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Secretary: Peter Shaw, 53 Lord Street, Sandy Bay, 7005.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- May 20,21 - Weekend. "Tourist" trip to the upstream section of Herberts Pot, Mole Creek. Leader: Phil Robinson.
- June 3 - Saturday. Prospective members trip to Newdegate Cave, Hastings. Old members welcome too! Leader: Bill Lehmann.
- June 3,4 - Day or weekend. Exploration of JF 14 and other holes near JF 3, June area. Leader: Phil Robinson.
- June 7 - Wednesday. General meeting 8 p.m. at Henk Meerdings place, 7 Gourlay Street, Blackmans Bay. Refreshments and slides welcome. Raffle prize provided by Phil Robinson.
- June 17 - Saturday. Further exploration in Niagara Pot. Leader: Peter Shaw.
- June 20 - Tuesday. American climbing films are being shown by the Climbers Club with proceeds going to Search and Rescue equipment. Admission is \$1.50 at the Arts Lecture Theatre, Uni. of Tas. Show starts 8p.m.
- June 24,25 - Weekend. If exploration of Niagara Pot is not completed on the previous weekend, the ladders will be left in the cave for further exploration with an underground camp. Leader: Peter Shaw.

_____ If this box contains an X, this is the last Spiel you will receive until you pay up to our treasurer Ian Farley.

Subscription rates are:

_____ Full members(over 18) - four dollars.

Junior members - two dollars.

Associate members - two dollars.

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

EDITORIAL.

" The Lake Timk resurgence is dead! Long live the swallet! " With zero feet of passage in the resurgence it is all hopes now for the swallet. A day trip to Lake Timk with wet suit and 60' of ladder was thwarted by the submerged nature of the entrance.

Gormenghast was partially surveyed although exploration chances fizzled out. Another trip should finish this cave off.

A surveying trip revealed that the entrance to JF 5 is twenty-five feet higher than JF 4. It now remains to connect the two, an easy matter, in order to claim Khazad-dum's depth as 1054 feet. If we can't add to the bottom we will add to the top.

The great debate on the proposed expedition to Khazad-dum rages with no definite plans at the moment. The organisers, Phil Robinson and Brian Collin, have promised full details for next months Spiel.

" New caves must be surveyed and numbered before being classed as found". That is a quote from the April issue of "The Explorer" published by C.Q.S.S. Fair enough, we have got too much exploration to do to bother surveying every little hole but surely it would be worthwhile to survey all significant discoveries, perhaps everything over a thousand feet long or two hundred feet deep for example.

Peter Shaw.

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A.S.F. Conference

The ninth biennial conference will take place in Sydney from the afternoon of December 26th, 1972 to the morning of December 30th. Conference sessions will take place on December 27,28,29 with the Cavemans Dinner on December 29th. Accommodation will be at New College. University of N.S.W.

Major field activities will centre on Yarrangobilly(inc. Cooleman), Bungonia and Jenolan(inc. Tuglow and Colong). Shorter trips will also be scheduled to Cliefden, Abercrombie, Wombeyan, Wyanbene, Wee Jasper and elsewhere according to demand.

The emphasis in the programme will be on a greater number of shorter period sessions than in the past, thereby offering a good choice. Professional sessions will include geomorphology, hydrology, biology, speleochemistry, etc. Practical sessions covering electronics and communication, maps and diagrams, speleo publications, photography, surveying and so on will take the form of seminars, symposia or formal papers as appropriate.

New Cave Numbers.

- JF 36 - Growling Swallet. Number on rock on right hand side of entrance.
- JF 37 - Impressive 30' high entrance in large doline a quarter of a mile S.E. of Growling Swallet. Steep 40' slope to small chamber. Squeeze to left into narrow joint controlled passages. Numerous thin pendants. Suggested name "Pendant Pot".
- JF 38 - Fair sized stream flowing into large doline near JF 37. Collapse at entrance. Explored for thirty feet to narrow passage. Currently blocked by large slab. Exploration incomplete. Suggested name "Trapdoor Swallet".
- JF 39 - Thirty foot hole fifty yards S.E. of Growling Swallet.
- JF 40 - Cave behind Khazad-dum campsite. One hundred foot deep with 300 feet of narrow passages.

Information for Prospective Members.

An information sheet for prospectives has been prepared and is available from Peter Shaw. If you have any friends who are interested in caving, get them a copy of the information sheet from Peter.

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 6 p.m. Bring a light. If the weather is not fine ladder practice is off. This is the time to turn all that soft ugly flab into hard ugly flab.

Northern Branch News.

Frank Brown(Jnr.) advises that the new office bearers for Northern Branch are as follows:-

President - Peter Dowde.

Vice-Pres. and Quartermaster - Frank Brown.

Secretary - Treasurer - Bill Hardmann.

With regard to the Marakooa hut Frank advises that it is available to all clubs and that no trip fees are wanted by Northern Branch. If we want to collect fees ourselves and apply them to the hut that is up to us.

Croesus Cave has been re-gated by persons unknown but it is still possible for cavers to enter. They thought we did it and we thought they did it. Who is the phantom gater?

New member.

Welcome to Ron Akhurst who was accepted for junior membership at the last meeting. His address is 26 Granville Ave., Geilston Bay.

Khazad-dum Statistics - by A.Non(g).Y.Mous.

These statistics do not include the 1970 A.S.F. conference trips on which a depth of 630 feet was reached.

Total number of trips 18.

Exploratory 10.

Of these exploratory trips, four were to JF 5, one reached 500 feet down the Serpentine Passage and the remaining five were to JF 4 reaching depths of 50, 830, 940, 1029 and 1029 feet.

Preliminary tackling, detackling, bolting and trips which could not pass the first waterfall accounted for the other 8 trips.

Six trips were organised which did not leave Hobart because of rain.

Total hours underground	-	152.
Average hours per trip	-	8.5
Total attendance	-	106.
Average attendance	-	6.

Bods involved:-		trips	hours
Philip	T.C.C.	16	147
Peter	T.C.C.	14	142
Graeme	T.C.C./S.C.S.	9	92
Kevin	T.C.C./S.C.S.	7	92
Stuart	T.C.C.	7	53
Albert	T.C.C.	7	42
Brian	T.C.C.	7	41

Bods		trips	hours
Chris	S.C.S.	6	74
Bill(L)	T.C.C.	6	23
Norm	T.C.C./cream	5	62
David	T.C.C.	4	32
Sally	T.C.C.	4	13
4 had 3 trips, 4 had 2 trips 8 had 1 trip i.e. 28 different people.			
	T.C.C.	17	
	S.C.S.	4	
	TCC/SCS	2	
	others	5	

With single rope techniques, Khazad-dum could no doubt have been explored by a few hards in a few trips. WHY??

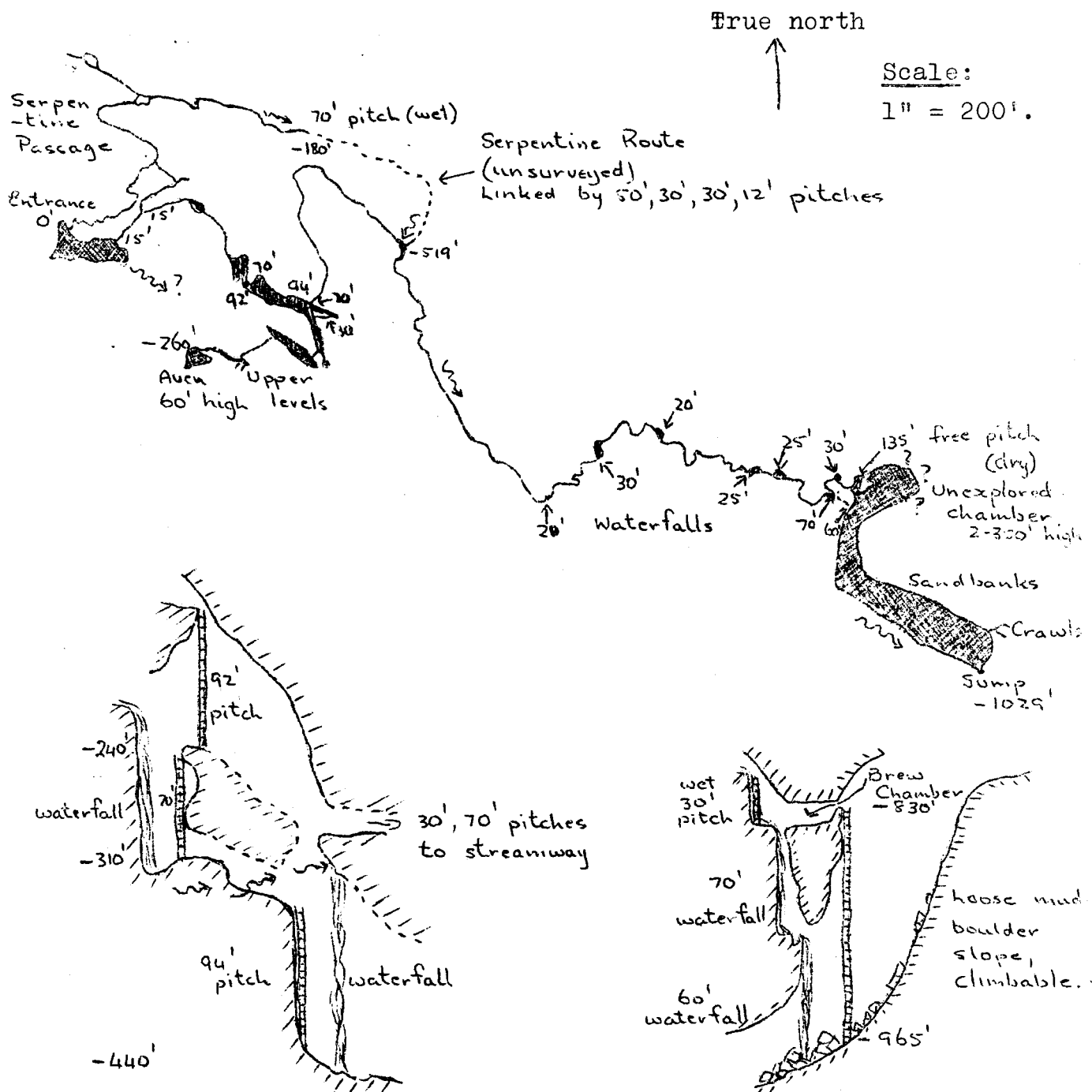
28 cavers have enjoyed Khazad-dum over many trips(The Tasmanian Way).

* Although the author of these statistics is anonymous, the editor would like to indicate that he had no hand in their compilation.

KHAZAD-DUM.

S U R V E Y.

L.Kavalieris, Jan 1971
T.C.C. April, 1972.



Cross sections.

Scale:- 1" = 100'.

Khazad-dum

Abseiling/Prussiking.

These techniques were not used to any great extent in Khazad-dum. This was mainly due to the lack of knowledge and practice. Prussiking reduces the safety margin. An exhausted caver would have little chance of assistance. With a ladder a good haul is possible.(A good example

is the K.D. express). Exhaustion has occurred a few times in Khazad-dum. Recently two cavers bottomed one of Yorkshires deeper systems, Lost Johns, 7 -8 pitches lead to the master cave. On their return one was too exhausted to prussik a 60' pitch. The result - a cave rescue. Clearly experience is essential. Success of abseiling/prussiking is highlighted in a recent British expedition to Iran. Abseiling/prussiking in 20 pitches an unfinished 2400' was reached down Ghar Parau, (now the 10th deepest in the world). Most of the last 1000' was discovered on a 26 hour trip by three men.

In Khazad-dum the short waterfalls were abseiled to avoid prolonged exposure, and also the 92' free hanger on later trips. Cloggers were used belaying on occasions. Prussiking would be an advantage only on the larger pitches. The short ones, mainly wet, are best dealt with quickly on a ladder. A revised tackle list using as few ladders as practicable:-

Pitches:- one avoid by Serpentine Passage.
2 - 5 15', 60', 100', 30' rope respectively.
six 10' ladder, 70' rope.
eight 50' rope (waterfall avoided by bolt).
7, 9-12 (all wet) 25', 20', 30', 25', 30', ladder.
twelve 150' rope (dry, over 100' free).

Total 140' ladder, 475' rope, n krabs.

This compares with the 600' ladder, 740' rope normally needed. Provided the eyebolts are in position, the water level is low, it would be feasible for a small experienced party to bottom Khazad-dum and return in under 15 hours. This would probably be the hardest and most sporting trip in Australia (for vetical cavers). Phil Robinson.

TRIP REPORTS.

Niagara Pot - 8/4/72.

Party: Peter Shaw, Phil Robinson, Stuart Nicholas, Joe Donnelly, Chris Rathbone and Ross Mansfield.

It is amazing how the grotty and horrible features of a cave are gradually forgotten over a period of six months.

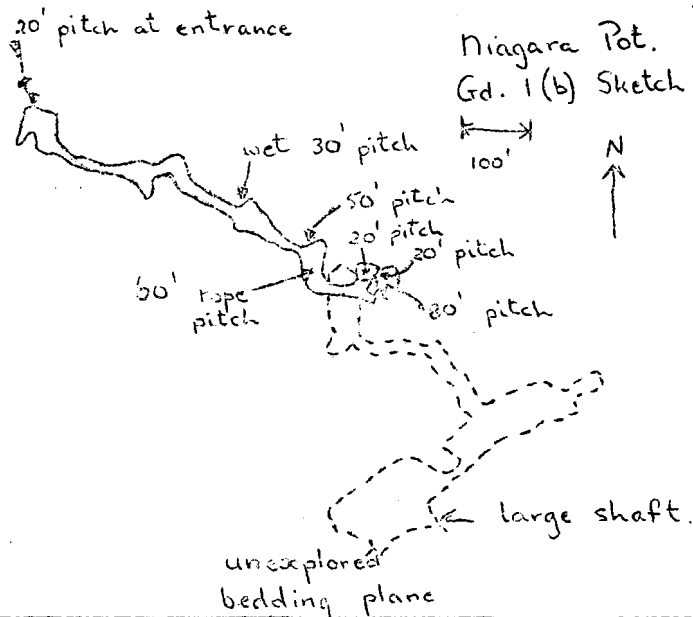
Back to Niagara with only a trickle of water in the entrance. It can't be a hard cave if there is not a thundering stream. In two parties of three we reached the bolt ledge and abseiled over the eighty foot free pitch while Joe and Stuart remained on the ledge to safeguard our return. With 150' of ladder and 300' of rope, we commenced trogging the chamber at the foot of the pitch. Ross began grovelling in the talus in one corner of the chamber and called for someone to join him. Philip attempted a squeeze and declined on the grounds that Peter was leading the trip. Peter was coerced into the squeeze and continued onwards through the talus with Ross. A fifteen foot pitch was reached and Ross returned for a ladder. The ladder was rigged and Peter had descended two rungs when things began to move. Hastily the pitch was forgotten and a speedy withdrawal carried out. To have continued would have been suicidal. Back in the main chamber, Philip had discovered a dry passage which led for several hundred feet to a pitch. A ladder was rigged but the passage did not continue. The head of the pitch was crossed and a larger passage was entered. This was followed for 200' to where it emerged into a large chamber. Enthusiasm was running high. "Wait for me I want to find some too." The trouble with this dust is it keeps getting in your eyes". Would it keep going? Speed was the essence. In one corner a passage was found leading into a second large chamber with a large shaft leading upwards at the top of an unclimbable slope. A fifteen foot high bedding plane leading off in one corner was unexplored due to lack of a rope. Due to lack of time anything that could not be walked into was not explored. Back to the grotty stream section and up the ladders. The surface was reached after an eleven hour trip. It would take three hours to reach the new sections and about five hours to get out. When will we be back? The stream passage is so discouraging that enthusiasm for the cave is at a very low ebb. Total depth added to the cave was 15' which makes it 465' deep.

Peter Shaw. (Map next page).

Gormenghast (JF 35), Florentine Valley - 16/4/72.

Party: Peter Shaw, Bill Lehmann, Albert Goede and Joe Donnelly.

With a punctual start we were up the F 9 road at 9.00a.m. and in to the cave by ten. The state of the weather indicated that it was a good day to be underground. Down through that horrible talus and then into the narrow sections. Several side passages were investigated but went nowhere. Albert could not believe that a cave could be so consistently narrow. Progress along the wet crawls was very slow with the bug hunters in front stopping every few moments to get another



specimen. Along the formation section and then the sump was reached at last. Surveying was commenced and 950' was surveyed before Bill started complaining about his feet. Progress back to the surface was enlivened by Albert dislodging several large boulders into the midst of the remainder of the party. Fortunately no one was injured. The climb up through the talus was a nerve wrecking experience, especially when you are at the end of the party. It is a pity that the talus is so bad, otherwise it could become a good tourist trip.

Peter Shaw.

Lake Timk Resurgence - 22-24/4/72.(3 days).

Party: Brian Collin and Peter Shaw.

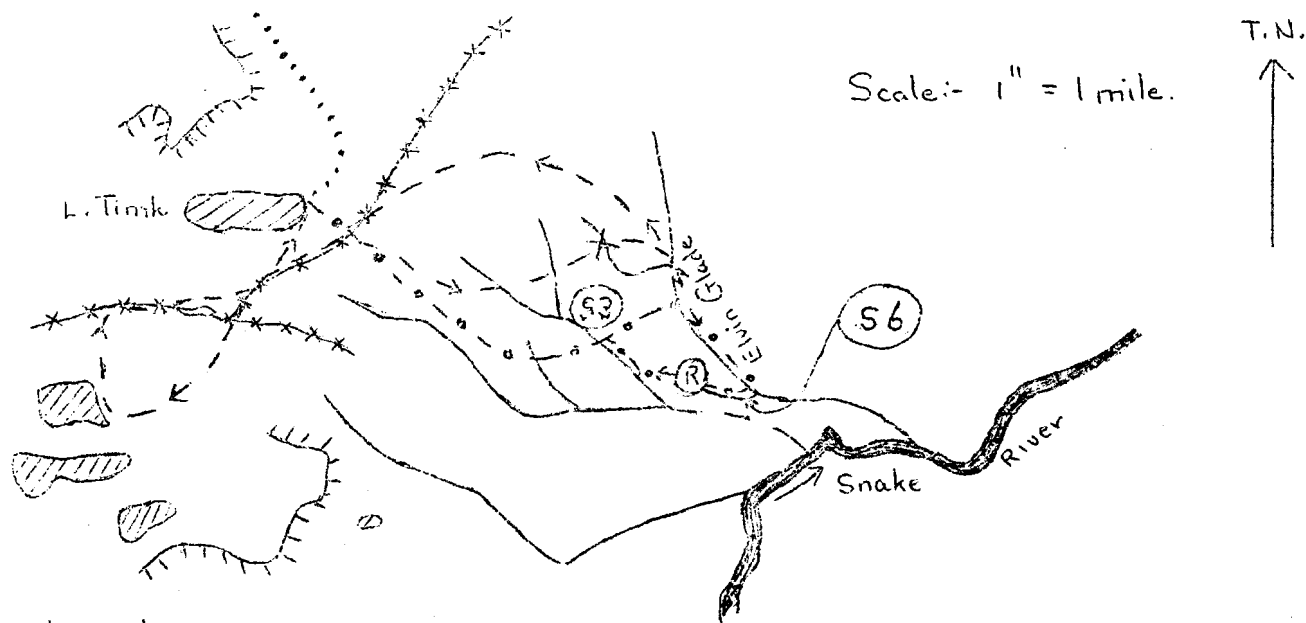
A large resurgence was found and is almost certainly the Lake Timk resurgence. Another trip to the area in better weather will be required to remove the uncertainty.

Ironically Kevin Kiernan and I were within $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour of finding it on our last Christmas trip. This would appear to be a stroke of bad luck but when one considers that the resurgence could be anywhere in a vast area of scrub I feel finding it in such a short time (one year from our first attempt) proves the Devil looks after scrub bashers.

The resurgence is at the end of a blind valley which finishes with a 30' high steep slope with the water coming out of well established vegetation covered boulders. There is no chance of even getting one's head underground. Now that the Christmas trip route has been encountered the location of the Orks Nest and Elvin Glade are no longer a mystery and are shown on the sketch with a fair degree of confidence.

The venture although unproductive in finding new caves has whetted the appetite to further explore this previously untouched part of Tassie.

Brian Collin.



Legend.

- (R) = resurgence
- X = Ork's Nest
- = X'mas trip route
- .-.- = route this trip
- ... = Track to Lake Timk.

- x x x = Ridge
- m m m = Cliffs
- /// = Lakes
- (53) = (56) = Water sampling points.

Sketch Map of Resurgence Area - B. Collin.

Lake Timk Resurgence - water sampling results.

S 3	Conductivity	23	micromhos/cm
	Calcium hardness	3	parts per million
	Total hardness	12	parts per million

S 6	Conductivity	145	micromhos/cm
	Calcium hardness	40	parts per million
	Total hardness	76	parts per million

Range for Junee(thirty-one readings)

	Conductivity	100-210	micromhos/cm
	Calcium hardness	44-94.5	parts per million
	Total hardness	51-108	parts per million

Range for Khazad-dum(two readings) (before it reaches the limestone)

	Conductivity	52-62	micromhos/cm
	Calcium hardness	14-21	parts per million
	Total hardness	18-27	parts per million

Exit Cave, Ida Bay - 23/4/72.

Party: Albert Goede(leader), Graeme Watt, Roy Skinner, Andrew Skinner, Joe Donelly, Arthur Clarke; Northern Branch members: Ian McKendrick and Helen Fletcher. Visitors: Rozanne Westcott and Geoff Fenton.

The party left the road about 10 a.m. while Roy made a quick dash back to Hastings to get his boots. Although the ground and bush were damp the bog was surprisingly dry underneath and provided no problems. We did not even get our feet muddy. After an early lunch the cave was entered at 11.50 a.m. where the gate presented a problem as the leader (knowing the chain had been broken) had not brought the key. However, Bill had done a rather good repair job and we were forced to follow the stream. The water was very low and some persons unknown had obligingly constructed a log bridge across the deep pool. Considering the size of the party we did well to reach the East Grand Fissure and to get as far as the beginning of the Conference Concourse. The formations in the East Grand Fissure were admired by all. Arthur, Albert and Graeme made a quick (re)exploration of a side passage with interesting formations and a sandy floor which choked off after a short distance. On the way back we visited Camp 2 and Edies Treasure. When we reached the entrance chamber the log bridge was demolished for the sake of cave protection. We emerged at 5.10 p.m. and followed the last part of the track in the dark. Remarking of the route and log clearing is badly needed. We had a pleasantly energetic day under very dry conditions.

Albert Goede.

Florentine(Growling Swallet Area) - 6/5/72.

Party: Peter Shaw, Phil Robinson and Stuart Nicholas.

After a pleasant walk into Growling Swallet we numbered the cave (JF 35) and started exploring the dry valley upstream from Growling on the south side. An impressive doline was soon discovered and several holes investigated with no results except for the main entrance which was numbered JF 37. A 40' steep slope led to a small chamber from which a squeeze gave access to several small passages with several pendants. Suggested name is "Pendant Pot". From this cave we continued up the valley and investigated several other dolines until the sound of water made us quicken our steps. A large swallet with the stream sinking into small and large blocks at the foot of a cliff. Nice clean limestone this, not the grotty stuff in the Junee Area. Thirty feet inside the cave was a narrow passage with a rock perched in the roof. After sustained prodding with a branch we ascertained that it was safe, and manoeuvred to be the last one into the passage. Stuart was still on the surface putting the number(JF 38) on the entrance. Phil being closest to the hole decided that the floor wasn't too safe and decided to pull a rock out of the floor. Instead he dislodged several other rocks into the hole which made it even smaller. We both then tried to clear all the rocks out of the hole. In the course of doing so a 2'x2' slab about 3" thick pivoted sideways and fell over the hole, blocking it completely. Satisfied with a job well done we retired to the surface. It would be a fairly easy matter to shift this rock and explore further. Afternoon spent locating several large dolines and numbering JF 39 near Growling Swallet.

Peter Shaw.

CAVE SAFETY RECOMMENDED CODE OF PRACTICE.Introduction

Caving is a pursuit which, by its nature, involves a certain element of risk; cavers are advised to make it a calculated risk by observing the following recommended Code of Practice. The rules suggested here-in are intended as a basic guide and do not purport to cover all possible caving hazards.

Pre-trip Organisation.

1. No one to go caving alone. Desirable minimum size - FOUR.
2. Each caving trip to be under the control of a trip leader possessing qualities of responsibility, discipline and temperament needed to ensure the safety of the party and the protection of the caverns.
3. Suitable helmet, clothing (one piece boiler suit) and footwear to be worn when underground.
4. First aid kit to be carried on all trips and kept at camp.
5. Two totally independent forms of lighting to be carried by each person.
6. Inspect for wear and damage all equipment (i.e. safety lines, abseiling ropes, cable ladders, climbing aids, winch ropes, etc.) whose failure could result in an injury. Ensure such equipment does not suffer chafing during transport or come into contact with chemicals (i.e. battery solutions).

Above Ground Organisation

7. Do not take underground anyone whose ability is affected by drugs or liquor.
8. In the event of all persons on a trip going underground at the one time, leave some indication at the campsite of whereabouts and expected time of return.
9. When entering caves where flash flooding could prove hazardous ensure effective communication with the surface for weather change warnings.
10. Care should be taken to avoid becoming lost or separated above ground when visiting remote caving areas. (Bendethera, Nullarbor, Kimberley, Camooweal, Tasmania, etc.)
11. Ensure radio transmitting equipment is switched off when using explosives.

Ascents and Descents

12. A safety line should be used in any situation where a fall could result in injury. The trip leader should make the decision considering:-
 - a. Experience of the party
 - b. Physical condition of the party at the time.
 - c. difficulty of rescue should a fall occur
 - d. difficulty of the obstacleOn pitches in excess of 25 ft. a safety line should be mandatory.
13. A belay man should be experienced in same and securely positioned.
14. Only one person at a time should descend or ascend a cable ladder rope or winch.
15. At least three (3) members of a party should be experienced in knots and the use of climbing equipment where the trip involves the use of such equipment.
16. Alternative means of contact to be used on pitches where unaided voice contact is difficult.
17. Care to be taken with safety lines to avoid damage by sharp projections or nailed boots.
18. Abseiling underground should only be used where other methods are impractical.
19. Don't use abseil ropes as safety ropes or vice versa.
20. Helmet mounted naked flame light not to be used when ascending or descending a pitch.
21. Use only metal cables on powered man winches.
22. Do not engage in horse play, rock throwing, etc.

CAVE DIVING

23. Do not attempt to force siphons alone or without proper diving equipment. A diving party to consist of at least five (5) persons.
 - a. Lead diver
 - b. Follow-up diver
 - c. Emergency diver
 - d. Telephonist
 - e. Runner
24. Divers must be attached to a suitable guide line in all siphons or near siphons.

Cave Safety Recommended Code of Practice(continued)

25. Communications to be established through all siphons by the Lead diver and maintained by an outside party where the trip leader considers it necessary.

GENERAL

26. Safety lines, abseiling ropes, cable ladders and man winch ropes not to be used for other than its intended purpose e.g. towing vehicles.
27. Dry out ropes etc. and store in a cool dry place out of direct sunlight.
28. Do not uncap carbide lamps in confined places.
29. Ensure reserve supplies of carbide do not become damp.
30. Carbide lamps are not reliable indications of foul air. Use matches or candles as indicators if foul air is suspected. If still in doubt more sophisticated detection equipment should be used.
31. Do not use copper in modifying carbide lamps.
32. Do not construct cable ladders of materials likely to cause electrolysis e.g. copper ferrules on steel cable.
33. Internal combustion engines not to be used underground or on the surface where exhaust fumes are likely to enter a cave.
34. Persons using explosives should be experienced in their use. Extreme care should be exercised to avoid explosive fumes, especially underground. Advice should be sought on explosives that give off less toxic fumes for underground use.
35. Ensure that cords used to carry whistles, lights, etc. around the neck will break with reasonable ease should it become caught during a slip or fall.
36. The Trip Leader should ensure that no member of his party is coerced into a situation beyond his capabilities.
37. Advice should be sought from local clubs as to caving hazards when visiting unfamiliar areas.