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#### FORWARD PROGRAMME.

June 15 - Sunday. Day trip to Ida Bay. Leader: A.Goede.

June 28,29 - Ida Bay area. Leader: B.Collin.

July 1 - Tuesday. General meeting at 8 p.m. at 8 Bath St., Battery Point. A special occasion to celebrate the birthday of our secretary.

July 12,13 - Florentine Valley. Leader: A.Goede.

Editorial - No more Hobbit Hole but the beginning of "Revelation Cave"

The editor should have kept his big mouth shut in the last Spiel about the prospects of the "mighty" Hobbit Hole. Both the name and the prospects turned out to be a big mistake.

Our first effort up there since the last Spiel was a day trip on the 25 th May. The highlight of the trip was Brian's use of a fishing rod and reel to measure the depth of the shafts. He descended 20 ft. through the waterfall to the ledge to find that both shafts were only 120 ft. deep from the ledge and appeared to merge lower down. The dry shaft was found to be too dangerous due to large rocks perched on the edge so the wet shaft was selected for the descent. The party also prepared the top of the pitch by drilling a couple of lox-en holes for belays and marked a new track to the cave from the Old Quarry. The new route only takes one third of the time it used to take from the Old Quarry to the Hobbit Hole via Chockstone Pot. The new track also has a much easier gradient. As a result of the trip the depth of the shaft was reduced from the earlier estimate of 250 - 300 ft. to a modest 140 ft. with a ledge 20 ft. down. However, it still looked a promising prospect and the fact that it would have to be descended through the waterfall all the way made it a tough proposition.

On the weekend of June 7,8 an advance party of five went up to the hole early on Saturday to make the descent. They were followed a few hours later by a large party carrying all the club's worldly possessions of rope and ladder to tackle any further pitches that might come to light. When the second party arrived at the site they received word that the hole finished at the bottom of the shaft only 200 ft. below the surface. The descent was made by Allan Keller who found only impenetrable cracks when he reached the bottom.

Allan was first to return to the surface soaked to the skin with water dripping from his beard and the tattered remains of his waterproof trousers flapping round his legs he made a forceful suggestion that Hobbit Hole should be changed to "Horror Hole". To show he meant it he pulled out a sodden pack of smokes and grimly started wringing the water out of it. Some time later the other four emerged from the hole with an impressive pile of soaking wet but remarkably clean gear.

Most of the party headed down the hill to Entrance Cave but five of us stayed to explore some of the other holes in the vicinity as we had all the gear up there anyway. Brian explored a promising hole that fizzled out at - 40 ft. Next we carried out some surface exploration and discovered a muddy rift below a large fallen log. We were soon agreed that we had never seen a less promising entrance but since we had plenty of gear we thought we might as well give it a try. Brian descended first muttering from time to time that it wouldn't go until he finally disappeared out of earshot. Some time later came the request for another bod and a rope. Allan disappeared down the hole with a rope quickly followed by Sib and Henk. The hole went on looking better all the way and Allan after climbing down three short drops was stopped by another one at a depth of about 200 ft. Four enthusiastic cavers returned to the surface and the name "Revelation Cave" was suggested by Brian.

The following day five cavers headed back to "Revelation" with the necessary gear. A 60 ft. pitch was descended and further exploration revealed large fissure with shafts going up towards the surface. The main passage headed into the hill towards Exit but at its far end was blocked by talus and sand with a draught going through. The depth reached is estimated between 300 and 350 ft. and compass bear-

ings suggest that the end of the cave is within a few hundred feet of the "Lost Squeeze" passage in Exit Cave. The far end of the cave looks a good prospect for a dig so we'll be back soon. Remember to read the next Spiel for further revelations!

A.S.F. Conference to be held in Hobart.

T.C.C. and S.C.S. have agreed to act as joint hosts for the next A. S.F. conference in Hobart on a fifty - fifty basis. An organising committee of four was formed with Bob Cockerill and Rien de Vries as S.C.S. representatives and Albert Goede and Frank Brown as the T.C.C. members. The new committee will meet soon and hopes to get out its first conference circular within a few weeks. T.C.C.N.B. declined to be represented on the committee because of the distance they would have to travel to attend and because they felt they were already represented by T.C.C. However, they are very keen to take part in a field trip to Mole Creek. They have some interesting siphons lined up as diving prospects and would like to see some cave divers from mainland clubs have a go at them.

Mainland cavers who plan to come to the conference are urged to make early bookings on the ferries (P.O.T. or Empress) especially if they want to bring their cars. Even if you are not quite sure you're coming BOOK NOW.

Message from Queensland.

The following message was received from the University of Queensland speleos a few days before our last trip to the Hobbit Hole.

" The road goes ever on and on,  
Down from the door where it began.  
Now far ahead the Road has gone,  
And I must follow, if I can,  
Pursuing it with eager feet,  
Until it joins some larger way  
Where many paths and errands meet  
And wither then? I cannot say."

J.R.R.Tolkien. Lord of the Rings.

Best of luck as you go down into the darkness of Hobbit Hole next weekend. Wish we could be there.

Paul and Margot and all U.Q.S.S.

Prospective Member.

Wesley L. Carpenter, 43 Darcy St., South Hobart. 24 - 270. Work: Cosmic Ray Group, Physics Dept., Uni. of Tas. 2 7741 ext.436.

Wes is a keen photographer and would like to meet some cavers who are similarly inclined. So far the only caves he has seen are Hobbit Hole and Entrance Cave!

Trip Reports. - If you want to read them you will have to write them. There was an interesting trip to Exit Cave on 24,25/5/69 but where is that report?? To make up for it we have two reports on the Hobbit Hole trip 25/5/69.

THE LONG

Hobbit Hole - Sunday, 25/5/69.

Party: Brian Collin (leader), Jeanette Collin, Albert Goede, Wes Carpenter, Sib Corbett, Sally Morris, Peter and Joan Brabon, Simon and Janet Stephens.

The aims of the trip were to plumb the depths of the Hobbit Hole, to put in loxens at the top of the big drop to be used as belay points and to mark an easier access track in preparation for the descent. Simon and Janet had gone down the previous day and at 2.15 p.m. on Saturday placed four pounds of fluorescein in the stream that flows into Hobbit Hole.

Some of us left Hobart at 6.30 a.m. to meet up at Longley with Brian and Jeanette. Wes and I then drove on to the Hastings Hut arriving there at 9 a.m. to rouse Simon and Janet. However, they needed no rousing and we were soon on our way to Ida Bay. By some strange coincidence everybody arrived at just about the same time. At the Old Quarry the party divided. Simon, Wes and myself were to go to Hobbit via the La Perouse track and Chockstone Pot while the others led by Brian pioneered the new route. We arrived at Hobbit Hole at 12.10 p.m. only 10 mins. ahead of the others and within shouting distance just in time to stop them from marching further up the hill. The fishing rod and reel Brian had brought to measure the depth of the pitch were a little the worse for wear after all the scrub bashing but repairs were soon made. After lunch the men went down the hole while the ladies stoked the fire. The cave was given a number (No.15) and we then proceeded to the top of the big

drop. It was found unnecessary to use a ladder on the 15 ft. pitch as this is an easy chimney with plenty of hand and footholds. After we had put in one loxen one ladder was attached and Brian dressed in suitable wet weather gear went down under the waterfall to the ledge to have a look. Meanwhile a second hole was drilled in preparation for the next trip. Brian came back up to report that the dry shaft was much too dangerous because of loose rock at the top and suggested that the wet shaft would have to be used for the descent. He was handed his rod and line and went down to do his "fishing" in both holes. After plumbing both shafts he found the same depth for each. The actual depth would not be known till later but it was obvious that it was far less than we had been led to believe. However, the shafts seemed to open out down below into a sizeable chamber. We left the Hobbit Hole at 4 p.m. marking our track as we went and arrived at the cars at 5.15 p.m. As soon as we had disposed of our dirty caving togs the fishing line was stretched out along the road and measured by the light of torches and carbide lamps. From the ledge which is itself 20 ft. down both shafts were measured as 120 ft. deep. It certainly looks a promising hole and the next trip should be quite exciting as it will have to be descended all the way through the waterfall. What, no volunteers??? Albert Goede.

AND THE SHORT.

"Hobbit Hole" - Sunday, 25th May, 1969.

Party: Brian and Jeanette Collin, Peter and Joan Brabon, Sib Corbett, Sally Morris, Albert Goede, Wes Carpenter, Simon and Janet Stephens. The depth of the drop was determined by lowering a torch with the aid of a fishing line and rod. The total drop is a disappointing 140 ft. but there is some compensation in that the ladder will be directly under the waterfall.

Kees's dry hole joins up with the wet main shaft after a few feet but the quantity of rock residing in this area makes me prefer the watery descent.

The shaft is reasonably large, some 20 ft. across and appears to open up about 80 ft. down. Two eyebolts have been fixed for ladder and safety rope anchorage and a very good route has been marked from the Old Quarry to the cave.

On Saturday at 2 p.m. Simon and Janet visited the cave and placed 4 lbs. of fluorescein in the creek, the underground party in Exit Cave saw no positive sign of the fluorescein.

Hobbit Hole has been numbered No.15.

The ladies are to be congratulated on lighting and maintaining a fire under rather wet drizzly conditions.

Brian Collin.

Hobbit Hole and Others. 7,8 June, 1969.

Party: Sat. & Sun.:- Peter Brabon, Sib Corbett, John Boyle, Allan Keller, Brian Collin.

Sat.:- Albert Goede, Henk Meerding, Sally Morris, Simon and Janet Stephens, Wes Carpenter and two visitors.

The Hobbit Hole adventure is now ended, it has proved a classic example of optimism being relentlessly crushed by fact. From a 300 ft. drop and prospect of reaching Exit it finished up a wet 140 ft. and a dead end. Allan was the only one to descend the pitch and from his apparent state of distress and vivid description no one was anxious to obtain a second opinion. Allan I hope will report in detail on the difficulties encountered but it was obvious that long ladder drops under waterfalls can be dangerous from aspects of cold and Breathing. After Hobbit Hole some of the party went to Entrance Cave and apart from general tugging commenced digging out the Matchbox Squeeze. The rest of the party went surface exploring and found "Revelation Cave"(unofficial name) some 400 feet Sth.E. of Hobbit. "Revelation" was further explored on Sunday to a spot some 300 - 350 ft. down, where further progress will require some digging.

The notable features of this cave are:--(1) A very unimpressive entrance;(2) The cave has a reasonably uniform grade with only one 60 ft. ladder pitch;(3) Large fissure going up well over 60 ft.;(4) Considerable air movement;(5) Direction S.W. i.e. heading for Exit Cave.

Brian Collin.

Famous Last Words(overheard at last G.M.)

" You just go straight ahead up the creek."

"You can't miss it - there is a big stringybark across it".