Tassie Pot.

We took it easy and left Hobart on Sunday after eight in the morning. Andy took his 4WD so we could drive all the way up to the entrance, as proper lazy cavers should.

In Tassie Pot I descended to the first bolt where I got the feeling that this cave might be a bit too much for their first SRT trip. I climbed back up through the debris piled up around the entrance ledge and shared my reservations with Andy and Fraser. There were no protests so we reconsidered our aims and chose Owl Pot as an alternative.



Andy (L) and Fraser, tired but not broken. Petr Smejkal

We entered the cave after 10am. The trip went pretty smoothly. Andy and Fraser did a good job. At the bottom Fraser tested his camera and took some video of us on the rope descending the last pitch. We also took few photos at the bottom and after a quick snack we started climbing back up. We got out of the cave at 3:30pm. The sun was still up when we arrived back at my place so Fraser and Andy had the great opportunity to clean up their messy gear.

JF7 Frankcombe Cave beginners' trip

Chris Sharples

3rd September 2016

Party: Kane Parsell, Kate Blatchly, Chris Sharples

Having offered to lead a beginners' trip to Frankcombe Cave, I initially had three starters, until

Ana Gencic came down with a wog the day before so I ended up with two. It's a nice beginners cave, with some pretty bits, a 4 metre straw to gawp at and some crawling to give people a feel for caving. We followed the long overflow passage until the crawling got tedious, before returning to the sunlight after a pleasant few hours underground.

Obituaries

Vale: Rien de Vries

Albert Goede



Ladder practice, August 1955.

Rien was born in the Dutch East Indies (present day Indonesia) on 8 October 1937 of Dutch parents. He had an older sister and a younger brother. In 1941 the family was interned by the Japanese and his mother died while in the camp. After the war Rien's father married the lady who had looked after his children as well as two of her own. The family moved back to the Netherlands but in 1950 migrated to Australia where they settled at Kingston in Tasmania. The following year our family migrated to Tasmania and also moved to Kingston. Rien and I had very similar interests such as bushwalking and soon became firm friends. After the De Vries family had moved to North Hobart and our family had moved to Claremont we often stayed at each other's place on weekends.

In January 1954 I went on my first caving trip with TCC and soon after became a member. Rien was not far behind and joined later in the year. We both became very active members. After the accidental death of my father in 1954 my mother and four younger siblings decided to move back to the Netherlands but I was determined to stay in Tasmania to complete my apprenticeship as a compositor in the printing industry and to study for my matriculation. Rien's family invited me to stay with them.

From 1954 to 1960 Rien was a very active caver and served at various times as president, secretary and quartermaster of TCC. He bought himself a 35 mm camera and became a keen cave photographer. Caving in the 1950s was relatively benign with trips usually going to caves that were already known rather than spending a lot of time looking for new caves. Other cavers who were active at this time were Edie Smith, Frank Brown, Doug Turner and Des Lyons. Not everybody had a car in those days and Rien and I were very dependent on other members for transport. Mole Creek was considered a distant location and was visited only during Easter and the Christmas break. By 1957 Rien had completed his matriculation at New Town High School and obtained a position as an industrial chemist at the EZ works. This enabled him to indulge his photography hobby and to buy his first car, which made us less dependent on other club members for our caving destinations.



At Ida Bay railway with Joe Picone and Frank Brown July, 1955.

I well remember a photographic trip to Mystery Chamber at Hastings. After carting a rucksack full of photographic accessories through the Binney Tunnel, Rien discovered that he had left the camera at home.

In early 1958 I kept a promise to my mother to return to the Netherlands but it was not a happy experience as I missed the Tasmanian caves and bush. Meanwhile Rien and other TCC members were kept busy organising the first ASF Conference to be held in Tasmania. Rien supervised the cutting of an access track to Exit Cave but it never became a viable route as it went right over the summit of Marble Hill.

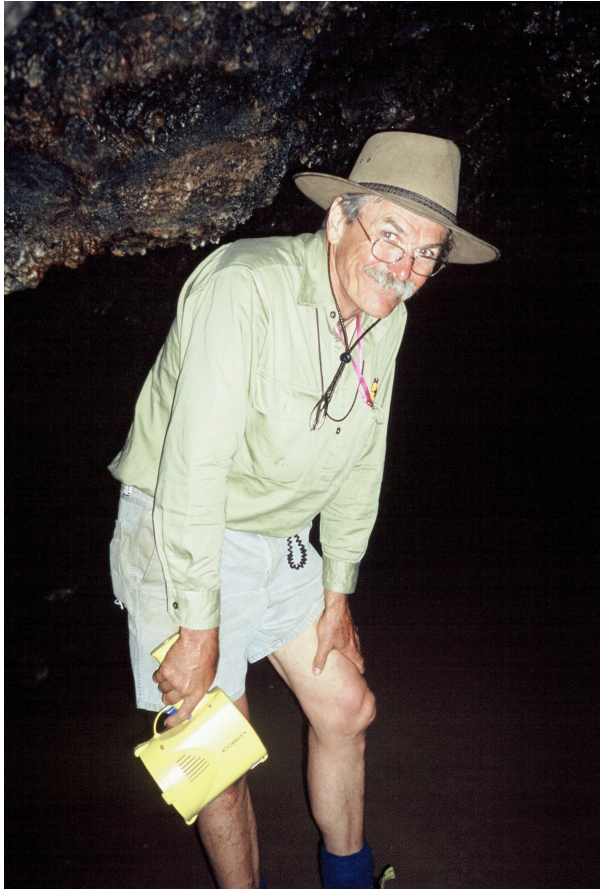
I returned to Tasmania in early 1959 with only ten dollars in my pocket. I was able to obtain night work at the *Mercury* newspaper and enrolled at the University part-time for a science degree with the intention to major in geology. I moved back with the De Vries family. Rien and other members of TCC provided me with a short-term loan to get me started at University and I will always be very grateful for their assistance. In the following year Rien enrolled for a BA majoring in psychology. In 1960 there were two other events that changed our lives. The De Vries family split up and Rien's stepmother returned to the Netherlands with her two children. Also Rien met his future wife Ailsa who did not think much of a boyfriend who spent his spare time burrowing around in caves. At much the same time I moved to a boarding house in North Hobart. Since Rien was no longer an active caver and as we had very different interests at University we gradually drifted apart. However, I will always fondly remember the great times we had together.

Rien is survived by his sister Aly in Victoria, his brother Harry in New Zealand, daughters Fiona and Judy, sons Andrew and Peter as well as numerous grandchildren.

(SS 399:8 features a more recent photo of Rien outside the Dover Hotel when I took the "oldies" to Hastings for the day. Editor.)

Vale: Ken Grimes.

Greg Middleton and Andy Spate



Ken in Mt Eccles Lava Tube... Stephen Bunton 2007.

Ken Grimes was one of Australia's most experienced and academically capable speleologists. His sudden accidental death on his rural property on 17 August 2016 came as a great shock to the caving community and means that Australia has lost one of its most enthusiastic and able speleological investigators and advocates.

Ken was born in October 1944 in Maryborough, Queensland. He studied geology and geomorphology at the University of Queensland between 1964 and 1968 and graduated Bachelor of Science with Honours in geology. He undertook further studies 1973-79. At UQ he took up caving with the University of Queensland Speleological Society in the mid-60s, joining such luminaries as Henry Shannon, Dave Gillieson, Tony Sprent and Michael Bourke.

In 1968 he started with the Geological Survey of Queensland, working on the groundwater resources of the Lockyer Valley. From 1969 to 1991 he was a Geologist in the Regional Mapping Section of the Geological Survey of Queensland where his work included some joint projects with the Bureau of Mineral Resources. As early as 1973 he produced a report on Ashford Cave in far northern NSW, in which he subtly refuted any suggestion that it might replace (in either scientific or recreational terms) the Texas Caves, were they to be flooded by a dam.

In 1978 Ken prepared a significant paper on the geology and geomorphology of the Texas Caves in SE

Queensland, published by the Queensland Museum. This work benefited significantly from work done on the caves by UQSS and much of Ken's fieldwork was done in association with that society (UQSS became defunct about the mid 80s).

During his time with the Survey he worked on regional geological mapping, specialising in Cainozoic and Mesozoic deposits. Some of the regions contained no karst (such as Fraser Island) but sometimes he managed to work on carbonate rocks (e.g. the Dobbyn Sheet, including the Carl Creek Limestone at Riversleigh and the Camooweal Dolomite). He carried out major studies on evolution of the Carpentaria Plains and the old land surfaces of north Queensland. He was subsequently involved in Cainozoic mapping projects throughout most of Queensland.

In 1990 Ken left government employ and set up as a Consultant Geomorphologist, concentrating on karst, karst-like phenomena and regolith. He called his company Regolith Mapping. About this time he and his wife, Janeen (who had also been a UQSS member; they married about 1970) moved to a rural property at Hamilton in Western Victoria. In March 1991 they joined the Victorian Speleological Association.

Ken was convenor of the Surveying and Mapping Standards Commission of ASF and was Queensland co-ordinator of the Australian Karst Index for the period 1975-91. Ken published many papers, book chapters and posters on karst and speleological topics.

He was recognized world-wide for his work on sandstone and laterite "pseudokarst", on syngenetic karst and on various forms of karren. Ken was meticulous in acknowledging the contributions of others in reviewing and contributing to his writings.

After he became a private consultant, Ken contributed to the World Heritage submission on the Nullarbor (1992), provided advice to the Commonwealth Government on the rehabilitation of the karst landforms at Benders Quarry in Tasmania, documented the karst of the south-east of South Australia for the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, chaired an independent review of the status of the Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave for the South Australian Government, and gave advice on stability and pollution problems at tourist cave areas and for quarries in cavernous limestone. He was part of a team that studied the hazards and other aspects of the caves and karst of Christmas Island for Parks Australia. He was part of the team which advised the Commonwealth Environment Department of the significance of Australia's karsts and pseudokarsts, preparing a number of papers including a major report on the pseudokarsts of northern Australia.

At the 1999 ACKMA conference at Mt. Gambier, he gave the opening paper on "The Gambier Karst", and also an introduction to "Karst hydrology and Australian Karsts" to the theme session on "The Water Below". He contributed a paper on "Syngenetic and Eogenetic Karst" to the book *Evolution of Karst* (2002) and wrote the entry on "Syngenetic Karst" in the *Encyclopedia of Caves and Karst Science* (2004).

He provided two significant chapters in the 2009 book *Karst Rock Features: Karren Sculpturing* – the most significant text on karren.

Ken prepared a number of field guides to the karst areas of western Victoria and Mt Gambier for various ASF and ACKMA conferences and *The Volcanic Caves of Western Victoria* for the International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology in 2010, after he had become an authority on volcanic caves.

In the late 1970s and 80s Ken gave occasional lectures on karst geomorphology and related topics at the University of Queensland and Griffith University. Between 2000 and about 2009 he prepared and oversaw the course on Karst Hydrology for Charles Sturt University's Karst Management Course.

Since 1999 Ken has co-edited *Helictite*, the Journal of Australasian Speleological Research, with Susan White

for ASF. They have rejuvenated the journal and commenced its conversion to a fully on-line (digital) publication, issued free of charge. Ken has personally laid-out and formatted all issues of *Helictite* since 1999, employing his considerable graphics and communication skills.

Ken was an extremely knowledgeable, enthusiastic and meticulous fieldworker and scientist in the fields of geology and caves (both karst and in lava). Always ready to impart his knowledge and to challenge inquisitive minds, he enjoyed teaching and explaining the processes that shape the earth beneath us. He will be sorely missed.

(Reading this it made me realize just how little I've achieved in my life so far! Editor)

More Honeycomb Cave and Wet Cave Photos



The main subsidence between the two Honeycomb entrances. Stephen Bunton



Wet Cave flowing a gusher. Stephen Bunton



Sign detail (see page 3) Stephen Bunton



TPWS sign outside Wet Cave, designed to stop cavers trespassing into Sally Martin's subterranean property. Stephen Bunton

Surveys

JF-654 Bookend Cave

Junee-Florentine, Tasmania

7JF654.STC421

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

Surveyed by R. Fulton, P. Jackson, G. Jordan (21/8/2016)

Drawn by P. Jackson

ASF Grade 44

Surveyed length 44m

Vertical Range 11m

Original scale 1:100

Plan

