

Speleo Spiel 429

November – December 2018



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Front Cover and Back Cover: A matched set for front and back covers this issue. Rescue training session, Fruehauf Quarry.

Alan Jackson and Stefan Eberhard just hangin' about

Other captions for both welcome. Be creative.

Photos: Gabriel Kinzler

STC was formed in December 1996 by the amalgamation of three former southern Tasmanian clubs: the *Tasmanian Caverneering Club*, the *Southern Caving Society* and the *Tasmanian Cave and Karst Research Group*. *STC* is the modern variant of the oldest caving club in Australia.



Speleo Spiel

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Editorial

Firstly, I'd just like to acknowledge the "Letter to the Editor" (of this publication) from the Tasmanian Speleological Liaison Council (TSLC) sent in December 2017. It was in relation to both cave rescues undertaken by members of STC in 2017, but particularly that of Isabelle Chouquet in July 2017. Somehow it was lost in transit and has only recently been received by this editor (or maybe the editor lost the original, who knows, it's possible). I found the letter very gratifying. It yet again demonstrates what a small, and connected, caving community we are here in Tasmania. This is the first "Letter to the Editor" that I have received and the fact that it expressed such supportive and positive sentiments, I'm choosing to take as a portend of all such future correspondence to me. I'm calling this a precedent-setter. Other letters in a similar vein will be gratefully accepted.

The letter, in full, is published in this *Spiel*.

For the first time in many years, to my recollection, the club has a surfeit of new members at present. A couple of beginner trip reports are included in this *Spiel*. The only way that beginners become experienced cavers is if they get an opportunity to practice and improve their caving skills. The only way they can do that is if there are trips on offer that they can participate in, not just once but regularly. Yes, of course, they have to show some motivation by signing onto appropriate trips, and hopefully asking for trips that are suitable to be run for them. However, they need trips to be available, and regularly. It shouldn't fall to just a couple of leaders to offer these beginner trips, particularly as it is the same few individuals who offer their time whenever we have newbies. STC trip leaders - someone took you on your early trips, someone took the trouble to train you and give you opportunities to improve your skills. Maybe now is a good time to give back a little whilst we have this opportunity. The future of the club requires a regular infusion of new, keen, young members.

This is the last issue of the *Spiel* for the year. It has been an active and eventful year of caving for the club. Not too eventful fortunately as we managed to get through this year without a rescue, although it was close there at one point (which you'll know about because you read each *Spiel* thoroughly). I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year (celebrated at the ASF conference in Devonport). See you in the New Year.

Stuff 'n Stuff

- The club fundraiser quiz night held at the Ferntree Tavern on 23 November was a raging success. Those of you that attended will surely agree. Alan Jackson and Nat Pausin did an outstanding job organising it. Trevor Wailes and Phil Jackson (Jacko) were an inspired choice as compères. We raised \$1,656.
- The annual search and rescue exercise was held on the following day - 24 November. This was an interesting juxtaposition of events. It was a good way to test more than caving skills for some, such as how to turn up early for a cave rescue after a big night out (well it's "big" for we old folks). The practice rescue was held in

Mystery Creek Cave, at Ida Bay. It is a few years since we've held one there. Thanks to our S&R officer, Andreas Klocker, along with Alan Jackson, our training officer, for organising the event. It was well attended (29 souls), with quite a few mainland cavers again, but it was a pity flight chaos left many more stuck up on the big island. Also, the police failed to launch due to bureaucratic nannying. Attendance from up north of the state was brilliant too. I am hoping for a detailed report for the next *Spiel*, with heaps of photos, so watch this space. A taster photo or two appears later in this *Spiel*, to whet your appetite for the next issue.

- On 1st December a rope testing session will be held at the Glenorchy Police Station. These are not only important events for the safety of our vertical caving, they are a fun half-day and good chance to socialise with club friends, whilst creating destruction. This appeals greatly to the organiser (the destruction bit), Alan Jackson. Come along and help out. It's worth it just to see the Police S&R headquarters.
- This is the last reminder you will get for the upcoming ASF conference being held in Devonport from 30 December 2018 through to 4 January 2019. The New Year's party is worth coming for alone, surely! There will be pre- and post- conference caving trips, available only to attendees. Here is the website <https://asfconference2019.com/> Facebook page if you are more focussed that way: <https://www.facebook.com/31st-ASF-Conference-2018-19-The-Darkness-Beneath-390345841414306>
- Xmas - New Year period; 16 December 2018 - 3 January 2019, a massive Irish invasion - JF expedition - details are vague at this stage. Alan Jackson has sent an email around about it, with a contact for those interested. Contact Alan if you are interested and have lost this email. He will forward you contact details again for the trip leader, and point out how disorganised you are.
- The gear store has had an added boost of rope thanks to a kind donation. Abdel Soudan and Emily Sheppard have given the club two ropes. Shiny new and unused: 75 m of 11 mm and 65 m of 9.5 mm. On behalf of the club I'd like to thank them for their generosity. I doubt they'll be hanging in the gear store unused for very long.



Commando black, can't wait to use that one!

Trip Reports

H-32 Discordance

15 July 2018

Gabriel Kinzler

Party: Gabriel Kinzler, Chris Sharples

Chris and I returned to Creekton Valley one last time with two clear objectives in mind: mapping the newly discovered H-32 properly as a training ground for surveying, and pushing the last remaining lead.

Having not found anything new on an alternative approach, we got straight into the surveying using Alan's Disto, starting from the entrance. We both had limited experience in this matter, but enough to know what we were supposed to do; it just took us a while to get the hang of it. After two to three hours, we had covered about half of the cave and, because we would run out of daylight soon enough, had to decide between completing the survey and checking out the last unexplored lead: the rift pitch. I wasn't going to leave this place without doing the latter, so we halted proceedings and started elaborating a rigging plan.



Gabriel doing nothing that gives me a good caption

Photo: Chris Sharples

I had insisted on bringing the club wire-ladder, because at the end of the rift is a very narrow squeeze which opens directly on what looked like a 6 to 10 m pitch, and it doesn't allow for any piece of SRT gear around your waist. I sat on using a decent chockstone above my head as the main anchor for the ladder, while Chris got busy rigging a backup with a piece of rope running back to the main passage. I later added a second backup, as all three anchoring points were rather suboptimal. It turned out to be a very good setup however, and the ladder hung solidly and elegantly above and into the vertical darkness. Now I finally had (almost) all the confidence I needed to force and pop my buttocks through the nasty squeeze without dropping to a certain nightmare rescue scenario.

Once through, I immediately grasped the ladder and hurtled down more excited than ever, discovering that the

hole I had caught a glimpse of from above kept going. Battling the hysteria, I mumbled a few words to Chris, unrolled the remainder of the ladder into the perfectly round hole, and finished the descent. The last rung stopped a tad short from the floor.

Sadly, what was waiting for me in the lower pocket of the pitch was another mud infill, ornamented with what I believe is a pademelon skull, beautifully preserved. And so I found my closure and eventually made my way back up, defeated but ecstatic.

Not to sound too melodramatic, but the emotions this set off are exactly what I believe caving is really about, and damn, does it feel good.

Judging from the ladder's length of a little over 15 m, I was able to estimate the total drop to around 17-18 m, the last section being a steep but easy slope. Not bad for a Hastings cave!

JF-341 Threefortyone - Conservation and Route Marking Project

21 July 2018

Gabriel Kinzler, with notes by Stefan Eberhard

Party: Stefan Eberhard, Gabriel Kinzler

The main purpose of this trip was cave conservation, as hinted in the last trip report on this cave (*see SS427 This trip report arrived in time to go in the last Spiel-428. It is this editor's fault that it wasn't included. I misplaced it for a while, along with Gabriel's other two July trip reports, now included in this issue. Apologies if this upsets the reading sequence - Ed*).

Stefan wanted to demonstrate an innovative (at least in Tasmania) way of marking the route inside a cave, namely the use of reflective markers, which can be seen easily from a distance. These small markers, constructed from readily-available plastic plant tags and reflective tape, come in different forms ("stick" for simple sticking with two-way visibility, "round" with 360° visibility, and "sign" for writing instructions), are easy and quick to install, and only placed where needed.

The reflectors encourage you to walk a certain way in order to protect fragile areas and follow the easiest path, as well as minimise the multiplication of tracks and unnecessary spreading of mud and damage. They enable a single narrow route to be easily delineated, in particular when regular and intense traffic is to be expected, for instance when organising diving missions. The markers make route finding easy, and considerably reduce travel times, especially when the party is fatigued, in confusing passages, or doesn't know the cave well. The reflective tags inevitably catch the corner of the eye, locking your sight in a way that encourages you to march towards them without having to search for the best path or think about it twice, thus avoiding any superfluous pathfinding and guesswork. They are also less aesthetically invasive than

the traditional flagging tapes, which are bulky, wasteful, unsightly, less visible and sometimes even damaging, as we observed with some of the older flagging tapes which had started to break apart and even to be embedded in the flowstone. Stefan tells me they have been used successfully for many years in other fragile and well-decorated cave systems, especially in Western Australia. Some might argue that these measures are an intrusion on the natural landscape and alter the wild caving experience or simply that they're a bit over the top, and indeed it is a balancing act not to overdo the markers (the "Christmas Tree Effect") while still ensuring adequate cave protection. The other consideration is consistency in route delineation; that is, once you start using reflectors through a section of cave, people will be relying on them and looking for them to guide the way. If the markers are too haphazard or inconsistent, then that can be confusing too. But if it's done in a sensible way and in environments that can truly benefit from it, then they offer a very efficient cave protection and route marking tool, which can be used in conjunction with string-line barriers, signs and other methods as appropriate.



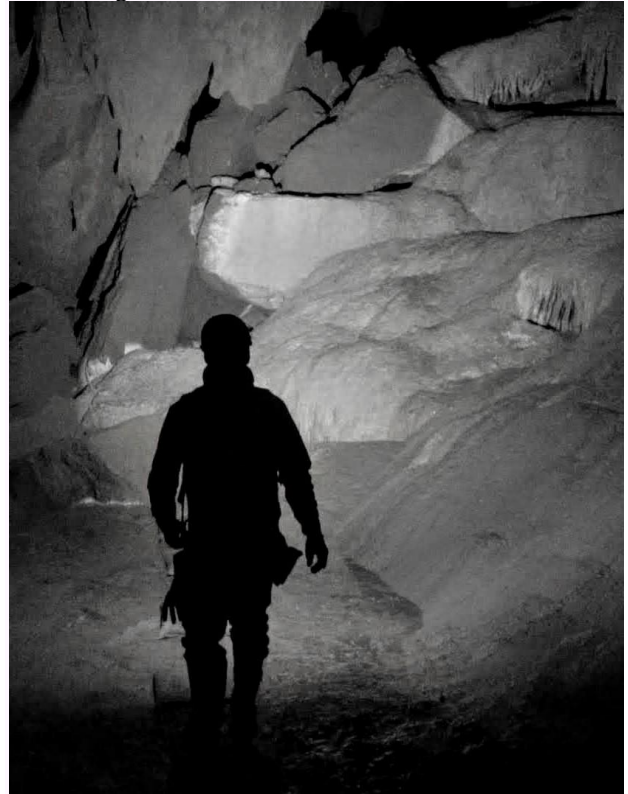
Stefan with some interesting rigging
 Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

In a few parts of 341 we also installed some very small discrete "signposts" at key passage junctions and "no go" areas, and we used, very sparingly, thin dark-coloured builders survey line to rope-off fragile formations.

By no means is this a disavowal of Jeff Butt's earlier conservation efforts. Rather, it is a continuation, upgrade and extension of his great conservation initiatives in this important cave, an example that may hopefully encourage similar conservation and route marking initiatives in other Tasmanian caves.

There were a few secondary objectives on this very productive trip. We improved the parking area and cleared the entire track of its fallen logs and branches, all the while adding new tape.

Inside the cave, we improved some of the in-situ rigging, which was okay, although some rub points are apparent on the entrance pitches. (On a personal note, I'm happy that I could identify and fix some of those little problems under my own impulse.) Some additional rope protection work is still needed on the 2nd pitch where the rope rubs around a corner. We also carried out more filming for the Tartarus Project: Fraser and Andy entrusted us with a camera and we had a lot of fun shooting a fair amount of neat footage.



Some of the areas worth protecting, in arty B&W version
 Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

IB-11 Midnight Hole Beginner Trip

29 July 2018

Gabriel Kinzler

Party: Geoff Wise, Karina Anders, James Barnes, Zach Brown, Gabriel Kinzler, Tessa Smith

In a joint effort to carry out a new wave of beginner trips, Geoff offered to return to Midnight Hole, just over a year since the infamous accident. Every member in the party had previous caving experience, with some still needing to pass their trial by SRT and others just keen to get back into it. For me, it was more about returning to the scene of the incident with a new perspective as well as completing the trip, since I had never gone further down than the 4th pitch.

On site, Geoff and I made sure everyone was safely kitted out and discussed the rigging before entering. We noted

there was no new entry in the visitor's logbook, then proceeded slowly but smoothly to the bottom. Navigating from Confusing Chamber to the streamway proved to be interesting, as Geoff hadn't visited in a long time.

A pleasant day that concluded beautifully when, on the way back to the cars, an uncaring lyrebird let me approach it and take a very close look for a couple of minutes.



Happy crew ready to go. Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

JF-4 Khazad-Dum

8 September 2018

Alan Jackson

Party: David Bardi, Stefan Eberhard, Alan Jackson, Gabriel Kinzler, Sandy Varin

Unlike Stephen and Andreas, I can't handle leaving caves rigged for years, at least not when I've used alloy crabs and practically all the club's rope supplies. A bunch of Sherpas was available so we set sail.

Water levels were medium. Gabriel and I pushed ahead to get started on bolting jobs while the other three did some more filming. I observed the flogged rope at the bottom of 'Traverse Pitch' on the Wet Way route which had undone itself after my last trip and had its far end caught in a flood. Whoops.

At the 'fourth streamway pitch' I set up for round one of gluing and the others overtook me. I glued the two new bolts on the pitch as well as the two new ones at the top of the 'fifth streamway pitch'. I caught up to D and S at the top of the next pitch and Dave questioned why the rope was so tight. I suggested he jump off the rope and take out the overhand knot in the system designed to keep the rope taught and out of the water between trips. Stefan and Gabriel had simply clipped in and bombed down the pitch without a second thought. A little less haste and a little more critical thinking goes a long way when caving – it might save your life one day.

At the top of the 'last pitch' (the wet way instead of via the Brew Room) I drilled two new holes at the top to make them a bit higher. I then toddled down squirting glue in the various holes (12 in total, I think). No glue gun issues or swearing required this time round (*Well that would take a lot of the entertainment out of the trip – Ed*). After some lunch and poking around at the bottom we started

out, derigging as we went. I observed everyone on the fourth streamway pitch and noticed a few hiccups on the new rigging. Perhaps another bolt is required to help the midgets and the tired people negotiate the top section without dangling in the water or rubbing the rope around the corner. Heavy bags and heavy limbs hauled out on the surface a few hours later.

The bolts installed on this trip have not been formally load tested yet. Use them at your own risk until they have a shiny white tag on them confirming a load test date. I'll get them tested after Christmas when we rig KD for the pre- and post-conference trips. I'll prepare a detailed rigging guide at the same time. Thanks for everyone's assistance with this little bolting project over the last few months. Serpentine Route next. (*YES! Long overdue really I think – Ed*)

Pepper Pot Plateau, Florentine Valley

8 September 2018

Bill Nicholson

Party: Philip Jackson, Bill Nicholson

As I pushed through a patch of horrid regrowth on hands & knees following a compass bearing hoping to find a surface break to a lead in the Pepper Pot Plateau Master Cave {seriously?}, Jacko, sidestepping this botanical madness, ended up in a mess of his own entangled in cutting grass. Eventually we emerged into a clearing of sorts looking more like a pair of escapees from a maximum security ward of an aged care facility & continued on to circumnavigate this section of the plateau, locating tagged & untagged pots whilst putting in tape to facilitate further surface surveying. As it turns out so far, in an area roughly the size of a soccer field, we have located around 20 pots of which 15 are tagged with the remainder waiting to be pushed (*good show old boys-Ed*). After a bite to eat & a cup of tea we finished off the afternoon with some surface surveying linking JF-676 Clacker, JF-441 Index & JF-683 our dig in progress.

IB-11 Midnight Hole

16 September 2018

Alan Jackson

Party: Yoav Bar-Ness, Alan Jackson, Simone Lee, Greg Swallow

Day two of the beginner-friendly weekend. Midnight Hole was uneventful (thankfully). Greg and I did a quick recce of the back end of MCC to plan for the upcoming rescue exercise then we all headed out (glowworms were really crap – worst I'd ever seen [not seen?]). Short trip in order to get Simone to the airport in time. All good.

(*So that's two trips now without incident. Maybe the jinx is broken? - Ed*)

IB-14 Exit Cave

15 September 2018

Alan Jackson

Party: Alan Jackson, Anna Jackson, Gabriel Kinzler, Simone Lee (VSA)

Beginner trip in and out of IB-14 entrance while the other half went to Wolf Hole. Pleasant walk in, pleasant caving (not even over gumboot depth at the river crossings), a side trip to the Ball Room then up the main drag to within spitting distance of The Beach. The world was a roaring maelstrom when we got back to the entrance, with the horrific southerly change having arrived. The walk out was a bit slow and rather unpleasant (bloody mainlanders) and four frozen punters eventually made it back to the car. The original plan had been to camp but Ros Skinner had come to the rescue when she saw the forecast and put us up at her place in Hastings. Legend. She's been warned that we'll be back.

IB120 – IB14: Valley Entrance to Exit Cave

20 October 2018

Chris Sharples

Party: James Barnes, Alan Jackson, Anna Jackson, Gabriel Kinzler, Chris Sharples, Petr Smejkal.

Somewhere along the line I put my hand up to guide one or more trips through Valley Entrance (IB-120) to Exit Cave (IB-14) after the ASF conference in January. It is a classic “through the hill and out the other side” caving trip after all, a must for every caver's bucket list, and I had done it twice before. But then I remembered I was just blindly following other people on previous trips, and indeed on the last trip would probably have walked around in circles for hours in Western Grand Fissure if Serena hadn't remembered a few vital landmarks. I decided I needed to lead a preliminary through trip to get the route nailed so I wouldn't look a wally leading mainland punters around in circles. A permit was obtained, and the final group as listed above convened. Alan Jackson's inclusion on this trip was notable given his recent breaking of a mighty and longstanding oath never to do Exit Cave trips until he was old and feeble. In fairness maybe he doesn't consider himself to be breaking his oath at all, merely getting old and feeble...? Either way I had the unique experience of me guiding Alan through a large cave rather than the other way around, although the bugger did keep on getting out in front (*life just keeps throwing up surprises to me, and this isn't one of them – Ed*)!

As the gentle reader may infer, most of the route through from Valley Entrance to Grand Fissure was

straightforward, with a copy of the lovely new Exit Cave wall map in hand. However, the usefulness of such a map breaks down in Western Grand Fissure where the walls are so far apart and there's so much stuff in-between that the wall map becomes useless and one must try old-fashioned approaches like thinking about the terrain...



The Colonnades.

Photo Chris Sharples.

Obviously, we ultimately arrived at “The Beach” in Grand Fissure for lunch, which is my cue to mentioning that, as a coastal geomorphologist, I struggle with the idea of that place as a beach. Nobody cares of course so I'll just note that various diversions followed on the way out to Exit Cave, including Eastern Fissure, Edies Treasure, inner base camp and the Colonnades. However, the stand-out was the “dancing foam discs” endlessly circling around an eddy in the cave stream just above the rockfall (see photo). We stood there for ages watching that, and you can watch them too if you view Gabriel's video at <https://youtu.be/aJ-1SnB-cIw> (short version) or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ-1SnB-cIw> (long version).

Oh, and Anna collected an excellent Lyrebird tail feather in the way back to the cars. Serves the noisy bird right!



“Dancing foam discs” in Exit Cave stream just upstream of the rockfall, all of them condemned to endlessly circle around each other in an eddy. The large ones are 20 – 30 cm diameter.

Photo by Gabriel Kinzler

Mt Cripps

25-28 October 2018

Alan Jackson

Party: Karina Anders, Loretta Bell, Alan Jackson, Anna Jackson, Benjamin Jackson, Gabriel Kinzler, plus Paul Darby and Lyndsey Gray from SRCC.

I enjoyed last year's trip so much that I needed to go again. There are always more ferns to find.

Mt Cripps is an annoyingly long way from Hobart. Thursday was spent getting there and breaking the journey up with a pleasant walk to Champagne and Bridal Veil falls on Bull Creek (near Lemonthyme Lodge). Nice falls, nice basalt and nice ferns.

On Friday Loretta and the children went to Cradle Mountain and circumnavigated Dove Lake and a few other walks while the rest of us (minus Lyndsey) headed into the forest to nail down GPS coordinates for some half lost caves and find new ferns. We mostly hung out on the eastern side of the karst area, beside the Vale River. It was a very pleasant day out with stunning forest and good weather. We located our target caves, found a few new fern species and even managed to find a properly long lost cave. While scouring a bank for ferns I found a bizarre aluminium tag with CP203 written on it. I wouldn't have found the cave if I hadn't spotted the tag, as it was a low hidden grovel at the base of the small bank. Not a very exciting cave but its rediscovery made Paul and Lyndsey (the records queen) very happy (another Steve Blanden secret cave documented!).



Gabriel demonstrating a laid-back attitude to caving

Photo: Alan Jackson

On Saturday the crap weather came through. Loretta and the kids headed for the safety of home. The tough ones headed out for a wander in the north-western part of the karst, on the Southwell River side. More super forest (rainforest is better in the rain, surely) and some excursions into a few caves. No new ferns though, disappointingly. We got back to the hut early afternoon and the weather was clearing so Paul, Lyndsey and I headed out for a walk up the access road to see if we could nail a new fern for the day. The plan came to fruition and a clubmoss was located in a roadside drain.

Sunday was commute back to Hobart day.



Photographic duelling-but Paul Darby and who?

Photo: Whoever is duelling with Paul.

Ok, to remove suspense, it's Alan Jackson

Six new fern/fern ally species added to the tally (four of which were not previously recorded by SRCC) made it a worthwhile trip for me. I think Karina and Gabriel enjoyed themselves. It's more of a forest experience than a caving one, but a very rewarding forest experience. They were certainly very good company. Thanks very much to Paul and Lyndsey for welcoming us again. I'm certainly planning to go back sooner rather than later.



I spy with my little eye.

Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

JF-232 Udensala – re-visiting the JF's loosest cave

27 October 2018

Andreas Klocker

Party: Serena Benjamin, Andreas Klocker, Petr Smejkal.

I have had my eye on Udensala for a while – it is in a great location, being one of the main stream sinks upstream of Porcupine, and there are not many other caves around in that area. Nevertheless, previous trip reports did not do well at selling this cave, which is probably why nobody has been back there since its original exploration in 1984. And the trip reports were right.

Nevertheless, during a moment of brain malfunction, Serena and myself decided to head back there and have a look, and Petr agreed to come along without having ever read any reports on the cave ... and then forgot his undergarments on his porch in Chigwell ... not a good combination. So on a nice sunny day we drove up the Nine Road and, using the GPS, bush-bashed our way towards the cave. On the way we briefly stopped at an X-cave in the huge doline you walk past to see if there's anything interesting there. At first it looked like a nice cliff face on the bottom of a large doline where one would expect a cave, and the mud there definitely suggested that it takes a lot of water, but we found no proper cave entrance. A bit further up the doline we then found a little entrance, with a little draft, which, if we were in the UK, would be the next big dig, but luckily we are not in the UK.

Shortly after we found Udensala, with even the entrance being filled with lots of loose stuff – what a good start. It then continues small, wet, sometimes tight, and always loose. We slowly found our way through though and probably rigged slightly more ropes than the initial explorers since this allowed us to at least avoid some of the loosest rock piles, and hence immediate death (*there was a different attitude to risk back when this was explored-Ed*). On the positive side, most pitch heads randomly had some OK limestone sticking out under the pile of loose stuff which made rigging doable.

On the bottom of the main 35 m drop (Communication Breakdown) we all waited for each other and then looked at the way on, which apparently was through a wet (and guess what – loose) slot with quite a stream flowing through it. For some reason I pulled the short straw and went first to make sure it goes, and the others followed. On the way out through this slot Petr commented “Well at least you won't overheat in this squeeze” ... something positive. The main positive thing I noted though was that there was a very good draft blowing into the cave, which is the main reason I pushed on.

We then rigged another two small pitches, and Petr did a funky climb until he ended up in what we think is the Culture Bunker. By that time, being happy that we survived until then and slowly getting colder since we all got much wetter than expected, and having run out of

rigging material, we turned the trip and soon after emerged, happy to have not been killed by rock fall, into sunshine! But feeling that much draft in the cave we'll have to return....

Luckily with this cave the gear was pretty clean after, with no point of cleaning any of the ropes we used!

JF-387 Porcupine Pot

10 November 2018

Stephen Fordyce

Party: Serena Benjamin, Stephen Fordyce, Alan Jackson, Andreas Klocker, Petr Smejkal, Andy Terhell

A much needed win for the flagging Porcupine project. In a joint effort, push divers Andreas and I successfully dumped 300 m of line into virgin underwater passage at the far upstream end of Porcupine Pot - heading vaguely towards Burning Down the House. It was a 5 hour trip to the sump (and 14 hours total underground, emerging at midnight).



Spot the pretty orange line. photo: Stephen Fordyce

Andreas went in first while I filmed him - even swimming a short distance into the clear water before turning back. He laid a good chunk of the first reel in a couple of goes, and reported silty ongoing passage. I was pretty cold but with a good 7 mm semi-dry decided to grab the gear (150 bar left in each of the 9L carbon fibre tanks) and have a "quick look". The passage was big enough to swim at full flutter kick speed (deliciously bad cave diving technique), and as a result I was not quite utterly freezing for the whole exercise.

Our two reels (of combined capacity about 300 m) ran out just as the passage (average depth 9 m, max 16 m) surfaced into a small dry chamber named the "Room of Correct Terminology", the inspiration for which is not suitable for the public domain but makes for a very good pub story. The RoCT had a shallow section about knee deep, and a few deep sections which were checked but didn't do anything. A hefty tie-off was made to the ceiling but a secondary should be made next time. A quick check revealed similar ongoing passage heading back down into the murky depths. It'll be even more of an epic, but we will be back...

My dive to the RoCT used about 100 bar from the 9 L CF cylinders, with a calculated RMV of 28 LPM. 23 minutes to get there, 11 minutes to get back, swimming hard with stiff OMS Slipstream fins and in a wetsuit.



Stephen and Andreas. Note the empty dive reels (black on black) Photo: Andy Terhell

Of interest, the passage was in solid rock (not rockfall) and relatively small (approx. 1 m x 1.5 m) but of fairly consistent proportions and with no restrictions - my 300 m swim home from the Room of Correct Terminology took 11 minutes! The character was a bit different to the Niggly and Dreamtime sump dives previously undertaken. With limited gas, thermal reserve and sherpa patience I elected not to survey out, figuring that was something best done next time in a drysuit.



Gollum imitation #365. Photo: Serena Benjamin

Junee Dolines Surface Bashing

11 November 2018

Stephen Fordyce

Party: Ben Armstrong, Dave Bardi, Stephen Fordyce, Sandy Varin,

Ever since the last surface bashing day (5/2/17, a report coming in a subsequent *Spiel*) I'd wanted to get back to check the last doline which hadn't been reached that day. There are about four giant dolines in a line roughly above where Junee Cave ends, and apart from being highly spectacular, I wanted to see if they had opened up or had anything indicating cave, since previously checked (by Rolan, in the Z-caves era?).

With sufficient exuberance from the successful dive in Porcupine Pot the day before, sleep and recovery were pushed aside, and it turned out this was also a good chance to catch up with Ben before he disappeared overseas for 10 months (thanks for the ride Ben!). Dave and Sandy were picked up from the Giant's Table after an epic of their own the day before in JF-341 and we (actually) enjoyed a moderate walk to blow the cobwebs out.

We crossed a shallow saddle and went for the summit of the low hill nestled between dolines - following a vague memory of the bush being less dense here (it was moderately dense). Then dropped down to the next saddle and followed the gully down until reaching the doline. A hole choked by rotting wood may have been some kind of drain and Sandy enthusiastically said it "might" go, but was resoundingly outvoted by everyone else. A similar thing happened when we reached the indeterminate bottom of the target doline - although this hole had actual rocks visible.

A retreat was beaten up the north-western gully to the saddle where we managed to find the view I had promised to everyone of the quite spectacular main dolines (you think it's just a steep valley, but then there is nowhere for the water to get out!). We headed back the way we came, via one of the dolines I'd checked last time and fortunately remembered enough not to save ourselves the trouble this time. Navigating by photos-of-laptop-screen-on-phone and GPS did the job until the GPS went flat, but luckily Ben had brought a compass and was trained on how to use it.

The cars were successfully reached after a pleasant couple of hours out in the bush, with no annoying caves to have to crawl into. I would assume (but can't find any record) that it's been done, but an interesting exercise would be to continue from where we got to, down the next gully to Junee. There may be some features there.

Other Exciting Stuff

I didn't get this photo in time for the last Spiel however it is a topic that is worth visiting over two issues anyway - Ed

Members from the Tasmanian Police Service, Ambulance Tasmania and Southern Tasmanian Caverneers collectively received the 2018 Australian Search and Rescue Commendation awarded by the National Search and Rescue Council. This was for the rescue of Isabelle Chouquet from Midnight Hole in July 2017. The presentation was in Darwin and Alan Jackson received the award on behalf of the awardees from STC. These were individual awards to each of the members of STC who participated in the rescue.



From Left: Alan Jackson, Han-wei Lee, Damian Bidgood. Photo: AMSA

Post Cave Rescue exercise workshop

25 November 2018

Janine McKinnon

Stephen Fordyce very kindly held a Sunday afternoon (post rescue exercise clean up) workshop in New Town Woolworths carpark on **cave surveying using DistoX and Topodroid Android App**.

Steve has obviously put a lot of work understanding this app, and also into writing up notes for we numpties to follow along behind his brilliance, and leech off his skills and dedication. These comprehensive and easy to follow notes are available for anyone interested. Several of us have copies, or just hassle Steve, I'm sure he'd love the attention.

Gabriel has also found a tutorial on YouTube. by Derek Bristol. This covers sketching using this system (which we didn't cover Sunday). Apparently, Derek has earlier

YouTube videos covering Steve's tutorial content.

It all worked wonderfully well and all groups achieved a set of data and made 3D projections. It was awesome and the carpark is properly mapped.



The guru enthral his acolytes. Photo: Stefan Eberhard.

A current review of the promising future of cave surveying

Gabriel Kinzler

Imagine you just discovered a new section of the master cave in the JF, which features the vastness and the complexity of caves like Exit. You now find yourself walking down this virgin cave while holding up a strange apparatus in front of you, like you would hold a flaming torch. Atop its handle sits a rotating head, scanning the surroundings in a continuous motion as you move, constantly recording a virtual cloud of hundreds of thousands of point coordinates, all the while amalgamating your own position and movements in space. With it you create a high fidelity, three-dimensional reconstitution of the cave, just by making your way through it. This is not the future, nor a Star Trek fan-fiction; as a matter of fact, it already exists. I am of course talking about miniaturised LIDAR technology.

Hot on the heels of the acquisition of a legacy Leica DistoX and its subsequent modification into a fully integrated surveying machine, and having heard talk at the last GBM of LIDAR-equipped drones flying through caves, I took an interest in the current state of affairs of 3D environment scanning. It yielded some interesting results, which show much promise despite the fact that compact and mobile solutions are still very much in their early infancy. However, instead of boring the reader with a spreadsheet comparing every type of application available on the market with their respective pros, cons and pricing, I will merely round up the current competitive landscape. Because yes, this market sector is guaranteed to boom in a way that has not been witnessed at the consumer level since the advent of 3D printers as general use products. Similarly, to 3D printers, artisanal 3D scanner projects are going to drive retail prices down by saving money on production costs, in turn forcing the industry to lower their existing offer in order to stay competitive. Small consumer-friendly applications are already available to the layman, such as tiny gadgets connecting to your smartphone and allowing you to scan objects into a full-blown high resolution 3D model.

The now outdated approach to industry-grade underground surveying consists in using some form of upgraded theodolite resting on a tripod, the kind of surveying stations you sometimes see being used by land surveyors and civil engineers on the side of the road or on construction sites, except instead of looking through a view finder and manually aiming & shooting a single laser repeatedly, the appliance has capabilities for automated, high rate 3D laser topography and photogrammetry, like the Riegl VZ series (*pictured immediately below*, see also this amazing footage of a cave survey using this technology:

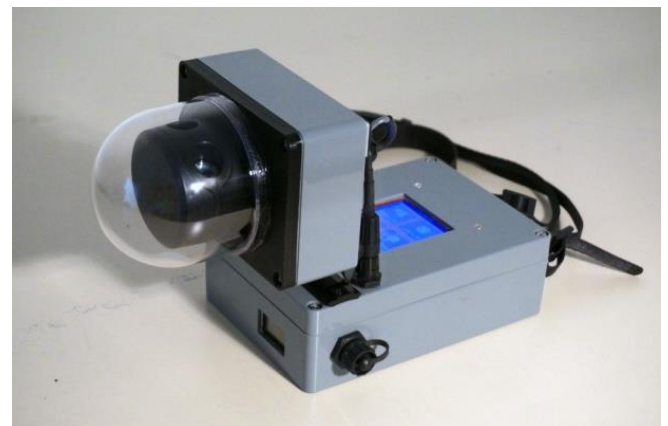


<https://youtu.be/vyfAM3FmVmA>). The problem with these solutions is obvious when it comes to using them in a rougher cave environment: despite their accuracy and immense computing power, they are bulky, fragile, slow to move around and of course expensive, with prices commonly ranging between 100,000 and 200,000 AUD. Lo and behold, this is where 3D hand-held scanners make their entrance. New economic agents have emerged internationally, including in Australia through research conducted by the CSIRO. Convinced these lighter versions of the aforementioned stationary contraptions would have to be much cheaper, I started enquiring.

I rang several resellers of the GeoSLAM ZEB-REVO (*pictured opposite*, see also this video

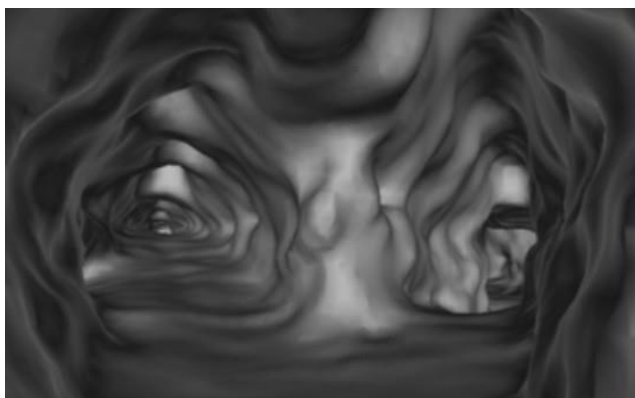


https://youtu.be/k8q5xr_eLgk?t=102), which is the new reference in hand-held 3D scanning devices in the industry. Both in Australia and overseas, the dealers I called were all reluctant to provide me with a price bracket before they could make sure I was a serious player and not just some cave clown or assimilated. Prices are a well-kept secret. And it figures: I quickly found out that these small devices go for as little as 50,000 AUD. I don't know what kind of monetary investment went into R&D and manufacturing iterations of their flagship products, but on production costs alone, I cannot conceive how a LIDAR scanning unit attached to a plastic handle and a bit of accompanying software can justify such a gargantuan markup. Call me naive, but for a product supposed to bridge the gap between heavy industry applications (i.e.. landscaping, construction, geology) and smaller businesses (such as interior designers and architects, which is one of their target markets), I can only see this as an abuse of dominant position. Which is fair game since they got here first, but not a winning strategy in the long run, in an era where cutting costs is becoming the only way to dominate a market sector once you forfeit your monopoly and face the music. Companies like GeoSLAM are likely to struggle once the competition starts catching up at a fraction of the cost if they don't quickly adapt their portfolio to the new paradigm, even as an industry-oriented company dedicated to professionals.



Several underdogs are already taking up the challenge out of garages, makerspaces and more generally from the online crowdfunding scene.

Leader amongst those is Joe Mitchell, the creator of the Caveatron (*pictured above*), which combines modern LIDAR scanning and the traditional station-to-station measurements, all inside a compact, portable, open source and cheap "do-it-yourself" device that you could build for as little as 500 AUD using the publicly available blueprints, instructions and collaborative support hubs. In a similar fashion, Adam Sampson, a caver, electronics enthusiast and all-round lifehacker is currently building a motorised gimbal mount for a 3D LIDAR scanner, called Open LIDAR. His device would also cost less than industry-grade products by several orders of magnitude and empower us underprivileged cavers to efficiently map whole sections of caves in a matter of minutes. How often have you read articles telling the amazing story of some crazy inventor explaining that "after doing extensive research, I realised that the thing didn't exist, so instead of waiting for someone to make it, I started working on my own thing, and the rest is history"? I wish I could state that sentence and actually mean it, but my tinkering skills are definitely lacking (eyeballing you, Pax and Stephen Fordyce).



Where does that leave us? Like any big technological advancement, the gap between the good old tape/clino and the current laser rangefinders is as colossal as the one separating the DistoX from 3D scanning technology. I can imagine the next step coming in the form of thousands of self-guided nanobots swarming all around the cave, into the smallest crevices, only to fly back to the user bearing a finished map, but that's probably a story for another generation (*Personally, I plan to hang around long enough for that one, so I'm expecting a faster development timeframe than this- Ed*). In the meantime, one can hope that these upcoming home-made instruments will grow and fill the gap nicely. Some might argue that these new techniques are a reflection of our laziness, and I agree to a point. Mirroring the rest of the innovation in the world, cave surveying is bound to advance into an age of automation and self-indulgence, for better or worse.



Sources of images: riegl.com, geoslam.com, caveatron.com (x2), author

New JF cave numbers: The Chasm and other holes

R. Eberhard

This article details hitherto un-reported caves found during rambles between Growling Swallet and the Tachycardia track, on the western slopes of the Mt Field Range. An exception to this is Budget Cave on The Settlement block, which has been recorded previously by Slee et al. (2011) but not numbered until 2018.

JF-660 Lucky Day Cave

This cave is located in the base of a small depression on the same limestone ridge as Crystal Meth Cave (JF-286), in the general vicinity of Trapdoor Swallet. The cave entrance comprises a constricted slot above an 8 m shaft, which drops into a moderately roomy chamber floored by limestone boulders and clayey sediment. A second drop (5 m) off the side of the chamber provides access to a further small chamber beneath the first. At this point the cave closes down in rockfall and narrow fissures, with no obvious prospect for extension. The lower chamber contains fractured vein calcite similar to that reported

from Crystal Meth Cave (Jackson 2005). The name Lucky Day Cave references the finding of this and other caves in a heavily prospected area; in fact, we were looking for Crystal Meth Cave, which is just downslope. The tag was attached to a vertical rock face immediately above the entrance slot. Explored 23/11/2017 by P. & R. Eberhard.

JF-661 Beautiful Possibilities Cave

Lidar imagery indicates the presence of a substantial depression on a low gradient slope approximately 250 m south-west of Ice Tube, on the saddle between that cave and Niggly Cave. The depression is a steep-sided doline in the order of 25 m wide by 5 m deep. Beautiful Possibilities Cave is a cavity in the side of this feature at its southern end. The entrance is a spacious overhang (8 m wide by 4 m high), the base of which falls away steeply over boulders in a south-easterly direction. Unfortunately, the cave is thoroughly blocked by bouldery fill at a depth of about 6 m, 9 m beyond the entrance dripline. A few short straw stalactites are present. The entrance takes a trickle of water decanting off the flattish, boggy base of the doline. The accessible portion of cave is formed entirely in pebbly conglomerate rock and it can be assumed that the cave exists because

this stratum has collapse into an underlying cavern in limestone. The tag was attached to the back wall directly opposite and slightly below the level of the entrance. Explored 23/11/2017, P. & R. Eberhard

Based on 1:25,000 scale contours, Beautiful Possibilities Cave sits at an elevation of 770-780 m asl, suggesting that this is one of the most elevated karst features within the Junee River cave system. The downstream end of this system, Junee Cave, is close to the 280 m contour but descends to 60-70 m below this level in Sump 2, according to the compilation map by Tim Payne (2004). These data imply potential for cave development across a vertical range of 550-560 m, bearing in mind that elevations based on map contours in forested areas may be somewhat inaccurate. JF-661 implies 'beautiful possibilities' for finding a very deep cave (but not via this particular entrance).

JF-662 Budget Cave

Budget Cave is located on Norske Skog land off Whatacallit Rd. Like many caves on The Settlement property, Budget Cave is developed beneath a low limestone ridge rising a few tens of metres above the level of the surrounding terrain. The entrance comprises a spacious well-like hole, likely due to a localized collapse of the cave roof. Two principal passages extend away from the entrance zone: a short bifurcating extension on the north-eastern side and a longer, moderately spacious chamber on the south-western side, beyond an initial short low section. Minor speleothems and deep silty sediments are present.

A more detailed description and map of Budget Cave can be found in an article published in *Forest Practices News*, which cites it as an example of karst-related values which require consideration in planning forest operations (Slee et al. 2011). Slee et al. state that Budget Cave is 45 m long and 8 m deep. They note it was one of several 'new' caves found by Norske Skog staff during planning for harvesting a pine plantation. Actually, it seems unlikely that this large entrance was not previously sighted during the many decades of activity on this portion of the Florentine Valley. Jackson (2012) suggests the cave was named due its discovery on federal budget day 2011. Adrian Slee has confirmed this. The tag was placed on an angular projection of the cave wall, whilst standing inside the cave entrance and facing roughly north.

JF-663 The Chasm

The Chasm is located some distance south-east of Niggly Cave, towards Tachycardia. It commences as a spacious dry entrance at the base of a low limestone cliff line. The initial passage slopes steeply downwards with a base of soil and forest litter which, in sight of daylight, tips over the lip of a pleasant pitch of about 18 m. At this point the cave is a very spacious rift-like chamber with a high ceiling. The passage at the base of the pitch continues to descend steeply over boulders for a distance of perhaps 40 m, at which point a deep pit is encountered. This very impressive feature falls away into misty gloom, in a manner somewhat reminiscent of the Black Supergiant

shaft in Niggly Cave.

To descend the shaft requires an abseil of about 65 m, initially against a solid bedrock wall which, lower down, becomes coated with slippery moonmilk. The final 10 m is free-hanging below a lip where the ceiling has collapsed into a chamber below. The chamber floor is littered with large boulders interspersed with shallow ponds perched on clayey sediment. Very many ring-tailed possums have come to grief here – their bones greatly outnumber those of all other small mammals entrapped in this pitfall. It is possible to gain a few more metres depth by squeezing downwards between boulders; however, these leads soon become narrow and ultimately pinch off. It is also possible to scramble upwards for a few tens of metres on a bouldery ramp off the side of the chamber. This feature provides access to a window into a parallel portion of shaft. A short pitch (5 m) is required to access the floor below the window. Again, it is possible to worm down between boulders for short distances but no clear continuation was discovered.

The Chasm was found in December 2017 when I went looking for a 'back door' to Niggly Cave, while Petr and Patrick 'bounced' that cave in record time. The Chasm would be an excellent back door to Niggly Cave; unfortunately, it's not in the right spot and stops at a depth of slightly more than 100m. The tag was placed centrally at the entrance just inside the dripline. The cave was explored over a couple of trips in 2018 with, at different times, John Webb, Petr Smejkal and Patrick Eberhard.

Green Frog Cave (number pending)

This cave lies a short distance off the lower portion of the Tachycardia track, on a route used to access The Chasm. The entrance is a vertical shaft on a short section of flatter terrain marked by abundant limestone outcrop and at least one other entrance, which is choked at shallow depth. The shaft is about 8 m deep to a sediment blockage. The green frog (probably Tasmanian Tree Frog, *Litoria Burrowsae*) was found by Petr, who explored the cave and retrieved the frog for release in the forest.

Cave (number pending)

Petr found this one just off the route between The Chasm and Tachycardia track. The entrance is a descending rift extending off the base of a moderately large doline. The rift is narrow and chokes off a short distance underground.

Jackson, A. (2005) JF283, 284 and the draughting one: 31 December 2005, *Speleo Spiel* 351: 13-14.

Jackson, A. (2012) Settlement Area: 23 June 2012, *Speleo Spiel* 390: 11-13.

Slee, A., Webb, J., Wells, T. (2011) Contrasting the special values of three small caves in the Settlement Block, Florentine Valley, *Forest Practices News* 11(1): 16-17.

CDA SROP 2018

(CDA: Cave Divers Association of Australia)
(SROP::Sump Rescue Orientation Programme)

21-22 October 2018

Stefan Eberhard

The two day course in October run by CDA at Mount Gambier was comprehensive, well-structured and well presented. Professional. I really enjoyed it and gained a huge amount from it, especially the in-water hands-on practise recovery and rescue exercises, these were invaluable (*I did this course in 2016 and can concur totally. For my practical session they made the rescue scenario from For Your Eyes Only chamber in Junee Cave, and I had to run it! Yikes. Hopefully the lessons I learnt won't ever be needed to be put into practice – Ed*).

The theory day was very informative, and included fascinating firsthand accounts of the Thai cave rescue from Richard Harris and Craig Challen. Highest commendations to the organisers and presenters, including Richard Harris, Craig Challen, John Dalla Zuana, Phil Croker, Ken Smith, Tim Payne.



Almost there. You have to be VERY calm and relaxed to be the live dummy on a stretcher with scuba gear.

Photo: Stefan Eberhard



Difficult if it's tight! Photo: Stefan Eberhard



Clever taping the legs together Photo: Stefan Eberhard

A couple of taster photos from the cave rescue exercise on 24 November



Ok, seriously, this REALLY has to be a caption competition. Blow it up to see Stefan's face. Priceless.

Photo: Gabriel Kinzler



It was a bit of a damp day on the surface.

Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

Letters to the Editor

Yes! I have FINALLY received one! (That's why it fills a whole page)

Even if it is addressed to the wrong editor. Apparently our website at the time still had the old editors name listed.

You will note it was written quite a while ago. It got lost in the ether for some time, sadly.

Now go forth and write me some more. Nice ones.

**Tasmanian
Speleological**



**Liaison
Council**

PO Box 20

Ulverstone 7315 tascaver@bigpond.net.au

19/12/2017

Steve Bunton
The Editor,
Speleo Spiel STC

Per email

Dear Editor,

At the recent TSLC meeting the reports of the cave rescues conducted by members of your club were discussed.

We wish to congratulate those STC members and others involved in these events; clearly CaveSAR training over the past few years has paid off with two successful rescues.

The intra-agency cooperation involved, particularly in the second rescue is commendable.

The reports of these events, from several different perspectives were excellent to read, we're sure much has been learned and reinforced.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Wools-Cobb, Secretary

Mole Creek Caving Club

PO Box 209 Mole Creek 7304

Northern Caverneers

PO Box 315 Launceston 7250

Savage River Caving Club

PO Box 364 Ulverstone 7315

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

PO Box 416 Sandy Bay 7006

Upcoming event

Sunday 30 December 2018 - Friday 4 January 2019

31st ASF Conference

Devonport, Tasmania



Discover
The Darkness
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this summer at
the 31st
Australian
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Enquiries: asftasmania2019@gmail.com

FROM THE ARCHIVE

Here's a couple of paired reports from fairly recent times, relatively speaking, Speleo Spiel 368 (for the photos). Many of you were around then and may remember these trips, and the others involved in this series of explorations. Note, editorial comments in the text of the articles are by the THEN editor (Alan Jackson) NOT the current editor - Ed

IB-10 Mystery Creek Cave

Janine McKinnon

7 September 2008

Party: Janine McKinnon, Bill Miners (visiting Welsh caver; is this a case of nominative determinism?), Ric Tunney; Amy and Dion Robertson (until Confusing Chamber)

I wanted to do some more photography in the new, higher chamber in Expletive Hall and also take Ric in there to see what all the fuss was about. We had pulled out on the previous trip, where the climb up the wall was undertaken by Andreas, due to illness on my part, so now we were going on the next trip in to push onwards and upwards. Alan pulled out with a bad dose of the flu but we decided to go in and get some photos anyway. Bill was a visiting caver based in Launceston and keen for anything going. Amy wanted to get underground again for a short trip and Dion went to keep her company after we started into the new sections.

We said goodbye to Amy at the start of the crawl and moved fairly smartly through to the ladder climb. I was impressed with Ric, who is not renowned for his love of, nor proficiency in moving through, crawls and tight spaces. He had no trouble at all, despite having quite a lot of camera gear in his pack. I must say, that crawl seems to get shorter every time I do it. Many more trips and it will cease to exist! The rock-pile went fairly smoothly, except for the bit just before popping out into Bohemia Chamber, where I was temporarily embarrassed about the route on (stop laughing, Gavin). I eventually found my way into the chamber by another route, but hey, it doesn't matter if you end up in the right place.

I will mention at this point, that Bill was having no trouble at all negotiating the crawl and boulder-pile, but it must have felt like caving at home to him! Luckily it was about to get a bit more impressive.

Once in the pretties chamber (yet to be named) [*I've decided to call it Diathesis – Ed.*] we started some intensive looking and picture-graphing (well Ric did most of the second bit). Moving about was very slow due to our terror of damaging anything. Luckily we didn't. After a couple of hours of that Ric headed back to the main Hall to look around a bit whilst Bill and I followed the rope trail upward. We had a look around the short passage at the bottom of the final short rope. There is a shawl there that is imbedded in flowstone. My guess is that there was a mud/dirt avalanche that enveloped the shawl (putting a crack across it and breaking off the bottom bit, which

seems to be sitting nearby) and then consolidated and was eventually covered in flowstone.

We didn't go up the final short rope as I assumed that was the end of the current exploration and we knew the invective from Alan if we pirated his lead would be unbearable. I don't have any principles really, I'm just scared of Alan [*and that's the way he likes it – Ed.*]

After re-joining Ric we headed straight out (no I didn't have any trouble following the route), taking the usual hour to get back to the entrance.

Bill seemed to enjoy the trip, particularly the fact that so few people had been there. Whilst we are on the subject, sort of, he reinforced my prejudice (is that the right word?) that all Welsh males have magnificent singing voices [*They're all castrated at birth – Ed.*]. He did a bit of singing (as one does) and put anyone else I know to shame. Beautiful. REALLY beautiful and suspiciously trained sounding. I was too polite to ask.

IB-10 Mystery Creek Cave

Alan Jackson

14 September 2008

Party: Gavin Brett, Alan Jackson, Bill Miners

After our sickness the previous week we were doubly keen to get in and see if the cave would yield yet more passage. Bill seemed keen to do the same trip two weeks in a row. Strange.

At the limit of exploration we commenced the bolt-traverse required to check the far end of the highest phreatic passage. Finding good rock was particularly difficult with only a few patches of semi-good rock interspersed with oodles of rotten shit which felt more like cheese than limestone. Gavin did the first 10 m till his left arm got sore from holding up the drill. I did the second shift and completed the traverse. All we found was a dead-end and a window that dropped down amongst the shawls at the end of the lower passage. The draft could not be found. We retreated, stripping the traverse.

Gavin had a bit of a ferret about behind the shawls in the lower level and a low flowstone-lined passage continued on some 8 m but with no detectable draft we didn't bother trying to jam our bodies in. We beat a hasty retreat. We left the ropes in place up to this high level stuff so we can get back and do some passage photography, as once we strip these ropes it is very unlikely that anyone will ever bother going there again, so some record of what's up there should be established.

Fun and Diversions

FROZEN MOMENTS IN CLUB HISTORY

Here's one from close to as far back as I go in Tassie. The photo was taken somewhere around 1982. The chamber is immediately beyond Herpes 3, in Growling Swallet system. This was one of the first half dozen trips through there, as I recall (someone can correct me if I recall falsely). The mud was particularly desperate back then.

To demonstrate how good my recollection really is, I can identify:

Alec Marr-white helmet, far left. He was a brickie then, but went on to become the director of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society. We build 'em up.

"Yellow spotted green helmet" guy: Nick Hume, I think...

Me (Janine McKinnon) next right.

Help, I have a memory lapse. Who are 'blue helmet' guy, or 'bending over' guy?

Stuart Nicholas (moustache era) next right.

Help again, with unknown guy at the back (red helmet).

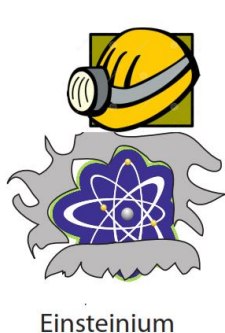


Photo: Ric Tunney

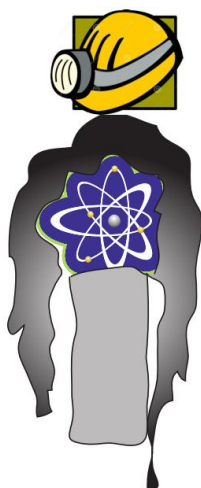
Answers from SS 428: L. Ida Bay, D'Entrecasteaux inflow, window. R. Serena Benjamin @ 3 Falls entrance. **Stefan Eberhard** got both correct.

Send photos to jmckinnon@caverneer.net.au identifying the people, place and hopefully time (aeon at least). Include photo credit where possible. A brief description would be good too. Time period is from when TCC was founded until five years from current issue.

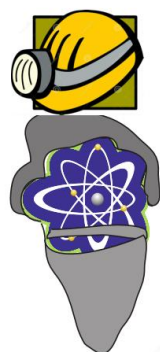
The (facially hirsute sub branch of the) Atom(ic) Scientists Society go underground for their annual picnic



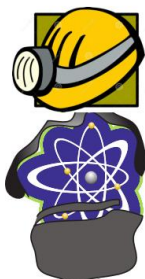
Einsteinium



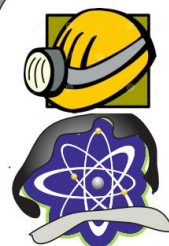
Mendelevium



Roentgenium



Nobelium



Rutherfordium

Atoms go caving



An irregular series

(A scientific history literacy test here, and OK, so my cartooning is in a nascent form).

The Last Page

