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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- October 24 - Sunday. Day trip to Mystery Creek Cave. Exploration of upper entrance and Canyon. Leader: Albert Goede.
- October 30, 31 - Weekend. Khazad-dum. Preparations for the coming summer season. Leader: Brian Collin.
- November 3 - Wednesday. 8 p.m. General Meeting at Henk and Gerie's place, 8B Braeside Crescent, Sandy Bay.
- November 13 - Saturday. Day trip to explore newly discovered holes between Niagara Pot and Rift Cave. Leader: Phil Robinson.
- November 27, 28 - Weekend. More caving in Khazad-dum. An attempt to reach the bottom if conditions are favourable. Leader: Philip Robinson.
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Editorial.

On the social side there has been considerable activity. The twenty-fifth birthday dinner was a roaring success and was attended by 44 members and friends. Dress was very informal and some most fashionable trog suits complete with ties were worn. Tangerine seems to be becoming the club colour and went really well with some of the showier ties. A certain person took masses of incriminating photographs but members will be relieved to know that most of them did not come out. Mr. Kodak has been blamed but we wonder?

Celebrations continued afterwards at the homes of Greg Rushton and the Goede's. The highlight of the evening was an imitation of Zorba the Greek by courtesy of Nick Cummings.

On the caving side a trip to Niagara Pot in early September pushed exploration of the cave down to a large chamber at a depth of approx. 450 ft. and the cave appears to continue. Further exploration may have to wait till summer as a water temperature of 3°C is a bit much for most. The saner members of the party carried out surface exploration between Niagara Pot and Rift Cave and located two promising holes which await exploration.

On Wednesday 22 Sept. three French caving films were shown at a combined T.C.C. - S.C.S. gathering at the Lenah Valley R.S.L. Hall. The films were *Sondeurs d'Abimes*, *Pierre St. Martin* and *Siphon 1122* (the descent of Gouffre Berger) and had been made available by the French Embassy. *Siphon 1122* proved an outstanding film and *Pierre St. Martin* was also very good. The third film was an old one but had considerable comedy value as it was so obviously staged. Many thanks to Col Hocking for acting as projectionist and to S.C.S. for providing the hall and coffee afterwards.

Club News.

+ The last general meeting discussed the Exit Cave project and made various people responsible for compiling different aspects of the detailed report we hope to complete late next year.

- (1) History of the area with special emphasis on Exit Cave - Kevin Kiernan.
- (2) Geology, geomorphology and hydrology of Exit Cave including descriptions of speleothems present - Clive Boulter, Noel White, Simon Stephens and Albert Goede.
- (3) Cave biology - Albert Goede.
- (4) Aspects of tourist potential - suggestion that Roy Skinner be approached to contribute this section.
- (5) Photographic record - Bill Lehmann, Nick Cummings.

Detailed surveying of unsurveyed sections of the cave would also contribute towards a more complete record. Bill is keen to do this but needs some assistance.

+ Our eight new ladders have been tested and are now ready for use. All old ladders have also been checked and two have been condemned

but can be used as 29 and 20 ft. ladders if shortened. Our total amount of useable ladder now consists of 14 thirty foot ladders and 2 thirteen foot ladders.

+ Cave numbering. The following cave was numbered by Brian Collin and Kevin Kiernan on Sunday, 26th September, 1971.

JF:34 - Rift Cave, a 430 ft. deep swallet with small stream and impressive entrance located east of Niagara Pot. For further description see A.S.F. Handbook.

+ Addition to list of financial members.  
Tom Forster, A61995 L/APP., 25 'A' A/F., M.T.S., R.S.T.T.A., R.A.A.F. base, Wagga, N.S.W. 2651.

Tom is keen to know about any Christmas trips as he will be home on leave. So if you have something in mind drop him a line.

+ Changes of address.  
Laurel Norbury, 1/2 Mitah Crescent, Lower Sandy Bay, 7005.

Clive and Dot Boulter, 16A Roope St., New Town, 7008.

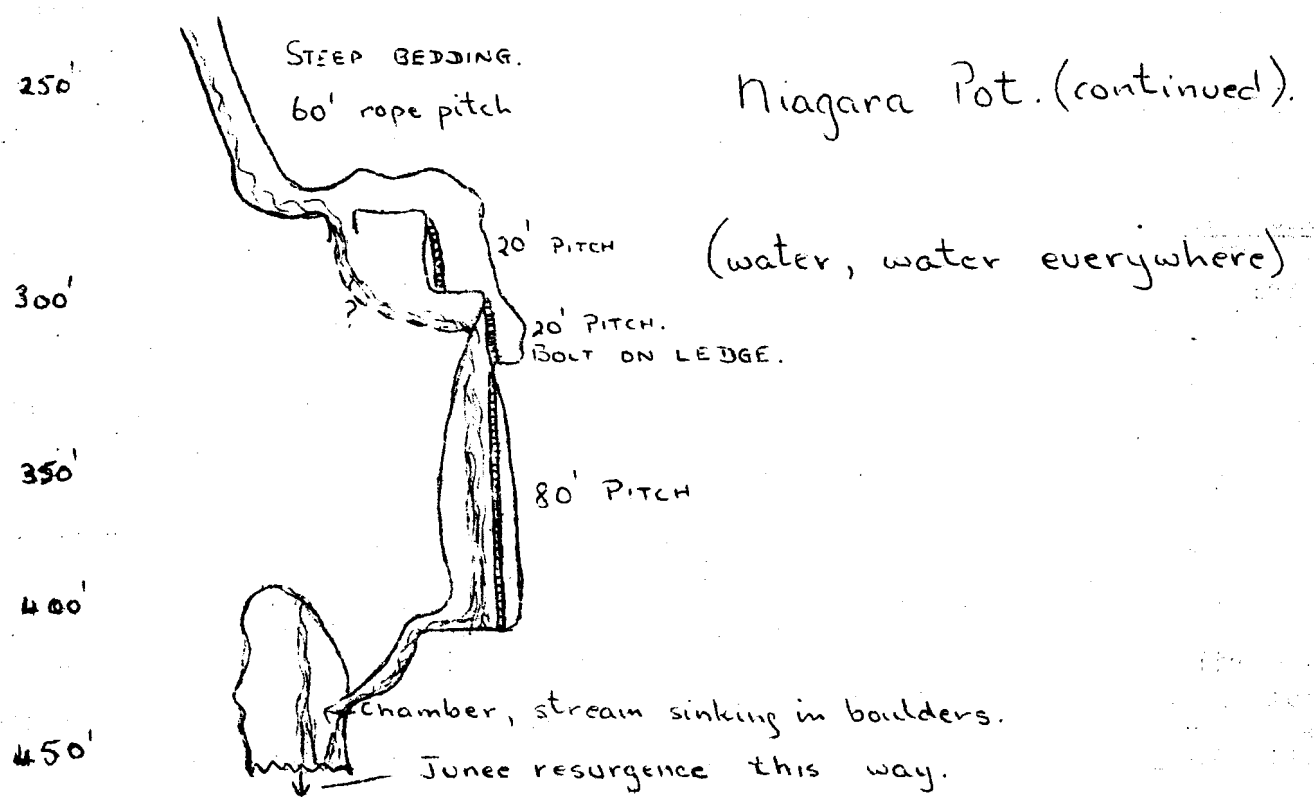
+ Is a university education worthwhile for cavers? The last issue of the newsletter "B. and B." published by a well known university society with an interest in caving was addressed to the Tasmania Speliological Society. Apparently they meant us.

TRIP REPORTS.

Niagara Pot - Saturday, 4th September.  
Party: Peter Shaw, Lance Rutherford, Stuart Nicholas, David Cripps.

With a punctual seven o'clock start, we managed to reach Niagara Pot by 10.30 with the aid of a surface party led by Brian and were underground by eleven. Three hours later we had reached the previous limit of 300 ft. despite being burdened by large quantities of gear. The increased volume of water in the cave meant that in a previously dry section we were subject to a continuous spray of water. From the previous limit, a twenty foot pitch led to a ledge on the opposite side of a spray filled hole, down which the stream was thundering. During a halt to place an eyebolt, a brew of coffee provided some welcome relief. Ninety feet of ladder was lowered down the hole and Peter descended an eighty foot free pitch which was rather moist. At the foot of the pitch a small side stream was followed for fifty feet into a chamber, 150 feet long by 60 feet wide, which ran north-south. Here, the stream was sinking through large blocks in the floor of the chamber. Shortage of time prevented any further exploration but the cave is still going. Return to the surface by the four wet and cold cavers was accomplished in a fairly fast time of four hours. The cars were reached at 10 p.m. after wandering back in the dark with the assistance of Brian's party for carrying the gear. What was the first trip for Lance seems to have dampened enthusiasm all round. Who'd like to go next time??

Peter Shaw.



Junee Area - 4/9/71.

Party: Brian Collin, Philip Robinson, Bill Lehmann, Richard Bloomfield, Ron Akhurst.

As the brave and ignorant descended the wet, severe Niagara Pot, Brian, Philip, Bill, Richard and Ron headed off into the sunshine. With slashers at work a track was blazed east, then south towards the Junee resurgence. A short distance from Niagara the first 'hole' was discovered. Due to the large log across the top it was immediately christened "Grandstand Pot". Twenty to thirty feet in diameter one could only see about 30 ft. below. A rope is needed to explore further. Continuing east a shallow valley was crossed to reveal another large pothole. A thirty foot ladder is needed for access. Following down the valley the water enters a cave some 30 - 40 ft. long choked with debris. This had previously been entered by Albert and party. East again to what appeared an immense depression 200 - 300 ft. deep. Climbing down the bank led to Rift Cave first explored twenty-three years ago by T.C.C., rediscovered and named nine years ago. The entrance is very spectacular with a 100 ft. high cliff rising way above. The rift is 10 - 20 ft. wide. As we moved further towards the Junee resurgence many old logging tracks were crossed. Breaking south through awkward regrowth a large valley was followed down. Climbing up one side and over a hill to Ross Walker Cave. From here we soon dropped the several hundred feet to the resurgence. Then the walk up the road to the cars and back to Niagara Pot 1300 ft. higher. A fire was built for the wretched emergers who explored Niagara to a depth of 450', a fine effort.

P. Robinson.

Mole Creek - 18,19 September, 1971.

Party: Peter Shaw, Philip Robinson, Laurel Norbury, Lance and Virginia Rutherford.

In the Toyota landcruiser we were able to drive in to the foot of Kubla hill and had quickly rigged sixty foot of ladder and a rope in the lower entrance to Kubla Khan. After walking up to the upper entrance, we were underground by eleven o'clock. After abseiling down and pulling the ropes down behind us, we headed for the Dulcimer. Here, Lance climbed up to the Dulcimer while Peter and Philip looked around for the easier way up with no success. After looking at the King's Room and the Jade Pool, we headed for the Grand Khan for lunch, when the primus was greatly appreciated. After lunch we straddled, crawled, chimneyed and waded along towards Cairn Hall, a roar of water gave the leader a few worried moments, but the stream proved to be only a foot deeper than usual. After a trip to the Pleasure Dome, the wade up to Stalactite Shuffle elicited several comments as to the coolness of the water. The traverse along the stream passage was accomplished without incident and the ladder pitch at the lower entrance climbed to emerge at 9 p.m. after ten pleasant hours underground.

Next morning, after a late rising, we drove around to Gillam Creek. Here, Philip and the two girls went surface trogging without success while Peter and Lance looked at Gillam Cave. What appeared to be a new section of passage was followed westwards from the main stream passage. This was a wide and low bedding plane which was followed for a hundred and fifty feet until we emerged on a tributary of the main stream. Downstream, the stream could only be followed for a short distance, back underneath the passage from which we had come, before it became impassable. We crawled upstream on hands and knees for a short distance, until it would have been necessary to crawl flat out in the water, at which point we turned back. The passage would certainly be worth pushing further, as no surface streams were discovered to the west of the cave in its immediate vicinity.

Peter Shaw.

Rift Cave - 26/9/71

Party: Brian Collin, Kevin Kiernan.

A pleasant trip to revisit Rift Cave which was well known at one stage but had not been visited for the past seven years or so.

The bottom of the cave (430 ft.) could be reached with the aid of one 10 ft. ladder and 30 ft. header but to make a pleasant and dry descent an additional 120 ft. (used at the start whilst still in daylight) and 60 ft. of rope would be useful.

A small creek runs into the cave entrance which is located in a large depression. About 150 ft. vertically from the bottom the creek seeps away through floor gravel and the remainder of the cave

is dry.

On the way back a creek to the east of the track was followed for some distance but it refused to go underground. This creek eventually flows past where the car was parked.

Rift Cave was numbered JF 34.

Estimated time car to cave - 1 hour.

Time to fully explore cave - less than 2 hours.

Vegetation is pleasant rain forest.

More exploration in this area could easily turn up a few more caves.

Brian Collin.

Rocky Tom - 2/10/71.

Party: At least 17.

All the new ladders tested and are now ready for use.

Two of the old ladders condemned, these will be converted into a twenty-nine foot ladder and a twenty foot ladder.

Three thirty foot ladder pitches were rigged and were in constant use, some free climbing and abseiling was also carried out.

When daylight saving comes into effect regular evening trips to this area could prove very pleasant and also beneficial to all Khazad-dun aspirants.

Brian Collin.

STOLEN CAR HAUL IN HUGE CAVE.

(The Mercury,  
13/10/71).

ROME. - Police have discovered hundreds of stolen cars being dismantled in an enormous cave about five miles south of Rome.

The entrance to the cave was hidden by bushes and piles of rubbish in a field, below which caves were found stretching for hundreds of yards, police said yesterday.

Most of the cars were large, expensive models such as BMWs and Alfa Romeos and all were being dismantled for the spare parts they could provide, police added. - AAP.