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Editorial - Exit Cave.

Exit Cave continues to expand but the process is slowing down. As one member complained: "We only found 2,000' of passage last weekend". The main extensions have been made in the vicinity of the Camp Pie Circuit and recently a party by-passed the siphon in what is supposed to be Mystery Ck. and pushed even closer towards linking up with Mystery Creek Cave. We will not know just how close until the survey has been plotted.

Surveying has been going ahead at a rapid pace. On the weekend of 16,17 September 3,950 ft. of passage was traversed and on the first weekend in October nearly another mile was added to the traverse. The total length of passages traversed now stands at approx.  $5\frac{1}{4}$  miles!

A strange bit of information has come to light about the 6 lbs. of flourescein which was put into the final siphon of Mystery Ck. Cave about 8 months ago (2.25 a.m., Saturday 28/1/67.). Despite a watch kept in Exit Cave for several days the flourescein disappeared without trace. Recently our president attended a meeting of the Royal Society where he sat next to two former club members: Leo and Jessie Luckman. Without knowing about the flourescein experiment they volunteered the following information. On Saturday 28/1/67 they were driving north along Recherche Bay when they crossed a small creek at approx. 6 p.m. which was brilliant green with flourescein. They are definite about the time and have located the creek on aerial photographs.

However if confirmed it poses some embarrassing questions. The location of the sighting is approx. 6 miles south-east from Mystery Ck. Cave and the sighting was made only  $15\frac{1}{2}$  hours after the flourescein was put in. The water would have had to travel at an average velocity of  $\frac{1}{2}$  ft.per sec. to cover the distance. Not only would it have had to cross the major surface divide between the Lune and the D'Entrecasteaux Rivers but it would also have to pass right under the latter to come out where it did.

An even more awkward question is the origin of the water in the "buttongrass" creek in Exit Cave if it does not come from Mystery Creek Cave! If Mystery Creek divides underground as has been suggested whydidn't the flourescein appear in Exit Cave during the Australia Day long weekend????

We intend to trace the origin of the small stream where the flourescein was seen. If it does come from underground we are going to repeat the flourescein test to confirm this most improbable con-



nection.

### TRIP REPORTS.

There are a number of trip reports outstanding. How about some contributions???

#### Exit Cave 16,17/9/67.

Party:- Above ground - Brian and Jeanette Collin.

A track was blazed and a traverse made from the entrance of Exit Cave westwards to the D'Entrecasteaux River divide thence up the western creek to where the water flows underground.

A gap of approx. 800 ft. still remains to be traversed however the plot so far supports the theory that another entrance will be found in the Western creek area.

Technical: Traverse by prismatic compass and 100 ft. tape. 21 permanent stations fixed, each consisting of an aluminium tag fixed to a tree. Approx.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles traversed in 7 hours. B.Collin.

#### Exit Cave 7,8/10/67.

Party:- Above ground - Brian and Jeanette Collin.

Survey up the western creek completed. Reconnaissance from the waterfall on the western creek to the saddle (La Perouse track) made.

Further survey of the D'Entrecasteaux River west of the cave carried out. Cave entrance with air movement located adjacent to the western creek.

#### Conclusion:-

- i) Easiest access to the western creek area is from the "Brooker Highway".
- ii) Survey indicates that the source of water in the N.W. part of the cave may not be from the waterfall on the western creek.
- iii) Survey indicates that the underground stream is some 450 ft. N.W. of the waterfall on the western creek.
- iv) The cave entrance found could prove very interesting, but access will be for thin people only.

B.Collin.

#### No discount at the Scout Shop.

A letter has been received from the Boy Scouts' Association informing us that the 10% discount allowed to club members will have to be discontinued. Apparently difficulties have arisen in the scouting movement over such concessions.

#### Government Grant.

Following our request for financial assistance cabinet has agreed to make available a grant of 200 dollars. This will be used for the purchase of additional equipment and flourescein for the water tracing. It will also enable us to publish a bulletin dealing with our recent discoveries.

#### A.S.F. Handbook.

The handbook should be really up to date when it comes out. A telegram was received from the handbook editor, Peter Matthews, asking for details of recent exploration at Exit Cave and Mini Martin. Information has been sent and will be incorporated in the handbook. Albert will take advance orders upon payment of 2 dollars. The handbook consists of 200 pages and contains a host of information including a complete list of Tasmanian caves.

#### FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- October 21 - 22 - Exit Cave. Leader: John Marshall.  
October 28 - 29 - Mole Creek. Probably including a visit to Kubla Khan. Leader: P.Brabon.  
November 4 - A visit to Exit Cave with members of the Scenery Preservation Board on Saturday.  
November 4,5,6 - Long weekend trip to Mole Creek.  
November 8 - Wednesday: General meeting at Doug Turner's, 79 Riawena Road, Rose Bay.  
November 18 - Maydena. Frankcombe Cave. Leader: B.Collin.  
November 25 - Birthday-Christmas Dinner, Waratah Hotel, Murray St.  
November 26 - Bar - B - Que, Gordon River Road for those in a fit state.  
December 2 - 3 - Mole Creek. Leader: P.Brabon.  
December 5 - Tuesday. General meeting, 8 Bath Street, Battery Pt.  
December 17 - 18 - Exit Cave. Leader: B.Collin.  
December 26 - 31 - Christmas trip to Loongana. Leader: A.Goede.