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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

November 13 - Saturday. Day trip to explore newly discovered holes between Niagara Pot and Rift Cave. Leader:P.Robinson.
November 27,28 - Weekend. Khazad-dum. If conditions are favourable cave will be laddered for the big push and bolts placed on the lower pitches.
December 1 - Wednesday. General Meeting, 8p.m. at 8 Bath St.
Dec. 4,5 / 11,12 / 18,19. These three weekends are kept in reserve for the attack on Khazad-dum since a firm date depends very much on the weather. Please assist whenever you can. Apart from the assault team we need bods for a support team to go down to the 600 ft. level plus surface support such as cooking, fire stoking, communications and sherpa duties.
Leaders: Attack party: Philip Robinson.
Support " : Brian Collin, Albert Goede.

Editorial.

The number of trip reports in this Spiel shows that the wet spring has not deterred club members from going caving. Trips have gone to Hastings, Ida Bay, Junee and Mt.Anne. At Mt.Anne a search was made for the elusive resurgence of the Lake Tink swallets. Another party spent the weekend on the ridge and found a promising hole near the eastern end. Exploration of the Canyon at Mystery Ck.Cave failed to find the much sought after connection with Exit Cave and future prospects do not look bright. The same party scaled the upper entrance and found a chimney connecting with the main cave so that this entrance can now be seen without using a scaling pole.

Khazad-dum was visited under flood conditions. The party nevertheless reached the first waterfall pitch at -600ft. and a telephone cable was laid from just inside the entrance down to the stream passage. Another party of three completed the survey from Khazad-dum to Junee Cave by doing some three miles(15,922 ft.) of surface traversing in a day. This should give us a more accurate measure of the difference in height between Khazad-dum and the Junee resurgence.

During the next six weeks we need everyones support for the bot-toming of Khazad-dum. This will be a historical event for the club and everyone can help somewhere along the line so keep those weekends free if at all possible.

CLUB NEWS.

+ Weekly ladder climbing practice has been introduced at Sphinx Rock near the Springs on Mt.Wellington. The first two practices were held on Thursdaynight but from Wednesday, 17th Nov. they will be held every week on Wednesdaynight until summer time expires leaving from Franklin Square at 6p.m. Meeting will be as usual afterwards at Brian and Jean-ette's. This is a good opportunity to make you realize how unfit you really are and do something about it. The rock has a clean 40 ft. free drop with a beaut overhang and a splendid view of Hobart. The idea is to go up and down as many times as you can without touching the ground or the overhang. Phil holds the record with five return trips. We are sad to say no one else managed more than two. Come along and turn sagging cider-soaked flesh into well tuned bouncy muscle.

+ Australian Speleological Federation - Committee Meeting 29-31 Jan. 1972 in Canberra. Notice has been received from C.S.S. that accommo-dation will be in the Canberra College of Advanced Education Residence Blocks at Bruce at a probable cost of under \$2 per head per night. Each block is self-contained with single rooms(What - no doubles?), cooking facilities with refrigerators, stoves, plates and cutlery provided on each floor of thirteen rooms. Bed linen will be required.

C.S.S. require from each club an estimate of numbers attending, date of arrival(Frid.p.m. or Sat. a.m.) and whether or not people are interested in field trips on Mon.(31st) and subsequent days. Anyone interested in attending and representing T.C.C. please contact sec. Noel White as soon as possible as C.S.S. need to know approximate numbers to book accommodation.

+ Change of address: Clive and Dot Boulter,16A Roope St.,New Town.

We have grown used in the recent months to seeing numerous articles in the mainland speleological press(not to mention the A.S.F. Newsletter) extolling the virtues of Tasmanian caves. If we're not careful we'll start to believe all this propaganda ourselves. Still it is nice to know that the Hobart A.S.F. conference and fieldtrips were something of a success despite the worst the weather could do.

One of the latest contributions to the growing literature of Tasmanian cave spectaculars is a mammoth article in the latest C.E.G.S.A. newsletter(No.3 - Oct.-Jan.1972) by that well known Sydney explorer - a modern reincarnation of Gasteret - known so well to all of us as The Quiet(??)Rover. At last no longer able to restrain himself he has burst into print with thirteen pages of single spaced quarto entitled: Khazad-dum(JF 4) Australia's Deepest Cave.

This is not a history but an epic. The heart grows cold and the spirit subdued as one reads the author's spine-chilling adventures as he tackles almost single handed(with a little assistance from Tassie cavers) the most ferocious of our caves. Due to lack of space we can only quote some of the highlights:

" At the hundred foot level the Queensland girl was left at her own request. Fortunately she did not have a watch with her so she was not to know she stayed there for more than five hours."

" The Tasmanian became lifeliner and, as I was most experienced on ladders(and not because most of the ladder belonged to me),I was elected to go down first."

" Due to the ability of my vehicle to induce seasickness on its passengers one of the participants had to drop out of the attempt."

" The stream flows across the entrance chamber at a constant temp. of 11 deg. cent."

" After the screams had subsided the anxious caver who had dislodged the rock almost fell down the ladder....."

" This cave demands the cream of the caving fraternity and unfortunately Tasmania is nearly all milk. At this stage Tasmania would be scratching to find a dozen cavers among its ranks capable of sustaining the rigors of JF 4 this coming Christmas. Much as I would like the Tasmanians to crack this cave under their own power, I will not be surprised if there should be an Australian Expedition into this cave.."

" Needless to say, this method - like most of the others, utilises the use of non-existent personnel."

"but under the caption "The Descent of Khazad-dum."

Editor's Note: Unfortunately the cream has left us for the wide open spaces of South Australia where it may well turn sour in the hot broiling sun of the Nullarbor Plains. Only milk remains but let us not despair - all cream comes from milk originally. It is just that in our vehicles the churning process takes a little longer!!!!

TRIP REPORTS.

Wolf Hole, Hastings - 9/10/1971.

Party: Noel White(Leader), Bill Lehmann, Sally Morris, Sue Morris, Delia Maloney, Doug McEvoy, Victor Caune, Steven Coman and Geoff Davis.

The trip started from Franklin Square at the usual time with a stop at Brian's place for gear. We met up with Sally and Sue at Lower Longley and then proceeded to Roy Skinner's place where Roy joined us to have a look at King George V Cave. Before going to Wolf Hole we detoured to King George V Cave to get an idea of the general layout of the entrance with a view to gating the cave for its protection.

After the look at King George V Cave Roy went back to his work while we tackled Wolf Hole. The slightly damp conditions did not help in laddering or abseiling into the hole with a result that it took 90 mins. to get the team to the bottom of the 90 ft. drop. As safety man, Bill had to stand in the drizzle for this time and so was fairly wet when it came to his turn to go down.

We quickly travelled through to the lake after stepping off the route a couple of times. At the lake a bit of minor exploration took place with plenty of "ooo's" and "ah's" as the troggers admired the reflections on the surface of the water.

While Bill took several photos with the aid of his large flashgun and a candle Noel took the party around the edge of the lake to the far side where they looked at some minor passages.

As the cold was now starting to take its toll we decided to head back. After two hours we managed to get the party back to the top in a very cold and bedraggled condition. A quick trip back to the cars, change of clothes and then to Roy's place for tea and a general thaw out by the fire. After we had thawed out we sat around with a glass or two of cider and had a bit of a natter. The party eventually drift-

ed off to the cars at various times during the evening and all managed to get back to Hobart by about lunch time Sunday. Bill Lehmann.

King George V Cave, Hastings - 21/10/71.(Showday).

Party: Kevin Kiernan, Bill Lehmann, Graeme Watt and Therese Goede.

Party set out at 12.30 p.m. from Bath St., heading for fair weather and fun. After many stops on the way the cave was eventually entered about 3.30p.m.

A 30 ft. ladder and belay was set up at the entrance and a combined exploration and bug hunting effort commenced. Bill, Graeme and Kevin attempted to explore all side passages but limited time meant revised plans and investigations centred mainly around the lower end. Entered some spectacular rifts and tight sections leading to a collection of well preserved, well decorated chambers. As many openings as possible were entered with the thought of Wolf Hole close by. Various avens near the overflowing sump were noted for future examination.

Meanwhile back at the entrance chamber Therese surprised us all with the discovery of two beetle larvae(Idacarabus cordicollis) in rotting wood about 40 ft. from the entrance. A large ferocious looking spider was noted and several harvestmen were collected.

Quite a history making event which called for VIP treatment of the tiny larvae. Celebrations were agreed on unanimously. Bill took measurements and made a materials assessment for proposed entrance gate. It is hoped that such an installation will make thorough track clearing feasible and cleaning up operations inside the cave permanently successful. Eventually arrived home by 8p.m. after an indulgent progressive dinner held between Hastings and Hobart. Graeme Watt.

Mystery Creek Cave, Ida Bay - 24/10/71.

Party: Albert Goede(leader), Kevin Kiernan, Andrew Skinner and S.C.S. visitor Chris Harris.

We left the car at the beginning of the quarry road at 10 a.m. armed with the scaling pole and two rucksacks of rope and ladder. A chain has been placed across the road several hundred yards from the turn-off to prevent cars driving to the quarry. We reached the cave at 10.45 a.m. and were soon busy assembling the scaling pole to reach the upper entrance which had not been looked at since the early days of T.C.C. The operation went smoothly although we had a little trouble pushing the pole up through the vegetation on the lip of the hole. From the top of the climbing pole a short well-protected chimney to the left took us to the top of a steep slope composed of crumbly tufa. The entrance is most impressive with a splendid view of the outside but quickly narrows. Passages go off at two levels. The one at roof level would have required further use of the scaling pole but Kevin climbing up on a large talus block at the entrance was able to observe that it was blocked by formation. The lower passage is a tight crawl for about 30 ft. before opening out where there was a passage off to the left. We continued down the original passage until it petered out just past two small holes in the floor which appeared to go down about 15 ft. and through which we could hear the creek roaring. Up above an awkward chimney takes one to a higher level. This appeared to peter out until Kevin discovered a continuation by climbing up further. This takes one into a well decorated passage that later proved to be the one we had observed earlier going off to the left. It is up to 10 ft. wide, 30 ft. high and several hundred feet long with good formations. It slopes down as you go in, narrows and is finally blocked by formation. A geology pick could be used to advantage here to make an opening large enough to get through.

After returning to the entrance for a rope we had a look at the holes in the floor. While Kevin looked for a suitable belay point for the rope I decided to chimney down. This was easier than it looked. At the bottom I found myself in a low roofed chamber in the main cave sloping down towards the river so in future there is no need to use the scaling pole to reach the upper entrance. We cannot understand why the early explorers did not make the connection. We also established the upper entrance was definitely a stream intake as scallop markings on the walls indicate inward flow.

After lunch we went to the Canyon at the far end of the cave. In the final chamber we found a pool containing about 8 amphipods of which 2 were collected. As they are well pigmented they are obviously not a true cave species. The pool is surrounded by quicksand which made the proceedings interesting particularly when Chris suddenly started to disappear! We then climbed up to the Canyon and laddered the 30 ft. drop down into it. It is an easy drop against the wall but took us into the same maze of passages explored in earlier years by

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dropping down at the beginning of the Canyon. The canyon itself continues at two levels. The upper level soon petered out while the lower level continued for perhaps two hundred feet before coming to an end in several avens. The whole system seems to drain back towards the entrance where one can get down to water. This may be worth further exploration under dry conditions. A connection with Exit Cave is now most unlikely although there is a lot of passage here that ought to be mapped in detail. Dropping down into this system of passages from the top of the Canyon proved much easier than the traditional way of getting in where the Canyon branches off the main chamber. We returned to the entrance and by 5.20 p.m. were back at the car. We dropped in at Roy and Pam's where we were treated to coffee and sandwiches before heading back to Hobart.

Albert Goede.

Khazad-dum - 30/10/71.

Party: Brian Collin, Bill Lehmann (telephone group). A bolting party of five and a surface party of four were also present but they can write their own reports.

Three inches of rain had fallen on the previous few days and a good flow of water was cascading into the entrance. Undaunted Bill and I followed the bolting party inside, we had to as they had our lunch. Under Bill's guidance 400 yards of telephone cable has now been placed it starts from 50 yards inside the cave and ends at the bottom of the 70 ft. pitch. A further 200 yds. is required to make an adequate job. If the cave continues possibly another 400 yds. would prove very useful. After seeing the cave for the first time I am firmly convinced that a support party of at least 8 will be required, this party will not have an easy task and all should be familiar with the cave down to at least the creek level. The next telephone trip should see the line completed from outside base camp to the creek level and the telephones tested in situ.

Brian Collin.

30/10/71. Bolting party: Philip Robinson, Peter Shaw, Kevin Kiernan, Graeme Watt and Chris ~~Watt~~ Harris (S.C.S.)

We intended to install several expanding eye bolts in the lower reaches of Khazad-dum. This was primarily to avoid a series of waterfalls which prevent progress in anything but dry conditions. There is nothing quite like Khazad-dum in flood (not in Australia anyway). Every one enjoyed the spectacular, crashing, thundering 100 ft. waterfall. The gale and spray blew everyone down into the streamway. Stumbling down the now fast flowing river bed to an impossible 20' pitch - a white seething cauldron. Peter of course had some bright idea to descend this waterfall. Holding ladder bags to the side diverted the water a foot to one side of the ladder. A solid wall of rock is one thing, a wall of water is different. The attempt was abandoned at this - 580' level. We were surprised to see Brian and Bill who had lain the telephone wire to the streamway. One other useful result of this trip was the consolidation of a team who now know the cave really well. The speed with which we reached the streamway - 450' underground was incredible compared with earlier trips. There is now a high likelihood of obtaining a support party from club members. The summer could well see Tasmanians finally cracking the tremendous cave.

P. Robinson.

Junee Area - Surface Mapping - 7/11/71.

Party: Albert and Therese Goede and Phil Robinson.

This trip almost didn't go as the day dawned wet and miserable. We got up late not expecting to see Phil but he turned up on time (8 a.m.) and insisted on a trip. We left Hobart at 8.45 a.m. and to our surprise found the weather at Maydena dry though overcast. As we had no permit we vainly tried to contact Don Frankcombe or B. Molland and made a fruitless trip to the gate. We then went up the Junee road and parked near the cave at 11 a.m. to start the survey at the cave entrance. By lunchtime we had advanced both the survey and the car to the cyclone wire gate. We regretfully left the car behind and continued to survey along the road - longest survey leg - would you believe - was 700 ft. Then up the Khazad-dum track and we eventually linked up with the previous survey at 5.20 p.m. We were back at the car at 6.15 p.m. A hard working day during which we traversed 15,922 feet to link Khazad-dum with the Junee resurgence. Results should be out in a few days. We spent a pleasant hour at Don and Marjorie's before heading back to Hobart arriving back at 8.45 p.m.

Albert Goede.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS.

Turn milk into cream -

GO Sphinx Rock each Wednesday!