

SPELEO - SPIEL

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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- July 17 - Saturday: Introductory trip to Newdegate Cave, Hastings. Leader: Noel White.
- July 25 - Sunday: Day trip to Mystery Creek Cave, Ida Bay. Use of climbing pole to try and link up with Exit Cave. Leader: Albert Goede.
- July 31 - Saturday: Exploration of Niagara Pot, Junee area. Leader: Peter Shaw.
- Aug. 4 - Wednesday: General meeting at Simon and Janet's place at 8 p.m. 43 Seaview Avenue, Tarooma.
- Aug. 7-8 - Weekend: Exploration and photography in Exit Cave. Acting Leader: Bill Lehmann.
- Aug. 14-15 - Weekend: Junee area including placing of bolts in Khazad-dum. Bring a rake or mattock for clearing of camp site. Leader: Phil Robinson.
- Aug. 21-22 - Weekend: Water tracing to try to establish connection between Khazad-dum and Junee. Leader: Albert Goede.

EDITORIAL.

As indicated by the number of trip reports the last month has once again been a very active one - one exploration and one photographic trip went to Exit Cave while the long weekend saw a large party at Mole Creek mainly bent on photography in Kubla Khan. Two day trips went to Junee - one a track cutting trip to Khazad-dum and the other to complete exploration of and remove bolts from the dry entrance to the system (JF5). More activities are planned in preparation for next summer. The cave seems to be continually on our mind - how much deeper will it go? Will it end in a siphon or in an extensive horizontal system? If the latter how the hell are we going to explore it? Last month a two way aneroid traverse was made between Junee Cave and Khazad-dum indicating a difference in height of approximately 1220 feet. This figure should be accurate within 20 feet as there was little change of pressure during the day.

The July general meeting was probably the best attended ever and the Goede's home was straining at the seams. Large quantities of slides were shown including a Poulter-White-Lehman selection of Kubla Khan. It was good to see so many prospectives, visitors, wives and other camp followers at the meeting.

CLUB NEWS.

+ New members. A cordial welcome to the following who were elected as full members at the July general meeting:-

Henk van Twillert 8 Braeside Crescent, Sandy Bay 7005.

Laurel Norbury c/o 25 Broadview Crescent, Launceston.

+ Annual Dinner. In September the club will be celebrating its twenty-fifth birthday. This should be a memorable event and suggestions to mark the occasion will be welcomed at the next meeting. Full details will be in the next Spiel.

+ Equipment. Three of our remaining four headers have been lost in the last two months. Anyone having seen or acquired one recently is asked to return it to the quartermaster. Party leaders are requested to exercise more care in seeing that all equipment is accounted for at the end of a trip. New ladder making is still held up by material for rungs. This has to come from a remote city in the North Island known as Melbourne. So far it has taken five weeks!

+ North Western Branch? Recently the club received a request from Bill Tomalin (T.C.C.NB) concerning the possibility of forming another branch as there are some thirty cavers - at present not members of any club - living in the Latrobe - Devonport - Burnie area and doing most of their caving at Mole Creek. Following this request a special committee meeting was called to consider the matter resulting in a first draft of "Rules for Branches" copies of which have been sent to both Bill Tomalin and the Northern Branch for comments. The rules will be discussed at the next general meeting and are as follows:-

Rules for Branches

- (1) Caverneering and speleology shall be the primary interests of the branch.
- (2) The branch shall subscribe to
 - (a) the A.S.F. code of ethics;
 - (b) the objects of the parent club.
- (3) For the purpose of membership of the Australian Speleological Federation members of branches shall be subject to the same conditions as members of the parent club. While the parent club is a member of the A.S.F. branch members shall pay the required capitation fees and receive the same privileges.
(Note; At present the capitation fee is \$1.00 per annum and is compulsory for full members. It is optional for other grades of membership where such members want to receive the A.S.F. newsletter.)
- (4) Branches shall appoint from their members as party leaders such persons as have gained the experience and shown the personality required to lead parties underground. All trips shall be led by duly appointed party leaders and all members of the party shall accept his discipline.
- (5) Branches shall draw up their own constitution, elect their own committee, take care of their own finance and provide their own equipment.
Branch constitutions all comply with
 - (a) membership policy of the Australian Speleological Federation;
 - (b) rules for branches laid down by the parent club.
- (6) Branch membership can be terminated by either branch or parent club provided that notice of intention to terminate membership shall be given at least fourteen days prior to a general meeting and that such termination shall be approved only at a general meeting by a 75% majority of voting members either present or represented by proxy.

+ Farewells to Peter and Julie Henley who have moved to Canberra and will no doubt be doing some caving with C.S.S.

also Tim Walkden-Brown who was unable to stand Tasmania's "hot" climate any longer after a year on Macquarie Island. He has left for Western Canada where he hopes to do plenty of skiing and some caving. Best wishes and good luck!

last but not least Norm Poulter (the poltergeist) who is moving on to Adelaide after a six months stay. No doubt he will be taking some interesting caving memories with him especially about Khazad-dum - where the loss of his cheery presence and ladders will be felt. His camper will also be missed by some !!! Good caving and best wishes for the remainder of your Australian tour from all of T.C.C.

+ Conservation of Exit Cave. The last committee meeting considered the long term problem of conservation of Exit Cave and has suggested a plan for accumulation of photographic and documentary material on the cave and area in general along the lines of the U.Q.S.S. publications on the Mount Etna Caves. It is hoped to prepare a detailed report for presentation to the National Parks and Wildlife Commission in say about a year's time putting the case for a much extended cave reserve in the area.

You can help by:

- (1) Taking black and white photographs suitable for publication - not only of pretties but also of glow worms, morphological features, gypsum needles, etc - anything of scientific, sporting or potential tourist interest.
- (2) Supplying historical information on the area and its caves.
- (3) Noting and recording geological information.
- (4) Collecting unusual cave fauna.
- (5) Surveying the two odd miles of passages that have not yet been mapped.
- (6) Supplying ideas for the best possible development of Exit Cave as a tourist cave.

TRIP REPORTS.

Exit Cave - 5th & 6th June, 1971.

Party: Brian Collin, Tim Walkden-Brown, Attila Vrana, David Parer.

The creek section of the new extension off the mud passage (conference concourse) was explored in detail. A few minor extensions were found but no major breakthrough was accomplished.

The flattener was attempted by Tim but he gave up when he had to put his head in the water. It is very doubtful whether the flattener will be negotiated but another attempt, in summer, should be made.

Brian Collin.

Mole Creek: (Long Weekend) 12th-14th June, 1971.

Party: Peter Shaw (leader) Laurel Norbury, Phil Robinson, Kevin Kiernan, Therese Goede, Hilary Goede, Sally Morris, Richard Bloomfield, Stuart Nicholas, Henk Meerding and daughter, Henk van Twillert and wife, Mike and Shirley Tarburton, Clive and Dot Boulter, Bill Lehmann, Norm Poulter also Frank Brown, Peter Dowde, Paul Bayliss from T.C.C.NB.

On Saturday, a party of 13 visited Maracoopa for a guided tour and then followed Long Creek up through Maracoopa I and II and over to Devils Earhole. After a look into this magnificent doline we moved on to Devils Pot for lunch. After lunch, we returned to Devils Earhole and descended to the earhole, where the party split, half returning to camp and the other half laddering the earhole to discover a plentiful supply of cave pearls. After returning to the surface, we reached the hut as darkness fell. Thanks to Peter Dowde for his guidance. After tea, a marathon photographic trip took place in Maracoopa.

On Sunday, the party split into two, led by Peter Shaw and Frank Brown for a trip to Kubla Khan. The top entrance was laddered to gain access to the Forbidden City and the Grand Khan. A small group also made a side trip into Dulcimer Hole. A pleasant eight hours underground for all.

On Monday, a small group paid a quick visit to Croesus Cave before leaving for home. On the whole, a pleasant weekend's caving.

Peter Shaw.

Khazad-dum (environs) - Sat. 19th June, 1971.

Party: Brian Collin, Peter Shaw, Bill Lehmann, Norm Poulter, Philip Robinson, Max Jeffries and son Timothy, Albert and Therese Goede.

The object of the trip was to do some preparatory work in preparation for next summer's assault on Khazad-dum, also the more intrepid members were to recover rope and eye-bolts from JF.5.

Brian, Norm Max and Timothy with two chainsaws completed the track clearing to the cave. Max proficiency with the chainsaw effectively eliminated most of the log obstacles.

Peter, Bill & Philip were diverted from their main object (JF.5) by a scungy little cave which they successfully pushed for 200 feet. The trio, now wet and muddy then placed two more eyebolts in Khazad-dum and promised to do JF.5 some other day.

Albert and Therese made an aneroid traverse from the Junece efflux to Khazad-dum, the level difference is 1220 ft. Max and Timothy joined Albert and Therese for a cave finding mission, Albert no doubt will reveal the discoveries in a separate report.

Brian Collin.

Junece: 26th June, 1971.

Party: Peter Shaw (leader), Kevin Kiernan, Bill Lehmann.

Although we set off from Hobart intending to visit Niagara Pot, by the time we reached Maydena we had decided to look for the cave reported by Max Jeffries as being beneath a cliff opposite the quarry. Only one cliff appeared to be prominent and this we intended to visit. We set off from the depressions below the quarry with 180 feet of ladder and 420 feet of rope (not to mention high expectations, etc, etc). We moved uphill examining several small holes until we reached the edge of the quarry where Kevin and Bill raved about the fluting. From here we moved eastwards and examined another hole before dropping down into the dry valley and then climbing up onto the next ridge. A traverse around the ridge brought up to a large entrance just as the intermittent showers turned into heavy rain. This cave we presumed to be the previously mis-laid Ross Walker cave with several large chambers and three entrances. After lunch, Bill dug his way into a small hole opposite the entrance, and then we examined a hole with a twenty foot pitch containing an abundance of five tree roots and some beautiful moonmilk. From here, a very devious route through the thickest patches of scrub that we could find brought us back to the car just on darkness.

Peter Shaw.

Khazad-dum (JF.5) 4th July, 1971.

Party: Phil Robinson (leader), Bill Lehmann, Norm Poulter.

With snow covering Tyenan Peak the waters of Khazad-dum were high. JF.5 was entered to remove a fixed rope and 3 eyebolts. Also was the added excitement of the undescended pitch. Down the 30ft. entrance climb and 60ft. pitch to the rope traverse. No rope. It had mysteriously vanished since the A.S.F. conference trips at Xmas. Rigging a fresh rope, the section was traversed along and down to the 3rd bolt. From a ledge, a large drop fell away. Bill and Philip in turn descended a very impressive wet 125ft. pitch. The ladder, 5ft. short, made the return somewhat arduous. With a 80ft. high waterfall thundering right next to it this is one of the most thrilling pitches in the Khazad-dum system. Unfortunately there is a small waterfall directly down the ladder too. This is just enough to saturate one to the skin. One enters Khazad-dum between the first and second big waterfalls about 200ft. underground. The section of streamway between these two is only 70ft. in length, containing two 10ft. waterfalls. For potholing-waterfall enthusiasts it is well worth a visit. Returning, the bolts were removed from the ~~oave~~ cave.

About 100 yds. down the track from JF.4-5 a camp was selected for future trips. Norm and Bill built a shelter for firewood. With some work there would be room for several tents.

Philip Robinson.

Florentine Valley 4th July, 1971.

Party: Noel White (leader) Richard Bloomfield, Delia Maloney, Dennis Seymour, Albert, Therese, Hilary and Diana Goede, Clive Morris, Wes Carpenter, Hank van Twillert, Peter Albers (?).

This record party set out from Franklin Square on a cold but clear Sunday morning. By 9am. we had reached the A.N.M. gate, and by 10am. were ready to enter Welcome Stranger Cave. The trip had been planned for photography and to examine the interesting geological and geomorphological features of the cave. With so many "tourists" along however it was necessary to split the party to allow the photographers to proceed at their own pace. A few hours after entering the cave our numbers were further increased by a party of S.C.S. members.

By this time the party was strung out along the full length of the cave. The last body to leave the cave did so 6 hours after entering, to find most of the group had had their fill and departed.

The success or failure of the trip will be judged when the slides are shown.

It must be noted that Kevin Kiernan and other members of S.C.S. carried out a delicate scientific experiment in which they established a connection between a small swallet and the cave, by means of the rare and expensive chemical known as fluorescein. You will no doubt read more about the result of this test in the pages of the "Australian", "Mercury", "A.S.F. Newsletter", "Southern Caver", or most likely all of them.

Noel White.

Some Comments of Kubla Khan

One eight-hour trip through a cave as large as Kubla Khan hardly qualifies one to speak with authority on it. Under the expert guidance of Bill Tomalin and Des Robinson of our Northern Branch, however, Bill Lehmann and I managed to briefly see most of the major features. Several aspects of the cave were noted, and are perhaps worth commenting on.

Before going underground a map of the cave was examined. This suggested, and it was later confirmed by examination, that the cave is strongly joint controlled. There would appear to be four joints sets in the limestone, trending approximately N-S, E-W, 60o, and 120o (magnetic). The cave is mostly developed along two E-W joints which are linked by a small passage along a 60o joint. The N-S and 120o joints are locally important, but play little part in the overall distribution of the system. The "River Alph" follows one of the E-W joints, and combines along it where the cave diverges along the 60o joint. This would appear the most likely direction for continuation of the cave.

From outside, while approaching the cave, it seemed that bedding would be a major controlling factor in its development. The main entrance is at the foot of one of three scarps of more resistant limestone which occur on the hill. It is a rift along a N-S joint, dropping into the large flat-roofed entrance chamber. Most of the large chambers showed clear evidence of bedding control, but not in the way expected. They are apparently situated in impure and hence relatively insoluble limestone beds which have extended the chambers upwards by stoping. The roofs of these chambers are flat bedding planes, the floors confused piles of talus.

The question arises whether we see piles of talus which have fallen from the roof of the chamber, and lie piled on the floor, or do we perhaps only see the tip of a pile of rubble which has collapsed into a chamber formed at a lower level than can be seen today. The impurity of the limestone which the chambers are in, and the form of the chambers and the talus suggests major collapse into a pre-existing cavity. Considering the position of the present stream, if there were a pre-existing cavity it would most likely be below the present water table. I suggest that collapse has occurred into extremely large shallow phreatic solution chambers. Further, the extremely large enclosed depression which is crossed on approaching the cave, probably a polje, may represent a mature stage of the same process.

The variety and quality of the decorations in Kubla Khan is nothing short of staggering. Of particular interest were the superb helictites which are common in the further reaches of the cave. Five different types of helictite were seen sometimes with several different kinds occurring together. 1) were the normal short thick curving type, like tangled fingers 2) were the thin straight ones which seem to occur in radiating clusters like bundles of straws 3) were the straight branching variety, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, rather like branching twigs 4) were the very thin long ones, about $\frac{1}{16}$ " thick and forming a tangled mass 5) were about $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick, branched frequently, and were evenly curved as though each length were part of a circle about 3" in diameter. Their ends were pointed.

Now I have seen Kubla Khan it is easy to see why many regard it as Australia's premier cave. From my own point of view it is so crammed with features of interest that no caving geologist, geochemist, or mineralogist, or indeed, any kind of caver, could reasonably ask for more.

Noel White.