



MEET

THEM

## AT THE DINNER !

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### It's the GREATEST.

The combined 21st Birthday - Christmas Dinner being held at the Waratah Hotel, Murray Street at 7p.m. 25 November, 1967.

BE WITH IT - BE THERE!!

If you are coming the secretary wants your replies as soon as possible. Bring your friends - all of them! Also let Joan know if you wish to go on the trip along the Gordon River Road for a barbecue the following day. Bring own steaks, snags, aspirin etc. Please answer promptly!

### Conservation.

At the last general meeting members who had been to Mole Creek the previous weekend reported a case of vandalism in the new extension of Kubla Khan. Indecent words had been written on the wall of the passage below the 20 ft. ladder drop a short distance beyond Cairn Hall. The words were removed as well as possible. This is a disgusting act of vandalism in what is undoubtedly the finest cave in Tasmania and probably one of the most spectacular in Australia.

The discovery is particularly disturbing because only parties with the proper caving and climbing equipment can penetrate this far into the cave. It might be a good idea if the other clubs in the state made a few inquiries amongst their own members and also kept their ears open to see if any amateur speleos have somehow managed to get in on their own. The culprit might not be caught this time but let's not give him another opportunity - report any acts of vandalism you may discover in the future.

Club News.

A simple plaque in memory of Edith Smith will be placed at the beginning of Edie's Treasure in Exit Cave. We hope that this will serve not only as a memorial to Edie but also as a reminder to all who enter to conserve the rare gypsum formations found in Edie's Treasure. The formations consist of gypsum flowers and slender needles up to 3 feet long. As far as we know there are no comparable gypsum needles in any other cave in Australia. Only two other Tasmanian caves are known to contain gypsum formations.

Last year S.S.S. published a list of Australian cave records. In this list Tasmania featured only once as having Australia's deepest cave. This seems to have stung our members into action. As a result we can now claim an even deeper cave, the longest ladder drop, the longest gypsum needle, the largest cave pearl, the tallest stalagmite and one of the largest chambers. We hope to publish a detailed list soon. Last weekend's party to Mole Creek measured the size of Xanadu Chamber in Kubla Khan and the height of the Khan (a large stalagmite.) Xanadu Chamber was found to be 700 ft. long with an average width of 150 ft. Its floor area was calculated as 2.8 acres. The height of the Khan was measured as 59 feet and this should be accurate within two feet.

Dick Chuter and John Cunningham have been accepted as full members of the club. Congratulations and keep up the good work. We've heard rumours that Dick has given up swimming in underground streams and has bought himself a pair of climbing boots.

Albert and Therese are pleased to announce the arrival of their second daughter, Hilary Jocelyn. Another prospective member! It seems that children of cavers are nearly always girls.

Congratulations to Sib McIntyre and Keith Corbett on their engagement. It took almost as long for these two to become engaged as it did to find the way through the talus in Exit. Our best wishes for the future.

Albert is leading a trip to Loongana at Christmas and would like to hear from anyone interested in coming. This is a little explored area with plenty of holes at the foot of Black Bluff 30 miles south of Ulverstone. There is a very pleasant camp site on the bank of the Leven River. Local rumors tell of a pothole where stones thrown over the edge take 20 seconds to reach the bottom. Bring a parachute!!!

TRIP REPORTS.

Mole Creek 2/3 September, 1967.

Party: P.Brabon(leader), J.Brabon, W.Hodge, R.Chuter, J.Cunningham. Sat. - weather fine. In the morning we explored and photographed in Lynd's Cave. Time underground 3-4 hours. Water was fairly low. We did not go beyond the second rockfall. In the afternoon Richard and John took us on a tour of the Mersey Valley including Lake Rowallan, etc. A very interesting trip.

Sun. - weather fine. Visit to Pyramid Cave, Caveside. Some bush has been cleared along the approach to the cave entrance. A general tour of all parts of the cave was made. Some water was noticed in the squeeze through to "Black Shawl" and we did not go any further. The party returned to the surface and back to the cars for a change of clothes and on to Hobart.

P.Brabon.

Exit Cave - 16-17 September, 1967.

Party: John Marshall, Tim Walkden-Brown, Dick Chuter, John Cunningham. The main purpose of this trip was to survey several known passages explored previously. The party arrived at the main camp site (Collins Corner) at 1.00a.m. on Saturday following a damp walk in over the track and the use of the high level route in the cave. A late start was made in the morning, the party proceeding to the Camp Pie Circuit via the climb at the eastern end of the Labyrinth and through the Broken Column Chamber. The Camp Pie Circuit was surveyed and was not as extensive as originally thought. The "big hole" in the Loop Chamber was surveyed, this being of typical Exit dimensions, the top being unsightable.

The large creek down the talus slope to the north of the Loop Chamber was also surveyed, this is the western most extension of the Exit system, only 300 ft. of this creek can be found as it is impassable at both ends, however, it is suspected that this creek again appears for 500 ft. at the eastern end of the Camp Pie Circuit, last seen heading north-east.

The Lost Squeeze was relocated. This passage surveyed at approx. 1,500 ft. and is the northern limit of the Exit system, the mud squeeze at the end being farther north than the end of Entrance Cave. The passage features gypsum needles and "cotton wool" and is very easy walking until it gradually squeezes, due to water flowing Tim was not able to push the squeeze past the previous attempt made by Allan. We then proceeded to the Broken Column Chamber, where the diprotodon was very successfully used to photograph the formation. The party then retraced the Labyrinth Circuit to find a fault in the previous survey, this turned out to be a back bearing recorded thus before corrected to a forward bearing. Dinner was served at the main camp site at 10.30 p.m.

On Sunday morning the large passage to the north of Grandpa's Sewer was surveyed, a creek passage was discovered to the right of the terminal collapse but was not extensive, continuation being prevented by the smallness of the passage.

Having surveyed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile the party moved out over the normal route, the water level having dropped over the duration.

John Marshall.

Exit Cave - Bruny Island 23-24 Sept. 1967.

Party: John Marshall, Allan Keller, Tim W. Brown.

This proposed survey trip was abandoned after walking 100 yds. down the Exit track, following the discovery that the prismatic compass had been misplaced. The party continued on to Bruny Island where several fish etc. were landed.

John Marshall.

Florentine, 1 Oct. 1967.

Visit to Frankcombe Cave. Weather overcast with some rain. 9 a.m. Tas. Summer Time we reached A.N.M. barrier.

Party: P. Brabon (leader), J. Brabon, B. & J. Collin, D. Chuter, R. Booth, and two visitors.

We met at the barrier to find no trace of Robin. We drove some 20 miles along the A.N.M. road after a discussion with Brian who had obtained directions from Albert and with the help of what Joan remembered from her last visit to the cave five years ago. After some scrub bashing we found the entrance. After having our lunch Robin and party turned up and explained that they had been bushed. We all entered the cave which has some very nice formation sections but a lot of knee bashing is involved in negotiating the 1000 ft. crawl with some water hazards added. Brian is very interested in returning to the cave on Sunday, 19th November for further exploration.

P. Brabon.

Exit Cave - 7-9 October, 1967.

Party: John Marshall, Allan Keller, Tim W. Brown, John Fairhall, Reg Williams, Allan Cross.

Following a late start from Hobart the party arrived at the main camp site at 2.00 a.m. Saturday. The Entrance creek passage was entered about midday, complete with artificial climbing equipment to scale a 25 ft. high face, the climb was just being planned when Tim mysteriously appeared at the top; he had climbed through and up the talus. The party then moved up through the talus and continued along the passage to the creek, John then followed the creek for an additional 300 ft. until it eventually siphoned.

Glow worms were noticed in this creek passage, a small hole in the roof was climbed but this closed out. Once John had stopped shivering after an immersion of over 15 mins. we began the survey, however Tim again disappeared into the talus; shortly we all followed to emerge into a new large chamber. The chamber had several small passages leading from it, however, the large passage continuation of the chamber was followed until it was blocked by a collapse. The most surprising part at the end of this chamber was the appearance of Mystery Ck. from beneath a 4" slot, the creek then goes diagonally across the cave and disappears into talus on the other side. This area was then carefully explored and further passage was not found, further exploration here could be worthwhile. We then surveyed this new section and returned to the camp.

Sunday morning was spent surveying the passages to the left and on from Grandpa's Sewer, the party returned to the camp for lunch. Reg, John Fairhall and Allan Cross then moved out to the entrance and home, meanwhile John, Allan and Tim went into the East Grand Fissure area to push the old passages and look for new. Nothing worth while, however, was discovered in this area, except for the creek coming in at station 107, which is to the right (north) of the

traverse of the Central Grand Fissure, Allan pushed this but the water made conditions unpleasant, this should be pushed preferably in drier conditions. The party then returned to camp.

On Monday we planned to survey several known passages. The first passage was opposite Collins Corner, a small creek which Allan pushed until it became too small, this was surveyed. The large fissure on the left of the outflowing main creek just past the Mini Martin Chamber was also surveyed. Before entering the talus block a fissure was noticed on the right. Allan and John climbed up 40' onto a large block, but further progress was hindered by a 6 ft. jump onto the next block with a 40' fall if one slips, it was decided to leave this until a suitable belay could be organised.

Sib's Extension which commences just past the Letter Box was pushed by Tim at the end, a slight draught was observed, however, the passage was tight and further progress appears impossible. The extension was then surveyed. The party then moved through the talus block toward the entrance and climbed into the upper level system on the left. Allan disappeared up a creek and returned half an hour later with reports of considerable passage and a big hole. We all then proceeded through the several squeeze sections of this creek. John went up a tight side passage and further progress was prevented by need for total immersion in what appeared to be a siphon; someone had apparently been there before as there was a pair of German flat nose pliers perfectly preserved in the pool. We then went on into the big hole, this was approx. 60' high. The creek was then surveyed. We then moved out to the entrance and home. Length of passage surveyed in the three days was just over one mile.

John Marshall.

#### Exit Cave - 14 - 15/10/67.

Party: Brian and Jeanette Collin, Peter Brabon, Geoff..., Eddy Guinan, Barry...(S.C.S.)

Base camp was made inside the cave at the D'Entrecasteaux junction at 1 p.m. Saturday. After several hours rest trogging was carried out in the Acoustic Chamber area for about 12 hours after which nobody suffered from insomnia.

#### Observations:

i) there appears to be far too much water in the N.W.(underground) creek to have its origin at the waterfall on the Western Creek (above ground).

ii) The large chambers in the Broken Column area may indicate that the main cave forming creek was the N.W. creek and that Mystery Ck., has broken through at a later date.

iii) Kellers Squeeze should be known as Kellers Curse, or to keep names out of it just "The Curse".

#### Future:

i) Fluorescein should be placed in the Western Creek at the waterfall to determine: a) is it the source of the water underground, b) possibly give a check on the accuracy of the survey.

B.Collin.

#### Exit Cave - 21 - 22/10/67.

Party: B & J.Collin.

Purpose - to investigate a report that a creek flowing into Recherche Bay was a vivid green colour approx. 16 hours after fluorescein was placed in Entrance Cave on 28 - 1 - 67.

Method - All the creeks flowing into Recherche Bay between the D'Entrecasteaux River and the Catamaran River were followed up for a short distance and the pH taken.

Conclusion: The D'Entrecasteaux had a pH of 6.8, all the other creeks had a pH between 6.0 and 6.4. All the creeks flow through swamp country within a very short distance of the bay and it is doubtful if water carrying fluorescein could have passed through any appreciable length of the swamps.

The general country is dolerite overlying sandstone at sea level, it is very scrubby with good stands of cutting grass. Further investigation of the creeks will wait, by me at least, until confirmation by fluorescein of a connection between Entrance Cave and Recherche Bay.

B.Collin.

#### Exit Cave - 28 - 29/10/67.

Party: B. & J.Collin, Allan Keller, Rae Allsop.

Object: To find where the water that goes underground at the waterfall in western creek enters the cave.

During the  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour between 12.00 & 12.30 on Saturday Jeanette placed

one pound of fluorescein in the western creek at the waterfall. At 14.30 hours strong colouring of fluorescein was noticed in a small creek entering the N.W. creek near station of the N.W. creek traverse. At 15.00 hours fluorescein was noticed entering the N.W. creek at the end of the negotiable passage. It appeared that the fluorescein was coming from a side creek but this could not be verified, the colouring in the N.W. creek was very weak. At 15.30 hours weak fluorescein colouring was noticed in a small flow from a shaft near station 16 of the Labyrinth Circuit survey and in two trickles from the roof near station 17.

All creeks in the Labyrinth area commenced to rise at about 13.00 hours and were still rising at 17.00 when a return to base camp was commenced. Very little increase in flow was noticed at the Mystery Creek junction at 18.00 hours.

At 19.00 hrs. on reaching the base camp the D'Entrecasteaux had risen to a stage just too deep to safely depart from the cave. By 23.30 hrs. the D'Entrecasteaux had fallen 1 ft. but the creek inside the cave had risen considerably and had become discoloured.

On Sunday Allan and Rae climbed the northern end of a fissure in a passage opposite the D'Entrecasteaux and placed one loxin in the face at the southern end of the fissure.

Jeanette observed that rain commenced at 10.00 a.m. and continued all afternoon, approx. 1" falling by 19.00 hours, when the D'Entrecasteaux first showed signs of rising.

Reg Williams and Tim W. Brown deterred on a walk to La Perouse were in Entrance Cave from about 12.00 to 15.00 hours. Mystery Ck. was low and clear.

#### Conclusion:

Water from the western ck. does not enter the cave by a single direct route but splits up into several small streams. The source of the water in the N.W. creek is still uncertain. Mystery Ck., if it is Mystery Ck. that enters Exit Cave, takes several hours longer than the D'Entrecasteaux to rise. A considerable flow of clear water was coming from the creek north of station 107, where does it come from?

By - the - way - Brian has been the first to spend a night in Exit Cave without a sleeping bag, it's the last time he will be caught but who will be next?

B. Collin.

#### Forward Programme.

- Nov. 19 - Florentine Valley, Frankcombe Cave. Leader: B. Collin.
- Nov. 25 - Birthday - Christmas Dinner, Waratah Hotel, Murray St.
- Nov. 26 - Barbecue, Gordon River Rd. (For the FIT !!)
- Dec. 2-3 - Mole Creek, Leader: P. Brahon.
- Dec. 5 - Tuesday. General meeting, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point.
- Dec. 17-18 - Exit Cave. Leader: B. Collin.
- Dec. 26-31 - Christmas trip to Loongana. Leader: A. Goede.