



Speleo Spiel 447

November-December 2021

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Front Cover

Petzl Nest stretcher.
Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

Back Cover

What do you get for the caver who has everything? Janine's 40th wedding anniversary present. Photo: Ric Tunney



Speleo Spiel

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

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Editorial

This bloody blue box. Making it short so I can fit more news.

Stuff 'n' Stuff

TasPol Awards

STC, MCCC, NC and SRCC were all presented with a Commissioner of Police Appreciation Award for their involvement in the Snowy Creek Cave rescue.

Alan Jackson accepted our club's award at the *ad hoc* ceremony held at the Police Academy on 12 November 2021. Individual awards were also given to several STC members and AT personnel.



Photo: Tasmania Police

ASF Conference postponed again

Regretfully, the next ASF conference in Ceduna will be postponed again, this time to April 2023. New dates will be announced soon. This decision has been made by the conference committee and ASF executive in light of the ongoing uncertainty regarding COVID, travel restrictions, vaccinations, boosters, etc. Early bird registration has been extended to January 2023.

There will be a series of exciting online talks and workshops to be held in early 2022, with more details to come.

The conference has been issued permits to access caves on the South Australian Nullarbor. The field trips in 2023 will be a rare opportunity to visit caves that have not been accessible for many years.

TCC's 75th anniversary dinner

A dinner to celebrate the semisesquicentennial of organised caving in Tasmania and Australia was held on 27 November 2021. This was the 75th year since the first meeting of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club. All present members of Tasmanian caving clubs as well as past members were invited, and a good time was had by all.



Photo: Yoav Bar-Ness

Southern Tasmania SAR Advisory Committee meeting

STC attended the Annual Southern Tasmania Search and Rescue Advisory Committee meeting at State Emergency Services, in Mornington, on 30 November 2021.

This SAR liaison meeting is hosted by Tasmania Police and various clubs (bushwalkers, rock climbers, kayakers, dog trainers, etc.) participate every year to discuss SAR events, including a review of accidents and plans for the future.



Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

Speleopod #89

Savage River Caving Club (SRCC) just published the latest issue of their regular journal. You can read it here: <http://southerntasmaniancaverneers.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Speleopod-89-Dec-2021.pdf>



KD track

Janine and Ric went for a walk to Khazad-dum on 8 November 2021. For anyone planning on wandering that way, be assured that the track is currently in excellent condition with only one minor obstacle. It is very easy to follow, even if returning in the dark.

Trip Reports

The Search for Hairygoat Hole, continued

21 June 2021

Gabriel Kinzler (incl. photos, with notes by Michael Packer)

Party: Serena Benjamin, Gabriel Kinzler, John Oxley, Michael Packer

This is an old trip that no one bothered reporting, presumably because it was an umpteenth failed attempt at relocating JF-15 Hairygoat Hole. For the uninitiated, Hairygoat Hole was discovered in the late 1960s. Its name is explained in a report in the October 1970 edition of *Speleo Spiel* (#51).



Original drawing found in Speleo Spiel #51.

Hairygoat was partially explored in the 1970s, apparently had a cracking draught and showed good potential for further leads. However, its exact location vanished into the mists of time (this was long before GPS) and despite numerous attempts to relocate it, has remained lost ever since. Whilst delving through the STC archive and scanning in old maps, Pax discovered a map from the early 1980s that shows a fairly precise location for it. Whilst the location on the map is precise, there was no guarantee it would be accurate.

Unfortunately, this information along with a few other promising clues gleaned from various sources wasn't enough. After a few hours of traipsing to the location and spending a couple of hours going over the area with a fine-tooth comb, we concluded that the hole had likely been covered by a landslide and possibly a fallen tree. We found all other tagged caves in the area and if our information was right, we would certainly have found Hairygoat.



Soon they would give up.



There was beautiful forest at least.

The only achievements on that day were a dye release into JF-447 Pitfall Pot (an impressive entrance) and a new hole found by Serena, tagged JF-734 (apparently named “Lost Sock” according to the archive, possibly due to its shape). It was described as a vertical shaft with 10 m of passage in total, narrowing down to not much, could be dug. I asked Serena if she wanted to survey it and offered my notepad but she didn't seem overly interested.



Just like Hairygoat, this tape was reclaimed by nature.

MC-1 Kubla Khan

24 October 2021

Janine McKinnon (photos John Oxley)

Party: Jess Bayles (NC), Jemma Herbert, Janine McKinnon, John Oxley, Chris Sharples, Ric Tunney

Jemma was the only Kubla virgin on this trip and she lucked out. It had rained a lot up north beforehand, with Saturday raining continuously all day. There were lakes all over the countryside and rivers were running bankers or overflowing.

The cave was wet, very wet. The downside was that we didn't do a through-trip but the upside was the top half was wetter than I have ever seen it.

The pools between the second and third pitch were all full and flowing. The bottom half of the Silk Shop was running strongly with full pools. The pools at the lunch spot in Forbidden City were almost full and filling as we sat there.

And there was a small stream flowing onto the top of the Khan from the ceiling. It was magnificent.

As we were doing a bounce trip, we had time to enjoy these sights without time pressures. We went to the end of Xanadu Chamber. John took photos. I tried some phone video, with little success. We were out after about 5 hours.

Jess kept having muscle-memory urges to clean the cave but she fought them valiantly, and successfully.



Must... not... clean.



They all had bacon for lunch.



Forbidden City twice as appealing as normal.

IB-120 Valley Entrance – IB-14 Exit Cave

31 October 2021

Jemma Herbert (photos Alan Jackson)

Party: Karina Anders, Jemma Herbert, Alan Jackson, Anna Jackson, Ciara Smart

We did a cave. Ciara, Karina, Anna, Alan and I. It was a through trip from Entrance to Exit.

We walked in. I had thought Entrance is the same cave as Mystery, so we just have to walk into Mystery, right? Nope. Turns out that whilst the water can get through from Mystery to Exit, humans can't. So we walked over the big hill. We turned off the main track at the top of the hill, just after a right turn, but maybe it should have been the next right turn... We struggled to find the pink taped trail down the other side of the hill, but we fanned out and trudged around for a while and got it eventually, much further right (looking down the hill) than we started.



PVC stands the test of time, but how will these cavers fare?

The start of the cave was wriggly. We squirmed through the little gate, down some holes, along some crawls and had fun. At this stage everyone was very jealous of Ciara's teeny-weeny cave pack. We were much less jealous at the end when she had to try and fit 20L of gear into 5L of pack, but (with just a little help from Karina) she made it work!

At the end of the wriggles is a short drop, where there was a rope & pipe ladder that needs replacing, and some new bolts that needed load testing. Anna, Ciara and I went down, whilst Karina and Alan stayed up top and load tested the new bolts. The new bolts passed the test. The knots on the old ladder were too tight and glued together with old mud to untie, so we cut the rope into many, many little pieces to be able to extract and reuse the rungs. We got a good system going, with Anna dual wielding a knife in each hand. She must like us enough, because she didn't take the opportunity

to stab anyone. With the old ladder completely disassembled we set to work creating a new ladder, using the old rungs but new rope. When we started getting cold and sick of it, we left the ladder about 2/3rds complete. There's probably 30 min of work to finish it off. The incomplete ladder, and all the remaining rungs are now at the bottom of the pitch. The pitch is rigged for abseiling from the shiny new bolts.

Just like every other cave I've ever done, it was "unusually wet". It felt particularly wet after a few dunks in the river. "Take my hand and use my foot as a step" - Alan before said foot slips and plops me into the river. At the next crossing I refused Alan's gracious offer of assistance, and ended up floating downstream on my back. Not to be outdone on river dunkings, Ciara did a very graceful jump from a precarious rock across the deep pool, only to land on wet mud and slip straight back in. 10/10 jump, 1/10 landing. 10/10 spectator sport.



Caving purse?

We passed the stash of old heavy looking kit, but decided this wasn't a good trip to be taking it out. We were still concerned that the D'Entrecasteaux River was going to be raging, given all the recent rain and we'd have to turn back. As it turned out the river was only waist deep, so no dramas.

Then we walked out and it was done.

Wherretts Tagging Bonanza... Continued

7 November 2021

Gabriel Kinzler (text and photo)

Party: Gabriel Kinzler

A second trip to help remedy a growing list of unrecorded entrances at Wherretts Lookout:

- JF-750 – Large entrance, 4 m downclimb, short slope then 5 m pitch to undescended large shaft.
- JF-751 – Narrow rift entrance, slopes down to small shaft with flowstone, ~10 m long.
- JF-752 – Low, tight flattener, snakes for 5-6 body lengths. Home to a family of defunct macropods.
- JF-753 – 4 m shaft to ⊥-shaped cave with ~20 m of passage.
- JF-754 – Wide entrance in small doline, spacious chamber, trickle, ~20 m of passage, way on very tight and uninspiring.
- JF-755 – Walking passage for 10 m, then gains some height for another 5 m.
- JF-756 – Dry stream sink in medium-sized doline, fairly large entrance under overhang to several medium-sized chambers, doesn't go, ~40 m of passage.

Three additional caves remained untagged because they require rope to reach an acceptable tag location. I also filed a number of entrances under the “dud karst feature” category in the archive, one being a tiny swallet near JF-756.



JF-750 is promising.

IB-14 Exit Cave – Taking out the rest of the trash

9 November 2021

Chris Sharples

Party: Serena Benjamin, Rolan Eberhard, Ian Marmion (PWS), Chris Sharples

Speleo Spiel 446 (Sept-Oct 2021) tells the tale of how and why the first instalment of old water-monitoring gear was removed from Exit Cave during October 2021. The purpose of this follow-up account is the historically important one of confirming that on 9th November 2021, all the remainder of that equipment was lugged out of the cave from a temporary gear dump in the main streamway below the Mini Martin shaft (with the exception of some short stringlines defining aquatic fauna quadrats which were left in place adjacent to the water monitoring sites). Rolan also took advantage of being there to bring an angle grinder with which to tidy up the bolts previously holding the steps that once were part of the entrance of Exit Cave (if you get my drift) but were made redundant a few years ago by the collapse of a large part of the entrance ceiling.

It is of course quite proper that these various cave management actions took place under the watchful eye and with the assistance of the Parks and Wildlife Service Regional Manager, Ian Marmion, who had been juggling opportunities and commitments for a chance to visit Exit Cave for some time. This time he finally made it! What surprised me however (and I don't shock easily...) was the

discovery - during the course of lunchtime banter - that Ian Marmion is the first cousin of a certain other Tasmanian caver, namely Dave Wools-Cobb! What makes it seem sillier that I – a Tasmanian, right?! – was surprised by this sort of information is that Ian's older brother, Peter, was in fact one of my best mates at Beachside Preschool (Bellerive) way back circa 1962 or something. So now you know. This sort of thing is just so Tasmanian, right?

End of story.



Monitoring gear boxes opened after removal from Exit Cave, showing unknown “stuff” (secondary minerals and organic stuff?) that grew on the electronic components during 30 years in the cave. Photo: Rolan Eberhard.

JF-211 Sesame II – JF-210 Sesame I

13 November 2021

Ciara Smart

Party: Jemma Herbert, Ciara Smart

Steve is planning another dive assault in this cave over summer and so Jemma and I headed in to rig most of the cave in preparation. Steve instructed us to rig the less popular ‘upper entrance,’ which adds four pitches but in theory saves grovelling through the crawly lower entrance. As neither of us had experienced this cave before we took this assessment at face value.

The ‘delightfulness’ of the short walk was somewhat undermined by the circles we had to make around the slightly off GPS coordinates. Eventually the cave was located right on the track but some way on from our coordinates.



Tupperware and cutlery! Must've been an easy trip...

Photo: Ciara Smart

There is significant fresh treefall over the upper entrance with a number of logs piled atop each other. We spent a while analysing the structural integrity of the least dubious log for a nice free hang but eventually located some existing bolt holes.

The first two pitches are straightforward, but the third is quite unpleasant. It involves a feet-first squeeze to reach the uncomfortably tight pitch-head at which point you need to

lower yourself at a right angle over a painfully overhung lip, all the while attempting not to tangle yourself and your bag in everything.

After another pitch we reached the point where the lower entrance joins and we headed down to rig pitches 5 and 6.



Not even using the ratchet! Photo: Jemma Herbert

Mission complete, we were not looking forward to wriggling back over the most awkward pitch-head. We decided to take the more interesting alternative and exit via the unknown lower route. While we knew roughly where it was, we unsurprisingly got lost multiple times. Some forensic trog mark analysis was employed which got us to what had to be the ‘Nematode Crawl.’

Several wrong turns later we emerged onto the surface. As our bags containing our phones were at the other entrance, and neither of us had ever seen this entrance before, it was quite important to locate the tapeline. It's a slightly disconcerting feeling to emerge from a cave into an unknown point in the landscape with no navigational tools whatsoever accompanied by a general feeling of disorientation from being underground.

After a bit of frustrating stomping around in the scrub, we eventually located the tapeline which was obscured by fallen logs and made our way back to the car.

Having now experienced both the upper and lower entrances, we concluded that the difference is negligible. However, the presence of heavy bags might just make the upper entrance the winner on the descent, by a very small smidge. I foresee plenty of hearty discussion on this topic come the summer assault.

IB-1 Revelation Cave

20 November 2021

Gabriel Kinzler

Party: Gabriel Kinzler, Owen Lennon, Nik Magnus, Mark Robertson

Two new club members, Owen and Mark, recently attended a club meeting. We didn't scare them off and they seemed very eager. After they received SRT training by Janine and Ric, I offered to take them to Revelation Cave. Nik was also keen to do more vertical caving.

The trip was fairly uneventful, other than following the wrong tapes (newly installed) for a little while until I realised that yes, "this didn't look familiar anymore". Turns out those tapes go to Hobbit Hole.



*There was fleeting interest for The Dig.
Photo: Gabriel Kinzler*

Everyone did well, especially on the 10 mm rope we had to use because of a shortage at the club store.

JF-4 Khazad-Dum – Serpentine route

21 November 2021

Janine McKinnon (photos Gabriel Kinzler)

Party: Gabriel Kinzler, Alan Jackson, Janine McKinnon, Ciara Smart, Ric Tunney

Background

The Khazad-Dum (KD) system has three routes to the streamway (Traditional Route, Serpentine Route and Wet Way) and two routes to the bottom of the complex (down the KD streamway or from Dwarrodelf entrance). P-hanging of these routes has been done in several exercises over the last couple of decades. All this work was done with Parks approval and following the guidelines established.

All has been completed with the exception of the Serpentine Route, which was only partly done in the first flush of P-hanging in Tasmania in the early 2000s. Further work was delayed by Jeff Butt's untimely death and by our being distracted on other projects.

Due to the inadequate rigging options, safety issues, and the technical difficulty of rigging on this route, it is rarely done - it seems to have been forgotten, more or less. This is unfortunate as it is a great patch of cave. It would make an

The new setup on the third pitch is working wonders and everyone passed the rebelay and pitch heads relatively swiftly. The short entrance pitch still needs a rethink however, as the rope rubs (not badly) against a set of roots, soil and rock.



Longest cowstails in history. Photo: Nik Magnus

excellent beginner SRT trip, and an even better exchange trip with the traditional KD route.

After a trip down there a couple of years ago (after long neglect) a few of us decided it was time to complete the task.

The Present

ASF Grants Commission had provided us with two dozen 10 x 80 mm Raumer glue-in hangers and glue. With a lot of gear to carry we were happy to have five cavers along for the installation day. We had three drills, so we planned (hoped) to get all P-hangers installed on this one day.

It had stopped raining for a day or two so at least we had a nice day to get to, and from, the cave. The stream was high but not as high as our reconnoitre visit a few weeks previously.

Alan dropped some dye into the entrance at 10:30 am for Steve Fordyce as we entered. The water may have been less than last trip but much more of it was diverting down the Serpentine Route than previously in my caving history. It appears that there has been a water-course change with the recent floods. We were in for a damp trip.

Ric and Gabriel left us at the junction to the Traditional Route to drill holes for P-hangers on the safety line for the dangerous traverse across the top of P3. This has had

concrete screw rigging for several years. They would then drill the holes for a traverse line over the 4 m drop at the start of Serpentine Route and follow us down.



The firing squad.

Alan, Ciara and I carried on to P1 of the Serpentine and spent some time considering P-hanger locations and drilling the holes. It was actually convenient that we had had a wet spell of weather, and that the stream has had its course change before we have finished this installation. It made it easier to see where best to place the hangers to minimize getting wet (or reduce it anyway).

I then carried on down rigging as they followed and drilled where necessary.

We all (including Ric and Gabriel) met up at the top of P3 and continued as a team to the bottom, discussing P-hanger locations and drilling as needed. One result of this consultation was Alan's excellent advice that we could avoid three P-hanger redirections by drilling holes through the rock for threads.



Spacey.

As we headed back up, Alan stayed last and applied glue and then came charging past us all sans pack but with glue applicator, gluing up the cave. Overall, we installed 18 glue-ins, three holes for threads and a few concrete screws (for protection while drilling the real holes). It all went very smoothly and we were all out before 5 pm. Next task is to test and tag the hangers.

JF-4 Khazad-Dum – P-Hanger testing

26 November 2021

Janine McKinnon (text and photo)

Party: Alan Jackson, Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney

The completion of the P-hanging of KD (in respect of this route) was reported on in the previous trip report. Today was testing, labelling and generally tidying up day.

We started into the cave just before 10 am. The water levels at the entrance were significantly less than last Sunday however a significant amount of the water was now going down the Serpentine route. It was only marginally dryer than Sunday.

We first headed to the traverse on the traditional route and whilst Alan tested the new P-hangers (according to protocols) Ric and I organised the P-hanger labels, re-tied the traverse rope and generally did the support stuff.

The traverse line has now been moved over to the P-hangers and the concrete screws removed.

Next was the traverse at the start of Serpentine Route. Same deal.

We headed down the cave continuing the tasks of testing P-hangers, placing labels on them, removing concrete screws, placing permanent Spectra line in re-direction threads and cutting off the old carrots left from earlier generations of cavers. It was interesting to note the excellent condition of the carrots despite their surface rust.



One of the removed carrot bolts.

We de-rigged the cave on the way out. Carabiners HAVE NOT been left on the permanent redirection threads.

P-hangers are easy to find as they have labels with reflective tape on them.

All P-hangers passed test.

We were out of the cave by 2:15 pm.

I expect to see groups making full use of this fun and sporting route now with safe and functionally rigging anchors.

JF-4 Khazad Dum – Rigging Guide (2021)

	Pitch length	Rope length (m)	Anchors	Suggested Rigging and Notes
Traditional Route – Entrance to Streamway				
P1	+5 p “Scaling Pole Pitch”	9	Two P-hangers up high (overhead) but technically RHS.	Normally bypass this pitch by going down the Serpentine Route and rejoining Traditional Route. Pitch is permanently rigged.
P2	4 p	8	Two P-hangers on back wall over pitch, one above the other.	This pitch is (just) climbable.
P3	15 p	No rope needed - bypassed	Four P-hangers on left.	This pitch is bypassed by a permanently-rigged traverse along rift above drop. Then take the ‘spiral staircase’ down to bottom of pitch.
P4	“Dry Ninety Footer” 28 p	35.5	Single P-hanger approach bolt LHS and 2 P-hangers at pitch head high on the left.	
P5	9 p	11	Two P-hangers, one high on right and one lower on left, out over the edge.	Y-belay.
P6	“Wet Seventy Footer” 21 p	29.5	Two P-hangers high LHS (approach bolts) and two P-hangers 5 m out in the rift, one on each wall at head height.	
Serpentine Route – Entrance to Streamway				
	Traverse		Three P-hangers RHS.	Permanently-rigged traverse across 4 m deep pit.
P1	23 p	34 + 5 or 38	One P-hanger approach bolt high RHS and two P-hangers at pitch head for Y-hang. (Unused P-hanger low on left 2 m above stream floor.) P-hanger out on the right wall (left when abseiling) at face height when standing on the ledge 8 m down.	Climb 3 m above floor. Approach line from P-hanger RHS. May use 3 m tail to help climbing to this hanger. Belay from the two P-hangers. At the ledge, either rebelay or deviate from P-hanger. There is a small 2 m nuisance drop just after this pitch. A second short rope (5 m), or the tail of the main rope, makes this easier with gear. Tie to spike RHS.
P2	15 p	22	Two P-hangers high on RHS. One P-hanger RHS (left when abseiling) at face height when standing on the ledge 10 m down.	Belay from P-hangers. Deviation using permanent thread 1 m down. At ledge, either rebelay or deviate using the P-hanger.
P3	8 p	9	Two P-hangers on left.	Approach pitch head by walking around boulders to left. Belay from P-hangers. Deviation using permanent thread RHS 2 m down.
				<i>NOTE: P2 + P3 can be done with one 34 m rope.</i>
P4	9 p	13	Two P-hangers high on left around corner.	Belay from P-hangers. Deviation using permanent thread RHS 2 m down.
P5	5 p	12	Two P-hangers on right.	Approach line from thread LHS 1 m above floor and 3 m back from hangers, plus a spike 1 m towards pitch to wrap rope around. Belay from P-hangers.
Streamway to Bottom				
P7	6 p (Streamway Pitch 1)	12.5	P-hanger LHS 3 m before lip. Many naturals at pitch head.	Careful rigging keeps you dry.
P8	9 p (streamway Pitch 2 – “Pedestal”)	16.5	Three P-hangers for ‘mini bolt traverse’ rig (ignore 1x P-hanger at top of pedestal climb, 2x P-hangers on wall in ‘corner’ up on pedestal, 1x P-hanger on large projection over pitch proper.	The ‘mini bolt pitch’ is awful and should be avoided. Instead, prusik on permanent rope onto pedestal. Rig from 2x P-hangers over edge to redirect on single P-hanger (using short tape). Possible to rebelay on last ‘traverse’ bolt, but unnecessary.
P9	5 p (Streamway Pitch 3)	13	Three P-hangers. First is LHS above drop for approach line. The other two are 3 m out in the rift, on the left wall.	The first P is not ideally placed for approach line, but is better than nothing (just).
P10	8 p (Streamway Pitch 4 – “Chute”)	17	P-hanger on the right at the start of the ‘chute’, P-hanger on left at the edge of the drop. Either rebelay from two P-hangers around corner (left when abseiling) or traverse opposite wall to ledge/platform to P-hanger and various natural options.	Choose your own adventure depending on water levels, but the two P-hangers around the corner is generally the driest and easiest option.
P11	8 p (Streamway Pitch 5)	11.5	Two P-hangers high on LHS.	Y-belay from P-hangers
P12	9 p (Streamway Pitch 6)	15	One P-hanger high RHS 3 m from pitch. Two P-hangers on the right wall over pitch.	Y-belay from P-hangers, if most weight is on the furthestmost P, you stay dry. Add 8 m of rope if you don’t like to step unbelayed across the void to the Brew Room. This can be tied to naturals on the far side.
P13	42 p (Brew Room)	50	Two P-hangers above ‘knife edge’ divide. P-hanger 4 m down, 1 m to the left, second P-hanger 12 m below.	Permanent rope to climb from Brew Room to knife edge.

Wet Way – Entrance to Streamway				
P1	5p	9	P-hanger approach line on right wall. Two P-hangers on right wall over pitch.	Join the dots.
P2	31p	66 (see notes) <i>PB-RB1 13</i> <i>RB1-RB2 9</i> <i>RB2-RB3 6.5</i> <i>RB3-RB4 7</i> <i>RB4-RB5 11</i> <i>RB5-RB6 9.5</i> <i>RB6-floor 9</i>	Large natural centre of passage for approach; single P-hanger on sloping face (right wall) just before lip of waterfall; [RB1] two P-hangers around corner on muddy face; [RB2] two P-hangers on alcove wall on sloping boulder-strewn ledge part way down pitch; [RB3] two P-hangers at edge of ledge (one with permanent tight line installed) ; [RB4] two P-hangers around corner on tight line traverse section 1; [RB5] two P-hangers at end of tight line traverse section 2; [RB6] One P-hanger	This pitch is rather technical and bloody wet. High water levels make it even wetter (hence all the rebelay). The 66 m rope length allows for using the rope around the initial large natural and completing the final ~3 m cascade on rope. Using a sling on the initial anchor saves 4 m of rope. Freeclimbing the final cascade saves an additional 4 m. The abundance of relatively close rebelay [RB#] allows easy joining of multiple short ropes if a single ~60 m isn't available. Rope lengths required between RBs are listed but wherever you make a join allow extra rope for tying a rethread fig-8 knot to tie into next rope. RB3-RB4-RB5 has a permanently rigged traverse line for clipping into while abseiling to reduce swing/keep dry.
P3	30p (Traverse Pitch)	37 <i>PB-RB2 19.5</i> <i>RB2-floor 17.5</i>	Bolt traverse (permanently rigged) gains access to primary anchor (two P-hangers). [RB1] one P-hanger; [RB2] one P-hanger	Both rebelay are well left (while abseiling) of previous hang to avoid water at high levels. Minor acrobatics required. As per previous pitch, joining rope options are listed.
P4	3p	5	Two P-hangers	Free-climbable at low water levels (spectacularly not so at elevated levels).
P5	22p (Animal Pitch)	39 App.-RB2 18 RB2-floor 21	One P-hanger high on right wall for approach line; two P-hanger primary belay high on left wall; [RB1] two P-hangers around arête; [RB2] one P-hanger	Rig approach line as a low loop to protect approach without having to climb high. RB2 located a short distance below and left of RB1. As per previous pitches, joining rope options are listed.

Original: *Speleo Spiel* 337 (Jul 2003) – Jeff Butt.

Modifications *Trip Report Speleo Spiel* 399 (Dec 2013)
Speleo Spiel 408 (Jun 2015)
Speleo Spiel 420 (Jun 2017) – Alan Jackson

Amended: R Tunney July 2014, January 2016, November 2021

All directions (Left, LHS / Right, RHS) are given looking down the cave unless otherwise noted. When abseiling, these directions should often be reversed.

In STC “P-hanger” refers to various types of permanent metal glue-in anchor with a rigid eye.

Permanent lines are 11 mm static rope.

Permanent threads use 5 mm Donaghys Superspeed line. (UHMWPE core with polyester sheath 8800 kN).

JF-719 Turret Cave – Snipping the Dag

20 December 2021

Alan Jackson (photos Gabriel Kinzler)

Party: Alan Jackson, Gabriel Kinzler, Petr Smejkal

I’m not entirely sure how I found myself standing at the entrance to this cave again. I can only assume Gabriel spiked my drink. The decision had been made many weeks earlier to cease and desist with exploration of this cave until a new wave of enthusiasm, or even better, a new generation, could be mustered. Getting a willing group of the current generation to derig it proved difficult but Gab got it done.

It started with a pleasant sunny day in Hobart which soon transitioned into pouring rain at Maydena. Delightful.



The only photo of the trip is worth a thousand words.

The walk up the hill was moist but painless and I then set about prevaricating as much as possible to give Petr and Gab a big enough head start to prevent me from having to go very far into the cave. I ran out of things to do eventually and proceeded to break the cave speed record for slowest progress.

I paused at the top of McSlurry Pitch, hopeful I would hear the others on their way out, rendering my progress past the squeezey thing unnecessary; alas, no such luck. At the bottom of McSlurry there was no way I was going through the hideous meander so I had a bite to eat, drank from the stream, admired the fossils and counted to 50. It worked. The others appeared with the rope from the following two pitches and I dropped a line to haul their bags up the last bit. We worked our way out of the cave and stripped the rigging. With only three medium bags between us it was even bordering on pleasant. Three hours underground was all it took and the (wet) walk down the hill awaited us.

Good draught, good location and good prospects but not the most inspiring cave I've been in. I look forward to reading about others' exploits in this cave in the decades to come.



This is what awaits you at the furthest point. It goes...

Additional notes by Gabriel

The dream is still alive, it's just not my dream anymore. The draught was strong again throughout the cave on the day of the derig, and it would have been blasting at the terminal dig. I can recommend this project to that future crowd who's bored and looking for a promising lead. The way down is very straightforward and you shouldn't get lost if you follow the rigging notes below as well as the cross-sectional map [see at the end of this issue, -Ed].

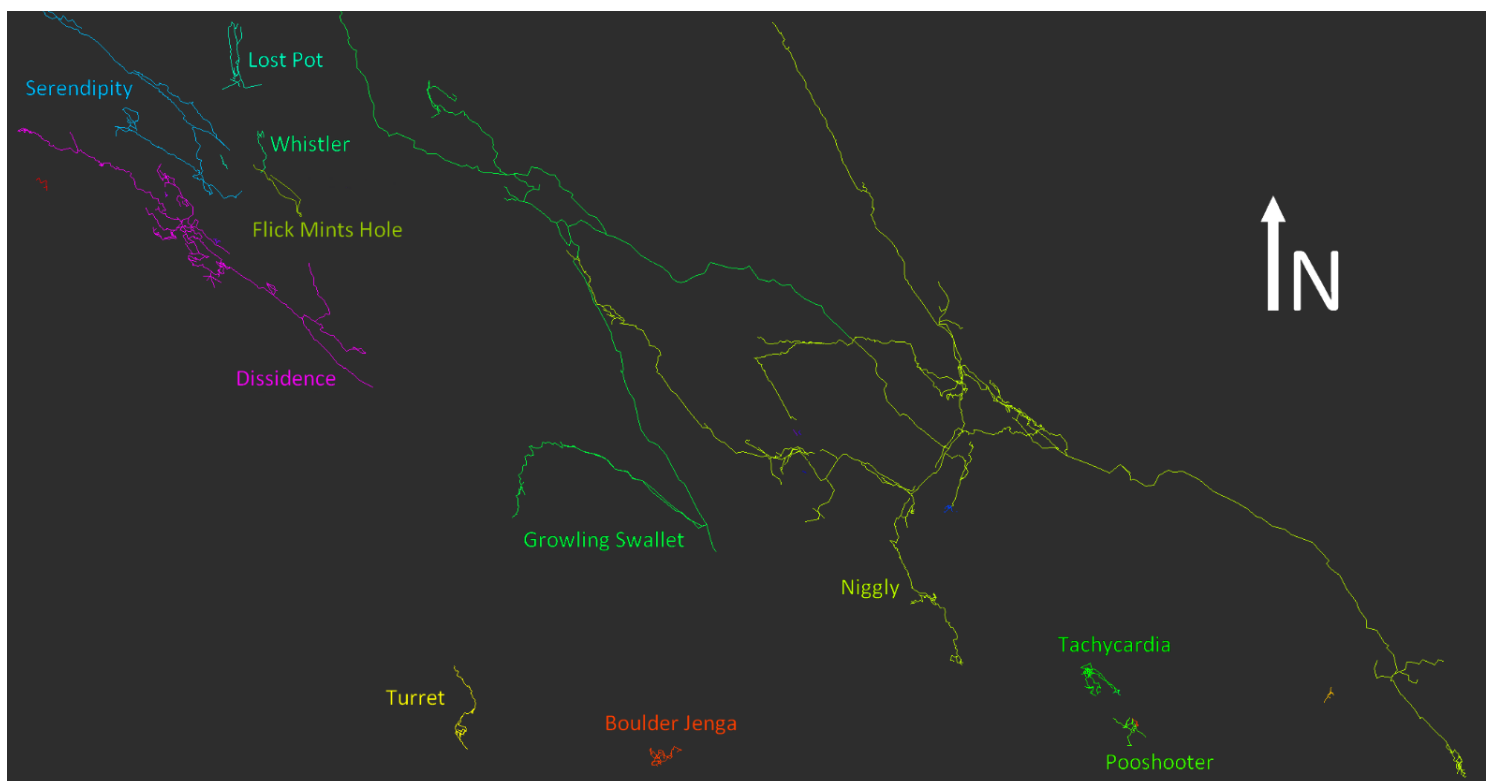
JF-719 Turret Cave – Rigging notes (see also club archive for corresponding photos)

All bolt holes – 21 of them – have been marked using so-called “parsnips” (removable plugs with reflective markers). Please put them back in after derigging.

The rope lengths indicated for certain pitches are fairly accurate. For the pitches where rope lengths are not indicated, allow a bit extra over the pitch length as a general rule.

Gear needed: 21x bolts/hangers/carabiners, 3x tapes for naturals.

- Entrance climb (3 m): knotted handline rigged from tree.
- P1 (15 m): on LHS in entrance chamber, 25 m rope rigged from tape on boulders into narrow pitch-head, redirect on LHS at ledge, and Y-belay on standing platform half-way down.
- P2 (4 m): exiting the rock pile, Y-belay across walls.
- P3 (10 m): 15 m rope backed to natural pillar, one-bolt rebelay on RHS under giant chock stone, then traverse to Y-belay on RHS.
- P4 (5 m): tape on triangular chockstone.
- P5 (20 m): Y-belay across walls to Y-belay on LHS $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way down.
- P6 McSlurry (20 m): Y-belay high on RHS before squeeze, redirect at squeeze, overhanging Y-belay on standing platform after squeeze.
- P7 (30 m): Y-belay on RHS.
- P8 (20 m). Y-belay across walls.



Other exciting stuff

DT-26 Black Snake Cave, Granton

Greg Middleton

Ros Skinner and I are often alerted to the existence of caves in the Derwent region by blogs put up by bushwalkers. Black Snake Cave is such a case. In their “Ramblings” (Unofficial posts of U3A Kingborough Bushwalkers) they included one on ‘Tracks from Black Snake Rd. Granton’ in February 2017. On this occasion they were making for Snake Mount which is just south of Granton; virtually a northern spur of Mount Faulkner. Having reached the summit from the end of Granton Heights Road, they descended the mountain by a more southerly route than the way they went up, following various tracks and then, “We finally reached the turn off towards the cave. I’ve been unable to find any reference to the cave anywhere. Odd it doesn’t seem to have a name. We head up the dry creek known as Black Snake Rivulet” (Pindell 2017). At the cave they stop for lunch and observe that it provides shelter (!). The author notes that “part of it has collapsed in living memory”. The blog includes some photos of the cave. The group then returned by following Black Snake Rivulet down to the end of Black Snake Road.

Armed with this information, Ros and I set out to find and document the cave on 1 October 2020. We reversed the U3A group’s route, following the rivulet up from the end of Black Snake Road. The whole of the area is freehold land, though the roads/firetrails are presumably public. On a later visit we met the owner of the last house on the road and found him very pleasant; indeed, he invited us back any time to walk and look for caves (of which he said there were more in these hills than the one we knew of).

We found the cave after wandering up a few trails on the side of the valley. Walking straight up the creek is the easiest way. Once there we took a few photos (1-4) and carried out a survey (Fig. 1).



Photo 1. Entering the cave from the eastern end.

To the best of our knowledge (and Pindell’s) the cave has not been named. Time it was. In usual inspired fashion, I’ve called it Black Snake Cave after the rivulet it may be on (actually it appears more likely to be a tributary of Black Snake Rivulet, but near enough). Apart from Snake Mount to the north and Rose Hills to the west, there are no other named features in the vicinity.



Photo 2. Further in, the overhang is quite impressive.

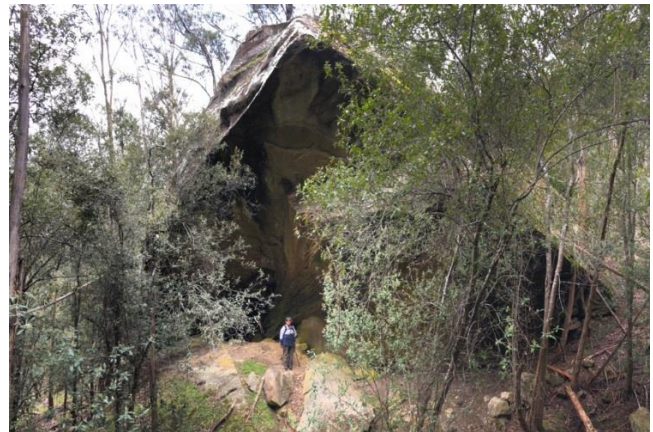


Photo 3. From the creek, it appears as though a huge slab has been left hanging at a steep angle.



Photo 4. The rocky floor of the main shelter has another low chamber beneath it (see Fig. 1).

Reference

Pindell, Jack 2017 Tracks from Black Snake Rd. Granton 2017. Accessed at: <https://ageramblings.blogspot.com/2017/02/tracks-from-black-snake-rd-granton-2017.html>

BLACK SNAKE CAVE DT26

Derwent Region, Tas

Map No. 7DT26.STC512

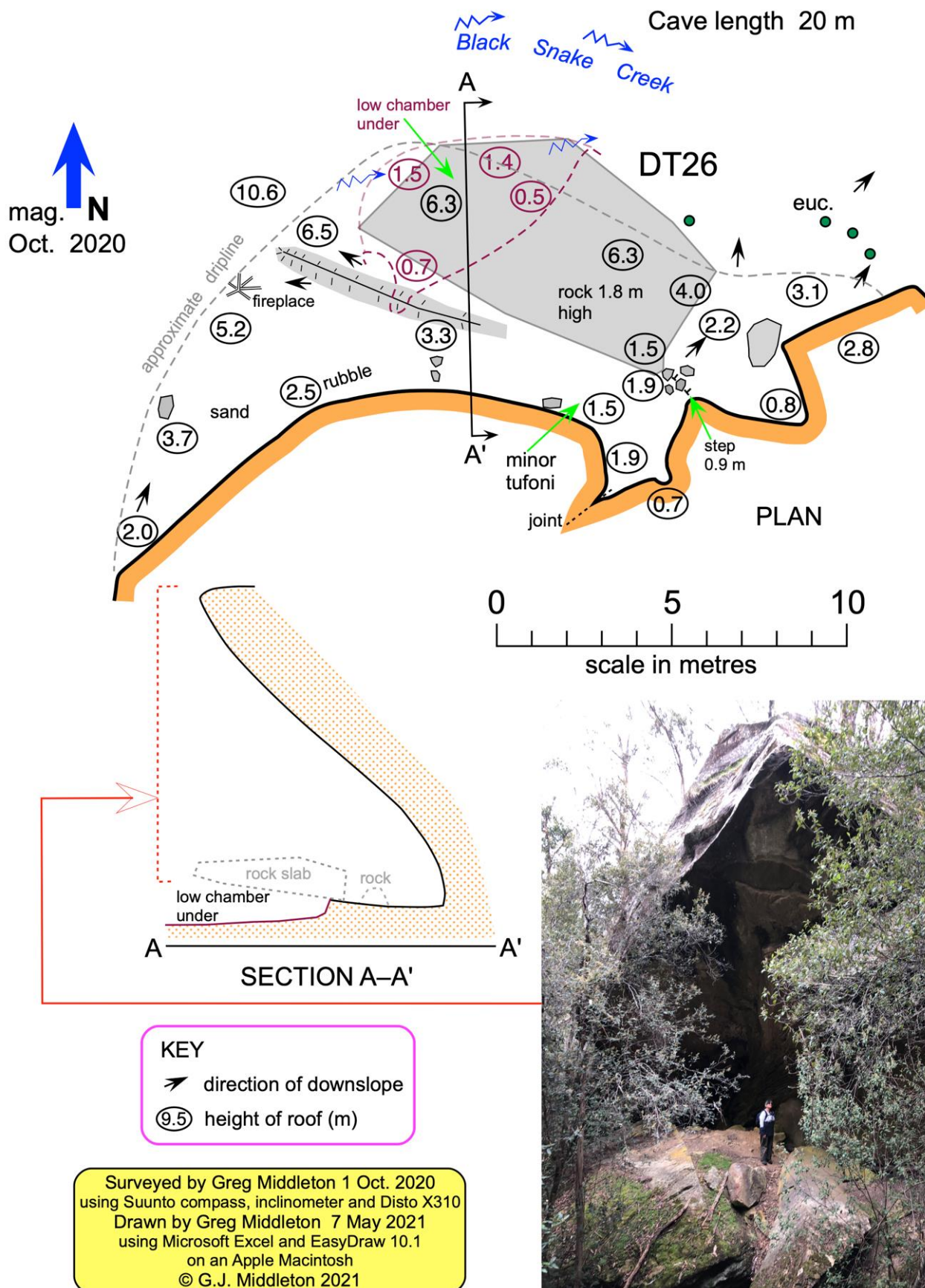


Fig. 1. Survey of DT-26 Black Snake Cave

Rescue training sessions – Ongoing

Gabriel Kinzler

Following Tasmania Police's "CavEx" at Mole Creek in September, a group of STC members led by Karina Anders and Bec Foxen decided to instigate regular training sessions focused specifically on cave rescue skills by revisiting the basics and eventually moving to advanced techniques.

Ideally, sessions are being held monthly. Once enough leaders are trained, the group will widen and aim to train more members.

Here are a few photos of the first three sessions



We started with the absolute basics, here different ways of setting up triple load shares. Photo: Gabriel Kinzler



Next session, we put it all into practice with a counterweight and tyrolean, with Janine as our mannequin. Photo: Alan Jackson



Alan also was a willing participant. Photo: Alan Jackson



*For our third session, we had to do pick-offs.
Photo: John Oxley*



(Wo)manning the ropes. Photo: Gabriel Kinzler



It wasn't without its frustrations. Photo: John Oxley



Talk to the hand. Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

Junee-Florentine Experiments Update

16 December 2021

Stephen Fordyce

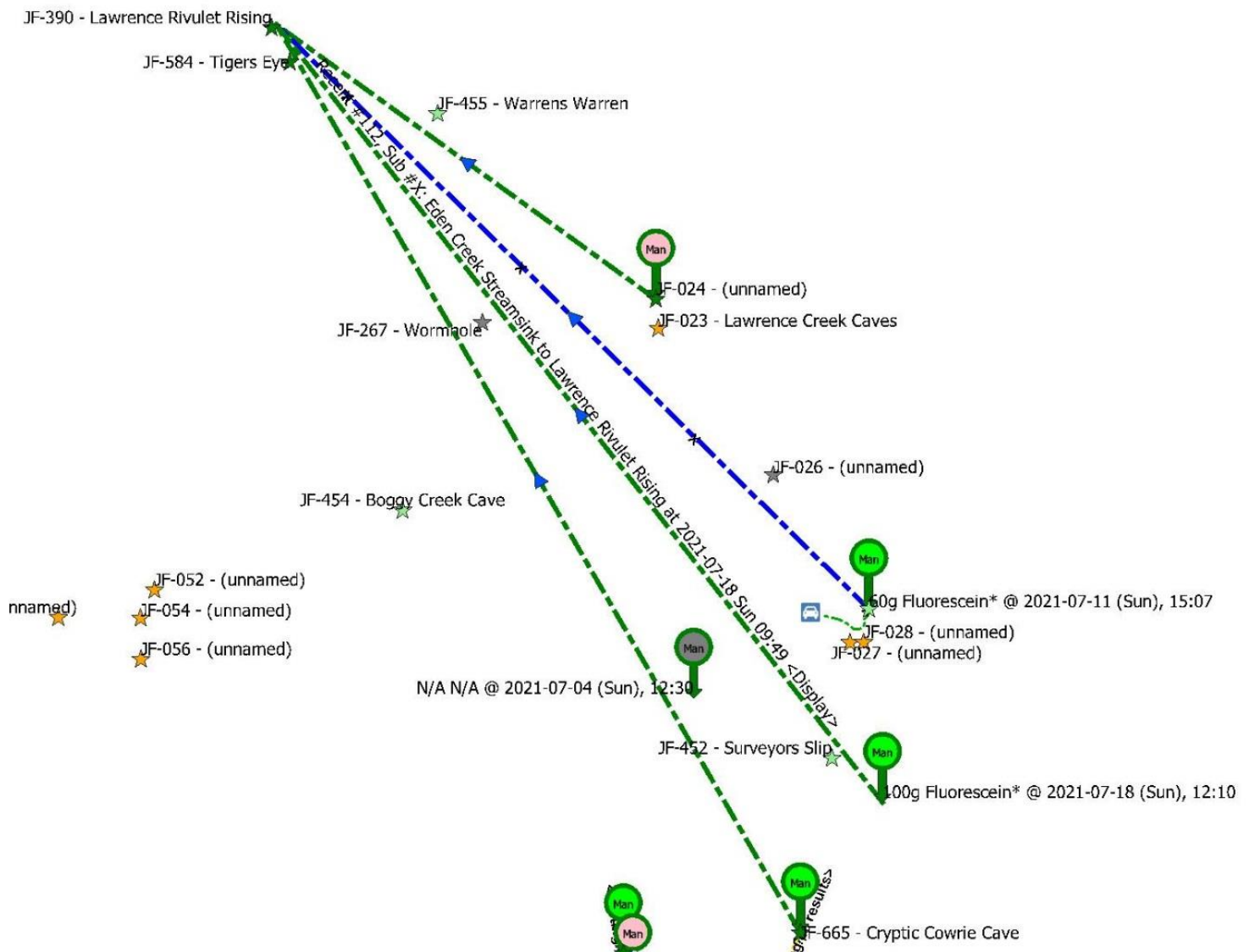
Russell Fulton and Greg Jordan put a detector in Lawrence Rivulet rising for some dye experiments in the northern Junee-Florentine area (the next catchment/cave system north of the Junee River catchment). They did some dye releases and Chris Sharples did some too.

The detector was collected recently with 5 months of stage data (to be analysed in detail later) and the dye tracing results, which are below. Welcome Stranger gave a pretty convincing negative result (vector in blue), which was a bit weird.

Also weird was a definite peak from the release in Cryptic Cowrie Cave, which was also traced to Junee. Quite bizarre

that water from this swallet apparently emerges 12 km to the SE AND 5 km to the NW, but Nick Hume got a similar probable result in the 1990s, and the dye peaks on the detectors are pretty obvious (the final determination though will be when the detectors come out of Porcupine). The positive trace from Eden Creek streamsink is a nice intermediate result.

When we get results back (soon!) from the winter traces on the Niggly/Growling detectors, there are likely to be a few swallets which don't go to Junee, and may provide an interesting project to find where they go instead.



The Tasmanian Pitch Bagger's Guide

Janine McKinnon

You didn't ask for it! You probably don't want it! But here it is again anyway. Back (not) by popular demand! The Tasmanian Pitch Bagger's Guide!

But wait, there's more! New additions and revisions! So start tallying your points again and get out there and drop some pitches.

But I'm not finished yet. There is a prize! I will give a bottle of champagne to the first person to reach 320 points! Yes! A bottle of French Champagne!

So don't wait get counting....and pitch-baggin' (proof of pitches bottomed may be required for authentication).

The Tasmanian Pitch Bagger's guide was developed by Ric (Tunney) and myself in 2010. We are not original thinkers and thus stole the idea from the Hobart Walking Club's "Peak Bagger's Guide", an activity that has inspired a fanatical obsession with point gathering for summing peaks. Even the Abels have gotten into the act now.

Alas, we failed to ignite the same pointless obsession amongst vertical cavers in the previous two outings of our brilliant system. It has been a few years, we have new (young, hopefully gullible) cavers in the club, and hope springs eternal, so in that light I re-submit it.

Maybe we'll give special extra points to anyone who does Yodellers Pot. We don't yet have points for digging to get to the pitch... now there's an idea for the next update.

No	Cave Name	Cave Number	Pitch Length	Pitch #	Pitch Name	Data Source	Length	Below another	Hard access	Beautiful	Technical	Tot
1	Niggly Cave	JF-237	191	P7a	Black Supergiant	1993 Jeff Butt survey	9	2	2	2	1	16
2	Tachycardia	JF-270	170	P4	Bermuda Triangle	2006 Alan Jackson survey	8	1	2			11
	<i>Gordon Dam</i>		<i>140</i>			<i>Wikipedia</i>						
3	Keller Cellar	MA-2	120	P1-2		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	6		3	1	1	11
4	Anne-A-Kananda	MA-9	118	P4	Heartbeat	Vertical Caves of Tasmania	6	1	4		2	13
5	Splash Pot	JF-10	113	P3	Harrow the Marrow	Speleo Spiel 319	6	1	1	1	1	10
6	Mini Martin	IB-8	110	P1		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	6			1		7
7	Niggly Cave	JF-237	103	P7b	Xenophobia	1990 Survey	6	1	1	1	1	10
8	Anne-A-Kananda	MA-9	100	P9	Priority Paid	Vertical section 2002	6		5		1	12
9	Anne-A-Kananda	MA-9	93		Psycho Killer	Vertical section 2002	5	1	5		1	12
	<i>Batman Bridge Pylon</i>		<i>91</i>			<i>en.structurae.de</i>						
10	Big Tree Pot	IB-9	90	P6		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	5	1	1	1		8
11	Niggly Cave	JF-237	85	P3b	Antidenomination	1990 Survey	5	1	1	1	1	9
12	Anne-A-Kananda	MA-9	85	P10		Vertical section 2002	5	1	5		1	12
13	The Chairman	JF-99	84	P1		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	4			1		5
14	Voltera	JF-207	80	P1		Speleo Spiel 402	4			1		5
15	Anne-A-Kananda	MA-9	76	P11		Vertical section 2002	4	1	5		1	11
	<i>Wrest Point</i>		<i>73</i>			<i>www.emporis.com</i>						
16	Tassy Pot	JF-223	71	P4		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	4	1		1		6
17	Lost Pot	JF-338	70	P3	G-Force	Vertical Caves of Tasmania	4	1		1		6
18	Chromosomia	H-15	68,6	P1		SS 439	3					3
19	Arrakis	MW-1	68	P1	Jadbar Pitch	1986 survey	3		2		1	6
20	Dwarrowdelf	JF-14	67	P6		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	3	1	1	1		6
21	Dribblespit Swallet	JF-13	66	P1		1988 survey	3					3
	<i>Tasman Bridge</i>		<i>60,5</i>			<i>Wikipedia</i>						
22	Boulder Jenga	JF-398	60	P1	Hydrophobia	Speleo Spiel 402	3					3
23	Halfway Hole	IB-136	59	P2	Piquant	1993 survey	2	1	1			4
24	Big Mama	IB-11	58	P1		7H11.STC480 map	2			1		3
25	Victory 75	JF-110	57,5	P3		1976 survey	2	1				3
26	Giotto Pot	IB-104	57,5	P1		1985 survey	2					2
27	Scratch Pot	JF-250	56			survey	2				1	3
28	Col-In-Cavern	MA-1	55	P1		Speleo Spiel 334	2		3		1	6
29	Dwarrowdelf	JF-14	55	P3		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	2	1				3
30	Florentine Pot	JF-371	55	P3		1985 survey	2	1				3
31	Dissidence	JF-382	55	P6	Vertical Euphoria	Map 7JF382.STC138	2	1			1	4
32	Devils Anastomosis	MC-131	55	P2		2014 Map	2					2
33	Anne-A-Kananda	MA-9	54		Apocalypse	Vertical section 2002	2	1	4		1	8
34	Armadillo Pot	JF-368	53	P1		Speleo Spiel 362	2					2
35	Comet Pot	IB-98	52	P1	Prayers on Fire	survey	2				1	3
36	Midnight Hole	IB-11	49	P6		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	1	1		1		3
37	Icetube	JF-345	49	P6	Fabulous Spangle Pitch	Vertical Caves of Tasmania	1	1	2	1		5
38	Skyhook Pot	IB-134	47	P4		1984 survey	1	1	1			3
39	Milkrun	IB-38	47	P6		1985 survey	1	1				2
40	Un-named	MA-19	46	P1		Speleo Spiel 334	1		3		1	5
41	Judds Cavern	C-17	46	P1	Propylaeum Entrance		1		2		1	4
42	Tachycardia	JF-270	45	P3	Art Deco	2006 Survey, SS 354	1	1	2	1		5
43	Deep Thought	MA-10	45	P2		Speleo Spiel 334	1	1	3		1	6
44	Cyclops Pot	IB-57	45	P3		1985 survey	1	1				2
45	Big Mama	IB-11	45	P1		SS 434 map	1					1
46	Cyclops Pot	IB-57	44	P1		1985 survey	1					1
47	Icetube	JF-345	44	P9	Killing Joke	Vertical Caves of Tasmania	1	1	2			4
48	Serendipity	JF-344	44	P5	Phobos Pitch	Vertical Caves of Tasmania	1	1	2		1	5
49	Anne-A-Kananda	MA-9	43	P6	Roaring Forty	Vertical section 2002	1		4		1	6
50	Halfway Hole	IB-136	44	P6	Easy Exit	1993 survey	1	1	1			3

51	Florentine Pot	JF-371	43	P1		1985 survey	1					1
52	Holocaust	IB-45	42,3	P1		1985 survey	1					1
53	Khazad Dum	JF-4	42	P13		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	1	1	1	1		4
54	Tassy Pot	JF-223	42	P1		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	1					1
55	Dissidence	JF-382	42	P5	Negative Reality Inversion	Map 7JF382.STC138	1	1				2
56	The Shaft	CP-218	42	P1		Beyond the Light 2008	1					1
57	Garage Door	IB-183	41,7	P3		Survey	1		1	1		3
58	Milkrun	IB-38	41	P1	Pint Bottle	1985 survey	1					1
59	Cauldron Pot	JF-2	41	P1		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	1			1		2
60	Shooting Star	MC-300	41	P1		Speleo Spiel 333	1					1
61	Hobbit Hole	IB-15	40,2	P1	Hydrous Hobbit Pitch	1983 survey	1					1
62	Three Falls Cave	JF-225	40	P5		Vertical Caves of Tasmania	1		1			2
63	Zulu Pot	JF-215	40	P1		Southern Caver May 1975	1					1
64	Lost Pot	JF-338	40	P5	Iron Anniversary	Estimated. Sketch Survey	1	1	2			4
65	Thun Junction	IB-20	40	P2	Thun Pitch	1991 survey	1		1			2
66	Yodellers Pot	IB-25	40	P3		1987 survey	1		3		1	5
67	Dismal Hill Pot	IB-128	40	P1		1987 memory sketch	1					1
68	Old Ditch Road	IB-131	40	P4		1987 survey	1					1

Notes:

- Pitches over 40 m only.
- The longest pitches on the Mainland are 90 m Big Hole, Wyanbene, NSW and 90 m Devils Coachhouse, Jenolan, NSW.

Fun and Diversions

Sallys Folly Perpetual Trophy

Alan Jackson (text and photos)

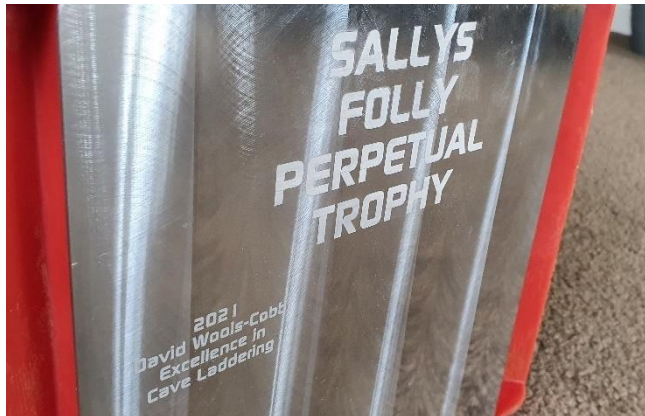
Many cavers may remember the Coca Cola crate which helped keep cavers out of the mud in Sallys Folly in Kubla Khan for many years. It was officially retired from duty earlier this year and Deb Hunter decided to turn it into a trophy for David Wools-Cobb in celebration of him scraping through the Snowy Mountain Cave episode late last year.

Initially presented as the "David Wools-Cobb Award - for excellence in cave laddering", it has now been upgraded to the "Sallys Folly Perpetual Trophy" with some shiny ends

for recording past and future recipients. It is hoped the trophy will record underground upsets for generations to come, but is not intended to inspire any!

Thanks to Dave for stealing (?) the crate in the first place, Deb for the idea and Currawong Engineering for having some perfectly-sized scrap aluminium and a laser etcher.

I can't wait to see whose name goes on next.



JF-719 Turret Cave (JF-720, JF-721)

Junee-Florentine, Tasmania

7JF719.STC527

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

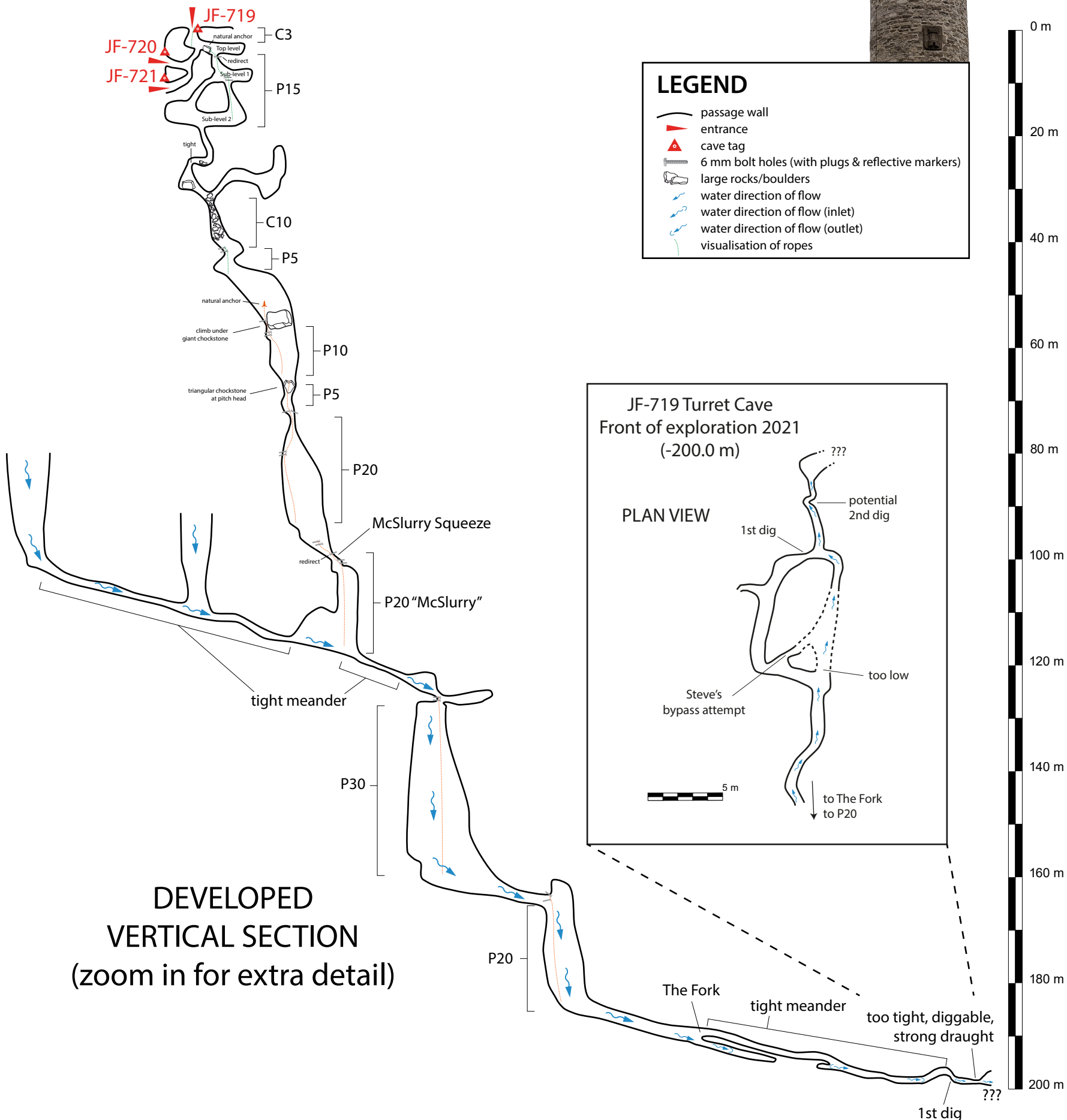
ASF Grade 54

Surveyed by Gabriel Kinzler, Michael Packer, Stephen Fordyce, Ciara Smart, Jemma Herbert (July - September 2021)

Drawn by Gabriel Kinzler (November 2021)

Surveyed Length - 578 m

Surveyed Depth - 196 m



The Last Page

