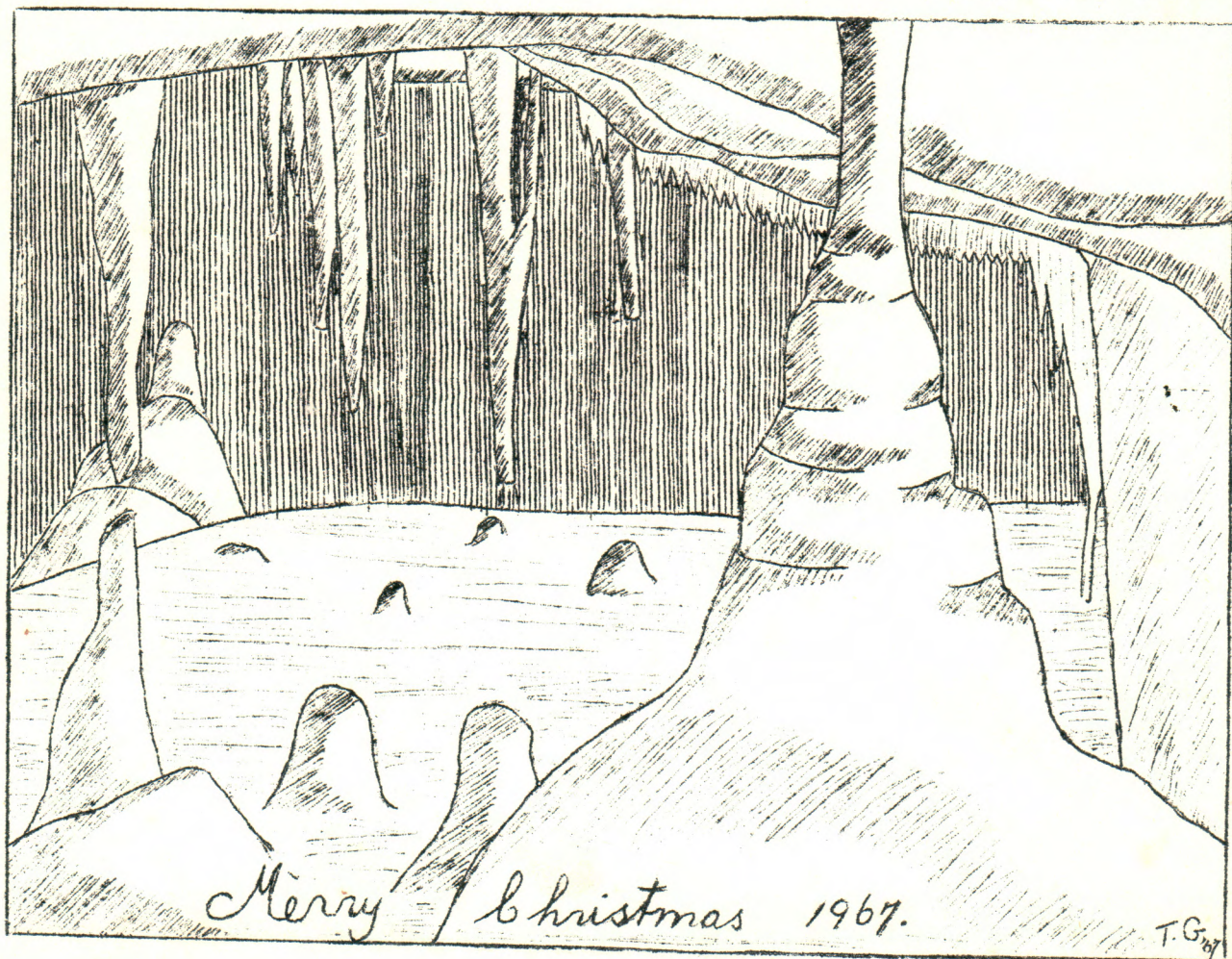


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Editorial.

This is the last Spiel of the year and the editors wish all members and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Spiel will not be published in January and there will be no general meeting in that month as cavers will be scattered far and wide.

Ida Bay is still our favourite area. On the occasion of a "tourist" trip on November 11 to the first part of Exit Cave, Brian and Jeanette climbed up the slope opposite the usual route to the high level and discovered some 700 ft. of new passage. And this despite the fact that our hardware merchants had just assured us that they had had a thorough look at this section of the cave. The new passage contained some good formation.

On Saturday, 2 December, a small party explored a cave located by Dick Chuter which turned out to be between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long with the dimensions of a large railway tunnel. It is the first sizeable cave to be discovered in Lune Sugar Loaf. The cave offers sport to both ladder climbers and swimmers. We hope to do a survey soon to see just where it goes.

Birthday - Christmas Dinner.

The club's combined 21st Birthday - Christmas Dinner was attended by a record number of 55 bods and was a great success. Guests of honour were the Minister for Public Works, Mr. Cashion and his wife. Other guests included the president of the Southern Caving Society, Bob Cockerill, and no less than 15 members of the West Coast Outdoor Club who came to sample the delights of the "big smoke". A congratulatory telegram was received from Clive and Sally Morris assuring us that they were "with us in spirits". The president made a valiant attempt to cut the cake which appeared to have physical properties rather similar to the famed dampers which Frank Brown baked on the shores of the New River Lagoon. Many thanks to Joan and Peter Brabon who spent so much time organizing the dinner.

Congratulations.

Congrats. to the Sydney Speleological Society who after 12½ years of persistent quarrying have broken through the efflux at Bungonia. The breakthrough gave access to some 80 ft. of passage. Judging by the society's forward programme digging is not yet at an end and further great discoveries are likely to be made. The triumph is due to a faction known as the "effluxians" who in the last issue of Stop Press claim a great victory over the "knockers" who are apparently opposed to digging caves as they prefer to explore them. The villainous "knockers" may yet win a final victory. When the "effluxians" break through into the Bungonia master cave there will no doubt be a great rush of CO₂ laden air escaping through the efflux snuffing out the lives of these courageous diggers. What a wonderful way to go down in speleological history!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS. - HAPPY BIRTHDAY - INVITATION.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year were received from the Sydney Speleo.Soc. and Elery Hamilton-Smith
 Birthday congratulations were received from the New Zealand Speleological Society along with an invitation for any members who can go, to join them in their 21st celebrations at Waitomo Caves at Easter 1970. (Start saving now!)

New Zealand Caving Accidents.

A most interesting article on caving accidents and incidents was published in the N.Z. Speleo. Bulletin, No.63. For the benefit of those who didn't get a chance to read the article here are some of the incidents mentioned, plus name of cave.

- No.2. Carbide tin dropped in pool. Tomac.
- No.11. Rocks fell near sleeping cavers. Masons Dry Cave.
- No.15. Lamp went out after lighting gelignite fuse. Cold Creek.
- No.20. 50 lb. stalactite snapped off - cut head. Luckie Strike.
- No.37. Leaned on ¼ ton boulder and it rolled. Platform unstable and cave abandoned. Woof Woof.
- No.46. Slipped in chimney. Fell 15' onto second caver. 3 stitches on chin of first, 6 on second. Karamu.
- No.60. Big rock rolled into cave, coming to rest against sleeping cavers head. Slightly dazed. Starlight.
- No.62. Trousers slipped, preventing legs spreading across drop. Sandshoes slipped, caver fell 12 ft. Gashed leg, morphine; week off work. Ringlefall.

Since 1952 there have been 64 incidents and 30 accidents only one of which resulted in death. Most of the incidents seem to have been caused by rock falls and quite a few by the fact that people did not have correct caving gear. To end with, a quote from the article, "Are women more likely to have cave accidents than men? It was difficult to evaluate this. If a rock comes down a shaft, it isn't aiming for any sex in particular...."
 By the way. there are only four caves in New Zealand deeper than Exit so let's look for more potholes - and someone to go down!

T.C.C. Bulletin.

Now that we have received the Government grant we hope to be able to publish another Bulletin. However, we will need the FULL support of all members. If you can put pen to paper start writing - caving experiences, cave history, camping in caves, cave photography, cave poetry(?) etc. anything which might be of interest to your fellow cavers. With the Christmas holidays and all that spare time ahead you'll have no excuse for not trying. Please forward all articles to Albert for censorship. And remember - Don't let the truth stand in the way of a good story.

MAINLAND CAVERS VISITS.

Two cavers from the Uni. of Queensland Speleo.Soc. will be here from 21/12/67 - 15/2/68 and would like to go caving during their visit.

Also two or three members of the Vic. Speleo. Assoc. will be here during January to see "what rain looks like" and with the hope of seeing Exit. They will be fully equipped "except for the mud - beer converter" which was lost.

It will be great to see so many mainlander cavers breaking through the "paper curtain" to see our caves.

TRIP REPORTS.

Exit Cave - Saturday, 11/11/67.

A tourist trip organised to take two members of the Scenery Preservation Board and the Tourist Department to Exit Cave.

Party: Albert Goede(leader), Peter Brabon, Brian Collin, Jeanette Collin, Roy Skinner, Greg Ruxton, Fred Lakin(S.P.B.), Terry Gill (Tourist Bureau).

A very pleasant trip in ideal weather. Although only $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours were spent underground we had some pleasant surprises. Albert's day was made when he discovered three Idacarabus beetles in the Windtunnel. They are a rare species found only in the caves at Ida Bay. When the party went up to the high level, Brian and Jeanette decided to scout around the slope along the opposite wall and discovered 700 ft. of well decorated passage. Meanwhile Albert took the remainder of the party round the high level route and back along the creek. Afterwards we all made an inspection of the new discovery. The most unusual formation looked like a modern sculpture and was promptly named "The Junkheap". Another attraction was a natural porthole in the wall. After we emerged from the cave we made a trip along the edge of the hill towards the west where there is some impressive scenery.

Albert Goede.

Hastings Area - 2/12/67.

Party: Brian and Jeanette Collin, Dick Chuter, John Marshall, Sue McKeag, Kerin Hall, Robin Booth, Bernard...

Several holes in the Newdegate area were investigated with rather disappointing results. One hole known as Alan Chesterman's Cave had a good draught of air coming out, but entry for more than a few feet was impossible.

Saturday afternoon was put to good use in investigating a cave on the South Lune River Road. The first entrance found would have involved swimming, so by common consent a search up the hill was made which resulted in the discovery of another entrance by way of a 90' drop.

The cave is estimated to be about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long and averaging about 15 ft. wide and 20 ft. high with a few formations. Two of the party made an exit by the first entrance which involved negotiating neck deep water for over 200 ft. After a most pleasant and rewarding days caving an enjoyable evening was spent with Pam and Roy.

Brian Collin.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

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|------------------|---|---|
| December 16 - 17 | - | Exit Cave. Leader: B. Collin. |
| December 26 - 31 | - | Christmas trip to Loongana. Leader: A. Goede. |
| Jan. 13 - 14/68 | - | Lune River. Including visit to new cave. |
| January 27 - 29 | - | Mole Creek. Leader: P. Brabon. |
| February 6 | - | General meeting, 8 p.m. 122 Augusta Road. |
| February 10 - 11 | - | Fluorescein tracing at Ida Bay. Leaders: A. Goede, B. Collin. |

