

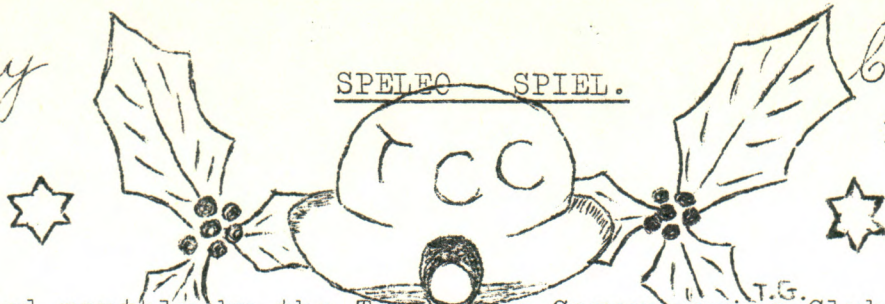
Merry

No.9.

SPELEO SPIEL.

Christmas.

December, 1966.



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Next General Meeting.

Tuesday, February 7th, at 8p.m., at 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. Please bring your own cushions, cake and liquid refreshments.

EDITORIAL.

It couldn't happen TWICE - not in two consecutive weekends and in two different areas - BUT IT DID !!!!!

On the 30th October a party of six made a big breakthrough in Kubla Khan by scaling the flowstone wall at the far end of Cairn Hall and exploring a series of passages beyond until time and failing lights forced them to turn back at the edge of a thirty foot hole which occupied the floor of the passage.

Then the following weekend(5-6 November) a party of seven made a big breakthrough in Exit Cave by finding a way through the talus at the far end of the cave. Another half mile of stream passage was explored and further progress is possible through talus. There are also a number of promising side passages that have not yet been explored. The total length of explored passages in Exit Cave is at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and it would seem that we are now no more than 1200' away from the far end of Mystery Creek Cave(Entrance Cave). (It also seems that Dennis will soon have to buy those 2 dozen bottles of beer.) The chances of linking the two caves now appear to be very bright. We are concentrating on finishing a survey through the cave in order to find out exactly where we are in relation to Mystery Creek Cave. Survey teams have already put in sixty permanent stations and another 40 stations will be needed to reach the far end of the cave. The new discovery has made Exit Cave the largest cave in Tasmania. If Exit and M.C.Cave can be linked the resulting system would probably be the second largest in Australia after Mulla Mullang Cave on the Nullabor Plains.

But more excitement was to follow. On Saturday, 3 december, a party of four followed up the earlier discovery in Kubla Khan. They chimneyed across the hole in the floor and discovered a chamber which in size ranks second only to Exit Cave, being at least 600 feet long, 100 feet wide and 80 - 100 feet high. It contained one column at least 40' high and 10' in diameter. Behind this a passage led down to a maze of meandering passages filled with the most incredible helictites - the "Helictite Dungeons". From this maze we found a way back to the main chamber. On the opposite side of this chamber is a large stalagmite at least 30' high and 20' in diameter. We christened this formation "Kubla Khan". Beyond

it extended another series of chambers, including a row of stalactites which we decided to call the Khan's army. What else did we find? Chamber after chamber choked with formation - huge columns - flowstone - the most defying helictites and ----- well, why don't YOU come and have a look. We are not very good at describing this sort of scenery. But you can be sure of one thing. It is one of the biggest discoveries we have ever made - if not the biggest.

TRIP REPORTS.

Exit Cave - 5-6 November, 66.

The party consisted of Albert Goede (leader) Brian Collin, Peter Harrold, two visitors from C.S.S. - Neil (Twinkletoes) and Carol Anderson and two prospective members David Blake and Janette MacLaine. The party left Hobart at 6.30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Janette was met in Dover and we then drove on to Hastings for a rendezvous with the Andersons. (Neil claims that the extra pack which Albert had saved his marriage.) However we met them going back to Dover to recharge their batteries and dropped in on Pam and Roy at Hastings. Finally we all met at the Hastings turn off and drove on down the Catamaran Rd. We left the cars at 10.45 a.m. and reached the cave at 1 p.m. After a busy hour pitching tents and preparing lunch we entered the cave at 2 p.m. We made a tour of the formation chambers for the benefit of the visitors & then started to investigate upstream along the small tributary coming in from the right (facing upstream). Neil climbed up through a hole in the ceiling to investigate a higher level and was later joined by Albert. They explored a very interesting system of meandering passages quite different from the main cave. One of the meanders was so tight that it was difficult to get through and on the way back Neil came out standing on his head. They also found their way into a small stream passage carrying a trickle of water and containing some formation, but it was blocked in both directions. Some very nice formation including helictites was found in another passage. Peter stayed down below trying to maintain contact with both parties as the other four led by Brian pushed further upstream along the creek. A junction was reached and the two small streams were followed up. One ended in a high aven while the other was found to be blocked by talus after a wet crawl. Finally the two parties reunited and followed the creek downstream to where it joins the main stream at the beginning of the talus. We then started on another of many attempts to find a way through the talus that blocks the main stream passage. There were cavers climbing around everywhere trying to find a way through without getting anywhere at all. We were just discussing going back and trying the mud passage near the entrance when Albert decided to have another look at a 15' deep rift reached by a narrow passage which he had discovered on a previous trip. He called over Brian who had a look and chimneyed across to another passage to the right which did not go. Next came Neil who decided to chimney down the rift and at the bottom found a narrow passage leading off at right angles. He was soon joined by Brian. Neil went down the narrow passage and suddenly found himself suspended 10' above a deep pool of water. A rope was needed and duly passed down but due to lack of room Brian soon found himself entangled and we finally belayed it from the top. Neil followed by Brian went down the 10' drop where they found themselves in more talus. They reported that the cave went on and that they were having a look around after which their voices faded into the distance. Some time later we heard muffled shouts and curses as the pair tried unsuccessfully to find back the opening through which they had entered. After a lot of shouting on both sides contact was established and the two reported that they had discovered a large cave with the stream running through it and with clear going in the upstream direction. Great excitement followed. Meanwhile Neil had found an easier way through the talus and after some spectacular climbing and talus hopping the whole party entered the new extension. This was the moment we had anticipated for years. We raced upstream along banks of sand and gravel but were soon slowed down where the roof descended to near the water with a large passage leading off to the right. Ignoring the inviting side passage we found a way through talus back to the stream. Here the cave really opened out. It was enormous and the roof was so high that we could barely pick out the ceiling. Upstream we went almost running at times. Brian, Neil and Albert separated to form

an advance party and moved along at a fast rate. In places we were running rather than walking, in others we had to find our way through talus but the cave kept going. Side passage after side passage was seen and we jokingly said that we were not interested in anything less than thirty feet in diameter, as we kept going. In one place a huge side passage cut across the main passage. It was 60' high and at least 40' wide and disappeared into the gloom on both sides. Finally almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours after our big breakthrough during which we covered about half a mile we ran into another pile of talus and lost the stream. We scouted around in different directions until we heard Brian shouting that his light had gone out. We found him in a narrow horizontal slit overhanging a 10' drop down which the top of his torch had disappeared leaving him in a difficult spot. The missing part was soon found and on looking around we discovered that we had found the way through the talus upstream. We progressed a little further but ran into more talus. We then decided it was time to retreat as our lamps were beginning to dim. As we retraced our steps we soon met up with the other four and then began the weary track back to the entrance. We finally emerged into the night at 10.30p.m. after $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours underground. After a quick meal we made a beeline for our sleeping bags.

On Sunday a trip up Cave Hill was planned to locate Big Tree Pot and Machete Pot but since everyone was very weary, and we also felt that the walk would ~~be~~ have been an anticlimax after the previous day's caving, we declared a day of rest. The party broke camp at 10.30a.m. and by 1.00p.m. we were back at the cars.

Saturday's caving yielded another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of stream passage some of it very large and the end has not yet been reached. At least 8 major side passages were seen but we had no time to explore any of them. The new discoveries bring the total length of known passages close to 2 miles and there is obviously a lot more to be discovered. A link up with Mystery Creek Cave is now a distinct possibility.

A.Goede.

Kelly Basin - 19 - 20 November, 1966.

A very pleasant combined trip with the West Coast Outdoor Club with no less than 16 members from Hobart. They were Brian Collin, Rodney Hughes, Alan Johnson, Keith Illingworth, Albert and Therese Goede, Bill Hodge, Roland Wallace, Clive Morris, Sally Sallier, Bernie ?, Denis Reid, John Plaister, Steve Vince, Allan Lee and Brian Sparks. Including the West Coasters the party numbered 38. The trip was a great success as the weather could not have been better. However, we only saw one cave, about 200" long with the general dimensions of a sewer and that after a two hour walk from our camp site on the shores of Kelly Basin. The only one pleased with the cave was Albert who collected a large number of cave-crickets and some spiders.

The trip was ably led by Ron Kent who had to endure a lot of ribbing from the cavers on the size and quality of West Coast caves. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank Ron and Katy for their hospitality. It was much appreciated.

A.Goede.

Exit Cave - 26-27 November, 1966.

The party consisted of Brian Collin (leader), Janette MacLaine and Kerin Hall. They departed Hobart 6.30 a.m. on Saturday morning and arrived at the camp site at 12.30 p.m. Entered the cave at 2.00p.m. and came out at midnight. Departed camp site 10.00a.m. on Sunday and dropped in briefly at Roy's for some coffee.

The Exit Cave area was very dry, the pool on the Catamaran Road being only a few inches deep and Exit Creek flowing at under 5 cusecs.

Survey: Permanent stations fixed 10 to 62 and descriptions of these stations recorded. Compass and tape survey of stations 50 to 62. The surveying was technically easy except in the talus area between the main cavern and the new section; however any survey party should anticipate 10 hours underground and it would be advisable to provide for a good meal and hot drinks. A further one or two weekends will be required to finish the traverse.

By - the - way: time in 2.20 hours - out 2.30 hours plus 10 hours underground, add to this the well known beauty of our local girls, DEAR Bill and Rodney WHY ROAM!!?

B.R(Romeo?).Collin.

We had a record attendance at the last meeting including some of our older members. How about showing your face at the next meeting. Henk Meerding showed the film he had made of the track to Exit Cave, starring P.Brabon and A.Goede as the heroes and he also showed a film on miscellaneous subjects including the sort of country on the way to Mt. Anne. Thanks very much Henk.

New Members.

Welcome to the following bods who have joined our ranks.
Roland Wallace - 18 Cheverton Parade, Sandy Bay(J).
Donald Frazer - 1 Woolton Place, Sandy Bay(J).
Fr.Leon Dowden - P.O. Box 8, New Norfolk.(P).
Stephen Vince - 90 Montague Street, New Town(F).
Janette MacLaine - Dover Area School(P).

Change of Address.

Stella and Ian Farley - Savage River, Tasmania.
Peter Harrold - The Galleon, Bicheno, Tasmania.

Thank You.

Our thanks go to Dennis Seymour for the use of his workshop to make our ladders, thanks also to Mrs.Seymour for the suppers she provided for our hungry workers.

BADGES.

Badges have arrived and can be purchased from the Secretary for 75c. each.

Forward Programme.

December 17,18 - Growling Swallet. Leader - Brian Collin.(B.C.)
Dec.26 - Jan.1 - Christmas trip. Reconnaissance of Mt.Anne area.
Leader.B.C.
January 2-5 - Surveying and exploration in Exit Cave. Leader
- A.Goede.
January 8 - Sunday. Ladder and abseil practice at Rocky Tarn.
Leader. B.C.
January 14,15 - Kubla Khan. Leader - P.Brabon.
January 26 - Committee Meeting. 54 St.George's Terrace.
January 28,30 - Long weekend. Water tracing and exploration in
Exit Cave. Leader - A.Goede.
February 7 - General Meeting. 8 Bath Street, Battery Point,
at 8p.m. Please NOTE change of address.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS.

There are 2,000 million females in the world but only one Exit. -B.C.
All I want for Christmas is a climbing pole, a climbing pole, a
climbing pole, all I want for Christmas is etc. ... Anon.
Bill shops PURITY ?? !! - Anon.
Australia's a hard country - - especially for sleeping on. Anon.
Somebody would swop all the men in the club for the women. - Anon.
Bauera's impenetrable - so is ??. B.H.
We're going to retire and take up bowls - - - Albert, Brian and
Sib, after discovery of new section in Kubla Khan.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS
OPPURTUNITY TO WISH ALL MEMBERS AND OTHER CAVERNEERING CLUBS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A CAVERNICULOUS NEW YEAR.

A full report of what took place at the A.S.F.Conference will be
published in the February edition of Speleo - Spiel. Also report
on Mt.Anne and the possibility of a large expedition there.

KEEP READING THE SPIEL.

Any contributions welcomed - Ed.