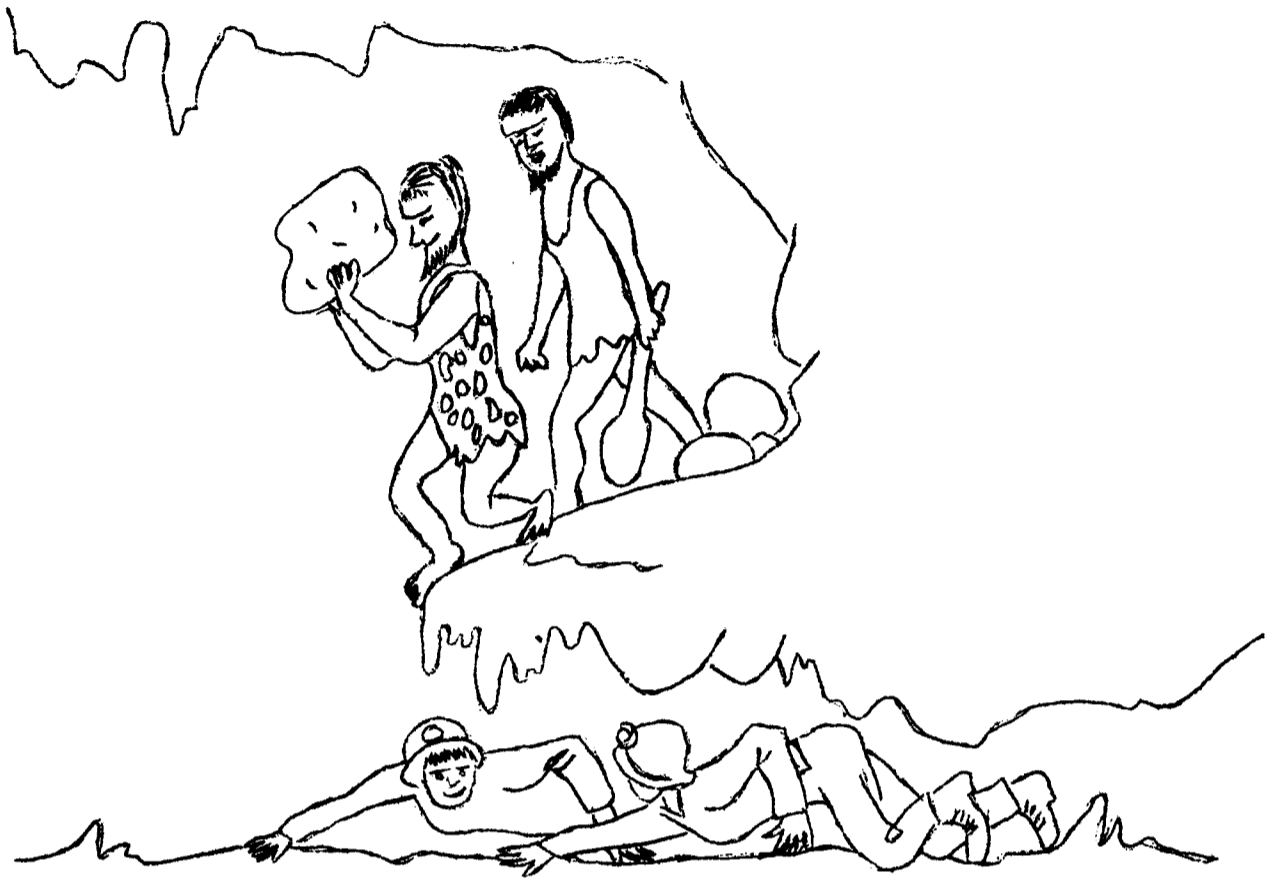


Published monthly by the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, Box 641 G,
G.P.O. Hobart, 7001.

Registered at the G.P.O. Hobart.

Annual subscription 60 cents.

Single copy 10 cents.



" You know what to expect by now"

but the editors wish all club members and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in our last Spiel of 1968. The Spiel will not be published in January as usual. The next general meeting will be held on the first Tuesday in February.

CLUB NEWS.

+ The latest news about the exploration of Chockstone Pot at Ida Bay is that further attempts to get through are likely to be abandoned. The last attempt to dig a way through was made on Saturday 7th December by Brian Collin, Ray Allsop and Kees Sparreboom. They gained another 15 ft. in a strenuous day's digging but a breakthrough does not seem very likely unless we start a major mining operation.

+ Cupid has once again struck blows amongst our members. Peter Helman will be married on December 16 to Carol Black in Canberra. Best wishes to you both. We were pleased to hear that the bride is a daughter of Harry Black - a foundation member of the Canberra speleos. Peter and Carol will spend their honeymoon in New Zealand and expect to be back in Hobart at the end of January.

According to reliable sources Dick Chuter is engaged to a Geeveston nurse and plans to get married in six month's time. Sad to say he is also looking for a buyer for his headlight. Well, we understand that there are more important things in life than caving, Dick, but what about that hole at Mole Creek?

Best wishes also go to Janet Hansen and Simon Stephens who are getting married this month.

+ Tim Walden-Brown has recently departed for Macquarie Island and is probably busy feeding the seagulls at this very moment. We hate to think what the seas will be like further south - they have been rough enough around Tasmania's coast lately. Tim's forwarding address until January 24, 1969 will be Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition, Macquarie Island, c/o Superintendent of Mails, G.P.O. Perth. Nella Dan. After that date mail can be sent c/o 496 Pittwater

Road, North Manly.

+ The following prospective members recently went on their first trip. We hope the weather did not put them off and they will come again.

Tony Beckitt, 27 River Street, Bellerive.

Harvey Carlsen, P.O. Box 20, Moonah.

Rhonda (Ronnie) Harris, 59 Colville St., Battery Point.

Len Langmaid, 23 Warwick St., Hobart.

Edward Lee, 85 Bayview Road, Lauderdale.

Eric Miller, 48 Queen St., Sandy Bay.

Geraldine Oakley, 6 McCartney Ave., Goodwood.

Paul Taylor, 20 Resolution St., Warrane.

Welcome to the mob!



Adventure Camp.

Members are reminded that the club has taken on the caverneering side of the Adventure Camp. This involves a day trip to Hastings on Sunday, 12th January, 1969 for about 24 boys to the Wolf Hole and King George V Cave. The following weekend a small group of boys will be taken on a weekend trip (Jan. 18 - 19.) to Loons and Entrance Caves at Ida Bay. As many members as possible are asked to come along and give a hand particularly on Sunday, 12th Jan. MAKE IT A DATE.

A.S.F. Newsletter.

The editor of the newsletter is making a desperate attempt to catch up before the Adelaide conference and issues no. 36 (June 1967) and no. 37 (Sept. 1967) have been received in quick succession. They make very interesting reading for anyone who is interested in the history of Australian caving. In no. 37 the name of our club has been left off the list of committee members on the inside cover. News from our club has also been left out of "Down Under All Over" with the claim that no newsletters had been received from us. Rather strange when you consider that the editor has been on our mailing list for nearly three years and that during that time Speleo - Spiel has been published regularly every month of the year except January.

Caves at Lorinna.

Caving clubs in N.S.W. and Queensland have recently been battling to save several limestone areas (Mt. Etna, Texas and Colong) from destruction by mining or flooding. We in Tasmania are lucky to have so many limestone areas on our doorstep that the destruction of one small area would not be a calamity. A small area of limestone (approx. 2 square miles) at Lorinna may well be flooded when the Cethana Dam on the Forth River has been completed. The trouble is that we do not even know this for certain as nobody has inquired to what level the valley will be flooded. The area has never even been visited by the club although there is no problem of access. The least we could do would be to find out exactly where the caves are, what they are like and if they are threatened by flooding. If this is the case we should attempt to map them and find out as much as possible about their fauna before they disappear forever. This summer is probably our last chance.

The following information on the caves has been given by Chris Gee who did some geological mapping in the area. "Drive south through Lorinna and turn off to the right approx $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the post office. This road goes to the old Lorinna showground and is now a timber road crossing the Forth by a timber bridge. This road may not be negotiable for an ordinary car. Stop at the bridge and follow the eastern bank of the Forth downstream until the mouth of a small stream is met just south of the fault boundary between the Gordon Limestone and the Lorinna Greywacke. Follow this creek upstream towards the road. There are at least two caves or holes in its bed or banks. One cave is close to the southern most outcrop of Lorinna Greywacke (see geological map - Middlesex).

Instead of turning right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the Lorinna P.O. continue south for another $\frac{1}{4}$ mile until you come to a wooden bridge crossing a creek. Caves can be seen along the banks of the creek downstream from the bridge but access is difficult due to blackberries."

These caves are also mentioned in Hughes, T.D. (1957) : Limestones in Tasmania, Geol. Surv. Min. Res. 10, Dept. of Mines, pp. 152 - 153.

TRIP REPORTS.

Weekend party:- Albert Goede (leader), Allan Keller, Peter Helman, Ray Allsop, Neil Walker and prospective members: Rhonda (Ronnie) Harris, Geraldine Oakley, Paul Taylor and Len Langmaid.

Sunday party:- prosp. members Eric Miller, Tony Beckitt, Harvey Carlsen, and Edward Lee.

The weekend party arrived at the Hastings Hut sometime on Saturday morning in teeming rain. There had been so much rain during the previous week that a trip to Entrance Cave was obviously out of the question. Instead we settled for a trip to the Wolf Hole. We found the hole without any trouble and one by one made the descent. Some of the prospectives had a rude shock when on reaching the overhang they got their first good look at the bottom of the hole but they all persevered. I have never seen the hole so wet and muddy and it was a relief to get into the cave. Albert went along to the lake with most of the party leaving Ray, Allan and Peter to make up the rear. At the lake we waited for some time after being joined by Allan but no sign of Ray and Peter. Albert went back to show them the way and promptly got himself lost. Finally he met up with the other two who had just found the way and we all rejoined at the lake. Here Allan led most of the party up a small stream passage (up the creek might be a better expression for it) while Albert and Peter waded through the lake to the other side. They managed to get a little further than anyone had before them by forcing a low roofed passage with an encouraging draught. After a few hundred feet they had to admit defeat. This part of the cave has obviously been fairly large but has been filled almost to the roof with clay. We returned to the lake where Allan reported that they had also been beaten back by tight squeezes and water. Back to the entrance where we waited for a slow return back to the surface. When we finally emerged many of the party walked all the way back to the hut to get warm again. Piles of wet and muddy clothing were left outside the door. The leader was all in favour of female members when one of the girls insisted on washing most of the party's dirty clothes and then tucked her leader into his sleeping bag. His views changed when the other girl (no names mentioned) pulled the plugs out of his sleeping bag the next morning and he finished up on the hard floor. Ah, well!! Four more prospective members arrived on Sunday morning despite the rain and wanted to see the nearest cave.

The leader was finally persuaded to take the party to King George V Cave bravely supported by Ray, Lem, Rhonda and Paul. King George was muddier than ever and the creek was flowing strongly. No startling discoveries were made but it gave those who had not yet had the opportunity a chance to get as muddy as the rest of us. A most enjoyable trip despite the bad weather. It was good to see so many keen prospective members on one trip. We hope they haven't been discouraged and will come again.

Albert Goede.

Chockstone Pot - 24/11/68.

Party:- Brian and Jeanette Collin and Peter Helman.

The chockstone has been removed along with numerous other rocks and the draught of air has increased. The air movement was out this time, on the previous trip the air movement was inwards. A side chamber approx. 9 ft. in diameter and 15 ft. high was found adjacent to where the chockstone was but further progress will still have to be down the fissure and this only by the removal of more rocks. This side chamber however, does give a good base for further work. I consider and have no doubt that Peter agrees that this cave is the muddiest and possibly the most dangerous we have found on Cave Hill. No more than two people should be in the cave when work is being carried out on the fissure. Any rock dislodged (and there are hundreds of rocks) even from near the entrance will finish up in the fissure and apart from the extra work of its removal it may dent someones helmet.

The route to the cave has been blazed from the Moonlight Plateau track. Approx. 2 hours is required to reach the cave, $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours on the track and $\frac{3}{4}$ hour on the blazed route.

The rewards of this cave could be high but due to some quick thinking on Peter's part and mine we have good excuses; Peter is getting married in December and the Collin baby is expected in January.

What is urgently required are some brainless souls, sick of the mundane and not worried about mud, leeches, rocks, and wet clothes i.e. members of T.C.C.

Brian Collin.

Chockstone Pot - 7/12/68.

Party:- Brian and Jeanette Collin, Ray Allsop and Kees Sparreboom.

The human troglodyte is a peculiar animal, I sit here in comfort writing this report and can conjure up no logical reason why after Ray, Kees and myself spent 4 hours in a wet, muddy and dangerous hole clawing away at rocks in an unsuccessful bid to break through we should each feel satisfaction at a job well done.

Perhaps the satisfaction may come from knowing that we have pushed the hole to the utmost of our physical and mental ability and can now look for other holes with a clear conscience.

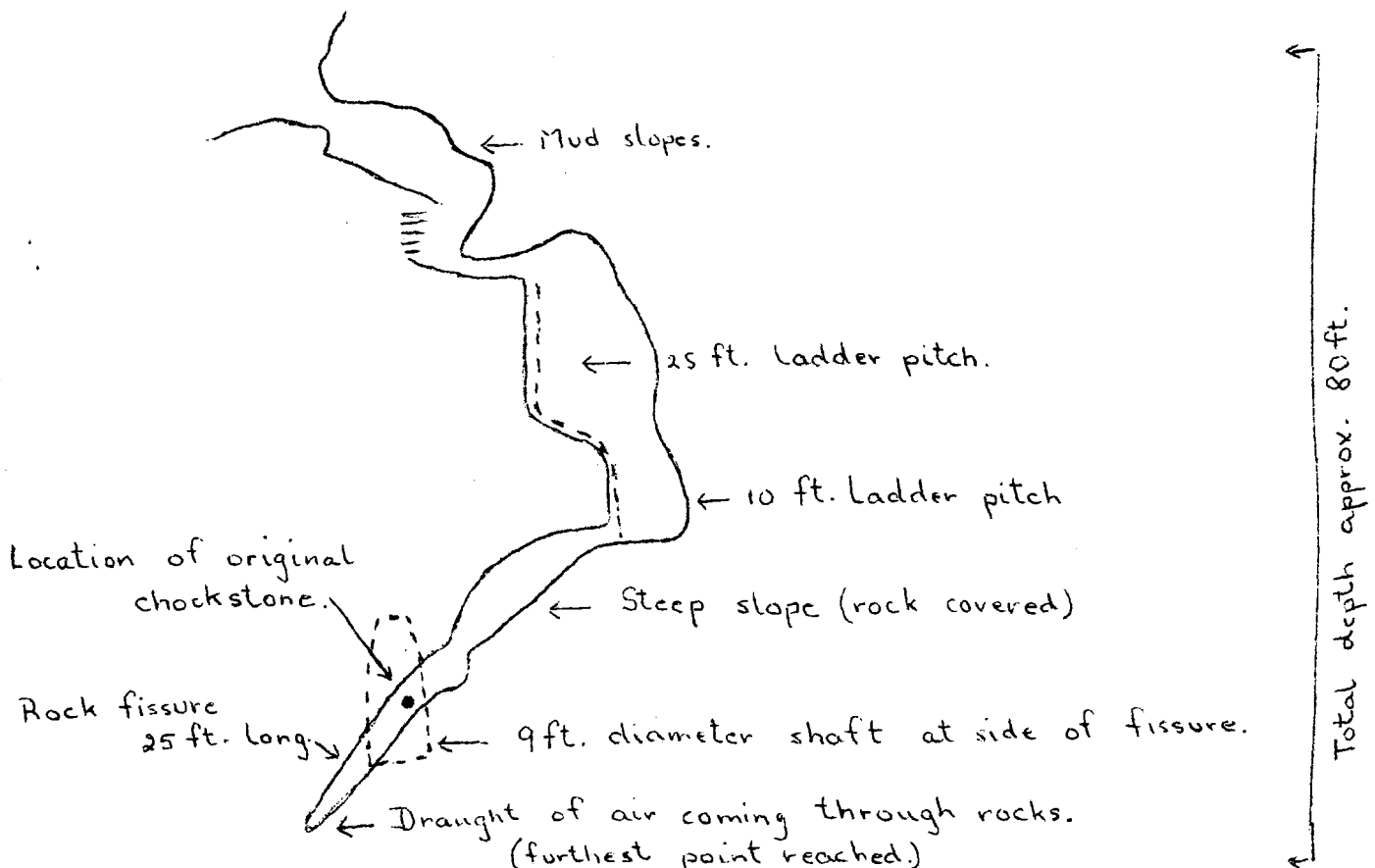


Diagram of Chockstone Pot.

The cave has been numbered No.13.

As only an additional 15 ft. was explored on this trip the description of the cave remains the same as outlined in previous reports.

B.Collin.

Cave Search and Rescue.

As many of our members have moved since the last list was published a new list of addresses of those on the Cave Search and Rescue team will be published in February. Anyone who intends moving house soon or has moved recently please let Albert have your address and if possible your phone number.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

Dec. 21,22 - Florentine Valley. Leader: P.Brabon.

Jan. 12, 1969 - 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. Leader:- A.Goede.

Feb. 4 - Tues. - General meeting, Judy Robinson's place, 48 Mallunna Road, Lindisfarne, at 8 p.m.

STOP PRESS.

Congratulations must go to those members of S.C.S. and T.C.C. who participated in the rescue of Timothy Walter from Devils Den at Claremont this weekend(14,15 Dec.) . Special congrats. must go to Eddie Guinan of S.C.S. who spent the best part of 14 hours sitting just within reach of the trapped boy and helping to clear some of the rocks pinning Walters down. The cave in which Walters became trapped is, to quote Albert who visited it 15 years ago on his first caving trip, "a crummy little hole", and although most of the local youth will probably keep away from the hole for the next few years it may well be worth blocking the entrance to prevent similar mishaps in the future.