

SPELEO - SPIEL.

No.34.

April, 1969.

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

Registered at the G.P.O. Hobart.

Annual subscription 1 dollar.

Single copies 10 cents!

---

The New Committee.

The following were elected at the last annual general meeting.  
President: Peter Brabon, 122 Augusta Road, Lenah Valley. Bus:34 2733.  
Vice-pres: Robin Booth, 48 Malunna Rd., Lindisfarne. Bus:2 7821  
ext. 227.  
Secretary: Address as president's. Bus: 30 3156. Mrs. Joan Brabon.  
Treasurer: Brian Collin, 66 Wentworth Street, South Hobart.  
Home: 2 1920, Bus: 30 4686.  
Quartermistress: Jeanette Collin, address as above.  
Committee:  
Wenk Meerding, 7 Gourlay St., Blackmans Bay. Home/Bus: 5 6230.  
Allan Keller, 5 Bayley St., Glebe. Bus: 34 3595.  
Clive Morris, 39 Beach Road, Kingston.

---

Subscriptions.

Most members are unfinancial. Brian Collin has taken over the books and would appreciate your contribution NOW. Subscription rates were set out in the last Spiel.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

April 19,20 - Day or weekend trip to Mt.Anne to finish the track. Leader: B.Collin.  
April 25-27 - Long weekend. Mole Creek or Lorinna. Leader: Peter Brabon.  
May 4 - (Sunday) - Trip to complete installation of Exit Cave gate. Leader: B.Collin.  
May 6 - (TUESDAY) General meeting 8 p.m. at 8 Bath St., Battery Pt.

Limestone Mining at Mole Creek?

On the 27th March Pickands Mather and Co. applied for an Exploration Licence under the Mining Act covering a considerable part of the Mole Creek limestone area. Included in this area is all the limestone south of a straight line running east-west and just to the north of Marakoopa and Baldocks Cave. The area extends as far west as Kansas Ck. We suspect that this licence has been applied for to assess the economics of quarrying limestone in the area as part of a feasibility study of establishing an iron and steel industry in Tasmania. Such an industry uses large quantities of limestone and Mole Creek not only has large reserves but is also close to a railway.

Although potential tourist caves such as Croesus, Lynds and Kubla Khan fall outside the exploration area it does include a considerable number of known caves such as Herberts Pot, Shish Kabab, Wet Cave, Honeycomb Caves and quite a few others. Marakoopa and Baldocks Cave also fall within the area but are protected (we hope) by the fact that they are on cave reserves. The Southern Caving Society is particularly concerned as much of their work has been concentrated on the caves near Caveside. They have already in consultation with our president approached local farming associations to point out the dangers of polluting and diverting farmer's water supplies if wholesale quarrying is carried out in the area. Tourist caves may also be affected by quarrying outside cave reserves and they have brought this to the notice of the government. Another useful thing that could be done is to prepare large scale maps of the area under licence showing cave locations and cave surveys. No company wants to quarry caves and if we can point out to them the most cavernous areas they would almost certainly try to avoid them. This would have to be an inter-club venture.

Cave Deaths in South Australia.

In "The Mercury" of April 8 it was reported that two young Adelaide cave divers had drowned while diving in a limestone cave known as Kilsbys Hole at Kongorong near Mt.Gambier. The accident occurred on Easter Sunday and the bodies were recovered at a depth of 150 ft. It is not known whether they were members of a caving society.

The A.S.F. Handbook describes Kilsbys Hole as being " 50 ft. across collapse window and adjacent 10 ft. diam. shaft into 150 ft. x 40 ft. wide lake-filled chamber; watertable -30 ft.; lake 90 ft.+ deep.

+ John Boyle who for several years has been an associate member of the club while living in N.S.W. has come to Tassie to join us and has already cut his teeth on trips to Exit Cave and Mt. Anne. Welcome John and keep up the good work.

+ An Easter attempt to start exploration of the "Big Hole" on Mt. Anne failed due to bad weather although the hole was reached. Estimates timed by stop watch show it takes a stone 5 secs. to hit bottom after which it rolls and bounces for another four seconds. A conservative estimate of depth for the first shaft is a free drop of 300 feet. The track has now been marked to the top of the north-east ridge and one more track cutting trip should finish it. Allan has promised us a detailed report of the Easter trip for the next Spiel.

+ A bat skeleton discovered by Mary Mendum and collected by Albert Goede on March 2 in the Eastern Extension of Exit Cave has been identified by Phil Andrews of the Tasmanian Museum as Nyctophilus geoffroyi. This is a common surface species in Tasmania as well as parts of the mainland but is not usually found in caves. According to Elery Hamilton-Smith dead specimens have also been collected from some of the Nullarbor caves. He has suggested that these bats have a poor echo location system and get lost when they occasionally enter caves.

+ Mary Mendum also discovered a new species of cave beetle in Exit Cave on March 3 when she collected a small beetle in Kellers Squeeze and brought it back to Hobart in a matchbox. The specimen has been sent to Dr. Barry Moore in Canberra who is very excited about the discovery as it is the most cave adapted beetle yet found in Australia. Dr. Moore has identified it as belonging to the sub-family Trechinae - the same group as the Florentine and Mole Creek cave beetles. On Saturday, 29 March, Albert, Allan and John Boyle visited Kellers Squeeze on a beetle hunt and collected two more specimens. A third one got away. Just try collecting a beetle in that squeeze with your head jammed between the floor and ceiling!

+ Elery Hamilton-Smith, president of the Victorian speleos, is making another visit to Tasmania in May and would like to go on a trip to Exit Cave in the May 24,25 weekend.

+ Kerry Holloway has changed his address to 36 Lochner Street, West Hobart, during university terms.

+ Prospective member:

Carl Björklund, 30 Reynolds Court, Dynnyrne. Ph. 21051.

Queenslanders View of Tassie Caving. (from Down Under. U.Q.S.S.)

"Exit Cave, Tasmania

Between 1st and 5th January, Paul Caffyn and I were introduced to the mysteries and fabulouness of the mythical grandfather of all Australian caves, and in reality it exceeded our expectations. Allan (Good Tucker) Keller was our beloved leader and indispensable native guide. After a two hour walk from the road, the only unpleasant part of which is through the bog, the entrance seems quite unspectacular, but the gale-like wind makes you realise this is no small cave. It was about 9.00 p.m. when we reached first base camp. We found this quite an agreeable place to sleep and as the alarm did not go off, spent fourteen hours in sleeping bags - oh shame!

Paul and Allan abseiled next day down a pot which did not go and prussicked out while I wandered around the creek looking at bugs. etc. quite close to first base camp. About 800 - 1,000 ft. of new passage was found. This section is a maze of interconnecting passages and surveying is essential to work out direction of the cave and to prevent getting lost. This pleasant excursion was followed by heaving and squeezing packs and bods (that is me) through "the Talus" a section of Exit which is almost synonymous with certain unspeakable words. The route through the blocks is fairly obvious now, but it represented a major breakthrough a couple of years ago and took many weekends of hard caving to find. After this the arrival at base camp is a pleasant surprise. It is well up above the creek in a semi-desert landscape with the little Dolomites (alias toilet block) quite close and all necessary amenities for the urban-oriented visitor - food, prunus, carbide, lilos, etc.

Next morning we were introduced to the daily torture of Exit, wet cold trog suits, boots and socks after breakfast. There is a constant temperature of about 50° and although you don't notice it when moving, it tends to chill the bones of unacclimatised mainlanders when stationary. We visited the Dribble System where Allan and

Paul pushed on abseil and squeeze. Allan was properly stuck in the latter and had to be extracted by pully system, emerging rather buggared and coated in mud from whiskers to boots.

We then strolled along the creek about a mile or so to the Grand Fissure and went into the less extensive but very impressive eastern section. The atmosphere of the Chamber of Damocles with very old tarnished formations was rather beaut and the mud passage where you can half glide, half skate along was fun. This was followed by an abortive attempt to follow an elusive draught of air in a huge pile of talus, to see if we could find an extension in the direction of Entrance Cave, where T.C.C. (Tasmanian Caverneering Club) are hoping for a big connection.

On Sunday we attempted to clean up on rubbish - everything tends to get rather chaotic when you eat, cook, drink, talk, etc. in sleeping bags - then went back through the Talus and into some of the other high level passages. The straws, columns, snowballs, flowstones of the Colonnades and the section with Albert's Snowball<sup>+</sup> are the best I've seen anywhere. Because of the rain over the weekend the D'Entrecasteaux River had backed up and the water was up at the entrance. This necessitated exit via shaky log bridge and eye bolt traverse which added excitement to the end of a tremendous trip.

"Interesting" facts - or "it's not fair to live in Queensland"

T.C.C. motto - "don't crawl in caves."

Four days underground and we saw about half the cave.

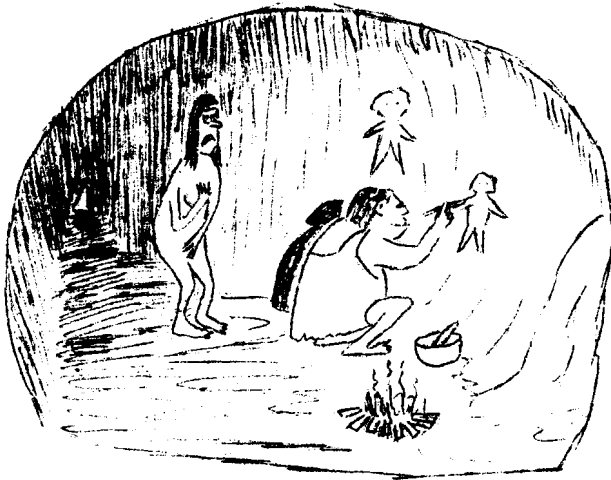
T.C.C. was keen active speleos.

Exit has pretties plus  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

T.C.C. are marvellous people. We are especially indebted to Brian and Jeanette Collin, Albert and Therese Goede and Allan Keller."

Margo Greenhalgh.

+ Albert's Snowball - official name The Pendulum. Ed.



"Why can't you draw animals like other cavemen?"

### Trip Report.

Mt. Anne - Track cutting. - 5, 6th April, 1969.

Party: Brian and Jeanette Collin.

The purpose of the trip was to blaze a route from the end of the existing cut track to the Dolomite ridge off Mt. Anne and if possible meet up with the party attempting the descent of the 'Big Hole'!

After spending a very comfortable night camped adjacent to a creek and amongst huge tree ferns we headed up towards Mt. Anne blazing and marking a route. The grade is good and the vegetation encountered comprised tight horizontal, then laurel, myrtle, King Billy Pine (some of which was 30" diam.) and pandani then finally scoparia. We reached the top (somewhere) in mist and strong westerly wind and hastily descended to more hospitable places.

The route marked is suitable for the continuation of the track but some chain saw work is required through the horizontal scrub section.

Times:-

No packs; ridge to camp 1 hour. With packs: camp to car  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hours.

With the last section of the track cut it should be possible to reach the cars, even with heavy packs, in a little over 3 hours.

B.R. Collin.

Quartermasters Report.

Ladders: 8 30 ft. (good)  
 1 15" rung spacing (to be destroyed)  
 2 30 ft. (in possession of Bill Hodge) (good).  
 Carabiners: 6 alloy (good)  
 4 steel (fair)  
 1 steel (to be destroyed)  
 Ladder bags: 3 (good)  
 Headers: 4 (good)  
 1 (fair)  
 Ropes: Nylon 2 30 ft. (good)  
 6 120 ft. (good)  
 Corlene 1 300 ft. (fair)  
 Helmets: 4 (fair)  
 Carbide lamps: 3 (fair)  
 Scaling pole: 30 ft. (good)  
 2 5 ft. lengths spare at Albert's place. (good)  
 Jumars: 2 (held by Allan Keller)  
 Tape: 100 ft. (good)  
 Telephone cable: 2 large rolls, 3 small rolls.  
 Food tinned: 3 cartons.  
 Solid fuel: quantity of.  
 Primus spot light:- looks dubious.  
 1 army range finder (fair)

B. Collin. (Acting Q'master).

Statement of Receipts and Payments.  
 1st April 1968 to 31st March 1969.

RECEIPTS.

Bank balance 1-4-68	\$ 276.98
<u>Annual subscriptions.</u>	
Full membership	73.60
Junior membership	1.20
Associate membership	3.55
Publications	31.10
Donations	2.50
Equipment fees	6.60
Annual Dinner	79.75
Bank Interest	7.50
	<u>\$ 482.78</u>

PAYMENTS.

Postage	3.27
P.M.G. Box	9.00
Publications	40.50
Donations	24.00
Cheque book	1.25
Equipment	196.53
Annual Dinner	79.95
Bank balance (31-3-69)	128.48
	<u>\$ 482.78</u>

Reconciliation Statement.

Balance as per bank statement	\$144.25
<u>Less unrepresented cheque No. 1111980</u>	\$12.50
<u>Less unrepresented cheque No. 1111982</u>	\$ 3.27
	<u>\$ 15.77 = 15.77</u>
Cash book balance 31/3/69.	<u>\$128.48</u>

Hon. Auditor. J.K. Herington, A.A.S.A., A.C.I.S.  
 Hon. Treasurer. P.A.D. Brabon.

Top Press Have you got a club badge? If not contact Peter  
 Brabon and ease your conscience. Price 75 cents.

Address list for Cave Rescue Organisation, (cont'd).

P.Helman, Home: c/o 52 St.Georges Terr., Battery Point.  
Bus: c/o Geology Dept., Uni. of Tas. 2 7741.  
M.H. de Vries, Home: Ringwood Road, New Norfolk. Ph. New Norfolk 133.  
Bus: Royal Derwent Hospital.  
D.Latham, Home: 35 Balaka Rd., Rosny Point. 44 1672.  
Bus: 61 Molle St., Hobart. 2 6407.  
I.D.Farley, Home: ~~28 Auburn Rd.~~, Kingston. *41 Windsor St*  
Bus: W.Crosby & Co., 119 Collins St., 2 7761.  
K.Sparreboom, Home: Sandy Bay Caravan Park, Peel St., Sandy Bay.  
B.Howe, Home: 7 Hickman St., Lenah Valley. 8 1877.  
Bus: P.M.G. Dept., 47 Liverpool St., 20 8375.  
H.Meerding, Home: 7 Gourlay St., Blackmans Bay. 5 6230.  
Bus: Blackmans Bay Garage, 5 6230.  
D.Seymour, Home: 4 Clarke Ave., Battery Point. 2 5790.  
Bus: 67 Macquarie St., 2 5354.

Public Relations Officer.

D.F.Turner, Home: 79 Riawena Rd., Rose Bay. 43 9443.  
Bus: Dept. of Labour and Industry. 30 3215.

South.

D.Chuter, Home: Ph. Geeveston 398.  
Bus: Forestry Comm. Ph. Geeveston 277.  
R.Skinner Home:/Bus: The Chalet, Hastings Caves. Hastings 3.

North.

B.Woolhouse, Home: Deviot. Ph. Sidmouth 326.  
Bus: Launceston High Sch., Paterson St.,  
Ph. Launceston 2 4647.

Mole Creek.

J.Cunningham, Home:/Bus: Forestry Commission, Mole Creek.  
Ph. Liena 7 U.

West.

R.Kent, Home: 33 Driffield St., Queenstown. Ph. Q'town 63.

NOTE. An up to date address list for search and rescue will be present at all times in the meter box of 8 Bath St., Battery Point.  
This list is available even if no one is at home.

If your correct address or phone number does not appear on this list please contact Albert Goede or Brian Collin immediately.

CLIVE MORRIS 25 Beach Rd Kingston