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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- May 15 - Sat. Surface exploration in Weld River area using new access track. Leader: Albert Goede.
- May 21-23 - Weekend. Leave Fridaynight. Exploration of new extension in Exit Cave, Ida Bay. Leader: Peter Shaw.
- May 29,30 - Weekend. Bubs Hill. Exploration, surveying and photography in Tinys Watch Hole. Leader: A. Goede.
- June 2 - Wednesday: General Meeting, 8 p.m. at 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. Bring slides, refreshments.
- June 5 - Sat. Day trip to Khazad-dum. Leader: P. Robinson.
- June 12-14 - Long weekend. Mole Creek. Leader: Peter Shaw.

EDITORIAL.

The last month has seen a lot of caving activity and two major successes have been scored. Exploration activity at Bubs Hill over Easter saw the discovery of the first substantial cave in this area by Arthur Clarke and Michael Esling. Length of passage explored is estimated between 1500 and 2000 feet and more remains to be investigated. The cave - now named Tinys Watch Hole - has several levels with an active stream in the bottom. Another trip is planned at the end of May. An Easter trip to the Cracroft area by a party of four of the Manuka Club - including two of our members - rediscovered the stream cave discovered by Henry Judd and companions in 1881. For Judds description see last Spiel. A pine plaque with the date and three names (Judd, Clarke and a third no longer legible) was found near the entrance which is quite impressive. Half a mile of large stream passage was explored to a siphon. The party also discovered that the area is Gordon Limestone not dolomite as had previously been suspected. A marked route now extends from the Hartz Mountains to the cave which can now be reached in a day's hard walking - provided the Picton River is not in flood.

However, we did not have it all our own way. The party intending an Easter visit to the limestone area on the Lake Margaret plateau was forced to retreat when Norm Poulter's landrover broke a rear axle. The big push to the bottom of Khazad-dum also had to be abandoned due to an excess of cold running water. Another attempt will probably not be made till next summer. A day party visited the cave and put in three bolts at the first three pitches. Another trip is planned to bolt some of the waterfall pitches.

CLUB NEWS.

- + Our congratulations to Brian and Jeanette on the birth of their daughter Sandra Jane.
- + Welcome to the mob for yet two other prospective members Henk van Twillert, 8 Braeside Crescent, Sandy Bay, 7005, and Ron Akhurst, 26 Granville Avenue, Geilston Bay, 7015.
- + The following new names were accepted at the May general meeting.
- Bubs Hill - Tinys Watch Hole - for cave discovered at Easter 1971.
- Thylacine Lair - small cave at NW side of base of Bubs Hill.
- Mt. Anne - Col-in-Cavern - for large pothole divided by a natural bridge and explored by A.S.F. Mt. Anne party in January 1971.
- Cracroft - Judds Cavern - stream cave discovered by Henry Judd and two companions in 1881, rediscovered at Easter, 1971.
- + The club has decided to join the South-West Committee - consisting of representatives of outdoor clubs interested in the conservation of Tasmania's South-West. Brian Collin will be our representative.
- + Max Jeffries of Maydena was made an Honorary Associate of the club. Max's local knowledge of the Junee Florentine area and his interest in holes in the ground has already proved valuable in locating new caves.
- + Peter Shaw was officially made a party leader at the May general

meeting. Congratulations Peter,

+ It has been decided to purchase a new chain and relock the gate at Exit Cave. Provided that Roy Skinner agrees future arrangements will be that all visitors to the cave other than T.C.C. parties will have to obtain the key and permission from Roy before visiting the cave.

Concerning Khazad-dum.

Full details including large scale maps of a partial survey have recently been received from Kav (Laimonis Kavalleris) who was the driving force behind the project last summer. Recalculations of the survey (checked by Albert on the computer) have shown that the cave is not quite as deep as we thought. The furthest point of the survey is at -632 ft. and not -648 ft. This means that Khazad-dum is now "only" 950 ft. deep and the 860 ft. from which further exploration will have to take place becomes the 840 ft. level.

Water samples collected from Khazad-dum on February 28 have been analyzed by myself and show quite an interesting pattern.

Sample	Depth	Time	Temp	Conduc- tivity.	CaCO ₃ p.p.m.	CaCO ₃ + MgCO ₃ + p.p.m.
S 8	entrance	11.05a.m.	11.2°C	90	30	38
S 9	450 ft.	1.30p.m.	9°C	92	34	41
S 10	910 ft.	7.00p.m.	8°C	100	39	47

As expected the figures show a gradual increase in water hardness as you go down. It is also interesting to see that when the water is low as it was on this occasion it does not take long for it to cool down to the temperature of the surrounding rock.

Albert Goede.

What the hell is it?

The following letter to the editor appeared in the Hobart Walking Club circular of April, 1971.

"I would like to draw your attention to a phenomena, object or thing which is extant in the Mt. Field National Park. It is called a "GROWLING SWALLET", and resides 1½ miles west of Florentine Peak (see map). I don't know what this is but I feel something should be done about it. With a name like that, it should be stopped before it goes on a rampage and gets out of control. Should it be put down, torn up or perhaps be put in a zoo? Does anyone know what this is, so we can do something about it? Anyone interested and brave enough to walk in and meet it face to face might arrange a trip one weekend. In the meantime - what the hell is it?"

David Gothard.

If they really want to stop it they should obtain the services of the little Dutch boy who put his finger in the dike!! Meanwhile if they don't know what it is we're not telling. Ed.

A New "Cave" Cricket.

A new cave cricket not previously recorded from Tasmania and larger than any known species has turned up from - of all places - tiny Tasman Island off the tip of the Tasman Peninsula. Specimens were collected from around the lighthouse by the keeper and sent to the Tasmanian Museum.

The specimens have been forwarded to Dr. Aola Richards of the University of N.S.W. and were found to belong to a new genus.

DAM IT ALL. University Revue 1971.

Club members wishing to go with a mob to see the revue please advise Albert or Therese Goede by the 16th of May. Proposed night for seeing revue 19th May.

CAVE NUMBERING.

The following caves were numbered by N. White and party on May 1, 1971.

- JF 23 - Small double entrance beside Lawrence Ck. Swallet. Leads into a complex system of narrow passages explored briefly to a depth of approx. 50 ft. Subject to frequent flooding.
- JF 24 - Small entrance about 150' from JF 23. Leads into a complex system of narrow passages. Also only partially explored to a depth of about 50' where halted by a short pitch. Extremely muddy, subject to flooding.
- JF 25 - Small cave about 200 yds. off road, south of Welcome Stranger Cave. Small entrance chamber with about 150' crawl before choked with mud. No potential.
- JF 26 - Small entrance in gully south of JF 25, choked after

- about 15 ft. No potential.
- JF 27 - Small entrance in gully about 40 ft. from JF 26, partially choked after about 30 ft. potential minor with some work clearing.
- JF 28 - Small swallet East of JF 25, in large complex doline. About 10 holes give great scope for exploration in semi - to un-stable rockfall.

TRIP REPORTS.

June Area - April 3, 1971.

Party: Noel White(Leader), Peter Shaw, Norm Poulter and Andrew Thomson.

The party minus Peter arrived at the end of the Khazad-dum track at about 10 a.m. on Saturday. Shortly after the familiar red Corolla appeared bearing Peter, who, because of the intrepid leader's infallible memory had been left behind. We were soon ready to start up the track, and locked the cars. Unfortunately Peter's keys were still in his car, hence a further half hour delay as the car was broken into to recover them.

The purpose of the trip was to explore Jf 22 which had been entered two weeks before, and progress was stopped by a long ladder pitch estimated to be 90 ft. On reaching the cave Norm, Peter and Noel descended and rigged the pitch which was completely free hanging. After some debate on whether the 110 ft. ladder had reached the bottom, Norm descended to find it hanging 4 ft. off the floor. Unfortunately(or perhaps fortunately) there were no leads off from the bottom, so all withdrew to the surface.

As Andrew had still not been underground it was then decided to give him a quick guided tour through a real cave. Khazad-dum being nearby a very short hour was spent in the Serpentine Extension before returning to the cars.

Noel White.

Cracroft Area - Easter, 9-13th April, 1971.

Party: Brian Collin, Tim Walkden-Brown, Attila Vrana and Hilary.

Typical caving gear including a chainsaw, axe, slashers and an assortment of completely unreliable torches was carried by four over-loaded people. Three days were spent on marking and cutting the track from the Picton River to the Cracroft River, one day was spent in locating and exploring Judds Cavern, and one day spent on the return trip to Hartz Mountains.

Judds Cavern is an efflux type, horizontal, generally about 50' wide with a 20 to 30 ft. ceiling. After $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile it ends in a siphon there are no formations and it is very cold. The flow out of the cave was well over a cusec and this was at the end of the driest March on record.

The area is Gordon limestone with a limestone relief of about 1000 ft. The bush cover is rainforest and surface exploration should be reasonable. The area will prove interesting and I anticipate some good potholing of the mini-Martin variety.

A road is now under construction up to the Picton River and access to the area should be vastly improved within a few years.

Brian Collin.

Report of First Known Descent of Tinys Watch Hole, Bubs Hill during Easter, 1971.

Party: Arthur Clarke, Michael Esling and Tiny(an Australian terrier).

After considerable confusion, misunderstandings and misconnections we met up with the rest of the party stranded with a broken Landrover axle near Mt. Tyndall. Following a successful retreat caverneering activities were concentrated on the Bubs Hill area.

Sunday 11th April. Unable to find Thylacine Lair, Michael found our new cave on a recently cut geological grid line 1800 W between stations 1200 and 1400 north on the first low hill of limestone NW of Bubs Hill when approaching along the power line. The entrance some 4 or 5 feet in diameter had a considerable draught and roughly recorded stone drop times seemed to suggest an entrance pitch in excess of 120 ft. Rope descent proved too tedious and dangerous so ladders were used in the next attempt the following day.

Monday, 12th April. The descent was tackled first by Michael - his first ever ladder descent. The pitch involved 85 to 90 ft. of ladder against the wall and free swinging with a resting point on a chockstone some 30 ft. down the fissure entrance. Despite some minor objections it was decided that due to inexperience in ladder work Tiny would remain at the surface. The cave roughly followed a N-S running joint with a stream flowing in a north-westerly direction.

Approximately 1500 to 2000 ft(possibly more) of passage was ex-

explored mostly along the main fissure but at various levels. Layers of calcified mud revealed remnant levels- some only several inches thick - of former stream passages. The height of the main chamber below a short talus slope at the foot of the entrance pitch was 25' extending up to 70 ft. in the narrower parts of the fissure. Several other daylight holes were apparent along the length of the main fissure.

Samples of skull and jaw bones found in the cave were identified by Dr. Guiler of the Zoology Dept., Uni. of Tas. as being of small rats and several young ringtail possums. Other fauna included spiders, crickets and one solitary glow worm.

Several fissures extend approx at right angles to the main passage and these along with some higher level passages were not explored. The main chamber, subdivided by a large formation covered fallen block, has a stream running 6 to 10 ft. below it. Formation was plentiful from sparkling calcite flowstone and columns 15" in diameter to fine coral-like helictites. The passages contained a considerable amount of moist to dry mud often calcified and the stream had brought in quartz crystals up to 1" long.

A lot more time could have been spent exploring extensions but with time against us we returned to daylight where Tiny had kept his silent vigil (probably asleep though he won't admit it). The sound of bird calls (Albert's whistle) and a rifle shot (Norm's artillery) brought us back to reality and so we tramped back along the bush track to the Lyell Highway.

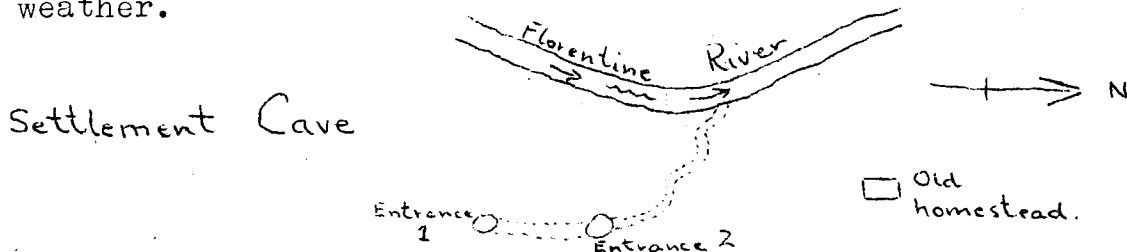
Arthur Clarke.

Florentine Area - Saturday, 17th April, 1971.

Party: P. Robinson (leader), Bill Lehmann, Therese Goede and Hilary Goede, Delia Maloney, Denis Seymour, Max Jeffries and son Tim.

Someone decided it would be exciting to find more new caves, despite the fact we already have too many to handle. We had the help of Max who has worked for many years in the area with A.N.M. He has taken an interest in many of the caves and holes uncovered during clearing operations.

First we were led to the Settlement, about 22 miles up the Florentine Road and then off to the left along a track for 1½ miles (driveable). An old homestead close to the river is still standing surrounded by an area of cleared land. Unusual for S.E. Tasmania bare limestone is visible everywhere. Several small sinkholes ending 10 ft. down were investigated. Max showed us one which led into a small cave. Crawling for 100 ft. and two tight squeezes later Bill and Phil found daylight in another sinkhole. Denis and Delia dropped in and a more sizeable cave was explored. Walking along in knee deep water along a stream passage, flood debris high up, we emerged, much to our surprise on the banks of the Florentine River. The cave (Settlement Cave) is 6-700' long and must take part of the river in wet weather.



News of the Florentine flowing underground was greeted with great enthusiasm. We left the settlement and headed further south. Disappointment. Half the river flows through a cave but only for 70 ft. cutting off an ox-bow.

Max led us through the maze of A.N.M. roads to Lawrence Creek. The river valley suddenly ends in a large sinkhole. The water disappears into gravel several hundred yards upstream. There are 3 or 4 entrances near the sink leading into a honeycomb of passages. The rock is very sharp, the passages low and well water worn. There is still hope for anyone keen on pushing razor sharp squeezes. Most holes looked at were choked with debris. Logs high up in some passages suggested the whole system fills to the roof. We were perhaps 50 ft. down at the lowest point. A sizeable stream sinks here and the resurgence, about 2 miles away, is, according to Max, very comparable in volume to Junee Cave. There is scope for a large system probably with few vertical drops.

Philip Robinson.

Junee-Florentine Area - Sat. 24th April, 1971.

Party: Noel White (leader), Therese Goede, Kevin Kiernan, Richard Bloomfield, Max and Tim Jeffries.

The purpose of this trip was two-fold. Firstly to examine some holes at the Lawrence Creek Swallet, and secondly to examine some other holes which had previously been found by Max.

The party from Hobart arrived at Maydena at 9 a.m. and joined our guide Max and son Tim. First stop was near the Junee resurgence where Max led us to some small holes. One right at river level was full of water and could not be entered. Another could be entered and proved to be a very narrow, muddy, cold and wet passage. Thoroughly unpleasant! Although it continued it did not look at all promising and was far too unpleasant for so early in the day.

From there we returned to the A.N.M. gate, and from there to the Lawrence Creek swallet. One week previously Max had shown a party a hole which had led into an interesting complex of small passages. Although dry when we saw it, it had clearly been filled with water in the meantime. We decided to examine another hole nearby. It proved to be an interesting experience. Again the cave consisted of a series of small passages going in several directions. Progress was stopped by a 15 ft. pitch which clearly goes on. It would have been easy to descend, but absolutely impossible to get up again. The reason for this was very simple. Every surface, floor, walls and roof, was covered by a thick layer of mud. Apart from being rather dirty, it was a very comfortable cave, rather like a padded cell for anyone mad enough to go in. I have never seen a cave half as muddy, it makes Hells Half Acre in Newdegate look like a dustbowl. After a friendly mudfight Kevin, Richard and I withdrew, much to the amusement of the three who had stayed outside.

Both the newly found caves here need a thorough examination. They are not difficult and if you are not afraid of a little dirt quite a lot of fun.

As we had now seen the volume of water which sinks here, we were keen to see the resurgence. Max soon led us there. This was tremendously impressive, a great swell of water rising at the head of a valley and flowing away as a very large creek. There is approx. two miles between the sinking and rising of this creek, plenty of room for a large cave system. Clearly the area deserves more attention than it has had.

Next stop was another of Max's discoveries not far from Welcome Stranger. This proved to be a small passage about 150 ft. long choked by mud. This area has been recently burny off and looks quite promising for surface trogging.

The next few holes Max showed us (up the F 9 road) were already known. By then time had run out and it was beginning to rain heavily so we set out for home. Thanks are particularly due to Max for his services as a guide. His excellent memory and bushmanship make him an extraordinarily accurate guide, thus saving much time bashing through the bush to locate holes.

Noel White.

Exit Cave - 24th April, 1971.

Party: Philip Robinson, Bill Lehmann, Peter Shaw (Joint leaders), Norm Poulter, Stuart Nicholas, Ron Akhurst, Mike Robinson and Roz ?, Laurel Norbury, Sue Edwards, Wes Carpenter, Simon Stephens, Peter McHugh and 14 physical education students.

Parking problems solved I lost count after about 16 when they headed into the bush 28 + - 1. One and a half hours and much cursing and grunting later all had arrived at the cave. The track was wet the swamp knee deep mud and water. Two or three fell headlong to the delight of others.

"The high level traverse?" shouted someone in glee. The cave entrance was flooded. Bill's party of ten passed quickly across. With the invaluable help of his 20 ft. waist band the girls were edged along. Assurances were made to the effect that the rope would hold (despite it being there 4 years) and that the water beneath was not too cold or deep. These were taken with little confidence. Two girls froze half way along the rope, hanging by a few fingers above the murky brown water. Norm gallantly came to the rescue. How no one fell into the water is still a mystery. Sobbing, and the worst behind us we entered the cave.

A short trip of 3-4 hours was enjoyed by the majority of people. Exit needs large parties like this to appreciate its vastness. Seeing a line of yellow lights high up in the distance among the rocks; winding down in the darkness drawing nearer to the river. The formation chambers before the talus were visited. Peter and Simon led a party through to camp 2. Rubbish left by previous camping parties was removed from camps 1 and 2. Several more tins of carbide were left in the cave.

Luckily the water had dropped on our return to the entrance. We were able to wade out much to the relief of several people. Certainly the high level rope traverse could be improved with a few bolts. It may be used a good deal in the winter months. We were welcomed back at the cars by Iain Barnes, leader of the physical education students. They were on part of an adventure type fortnight run by the National Fitness Council. Whether all enjoyed their day's caving is in some doubt. What appeared an easy trip for the cavers was apparently a very hard trip for some of the beginners. P. Robinson.

Khazad-dum - Sat. May 1st, 1971.

Party: Philip Robinson (leader), Kevin Kiernan, Norm Poulter, Clive Boulter and Peter Shaw, and surface Dot Boulter and Laurel Norbury.

The day dawned grey, shrouded in mist. A week of rain had dashed all hopes of another attempt at 1000 ft. which will have to wait till summer. Instead five set off on a ten hour bolting, photographic and "tourist" trip. Enthusiasm at an all time low, it was a battle to get 80% of cavers out of their vehicles. A wet bush walk to the cave and we were down by 11.30 a.m. Once inside enthusiasm rocketed in the opposite direction for some unknown reason. Perhaps it was the thought of a Khazad-dum trip devoid of a push to the bottom. Pitches were rigged and tackle lowered to the flattener. Cries of horror to find 3-4 inch pools of muddy, icy water in the 10 inch high passage. Muddy, wet cavers reached the 92' free hanger. Clive and Peter stayed at the top to place a bolt. Norm, Philip and Kevin descended onto the rock pile below. The 25' and 60' (actually 69') pitches were also bolted. Photographs were taken of Kevin bashing away, protected by a white umbrella held by a gallant Norm. Needless to say this type of equipment was found to be too fragile. Joined by Clive and Peter the streamway was followed to the 20' waterfall about 600' underground. Legs and feet numbed by icy cold water a 20' pitch was not on the cards, certainly not with this volume of water. The Serpentine Passage at -508' was explored by Kevin and Phil up to a 12' waterfall. This was recognised as the one reached from the surface on a previous trip (Jan. 16, 1971). Thus there are 2 ways down Khazad-dum to the -508' level. One is sharp, tight and wet (the Serpentine) with 5 pitches, the other is big, dry (in summer) with 6 pitches. In the latter 25 and 69' drops now avoid the 70 and 95' (or alternatively 150') pitches. Further down the streamway another side passage up to the left was explored. This rejoins the streamway 100 - 200' further along 6' above the water. Chimneying high up in this passage may lead to further ways above the river. P. Robinson.

Florentine Area - May 1st, 1971.

Due to lack of space this trip report on further examination of holes at Lawrence Creek and results of surface trogging the area to the south of Welcome Stranger, will be printed in the next Spiel.

YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS.

So far annual subscriptions have been received from only 18 people. As the club has at least twice that number of members it would appear that some of you are unfinancial. You know if YOU are so if you wish to receive further Spiels please pay promptly to Ian Farley, Treasurer, T.C.C., Box 641 G, G.P.O., Hobart, Tas. 7001