

SPELEO - SPIEL.

No.56.

April, 1971.

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The New Committee.

President: Albert Goede, 8 Bath St., Battery Point, Tas. 7000.

Vice-President: Simon Stephens, 43 Seaview Ave., Tarooma, 7006.

Secretary: Noel White, c/o Hytten Hall, Uni.of Tas., Sandy Bay, 7005.

Treasurer: Ian Farley, 49 Wells Parade, Blackmans Bay, 7152.

Quartermaster: Brian Collin, 66 Wentworth St., South Hobart, 7000.

Committee:

Mrs. Dorothy Boulter, 52 St.Georges Terrace, Battery Point, 7000.

Phil Robinson, 5/282 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay, 7005.

Henk Meerding, 7 Gourlay Street, Blackmans Bay, 7152.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

Easter trip - Lake Margaret. See last Spiel. Leader: A.Goede.

April 17,18 - Weekend. Trip to Lake Timk, Mt. Anne. Leader:  
Peter Shaw.

April 24 - Saturday: Day trip to Exit Cave with group of  
15 physical education students doing Adventure  
training with Iain Barnes. Bring a pack for a  
good clean-up at Camp 2. Leader: A. Goede or  
P. Robinson.

May 1,2 - Weekend: Khazad-dum. Laddering of cave as far  
as possible in preparation for following week-  
end. Leader: Phil Robinson.

May 5 - Wednesday: General meeting, 8 p.m. at 4 Clarke  
Ave., Battery Point. Bring slides, refreshments.

May 8,9 - Weekend: Khazad-dum. The BIG PUSH to the bottom  
followed by detackling. Leader: P. Robinson.

May 22 - Saturday: Surface exploration in Weld River  
area using our new access track. Leader: A.Goede.

EDITORIAL.

As indicated by the trip reports the past month has been an active one. Two trips went to the Junee area and a number of new holes were numbered and explored in the area around Hairygoat Hole. Exploration of JF 22 was completed and it was found to terminate at the bottom of a 110 ft. free hanging ladder pitch about 200 ft. below the surface. A track cutting trip to the Weld River virtually completed the access track and on the next trip we hope to do some surface exploration. In the Mt. Anne area Lake Timk was visited on a weekend trip and exploration commenced on the swallet that drains the lake. A large party made a weekend visit to Exit Cave and although all objects were not achieved it was a memorable trip.

At the annual general meeting it was decided to make one more attempt to bottom Khazad-dum before winter closes in. If the present dry autumn continues the attempt will be made on the first two weekends in May. Come if you can. A LARGE support party will make things easier!!!

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE!!!!

Unless you paid your sub. at the annual general meeting YOU are now unfinancial and the treasurer will be pleased to receive your contribution. Ian Farley still has the job. Send your subscription either to the club box or direct to his home address(see above)

The present subscription rates are:

Full members(over 18 years) - three dollars.

Junior members - one dollar.

Associate members - one dollar.

The full membership fee includes a \$ 1.00 contribution to A.S.F. and entitles one to receive the A.S.F. newsletter. Junior and associate members wishing to subscribe to the A.S.F. newsletter can do so by paying an extra one dollar.

CLUB NEWS.

+ Congratulations to Col and Joyce Hocking on the birth of son Christopher.

+ A cordial welcome is extended to the following prospective members:

Richard Bloomfield, 4 Wentworth Street, Bellrive, 7018.

Michael and Shirley Tarburton, 4 Barossa Road, Glenorchy.

Michael and Shirley have recently arrived from W.A. and have been caving in the S.W. of that state.

Wayne Walker, Hytten Hall, Uni. of Tas., Sandy Bay, 7005.

+ New Names:- The following were accepted at the A.G.M.

Dribblespit Swallet - JF 13, Junee Florentine area. A swallet only in wet weather. Approx. 300 ft. deep. For further details see last Spiel (pages 2,3).

Bottleneck Cave - Ida Bay. Not yet numbered. Explored on afternoon of 13/2/71. See last Spiel (page 3).

+ Cave numbering:- Junee Florentine. Numbering was carried out by Noel White and party on 20/3/71. The following details were given:-

- JF 16 - Small vertical entrance to 30' deep shaft with unstable floor, small side chamber. Numerous bones - skulls collected. Number on rock 2 ft. above entrance.
- JF 17 - Small inclined entrance at base of 15' cliff face in Permian. Length approx. 60', depth approx. 15' below entrance. Number on limestone face approx. 4' above entrance.
- JF 18 - Small vertical entrance between roots of large stringy bark tree. 20' deep cleft, no extension. Numerous insects of different varieties. Number on tree root.
- JF 19 - Sinkhole amongst manferns approx. 30' deep. Hole in limestone face to 30' with minor extension to side. Number on right-hand side of hole on vertical limestone face.
- JF 20 - Adjacent to 19. Two small holes joining, depth 30', no extension, fossils in limestone. Number on limestone immediately above entrance.
- JF 21 - Large shaft approx. 30' deep previously examined, no prospects. Number on limestone face just below edge on S. side.
- JF 22 - Very small vertical entrance approx. 50' to floor of chamber, approx. 30' of which is extremely narrow with 2 vertical squeezes. Fifty feet (down) inclined passage to hole!!  
Depth 90' free hang (measured with rope) to rocky floor with puddle. Possible extension. Slight outward draught noticed. Number on small rock face 1' above entrance.

Cracroft Area - The recent discovery of caves in this area makes it of interest to republish a historical report of caves there by Henry Judd in 1896.

" The Dark Lantern or Hidden Side of Nature, by Henry Judd, Huon River, Tasmania 1896.

Printed at the Mercury Office, Hobart 1896.

pp. 33 - 34.

" .... From Lake Pedder you can easily travel to the Arthur Ranges, and when on top of the northern end you have a beautiful view of Port Davey, which is about 15 or 20 miles off, also over wide extending plains. It is no easy matter to describe this view with all the beauties that surround the lake scenery, rivers rounding through the distant lowlands at the foot of the rocky mountains, the winding avenue of trees on each side of the rivers and the bare open plains at the back. Southwards there is a splendid cave of large size filled with stalactites of all forms and size. This cave must go about a quarter of a mile underground and is on a south-east tributary of the Craycroft river. An easy track could be made to join this district on to the Hartz mountain track, making the whole a very interesting tourist journey." "

#### TRIP REPORTS.

Junee Area - Sunday, 28th February, 1971.

Party: Albert Goede (leader), David Mitchell (S.C.S.), Stuart Nicholas, David Cripps and Richard Bloomfield (prosp.).

Albert and David M. returned to the surface at 12.45 p.m. after belaying the advance party in Khazad-dum down the 92' ladder pitch. Stuart, David and Richard reported finding a cave entrance next to the waterfall at the opposite side of the doline from JF 4. A small portion of the water drains into this. A steep muddy slope brings one to the top of a 15 ft. drop which requires a ladder. Since we had none further exploration was abandoned.

After lunch we headed south-east from Khazad-dum to the holes explored a few weeks earlier to do some cave numbering. A new hole was found on the way. Only a few feet across the hole widens out

below and a gravel floor can be seen 60' down. It was numbered JF 12. Lacking a suitable rock face the number was fastened to a tree. Then to the 300' deep pothole explored on 7/2/71 which was numbered JF 13. At least four other holes were found in close proximity in a line to the S.E. but not numbered. The next hole partially explored on 7/2/71 was numbered JF 14. It has an impressive entrance. Yet another hole was found on our way down to the dry valley. From there we went cross-country to Hairygoat Hole - now numbered JF 15. We followed the yellow track almost back to JF 10 and from there returned to Khazad-dum in ample time for dinner.

A. Goede.

Lake Timk - 6,7 March, 1971.

Party: Peter Shaw, Philip Robinson, Kevin Kiernan.

We reached Lake Timk in four hours on the Saturday morning after camping at Search Camp the previous night. After a prolonged session of admiring the view and sunbaking on the beach, we investigated the swallet and found that the lake had dropped several feet leaving the entrance dry. Kevin crawled in 10' and reported that there was a narrow vertical rift approx. 15' deep. With Peter for moral support at the top of the crack which was about 18" wide at the top increasing to 3' at the bottom, Kevin began to descend the crack. While searching for holds he slipped and fell about 8', uninjured except for a twisted ankle. The rift continued down another 15' which should be climbable, but down which Kevin refused to continue. A rolled plastic ground sheet was lowered from above for use as aid but not used as the climb out was done unassisted. The crack has water dropping down from everywhere and would be very wet if the lake were at its previous limit. Suggested gear for the next trip is two 15' ladders and sixty feet of rope. After another stint of sunbaking, we investigated the dry depression below the lake. No sinkholes were noticed although we did not quite reach the foot of the depression. In the floor of the depression was a series of small pools but no stream. On Sunday we headed out reaching Search Camp in three hours of walking.

Peter Shaw.

Weld River - Track Cutting - Saturday, 13/3/71.

Party: Albert Goede(leader), Norm Poulter, Phil Robinson, Peter Henley, Clive Boulter.

We left Hobart at 7.30 a.m. and two hours later set off along the South Gordon track at Frodshams Gap and from there S.E. along the Davey track. At 11.30 we were at the beginning of our own track. The Davey track is in good order and the gradient is much easier than coming over Mt. Bowes as we did last winter. The weather was ideal for walking - pleasantly cool with cloud in the morning but a sunny afternoon. It took another half hour to reach the end of our track from where we started cutting off a compass bearing of 60° (more or less) as we had to dodge several sinkholes. Soon we reached a dry valley and followed this down heading S.E. A small stream soon came in from the right followed some distance further by quite a large creek. The track was continued some distance downstream. The valley was becoming gorge-like and rather difficult to follow but we must have been close to the Weld River when lack of time forced us to turn back. Three hours of track cutting and it took us a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an hour to get back to where we started. There seems no point in marking the track further as the route down the large creek is obvious although it would be difficult with a pack. Eventually it may be worthwhile to continue the track on a 60° bearing across the dry valley. It would probably provide a shorter and easier route to the Weld.

The two creeks we found would be worth following upstream as dolomite appears to occur at higher elevations. We arrived back at the car at 6 p.m. after a pleasant and productive day. The next trip we should be able to do some surface exploration.

Albert Goede.

Junee Area - Saturday, March 20th, 1971.

Party: Noel White(leader), Bill Lehmann, Norm Poulter, Wayne Walker.

The purpose of the trip was to examine and number some of the many known but unexplored holes near Hairygoat Hole(JF 15). With this goal in mind the intrepid four set out from Hobart in crystal clear weather. By 10 a.m. we reached the end of the road and decided to take the "Hairygoat Trail" up to the holes. This trail had been marked on the memorable trip when Hairygoat Hole was first located but had not been used since. The general area of interest was reached with only minor cuts and abrasions and surface trogging started.

The first find of the day was a small hole near the next gully west of the one followed by the trail. After the stinging nettles had been cleared from it Noel descended, collected a few animal skulls and returned to the surface. No go, numbered JF 16.

As we headed back to the east along the Permian contact another small hole was found and again Noel descended, and again was soon out. No go, numbered JF 17. The next find was a black hole between the roots of a large stringybark tree. This time Bill, Noel and Wayne all descended, but still no go, numbered JF 18.

By this time we were back in known territory and the next hole examined was made obvious by some red tape which had been used to mark a number of holes previously found by Noel White and Simon Stephens. JF 19 and JF 20 both proved to be small shafts with no extensions. Another hole was examined but not numbered because of a total lack of anything to attach a number to. Number JF 21 was attached to a large shaft which had previously been examined and shown to go nowhere.

Number JF 22 was attached to an extremely small hole which was found in 1970 and which had been previously examined by two intrepid cavers who had declined to go in. Just to prove that speleos from N.S.W. are not scared of tight holes (they would not do much caving if they were) Noel half climbed, half let himself fall into the hole. After a very unpleasant first 20' it opened out and soon became quite roomy, and clearly went on. Bill Lehmann was summoned for support and miraculously got his bulk down as well. Progress stopped at a depth of about 100' when a gaping great hole appeared in the floor. After overcoming the initial horror a torch was lowered on a rope to determine the depth of the shaft. It proved to be about 90' absolutely clear and free hanging. From the top it seems possible that the cave may continue. Because of lack of time and energy no attempt was made to descend the hole. Getting to the surface again proved to be just as difficult and unpleasant as anticipated.

Time had now run out for us so we had to start down the hill leaving numerous holes un-numbered, a job for another trip. Seven holes numbered, three of them completely new, and one still going seems like a reasonable yield for a pleasant day's work.

Noel White.

Exit Cave - March 27, 28, 1971.

Party: Phil Robinson (leader), Bill Lehmann, Kevin Kiernan, Peter and Julie Henley, Peter Shaw and Laurel, Stuart Nicholas, David Cripps, Richard Bloomfield, Arthur Clarke, Mike Esling and Tiny (dog), Norm Poulter and Henk (Saturday only) + Uncle Tom Cobbley and Co.

Our aim was to push the new extension and make the elusive through trip from Exit Cave to Entrance Cave. False high hopes. All we achieved this weekend was a record(?) time from cave to cars in 45 mins. in search of Bill; Arthur's dog to camp 2 and beyond; and now eight more people know where the extension starts.

Fourteen (or was it 15 or 16) people gathered at the start of the Exit Cave track on Saturday morning. Setting off in odd groups nearly everyone arrived at the cave after 1 - 2 hours, everyone except Bill. "Where's Bill?" He set off in the middle at a cracking pace to guide people to the cave entrance. Bill was lost in the bush. Some time later six of us dashed madly back to where we thought him to be lost. In  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour we were back at the cars. After driving up and down the road back to the cave again yelling and whistling loudly. Now all were worried, but no need, Bill had turned up. Not knowing whether to curse or be relieved we collapsed and had a cup of tea. Bill had passed the swamp, tripped over a tree, knocked himself out and wandered off half dazed. Luckily he found an old railway track, followed it up for an hour finally reaching the cave.

At 2.30 p.m. twelve of us and a dog entered Exit Cave, off to Camp 2 for the night. Norm and Henk had a very shortened (1 hour) day trip. All agreed Exit Cave to be a wonderful spectacle. Enormous caverns and large riverway make it very worthy of Australia's longest cave. Needless to say by the time we and our packs had passed the talus to the inner base camp, it was too late to set off for the extension. A very comfortable night was had by most, especially those with air beds.

Off to the extension on Sunday morning, nine people and Tiny, along to the Grand Fissure where we took the wrong passage. Only Philip had been this far into the cave before. We clambered over enormous, unfamiliar and very spectacular fallen blocks in an immense passage. Returning Bill lit the Mg ribbon in the Grand Fissure for us all to gasp in amazement. Finding the right passage, recog-

nised by the formations and the Mud Passage we reached the start of the extension. Eventually we even found the hole one enters. Darkness at 6.30 p.m. left us no time. We had to drag twelve people, packs and dog back to the cave entrance.

Useful tips for the next trip are: Don't get lost in the bush; no dogs allowed; large parties need more than one guide. This was a trip which will be remembered, even with pleasure. After all we did at least cover about 4 miles underground.

P.Robinson.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

<u>1 st April, 1970</u>	-	<u>31st March, 1971.</u>	
<u>RECEIPTS.</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Bank balance 1/4/70	133.44.	Postage	6.50.
Full membership	75.60.	Publication Costs	6.92.
Associate Membership	3.60.	Equipment	74.09.
Entrance Fees	18.00.	Federation Fees	10.00.
Publications	31.80.	P.M.G. Box	9.00.
Donations	2.60.	Dinner Expenses	13.50.
Sale Of Badges	1.50.	Copy of Mt.Etna Cave	2.75.
Bank Interest	5.61.	Copy Speleo Abstract	1.00.
		Bank Balance 31/3/71	148.39.
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£ 272.15.		£ 272.15.

Balance in Tasmanian Caverneering Club Publication A/C    £ 200.00.

HON AUDITOR. J.K.Herington. (signed). AASA ACIS.

HON TREASURER. Ian Farley. (signed).

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SEARCH AND RESCUE LIST.      APRIL 1971.

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB.

In case of Delay, Emergency or Overdue Party one of the following, (in order shown), should be contacted.

Brian Collin      23 1920 (Home),      30 4686 (Work).

Bill Hodge      34 2892      "      ,      34 1180      "      .

Doug. Turner      43 9443      "      ,      30 9011      "      .

Police Search and Rescue(Insp.Howard) 34 2011 (Work).

List of members - (see over).

Members on this list have been graded seperately for bush searches and cave search and rescues. Four gradings are used ranging from A to D. Members either not interested or not competent to take part in one of the two gradings are indicated by "NO" on the list of gradings. Members with special experience or qualifications are graded as "Special". Gradings are based on a combined assessment of leadership qualities, experience and physical fitness. They are confidential and are made available only to police and search and rescue co-ordinators.

BUSH.

CAVE.

Your grading is:-

For any comments, corrections or complaints please contact Brian Collin or Albert Goede as soon as possible so that alterations can be incorporated in the final list to be circulated shortly to police and search and rescue co-ordinators of other clubs.

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB SEARCH AND RESCUE LIST - MEMBERS.

<u>NAME.</u>	<u>Phone.</u>		<u>ADDRESS.</u>
	<u>Home.</u>	<u>Work.</u>	
BOULTER, Clive	-	230561.	52 St. Georges Tce., Battery Pt.
BRABON, Peter	-	342733.	Old Beach Rd., East Risdon. c/o P.O. Box 74, Lindisfarne.
BROWN, Frank	232101.	71524.	15 Harrington St., Hobart.
CARPENTER, Wesley	231207.	230561.	20 Wellesley St., South Hobart. ext.436.
COLLIN, Brian	231920.	304686.	66 Wentworth St., South Hobart.
COLLIN, Jeanette	231920.	231920.	66 Wentworth St., South Hobart.
CRIPPS, David	344159.	-	442 Elizabeth St., Nth. Hobart.
DE VRIES, Rien	612426.	612611.	
FARLEY, Ian	296779.	345511.	49 Wells Parade, Blackmans Bay.
GOEDE, Albert	-	230561.	8 Bath Street, Battery Point. ext.415.
HENLEY, Peter	-	346111.	Fl.23, Princess Park Mews, Battery Square, Battery Point.
HODGE, William	342892.	341180.	
HOWE, Bernard	652497.	208111.	46 McKinley St., Midway Point. or 208635.
KIERNAN, Kevin	278527.	-	10 Meath Avenue, Taroona.
LEHMANN, William	-	231040.	29A D'arcy Street, South Hobart.
MEERDING, Henk	296230.	296230.	7 Gourelay Street, Blackmans Bay.
MORRIS, Clive	296846.	Mercury.	11 Church Street, Kingston.
PETERSON, William	284977.	230561.	12 Auvergne Ave., New Town.
POULTER, Norman	-	-	Peel St., Caravan Park, Sandy Bay
ROBINSON, Philip	-	230561.	Fl.5, 282 Sandy Bay Rd., Sandy Bay. ext 411.
SEYMOUR, Denis	-	345552.	4 Clarke Ave., Battery Point.
SHAW, Peter	-	313773.	Fl.3, 25 Broadview Cres., Trevallyn, (L'ton) Launceston.
STEPHENS, Simon	278204.	230561.	43 Seaview Ave., Taroona.
TURNER, Douglas	439443.	303215.	79 Riawena Rd., Rose Bay. 200257(Army).
WHITE, Noel	232521, 237770.	230561,	Hytten Hall, Uni.of Tas., Sandy ext 411.Bay.

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FIRST AID TRAINING.

A small number of vacancies are available on a full first aid course on Tuesday nights 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. for 12 weeks to be held at the Medical School, Collins Street, Hobart. The course has been specially arranged for members of the Climbing Club of Tasmania. Cost \$ 6.40. If interested contact Col Hocking for further details. Ph. Home 43 8572, Business 23 7821, ext.418.