

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

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Pres: Albert Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, Tas. 7000.

Sec: Doug Turner, 79 Riawena Road, Rose Bay, Tas. 7015.

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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- August 22 - Saturday: Photographic and sightseeing trip to Exit Cave with New Zealand visitor Les Kermode. Leader: Albert Goede. Slide evening at Roy and Pam's home at Hastings on Saturday night. Everybody welcome.
- August 29,30 - Weekend trip to Mole Creek. Leader: Peter Brabon.
- September 2 - Wednesday: 8 p.m. General meeting at Simon and Janet's home, 43 Seaview Avenue, Taroona. Slides will be shown.
- September 5 or 6 - Sat. or Sun.: Day trip to Junee area to continue exploration of either JF 1 or JF 4 - 5 depending on weather. Both are very promising systems so if you like exploration make it a date. Leader: A. Goede.
- September 19 - SATURDAY: ANNUAL DINNER. to celebrate the 24th birthday of the club.  
The place: Kingston Beach Hotel.  
The time: Meet at 7 p.m. Dinner at 7.30 p.m.  
The cost: \$ 2.50 a head for a four-course meal.  
Don't miss this event of the year, and bring any interested friends. Please advise Fay Turner (Ph. 43 9443) if you are coming and number in your party and confirm your booking no later than one week before the dinner. Payment before the dinner would be appreciated and money or cheque for correct amount may be handed to Fay or posted to her at 79 Riawena Road, Rose Bay. (Cheques to be made payable to T.C.C.).
- September 20 - Sunday: Track cutting in Weld River area to complete the access track. Leader: Simon Stephens.

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Editorial. The club has been fairly active since the last Spiel. The August general meeting was the best attended and liveliest for some time and it was particularly pleasing to see so many new faces. A trip to Junee saw the completion of a blazed track from the end of the road to JF 4 - 5 and Cauldron Pot (JF 2) and the former can now be reached in an hour from the road. A trip to the Florentine resulted in a tourist trip through a very wet Welcome Stranger Cave after first getting bushed in the snow. The entrances of Cashion Ck. Cave and Francombe Cave were visited and numbered. A private trip by president and vice-president resulted in some very interesting exploration in JF 1. This cave is still going and has good possibilities.

Club News.

+ Robin Booth has resigned his position as vice-president of the club at the last general meeting as he has accepted a position as patrol officer in New Guinea. Congratulations Robin!! We are sorry to see you leave but wish you and Judy all the best. We hope you will keep in touch and let us know if you find any good caves over there!!!

+ Simon Stephens was elected unopposed as vice-president to take Robin's place.

+ Noel White was elected as a full member of T.C.C. at the last meeting. Welcome to the mob, Noel!

+ Peter and Julie Henley have just come from Western Australia where they have been caving with W.A.S.G. Peter is interested in joining the club and hopes to do some work at Mole Creek. They have already been on one trip to the Florentine and Peter's car proved its worth in snow country.

+ Changes of address:

Allan Keller, B.H.P. Exploration, P.O. Box 359, Grafton, N.S.W. 2460.

Peter and Carole Helman, 42 Girrahween St., Braddon, A.C.T. 2601.

+ Prospective members:

Rosanne Waller, 313 Lenah Valley Rd., Lenah Valley. (Bus. CSIRO.)

Judy Chambers, Pyengana, Tas.

Miss. Anne Hollister, 251 C Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay, 7005.

Stuart Nicholas, 7 Rupert Ave., Newtown, Hobart, 7008.

+ New name: At the last general meeting the name Cauldron Pot was accepted as the official name for JF 2 in the Junee area. We still need name for both JF 4-5 and JF 1 and suggestions are welcomed.

+ Cave numbering - Junee Florentine.

The following caves were numbered in this area during the last month.

JF 6 - Cashion Creek Cave, Florentine Valley. Numbered 8/8/1970.

Number on sloping rock face just above entrance.

JF 7 - Francombe Cave, Florentine Valley; Numbered 8/8/1970. Number on left wall inside entrance when entering cave.

JF 8 - Junee Cave, Junee area. Numbered 11/8/1970. Number at head height on right wall inside entrance when entering cave.

A.S.F. Conference. - Details of the forthcoming conference are out and a copy of the latest circular (No.3) is attached to the Spiel as a supplement. If you want to take part in any of the activities connected with the conference please fill in your enrolment form not later than 30 th September and return it to: The Secretary, A.S.F. Convention 1970, Box 641 G, G.P.O. Hobart. 7001.

Remember that we are joint hosts with S.C.S. so make a contribution if you possibly can. Assistance with field trips will be especially appreciated. Enrolment categories 3 - 9 have been especially included for the convenience of local cavers. Categories 1 and 2 are intended mainly for interstate visitors who will require accommodation and food but local cavers are very welcome to stay at the conference centre if they wish.

The convention secretary has pointed out that costs for food and accommodation have been kept as low as possible but at least 40 people will have to stay at the conference centre to make it a financial success. Therefore visiting cavers should not be encouraged to stay in private homes except in rare cases of financial hardship.

#### TRIP REPORTS.

Saturday 1st August - Junee Area.

Party: Albert Goede (leader), Noel White, Simon Stephens, Tony Thursans, Wes Carpenter, Judy Chambers, and Sally Morris.

We left Hobart at 7.15 a.m. - a remarkable achievement for a theoretical 7 o'clock start. The first stop was at the "Cold Pie Shop" in Maydena where some of us had a late breakfast while others just topped up the system. Two members - who shall remain nameless - staged a boxing match outside the shop blissfully unaware of an enthusiastic group of spectators watching from inside. Somebody was heard to remark that he would arrange a title bout with Lionel Rose for the winner! We passed through the barrier a little after nine following the usual signing ceremony and drove to our parking area at the end of the left branch of the Junee Quarry Road.

Although the day was fine and sunny we changed into our wet weather gear as the bush was obviously saturated. Sally and Albert were jointly awarded first prize for the most colourful outfits in the party. We left the cars at 9.45 and found that a rough track had been built going diagonally up the limestone spur almost as far as the National Park boundary giving us a good start. At 10.00 we left the track and started blazing a track in the general direction of JF 4. Once over the top of the ridge we angled down the other side towards the north-west and eventually dropped down into the dry valley downstream from JF 4. This spot is marked by three parallel bands of red tape on a small tree. From here on the route was obvious and little marking was needed. JF 4 was reached at 11.45. We decided to have a look at JF 4 first and used our 60 ft. rope on the 10 ft. entrance pithh. Despite the uninspiring entrance the cave is roomy and pleasant inside particularly when wearing waterproofs. Between the first and second waterfall pitch an entrance to a higher level can be seen which could easily be entered with the aid of a climbing pole. The second 10 ft. pitch required a rope so we had to borrow it from the first pitch having made sure we did not have to do an Indian rope trick to get out. Another 40 ft. of sloping passage brings one to the top of the third waterfall pitch. It is impossible to look down it as the first 15 ft. is an 80° slope. However, since it can be by-passed via JF 5 there is no need to descend this pitch. After emerging we had lunch followed by another track blazing effort to reach Cauldron Pot (JF 2). The blazed track we put in runs

east above the Permian boundary. We headed downhill almost into one of the holes near JF 3. This part of the track is not recommended in the dark. A lot more exploration is required in this area. When we reached Cauldron Pot it proved a most impressive sight. A ladder was rigged to obtain a better view down the hole. The water disappears from sight about 100 ft. down. This pot represents some tough exploration problems and wet suits may be required. We left Cauldron Pot at 3.45 stopped at JF 4 for some refreshments and were back at the cars at 5.35 just as it was getting dark. JF 4-5 seems to offer the most promising prospects for further exploration. The next party should descend JF 5 and take a good look at the problems involved in descending waterfall pitch no.4. The day trip was enjoyed by all. The weather was kind and we achieved our objectives. Noel White took two measurements of the dip of the limestone. At JF 4 it dips  $40^{\circ}$  in a direction  $29^{\circ}$  east of true north. At JF 2 the dip was  $60^{\circ}$  and direction  $229^{\circ}$  true. The two caves seem to be located on opposing limbs of a synclinal structure and may well join.

Albert Goede.

Saturday 8th August, 1970. - Florentine Valley. (Welcome Stranger Cave) Party: A. Goede (leader), Sally Morris, Peter and Julie Henley, Denis Seymour, Delia and Anne Maloney, Wes Carpenter, Judy Chambers, Max and Laurie Howard.

This was the best attended trip held for some time. Peter, Julie, Albert and Sally left Hobart shortly after 7 a.m. and met Denis and his two nieces at the barrier with Wes coming later with the remainder of the party. A misty, frosty morning cleared to a pleasant sunny day which gave us a spectacular view of snow covered mountains. Our first objective was Welcome Stranger Cave but we took a wrong turning off FD 9 and finished up in snow high up on the lower slopes of Mt. Field West. Peter turned out to be well equipped with chains and we were able to drive to the end of the road to confirm our error. We turned back and soon found the right place. All except Denis headed for the cave entrance only to find it flooded to a depth of several feet with the creek running strongly out of the entrance. After some searching Sally located the upper entrance first discovered by S.C.S. and this proved to be a reasonably dry route into the cave. Inside the creek had risen little although carrying a lot more water than usual. We followed the upper levels and went as far as then final siphon before returning along the creek. Peter proved that unlike some mainland cavers West Australians are not bothered by large quantities of cold running water underground.

When we emerged for a late lunch we found that Wes had just arrived with the rest of the party and Albert went back to the cave to show them the top entrance. Laurie expressed strong feelings about the madness of cavers crawling into wet and slimy holes, and was pleased to discover that the cave does open out further in. Albert returned to the surface and took the rest of the party up the Florentine road for a leisurely tour. No one was inclined to get back into wet, muddy caving gear but the entrances to Cashion Creek Cave and Francombe Cave were visited and given the numbers JF 6 and JF 7 respectively. All in all it was a pleasant day and for once we returned to Hobart at a reasonable hour. Albert Goede.

Tuesday 11 August, 1970 - Junee Area.

Party: A. Goede (leader), Simon Stephens.

This was really a university trip for Albert to check up on his water level recorder in Junee Cave but some time was left over for caving activities which proved very profitable.

In the morning we visited Junee Cave and after spending some time adjusting the recorder we put the number JF 8 just inside the entrance to add Junee to our list of numbered caves. We then climbed up the dry valley behind Junee where Simon had discovered some holes a few years ago after the bushfires. We found that a dense vegetation of bracken, blackberries and fireweed now covered the area but two holes were found. One was too small to enter but the other a few yards away turned out to be a 12 ft. drop leading into a low-roofed chamber about 10 x 15 feet and elongated along the strike. The limestone here dips westerly as at Junee. No extensions were found and we returned to the car for a late lunch. After seeing Don we went through the barrier and headed up the left branch of the Junee Quarry Road to look for JF 1. It took us almost  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour to find it but it was quite an impressive entrance with clean walls in

limestone dipping steeply to the east. The entrance pitch slopes down at 60° and required a rope. The number gave us positive identification showing that our numbering system is already showing dividends.

We went back to the car to get our gear and roped the entrance pitch. Several promising passages leading off below and sloping steeply downwards all came to dead ends and Simon remarked that the cave hardly deserved its number 1. However, we were puzzled by the presence of a draught and Simon discovered that it was possible to climb upwards. Not a very promising lead when you are close to the surface but we tried and found a roomy chamber with a daylight hole opening out above the normal entrance. There was some formation but the only sizeable passage leading off soon petered out after sloping down steeply. We did however, find a 20 ft. hole in the floor which required a ladder. At the bottom we found a small muddy chamber with all obvious leads blocked. However, Albert discovered one unpromising squeeze that after a right-angled bend opened up into a sizeable chamber with a floor covered by large blocks of talus. From here a narrow winding rift could be seen leading downwards at a steep angle and a distinct draught was present. We managed to climb down through the talus and went down the rift. A short distance further on the passage appeared to be blocked but we found that the blockage was just a piece of false floor that could easily be removed with a hammer and the passage could be seen to open out below. As we had no hammer and it was getting rather late we reluctantly turned back. Back in the talus chamber we found some large bones encrusted with "moonmilk" formation and embedded in the floor. Two bones were collected for identification.

A very promising cave which needs further investigation. Depth reached so far is approx. 150 ft. The cave has no running water and requires only one 100 ft. rope and one 30 ft. ladder as far as explored. An added advantage is that it is only a five minute walk from the cars. We will be back soon!!!!

*Albert Goode*



If there is a cross in this square you are unfinancial. Please pay subs. by next month or no further Spiels will be sent to you.