

SPELEO - SPIEL.

No. 39.

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Sec: Mrs. J Brabon, " " " " " "

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

September 20, 21 - Exit Cave. Leader: Alan Keller.

October 4,5 - Mt. Anne or Marble Hill (Ida Bay). Leader:  
Brian Collin.

October 7 - TUESDAY - General Meeting, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point  
at 8 p.m.

October 11 - SATURDAYNIGHT - slide evening at Clive and Sally's, 8 p.m. Address: 39 Beach Rd. Kingston  
Bring your slides and refreshments.

October 19 - SUNDAY - Surface exploration. Hunting for the source of the Junee River. Leader: A.Goede.

## CLUB NEWS.

+ The annual dinner was held at St. Ives this year and was a very successful event. About thirty bods attended. The meal was excellent and left ample time between courses for spirited conversation and for dancing to the time of a swinging four-man band. The prize for the most dedicated guest goes to Henk Meerding who had been discharged from hospital the same day. Thanks to Joan and Peter who once again did all the organizing and provided camillias for the ladies, and also to Brian and Jeanette who supplied a very original table decoration symbolizing the coming seasons caving activities.

+ Changes of address.

John Boyle, 322 Macquarie St., South Hobart. (What - not again!!)

Wes Carpenter, 20 Wellesley St., South Hobart.

+ New Discovery. News from the Northern Branch is that they have discovered a new section in Kubla Khan apparently going off from somewhere near the Stalactite Shuffle. Frank Brown jnr. tells us that it is an upper level passage parallel to the creek in one part and containing some very pretty formation. Exploration is still in progress and we are looking forward to hearing more about it and getting a look at it on our next trip to Mole Creek.

+ Congratulations to Robin and Judy Booth on the birth of their son Gregory Robert. No doubt another prospective member for the club.

+ Rumour has it that Kees Sparreboom now possesses a Land Rover. Maybe that explains why he hasn't been caving lately.

# CAVING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A trip to Curramulka reported by Albert Goede. Date: August 15-17.

On my arrival at Adelaide Airport at 9.30p.m. I was met by Grant Gartnell of C.E.G.S.A. who was leading the Curramulka trip. We took off in his Land Rover and after some waiting on the outskirts of Adelaide for two other cavers in a second Land Rover we picked up an English chap by the name of Peter and headed north to Port Wakefield. It was a clear cold night and we were glad to get some hot drinks there. We then headed south-west into York Peninsula stopping on the way to gather large quantities of firewood. It was 2a.m. when we reached Corrells Cave at Curramulka and 3a.m. by the time we hit the hay. After a cold night next morning revealed a very civilized landscape with cleared land all around. The cave entrance is situated in a fenced off area planted with trees. A steep slope from the camp site leads directly to a quite impressive entrance. We had to make a quick trip into the cave to wake Gerry, the American in the party. The limestone is quite old but has a very unusual appearance being made up of innumerable nodules about 2" across.

After breakfast our party of nine headed into Curramulka to meet a group of scouts who were to give a hand with a dig in a promising sinkhole. Our first visit was to the entrance to Town Cave - aptly named because it is only 100 yds. from the edge of the town. The entrance consists of a square and very artificial looking hole in a massive block of concrete covered by a solid looking gate that has recently been installed by C.E.G.S.A. The gate was put in after they found some of the towns youngsters swinging half way down the 100 ft. entrance shaft on the remains of wooden ladders which once went down to the bottom. In the early days the cave served as a local water

supply and water was pumped up the shaft. In the 1930 the cave was used for orgies by the local football club until one of the lads missed his footing one day and fell to his death.

After peering down the hole we went to the dig a few hundred yards away - a promising looking sinkhole that had long been used as a rubbish dump by the local farmers. The scouts were set to work digging and after leaving a few C.E.G.S.A. supervisors the rest of our party headed across country to another deep shaft recently discovered. The surface of the limestone which is partially soil covered is very rough and a trip across it in the back of a Land Rover is an experience. The new hole was descended by Grant Gartnell using one of the Land Rovers as a belay. It proved to be a dead end so we returned to the dig which as the day progressed became a major operation. Tons of soil full of cow, sheep and horse bones were shifted together with old tyres, rusty tins and sundry other junk. A pulley system was used to shift some of the larger rocks the biggest of which weighed several tons. The operation deepened the hole by at least ten feet. We went back to the camp at 6p.m. and had a good meal then dived underground at 10p.m. in the company of a horde of scouts. Corrells Cave is a devilish hole. It is a very complex network developed at four different levels and heading off in all directions of the compass. The cave is completely dry and is full of nasty crawls and squeezes. Things are not improved by the fact that the ground is littered with nodules that have weathered out of the limestone. There should be a law against anybody who had onions for dinner to lead through the crawls. The atmosphere was putrid in places to say the least. We finally got to a place known as the Big Room which is fully ten feet in height. From there Grant led four of us into a newly discovered section beyond. I never knew my body could bend in so many directions and could get through so many tight squeezes. We discovered an interesting extension by twice digging our way through. Possibilities rapidly multiplied as each successful dig led to the discovery of at least half a dozen other places with good digging prospects. We reluctantly turned back well after midnight when human energy and water for lamps was running low. We emerged at 3a.m. feeling a little the worse for wear. The next day I relaxed as some more energetic bods went down the Town Cave. I visited a nearby limestone quarry with Fred Astin and we discovered some interesting old cave fill with fossil bones. Back in Adelaide at 8p.m. where I enjoyed the hospitality that night of Alan Hill - one of C.E.G.S.A.'s veteran cavers and the master mind behind the exploration of Mullahmullang. On Wednesday night I returned to Hill's Hacienda for the C.E.G.S.A. Social Whirl for which I had been billed as the special guest artist. A very successful evening part of which was taken up with hilarious efforts at teaching yourself the didgeridoo. The Tassie slides were a success - particularly Bob Woolhouse's slides of Kubla Khan. We can expect a keen C.E.G.S.A. party of at least a dozen bods at the A.S.F. conference in Hobart. I would like to thank Grant Gartnell and Allan Hill particularly for their assistance and hospitality during my stay in South Australia.

Ida Bay - Sunday 24th August.

Party: Albert, Therese and Diana Goede.

A leisurely day trip to do some more cave numbering in the area. The two entrances to Loons Cave were numbered I 2 and I 3 respectively. We then proceeded to Bradley Chesterman Cave where Diana had her first proper underground experience, and is now trying to talk us into buying her a bash hat and torch. The three entrances to this cave were also numbered. The numbers I 4, I 5, I 6 were given in that order going upstream. A.Goede.

Exit Cave - 23,24 August, 1969.

Party: Brian Collin and John Boyle.

A pleasant weekend in this best of winter caves. The thought of escaping from the mud, rain and leeches of the Tasmanian bush added to our general contentment; it was rather disheartening on our return to civilization to hear that the weather had been perfect in all areas of the southern island.

A very interesting creek passage, which leads off the main cave about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of the base camp, was crawled along for some 300 feet. Further progress was halted by a long shallow pool with about 3 inches of air space out of which a strong draught of air was coming. Each of us in turn experienced that diminishing of enthusiasm one sometimes gets when stretched out full length in a pool with head turned sideways in an attempt to breath and on looking

forward the passage appears to become smaller. We retreated and spent a few hours in bed. In summer the pool may be dry, alternatively some means of pumping may prove successful. Brian Collin.

Kubla Khan - Mole Creek - 6,7 September, 1969.

Party: Peter Helman, Carol Helman, Janet and Simon Stephens (up there as a climax to their week's vacation touring the state.)

John Boyle(leader), Wes Carpenter and Pam Wilson(Making her caving debut.)

Departed Hobart in Wes' car about 8 a.m. Saturday, a little late due to the leader having overslept after to much of a good thing the night before. Arrived without incident at the northern branch hut at Mole Creek at around midday, had lunch and then departed for Kubla Khan. As ladders were already pitched by Peter Helman's party, we left some of our gear at the entrance. Both parties converged just below the Pleasure Dome and after exchanging news and greetings went their separate ways. We went on to the Pleasure Dome where we did some exploring and photographed the magnificent formations. Had lunch and headed for the climb up to the Khan section of the cave where finding the loxins presented no trouble, the party ascending by means of a ladder clipped into the top eyebolt. Pam stayed here whilst we went on, however missed the chimney up somewhere and found ourselves in a dead end. It was getting late so we decided to head out of the cave. Had some more trouble route finding on way out, however it was a fairly quick trip considering this and the fact that Pam was enjoying(??) her first caving trip. Whilst hauling the ladders up the fixed rope section at the entrance the sugar bag(not a club ladder bag) slipped through the knot, resulting in four ladders finishing up back in the cave. As we were to miserable and wet to recover them then we decided to do so the next morning. Back at hut 1 a.m.

Recovered the equipment on Sunday morning and headed back for Hobart. About a mile from the hut the exhaust system of the car decided to fall off resulting in a noisy ride home. The Oatlands law enforcement representative was all ears, however we were allowed to proceed, arriving at Hobart about 6p.m. Both parties were delighted with the kindness of the weather, condition of the track and the unrivalled beauty of the limestone formations, and are looking forward to future trips to this very rewarding area.

John Boyle and Wes Carpenter.

#### CAVE NAMING AND NUMBERING.

Albert Goede.

The practice of numbering cave entrances has been very little used in Tasmania in contrast to the Australian mainland. However, the rapidly increasing number of known caves together with the increasing accessibility of new areas in the south-west makes the use of a numbering system rather desirable. Many insignificant caves and potholes are not worth naming and unless they are numbered they will soon be lost only to be rediscovered and explored again at a later date. In the case of named caves there is the added risk that they may be given another name when rediscovered after being lost for a period of time so causing considerable confusion in nomenclature.

The problem of identifying caves has been increased in recent years by the fact that there are now three independently operating caving clubs in Tasmania without any centralized system of cave naming and numbering.

It is suggested that a cave naming and numbering committee be formed consisting of one representative of each of the three clubs. Such a committee could coordinate cave naming and numbering on a State basis and could also form the point of contact between caving clubs and the Nomenclature Board of Tasmania. At present there is no consultation between the clubs and the Board. In fact, the Board is not even aware that the naming of caves is being carried on by caving clubs.

Some cave numbering has been carried out by us in three areas - they are Ida Bay, Loongana and Precipitous Bluff. Three caves were numbered in the Precipitous Bluff area about ten years ago. The identifying letters PB were used followed by the numbers 1,2 and 3. They were painted in yellow paint on a rock face at the entrance to each cave.

During the last two years I have carried out numbering at Loongana and Ida Bay using the following method. In both areas numbered aluminium tags (approx. 2" x 5") were used. Numbering started from 1 in each area and a set of Ahrem's Goodline 5/16" number punches was used to number the tags. A tag was fixed on a suitable rock

surface at each cave entrance so that one cave may have more than one number depending on how many entrances it has. This has been the practice throughout Australia where cave numbering systems have been introduced. The tags are fixed to rock face by drilling two 5/32" holes through each tag into the limestone using a No.6 masonry drill. The tag is then fixed in position by hammering two brass round ~~head~~ screws with 3/16" diameter and 3/4" length through the tags into the holes drilled into the rock. This seems a satisfactory and reasonably permanent way of identifying each cave.

It seems unnecessary to use prefix letters on the tags in each area since it is always perfectly obvious in which area they are. We do, however, need a set of prefix letters for use with the numbers when referring to the caves in reports and publications. The following list is suggested for general use and I would appreciate comments from each of the Tasmanian clubs on this list:

B	-	Bubs Hill
C	-	Cape Barren Island
F	-	Flowery Gully
G	-	Lower Gordon
GF	-	Upper Gordon-Franklin
GP	-	Gunns Plains
H	-	Hastings
I	-	Ida Bay
J	-	Jane River
JF	-	<del>June</del> ee, Florentine
K	-	Kelly Basin
L	-	Lorinna
LO	-	Loongana
M	-	Moina
MA	-	Mount Anne
MC	-	Mole Creek
MR	-	Mt. Ronald Cross
N	-	Nelson River
PB	-	Precipitous Bluff
R	-	Redpa
RA	-	Ranga(Flinders Is.)
S	-	St. Mary's
T	-	Trowutta
TS	-	Tim Shea
W	-	Weld River

What we need in Tasmania to rationalize the naming and numbering of caves is:

- (1) the acceptance of a list of initials which can be used to identify cave numbers in reports and publications,
- (2) the formation of a small committee consisting of one member of each club to coordinate cave numbering and ~~naming~~ and to keep an index of every named and numbered cave in Tasmania.

Such a committee could also act as a contact between the caving clubs and the Nomenclature Board of Tasmania.