

SPELEO - SPIEL.

No.10.

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President: Albert Goede, 8 Bath St., Battery Point, Hobart.

Secretary: Mrs. P. Brabon, 122 Augusta Road, Lenah Valley, Hobart.

Next General Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7 March at 8p.m. at 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. Bring ~~xx~~ your own liquid refreshments. Eats will be provided at a cost of 10 cents per person.

Editorial.

The editors of Speleo Spiel are back on the job after a well earned rest - the reason why there was no January issue. As you will see by trip reports in this issue more exciting things have happened since the publication of the last Spiel. The Mt. Anne reconnaissance expedition was highly successful thanks mainly to the near perfect weather experienced during the trip and plans are being made for a larger expedition next Christmas.

A trip to Exit Cave early in the New Year resulted in the discovery of 1,500ft. of new passage and another 4,000' was added during the Australia Day weekend making the total length of explored passages nearly three miles. The base survey was also completed and a rough plot shows a distance of only 1,500 ft. between the far end of Exit and Mystery Creek Cave.

Perhaps the most exciting discovery was made near the underground campsite where the base of a vertical shaft was found with a 15' long log at the bottom. Lights could shine up at least 100' and two of the three club members who explored it claimed they could see a glimmer of light. The intriguing thing is that the survey shows this spot to be some 700' below the surface in the vicinity of Machete and Big Tree Pot. Any volunteers?

Preservation of Exit Cave.

We have become concerned at the sudden influx of local people visiting Exit Cave as a result of the publicity given to the track by local officers of the Forestry Dept. who recently completed a survey of it. The Club has contacted members of the Scenery Preservation Board and will be submitting a written report on the importance of preserving the cave both for its own sake and as a future tourist asset. Ways in which the cave may be protected are to declare the area a scenic preserve and to place a gate in the narrow mouth of the tunnel by - passing the deep water just inside the entrance.

Prospective member.

Allan Keller, c/o B.H.P. Office, 2 Patrick Street, Hobart.
Phone 3 1063.

A.S.F. Conference.

Albert attended the A.S.F. conference at Mirboo North as the only representative of the South Island of Australia. We were accepted as a member of the Federation by a unanimous vote. Delegates showed keen interest in the work we are doing at Exit Cave, Kubla Khan and Mount Anne and many would like to come and look at some of our caves next summer. The conference was well worth the trip with scientific papers as well as some dealing with cave photography, caving techniques and cave preservation. Despite many arguments and conflicting views there was a strong desire shown by nearly all the clubs to make the federation really work. A capitation fee of 50 cents per annum for full members only was finally agreed to. Under this system full members only receive the A.S.F. newsletter. Other grades of Club membership who wish to subscribe can do so by paying an additional 50 cents.

The highlight of the conference was the talks given on Mullamulang, which with 6 miles of surveyed passages is by far Australia's longest cave. The Cave Exploration Group of South Australia published a printed booklet on the cave. This can be obtained at a cost of 1 dollar. Anyone interested should contact Albert.

Old cavers never die

From time to time we ask "old" members to come on trips, here are some of the excuses we get, see if you can pick yours.

"I'm in the middle of cementing the yard." or "We are having visitors."

"I'll try and make it, but I am busy with the boat."

"I'm too old to crawl, I need a cave I can walk in."

" I've got papers to mark."

" I'm not taking my car on that blasted road."

" I'm hitching to Queenstown."

" We're getting married."

It's not that we are complaining, it is just that we are disappointed to see the same old faces on every trip, so how about making the effort, and do at least two trips this year.

Of course none of these excuses apply to the "Exit Cave Cassanova", he goes on every trip and certainly likes caving. Or is it that blonde school teacher who seems to be his constant companion? He thinks we haven't noticed!!!!

TRIP REPORTS.

Entrance and Newdegate Caves. 10 - 11 Dec.1966.

Party: Brian Collin, Bill Hodge, Rodney Hughes, Jeanette MacClaine.

Saturday: Entrance Cave was explored for approx. three hours and numerous routes to the same spot were found. The syphon at the end of the cave was not located which was understandable as Rodney had only been to the cave three times previously, however the day being warm and sunny a pleasant lunch was enjoyed at Southport beach followed by a swim at Hastings and a Christmas drink at Roy's.

Sunday: Roy showed the party a new cave some $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Newdegate. It was only possible to descend into the cave some 20 feet before progress was blocked by a chockstone, a current of air passes this ~~xxxxxx~~ blockage and some effort in removing the obstacle would be worthwhile. Newdegate Cave was entered about 11.00 a.m. for a quick look at the "Binny" tunnel and Hell's Half Acre, and return via the creek. The exit via the creek was not to be found and Rodney saved the leaders reputation by a bit of fine climbing. The cave was left rather later than expected by a very muddy group of cavers. No great discoveries but a good weekend. B.Collin.

Growling Swallet & Pillingers Ck. Cave Outlet Area. 17 - 18 Dec.1966.

Party: Brian Collin (leader), Rodney Hughes, Jeanette MacClaine.

Departed Hobart 8.00a.m. arrived cave 2p.m. Entered cave at 3.00 out at 6.00, flow about 2 cusecs, weather overcast.

The cave was entered to near the bottom where a 30' ladder would be required and as the weather was overcast and as the 'superb' formations did not appear to be improving it was decided not to push providence too far and the cave was vacated. A very good display of glow-worms was observed on the roof of the cave.

The party camped the night adjacent to the cave at an excellent campsite and left for the Pillingers Creek Cave area about 10.00a.m. on Sunday. Our worthy President had marked the Pillingers Ck. Cave outlet boldly in red on an aerial photo but I suspect, then wisely refrained from participating in the reconnaissance, some sink holes were found in the creek but the outlet was not sited. At least a full day would be required to prove whether this cave is 'fact' or 'fiction'. By - the - way. A.N.M. road '6' and not '9' as was intimated by certain club members is the road to Growling Swallet. B.Collin.

Mount Anne. 26th - 30th Dec.1966.

Party: Brian Collin (leader), Jeanette MacClaine, Keith Corbett, Elizabeth (Sib) McIntyre, Allan Keller.

Purpose of the trip: Reconnaissance of the dolomite outcrop on the N.E. ridge of Mt. Anne and to investigate a shorter route to this area.

Camping: 26th Huon Crossing - good.

27th Plateau between Eliza and Anne, good in fine weather but very exposed if windy. Tent poles carried up and left on site.

28 & 29th On the eastern side and about 300 ft. below ridge immediately north of Anne. Good.

Times:

Frodshams pass to Huon crossing - 9 hours.

Huon crossing to Eliza camp - 8 hours.

Eliza camp to camp north of Anne including ascent of Anne - 4 hours.

Camp north of Anne to Frodshams pass - 11 hours.

From camp north of Anne to dolomite ridge (beginning of) about 20mins.

Reconnaissance of the dolomite ridge: - $1\frac{1}{2}$ days.

The first sink hole (No.1.) on the dolomite ridge has one side of conglomerate and other non dolomite rocks and is approx. 300' deep and a 120 feet rope is desirable.

The cave at the bottom was entered only for a short distance, no torches, by Kieth Corbett and Allan. Two extensions were found and out of one there was movement of air.

A short distance north of No.1. is a prominent lookout rock which overlooks a series of sinkholes, the deepest No.3 being some 500' below this point.

The route taken from the lookout rock was immediately to the east down a steep gully to a sinkhole(No.2) in which a hole 60 to 80 ft. deep was found with air movement out. The deep sink hole(No.3) was also entered from the steep gully by deviating slightly west on the way down, 60' of rope desirable on both routes.

Sink hole(No.3) can also be reached from(No.2) by climbing out of the northern side. No outlet was found in the bottom of the deep sink hole(No.3).

From No.3 sink hole No.4 was reached by climbing a steep slope to the west, No.4 being some 150 to 200 ft. above No.3. In No.4 a crevasse type hole some 200 to 300 ft. deep($4\frac{1}{2}$ - 5 secs. for a rock to drop free) was found.

To continue further N.E. along the top of the dolomite ridge was very difficult due to vegetation, sink holes and the dissected nature of the rocks and a route some 100' down the western slope was taken. The top of the ridge was next encountered some $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant amidst numerous sinkholes without outlet, thick vegetation and extremely rough terrain. The remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of ridge was not explored. It was noticed that the dolomite contained more quartz veins the further N.E. one continued and appeared less likely to contain caves of any size.

General.

All indications pointed to our party being the first into this area the scenery and vegetation was spectacular. Large cave systems appear doubtful however interesting exploration is assured in the deep holes found.

New Route To Anne.

The new route ~~xxxxxxx~~ from Anne to Frodshams pass is shown on the aerial photo kept in the archives. The descent is steep but reasonably open until near the button grass plain where some inconvenient horizontal and other vegetation is encountered. Time $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours from camp to button grass.
B.Collin.

Exit Cave. 1 - 5th Jan. 1967.

Party: Albert Goede(leader), Brian Collin, Jeanette MacClaine, Allan Keller(Jan.1-2.)

Sun.1st. Brian, Jeanette and Allan spent $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours underground. They attempted to push the scree at the far end of the cave but gained only fifty feet. The creek divides and there is little hope of penetrating further. Next they explored the large rift near the end of the cave. To the west approx. 1000' of passage was explored, initially in a high cavern. Then the roof lowers gradually until crawling is necessary. A small creek is followed all the way. To the east the rift extended for 500' with some good formations and ended in a cavern with very fresh and unstable rock fall. It may be possible to penetrate further with danger. The day's work convinced Allan that caving has its attractions for a climber.

Mon.2nd. Albert reached camp at 11.40a.m. while Allan departed. Underground departure was delayed by Albert dropping the abney level and tape down a hole in the talus at the entrance. Abney was quickly recovered but all attempts to get the tape failed. Party went underground at 3.30 p.m. and emerged at 1 a.m. ($9\frac{1}{2}$ hours). Abney level readings were taken from stations 0 to 62 with lunch at the usual spot. Then compass bearings were taken from station 62 back to 34. A strenuous but profitable day.

Tues.3rd. In the afternoon party followed the Kokoda trail up Cave Hill and located Machete and Big Tree Pots as well as a number of others in the vicinity. While doing some surface exploration Brian found a large rift a short distance uphill and to the east of Big Tree Pot and the track. It was a very impressive sight with two pots at the bottom going down at least 40'. On the way back Jeanette very nearly disappeared down Machete Pot by stepping into a small hole leading into the main pot but rescue was close at hand.

Wed.4th. Party spent nearly 13 hours underground from 9.45a.m. to 8.35p.m. Permanent stations 62 to 107 were fixed and described taking the survey to the end of the cave, then on the way back Abney level readings were taken of the same stations. After a good but

unorthodox meal we spent 1½ hours building a bridge of boulders at "the leap" then took compass readings from stations 34 to 10. Thurs. 5th. A leisurely trip back to the cars where we arrived just in time to save them from incineration in a bushfire. Altogether an eventful and successful trip.

Rocky Tom. 8-1-'67.

Party: Brian Collin (leader), Peter and Joan Brabon, Rodney Hughes. Times: Left Franklin Square 2.00p.m. returned 7.00p.m.

Purpose of Trip: Abseil, belay, ladder practice and sling manufacture. Rocky Tom is an excellent place for ladder and abseil practice and also for a bit of climbing for those interested. The success of this trip has shown clearly the desirability of similar training trips to ensure the safety, efficiency and quickness required in negotiating drops.

Rocky Tom involves about a four mile drive and a twenty minute walk, the scenery itself is well worth the effort. B. Collin.

Kubla Khan. 14-1-67.

For further exploration and photography in the new section found 3rd, December, 1966.

Party: Peter Brabon (leader), Rodney Hughes, Brian Collin, Jeanette MacClaine, Sib McIntyre, Allan ?, Brom Canoup, Dave ?, Frank Brown!! and Bob Woolhouse, Frank Brown Jnr. from the Northern Branch.

Time underground approx. 14 hours.

After leaving Hobart at about 9p.m. Friday night a little later than usual, I won't go into the details why, we arrived at Mole Creek and camp site at 1.30 a.m. to find everyone asleep of course, and one chap who was sleeping under the stars, as it was rather warm. Everyone awoke to a warm and humid morning at 8a.m. with the usual. Billies on the fire, frying pans, tins of food etc everyone got stuck into breakfast. After sorting out the gear, who was taking what etc. off we went, with packs, ropes etc. ----- and cameras. About a 15 - 30 min. walk from camp and at about 10a.m. most of us were ready to descend into Kubla.

Brian had set up the ladder pitch and some of us abseiled down approx. 60' while the rest of the party went via the ladder. Myself, Frank Brown Jnr., and Bob Woolhouse took to the high level route while the rest of the party went via the river, with plastic bags containing dry clothes, Frank Brown with wet suit and "Albatross" - a handy gadget for keeping cameras dry but rather awkward to carry.

We had the ladders and rope to set up for the rest of the party, about 2 hours later we came to the flowstone wall which needed the eyebolts to scale it after screwing these in I climbed up and attached the ladder No.1 after we all climbed this we proceeded to ladder pitch No.2 about 15' and still further to Sally's Folley then to the Chimney and up to a higher section. Up and over a large hole in the floor and then into the new chamber. The three of us waited here for the rest of the party. After their arrival a small snack was eaten, Brian and party went up into the section which we had not fully explored last trip. Frank Brown Jnr., Bob Woolhouse, and myself then went down into the Helictite Dungeons. After having a tour through these we went back to the main chamber, to the far end of the chamber, and a general look at the formations. The Northern chaps were rather impressed by this time but more to come, we went back up the chamber past "the Khan" to join the rest of the party whom we hadn't seen for 3 hours. After meeting them and some more talk plus more exploring, we were now getting rather hungry so out came the primus stoves, stew, etc. after our meal, which went down really well, the 2 Northern chaps left us for the entrance at about 5 p.m.

Peter, Frank, Sib, Rodney, Brian and party went back to the Helictite Dungeons for some photography. After setting up cameras, flashes etc. plus models we got to it. Brian and party left us now and we arranged to be back to meet them at 7.30p.m. so after taking some more photos we found the time had slipped away and I had no time to show Frank the far end of the chamber. So after coming back we all met at the formation known as "the Khan" then after some talk and packing up we left the cave. After making a good trip out and a long story short we all emerged tired at 12p.m. Sat. evening. After a glass of mug full of the well known amber fluid we all hit our sleeping bags. The End ??? Peter Brabon.

Exit Cave. 28 - 30 Jan.1967.

Inside Party: Brian Collin, Jeanette MacClaine, Allan Keller, Donald Fraser.

Purpose of trip - (a) water tracing,(b) traversing,(c) exploration.

Ex.Hobart 7.00p.m., start track 9.30p.m., camped 1,000' in cave at 12.30. Constant watch on creek for flouricene involving 2 hour watches until 10a.m. Saturday.

Base camp 3,000' in reached at 3.30p.m., heavy packs can be taken from the entrance to base camp in 2 hours. The traverse was finished some 4,000' of side passages explored and a constant watch kept on the creek for flouricene.

Traverse: The main traverse is now finished and comprises 107 permanent stations and is some 7,000' in length.

Exploration: Some 4,000' of new passages were explored, two outstanding features were observed,(1) logs up to 15' in length at the bottom of a vertical hole over 100' high.(2) approx. 200 yds. along one of the side passages a pool of water, swimming required, prevented further progress, however running water could be heard on the other side. This may be a seperate creek or possibly the noise of running water may be from the main creek.

Water Tracing: No sign of flouricene was observed.

By the way:

(1) 11 pounds of carbide was used by the inside party in 2½ days underground.

(2) 1½ pints of petrol and ½ lb. liquid gas used.

(3) Underground camping is very practical for further exploration and survey of Exit Cave.

(4) Jeanette's 20th birthday party was very successful especially as it coincided with the 13th anniversary of Albert's first visit to Exit and Brian's first anniversary in Tasmania.

(5) The country was very dry and Exit Creek was flowing at 1 - 2 cusecs.
B.Collin.

Report of flouræscen party: See next Spiel. They were rather shaken(Albert's car didn't like the Lune River bridge!) and need time to recover before making a report(and thinking of an excuse.)
A.Goede.

Forward Programme.

February 26th. - Climbing practice at Rocky Tom. Meet 2p.m.Franklin Square.

March 4 - 6(long weekend.) Surface exploration on Kubla Khan Hill.
Leaders - P.Brabon and B.Collin.

March 7th(Tues.) - General Meeting, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point.
Bring own cushions, food and liquids.

March 14th(Tues) - Committee Meeting, 122 Augusta Road,Lenah Valley.

March 24th - 27th(Easter.) - Surveying and exploration at Exit Cave.
Leader.B.Collin.

March 29th(Wed.) - Annual General Meeting, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point.(Vote 1 - FRED.)

STOP PRESS.

As this goes to the press Hobart is still recovering from one of the most disastrous bushfires in Tasmanian history. At least one club member - Rodney Hughes - lost all his possessions and several others just managed to save their homes.

For those going on the above trips please remember that there is a STRICT BAN on ANY FIRE in the open until March 31st.

Famous Last Words.

" Where's everybody going?" - Frank B.

According to a certain member Mt.Wellington(on top) was like the rock of Gibraltar during the recent fire. All he has left is his sense of humour!

Was your



OUT?