Speleo Spiel 445

July-August 2021

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Front Cover
James Barnes into Cauldron Pot.
Photo: Stefan Eberhard

Back Cover
Caves weren't enough for humans, they also had to invade trees. Photo: Alan Jackson

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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Newsletter of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated

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Contents

Editorial

This one is on the smaller side, and boy am I glad it is (and probably so are my sub-editors). Nothing much to report this time around, keep caving!

Stuff 'n' Stuff

Lindsay Wilson Eulogy, by Philip Jackson

Lindsay (Wally) Wilson passed away on Friday 30 July.

Lindsay was an SCS stalwart through the 1970s and 80s and participated in many major cave surveys, search and rescue exercises and generally any club-related activities.

He had a big-hearted positive attitude and a great sense of humour and was generous with them. When the chips were down and everybody was exhausted, Lindsay would always find a way to lighten the mood and provide encouragement to finish the job.

In more recent times, Lindsay gave up the mud and wet and cold of caving for just the wet and cold of sailing. He spent a lot of time helping out at the Kingston Beach Sailing Club, to teach and encourage new sailors, including his children. Lindsay was also a keen Laser sailor. He spent many hours over many years volunteering his engineering and sailing skills to help keep the Lady Nelson operating. He also enjoyed touring around the country with Louise on his cherished old BMW motorbike.

A wonderful gentleman who will be missed by all who knew him. Lindsay is survived by wife Louise and children Astrid and Tom.

RIP Wally.

Lindsay up to his armpits in bauera and cutting grass after we lost the track on the way to the Cracroft.
Photo: supplied Philip Jackson

STC Training Officer Janine McKinnon interviewed

Our training officer (and Tas Uni alumnus) Janine McKinnon has been given a very positive write-up in the *Alumni News*. You can read all about her at:

https://www.utas.edu.au/alumni/news-and-publications/news-items/education-graduate-trains-a-new-generation-of-cavers

Photo: supplied Janine McKinnon

STC Keyrings

There hasn't been any STC merch for a while, and so the Editor took the liberty to put in an order of bespoke keyrings. There is one for every club member while stocks last, and they're free of charge. Claim yours now!

Trip Reports

MC-44 Honeycomb Cave

20 & 26 May 2021

Gabriel Kinzler (text and photos)

A statewide cave rescue exercise organised by Tasmania Police has been scheduled for the weekend of 18-19 September 2021. Police from all three Tasmanian districts will be in attendance, as well as SES, Ambulance Tasmania and all caving clubs. The proposed venue is Honeycomb Cave, Mole Creek, pending permission by Parks, failing which another venue would be picked.

Three caving clubs in one picture.

In the lead-up to that, Alan Jackson has been busy cutting my SAR grass, and I've been watching closely. Deb Hunter (MCCC), Janice March (NC), Alan and I did an initial route assessment/selection trip, followed one week later by a visit with Damian Bidgood and his Marine colleague Justin (TasPol), Chris McMonagle (PWS) and Paul Flood (PWS).

A SAR route plan with photographs and descriptions of the suggested rigging was subsequently drafted by the cavers and escalated to TasPol and Parks. Honeycomb Cave would be a great venue for a large-scale SARex, further entrenching advanced rescue skills and techniques in the north of the state. Water levels in September should also be quite exciting…

Quoting Alan: "Hopefully we get loads of people and can afford the luxury of running two patients through (start with a small patient and follow with a large one so people notice the difference a whopper patient makes and also get to do everything twice, learning from their initial cock ups)."

Yogis may have a leg up in the upcoming exercise at Honeycomb Cave.

JF-402 Burning Down The House

26 May 2021

Michael Packer (photos John Oxley)

Party: Karina Anders, Lauren Hayes, Jemma Herbert, John Oxley, Michael Packer

Armed with a bunch of enthusiasm and a typically detailed set of dye release instructions from Steve Fordyce we set out on a brisk mid-winter Saturday morning for the Junee-Florentine. We collected Lauren at Maydena, the dye stash at the Quarry Road, and then headed up to the Nine Rd.

Our first task of the day was to do a dye release into Rainbow Cave (JF-011). A brisk 2-minute walk along the well taped track got us to Rainbow Cave without a hitch where Jemma took great delight in releasing the required quantity of fluorescence into the streamway at the cave entrance.

A 200 m drive further up the road got us to the Trouble Pot (JF-228) carpark. After gearing up an unsuccessful search for the track start resulted in Lauren volunteering to lead the pack in the general direction of Burning Down the House. 50 m into the bush the first tape was soon discovered, and the JF-402 entrance located quickly thereafter.

Karina led the charge into the cave and several hundred metres of passage was enjoyed by all. There is a rather sporty down climb about halfway along the cave that would benefit from a handline (a 10 m rope would be more than sufficient for anyone heading back there), but other than that it is an easy and pleasant horizontal trip that required no SRT and only some gymnastics.

Karina in a classic "Oxley Shot".

Based on the map drawn by Trevor Wailes back in the late 80s, Steve theorised that the water from Rainbow Cave might enter Burning Down the House about midway along its length. We were therefore anticipating a brightly florescent stream appearing just prior to the main stream that comes from the upstream sump. However, we were disappointed in this and can confirm that the water from Rainbow Cave does not flow into JF-402 anywhere along its accessible length.

After reaching the main streamway the group stopped to admire some impressive decoration, including a +2 m straw. John made the most of the opportunity to take some of his signature masterpiece photos (move over Man Ray). A brief crawl reached the terminal rockpile and, despite Jemma, Lauren and myself squeezing ourselves into every possible human-sized hole, it was confirmed that the rock pile is indeed terminal. That said there is a noticeable breeze blowing into the cave, so there must be something on the other side of the rockpile.

After lunch (or snack number 47 for Karina) the return trip was started and then halted briefly for Lauren to get her 'Hydrological Tracing Technician Grade 2' qualification by releasing some rhodamine into the stream at the last point that it is accessible. After that excitement, a leisurely stroll/crawl/climb saw us back at the carpark by about 2 pm (total time in cave approximately 4 hrs).

As the day was still relatively young a review of Steve's list of possible tasks in the vicinity offered up two options: a brief bushwalk to do a dye release in Franks Swallet or an exploration of nearby Wind Hole (JF-451). After a lengthy discussion about the desirability of putting soggy caving kit back on to explore Wind Hole it was unanimously agreed that a bushwalk to Franks Swallet was the far better option. Accordingly, we set of along the easily followed track and quickly located Franks Swallet with the aid of the GPS and Karina's indominable spirt when faced with an apparently impenetrable wall of man-ferns (don't be standing in the way of that girl when she sets her mind to something!). John released some more rhodamine into the stream. (Note: Franks Swallet doesn't have a defined entrance, the steam just vanished into the ground over a 20 m distance.)

An uneventful return trip had us back at the carpark by about 4:30 pm and the return to Hobart (or Lonny for Lauren) was conducted.

Going for the "accidental renaissance" style.

JF-719 Turret Cave

Gabriel Kinzler

Turret Trip #1 – 03/07/21

Party: Gabriel Kinzler, Michael Packer

It was time we returned to Wherretts to finish a job started over 6 months ago. We had 30-odd caves that needed tagging and exploring, and we planned to cover more new ground, as always. Pax suggested JF-719 Turret Cave as a good candidate for our first explore. It turned out to be a lucky pick.

This cave made a big impression on me when we first discovered it and it stood out in my mind among the dozens of other holes we found. As previously described, the upper entrance is located atop a very tall and sheer cliff cropping out of the side of a massive gully. Two other entrances poke into said cliff, aligned under one another and vertically with the top entrance. Initially, this configuration made me think of an elevator, or a medieval castle turret, hence the name.

Sitting at approx. 700 m ASL, it is just a few metres lower than Ice Tube and Niggly. The vantage point from the entrance is stunning and precipitous: a couple of wrong steps and you'll plummet a good 20 to 30 metres. The entrance itself is well-defined and inviting with a 3 metre downclimb, helped by a short handline. You would never think this went anywhere else than the gully itself, or a choking point of some sort.

The entrance chamber is formed in the dry, white crumbly limestone that is typical of this area and elevation. The floor is nothing more than a pile of small to medium size boulders. Gaps are seen here and there, including one leading to the

middle entrance (JF-720), with even more depth going to the bottom entrance (JF-721), at the foot of the cliff and base of the gully.

The inconspicuous entrance. Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

Initial observation of the entrance chamber showed an apparent strike in a northern direction. And indeed, the cave has nowhere else to go, since the gully and neighbouring slopes surround it from the south. This would later be confirmed: Turret is generally headed north/north-west.

On this first trip, we only had a 30 m rope, which Pax used to rig… the 3 m deep entrance. A mix of enthusiasm and laziness prompted us to freeclimb everything else to a depth of 50 m.

In the entrance chamber, which is a 15 m long by 3 m wide corridor, you reach a first drop located half-way to the end. It goes down to a chossy ledge after 5 m, immediately followed by a 6 m pitch. It is possible to follow the ledge horizontally to a safer climb. Another 6 m pitch gets you through this section, which is essentially "Sub-level 1" of the cave: a lower corridor extending back under the entrance chamber. Note: this first sub-level has two horizontal daylight holes, which we haven't yet managed to find on the surface. This made me wonder how you'd go about finding them, and I figured you could place a phone inside the cave playing loud music at the daylight holes, exit, then listen for it outside.

Once through Sub-level 1 *[which is now rigged safely for a direct abseil without traversing the ledge, -Ed]*, things start to get interesting. You are inside Sub-level 2, which again is aligned in shape under both the entrance chamber and Sub-level 1. A more voluminous chamber appears to the south but does nothing, because, well, there's nowhere yet to go; we are still not below the gully's trough.

Pax and I had separated at Sub-level 1, but met again at Sub-level 2 popping in from two different access points, mine being the now rigged pitch, and his a looping tunnel. Then, it was time to choose again: two holes. Pax's did nothing, mine slimily went into a proper rock pile, this time. Tight, nasty and 3D. I dug and dug, until I reached a pocket chamber, with two chunky boulders in the middle. It looked terminal. I started going back up, disheartened. Pax shouted "Does it go?". I replied "Hmmmm, I don't think so, but… let me have a second look". Lo and behold, the two chunky boulders could be moved enough to allow me to cross the pocket chamber. Its floor slopes upwards into a sharp lip, behind which there is a vertical slot, invisible from a metre away. I dropped through with difficulty and called Pax: "It reopens!".

He joined me, slotted through, with difficulty, and so we were through the first rock pile. There, an approx. 10 x 10 m interluding chamber containing a 3 m drop from a piece of collapsed roof leads you to the second rock pile, atop which Pax spotted a small hole that could do with some digging. Meanwhile, I found the only real off-shooting side passage in the entire cave thus far: from the top of the rockpile, an upwards slope takes you laterally to a twin downwards slope, and to an aven.

Back at Pax's dig, we removed big rocks and created a slurry slope, something that would become a common occurrence throughout the cave. Once secure enough, he went down and, hurray, we started seeing signs of sculpted base rock. A few more downclimbs and that was it: we found ourselves in beautiful base rock levels, with barrelling passage and our first clearly defined pitch, of 10 metres. As a deep-cave virgin, I couldn't believe this was finally happening.

Being ill-equipped to venture further, we surveyed out from the top of that pitch, recording a depth of approx. 50 m. On the way up, I realised how sketchy some of the downclimbs we did were.

Turret Trip #2 – 05/07/21

Party: Gabriel Kinzler, Michael Packer, Ciara Smart

Not able to resist the call of the cave, we went back two days later, this time with a curious Ciara. Like on the previous trip (and on the following ones), we covered new ground and found new caves, which will be described in separate reports.

Pax going up the first, 10 m pitch. Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

After wasting precious time finding new holes on the surface, we spent the rest of the day rigging the entire cave, including existing and new passage (a complete and detailed rigging guide will be published at a later date).

Rigging the 10 m pitch. Photo: Michael Packer.

Back at the exploration front below the second rock pile, in big open passage, a steep slope in base rock takes you to a 10 m pitch. At its base, continuing passage narrows into a 5 m pitch, rigged on a big triangular chockstone. A few meters lower in the narrow passage, you're met with an echoey 25 m pitch.

I love this natural rig, especially looking at it from below. Not everyone else does. Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

The day stopped there, as we ran out of rope. We retreated, surveying out the new passage as well as the two alternate entrances (JF-720 and JF-721). On the way back to the car, we found another three or four caves. I've stopped counting Wherretts finds…

Can't go to the JF without getting covered in dye anymore, it's a plague! Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

Turret Trip #3 – 11/07/21

Party: Gabriel Kinzler, Michael Packer

At it again a week later. We couldn't get hold of any masochist to help us carry the 100 m worth of rope up the hill and down the cave, so it was just Pax and me.

More rope, more darren drums! Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

We stormed down to the undropped 25 m pitch, rigged it, and I descended. Upon reaching the end of the previous rope, a third of the way down the pitch, I looked for a spot to install a rebelay. In doing so, I encountered a massive spire, thinner at its base than at its (much heavier) top. Imagine a one-tonne, two-metre tall, upside-down bowling pin, but fully attached to the ground rock, since it used to be a part of it. It

was swinging. The frigging cave wall was moving and balancing! Hard to grasp how it hadn't broken in a million years. At the bottom, I immediately became disillusioned: wide open passage no more. A big chunk of the wall extended in the way. I tried breaking and moving crud around it, no dice.

Before. Bummer! Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

I remained silent in order to preserve Pax's innocence until the last moment. But immediately after joining me and witnessing the sad state of affairs, he developed other ideas and started digging somewhere I hadn't thought of: the ground itself. Indeed, I had been fooled and we were standing not on solid, rocky ground, but on a pile of grainy mud covered in loose rocks. Probably 4 metres thick or more. As we were digging deeper and deeper, we could hear and see another pitch right below us. We spent a good three hours digging with a panoply consisting of a crowbar, a bolting hammer, our feet, and an ingenious 3-to-1 pulley system devised by Pax to lift big rocks out of the newly created hole. Drill a hole and install a hanger on the rock needing removal, attach a pulley to it, affix another pulley to a wall, and bam, you can pull up 50 kg of mass or more with two fingers. Baffling physics. I initially named this choking point "Heavy Artillery", in keeping with a self-imposed military lexical field for the cave, but it was renamed "McSlurry" by Ben Armstrong on the subsequent trip. In point of fact, the hole we created is fed by water seeping out of the walls, and so the mud pile is continuously being liquified. It will probably disappear entirely and leave a big void, eventually. Humans…

When it was finally large enough for someone to fit, I jumped on a rope and struggled through with the help of my best friend, gravity. Four metres lower, a comfortable ledge is reached, overlooking beautiful meandering passage, our first bit of horizontal projection in this cave, finally! I rigged a nice rebelay on an ideal overhang and descended out of harm's way. The whole McSlurry pitch accounts for about 20 m of depth.

After. Huzzah! Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

Pax joined into this awesome bit of passage. The top surface of the meander that you land on is wide and freely walkable. It is encrusted with cephalopod fossils and wavy protrusions formed by water flow. Its bottom, about 5 metres below, has an active stream. Well, a streamlet really. The inlet is a well-defined low-profile hole in a wall, to the south. It can be entered and explored, which we have yet to do. Naturally, we were more interested in what happens downstream.

Entering the meander is hard. It is narrow at every level, and the best way to navigate through it is to drop to the very bottom, at stream level, directly under the McSlurry pitch. You then crawl, twist and turn laboriously for 10 m until the meander gets a bit wider again. It can be done with your SRT kit on, just. I continued excitedly and alone for another 30 m as it became bigger again, and found what seemed to be a 30 m pitch for the next trip. We surveyed out from a new depth of 120 m.

Turret Trip #4 – 17/07/21

Party: Ben Armstrong, Gabriel Kinzler, Michael Packer

The track to Turret can be either a walk in the park or horizontal hell on Earth if you don't choose your path wisely. By now we had it down pat though, and it's a wide and easy gully all the way up. We reached the cave from the

car in little over 50 minutes. That's with light packs however, because after four trips to the cave in the span of two weeks, we got into the habit of leaving everything in it, including mud-caked SRT, packs and rigging gear.

Looking up the 30 m pitch. Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

We more or less bombed down to the meander and the promising 30 m pitch. After some enhancement of the hole, I put in a Y-belay and descended. It's a very nice pitch indeed, spacious if a bit wet. While Ben and Pax joined me, I went ahead and found our next pitch of around 20 m. After lunch, feeling bad for cannibalising the whole cave, I offered Ben the next rig, and he obliged.

Quick lunch before more suffering. Photo Gabriel Kinzler

He dropped the 20 m to yet another bit of restricted passage, à la Tigertooth. Soon though, it reached a small fork. Ben went right, following the water into a horrible flattener that didn't get his seal of approval. The water also disappeared there. He called it the end of the cave. I started to sulk. But there was still the left prong at "The Fork", wasn't there? A small diameter horizontal tube, about 1 metre above the ground. I disrobed my SRT and threw myself, and one last roll of the dice, at it.

The left prong is TIGHT and completely shredded my PVC suit. But then, the water, it reappeared! And I could even see the other side of Ben's flattener. Digging it would have probably gotten you through. Can't be too sure how far I went, but it stayed tight for a while, maybe 25 m. I turned back, having lost track of time and fearing Pax and Ben would get worried (of course they didn't give a rat's ass and almost forgot I was even there). My turn-around point was still in tight passage, and with obstructions in the way, and so another push will be necessary to get to the bottom of it.

Turret Trip #5 – 31/07/21

Party: Stephen Fordyce, Gabriel Kinzler, Ciara Smart

We had an original crew, for the first time without Pax, who got held up. Steve filled in on a flash visit between two Victorian lockdowns. I warned Ciara several times that the cave was now much more unpleasant than what she saw last, but that didn't deter her.

The first surprise of the day happened upon reaching McSlurry: the mud bank had liquefied and slipped further into the hole. The floor is now largely gone, leaving the pitch anchors much higher on the wall. The hole opening onto the pitch was blocked by small boulders again, so I spent a good half-hour freeing it with Steve's help.

Three pitches lower, we were back at The Fork, which was the front of exploration. I invited Steve to lead the way in the left prong, affectuously named The Shredder for its frazzling qualities, and he pushed on armed with the crowbar. It meandered tightly for approximately 75 m until the water continued without us under a very tight flattener. Too tight. Instead, we followed the strong draught around a little corner: another restriction. Not humanly passable, but the other side clearly reopens with the stream in sight. A job for another day.

I made the rookie mistake of not taking the survey kit with me for the push, so we had to go back through The Shredder to get it, then in again to survey it, and finally back out to exit. Four times through there was a punishment, and I was very apologetic (still am).

Exiting the cave was slow and painful, a reminder that it's neither for the faint of heart nor for big parties. I think three per trip is the maximum, for the time being.

Smiling, can't have been that bad... Photo: Steve Fordyce

JF-229 Welcome Stranger – Wash Day

11 July 2021

Chris Sharples (photos Greg Middleton)

Party: Rolan Eberhard, David Holley (PWS), Greg Middleton, Chris Sharples

Rolan and Dave Holley (PWS) had decided that some of the flowstone in Welcome Stranger was getting a bit dirty after years of muddy trog suits brushing against it and needed some cleaning. After all this is one of the best pretty and more-or-less wild caves in southern Tasmania to take beginner cavers to in order to kindle a life-time interest in caves, so it needs to look its best, correct? Greg and I put up our hands to come along and help make the place look neat and tidy again.

Cinderella! Cinderella!

At the same time Steve Fordyce wanted some dye released in this cave and thought it a good opportunity to get me involved in the Junee-Florentine hydrology project. Little did I realise how potentially opposed the two objectives of this day's outing were to prove.

The fun started with me trying to decant some fluorescein into a small bottle at the dye stash not far from the Tyenna River. Everything was smeared with a thin film of dye after repeated usages, and it was impossible to keep some from getting on hands and clothes. Let alone car seats and everything else. I had to change dye-stained clothes and wear disposable gloves just to get into my trog suit without smearing dye on it, and then when I did release the dye (into a small disappearing anabranch of the cave stream) I still managed to get a few drops onto my trog suit anyhow, from whence they managed to get onto various rocks in the cave and had to be carefully washed off again. Suffice to say I need to get a bit more organised before I try dye-releases in a notably pretty cave again!

Everybody got to have a go.

The cleaning of muddy patches off flowstones beside the stream way went more smoothly, using soft brushes and portable water sprays (refilled regularly from the cave stream). While we were able to get quite a bit of mud off the flowstones, we soon discovered that some wouldn't come off because it was already embedding in the thin film of flowstone that had precipitated in the period since early visits to the cave had commenced a few decades ago. Which suggests a regime of more frequent cleaning is needed (or notably more careful movement in caves, which seems a big ask when we are talking about lots of beginners). In any case, time did not allow us to clean the full length of the stream, so a second cleaning trip will take place in the near future.

Clean and orderly.

In the end, it was nice to get home and take off the horrible disposable gloves I had been wearing all day. It turns out the tracing dyes do actually wash off fairly easy with warm water and Solvol soap!

IB-10 Mystery Creek Cave

24 July 2021

Nik Magnus

Party: Nik Magnus & co.

Trip to Mystery Creek Cave, in & out, along with my two girls Arielle 12 and Elsa 10, plus friend Jane.

Having recently done a through trip with Alan Jackson, I found the way pretty easily. Matchbox Squeeze was easier as I'd lost another 5 kg since the last trip.

The kids loved the cave and learned how to chimney in that passage just before the squeeze. Our Ledlenser lights worked well and fit onto our helmets easily.

The kids are keen for another trip!

Looking up Midnight Hole. Photo: Nik Magnus

JF Surface Walking & Theorising

30 July – 2 August 2021

Stephen Fordyce (text and photos, unless otherwise credited)

After many shenanigans and setting up of 15+ dye detectors in May, I'd been distracted with boring things like (yet another) Melbourne COVID lockdown and joining the ranks of the landed gentry. But the high-sensitivity phase of the detectors was scheduled to finish at the end of August, and there remained a distressing number of unrequited dye releases. There was also the question of what happened with the automatic releases left high up between Niggly and Tachycardia, and whether those devices were now quietly corroding away.

In terms of actual caving, Turret Cave was proving to be a serious adversary in need of all the knights of the round table, even Sir Faff-a-Lot.

Sir Faff-a-Lot and the alternative to a warm and comfortable weekend at home.

We'd optimistically planned a weekend, but with the borders still closed by Thursday I began settle in for another warm, comfortable and generally pleasant weekend at home. Alas – a casual mid-evening check showed the borders were opening at midnight, and I couldn't find sufficient excuses not to book the first and only Friday flight. Cramming a week's worth of faffing and trip preparation into the rest of the evening was rather enlightening (I thought I'd lost that capability years ago), and I even managed to find all my relevant stuff after moving house. Great success!

I should note that I felt some conscience pangs about travelling interstate so soon after a lockdown, so made efforts to avoid seeing too many people or making too many exposure sites (click & collect at the supermarket, etc.). I figured the many hard days of caving required to place and retrieve detectors at the ends of the earth justified this.

Saturday 31 July

Saturday was Turret Cave with Gabriel and Ciara, for which Gabriel graciously offered to write the report. It was as miserable as I had expected (more, actually) and I had a great time! We had a few setbacks, but I think my enthusiasm helped to push through a tight wriggly meander and reach a new terminal obstacle. As Gabriel said (sighed) many times, "the things we do…".

After exiting the cave at about 9 pm, I bade the others farewell and (armed with the Sat Text and assorted emergency kit) I contoured around cross-country to JF-647 The Slip Swallet, via JF-724 and various other Klockerfest Caves. It had been very wet and the amount of water going into swallets along the clifflines was impressive. Fingers crossed it all feeds a "Wherretts Lookout Sub-Master Cave" that Turret is about to drop into.

I dropped into The Slip too high and had to do some improvised canyoning – safe enough but slow and annoying. But finally reached the swallet (complete with upside down tag) and happily released a bunch of fluorescein – one down, lots to go. My theory of walking down parallel to The Slip but just above it worked most of the way, but down the bottom the going became painful just before hitting the Niggly Track and burning it back to arrive at the car (kindly donated by Ciara, thanks very very much!) at 11 pm or so. Also thanks for the most delicious quiche I have ever eaten – cold or not! I was surprisingly not completely shagged, great success.

Sunday 1 August

After a pleasant night sleeping in the car, I had to face the "Misery Loop" – up the Niggly route and down the Tachycardia route, and some faffing about in between. The forecast was not for enjoyable conditions, and indeed it snowed for most of the day. Still, there were four devices to be retrieved and their releases confirmed. To avoid an entire day of miserable dye-related stuff, I also figured on testing some theories I had regarding the source of the Niggly waterfall. My short-notice attempts to find company for this exercise were (not surprisingly) unsuccessful…

To add to the misery my carefully assembled daily ration pack had gone MIA and was never found. Luckily it was mostly too cold to stop and eat, so the day was fueled by some cheese and bacon rolls, and a squirty bottle of honey, which was so cold I could squirt it out horizontally and bite off chunks of honey. Most entertaining.

The Niggly weather station looked a bit forlorn but was still logging happily.

I walked up the Niggly route all the way to Niggly, and from our usual changing area the east side of the gully, I continued up above the cliffs. I wanted to do an audit of all the streams between Niggly and Tachycardia, in case there was a high-up swallet which hadn't been discovered yet. I was too chicken to follow the contact in what the LiDAR data indicated could be nasty scrub, so I went for an easier sure thing and went up to 850 m ASL and some easier terrain. This was a bit of a slog steeply uphill, but reasonably open. I was within earshot of a stream most of the way, and ended up at a quite spectacular mudstone rock waterfall/cliff. The cliff was about 3 m high and overhanging, so I traversed east a short distance to find a way up, finding a few old tapes marking it.

An attempted closeup of the mudstone (or whatever) at the 850 m ASL waterfall.

I did a loop around the Niggly Triangle (walking 500 m directly above Mt Niggly) and GPS'd every stream I crossed for later analysis. Snow had been accumulating in pockets at the Niggly entrance and this much higher, some of the gullies were very pretty. I was dressed for the occasion and felt… alive? I ended up staying high all the way around until I could drop down onto Tachycardia, quite pleased with myself.

The Oneshot at JF-273 had failed to go off – apparently my devices were not so rugged that they could be hung in a waterfall. So, I did a manual release and moved onto JF-280. That oneshot had also been in a waterfall and failed, so I set up a replacement oneshot in the now-obvious stream feeding it. Heading back towards Niggly (having long abandoned the idea of going down the Tachycardia route and having to walk back to the Niggly carpark) at least the JF-277 oneshot had gone off, but that had had a weak batch of fluorescein so I set another one just to make sure. JF-277 had eroded and seemed to have opened up a bit – might be worth a better look if anyone is going past in summer. Dropping down to JF-704 (ex. Z79) North Chrisps Swallet, there was a whole lot of water and the dispenser we'd left there in May had failed. Bugger! Still, I'd had my doubts about this one, as it had also suffered the bad fluorescein batch as well as cracks in the housing (in the log, I could watch the internal humidity climb over a month until the real time clock froze). A manual release was made and I headed for Bunyips Lair (no releases this time), Niggly and home. The little stream between Niggly and Bunyips Lair is making a semi-interesting doline, might be worth a look in a decade or so. This still needs to be followed to find the swallet proper.

I found motivation for a (very) minor detour to check out and confirm the location for JF-238 Cassamassima. It's literally a stone's throw from the Niggly track, and a nice vertical entrance. It's notionally 39 m deep (see map in *SS*376), and might be worth another look since it's right above Wish You Were Here in Niggly. There's an excellent LiDAR target a little further around, too.

I got back to the car in surprisingly good spirits and with a hint of daylight left, and found motivation for another dye release in JF-685 Gormie Junior, a key release in between Porcupine, Niggly and Growling Swallet.

The Junee River was alarmingly close to breaking its banks.

Still with time to spare before bed, what could be better than a nice refreshing swim in the Junee River? It was disturbingly high, possibly as high as I've ever seen it, and for the first time I joined the ranks of people who piked on getting into the inside detector spot. Back at the carpark detector, everything was still logging away nicely and I downloaded data from the detector and two weather stations. I also had the refreshing dip to pull out the detector from the more benign floodwaters and install a shroud on it, which prevents sunlight interfering with the readings. This worked admirably and I had some good data for a few days before accidentally flattening the battery on the Junee phone which provides internet connectivity. It'll be recharged by now, but just needs someone to turn it on…

It was about 9 pm now and a warm sleeping bag and cranking car heater were well deserved.

Monday 2 August

The well of motivation was not yet dry, so I embarked on the next-most-miserable dye release, at JF-248 Four Road Swallet. This is right out on the western side of Wherretts Lookout and has never been traced to Junee, so is really interesting. An old logging track can be followed there, although my last visit I left it too early and ended up in nightmare ferns. This time I was more careful and was able to follow the track all the way to the stream, requiring only a short stumble down to the swallet… or at least the lake! (this route is now dotted in on QGIS)

When I was here on a wet day in January, the stream trickled into a doline approx. 3 m deep and 10 m wide, with some signs of mud. Well, on a super wet day in winter, the doline was full and about 1/3 of the stream volume was trickling out into the downstream gully on the other side. Well that was interesting, but I figured most of the water was still going underground, so released a goodly amount of dye and headed back.

Four Road Lake (ex Swallet).

Unfortunately, I got overconfident in both my ability to follow the track and to follow the GPS, so really stuffed it up and ended up in an interesting area of forest burnt in 2019, where I found and marked a small blind doline. Cool. Still, I had things to do, people to see and a plane to catch (and if I missed it, there were no other planes for two days). I continued to curse and bumble around, eventually emerging from the bush on the opposite side of the carpark to what I'd left from, like an idiot.

The usual mad dash back to Hobart and various demobilising ensued, but I had plenty of time, with at least 4 minutes

before check-in for my flight closed. Good thing too, as Melbourne went back into lockdown a couple of days later (and at time of writing it's 2.5 weeks later and not looking great).

The bad fluorescein batch

I've mentioned this a few times, and thought it worth explaining. When you buy "fluorescein", it's generally not 100% of the active ingredient, Sodium Fluorescein. The best reasonably-priced bulk supply I've found is about 90% pure, whereas I've been assured that historically (and currently), it was 50%. The balance is usually sodium sulphate, which is a fairly boring simple compound except for its solubility in water. This varies greatly from 0 to 30degC, and this property is actually used for making calibrated fluorescein solutions.

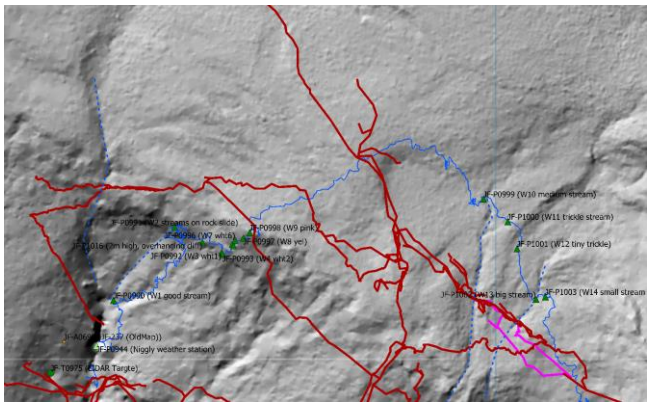
Recent experiments have used fluorescein from several different sources, and the "bad batch" refers to some that I bought as "Drain Dye". It drove me nuts with dissolving ok at room temperature, and then precipitating crystals at low (i.e. JF) temperatures. This clogged dispensers, introduced uncertainty, meant we put in less fluorescein than expected, etc.

Fortunately, I can be reasonably sure which releases were done with this stuff, and I've made notes in the registers accordingly. It clogged the North Chrisps dispenser but I did a manual release instead. It meant we accidentally did half-strength releases in a few places, but the Porcupine interim results showed that it was still detectable. The only one I'm really disappointed about is Tassy Pot, where we only got a weak result in Porcupine. So, I'd love to get another dye release done in Tassy Pot at some point. Since the crystals tended to fall to the bottom of containers, I don't think there was scenario where we went worse than half-strength.

Stream/Swallet Reconciliation and… an epiphany!

Aha, if you read everything to get to this point, here is your reward. If you saw the heading and skipped ahead, points for being efficient. I marked the streams I crossed on QGIS, and traced down LiDAR gullies to caves, and… they all matched. A big stream for North Chrisps, a medium stream for Bunyips Lair and small streams for various other things. Alas, no Niggly-waterfall-sized stream without a swallet.

And then it dawned on me! When I went up above Niggly, I didn't follow it explicitly, but there was a decent little stream which I more or less followed up. About the right size for Niggly. But looking at this roughly plotted on the LiDAR data, that's just a tributary of the main Niggly gully, and the main feeder is further to the west. Even better, this larger feeder is shown on the topo map as having a large catchment and LiDAR data appears to corroborate this.



LiDAR data background, with my thin blue track, Niggly in maroon, and assumed streams in dotted blue.

So, had I walked another 100 m west, I theorise there is a large creek which feeds a large swallet just ABOVE the Niggly entrance. This is consistent with a short horizontal distance (indicated by microwave-sized dolerite boulders at the base of the Niggly waterfall) and general passage trends, at least at base level. JF-704 North Chrisps which is the other contender (after a convincing negative dye trace result from Bunyips Lair), is a long way in the wrong direction, and would have to cross the very strong trend of Psychopomp. The theorised swallet – for which the name "Delta Variant" has tentatively been mooted – could run parallel to the Tigertooth Passage quite nicely without any pesky overlaps.

Admittedly I've neglected to run this past any of the STC tribal elders. However, I also theorise that once they found Niggly, they made a pretty reasonable assumption that it was the primary swallet for that gully, and never checked further up. Please do correct me if I'm wrong! Or head out in the field to find out (let me know, I'll make you a data pack).

JF-223 Tassy Pot

1 August 2021

Janine McKinnon

Party: Karina Anders, Serena Benjamin, Jemma Herbert, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney

I had advertised for new members wanting to improve their SRT skills, what I got was a keen bunch of competent cavers just wanting to go caving. So, we did.

It had been raining heavily in the SW in the previous week (or two, or many) so given a couple of our party don't own plastic suits (yet) and the weather (and thus water) is freezing, I thought a "dry" cave was the place to go. This proved to be a wise call as the Tyenna was in flood as we drove through Westerway on a day with light drizzle and more rain forecast.

We were all in our Triton so deploying "The Batwing" was the first task at the carpark. Oh the joys of getting changed whilst staying dry. Not having a long walk to the cave in the drizzle was even better.

I started rigging down and managed to pass a re-direction flake without seeing it (although I was looking for it). That was a good start. I followed this up by continuing down to the ledge at the second pitch before realizing/remembering that I can't reach the higher of the two P-Hangers for pitch two from the ledge. So back up a few metres I went and started rigging the second pitch. Quite a significant amount of various sorts of cluster-fucking then ensued. I won't bore you with the details but I was impressed with my problem-solving skills (some for problems I created for myself) and my gymnastic ability. Well, we were in the middle week of the Olympics after all.

Eventually all was sorted and we continued down the cave. Jemma put in the missing re-direct as she came down.

Pitch three was a bit more than dribbly and my wardrobe choice of plastic suit proved to have been a good one. Karina even got to use her home-made hood…the one she almost left at the car as we were doing a dry cave and she anticipated it wouldn't be needed. Those of us who have done dry caves in wet winter conditions before suggested prudence would have her carry it. If I'd followed my own advice to pull mine up before starting into the vertical squeeze of pitch three, I might not have ended up with a stream running down my neck.

Goodbye Chamber. Photo: Ric Tunney

In Goodbye Chamber Ric decided not to do the last pitch and so I started down, rigging, with the other three to follow. Ric started out once the last of the others was on the pitch.

Despite all the water around this 70 m pitch was essentially dry.

I tried to send Jemma and Karina down the climbs into Morocl Passage but they just weren't enthusiastic. Cordura suits and lots of water may have had something to do with that.

Jemma was keen to de-rig, with Karina assisting, so they came up last. Serena started up first, and took the bottom rope once we were all back in Goodbye Chamber and made her own way up out of the cave. I cruised after her keeping the other two within ear-shot. I could hear them giggling and chattering all the way up. It all went very smoothly.

We were all out of the cave and de-rigged by 3:00 pm. That was a 5 hour trip, which was pretty good as I had used at least 45 minutes of that on faffing with rigging beyond the necessary, and we had not been rushing the trip anyway, just enjoying being there.

The Batwing kept us all dry as we changed, oh bliss. It had been snowing when Serena arrived back at the car and raining heavily when Ric got back some half hour earlier. That didn't dampen our enjoyment of the day (I should write for *The Daily Telegraph*). It was a thoroughly fun day out – apart from some minor rigging frustration on my part - with a good bunch.

We passed what I was reliably told was Ciara's car at the Niggly track parking area as we drove past around 3:30 pm. It was lightly snowing. I didn't envy them their day on the surface one little bit.

Note: Rigging notes are in the club archive.

JF-2 Cauldron Pot

12 August 2021

John Oxley

Party: James Barnes, Stefan Eberhard, John Oxley

Stefan has a project to get some nice photos in caves with lots of water so Cauldron Pot in winter seemed like a good choice. The idea for this trip was primarily to photograph people on the entrance pitch with the waterfall as a backdrop.

We rigged two ropes opposite the waterfall to give a better view for photos across to the main route. James rigged the main pitch and Stefan photographed him as he went. I then descended one section at a time (there are three rebelays) with Stefan following close behind taking more shots.

Although on this trip we intended going no further than the base of pitch one, we carried enough rope to rig several pitches on subsequent trips. Unfortunately, one pack of rope made the express trip down the pitch and became stuck on the top of one of the logs leaning against the wall.

The top section of the entrance pitch is rigged quite clear of the waterfall but the spray increases until by the time we were crossing the third rebelay we were getting quite wet. The wind blast and the pounding of the water at the base of the pitch was quite intense. We regrouped at Bills Bypass further down the slope away from most of the wind and spray. Stefan took more shots looking back up toward the entrance and the curtain of water across the passage.

Waterfall next to an epic-looking John. Or is it the other way around? Photo: Stefan Eberhard

On the way out, Stefan rescued the stuck pack with some imaginative rope work. We then added some fluorescein to the water before departing.

Back at the cars, James found he was unable to turn around on the slippery road so he had to reverse all the way back down to where one of the side tracks came in. I sat in the back of his ute and provided him with some light to see where he was going.

JF-385 Wherretts Swallet 1

12 August 2021

Ric Tunney

Party: Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney

Steve Fordyce had called for some dye dumping and we took this as an opportunity for some winter walking. But we picked a day of reasonable weather – no precipitation and temperature 5 to 7 degrees.

A leisurely departure from Hobart and a diversion to collect dye saw us walking at 10:20 am and at JF-344 Serendipity at 11:20 am. From there it was 550 m in a straight line and a 65 m climb around the hill to Wherretts Swallet 1. We estimated this would take an hour, and it did. It is reasonably open rainforest. However, the old eucalypts fall facing down the hill and as we were traversing, they make 50 m wide barricades which have to be bypassed or climbed over.

A bit short of half-way, we came across a small stream sink. The stream drops over a small limestone cliff and sinks into a small cave under the cliff. There is some pink tape at the opening and another piece a metre or so inside. The passage is really tiny. Whoever put the tape in got quite dirty and very wet. Plotting this point on the map, this stream is the stream passing (as a dry valley) JF-463 Constitution Hole. The location and description indicate this is JF-588 Resonance.

The first sink. Photo: Janine McKinnon

100 m short of Wherretts Swallet 1, we came to a narrow, steep-sided gully with a nice little stream. There was a pink tape at this spot, but no others in sight. We are wondering why we lucked on this stream just where there was a tape. As this was such a relatively large stream, we wondered if we were too high and if it fed Wherretts Swallet 1, but the GPS said no so we (fortunately) continued on.

Wherretts Swallet 1 is a pretty place. Water falls over a 4 m limestone cliff into a rift some 20 m long and 3 m wide. The rift is floored with gravel from the insoluble rocks above. The stream flows into this gravel. Dye dumping at 12:20 and lunch were uneventful. There was a reasonable water flow, so we are hoping there will be a good signal at the detectors. This water is expected to go to Junee Cave, but it may not.

After lunch, it had been our intention to go randomly down the hill to pick up McCullums Track somewhere near Constitution Hole and to look at a LiDAR target halfway down and some 300 m to the left. Instead, we decided to find out where the nearby stream went.

Such nice letter stamps! Photo: Janine McKinnon

We headed down the hill, angling right towards the stream, and picked it up after 100 m or so. Paralleling the stream, we came to a sink. The stream, which had been flowing over gravel, hit limestone and disappeared down a hole. We left pink tape around a tree fern. The location recorded is 32m from the club GPS location for JF-599, but the photo/description checked afterwards suggested these were not the same feature.

We then discovered this sink is actually a branch of the main stream, so we continued following the stream downhill. The stream reduced in size as we descended and finally disappeared in gravel. This is about 200 m below the above-mentioned sink. It's hard to say if the water had gone into limestone or was continuing to flow in surface gravel. There was no actual limestone exposure here.

We followed the dry valley downhill till it joined with the dry valley from the sink we had found on the way to Wherretts Swallet 1 before lunch. In this dry valley we saw a tape. This was part of a taped route following the dry valley downhill to a well-marked track junction on the Constitution Hole track about 50 m from its start on McCullums Track. From here it was an easy hour walk back to the carpark at 2:45 pm.

I think that future trips to all these features would find it easier to go from Constitution Hole rather than from Serendipity.

[Editor: GPS co-ordinates have been redacted, but are in the POI register (i.e. will show up in QGIS). The un-redacted version of the report will be in the JF-385 archive folder.]

Other exciting stuff

Lakins Lair – A modified rockshelter on Mt Wellington

Greg Middleton

September 2020

A while back, Ros Skinner and I, ever with an eye out for caves/rockshelters in the Hobart region, came across a reference to Lakins Lair, a rockshelter with a few modifications not far from Junction Cabin in Wellington Park.

It's mentioned in a walking blog called "Hiking South East Tasmania", having been visited by the author, who only identifies himself as Denis, on 11 September 2016. While he includes a good photo of the feature (Fig. 1), he gives no background information (Denis 2016).

Fig. 1. Lakins Lair, showing the state of constructed walls in September 2016. Photo: Denis

As Denis indirectly mentions, you can access this cave from the Lenah Valley Fire Trail and from above the cave "a faint pad" connects with the Hunters Track.

The Bushwalk Australia site also refers to the shelter, but erroneously, as *Larkins* Lair (Bushwalk Australia 2011). It describes it as "an interesting overhang with an inbuilt chimney".

Some authoritative information I've been able to find is buried in a blog called "Ramblings – Unofficial posts of U3A Kingborough Bushwalkers by Jack, Peter & Ron". Bob (?) led a walk which included the shelter in October 2017. He reported: "The Caves area is part of a sandstone outcrop and Lakins Lair is one of its features. The Lakins Lair rock shelter was built by Fred Lakin and family in the 1930s. Fred's father, Noel Lakin was one of the early Mountain Park's Honorary Rangers. There is a stone fire ring behind the stonewall which creates a sheltered room with a natural chimney at the end" (Pindell 2017). The area around the Lair has traditionally been known as "The Caves", though it is not marked on maps and there's no evidence of any other large cave-features.

It's something of an overstatement to say the shelter was *built* by Fred Lakin, but it appears that he built the two sections of stone wall which created the "sheltered room". The ravages of time are showing as the walls are somewhat reduced from the height they were in 2016 (compare Figs 1 and 2) – and the "inbuilt chimney" noted in 2011 is now hardly evident.

Fig. 2. Lakins Lair in September 2020. The walls are evidently degrading (cf. Fig. 1).

The modified rockshelter was recorded in a heritage inventory of the Wellington Park in 2005, McConnell & Scripps (2005, Inventory p. 40) recording:

> *According to Lakin (pers. comm. 2005) the full area of outcrop is known as 'The Caves', but only the shelter and chimney he built is referred to as 'Lakins Lair'. It appears from the physical evidence and Lakin (2005) that 'The Caves' were used prior to 1930 by others.*
>
> *Lakins Lair was used mainly by Fred and friends from the 1930s onwards and post-WWII. Fred Lakin was introduced to the site by his father on their frequent walks on the Mountain. His father, Noel Lakin, was one of the Mountain Park's Honorary Rangers. As a teenager he would go up the mountain with friends and in c. 1935 they built the shelter to use for occasional overnight camping, mainly a Friday night stopover for weekend trips out on the Wellington Range. The fireplace had steel pipes in structure and those were brought up the mountain by Fred Lakin. Post-WW II the shelter would be used by F. Lakin and friends occasionally and also in the post-war years F. Lakin would occasionally take his children up to Lakins Lair to camp. Fred Lakin*

is the only member of the group who built the shelter who is still alive – all fought in WW II and three died. Fred Lakin has maintained the shelter and surrounds up until c. 2000. Named 'Lakins Lair' by the Hobart Walking Club in honour of Fred Lakins early involvement with the place and ongoing caretaking of the area.

The physical evidence at the site was described by McConnell and Scripps (2005) as:

Lakins Lair is an open rock shelter in a band of Permo-Triassic rock outcrop/cliff line, and is near the eastern end. It has other associated shelters, including two at the western end, which we used for various purposes, a small made waterhole (against the base of the outcrop east of the Lair); three connecting tracks, a lookout rock with north arrow marked, two boulders on the east entry track named 'Guardians'). Lakins Lair proper has a levelled earth floor with a drystone terrace embankment and a stone chimney with earth mortar (intact) at the western end (all c. 1935) – there is a rough, low drystone wall built on the terrace edge (late 1900s).

Also – cave with fireplace and memorial plaque and chimney built into a natural cave – now falling apart.

There is (or was) also a geocache in the area, though not near the cave. Whoever set it up, "Barad Bunch", seems to be very aware of the sensitivity of the area, writing: "The Caves area is quite extensive and is putatively one of the best of Mt. Wellington's "secret" historic places apart from a few extant old huts" (Barad Bunch 2011).

Ros and I visited the site on 17 September 2020 (Fig. 3) and carried out a survey (Fig. 4).

Fig. 3. Ros standing at the entrance to Lakins Lair – an 'augmented' sandstone rockshelter.

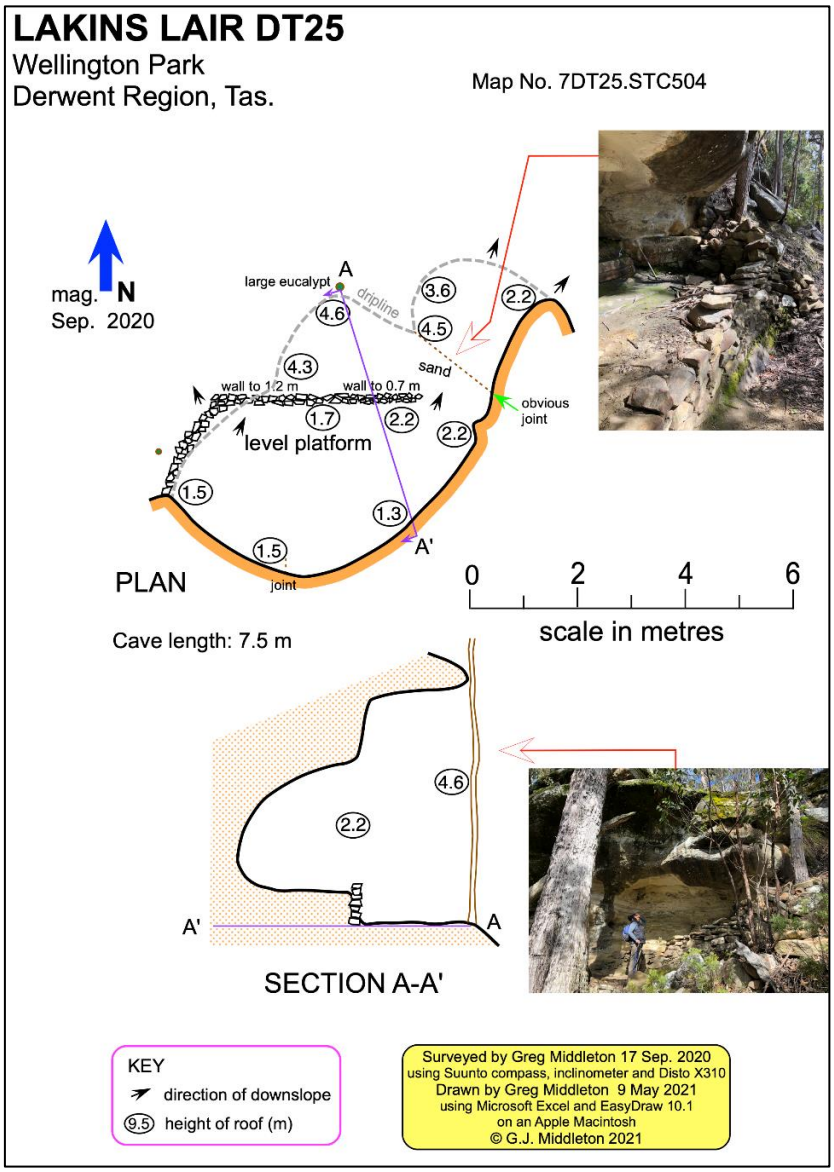


Fig. 4. Survey of Lakins Lair DT25, Wellington Park.

References

Barad Bunch 2011 Mossy Lakin (WSSS 08). https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC33EP4_mossy-lakin-wsss-08?guid=43d792d9-038a-4823-bf79-785f44183912

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Denis 2016 Lakins Lair Circuit. Hiking South East Tasmania. https://hikinginsetasmania.blogspot.com/2016/09/lakins-lair-circuit.html

McConnell, A. & Scripps, L. 2005 *Focus on the fringe – Layered use & meanings in a natural context. Wellington Park Historic Heritage Inventory & Audit Project.* Volume 2. Wellington Park Management Trust, Hobart.

Pindell, Jack 2017 Two historic sites and Junction Cabin 2017. https://ageramblings.blogspot.com/2017/10/two-historic-sites-and-junction-cabin.html

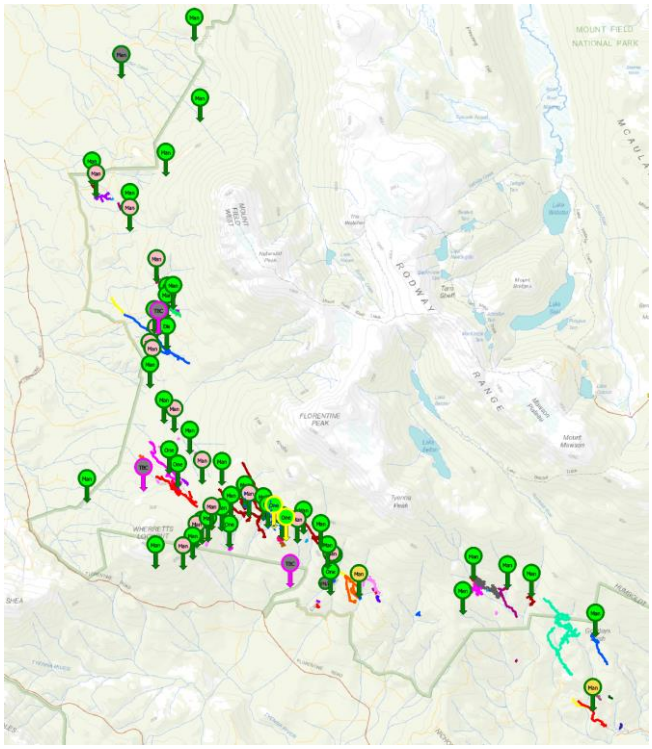
Junee-Florentine Experiments Update

Stephen Fordyce

19 August 2021

STC is in the midst of one of the greatest dye tracing experiments conducted in Australia, if not the entire universe. This is the subject of a scientific permit, and releases are carefully controlled in order to avoid turning rivers green or impacting native wildlife or water potability. There are about 15 electronic dye detectors still logging away in Growling Swallet (x2), Niggly Cave (x5), Porcupine Pot (x4), Junee Cave (x2), and Lawrence River Rising (x1). There are also assorted weather stations and some dye release devices. Most of these were placed in May, and will be collected next summer.

Some preliminary results from Porcupine Pot were gathered in July, but for the most part recent efforts have been on completing a program of dye releases into (almost) every swallet which could possibly feed these caves. At present count, we have done 58 dye releases since the start of May!!! And there are only one major and two minor releases left. Phew! The logging of stage should also give some interesting results showing how winter flood pulses move through the master cave. That may even give us clues in exploring the master cave.



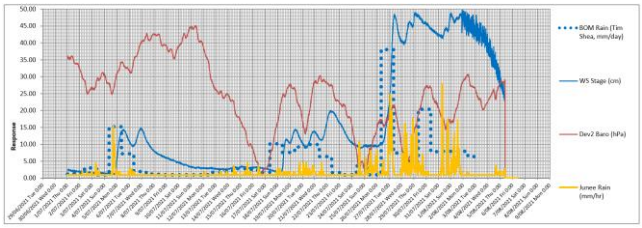
Dye releases to date (green outline is completed, magenta - yet to be done, yellow – TBC by device)

The detectors are programmed to cease high sensitivity detection at the end of August to save battery. They will continue low sensitivity detecting for another few months, then revert to stage logging only (in the event they can't be retrieved, they should log stage until the end of 2022 or so). So, for dye releases at the extents of the catchment where we may see a negative result, it's really important to do this with the detectors in high sensitivity mode (and with plenty of dye).

Any dye release after August is still useful for most commonly visited caves as it gives flow times and peak development under different conditions. Please let me know if you are going to the JF and might be able to do a dye release.

Another key result was the apparent extension of the Junee catchment to JF-665 Cryptic Cowrie Cave, although this result will need to be corroborated by the in-cave detectors due to the unexpectedly fast travel time, even in winter conditions. A detector which Russell and Greg installed in Lawrence River Rising should soon give us some results for dye releases in the likes of Eden Creek, Welcome Stranger and Burning Down The House.

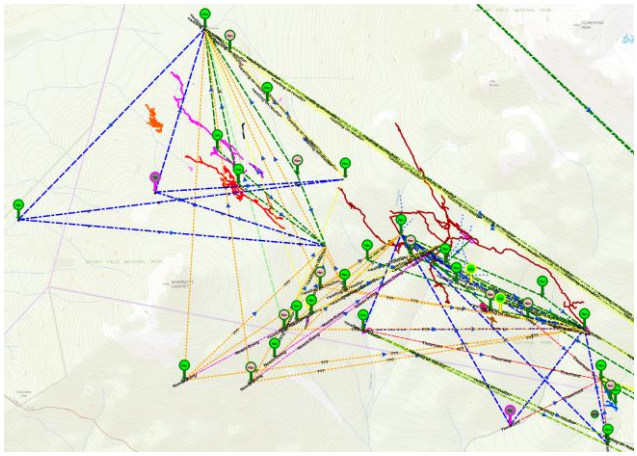
I have intermittent access to results at the Junee resurgence through a solar powered phone giving internet access, however it has been struggling in winter and currently needs someone to turn it on. However, a very interesting result has presented itself in the stage data:



Junee River (at carpark) stage and weather data for 1st July to 9th August

There are flood pulses of different heights through the start of July, but 27th July there is a lot of rain and a big flood pulse. The river stays at ~50 cm regardless and despite several fluctuations, each of several peaks reaches exactly the same level. This could be a function of the river at that point, but I also wonder if it's a function of the Junee resurgence reaching peak capacity, limited by a blockage in the master cave somewhere. We know that Niggly floods at least 20 m occasionally, so fingers crossed we have been able to record an event like that.

I've also done quite a lot of work in data visualisation in QGIS. All dye releases and device placements are logging in a register (Excel spreadsheet). Every peak for each set of detector results is also entered. Some pretty epic Excel fandangling allows linking and correlation of these and automatic export to QGIS. Still a work in progress, but it's getting there, and set to be awesome!



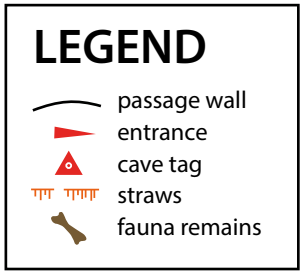
Some delicious, automatically generated graphical carnage (making it look sensible is the hardest bit)

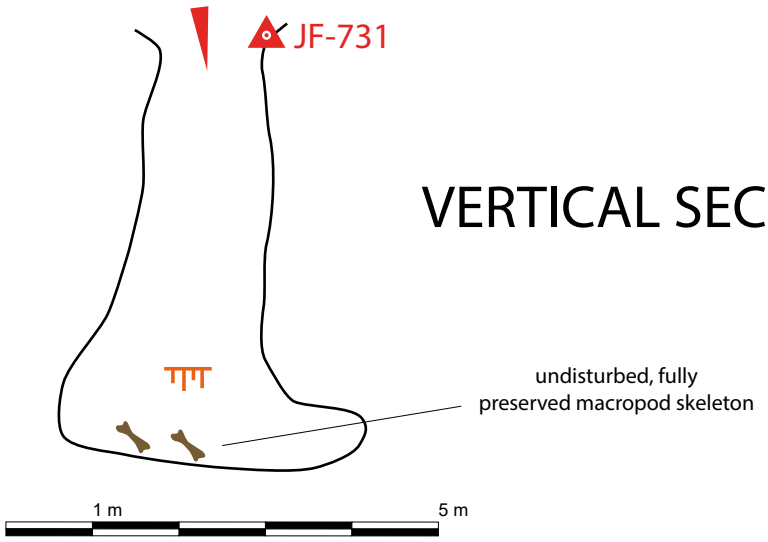
Maps

JF-731 Potiful Pit

Junee-Florentine, Tasmania

7JF731.STC515
Southern Tasmanian Caverneers
ASF Grade 22
In-cave notes by Gabriel Kinzler (05/06/2021)
Drawn by Gabriel Kinzler (August 2021)

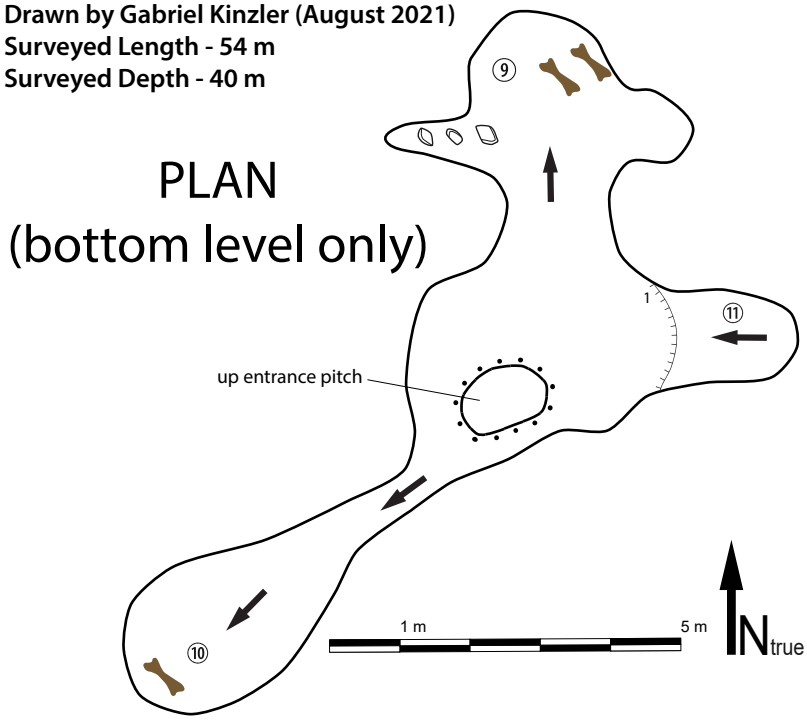


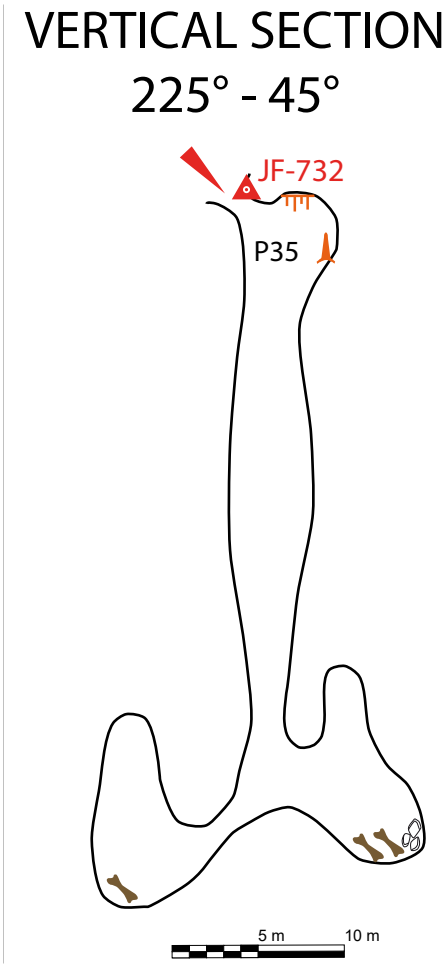


JF-732 Fernacula

Junee-Florentine, Tasmania

7JF732.STC514
Southern Tasmanian Caverneers
ASF Grade 42
Surveyed by Gabriel Kinzler, John Oxley (11/06/2021)
Drawn by Gabriel Kinzler (August 2021)
Surveyed Length - 54 m
Surveyed Depth - 40 m





Fun and Diversions

Rolan's Junk, by Rolan Eberhard

Here are a couple more images for cave junk aficionados. These ones show the contents of cavers' caches at Anne-A-Kananda, Mt Anne. The drums may have been Jeff Butt's from the early 2000s, whereas the mouldy caving and camping kit is probably 1980s vintage stuff left by TCC.

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