

The circular of - The Tasmanian Caverneering Club.  
Box 641 G, G.P.O. Hobart.

April-July 1965.

The A.G.M was held on the 25th March and the following members were elected to the committee.

President.

Mr. Frank Brown    A 308 Lenah Valley Road  
                          B Elizabeth High School Phone 31424

Vice President

Mr. Doug Turner    A 97 Riawena Road Lindisfarne Phone 29443  
                          B Dept Labour & Nat Service Phone 33721

Secretary

Miss Joan Halton    A Flat 6, 6 Culloden Ave. Moonah  
                          B Gov. Printing Office (Messages only)

Treasurer

Mr M. H. deVries    A Box 145 New Norfolk  
                          B Laclan Park Hospital.

Committee

Miss Edith Smith    A 89 Lansdowne Cres. Phone 31167  
                          B Mines Dept Davey Street Phone 24041

Mr. D. Seymour - Quartermaster

A 4 Clarke Ave. Battery Point Phone 25790  
B 67 Macquarie Street Phone 25354

Mr. Clive Morris    A 4 Sommerdale Road Claremont Phone 71239  
                          B Mercury Hobart

Mr Mike Jagoe        A 20 Lewan Ave. Kingston  
                          B New Town High Phone 80257

Presidents Notes.

The club has great pleasure in announcing the birth of anew caving club, the Southern Caving Society formed from members of T.C.C. under the President Barry James. For some time Barry and his hard working team have been interested in the Wet Caves area of Molle Creek and have felt that this area must receive most of their attentions, so as not to disrupt the T.C.C. program etc the decision was reluctantly made to form S.C.S. Some of its members will remain members of T.C.C. and vice versa, S.C.S. will also affiliated with T.C.C. and a close liaison on all levels will be the aim of both clubs - our congratulations and best wishes to Barry and his team; and our thanks for all the [?] they have done in T.C.C. We look forward to seeing them in the field and at our club functions during the year.

..2..

Subscriptions

Subs are now due these may be sent directly to the treasurer Mr. M. deVries Box 145 P.O. New Norfolk.

Full Membership	1. 0. 0	plus 10/-	admission fee
Junior Members under 18 yrs	10. 0	"	10/-
Assoc. Members	10.0	-	

Forward Programme

Projects for the Year.

1. Formation and training of Survey Team
2. Remarking of tracks and refinding caves.
3. Investigate areas opened up by new roads.
4. Collection of specimens
5. First aid course
6. Photographic record of cave features - Slides with commentary by Prof. S. Carey.

Sunday Mar 16th. Junee Caves Digging.  
Party Leader E. Smith Phone 31167

Saturday May 22nd a working bee Ladder making 4 Clarke Ave.  
Battery Point - Leader D. Seymour

Sat Evening May 22nd. Infra Dig Tickets to be collected from O.B.M. as soon as possible bookings made in T.C.C. name

W/End May 29th & 30th Raglan Ranges Leader Ron Kent Explorator

Friday June 11th General Meeting U.T.G.P 8 pm, Slides, film, guest speaker.

W/End June 12-13-14th Mole Creek Leader Frank Brown Collecting and Exploration.

W/End June 26-27th Ida Bay Leader D. Seymour Phone 25790 and 25354 Names to Dennis one week before.

Easter Trip.

A very wet Easter was spent at Mole Creek with a large party from Hobart and Queenstown. Some scrub-bashing was done on Friday afternoon and caves visited on Sat & Sunday included Maracoopa Cow cave and through the letter box to Pyramid The gate at Croesus was inspected, and still is intact. Traffic in this area is vary heavy now as the road is sealed, and Club members as well as cave Guides are eager to see something done about developing Croesus in the near future.

-3-

Raglan Ranges - Queenstown - Leader Ron Kent.

The Queenstown members have arranged a very interesting trip to the Raglan Ranges on the 29-30th May.

Party will leave Queenstown by jeeps on Sat & return on Sunday. Friday night accommodation has been arranged at the home of Kate and Ron Kent. Members intending to go, please notify D. Turner as soon as possible. Transport to Queenstown will be arranged on Wednesday night 26th May at the Barclay.

-----  
Prospective Members.

We welcome the following innocents as prospective members and hope they enjoy everything we can offer them.

Miss Sally Salier  
Robert Mann

14 Lord Street Sandy Bay.  
4 Syme Street West Hobart.

Rodney Hughes	79 Poets Road West Hobart.
John Morley	Berriedale
Stephen Triffit	60 Leonard Ave Moonah
Christopher Michall	27 Chapel Street Glenorchy
Michael Rossiter	New Town High
Mark Geeves	
Peter Gregory	
Chris Comos	
Richard Reid	
John Plaister	New Town High
Ron Oatclay	
Ken Moore	
Paul Warren	130 Alleing Road Chigwell
John Lewis	51 Poets Road West Hobart.

-----  
New From C.S.S.

Albert and Theresa Goede are returning to Hobart soon, we look forward to seeing them and also to some good caving in the Florentine area. Also a trip to the Nullarbor Plains is planned for Xmas 1965, anyone interested may contact Bob Ashman.

Canberra Speleological Society,  
38 Simpson Street,  
Watson Canberra.

The Mole Creek Hut is now locked, the key can be collected from the Secretary at the Barclay, on Wednesday night prior to trip.

-----  
In Appreciation.

I would like to thank Clive Morris for his generous help in printing the circular in the past year.

Joan Halton Sec.

-----  
Party Leaders.

The following members have been approved by the Committee as Party Leaders.

Mr. Clive Morris - 4 Sommerdale Road Claremont Phone 71239  
Mr. Peter Brabon - 9 Mortimer Ave. New Town Phone 83571  
Mr Mike Jagoe - 20 Lewan Ave. Kingston

---

*[A handwritten message on the back says*

*"Dear A & T [Goede] The Editorial will explain what has happened to the Club - also, Des Lyons is with them. J "*

[F]

*[The following was apparently appended to TCC Circular for April-July 1965.  
It is reprinted from SSS's Stop Press, June 1965]*

EDITORIAL

DEATH AT BUNGONIA

Elsewhere in this issue is a report of the inquiry Highland Caving Group held into the death of one of their members John Bryant at Bungonia on 22nd May 1965. This inquiry delved into the facts available in an effort to determine the prime cause culminating in the death of this member, however two facts emerge which must arouse every thinking caver to wonder just how well equipped we are as individuals to ensure our own safety and to contribute to the safety of others.

The first of these facts is concerned with how and why the fall took place. Considerations such as fainting fits, foul air, over-fatigue are almost irrelevant when we learn that this man was secured by a safety rope. This rope was of adequate strength and, we believe quite ably handled by the man on belay and yet on one of the rare occasions when the safety line is required to hold a man and save his life it fails - and why? It failed because the knot tied by the member round himself was inadequate considering the type of rope used. The rope was a "Silver" rope made of polythene. It is very slippery and would require special knots to secure it. The manufacturer's specification states that a bowline is a suitable knot, however very minor experiments with the rope show how easily this knot slips undone and it is even more serious still when we conclude that Bryant's death may be directly attributable to this fact. In previous years S.S.S. has always stressed the need of what might be called "rope safety" and this embraces:-

1. Thorough knowledge of knots.
2. When and how to use them and in the case of synthetic ropes - when not to use them.
3. Care of ropes and methods of inspection.
4. The more specialised knowledge required if synthetic ropes are used.

As a result of this accident it is our intention to carry out tests on various types of rope in the next few months to determine types of rope most suitable for caving, and the results of these tests will be made known when completed. Furthermore S.S.S. field days and trip leaders training courses both include the above rope safety points as part of our general training, and every caver in the interests of his own safety should learn all he can about how to preserve himself. These weekends of which more are planned, provide us with an opportunity to refresh our memories and keep up with the latest rope techniques.

The second important fact emerging from the H.C.C. inquiry relates to medical care for injured cavers. It appears that in the case of the Bungonia accident none of the four Goulburn doctors were prepared even to attend the site, let alone descend Drum Cave to provide medical attention on the spot. It is not possible to say whether a doctor could have saved Bryant's life if he had come at the time of the accident, but it is clear that medical help is difficult or impossible to obtain immediately.

Further in cases of accident or serious injury, immediate death may result if victim is moved from the site of the accident by untrained and medically inexperienced people, and thus we are faced with a two-fold problem. The victim of an accident must not be moved and yet we cannot get medical help when most desperately needed.

cont.

Therefore, until a society doctor can be located and brought to the scene, or a local doctor is induced to attend we must provide First Aid ourselves. The limited aid provided by the other trip members in the case of the Bungonia accident prolonged the victim's life by some considerable time - estimated to have been as much as one hour, and the importance of providing this initial life preserving help cannot be over-stressed.

Last year S.S.S. members attended first aid classes run by the St. Johns Ambulance and suitable dates are currently being considered for similar classes again this year. In addition we are investigating the possibility of arranging the special course of instruction relating to mine disasters. However we believe this requires a large attendance (40-50) of members who already hold their first aid certificates, to justify the special arrangements required for the course. A letter has, however, been sent to St. Johns Ambulance requesting details, and later issues of Stop Press will advise the outcome.

In the meantime if there is anything to be learned from John Bryant's death at Bungonia it is that every Speleologist's duty, firstly to himself and secondly to his fellow members, is familiarity with knots and rope care and working knowledge of first aid and later possibly the more specialised knowledge relating to mine rescue.

Martin Foster

The Committee suggests that until the results of tests that the S.S.S. are going to carry out on synthetic ropes are known, that they are not used in this society.

- - - -

S T O P P R E S S

June 1965.

CAVE DEATH AT BUNGONA, N.S.W.

At Bungonia Cave Reserve situated about 18 miles from Goulburn, John Lawrence Bryant of the Highland Caving Group died from injuries received when he fell about 50 ft whilst ascending the 140 ft. pitch out of the Drum Cave on Saturday 22nd May, 1965. Whilst a coroner's inquest will be held into this death, the Highland Caving Group decided to hold a club enquiry and requested attendance from other Sydney Societies. Below is a report of this meeting and some observations therefrom.

Alf Crawley, Martin Foster and Ben Nurse of S.S.S. attended the meeting held on Sunday 31st May, 1965. Standing orders of the Highland Caving Group were suspended to allow discussion of the various aspects of the death of their member John Bryant.

The report of the death is largely as follows; Seven members of the H.C.G. descended the Drum with Eric Kaye belaying from the top: The ladder used was aluminium rung and wire light weight ladder and the safety line consisted of a new 1¾" circumference polythene rope which passed over a log above the Drum drop. All the members of the party descended without mishap. After some time exploring Bryant requested to be allowed to ascend so as to help Kaye belay the rest of the party from the bottom: Bryant started to ascend the drop at about 11.0 a.m. About 50 ft from the bottom, Bryant fell. Bryant suffered serious injury, probably two fractured legs, probably fractured ribs, and injuries to the head and was unconscious. Kaye learning of the extent of the injuries contacted the police via the phone at the second homestead from the reserve and requested a Doctor

and an ambulance. The police arrived about 1½ hours later, one of the Policemen being a member of the Police Cliff Rescue Squad. An ambulance arrived two hours later but no Doctor. Apparently Bryant died about 2½ hours after the fall.

Certain questions were asked of the various members of the trip, and the rope and the boots of Bryant were made available for examination. As a result certain conclusions followed:-

- (1) Bryant was an experienced caver.
- (2) Bryant was conversant with the tying of a bowline knot.
- (3) Bryant tied a bowline and a half hitch on the descent.
- (4) Bryant probably tied a bowline but not a half hitch on the ascent.
- (5) Bryant's tricounies were fixed to a horseshoe. These horseshoes were larger than the leather heel of the boot and could catch on the ladder rungs. One set on one boot was loose. These horseshoes caused some concern and inconvenience to Bryant as he had complained about these. The horseshoes were not a recent addition to the boots.
- (6) Bryant was not subject to fainting fits, nor was he visibly affected nor had he complained about foul air.
- (7) At the time he fell he seemed to have been climbing steadily and when he fell a load of approximately 100 lbs. was felt by Kaye on the rope before the rope became slack.
- (8) Bryant seemed to have called out before hitting the ground, so ruling out a fainting fit.
- (9) The rope examined immediately after the fall showed a single knot near its end.
- (10) The knot on the rope seems to be the one that remains after a bowline has slipped.

cont.

3.

From these facts the following could be deduced:-

- (a) Bryant had probably slipped or was hit by a falling rock and consequently left the ladder.
- (b) The knot in the safety line did not hold.

The reason why the knot did not hold is subjected to some conjecture and it is important first to consider that a bowline had been tied. The rope used was a polythene rope and is probably more slippery than a nylon rope. In caving and rock climbing there have been experiences of bowlines slipping or working loose on nylon rope and it could be assumed that the bowline is more likely to slip on polythene than nylon and certainly more likely than manilla or any other natural fibre ropes.

It was suggested that experiments be carried out on bowlines slipping on polythene ropes and that advice be sought from over-seas groups regarding their experience with this rope.

Ben Nurse.