

SPELEO - SPIEL.

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Pres:- A.Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Pt., Hobart, 7000.

Sec:- Mrs.J.Brabon, 122 Augusta Rd., Lenah Valley, 7008.

Editorial.

There have been quite a few trips in recent weeks but trip reports are slow in coming in. At Exit Cave exploration and surveying have been centred on the Hammer Passage extension. The total length of surveyed passages in Exit Cave now stands at 6½ miles, and there is more to be done. Exploration of another side passage in the first part of the cave led to the discovery of another two surface entrances. Surface exploration at Damper Inn has so far located one cave about 12 ft. long but we haven't given up hope. At Mole Creek an exciting new hole has been discovered near Horries Hole and Hidden Cave. It has a strong draught but despite some digging is not yet big enough to enter. Stronger measures are being considered. The material for our climbing pole has been purchased and some members are hard at work to do the necessary filing, marking and drilling. We hope to have it ready for testing in a few weeks.

Australian Speleological Federation - MORIBUND OR DEFUNCT???

Our members have been asking - and with good reason - if the federation is still in existence. Its last newsletter was dated more than a year ago - April 1967. It was well and truly out of date by the time it was published. One of the main aims of the federation should be to keep member clubs in touch with each others activities by publishing a regular newsletter. At the Victorian conference in December, 1966 the member societies reluctantly agreed to increase A.S.F. contributions to 50 cents for every full member in order to enable the federation to finance such a newsletter. The newsletter editor convinced the conference that with more money a better job could be done. Instead things have gone from bad to worse. At the Orange conference the club instructed its proxy to vote against re-election of the editor but never-the-less he was duly re-elected. Since then he has fully justified our opposition to his re-election by doing absolutely NOTHING.

If we know what went on at the Orange committee meeting it is thanks to our proxy, Ian Nankivell of the Canberra Speleological Society, who gave us a detailed report. Nothing has been heard from the new A.S.F. secretary. No appeal has been opened for the Edie Smith award established by the Orange conference. The A.S.F. treasurer also has made no attempt to do his job. Ever since the A.S.F. committee was doubled in size the amount of work it has managed to do has steadily decreased.

The only A.S.F. committee member who can be proud of his job is the handbook editor who has spent a lot of time and energy to make the A.S.F. handbook a reality. It is to be hoped that the Adelaide conference will take a good long look at the situation. It was here that the federation was launched with great plans for the future. May it not become its last resting place.

Albert Goede,

President, Tas.Caverneering Club.

Club News.

+ The last general meeting at Robin Booth's place was well attended. Both the Exit Cavers and the Mole Creekers turned up in force and an enjoyable evening was had by all in very pleasant surroundings. Many thanks to Robin and his parents for their hospitality.

+ Our best wishes for the future go to Sib and Keith Corbett who were married last month. Don't let matrimony interfere with the important things of life - such as caving!!!!

+ The news in the last Spiel that Allan Keller had left on a climbing holiday was not correct. He is still very much with us spending his leisure time roaming the wilds of Exit Cave.

+ A letter has been received from the Scenery Preservation Board informing us that the minister for Lands and Surveys has authorised the board to make up to 100 dollars available for the erection of a gate in the Wind Tunnel at Exit Cave. We hope to make a start on it soon. It is gratifying to see that the government is aware of the importance of protecting this cave.

+ Peter Matthews, the A.S.F. handbook editor, has informed us that the A.S.F. handbook is now available. The cost is 3 dollars 50 cents per copy for club members. The handbook (360 odd pages) contains articles on a wide range of topics of interest to cavers as well as a list of all Australian caves. Copies can be ordered from Albert. If you pay in advance it will be individually posted to your address.

+ A first aid course especially designed for climbers and cavers will be held on Wednesdaynight 7.00 - 9.30 for six weeks. It will be held at the home of John Wheelan 281 Sandy Bay Road and will cost 4 dollars. Seven club members have already enrolled. Contact Brian Collin if you are interested.

Combined trips.

A combined trip with the Northern Branch will be held on June 8,9,10. The aim is to make a descent of Devils Pot - probably the most spectacular swallet hole in Tasmania. Since this is a party leader training weekend all party leaders and prospective leaders should attend. Photographers are also welcome. If the weather is suitable the descent will be ~~made~~ made on Saturday.

+ A tentative date has been set for a combined trip with S.C.S. to Herberts Pot. The date is July 6-7. We are pleased to be offered the opportunity to see this cave which as a result of S.C.S.'s explorations is now one of the longest and most challenging caves in the Mole Creek area.

PHILLIP STRANGER FUND.

A fund has been opened to assist Phillip Stranger - a young climber from Victoria, who as a result of a recent fall on Mount Wellington is now paralysed from the waist down. He has to undergo a long and expensive period of treatment which is placing a heavy burden on his family. This could happen to any climber or caver. It might have been YOU. All donations, large and small, will be gratefully accepted. Donations should be forwarded to "Phillip Stranger Trust Fund", c/o Mr.C.R.Baxter, 18 York Road, Glen Iris, Victoria, 3146.

TRIP REPORTS.

Mole Creek - Easter weekend(with apologies for delay.)

Party:- Rodney Hughes, Bill Hodge, Dick Chuter, Kevin Kipling, and John Cunningham(Sun. and Mon.)

Friday:- We arrived at the Forestry Camp around lunch time and left soon afterwards for Lynds Cave. Kevin went underground for the first time in Tasmania and appeared eager to get back into the swim, literally. That is to say he managed to take up a lot of water during our brief two hours of caving and came out looking rather sodden. Bill consumed far too many goodies on the way up and was temporarily wedged in the talus. He elected to stay at this point and we roused the recumbent form on our way out. It was surprising to note how quickly the water fell while we were on the far side of the rock fall and the appearance of things had quite changed when we returned.

Saturday:- The trip to Kubla was underway by 9.30 a.m.(which is surprising) but it took a long time to get everyone down to the river and Kevin, Rodney and Dick did not begin the climb until about 12.30. Kevin seemed rather impressed with the high-level route and has probably ordered his wet suit for swimming next time. After one or two false trails we reached Cairn Hall. A shortage of eye-bolts caused Rodney to do some hair-raising acrobatics before a ladder could be put down at the flowstone bank. We arrived in the chamber of Xanadu at 2.30 feeling rather tired but managed to revive on a brew of coffee. - The trail of garbage along the route(a detailed list can be supplied on request) caused someone to remark " There must be another entrance." - enough said. With the exception of some magnificent leaps from one wall to the other, the return trip via the high level route was uneventful and we were hauled to the surface by Bill at about 5.30p.m. There followed a trip to Lamberts Grotto where we found some members of the S.C.S. and much pleasant caving was done.

Sunday:- No enthusiasm for caves could be fired. Rodney and Bill appeared to be suffering some sort of " battle-fatigue" and remained in bed for most of the day. John, Dick and Kevin drove out to Caveside to see S.C.S. members but no trace of these bodies could be found and a proposed combined trip did not take place. Later in the day John and Dick went fishing in Lake Rowallan and bagged one Rainbow which was donated to Bill for a very good reason.

Monday:- Surface exploration of an area not many miles from the campsite revealed a very tight fissure and some silted potholes. The largest of these had a very hollow sound and digging was commenced. Excavation at the base of the same hill released a strong cold draught which could lead into a new system. The party left Liena at 4 p.m. for Hobart, an exciting journey in top gear all the way. At least Dick's hub-caps came in handy as dinner plates and soup-bowls, his gear lever was of no use what-so-ever!!

Dick Chuter.

Exit Cave - 20,21 April, 1968.

Party:- Brian and Jeanette Collin, Kevin MacLaine.

Saturday was spent in another attempt at determining the extent of the limestone outcrop to the west of Exit Cave. Horizontally bedded limestone was found in one location and about four small sink holes were found in the dolerite scree that apparently overlies the limestone. The scrub was thick in places, progress was slow and navigation hopeless.

The general impression gained from two trips to this area is that the top of the limestone is lower than that covering Exit Cave. Further exploration is required and I think this can only be carried out effectively if a blazed trail is first made across the area to enable any features found to be related to each other. Saturday night was spent underground at No.1 base camp and on Sunday approx. 150 track markers were placed in the three high level areas. The markers consisted of small plastic tags fixed to 3" galvanized iron nails.

Kevin provided right entertainment by jumping, enclosed by sleeping bag, into the creek; he explained his adventure, on awakening, that he had dreamt he was being chased by a snake, but we think he found some of that rumoured Keller stock of grog.

B.R.Collin.

Damper Inn - 28 April, 1968.

Party:- Albert Goede(leader), Brian and Jeanette Collin.

We left Hobart before daybreak and reached the Scotts Peak Road barrier at 8.40 a.m. We followed the Gordon track to its junction with the Port Davey track and followed the latter north. The first

part of the track is much overgrown with tea tree but further north it enters rain forest and the going is much easier through some delightful country. Damper Inn was reached but since most of the roof is gone it would not be an ideal place to spend the night. Another ten minutes north of here we found a small creek emerging from the hillside only to flow underground after a few yards into a small cave to reappear again on the other side of a narrow ridge. The cave entrance is visible from the track. The cave can be entered only for the first 12 ft. before becoming too narrow. Its only redeeming ~~feature~~ feature is the presence of cave crickets some of which were collected. We followed the track north to a point a little past a larger stream which may be the one referred to by Denis King. We then returned to our little cave stream for lunch. After lunch we followed it downstream and soon found ourselves on a remarkably flat plain covered by dense tea tree. The creek grew gradually in size and finally flowed through a gap in a ridge several hundred feet high. It then swung north-east following the foot of the ridge. We followed it for a short distance but it showed no sign of going underground. We climbed uphill and found some shallow overhangs in the base of a quartzite cliff. No more caves were found and we had a long walk back to the car. Here we found a note from Bill Hodge and Bernard Howe who had arrived a little later and had attempted to catch up. However, they took the wrong turning at the Port Davey track. They realized their mistake before reaching Mount Anne and retraced their steps.

The vegetation in the area around Damper Inn is not nearly as bad as we had been led to believe but the caves could be better.

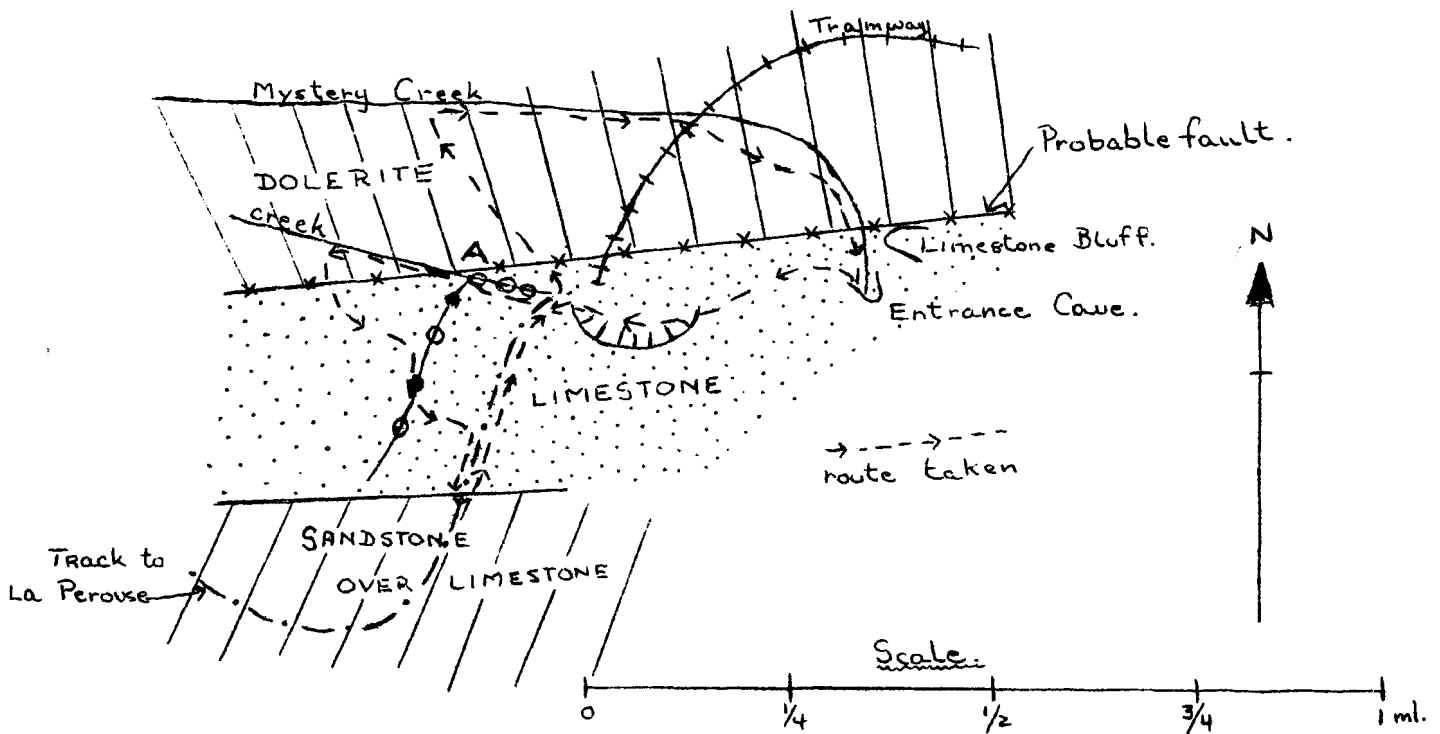
A. Goede.

Ida Bay Area - 4 May, 1968.

Party:- Brian and Jeanette Collin, Kerin Hall.

Purpose:- To investigate the area near Entrance Cave.

The weather was dull with scudding showers typical of south-western weather in the Ida Bay area. Mystery Creek was carrying about 30 cusecs of button grass water.



The probable fault as shown on the sketch appears to form the northern boundary of the Exit limestone. Water, maybe $\frac{1}{2}$ cusec disappeared in a small sinkhole at point "A". This could be the source of the water flowing at station 107. Further investigation is required in this area. The scrub is reasonably open on the limestone but the dolerite area supports a lush growth of cutting grass.

B.R. Collin.

Mole Creek - May 11, 12, 1968. Photography.

Party:- Dick Chuter, Joan and Peter Brabon, Judy Robinson, Robin Booth and Bernard Howe.

Peter, Joan and Dick arrived at the Liena camp at about 1.30 a.m. on Saturday morning after a very foggy trip through the Midlands.

The rest of the crew, travelling in Bernard's car had the same difficulty and later managed to lose themselves quite competently in the Mersey Valley arriving at the campsite at 4 a.m. too tired to walk all of 30 ft. to the door, a cold and miserable night! They were discovered at about 8 a.m.

While the 'tourists' caught up on missed sleep for a few hours, Joan and Peter visited the site of the new 'Exit' with Dick. Some digging was carried out and huge amounts of rock and earth were enthusiastically cast aside. The gale blowing through this hole is most encouraging but probably originates from a sinkhole a few yards away. Continued tunnelling uphill may lead to better things.

As a photographic trip, the well-known caves that were visited took quite a long time to complete and this unhurried pace was probably appreciated by the 2½ T.L.R. men, whose focusing becomes a little awkward in dimly lit places. Some very long straws were photographed in Lynds Cave and new techniques with flash-guns were tried out. Judy was invaluable as a model - cave pictures will never be the same again!! The weekend probably produced some good slides and these could be shown at the next General Meeting.

D.Chuter.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

They are again very slow in coming in. They should be paid before the next issue of Speleo - Spiel if you are interested in receiving further copies. A cross in the square at the bottom of this page means that you are unfinancial. A list of financial members will be included in the next Spiel.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

May 25,26 - Exit Cave. Leader:- Brian Collin.

June 4(Tuesday) - General Meeting at 8 Bath Street, Battery Point at 8 p.m.

June 8,9,10 - Long weekend. Combined descent of Devils Pot with T.C.C.N.B. Also visit to Kubla Khan. Party leader training. Leader: P.Brabon.

June 22,23 - Florentine Valley.

July 2 - General meeting at 122 Augusta Rd., Lenah Valley, 8p.m.
(Also Joan's birthday. Presents gratefully accepted.)

July 6,7 - Mole Creek. Combined trip with S.C.S. to Herberts Pot.

Famous last words:-

"THERE'S SOMETHING ROTTEN IN THE A.S.F."

