Speleo Spiel 453

November - December 2022

Newsletter of Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc. ISSN 2208-1348

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Front Cover: *Karina putting in a rebelay with the latest in minimal caving kit. JF-759. Photo: Gabriel Kinzler*
Back Cover: *You can't beat a good bum shot for the back page. Guesses to the editor on whose it is. Photo: Gabriel Kinzler*

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

Speleo Spiel

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Editorial

This last edition for the year is a little more diverse in content than the last few issues. Delta Variant still manages to keep some of us occupied on weekends but it isn't the only game in town any longer, or should I say at the moment. The cave isn't over yet.

Included in this issue is a very enlightening account of a new member's inaugural trip, down and up the first pitch of Mini-Martin. Yes, you read that correctly. A 110 m pitch with hanging rebelay as a first caving trip. Very old school. There were actually two new cavers on the trip (I hasten to add that I had given them SRT training, which they sailed through with ease). Those of us who have been around caving awhile often forget the impact the first few trips had on us, particularly the first few big vertical pitches. This account reminded me.

Happy reading and Merry Christmas to you all.

Stuff 'n' Stuff

Jemma (Herbert) and I were consultants for a day for the cave component of the Extreme Sports Medicine module offered by the University of Tasmania School of Medicine Healthcare in Remote & Extreme Environment Division. This was its inaugural outing and fortunately all went well. The participants of the module are all qualified doctors, nurses or paramedics. They came from all over the country. UTAS is the only university offering this module. It was fun and an engaging day. I found it interesting that they thought to include caving in the mix with other outdoor sports.
A few of them are keen to get a national register of suitably skilled graduates up and running as a resource for cave rescues. They have been directed to the ASF. It will be exciting to see if this goes anywhere. It will potentially be very useful if it does.

Longer days have arrived again and so Jemma Herbert has started organising regular evening rescue training sessions at Fruehauf Quarry. They are a great way to sharpen up some of the skills that we don't use in our normal caving, like pick-offs. They are also fun social evenings, but with purpose. What an excellent combination, so think about popping along sometime.

You don't get more relaxed than that. Anna Ekdahl channelling the laid-back caver.

Photo: John Oxley

That is certainly an interesting position Anna has adopted.

Photo: John Oxley

There are some retired ropes at the gear officers place which are available to club members for purchase at a very reasonable rate. These are DEFINITELY no longer safe for caving. That still leaves a multitude of possible uses, like trailer tie-downs, so contact Alan Jackson if you are interested. They won't be sitting around forever so jump in soon.

This long-delayed conference will definitely be going ahead next year, from 17-21 April 2023, in Ceduna SA. It will have Nullarbor field trips post-conference from 22 April-1 May. This is a great way to see some of those very impressive caves, listen to informative talks, and also catch up with mainland caving friends and make new ones. If you plan on taking your vehicle, I suggest you book the ferry soon.

Details can be found here: tinyurl.com/mpeswx8d

Trip Reports

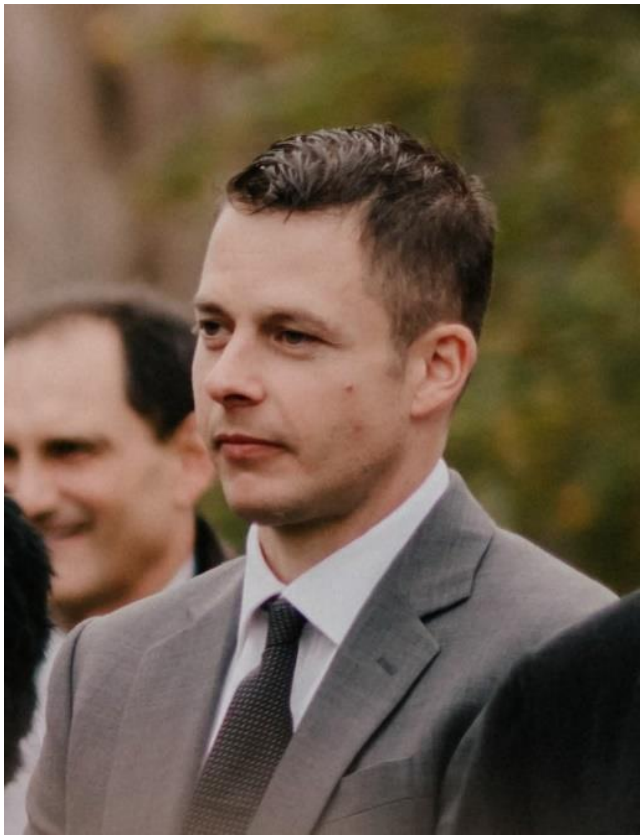
The Story of JF-703: Jimmys Window

April 2021

Stephen Fordyce. Photos by Stephen Fordyce unless otherwise credited

Party: Nina Birss, Gabriel Kinzler, Simone Lee, Stephen Fordyce

A final report to tie up this noteworthy cave has finally worked its way to the top of my priority list, just shy of two years after being discovered - better late than never. I'll admit to having mixed feelings, as it's named for a good friend about my age who passed away during lockdown in early 2020. Having no option but to attend the funeral remotely by video link was easily the single worst lockdown experience I had. He was amongst other things a highly skilled welder (boilermaker), and you can see his handiwork in my capping kit.



Jimmy Gibbs (and someone familiar in the background) at my wedding

Anyway, enough sentimental guff. Here are the dates of visits and reference to other reports:

- Monday 11 Jan 2021: Nina & Steve discover and tag the cave (*SS*442, p.12)
- Wednesday 13 Jan 2021: Gabriel & Simone join us to drop the cave, and rearrange matter in the terminal rift (*SS*442, p.13)
- Sunday 11 April 2021: Steve & Gabriel finish it off

  Recap of January:
  The cave is halfway up an ~8 m high bluff above the JF-254 doline, with two horizontal entrances that link up in the daylight zone. The flat(ish) floor and excellent vantage of the valley through a doline-induced gap in the forest inspired the "window" part of the name. Access is via the Tachycardia route, jumping off before it reaches the top. Thrashing the 250 m sideways to Jimmys Window is thick, steep, and unpleasant, approaching from the top past JF-554 is probably easier if you can be bothered climbing down to the entrance (bring a 15 m rope, and follow the crack down). Contouring around the JF-254 doline is ok, but there's an awkward and kind of dodgy climb up tufts of grass to the base of the cliff proper.

The entrances to the cave, from below

JF-703 is directly above the JF-254 doline (with a cave ~25 m deep and unsurveyed, as well as untagged, draughting slots in the cliff probably related to JF-702) and below the JF-554 Nasty tag on the top of the cliff. It's well placed to be related to the Tennis Court Rockpile in JF-237 Niggly Cave, which was particularly exciting, although the cave crapped out with 250 m of vertical still to go. Looking at the cliff from below, the main entrance (with tag) can be seen halfway up the left crack. The right crack has the second entrance (untagged) and there is a nice square horizontal tunnel about 8 m long around a pillar of rock to link them. In summer, this antechamber seemed like a nice, sheltered spot to get changed, in winter it dripped abominably and was wet and miserable.

Into the hill beyond the tag, Nina went down a slot and a couple of metres down found what turned out to be a 58 m pitch, with a few ledges (including a major one 8 m off the bottom which is safe enough to get off rope). The pitch is for

the most part 2 m wide and elongated, 8-10 m down is a bit of a side passage heading out of the hill, and a daylight hole presumably corresponding to the second entrance crack. The last drop of the pitch is tighter, a rift 0.5-1 m wide.

Following this down (north), I shimmied down a tight rift covered in moonmilk until it ended definitively at a small calcite pool with some bones.

Nina with the freshly tagged entrance

A few metres of rift were followed south from the bottom of the rope and a dig was commenced by Gabriel, Nina and I, with a hint of void going back down under dolerite infill. Eventually the infill all gave way spectacularly and knees/elbows were hastily wedged to keep us from going down with it. Some more stabilising efforts gave us access to another few metres of downward sloping rift that jagged down to the right through an impassable slot 10 cm wide, although with void beyond it. It wasn't drafting or particularly promising, but proximity to the Tennis Court Rockpile in Niggly was tantalising.

Summer lovin', had me a blast

April:

So Gabriel and I came back a few months later, our lovely summer memories of the cave rudely overwritten by snow, changing in cold drips, frozen hands and assorted ailments. We re-rigged (it had been de-rigged in January, so the concrete screw holes have been used twice) and went to the coal face.

It turned out the impassable slot was partly formed by a large flake, which the crowbar and judicious use of some handy rocks helped us roll in, and out of the way. Through the slot was a decent bit of a chamber, which heads off SE, away from the main line of the cave. The low point had a floor of loose limestone flakes, but nowhere obvious to dig. We did an exciting climb up into another chamber trending upwards and faced another one. Gabriel was enthusiastic enough to put in a couple of concrete screws and aid climb up a few metres, but it wasn't prospective enough to go beyond that. The cave was finished and we de-rigged it. On the way out, we gave Jimmy a one-gun salute using his handiwork, and on an unrelated note the slot became a bit easier to pass through. Thanks mate, rest in loud noises and adrenalinicious fun times.

Map number 7JF703.STC547 has been assigned and by time of publication, a hand-drawn version should be in the digital archive.

JF-703 Jimmys Window, Rigging Notes:

Gear:

- Ropes: 80 m (+20 m spare)
- Anchors: 12x concrete screws (CS), holes marked with parsnips

Placement:

- 2x CS at start of safety line, ~3 m sideways
- 2x CS at top (anchors lower than ideal due to rock quality), ~17 m down
- 2x CS, ~22 m down
- 2x CS, ~8 m down
- 2x CS, ~8 m down to major ledge
- 2x CS, ~8 m down to bottom

Cave Hill: Tarn Creek & other places.

14 September 2022

Bill Nicholson

Party: Bill & Callum Nicholson

Water Level in Tarn Creek was low and not much moisture about on the ground. Callum poked his head into a hole briefly and noted a few bones, nothing of significance.

We just needed to go bush and Cave Hill is a pleasant area for a frolic.

Mystery Creek - Rescue Exercise

17-18 September 2022

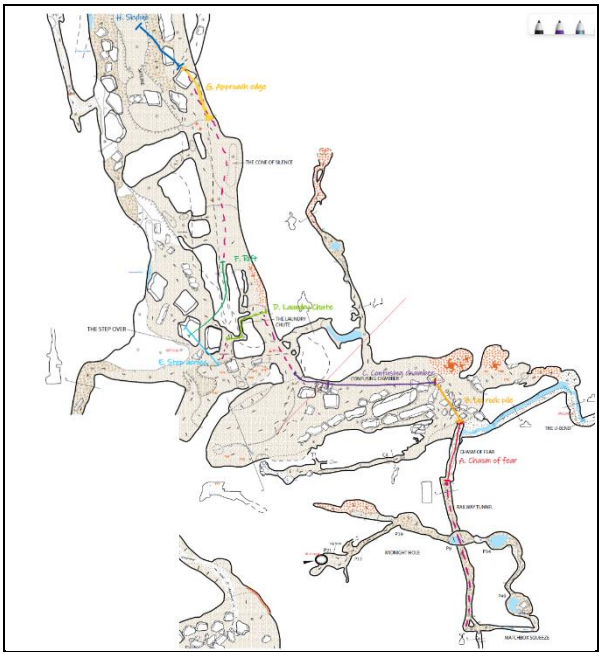
Overview from STC Search & Rescue officer: Jemma Herbert

Section team leaders' reports submitted (*Not all submitted a report.)*.

Participants: 32 people from STC, NC, MCCC, Tas Police (5), Tas Ambulance (1), and some mainlanders.

We did this cave rescue exercise together with the Tas Police. It was in Mystery Creek Cave.

The scenario was that there was a casualty out towards Matchbox Squeeze. The casualty had broken both their legs. We had to get them out as far as Skyline. BUT! All the easy routes out happened to be blocked by lava, so we'd have to take the patient down the Laundry Chute, back up a rift and over the void to get there.



Route of the rescue. Map by Alan Jackson, route overlay by Jemma Herbert

For the sake of brevity, and focus on the rigging, we didn't run comms for this exercise, and we didn't have any surface coordination team. We should do those things next time for practice.

Alan, Damian and I had figured out the route, the sections that needed rigging and allocated teams of people in advance. So when we got there, we passed around the team lists and maps, and got ourselves into teams pretty quick. Teams sorted out their own gear, after a vague verbal overview of the nature of their section. Everyone grabbed lunch provided by TasPol and we all headed in.

Once in the cave, teams jumped straight into rigging their own sections, with Alan and Damian floating around offering feedback. I gather that went well, but I was busy with my own team.

When everyone was done rigging - about 2 pm - we started moving the patient. It was Henry's first time in a cave and he enthusiastically volunteered as tribute for the stretcher - much to everyone's surprise he actually seemed to enjoy it.

All the sections went relatively smoothly, and we were done by about 4 pm. Some derigging, and hoots across the big airy tyrolean, then back to the Southport Hall for BBQ, socialising and party games.

Party games got increasingly competitive as the night went on. Highlights included Alan causing himself permanent damage attempting the splits in a gripping Twister showdown against Jess, and Henry & Will launching themselves across the room in the delicate balancy game of clip the chair. Lowlights include running out of cave-related party games and going to bed.

The next day we all helped out to sort and clean gear and debrief.

Stuff that went good:

- Pre-allocated teams and sections. It's not super realistic, but it saved a bunch of time, and we got going relatively quick.

- Damian organized food for everyone (courtesy of TasPol). Lunch, dinner and breakfast. Free food, what's not to love. Thanks guys.

- Police and Ambulance Tas came. By all accounts, they're all very capable and we worked well together and shared some skills.

- We finished plenty early. Out of the cave at 4 pm or something. Clearly need to make it harder next time.

- In order to avoid drilling too many bolts, some teams were sharing anchors. They made it work really well.

- All the rigging by the teams. Everyone did good, it all worked, mission successful.

- Party, party, party at the hall on Saturday night 🎉🥳. Much fun times.

Cavers' version of partying - gymnastics (with alcohol)

Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

Stuff that went not-so-good:

- We always drop stuff on the patient's face. Even when we're trying really hard not to. That's a problem that is pretty easily solved with gear. Let's get a face shield to go with the stretcher kit. Janice has been doing some research.

- We often got a bit excited when carrying the stretcher, and became erratic and jerky. We need to try and remember to slow down and communicate.

- Patient care got a bit ignored. We should have a dedicated person with no other job than to follow the patient around, and look out for their immediate needs, keep them informed, comfortable, etc.

- All the usual minor rigging issues. The bolt pattern for Tyroleans is typically 3-in-a-row, not a triangle. Load share anchors should be short, to minimise extension if a point fails. Practice down-prusiking.

- We ran out of party games and went to bed.

Thanks everyone for coming along, and to the northern clubs for contributing a bunch of gear, and especially Alan and Damian for all the planning, coordination, and oversight on the day.

Team A (first stretch). Chasm of Fear Team Perspective

Stephen Fordyce

Party: Stephen Fordyce, Ben Hazell, Henry Garratt

A couple of our team members no-showed, so Ben was thieved from another team to bring us up to 3. We were assigned the Chasm of Fear, which gave us an excellent opportunity to check out the nearby Matchbox Squeeze, and to be first cab off the rank in the exercise. The Chasm of Fear required a fairly simple tyrolean about 10 m long, through a keyhole-shaped passage approx. 1 m wide and 1.5 m high, but with no bottom.

Good things:

- Using a single ~50 m rope for tyrolean and each end haul line. Most efficient.
- Using a person to lift the rope on their shoulder. A human redirect got the stretcher up that little bit higher, without needing extra rigging.

Not so good things:

- Not reviewing how we would get the head of the stretcher up to the tyrolean rope and having to improvise it.
- Setting up the stretcher the wrong way around in narrow passage at the start of the exercise (and then trying to do a U-turn).
- Underestimating the complexity of traffic control (and placement of our handler Ben, who got swept away in the tide).

Interesting things:

- Sharing anchors with the next team made for a good exercise in coordination.
- Using a natural as one of our triple load sharing anchors.

Janice March's team

With rigging teams assigned to areas named Chasm of Fear and Confusing Chamber, you'd have thought the beginner cavers might have been put off. Quite to the contrary, Henry and Will hopped right into the stretcher, literally, and into constructing our teams' shared anchor points.

The ideal position of these was debated by both teams and Alan, but testing the rock quality with the bolting hammer resolved the question as it ruled out most of the possible surfaces we were considering, and the chosen position ended up being perfectly adequate for both teams' tyroleans. Our high vantage point was great for viewing Teams 2 and 3's tyroleans and our colleagues demonstrating various ways of scaling the step up to the Chasm of Fear - hilarious.

Across Confusing Chamber

Photo: John Oxley

The casualty laden stretcher traversed the cave smoothly without much intervention by underground controller, Alan who remained close by but let me get on with controlling the transition we had rehearsed.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to a very useful learning exercise, and it was great to cave and socialise with STC, MCCC, ambos and police.

Important note for all future stretcher users: the casualty needs full-face protection (and not just goggles) as we came close to damaging Henry's front teeth by dropping metal hardware on them.

A special thank-you to John Oxley for taking us caving to Rocket Rods Pot the day before because Launceston-Ida Bay-Launceston is a long way to drive for a single day's caving.

Karina Ander's team

I had three people in my team, Eleanor, Bob and Chris. We had a tyrolean section to rig up between two other tyroleans.

Up he goes

Photo: John Oxley

We communicated well with the other two groups, deciding together the best place for the triple load-share anchor. At both ends, we could rig both tyroleans off the same triple load-share to save time and reducing the impact on the cave. However, in sharing anchors, it meant we didn't have the tyroleans crossing each other. This would make transferring the stretcher a little more difficult. As we had this issue at both ends of our tyrolean, we needed to use Italian hitches at both ends. This made tensioning the tyrolean a little more

difficult than usual but we managed it reasonably well. When we passed the stretcher through, everything ran pretty smoothly.

A heavier counterweight for the mini counterweights when transitioning the stretcher across the two tyroleans would have made it smoother and quicker.

Overall, a good exercise in rigging a tyrolean a bit differently.

Team F, Jemma Herbert's team

Jemma Herbert, Lachlan Bailey, Lauren Hayes, Brian Evans, Richie (TasPol)

Our section was diagonal tyrolean through a rift joining a lower level of the cave to a higher level. We initially decided it was definitely going to be a diagonal tyrolean but were unsure how much trouble we would have with sagging and getting around the very slight bend. So, we started by just getting a rope down it, and seeing how it looked. It turned out that our line wasn't quite straight enough, so we'd need a redirect to keep the line off the wall. It was also going to sag too much, and the patient would end up in the narrow bottom of the rift rather than the roomier top of the rift. So we decided to rig a fixed midpoint and tension from both sides. To get the stretcher past the fixed point, we positioned an attendant there to do a mini haul. Lachlan did admirably for his first try at the very tricky job of handling that transition.

We wasted heaps of time and annoyed the Laundry Chute team by not carefully planning what gear we needed at the top and bottom of the pitch, meaning lots of trips around the section and waiting for gear. We also made a few rigging errors along the way, and could have done with a practice run before the patient came through. But we all had fun and hopefully learnt some stuff. So good job team.

Spot the guy in red taking a photo here? See him in the previous photo? You get points for submissions to the editor on who he is. Double points if you are correct.

Photo: John Oxley

IB-8 Mini Martin (Pitch 1)

18 September 2022

William Grant

Party: Henry Garratt, William Grant, Jemma Herbert

After the cave rescue exercise the previous day, we awoke from our dreams of Tyrolean Traverses and Fusion Knots ready for some more caving. We were somewhat disappointed to find nobody else was both keen and available, but anyway Jemma was keen.

Jemma did most of the organising receiving advice on the approach from Alan. We set out from the Mystery Creek carpark heading up the track. Alan had said to turn off at Forty Minute creek- which if we were fast, could probably reach in twenty minutes *(that's 40 minutes from the top of the quarry, named when you could drive to there. 20 minutes from the carpark would be incredible timing – Ed).* It took us around an hour to reach - not too shabby. We turned off the main track and continued up the hill reaching the entrance in another 25 minutes or so. The entrance was just as described, a hole in the ground approximately seven by ten metres. Due to the sheer nature of the sides, it was impossible to see how deep the hole extended, it could have been just five metres or five hundred. The entrance looked rather like a man trap that cannibal tribes might set up. It just needed a few ferns draped over the top and we might have been dinner.

Jemma descended first giving the advice to expect two whistle blasts when she was at the bottom. To rig the pitch, we had a 30 m rope for the first ~10 m access pitch and rebelay with another two 50 m ropes to be tied together for the 100 m free hanging pitch *(woohoo – a knot pass on their first trip – Ed).*

Henry getting excited at the start. Photo: William Grant

I was very excited to see Jemma tying a Tipple Figure Eight on a Bight Flemish Bend. This was a knot I had only read about on the deepest darkest depths of the internet - who knew I had been caving before, just digitally - but had never seen used. It was now just me and Henry left on the surface, trepidation and excitement building.

We were just beginning to suspect something might have gone wrong for Jemma when sure enough, "TOOOT TOOOT".

Henry was next to descend leaving me alone on the surface. It was not long after Henry departed that the rain started to fall.

As I sat there, gradually cooling off, the excitement was beginning to ease. Thoughts of the arduous jumar waiting for me at the bottom started to fill my head. For a time, I was beginning to question why I was there. 'Maybe everyone else did have the right idea. They could be at home, having a nice warm shower, nice lunch….' "TOOOT TOOOT" Suddenly all the excitement flooded back. The alure of the

large pit next to me was almost magnetic. ‘Trogsuit done up, check. Triple check the harness buckles, check. Got the bag, check. Stop on, check’ I was off.

As I rounded the edge, I got my first look at the cave. 100 m can look quite different depending on the context. 100 m at the athletics track, not too far, 100 m off a cliff, huge. Today, it was quite difficult to see what the 100 m looked like. Due to twists and turns of the hole, I couldn’t really see Henry or Jemma below me. The pitch was certainly longer than fifty metres, but it was difficult to tell how much. I descended the first five metres to the rebelay and it was time to pass it. ‘Cows’ tails on, check. Descend on to them, check. Holding my weight, check. Stop off, check. Stop on below the rebelay, ohh…’. I was having trouble pulling up the rope to load the Stop. Was it caught on something? Was Henry still abseiling and I had misheard the whistle? I couldn’t really see the bottom to tell if he was off or not. Then I realised, ahh, that’s what 100 m of rope weight feels like. With some difficulty, I managed to get the Stop loaded and with even more difficulty I managed to pull up and it was now taking my weight.

I took my cows’ tails off and I started to abseil. At least I thought I would, there was so much rope weight, I was not going anywhere. With much arduous feeding, I started to descend. As I descended, I became lost in the cave. Its large sweeping ceilings, small nooks and interesting mosses totally enthralling me “HSSSSSS” ‘what was that? Was that the rope melting?’ I had been struggling so much to get the Stop to feed, I had totally forgotten Jemma’s advice to abseil slowly so as not to overheat the Stop. I looked up the rope making sure I hadn’t been melting the rope as I descended. ‘It was probably just a drop of water falling on the hot Stop and boiling.’ I was madly trying to check how hot the Stop was. I couldn’t feel the heat through my gloves, so I was trying to place my exposed cheek against it. With renewed caution, I continued to abseil. ‘Was I nearly at the bottom?’ It was already feeling like a long pitch. ‘Hang on, I haven’t even reached the knot yet, I can’t be more than halfway. Yowzah, this is a long pitch’.

I reached the knot and was very relieved to put my ascender on. Now if my Stop did melt the rope through, I should be ok.’ Again, back to the checklists. ‘Cows’ tails on, check. Hand ascender on, check. Stand up and chest ascender on, check. Stop not holding my weight, check. Replace below the knot check.’ I then started to awkwardly down prusik towards the knot. In hindsight, I realised I should have descended further before switching to the jumars. With much more awkwardness, I managed to descend down the height of the Stop. I transitioned back on the Stop and gladly found that I had indeed down-prusiked far enough that the hand ascender was unweighted.

I continued down, glad that the shenanigans of passing the knot had allowed time for my Stop to cool off. Feeding the Stop had been gradually becoming easier as I descended, and I was now able to abseil without having to feed at all. I had all of about 20 m of easy abseiling, and then all of a sudden, I was struggling to get enough friction. It was back to the jerky abseiling. Despite my best efforts to abseil slowly and smoothly, I was doing the jerkiest abseil of my life. Thankfully, I was nearing the bottom and I no longer felt so alone in the void. With much relief, I made it to the ground. Despite using static ropes, I still had to abseil several metres whilst standing on the ground to release the rope stretch. As the rope finally became slack, I realised just how little spare rope we had, the end didn’t even make it quite to the ground! Note for future self, don’t use an excessive amount of rope for rigging on this pitch.

What a place I had just abseiled into. It was somewhat like standing at the end of a large cathedral. Looking up, I could see the ceiling high above, curving down. Looking forward to where the alter and stained-glass window might be, the ceiling and floor curved away in symmetry, down the second pitch. The floor and ceiling were forming a double rainbow of rock. I was standing on the zenith of the lower one, looking out as both curved away. Who knew if a pot of gold was waiting at the bottom of the next pitch? With disappointment, I realised this would have to wait for another day.

Looking directly up to where I had just abseiled, it became clear just how narrow the unenclosed area was. Where the rock was twisting back and forth on top of itself, the rope threaded its way down narrowly dodging walls on several sides throughout its length. At the bottom of the pitch, it was also clear which parts were enclosed or not. In areas where there was a clear line to the surface, there was quite reasonable daylight. Just a metre either side, however, it was fully dark. It was rare to see such a clear threshold of illumination.

After a bit more time spent enjoying the position, we found ourselves in, we knew it was time to ascend. Not knowing how quick we might be, we wanted to leave the whole afternoon to get out in case we were very slow. The decision was made for Henry and me to tandem prusik out, and then Jemma would come up after us since she would be much quicker. The question now was, who wants to be chopped in half as the top prusiker, and who wants to be bounced seasick as the bottom *(I always get the bottom and really like it – Ed)*. We decided Henry would go on top and I would go underneath.

Will coming up. Photo: Henry Garratt

In truth, it turned out we were both fairly quick, Henry particularly so. As we ascended, I was seeing more things which I had missed on the way down. One such was a lovely cave spider, going about its life in its little grotto. After about an hour of hard, hard effort, Henry finally reached the rebelay. I was very glad for this as it allowed me to rest while he ascended the top pitch. I then passed the rebelay myself. "PAST REBELAY" I called out to Jemma far below me. Now I could finally relax, I was no longer the limiting factor. I finally crawled over the lip in sheer exhaustion. I had not had such a full-body workout in a long time.

We were just settling in to wait for Jemma when suddenly we could hear her at the rebelay. We were thinking she would be quick, in the forty minutes sort of quick, yet here she was at the top of the pitch not more than ten minutes after she set off. She didn't even have a foot ascender! I'm still astonished at how quickly she ascended those 100 tough metres *(yep, that's our Jemma - Ed)*. And there we were, all done. It was just another short hour of slipping and stumbling our way back through the rain and we were at the car, ready to steam it up as we drove home.

When I woke up the next morning, there was not a single muscle in my body which was not sore. I certainly was not looking forward to the walk into uni. Despite the soreness, I had had an incredibly enjoyable weekend and was very keen for more outlandishly large pitches. I was very excited to read *The Tasmanian Pitch Bagger's Guide*. Anyone want to head to Black Supergiant sometime soon? Or Bermuda Triangle, or Anne-A-Kananda or Kellar Cellar or… I will always be keen *(Yes!!! Finally got one. Let the pitch bagging competition begin – Ed)*.

H-8 Wolf Hole

2 October 2022

Karina Anders (all photos Gabriel Kinzler)

Party: Karina Anders, Henry Garratt, Gabriel Kinzler, Penny Player

Looks like Karina is first down. The rope pile is a bit of a giveaway

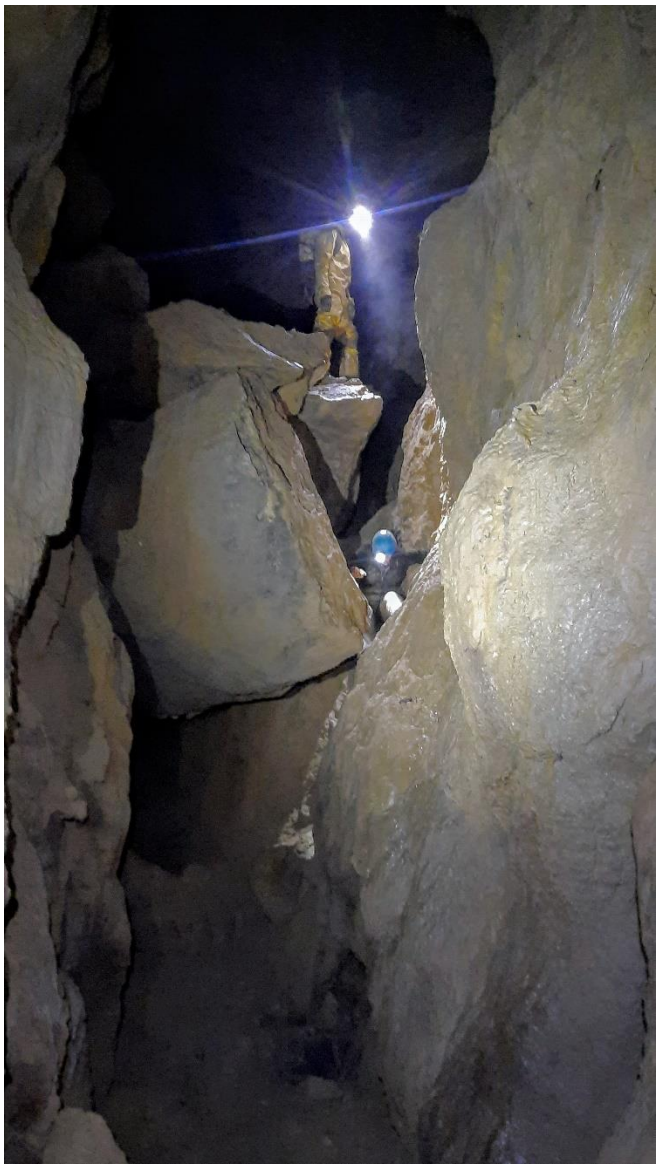
It was a beautiful day to go in a cave and I was very excited because the last Wolf Hole trip I organised I couldn't make because I got sick. We got to the entrance with no worries although the track is getting difficult to follow. It is a spectacular entrance.

I rigged the entrance pitch – a 5 m tape would have been more useful as the 4 m tape is getting a bit tight around the tree (the tree must have grown!). Then the real fun started, following the map like a pirate on a treasure hunt with the end goal being Lake Pluto. I had a grand time trying to follow the map, heading off in the wrong direction initially but we got there in the end, enjoying getting lost and crawling through squeezes. After lunch at Lake Pluto we checked out the waterfall, Henry and I climbed to the top. We then took a different way back and checked out South Park. Then we climbed out, de-rigged and went home, in time for me to clean my gear in daylight. A superb trip.

Penny definitely needs to get a brighter suit for photos.

Lots of places to scramble about

The keen team enjoys the view



Playing amongst the rockfall

Additional notes by Gabriel

The cave tag is starting to fall off as the tree is shedding a layer of bark. It would be good to fix this on the next visit. Then, there are a few rigging details that deserve some attention: I don't know what the average annual tree girthing is, but the recommended 4-metre rigging tape is now a tad short to wrap around the base of the tree. I recommend changing the rigging notes to a 5-metre tape or two tapes. Alternatively, you could always skip the tape entirely and use a longer rope to build the anchor.

Additionally, it would probably be a good idea to install permanent stainless-steel hangers on the second and third rebelays, which currently each have a thru-bolt/nut. I'm not sure whether any of the three rebelays are considered well placed or not as I've only ever seen the top one used, but using them all would at least eliminate the penchant for IRT I have observed every time I've visited this cave. Thoughts?

(opposite left) A nice photo, so that's why it's included. Plus, I need to fill some space

That looks like an interesting conversation

I couldn't pass up a classic Karina shot

Northern Tasmanian cave rescue practice

8 October 2022

Janine McKinnon

Party: Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney (STC), various MCCC and NC members.

A total 17 cavers turned up at the quarry near Caveside for this practice. We were the only cavers from down south. We had missed the southern CAVEX held a couple of weeks earlier due to not actually being in the state at the time (see report this issue). Poor planning by us, sure, but that damn ferry needs to be booked lifetimes ahead to get a high vehicle onboard.

Janice March (Northern Caverneers) had (yet again) organised this practice day. The plan was to set up three or four tyroleans across the cliff face, plus have a spot for assisted lift and pick-off practice.

All went well. It took a couple of hours for teams to set up their tyroleans, and then passage of the patient along the route went fairly smoothly. We even reversed direction and sent another volunteer patient in reverse. One of the change-over points was set up using the same anchors for both tyroleans. Apparently, this method had been used in the southern practice recently. This worked but was less efficient than having separate anchor points.

Lessons were learnt, including a need for more precise controller oversight, and the necessity for a dedicated patient advocate/caregiver (this was also commented on in the southern rescue). Both are an important part of a rescue but can easily be overlooked, particularly the latter.

As all that rigging was being disassembled people practised pick-offs and assisted lifts.

We packed up and headed home around 4 pm, as most were leaving.

Janice setting up pick-off rope. It was a bit dodgy but there were few options.

Photo: Janine McKinnon

JF-725/759/750 The Descent I, II & III

16 October 2022

Gabriel Kinzler

Party: Karina Anders, Jemma Herbert, Gabriel Kinzler, Janine McKinnon, Ciara Smart

Back to Wherretts Lookout for an easy day of plucking unexplored entrances. We assembled the giggliest team in existence and went well prepared. Too well probably. I had three holes with two needing rigging, so naturally took advantage of five bodies to carry… two drills, two rigging kits and four ropes, thinking we could rig two caves simultaneously and no one would get bored. I forgot Wherretts may well be littered with caves, but they rarely go very far. Jinxed it!

We went to a cluster of three caves located right in the middle of an area encircled by The Slip, Klockerfest, the Turret track and the Niggly track. All three caves are aligned on a fault line, in shouting distance of each other, which would ease the proceedings. JF-725 at one end, JF-750 at the other end, JF-759 in the middle. The haphazard tagging is due to a lack of foresight: we ran out of tags the first time so tagged only one cave, then came back on a tagging mission for the other two but realised one of the caves couldn't be tagged safely without a rope.

Jemma and Ciara went to JF-750, a sloping entrance with two successive drops, while Karina and Janine threw themselves at JF-759, a long opencast rift. Karina abseiled off a natural and started placing a rebelay. I went to check on the others. Jemma had downclimbed JF-750's second

drop (6 m) to find a sizeable, tall chamber littered with bones and a high inlet, but nothing more. I started surveying from the bottom while she climbed back out. It didn't take her and Ciara long to find a very tight squeeze near the entrance, pushing it through to… JF-759, the rift Karina was in the process of abseiling into. Turns out you can also climb in and out of the rift relatively safely, so there are three different ways in. In JF-759, a few tight drops around a covered corner crapped out and that was it.

Ciara, having walked in, standing at the bottom of the pitch

Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

Here we are, all gathered together. The cave could be said to be just big enough to fit us all.

Photo: Gabriel Kinzler

While the others had lunch, I went to survey JF-725, which we already knew didn't go. It's a good-looking cave, another open-air corridor you can climb into at one end. It is very tall and wide with moss-covered walls and clean, neatly stacked boulders, and has about 25 metres of covered passage, including a long corridor, a 5 m drop and a tight sub-rift branching off and leading you back up to the surface. All three caves are shown on the same map in this issue. We named them The Descent, The Descent II and The Descent III, simply because we'd recently watched the eponymous movie and were planning to watch the second instalment soon. Nothing too "descenty" in this cluster of caves, it just made us laugh.

With hours to spare and glorious weather, I thought we could knock off "new JF-630" (see *Speleo Spiel* 443, p.18) nearby, a hole with no recorded information. There was good reason for that, as Ciara established: it doesn't go very far. A drop through a waterfall under the large overhanging limestone outcrop, down a steep slope, through a narrow restriction, and poof. We decided to call it an early day and walked down the lovely Turret track instead of trying to parallel The Slip, much to the delight of Janine's iffy hip, probably.

The team, as clean after as before

Photo: Gabriel Kinzler (on timer)

The wide range of attitudes towards exploring in our group of five was fascinating: some of us were out to have fun no matter what happened, some thought what we found was a great result, and others were a bit down. I'll let you guess who felt what. Evidently, a reflection of your individual personality, but certainly also a product of your current progression as a caver. As a beginner, I would have been absolutely floored in excitement finding simple caves likes these. A few years later, I think it was a tad disappointing. In ten more years, I hope I'll be able to enjoy the day out without any second thoughts. In the car, Janine commented that some of us newcomers may have been spoilt rotten in our first years, while in a more typical caving career, you have to endure countless unsuccessful trips before making exciting discoveries. Perhaps it's true. I don't mind the occasional fruitless day out, it's humbling. All things considered, we came back with new data and great memories, of which there was a chilling swim in the Derwent on the way home.

JF-4 Khazad-Dum

23 October 2022

Janine McKinnon

Party: Nik Magnus, Janine McKinnon, Penny Player, Chris Sharples, Ric Tunney

We felt like a nice, easy trip to the streamway, so we did.

This was a good opportunity for Nik and Penny to get some vertical caving experience under their belts. We took the traditional route as there had been a lot of rain recently and the Serpentine seemed a bit of a damp option for people without plastic suits.

All went smoothly down the cave. We found the streamway in moderately high flow but not flooding.

Chris stopped at the bottom of the 70-Footer to take a few photos. Nik peeled off the group at the inlet from the Serpentine route to look for Anaspides for the German biologists arriving in a week. They both planned to start up the pitch when they were ready.

Penny, Ric and I continued to the top of the first streamway pitch, to show Penny what sort of caving to expect if she ever ventured further down the cave.

We three arrived (eventually) back at the bottom of the pitch to find Chris near the top and Nik ready to start up. This was nice timing.

Ric and I came up the pitches last and de-rigged.

It was a pleasant days' caving with no dramas. My idea of a good trip.

Another trip's photo to show how nice the place is.

Photo: Danny Wilkinson.

JF-761: Prospecting the Negative RAT Hole – Superspreader connection / Vaccine Strollout's traverse adventure

5 November 2022

Party: Henry Garratt, Jemma Herbert, Patrick (Buddy) Smejkal, Petr Smejkal

Surface Team report by Petr Smejkal:

The prospecting of the connection between Negative RAT Hole and Superspreader was on my To Do list since the Negative RAT Hole discovery in September 2022. The small hole had the right direction and a strong breeze.

It took two trips to make the connection possible but there is not much to write.

The first trip took place on the sunny Saturday of 5 November. I knew the Negative RAT Hole team might not even get underground and therefore suggested my son, Buddy (Patrick) could join us.

At the entrance to Negative RAT Hole, Jemma and Henry left us and headed for the Delta Variant entrance, their main goal was to get to the Superspreader and confirm that we could hear each other. While Buddy and I were waiting, we tried not to waste our time sunbathing. We managed to move a couple of rocks out of the way and made the entrance a tiny bit bigger. By the time Jemma and Henry reached the connection spot, the hole was big enough for Jemma to poke her head through. The connection was proved but to make it an entrance we had to revisit on 19 November and move some more rocks.

Jemma ALMOST making the first through-trip

Photo: Petr Smejkal

Underground Team report by Jemma Herbert:

After a brief look at RAT hole, Henry and I headed into DV via the normal entrance. We first went up Superspreader to try and see if we could locate where RAT hole joins in. 20 m out from the expected location, we could already hear Petr talking from the surface and got excited, it was exactly where we were told to expect it.

Then we went and derigged Phosphorescent Phlegm Pitch (PPP), the aid climb out of the lunch chamber where I'd left my dynamic rope. It has been left with some orange string, so a rope could be pulled up if ever anybody wants to push that some more. Pitch 1 is about 7 m or so, up through the pretty tight squeeze in the roof. We left it with a non-stainless concrete screw with an extra big maillon backed up to a thread 2 m back on the wall. The thread isn't in a great position, so it'd be exciting if the screw popped. Pitch 2 is about 4 m. We left a non-stainless concrete screw and a maillon, and backed it up to a little horn. In both cases, the orange string is a loop through the maillon on the concrete screw.

We were running out of time before we were due to meet the others on the surface at 4 pm, but before we left, we really wanted a quick look at the Vaccine Strollout - the traverse across the top of the rift of Daily Cases which Lachlan, Steve and Simone had been working on. We scooted across there to have a look and decided it looked pretty feasible to extend it into the window on the other side, and so we'd come back for it next time.

Phosphorescent Phlegm Pitch Derig and other assorted shenanigans.

Henry Garratt

Party: Henry Garratt, Jemma Herbert

While Petr and Buddy did Petr things on the surface, Jemma and I went into Delta Variant to derig and recover Jemma's Dynamic rope from an aven she had aided with Ciara. We shimmied along the test station cue with nice light packs, no rope or drills, and arrived at the Phosphorescent Phlegm pitch in Superspreader.

I jugged up first bouncing around in space on a dynamic rope. I was quite pleased that Jemma had rigged it perfectly free hanging with no rubs from a textbook Y-hang above a squeeze. I proceeded to grovel my way through the squeeze, getting my Croll stuck and being quite caught on my tightened chest harness. After my quick introduction to prusiking in tight spaces, Jemma followed up.

The offending Squeeze

Photo: Jemma Herbert

We have put maillons on the concrete screws backed up to a thread with an orange tag line looped through them to be able to send a rope up in the future. I wiggled down through the squeeze then lowered Jemma, we pulled the rope and scuttled along to help Petr.

Collecting Anaspides with the visiting German researchers: Perched Lake and JF-365 Satans Lair

17 November 2022

Janine McKinnon

Party: Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney (STC), Christoph Hoepel, Stefan Richter and a couple of others (researchers)

Chris Sharples had put out a call for STC members willing to help these visiting university researchers find a selection of caves to collect (or look for) Anaspides for a large study they are undertaking on the distribution and speciation of these critters throughout Tasmania**.** They are interested in both surface and cave adapted specimens.

Obviously, Ric and I volunteered to help them for a couple of days. They had a list of caves they wanted to visit (the entrances mainly) so this is the first one we chose to take them to.

The track was in very good condition; well taped and with few tree falls. We took about 45 minutes to walk there. The four of them then spent about 20 minutes looking in the inflow stream with no luck. Onward to the next objective, Perched Lake, a self-explanatory feature about 100 vertical metres about the Satans Lair entrance and 500 metres of ground to cover. It wasn't as bad going scrub-bashing uphill as I'd expected, however it did have its moments.

The lake was quite scenic, perched (yes, well named) in a flat area on the hillside. It is about 100 m across. It has no inflow or outflow streams and is very tannic. No Anaspides found (apparently, they like clear water so this was no surprise).

On our return to Satans Lair entrance another search was undertaken and a few specimens were found in the stream about 100 m from the cave entrance, so the day had a win.

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JF-761: Prospecting the Negative RAT Hole: Superspreader connection / Vaccine Strollout's traverse adventure

19 November 2022

Party: Serena Benjamin, Henry Garratt, Jemma Herbert, Tom Porritt, Ciara Smart, Petr Smejkal

Surface Team report by Petr Smejkal:

Despite the heavy rain we had in Tassie for the two weeks following our previous trip, Saturday 19 November came up sunny! At least until 4 pm – good enough. This time we had bigger teams. Jemma, Henry and Ciara were on the team underground checking the traverse above the Daily Cases. Tom, Serena and myself formed the surface team of the wise and experienced (didn't want to say old). Both teams started at the Negative RAT Hole. In the first half an hour while the underground team was getting dressed up for the mission, the surface team moved a couple of rocks to clear the entrance for its very first use.

Henry self-torturing, and seeming to enjoy it

Photo: Ciara Smart

It was a very uncomfortable entry, especially for Henry, but the youngsters pushed it and managed to get in. The Negative RAT Hole was officially deflowered.

Enough of the dirty talk, although while pushing it they got pretty dirty! While the underground team was doing their stuff, the surface team of the experienced elderly was loosening up the hole (I know I said enough of dirty talk but that is what happened). Ciara got back first. She was getting cold watching Jemma and Henry hanging on the rope so came to help the surface team. The rest of the underground crew came up a few hours later. The entrance was still a bit tight, but we called it a day.

While waiting for the underground team, I entered the cave via the Negative RAT Hole and here is my short description of it:

Climbing down is OK, as in any vertical squeeze just breathe out and let gravity do the trick. Not too far though, it could be a nasty fall. The way up is trickier, it is a 3 m climb to get to the really narrow bit and that is where the real trouble starts. With a bit of patience, you can find a couple of good foot holes and push through. The rest is narrow but not hard.

Henry, still smiling at the end, and Petr, being stoic but no doubt enjoying himself just as much.

Photo: Ciara Smart

Underground Team report by Jemma Herbert:

We came back excited and prepared to extend the Vaccine Strollout into the window on the other side. A tight entry via the newly opened RAT hole made for a much faster approach to the traverse for Ciara, Henry and me.

From the Superspreader junction, Henry headed off first to get ready at the current farthest point on the Vaccine Strollout, whilst Ciara and I were getting some gear organised. Henry had a bit of a scare on the Vaccine Strollout. To give some context, Vaccine Strollout is the traverse along the rift above Daily Cases. So there is 160 m of black void beneath your feet, and you are stemming across the gap on crumbly-cheese foot ledges. It is bolted like a traverse, with a rope to clip into and a bolt every couple metres, but the last segment is maybe 10 m meters between double bolts because the rock quality is just so bad. Kudos to Steve and Lachlan for putting this up - that would have been shit scary. Henry was out doing this traverse and was on the last long segment. He was standing on one of the cheesy ledges, in the process of putting his grigri on the rope for some extra security (in addition to his two cowstails), when suddenly the whole ledge just collapsed under his feet. He took a fall and was caught on the rope threaded through his still open grigri. This fall damaged the device, cracking some of the plastic in the base but held. Thankfully, he didn't fall too far and was able to gingerly scramble back up and finish the traverse, a little shaken but otherwise OK. We think that the traverse is probably farther along the rift than the ropes on Daily Cases at this point, but whoever is next

down (probably us in a few weeks' time) should keep their eyes peeled for damage in case this falling ledge of cheese damaged the ropes rigged there. After hearing Henry's story and looking at the last section of the traverse Ciara sensibly opted out of what turned out to be a long cold belay, and headed back out to help the surface team instead.

The Vaccine Strollout traverse terminates in a 5-ish metre diameter circular shaft, so stemming was no longer feasible and the rock quality is much too bad to aid across on a line of bolts. On the last trip, we had theorised that we could use the very high anchor point Steve had climbed to, as a high point to pendulum across the void to a bit of a ledge, and a good-looking piece of rock to put some bolts in. From there, it was just a couple of metres up into the window. Despite his earlier scare, Henry bolstered his courage and ventured out on lead to extend the traverse into the window. He started by adding a third bolt to the high anchors, and equalising it in, as this would potentially need to catch a dynamic fall so we wanted it to be super strong. He then pendulumed to the very crumbly ledge, and tentatively inched across to the other side and what looked like good rock. Turned out what we were looking at was not good rock, it was just particularly smooth mud, and it would not do. After a moment of disappointment, and a few more moments of hitting every surface within reach with the cute little hammer (*see front page photo - Ed)*, he found some solid rock which would take a bolt. It was at full stretch above his head, and toward the edge of the very crumbly ledge, so it took some time and effort to get that first bolt in. From there, it was familiar aid climbing for him and much faster progress. Ladders on, top step, reach around the bulge and place another bolt, then transition to free climbing out into the window where he placed a double bolt anchor. Whilst I seconded and cleaned the pitch, and rigged the return trip, Henry went off for a quick look-see. He came back babbling about barrelling corridor-sized passage that he could run through, and no end in sight. So exciting, but we were already well past the deadline of when we said we needed to head back to meet the others, so we reluctantly left but immediately started scheming our next trip to explore and survey that passage properly.

It only took 20 minutes to get from Superspreader junction up to RAT hole, and you can take your SRT kit off and you don't get wet. I reckon it's way better than the other route. It then took us another 20 minutes to get both of us and our bags up out of the hole, but that'll get quicker and easier as we learn the moves.

Collecting Anaspides with the visiting German researchers: JF-7 Frankcombe Cave, JF-11 Rainbow Cave, JF-228 Burning Down the House, Lawrence Rivulet sink

21 November 2022

Janine McKinnon

Party: Janine McKinnon, Ric Tunney (STC), Christoph Hoepel, and a couple of others (researchers)

Today we were on the valley floor. It was a very wet and cold day with occasional icy bits falling and snowing on the slopes of Mt Field. Good thing we had the Triton with the Batwing to dress under.

First cave was Rainbow Cave. We found no specimens in the inflow stream or the sump pond. One white specimen was found in a small puddle in a rock step, so luckily this proved the rule that they are in this cave.

That was fortunate because all the other three targets for the day failed to produce a single sample. Lots of time was spent in the streams inside the caves, and in the surface feeder streams, looking.

A disappointing result for the day but a "no result" is presumably still a result.

JF-7 Frankcombe Cave: A family outing of Sorts

24 November 2022.

Bill Nicholson

Party: Philip & Stewart Jackson. Bill, Liam & Callum Nicholson.

An underrated little hole in the ground ideally suited for beginners. Frankcombe, whilst not quite hands in pockets like Niggly, does offer a level of scrambling, a river passage if you have a vivid imagination and some pretty stuff that should please the most discerning.

MC-1 Kubla Khan

3 December 2022

Janine McKinnon

Party: Nik Magnus, Janine McKinnon, John Oxley, Penny Player, Chris Sharples, Ric Tunney.

The annual STC trip – the only one we are allowed – had come around again. We planned a through trip this year and I was expecting lots of water in the lower sections, possibly with a full Pleasure Dome, due to all the torrential rain the north has been having lately. Spoiler alert: Sadly, the Pleasure Dome was only partly filled.

We took a leisurely 9 hours for the trip. The usual stops for admiring the endless stunning stuff, the almost endless boot-wash stations, and a little photography, were done.

Cairn Hall showed recent flooding, but the water levels were quite reasonable. As it is now summer (sort of), the water wasn't particularly cold. Bracing, one might say. We all had wetsuits, so the wade/swim down The River Alph wasn't too traumatic. The recent serious floods have scoured out the floor a bit though, so we had a couple more short swims than usual.

We climbed up to the Stal Shuffle before the "waterfall pool swim" about two thirds along the stream. I think that is the best balance for routes now.

Other Exciting Stuff

Mt Anne Dye Tracing Report

Stephen Fordyce

At some point or other the possibility of the Chatterton et al. Mt Anne expedition attempting a dye trace raised its head (March/April 2022, see *SS*449, p.21). Since we had the technology, I got two detectors and some fluorescein to them just in time. As well as this report, there are a bunch of useful things in a "Dye Tracing" folder in the Mt Anne folder of the electronic archive.

A half-arsed bit of research had notionally confirmed that no trace had previously been done and there were two schools of thought on what might happen to the dye. Here are the key things:

1. Kevin Kiernan 1990 (Archive file: "48_Kiernan1990_LakeTimk") theorises water goes to SE
2. Chris Sharples 2019 (Archive file: "ACKMA 1973 – 2011") suggests water goes to springs to the SE: but that's based on Kiernan 1991 (inc. figure)
3. Martin Scott ~1994 (Archive file: "S030HydrolMtAnneKarst_MartinScott") theorises at least some goes NW, towards Sandfly Creek in STC archive: S030HydrolMtAnneKarst_MartinScott.pdf
4. Martin Scott also points out that the stuff further out along the NE Ridge like Sodom and Gomorrah could go SE instead.

I found Scott's argument convincing: effectively that all surveyed streams in Anne-A-Kananda and nearby caves go NW. It was also a whole lot more palatable to install detectors on Scotts Peak Rd for the NW option, than in untracked wilderness for the SE option.

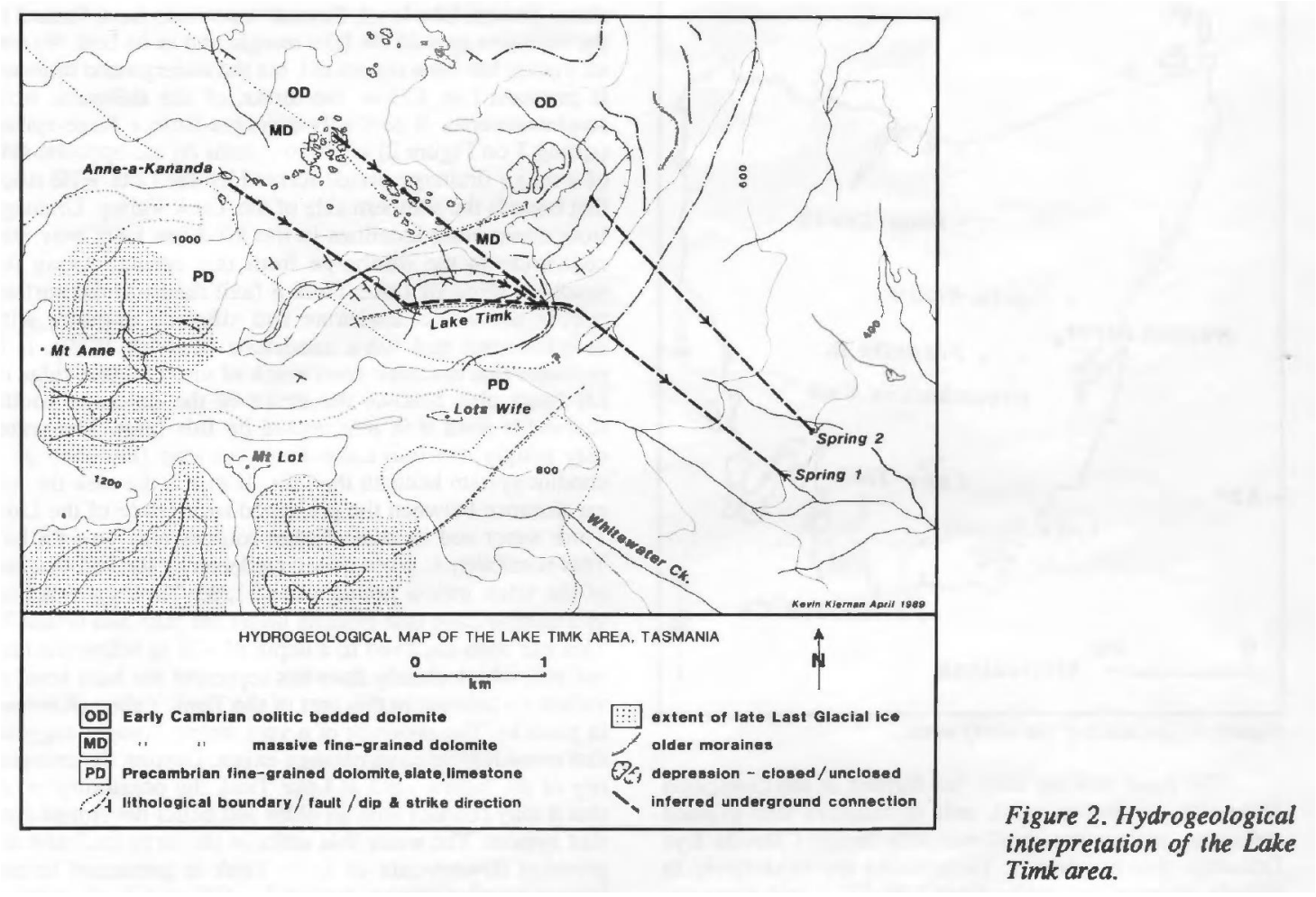


Figure 2. Hydrogeological interpretation of the Lake Timk area.

Reproduced from Helictite *28 (Kevin Kiernan, 1990)*

Dye Release:

A carefully calculated amount, 500 g, of Fluorescein was released in MA-10 Deep Thought, which had the best stream. The location was at the deepest point, where the healthy trickle (~1-3 L/sec) of a stream disappeared (at -183 m). This was at 17:20 on 29 March 2022.

There was no flowing surface water, and the lack of catchment means that significant flow into cave entrances is rarely if ever present. This compounds the problem – you have to go a long way down into the cave to release dye.

Keith releases the fluorescein (photo by Matt Dunwoodie)

Detector Installations:

Electronic detectors were installed (with outdoor shrouds) to cover a wide range of SE resurgence options:

1. Primary: Where the road crosses Sandfly Creek (approx. 146.369476,-42.904799)
2. Secondary: At the next major creek crossing south of Sandfly Creek (approx. 146.364328,-42.915252)

Detector dates:

1. Deploy: 2022-03-25
2. Check & redeploy: 2022-04-03
3. Retrieve: 2022-05-01

Condominium Creek was a candidate for a detector but discarded as it was a long way sideways. The Huon River, before it flowed into the dam, was tempting, but it was too big. There were a few smaller catchments that were discarded as unlikely. Other options to the SE requiring epic walks are Lake Timk, Snake River, and Weld River. It's ~40 km downstream before the Weld River can be accessed easily by vehicle, near Huonville.

Results:

It was still very dry and summery, which is suboptimal for dye tracing. The detectors experienced some partial non-submersion during the window of detection which is not good for seeing results either. But no matter how much I stared at the data, I couldn't see any hint of dye peaks.

There are too many factors to call this a definitive negative result though. i.e.

- Low flow and high summer.
- Unknown system characteristics (and required dye amounts).
- High dilution and possible multiple dilutions from small stream in cave to large creeks.

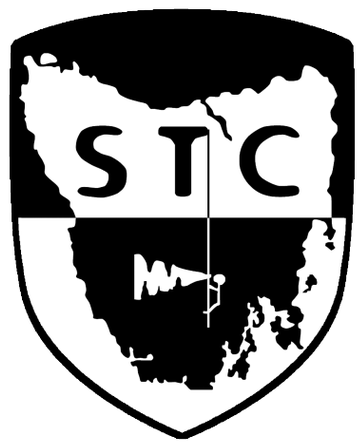
Screenshot from release video (by Alex Williams)

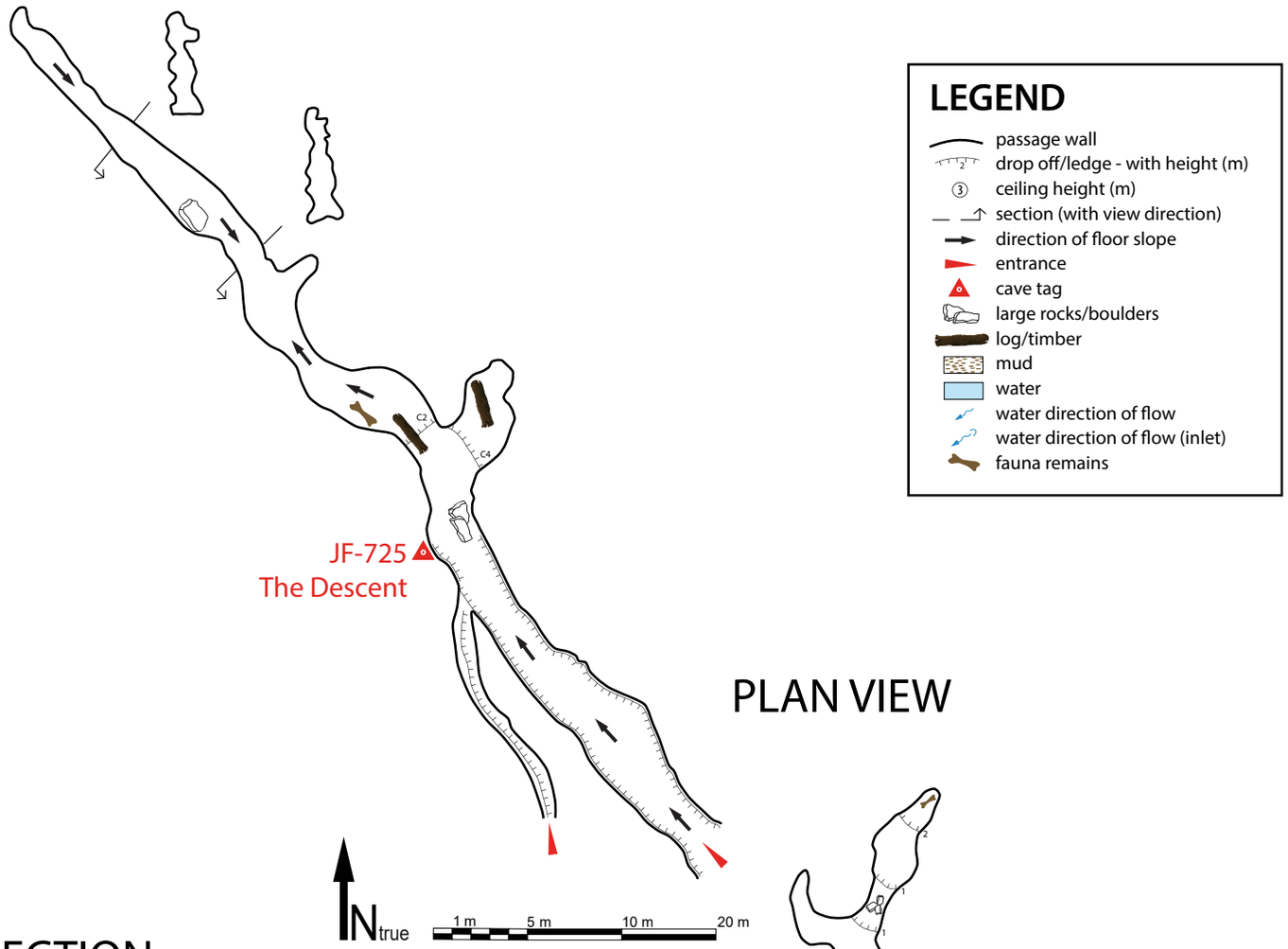
Future:

Here are some suggestions in case anyone tries again in the future:

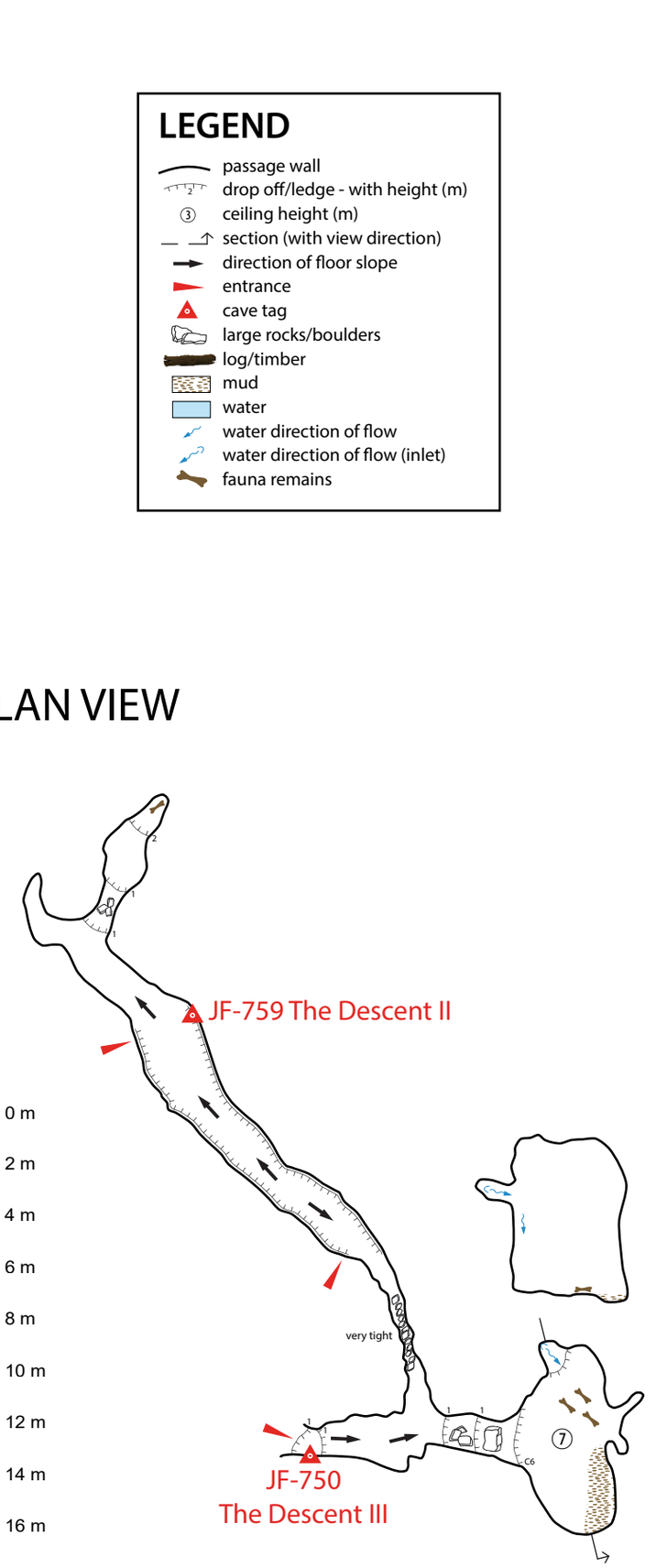
1. Pick a time with a decent amount of water in the system.
2. Be prepared to use a rain-activated dye release mechanism.
3. Do some preliminary dye traces to gain better understanding of dye in the system, i.e.:
    a. Sandfly Creek, Bombardier Track crossing to road crossing (or even better, a small tributary going into Sandfly Creek)
    b. Weld River long distance trace – Mueller Rd near Scotts Peak Dam to Fletchers Rd near Tahune Airwalk (36 km as the crow flies). The Weld River is subsequently absorbed/diluted by the Huon River, which is nice. I suspect a detector here would be a viable option, saving two long and arduous walks into Snake River for a good reality check.
4. Have a party camp out on Snake River/Weld River for a few days to try for a visual detection
5. Get someone to paddle/packraft down the Weld River at the right time.
6. Camp at Lake Timk (there used to be a track which allowed you to get there in a day!) and go out from there. But I'd prioritise a detector in Snake River over one covering just a single spring. Both would be great.
7. Use a drone to do visual detection on Snake River/Weld River/Lake Timk – probably against national park policy though.

JF-725 The Descent
JF-759 The Descent II
JF-750 The Descent III
Junee-Florentine, Tasmania
7JF725.STC546
Southern Tasmanian Caverneers
ASF Grade 54
Surveyed by Gabriel Kinzler (17/10/2022)
Drawn by Gabriel Kinzler (November 2022)
Surveyed Length - 107 m
Surveyed Depth - 17 m

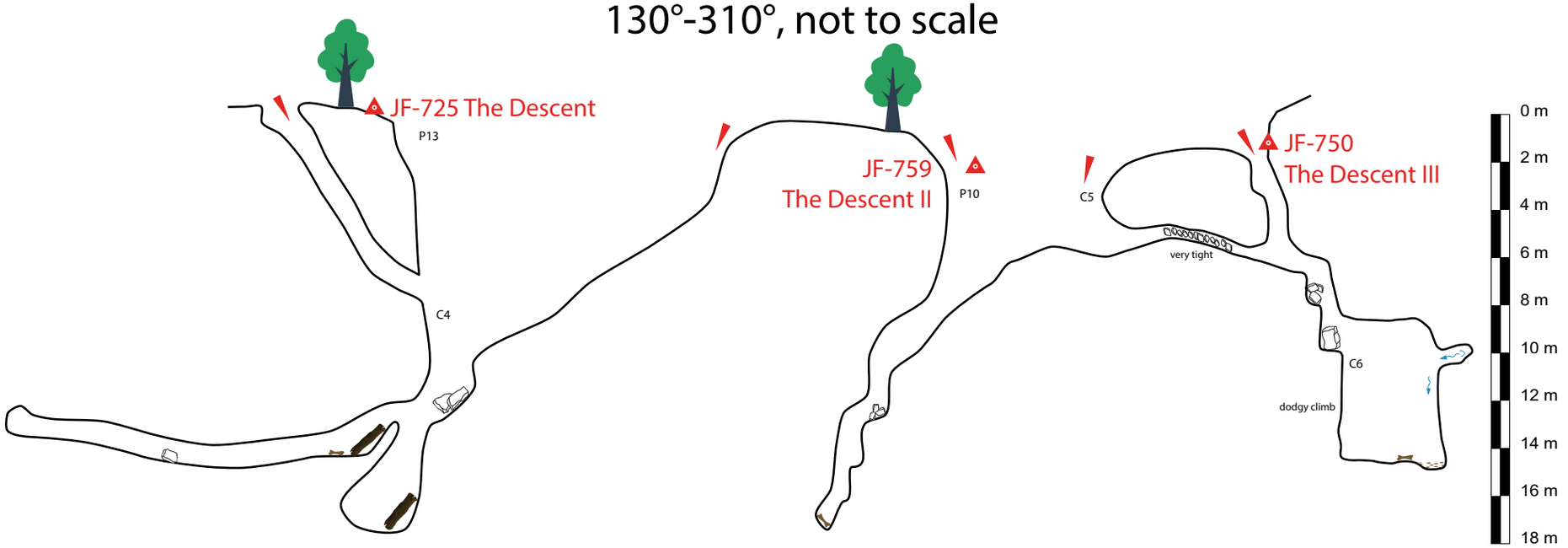




PLAN VIEW



VERTICAL SECTION
130°-310°, not to scale



LEGEND

- passage wall
- drop off/ledge - with height (m)
- ceiling height (m)
- section (with view direction)
- direction of floor slope
- entrance
- cave tag
- large rocks/boulders
- log/timber
- mud
- water
- water direction of flow
- water direction of flow (inlet)
- fauna remains

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