

Published by the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, Box 641G, G.P.O.,  
Hobart, Tasmania, 7001.  
Registered for posting as a periodical - Category "B".  
Annual subscription \$2.00. Single copies 20 c.

The "NEW" Committee.

President: Albert Goede, 8 Bath St., Battery Point, 7000.  
Vice-Pres: Philip Robinson, 5/282 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay, 7005.  
Secretary: Peter Shaw, 53 Lord Street, Sandy Bay, 7005.  
Treasurer: Ian Farley, 49 Wells Parade, Blackmans Bay, 7152.  
Quartermaster: Brian Collin, 66 Wentworth St., South Hobart, 7000.  
Committee members:  
Henk Meerding, 7 Gourlay St., Blackmans Bay, 7152.  
Wes Carpenter, 20 Wellesley St., South Hobart, 7000.  
Laurel Norbury, 53 Lord St., Sandy Bay, 7005.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

April 16	-	<u>Sunday</u> : Further exploration and mapping of Gormen-ghast(JF 35), Florentine Valley. Leader: P. Shaw.
April 22,23	-	<u>Day or weekend</u> . Exit Cave. Leader: Albert Goede.
April 25	-	<u>TUESDAY</u> . Dot Boulter's 21st Birthday Celebration. at 8 Bath St., Battery Pt. All welcome - bring plenty of good cheer.
May 3	-	<u>Wednesday</u> . General meeting, 8p.m. Bill Hodge's place, 5 Bayley St., Glebe. Refreshments and slides welcomed. Mystery prize for raffle provided by Ian and Stella Farley.
May 13,14	-	<u>Weekend</u> . Exit Cave, Ida Bay. Photography and surveying. Leader: Bill Lehmann.
May 20,21	-	Herberts Pot, Mole Creek. Leader. Phil Robinson.

EDITORIAL

Since the inception of the new series of Speleo Spiel six years ago, the editorial responsibilities have been borne almost wholly by Albert. At the commencement of my term as editor, I would like to pay tribute to his perseverance in building the Spiel into its present state of reporting almost one hundred per cent of the clubs activities.

Whilst on the subject of club activities, it is pleasing to note the trip statistics that are published later in this issue. It came as quite a surprise to see that more than one trip a week is being held. Certainly an indication of the high degree of activity in the club!

Activity this month remained high with a trip on each weekend. A plan to bottom Khazad-dum in a single trip was thwarted by rain the night before. Exploration of the large chamber at the bottom is incomplete with several large passages leading off. Ah well, perhaps next summer.

Mole Creek was visited twice. Efforts to dig out the Croesus gate were unsuccessful; while on the second visit, some exploration was carried out in the Sassafras Creek area.

A new cave in the Growling Swallet region of the Florentine yielded a considerable length of tight crawling passages with several promising leads unexplored as yet. Keep watching for further reports of the grunTERS and grovellers of Gormenghast!

A further trip into the grottiest of them all - Niagara Pot - increased the cave's depth by the magnificent total of fifteen feet but multiplied the length several fold, at the same time proving that chambers of the dimensions of Exit Cave do exist in the Junee area (dry too!).

Peter Shaw.

Other Appointments at the A.G.M.

Keeper of Archives: Albert Goede.  
Editor of Speleo-Spiel: Peter Shaw.  
Representative S-W. Committee: Brian Collin.  
Representatives Fedn. of Tas. Bushwalking Clubs: J. Collin and K. Kiernan.  
Search and Rescue Coordinator: Brian Collin.  
Search and Rescue Officer: Bill Lehmann.  
A.S.F. Representative: Albert Goede.

Club News.

+ Congratulations to Bill Lehmann who was elected party leader at the Annual General Meeting.

+ Welcome to Joe Donnelly who was accepted as a full member at the A.G.M. His address is 3 Marine Terrace, Battery Point, 7000. Joe has had caving experience in Queensland as well as having been on recent club trips to Exit Cave and Herberts Pot.

+ Robin and Judi Booth will be returning to Hobart in May for a three month visit while Robin is on leave from his post in New Guinea.

#### New Caves Numbered.

JF 35 - Un-named, un-numbered cave in Florentine Valley listed in A.S.F. Newsletter No.53(page 10) as no.22 - "Small unexplored(?) swallet below Growling Swallet track with entrance 5ft. x 3ft. 1500 ft. of passage has been explored and the name Gormenghast has been given to it.

#### New Cave Names.

Gormenghast(JF 35) - See above. Explored to depth of approx. 250 ft. to siphon with 1500 ft. of narrow passages explored. Good formation. Exploration incomplete.

Splash Pot(JF 10) - Small swallet close to Khazad-dun(JF 4-5) with restricted stream passage and spectacular ladder drops to depth of 320 ft. Exploration incomplete.

#### Changes of address.

Sib Corbett, 20 Bracken Lane, Fern Tree, 7107.

Rodney Hughes, 2/54 St.Georges Terrace, Battery Point, 7000.

Norman Poulter, P.O. Box 120, Nedlands, 6009, W.A.

Arthur Clarke, c/o "Blubberhead", P.O. Dover, 7116.

#### Prospective Members.

Anne Hirst, c/o St.Johns Park Hospital, New Town, 7008.

Michael Wattley, c/o 5 Bayley St., Glebe, 7000.

#### Subscriptions PLEASE !!!

Most members are still unfinancial and our treasurer Ian Farley is looking forward to receiving your contribution. Send your subscriptions either to the club box or direct to his home address.

Subscription rates are:

Full members(over 18 years)	-	four dollars.
Junior members	-	two dollars.
Associate members	-	two dollars.

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

#### Search and Rescue Listing.

Anyone who has not filled in a search and rescue form should obtain one from Bill Lehmann. Completed forms should be forwarded to either Bill Lehmann or Brian Collin as soon as possible.

In the light of events over Easter, who organizes searches for the search and rescue officer???

#### Ladder Practice.

Ladder practice happens every Wednesday night except the first in the month at Sphinx Rock. Meet at Brian's place at 66 Wentworth st., South Hobart at 6p.m. Bring a light. If the weather is not fine ladder practice is off. This is the time to practice your abseiling techniques before you go underground.

#### LAKE PEDDER.

The Lake Pedder Action Committee is appealing for funds to help save the lake. It's now or never! Donations may be sent to the committee at Box 1258N, G.P.O., Hobart, 7001.

#### Snow Camps.

Snow camps have been conducted since 1967 by the National Fitness Council for young men aged 16-19 years. The field organiser, Iain Barnes, is proposing to expand this program to allow any interested members of the public to participate in the camps. Anyone interested in this matter is invited to a meeting at the Council's offices at 138 Bathurst St., Hobart at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 th April.

#### Publications.

The A.S.F. Conference Proceedings are out now. Copies are available from Albert for \$3.00 each. Also available is the excellent publication about Mammoth Cave, N.S.W. for \$ 2.75(including postage) obtainable from John Dunkley, 22/53 Alice Street, Wiley Park, N.S.W.

#### A.S.F. Committee Meeting - January, 1972.

A complete report of proceedings will appear in the A.S.F. Newsletter. T.C.C. was represented by Michael Cole of S.C.S. as the meet-

ing was held in Canberra.

Relevant highlights were:-

A motion expressing the Federations best wishes to Roy Skinner with his Churchill Fellowship and offering any help he may need.

A guideline document on cave safety was presented by Lloyd Robinson. This will be published in next months Spiel.

No nominations were received for the Edie Smith Award and the closure date was put forward to April, 1972.

A conservation commission was formed, comprising delegates from all states. Any suggestions for nominees from Tasmania?

The blocking of Kubla Khan was discussed and the following motion was passed:

(a) That the Federation deplores the action of persons closing up the upper entrance of Kubla Khan;

(b) That the Tasmanian group provide a full report of the illegal closing up of this entrance, such as photographs, reports of interviews, etc;

(c) That the report be circularized throughout the Federations members immediately on receipt;

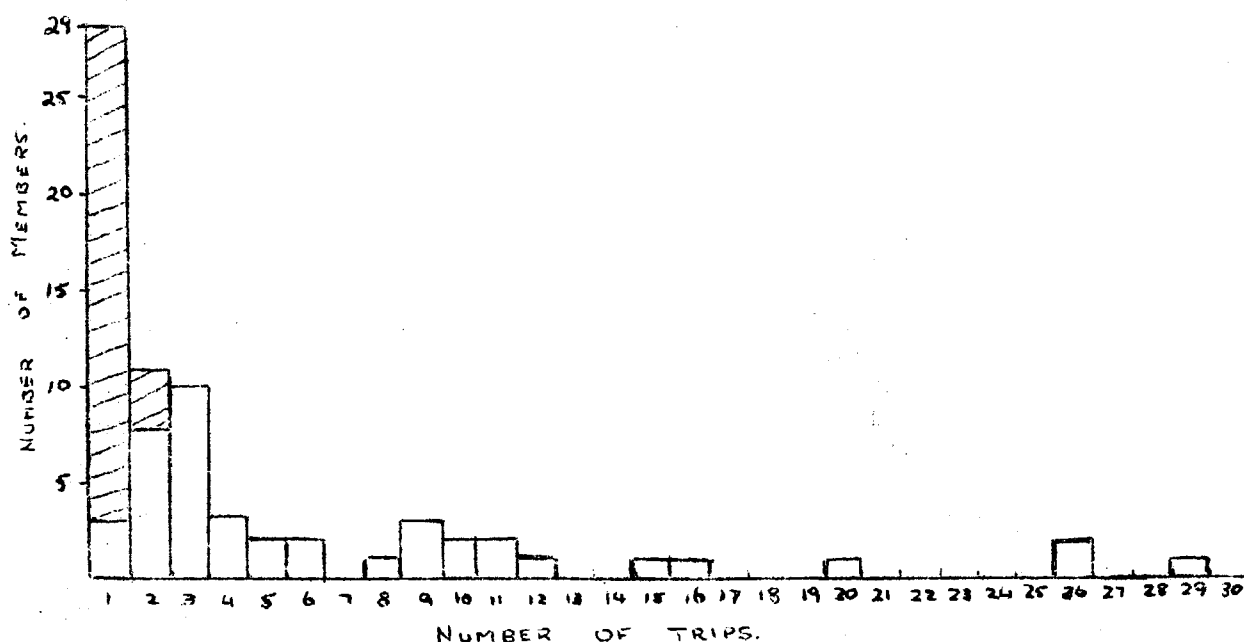
(d) and that the Federation members take efforts to locate the persons concerned.

#### Caving Statistics for the Year ended 31.3.72. - by P.Shaw.

The accompanying graph shows the number of trips attended by members over the past year. The shaded area in the graph represents prospective members and visitors. The information below has been extracted entirely from trip reports in Speleo Spiel as these reveal virtually 100% of the clubs activities.

Trips advertised in the Spiel	24
Trips reported	61
Exploratory trips	41
Total attendance over 61 trips	331
No. of members on trips	38
Total attendance on trips	67
Average no. of trips attended overall	4.9
Average no. of trips/member	7.8
Average attendance/trip	5.4

Obviously statistics based on hours underground would give a different picture; and then there would be people who would complain that twelve hours in Niagara Pot cannot be compared with twelve hours in Exit Cave. It is interesting to note that of the six people who attended the greatest number of trips, five are party leaders. Who is the odd man out? The high percentage of exploratory trips reveal that Tasmania is the place to be, from a cavers point of view. With an average of more than one trip per weekend, T.C.C. must be one of the most active clubs in the country. Hooray for us!



#### TRIP REPORTS.

Mole Creek - 3,4,5, March, 1972.

Party: Albert Goede(leader), Therese and Hilary Goede, Stella Farley, Nick Cummings and Mieke Vermeulen.

The aim of the trip was to attempt to salvage the Croesus gate.

The party left on Friday night and spent the night at the Northern Branch hut. The following morning we headed for Croesus and four of us set to work on the gate. Henk's special saw proved to be just the thing to cut through the padlock which had already become encrusted with calcite after dangling in the water for eighteen months. Next we removed the support bars from the gate - one of them with considerable difficulty. Then our troubles started. Try as we might we were unable to dig out the concrete blocks in which the support bars had been set. They had dropped a long way when the flood had undermined the gate and when digging underwater the sand tends to run back in. Even strong leverage using a construction of dogwood trunks had no effect. It was obvious by lunch time that to salvage the gate would require more elaborate equipment than we had available - a pump and hose to wash out the sand and a winch to shift the gate will probably be necessary.

In the afternoon Nick, Mieke and Albert went through Croesus. There is little evidence of recent damage except that the top of a stalagmite in the entrance chamber has been broken off.

The following day Nick and Mieke left early. The remainder of the party inspected the access road and the new quarry site to the east of the Mersey River-Sassafras Creek junction. A small hill to the left of the road was searched unsuccessfully for Toboggan Cave. There is an outstanding development of solution grooves (rillenkarren) in this area. The area about to be quarried does not appear to contain any known caves. In the afternoon we headed back to Hobart via the Lake Highway.

Albert Goede.

Khazad-dum - March 11, 1972.

Party: Philip Robinson (leader), Lance Rutherford, Peter Shaw, Stuart Nicholas, Andrew Skinner, Graeme Watt. Support party: (to top of 92' pitch) Ros. Bell, Jerry de Witt, Delia Maloney.

A windy, wet night brought a morning of indecision. Intentions were to bottom the cave, photograph, survey, explore and detackle half way in one day. The eventual outcome was a mound of gear left at the top of the 20' waterfall, only -580' down; and some photographs. This took less than 3 hours. Peter and Graeme had both abseiled the 92' free hanger successfully.

A brew up in the stream way followed, then a return to the surface. A double line with pulley on the 92' pitch was useful for the first man up. Andrew's ascent was very moving, - singing a merry refrain ... Help! .... I'm coming off!! ..... AhhHHHH !!! .....??.. PULL! With only Philip at the top this was difficult. Soon energy was applied to physical expression rather than vocal. After many rests the top was in sight - much to Philip's relief. He was by this time as exhausted as the climber. The other four were each given no help by the belay man. After all it was good ladder practice. Nobody fell off.

P.S. The 92' free hanger is no problem except after 12 hours of aqueous caving, or if yer have hooks on yer boots, as Andrew will tell yer.

Philip Robinson.

Florentine - 18, 19/3/72.

Party: Peter Shaw, Bill Lehmann.

We set off early on Saturday morning and had almost reached Plenty before Bill remembered that he had forgotten his boots. Back to Hobart. Later that morning we drove around to Lawrence Creek and had a look at the swallet and the resurgence. After looking at several dolines near the resurgence, we drove up the F9 road for lunch. After lunch we headed off to look at a small swallet below the Growling Swallet track which Kevin Kiernan had listed as being possibly unexplored. We followed the stream down through some rather horrible talus and down some steep bedding until it disappeared into a small hole. A dry passage was investigated and followed down to where it flattened out and ran along the strike. Not far along Bill discovered some anaspides and a small shrimp. After a considerable stretch of wet narrow passages we emerged into a section with some very nice formations and after several hundred feet the stream sumped. We returned to the surface after investigating several side passages on the way. Suggested name for the cave is "Gormenghast". It was numbered MF 35. It is approx 200' deep with upwards of 1500' of passage. The main stream is left part way down and investigation could bring to light much more passage. The section near the entrance is very loose and a great deal of care is required. Most of the passages are narrow with some damp crawls and awkward climbs. Definitely not a cave for novices.

On Sunday we drove up to the end of the F4 road and began surface trogging the northern slopes of Wherretts Lookout. After reaching the contact at 3000', we located four dolines just below the saddle between Wherretts Lookout and Florentine Peak. Three of these did not go anywhere and the fourth required tackle which we did not have. We moved around a bit further and picked up a stream which we followed down until it vanished into a mud patch just above the old Florentine track. Upon reaching the track we followed it around to Growling Swallet and then out to the F9 road, from whence we walked back to the car. The amount of limestone outcropping in the Growling Swallet area would seem to indicate that it deserves further attention.

Peter Shaw.

Khazad-dum - 25,26/3/72.

Party: Sat: Phil Robinson, Brian Collin, Graeme Watt and S.Nicholas.

Sun: A.Goede, B.Hodge, B.Lehmann, S.Morris and R.Hughes.

The five entered at 10.15 a.m. soon reaching the top of the 20' waterfall, (Peter sooner than expected losing control with crossed krabs on the 92' abseil). The waterfalls were laddered and surveying continued from the previous limit - 696'. All gathered at Brew Chamber (-828') with tackle for the last pitch of 135'. The trip was only 3½ hours old. Philip and Graeme descended this very (h)airy, black pitch. Accumulator lights are hardly enough to penetrate the gloom. Survey was continued to the sump (-1029'). Footmarks in the sand near the sump (left in late December) were still present. No backing of water seems to have occurred. Fluorescein has travelled the 2½ miles down to Junee in 12 hrs. An energetic hour was spent pushing tight crawls above the sump. There are a few squeezes still left if anyone likes pushing squeezes at -1000'.

Returning to the base of the big pitch Graeme succeeded in climbing the steep mud, boulder slope adjacent. This was an exciting ascent to watch from the far side of the chamber (sheltering from rock avalanches). Geology pick in one hand, cutting steps up the 50°-60° slope. Sixty feet up he disappeared from Philip's view at the base of the ladder. Brian, Peter and Stuart at the top could now see his progress, still up and up. Eventually he was above the party i.e. at least 150' above the chamber floor! A large upper level passage was discovered, abundant formations, straws - Khazad-dum is not ended. This old passage could easily lead past the sump; and(?) into the Junee master cave.

Time running out with the long detackle ahead Graeme returned. The slope looked much easier on the descent. A brew then the haul back to the base of the 92' free hanger. Seven bags of gear were left. Surface was reached after 15 hours caving. With the support on Sunday gear was removed in 1½ hours by seven cavers.

The future:- Large upper levels to explore, 800' down; tiny passages near the sump pool. An expedition assault is now an attractive proposition. So much time is spent tackling and detackling weekend after weekend, delays by bad weather. Sandbanks above the stream at 1000' level provide an excellent campsite. Once laddered the bottom of the cave could be reached in under 3 hours. Supplies ferried in by a support team, in contact by telephone. (Cable is already down to -450').

Wanted: experienced potholers for an expedition in Jan/Feb 1973 down Australia's deepest cave, Khazad-dum -1029' (at the moment).

Contact Brian Collin, Project Organiser, T.C.C.

Philip Robinson.

Khazad-dum - 26 March, 1972 (Support party report).

Party: A.Goede (Leader), B.Hodge, B.Lehmann, R.Hughes and S.Morris.

We left Hobart at 8 a.m. and drove straight to the Junee Home-stand as we were not sure that a permit was waiting for us at the gate. The assault party was just getting up and we heard the joyful news that they had carried the survey right to the bottom and that Graeme had scaled the 200' high slope in the final chamber to find a large passage - the entrance richly decorated with straws - leading off into the unknown. Unfortunately lack of time prevented exploration beyond the first couple of hundred feet.

We then passed through the barrier and joined the assault party to recover the equipment which had already been brought back to the bottom of the 92' pitch. Peter Shaw stayed at the cars drying gear while Bill Hodge and Albert waited at the cave entrance as both had sore throats and colds. They were later joined by Peter. The others took only 1½ hours to bring out the gear. The bolts and telephone line were left in place for next summer's attempt.

As it was still early we decided to visit JF 1. While most sat on top down went Brian Collin, Bill Lehmann, Sally Morris, Peter

Shaw and Albert Goede. The strong draught coming from a fissure on an earlier visit appeared to be absent. A small hole near the bottom of the 20' ladder pitch was discovered by Peter and enlarged by Bill. A small chamber was entered but fissures leading down proved to be blocked about 20' down. On the way home we stopped at the Tyenna River Bridge for the usual gear scrubbing ceremony. Bill Hodge enlivened the proceedings by becoming marooned on the foundation of the bridge but managed to climb up to the deck much to the amazement of passing tourists. We arrived back in Hobart at 7.30 p.m. A. Goede.

Mole Creek - 1/4/72.

Party: Peter Shaw and Laurel Norbury.

Nut-Bath Cave was discovered about six months ago. Exploration upstream was halted by the volume of water as the Mole Creek area at that time was very saturated. It is located a half mile up the valley from Baldocks Cave where the track swings around and climbs steeply up the ridge. As I expected that there would now be only the slightest trickle in the cave I was surprised to find that the stream volume had only slightly diminished. The stream was pushed for a further moist fifty feet, before a very wet flattener forced a retreat. We'll be back with more suitable gear. Could this be the water from Prohibition? If so there is at least ½ a mile of passage in between. Spurned by Nut-Bath Cave we headed back towards Baldocks and looked up the next valley down. Here we found a new hole which led us down to a stream with an interesting twenty foot waterfall. Downstream the stream was vanishing immediately into some rather horrible talus and could not be followed. Upstream the stream was negotiable for a 150 ft. of low passage before progress was halted by another very wet flattener. This stream is probably the same one as in Nut-Bath Cave.

After lunch we moved down to My Cave for a tourist trip. Some nice formations and a pleasant section of stream passage make this a cave worth going back to. Again the stream was comparable in size with that in the two previous caves visited. Peter Shaw.

Report on Niagara Pot visited 8/4/72 will be published in next Spiel.

Tasmanian Caverneering Club. Statement of Receipts and Payments.  
1st April, 1971 - 31st March, 1972.

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Bank balance 1/4/1971	148.39	Postage	22.14
Full membership	97.00	Publication costs	25.96
Associate membership	5.20	Equipment	169.58
Entrance fee	10.00	Secretary expenses	3.30
Publication	31.80	Australian Speleo Federation	36.00
Donation	3.00	Federation Tasmanian Bush-walking Club	10.00
Profit from Dinner	22.50	S.W. Committee	5.00
Sale of Badges	4.50	P.M.G. Box	12.00
Proceeds of raffle, etc.	19.50	P.M.G. expenses	6.00
Bank interest	2.65	A.S.F. Publication Expenses	205.00
A.S.F. Convention	10.00	Cheque book	1.25
Sundry	2.35	Bank balance 31/3/1972	67.10
Publication account	206.44		
	<u>\$ 563.33</u>		<u>\$563.33</u>

PUBLICATION ACCOUNT.

Balance	200.00	Transferred to Current A/c.	206.44
Bank interest	6.44		
	<u>\$ 206.44</u>		<u>\$ 206.44</u>

Hon. Auditor ..... Hon. Treasurer .....

J.K. Herington (signed) I.D. Farley (signed)

J.K. Herington, A.A.S.A., A.C.I.S.

KEEP YOUR CLUB FINANCIAL - PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW.!