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Editorial:- The "end" of Midnight Hole and the beginning of "Chockstone" Pot. On the 13th October a party located the bottom of Midnight Hole in Entrance Cave and recovered the matchbox. However, the connection is possible only for skinny people. So, if you are not in that category don't abseil down Midnight Hole expecting to walk out of Entrance Cave. The connection between the two caves gives us a new second deepest cave in Australia. The combined depth of the two systems is at least 645 feet - this is the difference in height between the top of Midnight Hole and the lowest surveyed point in Entrance Cave. The actual depth is at least 20 ft. more than that but we will have to survey to the lowest point of the cave before we can claim the true depth.

On the same trip Peter Helman and Michael Robinson went exploring in the Canyon area and believe that they have by-passed the final siphon - at least they are back in what they think is the main creek. This should definitely be looked at again but only in dry weather as this section rapidly fills in a flood.

Exploration has commenced of a new pothole approx. 1 mile west of Midnight Hole and known unofficially as Chockstone Pot. This is a large fissure with a strong draught and has a good chance of connecting with Exit Cave. Two members went down about 100 ft. where further progress was blocked by a small chockstone. However, they are sure that the stone can be removed and the fissure opens up beyond the blockage. This could be another deep one!!

Adventure Camp.

The club has decided to take on the caverneering side of the Adventure Camp organised by the National Fitness Council. Plans are for a day trip to Hastings on Sunday, 12 th January, 1969 for about 24 boys - probably to the Wolf Hole and King George V Cave. As many hands as possible are needed on this one. A select group of 6 - 8 boys will be taken on a weekend trip the following weekend (Jan. 18, 19) to Loons Cave and Entrance Cave at Ida Bay.

Club News.

+ The annual dinner was a most enjoyable occasion attended by 29 members and friends. Thanks are due to Joan and Peter who did all the organising, to Sib for drawing the picture for the menus, to Therese who spent long hours drawing up the menus, to Dick who supplied the dance music and last but by no means least to Brian and Jeanette who supplied the club birthday cake. The centre piece of the very original cake decoration was provided by a rather sodden box of "Greenlight" matches recovered from the bottom of Midnight Hole the previous weekend. The star of the evening was Kees who surprised everyone by dancing with all the waitresses and female members. We never knew he was a lady killer in disguise.

+ News from Donald Fraser in New Zealand who has joined the Auckland Speleo. Group. His first trip was to the Waitomo area where he went down two potholes known as Self Respect and Virginia, with drops of 90 and 105 ft. His second trip to the same area was a surveying trip and 16 hours were spent surveying! We could do with some New Zealanders down here!! He also states that the group he went with did not have much respect for the caves but that their attitude is understandable as there is not much formation to ruin!? Club huts are really luxurious compared with ours. The hut he stayed in had hot and cold showers and consisted of about seven rooms. This included three bedrooms, a kitchen with three electric stoves, and a fridge, a drying room to dry wet caving gear, a lounge room with a big open fire and an outside toilet. The Spiel will have to look for a new editor, I'm off to New Zealand!!!!

Conservation and Kubla Khan.

At the last general meeting a lengthy discussion was held about the necessity of protecting the cave from wear and tear by cavers ourselves included. The following proposals were suggested:-

(1) Persuade the authorities to make a detailed survey of the cave and then seal off the entrance to ALL until the cave can be opened as a tourist attraction.

(2) Suggestions that a gate be installed either where one first goes down to the creek or in the small passage at the end of Cairn Hall leading off from the top of the flowstone wall. The latter proposal would leave the Pleasure Dome unprotected.

(3) If the gate is installed the cave should be made accessible only to occasional small parties of experienced cavers led by approved guides.

It was finally resolved that the club would approach the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and the new Scenery Preservation Authority early in the new year with the aim of obtaining some form of protection for the cave. This cave is NOT the place to take prospective members especially if they have not been told beforehand to observe the code of ethics to which all cavers subscribe.

The following was published on cave conservation in the latest N.S.S. Newsletter (Vol. 26, No. 9.) and is well worth reprinting here. " 'if you're not part of the solution...you're part of the problem.' I saw this statement the other day on a VISTA recruitment poster, and the phrases were so meaningful and apropos to many of today's problems, including those of the Society and caving, that I thought I'd pass them on to you.

Take cave conservation for instance: We say that cave conservation is primarily a matter of education. Many of the people who commit acts of vandalism do so by ignorance. If they were made to realize, educated if you will, that what they are destroying or mutilating is part of their heritage and, for the most part, irreplaceable, they probably would not do so. They need to be shown that they are destroying the pleasures of others, present and future, and that others took the trouble to protect what is there now, so that it would be there for others besides themselves to enjoy. But you don't accomplish this sort of education by sitting around on your haunches talking about it. You go out and make an effort to contact, and educate, the people doing the vandalism. In other words, to accomplish anything useful, you must become involved. The people who are making an effort to contact and talk to present (or potential) vandals are, in actuality, a part of the solution. The people who do nothing are just helping to perpetuate the problem. To repeat: 'If you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem.' It is impossible to be neutral or in-between in this sort of situation.

John Stellmack, President N.S.S.

TRIP REPORTS.

Wolf Hole - Hastings - 12/10/68.

Party: R. Booth (leader), P. Brabon, B. Howe, D. Hansen.

Party arrived at the Hastings Chalet at 10.00a.m. and set off for the Wolf Hole. We arrived there in one piece, despite the commendable efforts of a ferocious head wind, set up gear, and began the descent.

A vicious ten minute attack on hopelessly tangled ladders ensued halfway down the 115 ft. pitch, during which time numerous aerobatics were performed by Robin who, on reaching the bottom, secretly and vehemently re-named the Wolf Hole - a name which, alas, can never be put into print!

Bernard and Darrel descended the pitch, and Peter followed by abseil. Inside the cave we set about to look for a ladder pitch which we had decided on a previous trip was worth investigating. It was eventually found, and Peter descended the ladder and succeeded in finding a cul-de-sac.

We then headed for the underground lake, where we passed an hour or so exploring numerous passages and water routes.

It was decided during a rest that a full scale photography trip, would be a worthwhile trip for the future.

On the way back to the ladders most of the apparent passages were explored and Peter succeeded in making himself dizzy, following a series of passages which inevitably led him back to the approximate starting point. We now know of a possible reason why the Wolf Hole has never been surveyed! Robin chimneyed along a water route for quite a distance before being stopped by water.

The party emerged from the Wolf Hole 4½ hours later, with Darrel suitably impressed with his first caving expedition.

Entrance Cave - Ida Bay - 13/10/68.

Party: Brian and Jeanette Collin, Peter Helman, Simon Stephens, Janet Hansen, Michael Robinson, Cathy....

The matchbox left at the bottom of Midnight Hole by Allan Keller was found halfway along a narrow squeeze some 20 ft. long. Simon forced the squeeze thus establishing a connection between Midnight Hole and Entrance Cave.

The finding of the matchbox has ended an interlude in the cave hill exploration that occupied five caving trips; a) discovery of the holes above Entrance Cave; b) finding of Midnight Hole and exploration to a depth of about 230 ft.; c) descent to a depth of 580 ft. and the leaving of a matchbox in a narrow squeeze leading off from the bottom; d) above ground survey from Entrance Cave to Midnight Hole; e) discovery of matchbox and establishing a link between the two caves.

Of interest is that although many trips have been made to Entrance Cave the passage containing the matchbox showed no evidence of ever previously being discovered.

Following the matchbox discovery the party proceeded to the end of Entrance Cave and descended by way of a 20 ft. ladder pitch to water level in the "canyon" area. Peter and Michael dashed into the water, waist deep, and explored the creek for some 150 ft. before a talus blockage prevented further progress. They consider the talus may be forced with a concerted effort.

The matchbox was returned to Hobart and no doubt will find its way into the club's archives as the matches although "Greenlights" are of no value for any other purpose.

A very enjoyable trip.

B.Collin.

Organ Pipes - Sunday, 20/10/68.

The Organ Pipe Ladder Practice.

Allan is to be congratulated for finding, setting up and especially for his morale encouragement to the participants on the trip.

The ladder pitch was a vertical 90 ft. set in a very cave like atmosphere except that if one dared to look out the view of Hobart some 3,000 ft. down was inspiring if not a bit unnerving.

Allan's motives for insisting that the ladder must first be descended as in a cave are suspect, I think he wanted to give us cavers a taste for rock climbing.

B.Collin.

Cave Hill - 26,27/10/68.

Party: Brian and Jeanette Collin, Kees Sparreboom, Neil Walker.

Following establishment of camp near the old quarry several holes previously found by Brian and Jeanette were explored. The holes are near the sandstone-limestone contact zone, somewhere below the saddle between Marble Hill and Moonlight Plateau and in rather dense wet vegetation.

The first hole explored went down about 50 ft. and stopped, it was in this cave Kees made his first physical encounter with cave wetas but now he has come to like the little creatures.

The second hole called Chockstone Hole for the time being, proved very interesting even if a bit wet and muddy to start with. After 40 ft. of slope the ladders were pitched and a further 50 ft. descended in two short pitches. After descending 30 ft. of steep, unstable scree Kees and Neil courageously (or f.....y) dropped down another 4 ft. and found a fissure leading on but their way was blocked by a chockstone some 12" x 6". They could look a long way further on and down and are optimistic that with a little effort the chockstone could be removed. Considerable air movement was observed in the hole.

This hole could lead to Exit and further trips to this area would be worthwhile.

A short trip to Entrance Cave occupied Sunday, Neil now is the second person to force the matchbox squeeze. The squeeze was studied closely and it may be possible to enlarge it slightly such that cavers of normal physique can get through.

B.Collin.

Hastings Barbecue - 2/11/68.

Party: Brian and Jeanette, Peter and Joan Brabon, Kees Sparreboom, Bill Hodge.

The weather was bad but the food, music and grog were excellent. Peter's portable barbecue was placed inside the hut and then by common consent by coughing members it was transported to just outside the door, there to perform a stirring duty for our stomachs. Kees provided many hours of enjoyable music on his guitar and Bill accompanied him in singing a variety of songs.

The fire performed very well after some slight alterations were made to the brickwork. A very enjoyable occasion and those who were deterred by the weather missed a pleasant evening.

B.Collin.

Ida Bay - 3/11/68.

Party: Brian Collin(leader), Albert Goede, Bill Hodge, Peter Brabon and Kees Sparreboom.

Albert arrived at the Hastings Hut at 9a.m. to find some members still firmly encased in their sleeping bags no doubt recovering from the effects of the night before. After a leisurely breakfast we headed south parking the cars at the usual spot at the start of the "Brooker Highway" at 10.30 a.m. The aims for the day were to clear the track and to make measurements for the gate to be installed in the Wind Tunnel. We made good progress with the clearing of the track as most of the obstructions were saplings blown down during recent storms. "Reece's Bog" was worse than ever and if you step in the wrong place you go down up to your knees. This part of the track is a better protection for the cave than the planned gate! We reached the outside camp at 1.30 p.m. and stopped for lunch. Brian, Albert and Kees went to the cave to make measurements for the gate while Bill and Peter headed back to mark the track. Brian found a suitable place for the gate and went to work producing a mock-up from the stack of timber he had carried in. He soon discovered that a cave floor is not the most suitable place to nail a gate together. Albert and Kees meanwhile explored a low-roofed passage leading off the Wind Tunnel and found another two places where daylight could be seen. We left the cave at 4 p.m. On the way back we noticed with some amusement the decreasing size of the track markers as we went along. We caught up with Bill and Peter on the forestry road and arrived back at the cars at 5.45 p.m. It was a pleasant and profitable trip with ideal weather for the job.

Albert Goede.

Forward Programme.

- Nov.16,17 - Entrance Cave & Chockstone Hole. Leader: A.Goede.
Nov. 30 - Sat. Day trip to Exit. Lds. R.Booth & A.Keller.
Dec. 3 - Tues. Gen.Meeting, 2 Nightingale Ave.,Taroon. 8p.m.
Dec. 7,8 - Exit Cave.Leader: Brian Collin.
Dec. 21,22 - Florentine Valley. Leader: P.Brabon.
There will be NO Christmas Trip this year and no general meeting in January.
Jan. 12 - Day trip to Hastings with Adventure Camp boys.
All hands are needed. Leader: A.Goede.
Jan. 18,19 - Weekend trip to Loons and Entrance Caves, Ida Bay with small group of Adventure Camp boys. A.Goede.
Jan. 25-27 - Long weekend trip to Gunns Plains. Leader: R.Booth.

