SPELEO - SPIEL.

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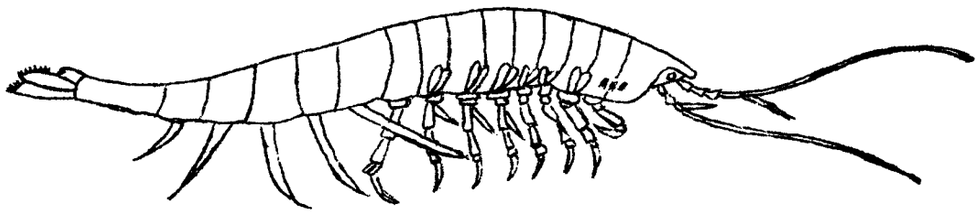


Two Anaspides were collected from the western extension in Exit Cave by Allan Keller and Tim Walden-Brown. The catch is of double interest. Not only is it the furthest south Anaspides have been collected but it is also the lowest elevation - approx. 300 ft. - at which they have been found.

Editorial.

The wet weather has slowed down caving activities. One Exit party had a very wet trip and three of them were floodbound at camp 1 until Mondaynight. They managed to do some surveying in the Dribble Extension and as a result the length of passages traversed is now just over 7¾ miles. The combined trip to Herberts Pot with S.C.S. was very successful if rather strenuous. From our side the trip was poorly attended - only three members took the plunge!

CLUB NEWS.

+ Once again we have to say farewell to three members. Tim Walkden-Brown will be going to the Antarctic and has gone to Melbourne for a six month training period. Good luck to you, Tim and all the best. Rumour has it that pancakes are going to be on the menu every "day" in the Antarctic next winter.

+ Also leaving us are Mike and Kerin Hall who are going to London where Mike will be studying for a higher degree. Good luck and best wishes to you both.

+ Congratulations to Clive and Sally Morris on the birth of their son. Clive and Sally left us almost a year ago to live in Geraldton.

+ We need more young and active members to fill the ranks. Dont be bashful - tell your friends and aquaintances about caving and try and talk them into it. Even older members who have retired from active caving can at least do some recuiting. There are no born cavers - they are made by sharing your enthusiasm with others.

+ Joan and Judy made a good start. On Thursday 20 th. June they graced the womens page of the "Mercury" with an exciting story by one of its staff reporters. We particularly liked the following description: " Underground the quiet is broken only by the dripping of water from the formations, an underground creek, or the yell of a fellow caver when he plunges into a pool of cold water or mud." It can't be very quiet down there.

+ Weekly meetings. Our meetings at the Barclay have been interupted because seven members were doing a first aid course. As from Wednesday, 17 th. July we will be meeting at the Barclay again at the usual time - between 7.00 and 8.00 p.m. - every WEDNESDAY.

+ The quartermaster is far from happy about the way members are hanging on to club gear. A number of carabiners have disappeared while one ladder and "crab." were left behind in Kubla Khan. ALL gear should be returned within a couple of days after each trip. Helmets and a limited number of carbide lamps are available at the very low rate of 20 cents per weekend each and should be paid for when borrowed. This equipment is intended mainly for prospective members who have not yet acquired their own equipment.

TRIP REPORTS.

A Progress Report on the Excavation at Mole Creek.

The enthusiastic coverage which our operations received in the May issue of the Spiel, has prompted me to write this report as the best means of:(1) correcting any illusions members may have about the new hole, (2) reassuring other clubs that no wholesale

devastation is being hatched on the area;(3) outlining the facts as they are known and presenting theories.

Putting things into perspective, it follows that on the last day of the Easter trip, we had a few hours to spare. John Cunningham and myself decided to have a quick look at the nearby hillside, showing outcrops of limestone, with clearly visible bedding planes, dipping at a steep angle. A short walk up the west-facing slope from a dry gully revealed a startling change in the understory type, from bracken and stunted heath to Bedfordia salicinia - a distinct line which can be traced along the contour by eye. It was along this boundary some 90' above the gully, that John jumped into a silted pothole which gave off a hollow sound.

Undoubtedly this has been a drain at some stage, circular and well-like about four feet in diameter with smooth, sheer sides. Earth and small stones were removed to a depth of 2½ ft. a stratum which supported a vigorous Bedfordia plant 9' high and certainly as old as surrouding vegetation, a product of the 1964/5 fires. Ensueing layers of earth and larger stones, rocks and boulders discouraged digging here. It is my guess that the pot is choked for a long way as a plant the size of the Bedfordia would need a reasonable depth of soil to hold water during the summer. Even so it was interesting to note on our last visit that despite snow and heavy rain there was no puddle of water in the hole which collects run-off from the surrounding bare rock. But this is the case over the whole hillside where water seems to soak straight through the ground.

Not far from here,(No.1 on the sketch) Kevin Kipling found a very tight fissure which he attempted to investigate, head first - a dubious practice even with hefty types clutching the ankles. Since draughts or other encouragements were lacking, this was not forced.

Attention was then centred on the dry gully previously mentioned which is punctured with small dolines along its grassy course until one large doline and the whole thing then disappears, under a dolerite mantle. At the base of this sinkhole, watered in foul weather by a small, intermittent stream, there are caves. No cause for jubilation, however, as axe marks indicate previous visitors; the area is doubtless well known and disregarded by others as all the entrances become uncomfortable, we have it on the good authority of Mr. Kipling who risked his life to provide us with these facts. There are no draughts in these holes but a small opening on the eastern side goes down about 20 ft. plus or minus according to 'rock sonar'. It sounds as if this falls into a chamber or river passage - extremely narrow!!

Approximately(everything about this place is so far approximated, estimated or guessed) 3 chains south of the large doline(No.4 on the sketch) is another smaller one which appeared to have a concave, fluted rock face, 8' high, on the side which forms part of the hill we were interested in. Reasoning that perhaps water had flowed down this face before the doline was formed, I began my digging at this point, following what appeared to be a natural weakness in the rocks. Small pieces were removed easily and soon I felt a welcome breath of cool, moist air. This was as far as we went on the first trip.

In the company of Peter and Joan I revisited the area during the photographic weekend. Digging was resumed and some surface earth shifted while we continued to follow the fault. At this stage calcite-encrusted stones appeared on the rock-heap, beaded with droplets of moisture as on cave surfaces. The day was fine and sunny and the cool draught seemed tremendous. By putting our ears to the stones, we could hear a muffled roaring sound as wind seeped from the rocks. The hole was beginning to resemble the "Seven Dwarfs' " mine without a Snow White, or a large badger lair, if you can imagine a wombat tunnelling into limestone. Tools to this stage comprised a geology pick, a small camping shovel and a jemmy-bar with which we managed to move about 2 yards of rock and soil. It is interesting to note that the soil is overpopulated with large-diameter earthworms, some not more than an inch or two in length.

I next went to the hole with Allan Keller on Thursday the 23 rd May. To my disappointment the air-flow had all but ceased. It was a cold miserable day, alternately raining or snowing, so blasts of cold air were not terribly conspicuous. We visited all the points of interest and decided to continue digging in the same hole and later to attempt a smoke test.

On Friday the 24 th. it was still snowing so Allan and I climbed

into wet weather gear, selected a crowbar, shovel and mattock and went to work. We lowered the entrance to a solid base and brought down overhanging rocks. After widening the entrance in this way, we tunnelled for about four feet, following loose stone and the draught which had returned, not blowing but sucking into the earth with all the force that was present on my previous visit. Working conditions were quite vile but we were able to bring out all the immediately loose pieces and a lot of rock which we had "barred off", an accepted mining practice. We arrived at a series of horizontal and vertical fissures 2" wide and running down to where we were unable to shine a light because of the confined space. In one vertical crack we observed a cave spider. While Allan stoked a large blaze in our cavity and heaped on green manfern fronds, I checked the lower doline but no smoke was present. I then walked east to the saddle and south up the ridge, not seeing smoke anywhere. When I returned to Allan forty minutes later, smoke was still pouring into the ground. This has been the progress to date.

Future Operations and Conclusions.

Looking at the sketch map, we have the excavation at (3) which blows and sucks air, apparently with the rise and fall of outside air pressure. Water from(7) flows into (4) in wet weather(the rainfall for the region would be over 60") and disappears. There is no air movement at (4) but this has not been thoroughly tested. (2) is more than likely choked and (1) would need a lot of blasting before we could enter, presuming it gets larger.

This all suggests a lower level with a dry or intermittent river passage along the way I have indicated on the map. This could link up at (5) where the stream is presumed to go underground. If such an underground stream moves North or North-West for 30 chains from (8) it enters an established system which everyone knows about, if it does not we may well lay claim to the smallest cave on record, 30 cubic feet!!!

The next stage will be to carry out further surface exploration of the points not yet visited, (5), (6), and (8). A fluoroscein test in (7) and (5) would be a valuable aid and further smoke testing at (3) on a low pressure day. Checking for air movement at (4) will be necessary and we may have to find some means of measuring very gentle air-flow, relative humidity readings could help here. A large party will be necessary for any mass observations. If all this fails to bring results, I will begin moving down the fissures in the excavation, using small quantities of explosive to shatter the rock so that it can be prised off and passed to the surface. Any blasting must be carefully and delicately positioned as we risk collapsing some very large rocks overhead and undoing our work to date. Discussion is invited from interested persons, either through the Spiel or at meetings.

Dick Chuter. (4.6.'68.)

(Map of excavation area on following page.)

Mole Creek - 8,9,10/6/68.

Party: Brian and Jeanette Collin, Robin Booth, Judy Robinson, Bernard Howe, Tim Walkden-Brown and John Dennis(prosp.)

Northern Branch: Bob Woolhouse, Frank Brown and Lee ..... .

Saturday: The participants of the party leader practice descent of Devils Pot called a halt half-way down the 2 nd. pitch, possibly due to the prospect of a drenching from a waterfall that also occupied the same hole. An enjoyable trip with some good techniques demonstrated by the northern group.

Sun. and Mon. Kubla Khan and Croesus Caves were visited.

Brian Collin.

Herberts Pot - Mole Creek - 6,7/7/68.

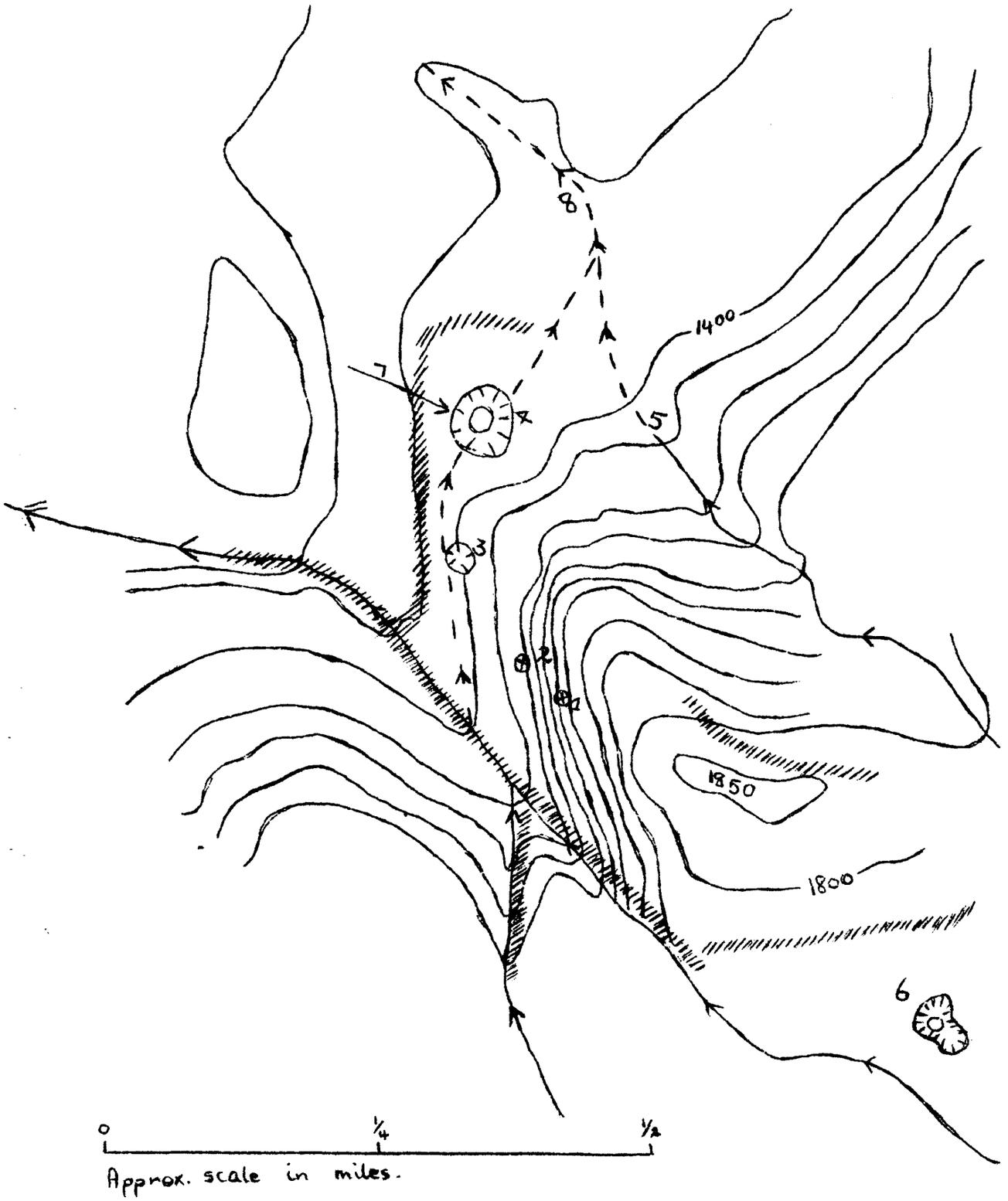
Party: Albert Goede, Allan Keller and Kevin Kipling.

This was a combined trip with S.C.S. to show us some of the discoveries they have made in Herberts Pot. We left Hobart on Friday-night but had a very slow trip up with very dense fog most of the way. Arrived at Caveside at 00.30 a.m. and found the campsite after a little searching. We turned in at 2 a.m. S.C.S. members arrived in two carloads at 3 a.m. On Saturday we made a late start after catching up on lost sleep. The three of us and four S.C.S. members arrived at Herberts Pot entrance at 1 p.m. They were John Morley, Geoff Fry, Steve ..., and Greg..... The 90 ft. ladder pitch was rigged while we had a brief look at the upper passages. The ladder climb proved to be wet with water pouring down the first half of

SKETCH MAP OF EXCAVATION AREA AT MOLE CREEK.

Legend.

(1) Fissure.(Too tight for entry and no draught.)
(2) John's dig.(pothole.)
(3) The excavation.
(4) Large doline with caves.(No draught.)
(5) Stream goes underground. (Not investigated.)
(6) Shown as depression on map. (Not investigated.)
(7) Intermittent water supply to doline. (Wet weather only.)
- - → - Possible underground water.
/////// Surface dolerite observed.



(Herberts Pot. cont.)
the pitch. Then down to the talus chamber which eight years ago had been the furthest point known when we first explored the cave. Next came a succession of talus scrambles, a wet crawl and a squeeze down a chimney. We finally emerged in a small stream passage that was followed downstream where we suddenly came to a large roaring stream. We made our way upstream through talus and a "dry" passage with a number of deep pools. Further upstream we followed the creek

again. The water was flowing fast and the uneven bottom and rotten ledges for handholds added to the excitement. We followed up a major side passage at the end of which Kevin discovered a crawl. He disappeared followed by Allan and John. Albert tried to follow but couldn't get his chest through and retired in disgust. The three explorers got through and discovered some new passage and a small chamber at the cost of getting covered in sticky clay from top to toe. Then on to the final siphon where Kevin had to be restrained from diving into the unknown. Next we were shown some very interesting high level extensions only recently discovered and containing some good formations. We made our way back upstream with lights growing dim until we reached the supply of carbide left behind. We decided unanimously not to explore upstream as everyone was beginning to feel the strain. It was a long and tedious journey back to the surface. We arrived there past midnight after eleven hours underground. It was a long walk back to camp in moonlight through frost covered paddocks. Here we found a roaring fire. A dry change and a meal was very welcome before hitting the sack.
On Sunday Kevin and Albert visited Mersey Hill Cave and had a very successful time collecting bugs and taking photographs. Allan made it a day of rest while the S.C.S. packed up early to beat the mist on the way home. Left Caveside at 3.30 p.m. and had a very slow trip back to Hobart. Many thanks to S.C.S. for making our trip to Herberts Pot a memorable occasion.

A.Goede.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

July 20-21	-	Mole Creek. Leader:P.Brabon.
August 3-4	-	Exit Cave. Leader: B.Collin.
August 6	-	General Meeting, 66 Wentworth Street, South Hobart at 8 p.m. Brian and Jeanette's housewarming.
August 10	-	Saturday. Day trip to Wulff Hole, Hastings. Leader: A.Goede.
August 18	-	Sunday. Climbing practice at Rocky Tom or Sphinx Rock. Includes trying out our new scaling pole. Leader: B.Collin.

P.S. Congratulations to Judy Robinson and Robin Booth whose engagement was announced in this morning's paper(13/7/68). We know you are happy and hope you'll stay that way.

LIST OF FINANCIAL MEMBERS. 1968 - 1969.

BOOTH, Robin	2 Nightingale Ave., Taroona.	F.
BOYLE, John	48 Tangerine St., Fairfield East, N.S.W.	A.
BRABON, Joan(Mrs.)	122 Augusta Rd., Lenah Valley.	F.
BRABON, Peter	122 Augusta Road, Lenah Valley.	F.
BROWN, Frank	15 Harrington St., Hobart.	F.
CAREY, S.W. Prof.	24 Richardsons Ave., Dynnyrne.	L.M.
CHUTER, Richard	Geeveston.	F.
COLLIN, Brian	66 Wentworth St., South Hobart.	F.
COLLIN, Jeanette (Mrs.)	66 Wentworth St., South Hobart.	F.
CORBETT, Sib(Mrs.)	Flat 1, 42 St.George's Terrace, Battery Pt.	F.
CUNNINGHAM, John	Forestry Commission, Mole Creek.	F.
FARLEY, Ian	Savage River.	F.
FARLEY, Stella	Savage River.	F.
GOEDE, Albert	8 Bath Street, Battery Point.	L.M.
GOEDE, Therese(Mrs.)	8 Bath Street, Battery Point.	F.
HARROLD, Peter	5 Colville Street, Battery Point.	F.
HOLLOWAY, Kerry	15 Alt-Na-Craig Ave., New Town.	P.
HOWE, Bernard	7 Hickman Street, Lenah Valley.	F.
HUGHES, Rodney	79 Poets Road, West Hobart.	F.
KELLER, Allan	(c/o Totem Pole; Exit Cave; elsewhere.)	F.
KENT, Bruce	33 Driffield Street, Queenstown.	J.
KENT, Ron	" " " " .	F.
KIPLING, Kevin	c/o A.T.Baker, Browns Road, Kingston.	F.
MEERDING, Henk	7 Gourlay Street, Blackmans Bay.	F.
MORRIS, Clive	184 Augustus Street, Geraldton, W.A.	A.
PETERSON, Bill	12 Auvergne Ave., New Town.	F.
PLAISTER, John	4 Central Ave., Moonah.	J.
REID, Denis	47 Barossa Rd., Lenah Valley.	J.
SEYMOUR, Denis	4 Clarke Avenue, Battery Point.	F.
SKINNER, Andrew	Hastings Caves.	J.
SKINNER, Pam	Hastings Caves.	H.A.
SKINNER, Roy	Hastings Caves.	H.A.
SPATE, Andrew	P.O. Box 312, Orbost, Victoria.	A.
STEPHENS, Simon	43 Seaview Ave., Taroona.	F.
WALKDEN - BROWN, Tim	Melbourne, Victoria.	F.

The following members were financial last year but have not yet paid their subscriptions this year. If you are still interested in your club let Peter Brabon have your subscription NOW.

FERRIS, John	273 East Risdon Road, Lindisfarne.
HODGE, William	18 Scott Street, Glebe.
LATHAM, Del	35 Balaka St., Rosny Point.
ROBINSON, Judy(Miss.)	3/34 Forest Road, West Hobart.
SURTEES, Bill	2 Denison Street, Queenstown.
TURNER, Doug	79 Riawena Road, Lindisfarne.
VINCE, Steve	90 Montague Street, New Town.
de VRIES, Harry	42 Maitland Rd., Coorabong, N.S.W.