

Published monthly by the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, Box 641G,  
G.P.O., Hobart, 7001.

Registered at the G.P.O. Hobart for transmission by post.

Annual sub. 60 cents.

Single copies 10 c.

---

President:- A.Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, Hobart, 7000.

Secretary:- Mrs. P.Brabon, 122 Augusta Road, Lenah Valley, 7008.

---

Editorial. - WATER!! - Cool water - GREEN water - WATER!!

Yes, we have proved it at last. Ever since the club was formed it has been said that water flowing into Mystery Creek Cave (Entrance Cave) should come out in Exit Cave. With the spectacular discoveries in Exit Cave in the last eighteen months this seemed more obvious than ever. Last year six pounds of fluorescein went into Mystery Ck. to settle the matter once and for all but disappeared without trace. Except that months later we heard a strange tale that water in a creek flowing into Recherche Bay south of Leprena had turned green. Since this locality was six miles away from Mystery Ck. Cave this seemed hard to believe. After a look at the creek in question we were even more doubtful.

Last month another six pounds went down the creek and a weekend watch at both Exit Cave and Recherche Bay again proved unsuccessful. But the following Tuesday(after some rain on the Monday) Brian and Albert felt a sudden urge to take a day off in order to have another look. The result - green water, and a whisky bottle full of it to prove it was really there. Where?? Exit Cave of course.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The meeting will be held at 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, at 8 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 27th MARCH.

We would like to see YOU there if at all possible to cast your vote for the new committee. If you have any complaints don't sit back and criticise. Join the committee and do something about it. As usual there will be no general meeting in April.

Subscriptions.

At the A.G.M. all members become unfinancial and subscriptions for the coming year are due.

Full members (ever 18 yrs.)	-	2.50.
Junior members	-	1.00.
Associate members	-	1.00.

Junior and associate members who want to receive the A.S.F. newsletter can do so by paying another 35 cents to the treasurer.

Prospective members.

The following prospective members intend to join our ranks.

Tim Walkden-Brown.	Judy Robinson.	Peter Helman.
Ray Allsop.	Bernard Howe.	

Welcome to the mob!!!

New Names.

The following new names were accepted at the last general

meeting.

Loons Cave - Ida Bay area, Southport topographic sheet no. 8211 - II - S, scale 1:31,680, grid ref. 768514.  
Half a mile of muddy passages. A wonderful place if you like mud.

Swallownest Cave - (L.5.) - Loongana area. See Speleo-Spiel No.21, page 2 for a full description.

Naming of the new pots in the Florentine Valley was deferred until the annual general meeting.

A Bottomless Pit. - The Abyss of Provatina.

Those who boast about Mini Martin should know that a British expedition has been exploring a pothole in Northern Greece last year which has an entrance shaft estimated to be 2,000 ft. deep. Using a winch assisted ladder technique the party descended to the first ledge at 580 ft. and sloping at 70° and cut a platform out of rock and snow. From here rocks take 10 to 11 seconds free fall to hit the bottom. Plumbing the shaft revealed another ledge at 1,285 ft. The expedition was hampered by lightning and thunderstorms and did not reach the bottom. Another attempt will probably be made this year.

New Publication.

The Southern Caving Society has published the first two issues of its bulletin "Southern Caver." The first issue contains a brief history of the society and a summary of work done in different areas - especially at Mole Creek. The second issue contains news about a new area on which the club is concentrating - Mt. Ronald Cross. Several promising holes have been located and we wish them every success in their new venture. There is also an article on ladder construction and a report of an investigatory trip towards Mount Anne.

Trip Reports.

Exit Cave - 24,25 Feb.1968.

Party:- Exit Cave - B.Collin, T.Walkden-Brown, P.Helman,R.Allsop.

Mystery Ck.Cave - A.Goede, D.Chuter (Fridaynight.)

Recherche Bay - P. and J.Brabon, B.Hodge, A.Goede(Sat. only.)

Purpose of trip - Water tracing.

a) To find where Mystery Creek enters Exit Cave.

b) To check on a report that on a previous fluorescein attempt green water was seen in a creek entering Recherche Bay,(6 miles from Mystery Ck.Cave), 16 hours after fluorescein placement in Mystery Creek Cave.

All parties were in their allotted locations at the specified times. Albert and Dick placed six pounds of fluorescein in Mystery Creek at the far end of Mystery Ck.Cave at 12.00 midnight on Friday.

Peter and Tim were at the far end of the "Entrance Ck." passage in Exit Cave(approx. 800 ft. horizontally from the point of fluorescein placement) at 12.00 midnight on Friday. They kept a constant watch on the creek until 4a.m. on Sunday i.e. 28 hours after fluorescein placement.

Ray and Brian were at No.1 base camp in Exit Cave(approx. 1,000 ft. from the entrance) at 12.00 midnight on Friday and they kept a watch on the creek at 30 minute intervals until 9a.m. Saturday. They then visited Tim and Peter, spent some time trogging in the area and returned to No.1 base camp at 7p.m. Saturday. They then kept a watch on the creek at 3 hour intervals until 6a.m. on Sunday. Tim and Peter arrived at No.1 base camp at 6a.m. on Sunday and after a 5 hour breakfast with Brian and Ray all enjoyed a spell of trogging and surveying in the new Hammer passage extension and left Exit Cave at about 4p.m.

Peter, Joan and Bill, joined by Albert for Sat. only, kept a constant watch on the only flowing creek entering Recherche Bay from 10a.m. on Saturday to 1p.m. on Sunday.

NO ONE saw any fluorescein coloured water!!!!

Observations:-

1) The creek flows were very low. Estimated about 1 cusec. in Mystery Ck. in Mystery Ck.Cave. Estimated about 1 cusec in the creek in the "Entrance Ck." passage in Exit Cave. Estimated about 1 cusec in the creek flowing from the Grand Fissure area in Exit Cave.

2) Mystery Ck. in Mystery Ck.Cave and the creek in the "Entrance Ck." passage in Exit Cave were coloured brownish by the buttongrass. The creek flowing from the Grand Fissure area in Exit Cave was clear.

Conclusion:-

- 1) Watching for fluorescein can be aided by using an alarm clock set for half hour intervals. The observer can obtain plenty of sleep.
- 2) The Hammer passage extension has great possibilities and should help in the study of the history of Exit Cave.

B.Collin.

Exit Cave - 27 Feb. 1968.(Tuesday).

Party:- B.Collin and A.Goede.

Following the unsuccessful fluoresceining effort the previous weekend we decided to make a day trip to Recherche Bay and Exit Cave to see if we could find any green water. There had been some rain on Monday and we were hoping that there would have been enough to flush it through. We left Hobart at 7a.m. and dropped in at Dick's for an early morning cup of coffee. We then drove down the Catamaran Rd. The D'Entrecasteaux River looked as brown as ever but our hopes rose when we reached the creek at Recherche Bay. No green colour in the creek but the sea looked rather green. We soon discovered that it was just the reflection of the vegetation in the water. We returned to our usual parking spot and left the car at 11a.m. to walk to Exit. On arrival we found no trace of green in the creek and had an early lunch in the Entrance Chamber. We entered the Windtunnel at 1p.m. Above the junction with the D'Entrecasteaux the water appeared to have a faint but definite green tinge when a headlight was shone obliquely into the water. A rum bottle from camp 1 was filled with water and taken along but on the way through the talus we had a little accident which meant the end of our bottle and sample. At 2.10p.m. we reached the creek below the old camp 2 site. It still showed a tinge of green and we filled up another rum bottle with water and left it sitting there. We decided to push upstream to inspect the "Entrance Ck." passage but first we went to camp 2 to collect another bottle - this time a Johnny Walker whisky bottle. We now know what keeps those Exit Cave explorers going. We proceeded to station 83 where the suspected "Entrance Creek" joins the stream that enters the system at station 107. Here our luck was in. We found a pool a few feet above the creek which had been filled up during Monday's minor flood containing beautiful green water that could be seen even by carbide light. It was 2.30p.m. and a solemn moment as we filled our whisky bottle with the evidence. We followed up "Entrance Ck." passage to the beginning of the new extension and traced a faint green colour all the way up. Rather pleased we headed back towards the entrance collecting our two bottles on the way and carrying them as if they were priceless treasure. At camp 1 at station 20 we collected a third bottle of water and were back at the entrance at 5p.m. We reached the car at 6.40p.m. and headed home rather satisfied with the day's work.

Notes:-

I have looked at the bottles under ultraviolet light since and there is no doubt that all three contain traces of fluorescein. Carbide lamps are useless for detecting fluorescein unless it is present in rather high concentrations. A headlight beam is quite effective as long as it is shining into a reasonable depth of water at an oblique angle.

A.Goede.

#### FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- March 16-17 - Exit Cave Area. Surface exploration near Western Creek. Leader: B.Collin.
- March 27 - Annual General Meeting. Wednesday 8p.m. 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. This is your chance to join the new committee. Be there to cast your vote.
- March 30-31 - Surface exploration near Damper Inn. Leader:- A.Goede.
- April 2 - Tuesday - Meeting of new committee at 8p.m. 122 Augusta Road.
- April 12 - 15 Easter Trip to Mole Creek. Leader:- A.Goede.

The following wise words could well apply to caving:-

Imagination is a poor substitute for experience.

See you on the next trip!

Tasmanian Caverneering Club.Annual Report - 1967 - 1968.

The last year has again been a very successful one from the point of view of new discoveries and records. However we have also lost a number of members through interstate and overseas departures and most of the exploration has been done by a handful of dedicated members. The club needs more members if activities are to continue at their present level.

Exploration. Our greatest achievements are again associated with Exit Cave. The known length of passages was extended from 3 to at least  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles of which six miles has now been traversed. Exit Cave now rivals Mullamullang on the Nullarbor in terms of length of passages and only 800' separates us from Mystery Ck. Cave. Following a lot of underground and surface surveying Mini Martin was discovered. In August of last year it was linked with Exit Cave to give us a new Australian depth record of 720 ft. as well as a new record for the longest ladder pitch in Australia - 360'. Two successful water tracings were carried out during the year and showed that both Western Ck. and Mystery Ck. drain into Exit Cave. It has proved that Mystery Ck. breaches the main divide between the Lune and the D'Entrecasteaux Rivers and is a tributary of the latter. Another new discovery at Ida Bay was Loons Cave - an interesting system with  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of passages.

In June Allan Keller and John Marshall visited the north-east ridge of Mount Anne and explored two of the potholes without much success. The area should soon become more accessible with the new H.E.C. roads being built.

Loongana was visited at Christmas and a cave numbering system introduced. Nine caves were numbered - one was explored by the club for the first time.

A few trips were made to Mole Creek but no new discoveries were reported.

In the Florentine Valley the club explored three potholes north of Growling Swallet. One was descended to a depth of 250 feet.

Techniques and equipment. The equipment situation is reasonably good. We have 270 ft. of almost new ladder but more rope will be required in the coming year. The coulene rope we bought proved to be a poor substitute for nylon climbing rope because it is very susceptible to abrasion. The descent of Mini Martin required the use of two way radios for contact with the surface and this proved very successful. One training weekend was held during the year but was ver poorly attended.

Search and rescue. The services of our search and rescue team were not required during the year. A new list of names and addresses should be prepared by the incoming committee as the old one is well and truly out of date.

Interstate visitors. Again we welcomed a number of interstate visitors. They were Mike Bourke and John Bluhdorn from Brisbane; Dick Heffernan and John Dunkley from Sydney; also a party from Melbourne led by Bob Chappell. Nearly all of them visited Exit Cave.

Speleo-Spiel. The editors and producers of Speleo-Spiel had a busy year producing issues 12 - 22. Many thanks to my wife who cut the stencils and to Joan and Peter who took care of the distribution. The Spiel was registered for transmission by post and this has saved the club a considerable amount in postage.

Twenty-first Birthday Dinner. Our coming of age dinner was a great success with a record number of guests attending. Guests of honour were the Minister for Public Works, Mr. Cashion and his wife. Clubs represented were the Southern Caving Society and the West Coast Outdoor Club.

In conclusion I would like to thank all club members and especially the committee who helped to make a success of the year's caving. I hope that the next committee to be elected will carry on the good work.

Your president,