

SPELEO — SPIEL

NEWSLETTER

of the

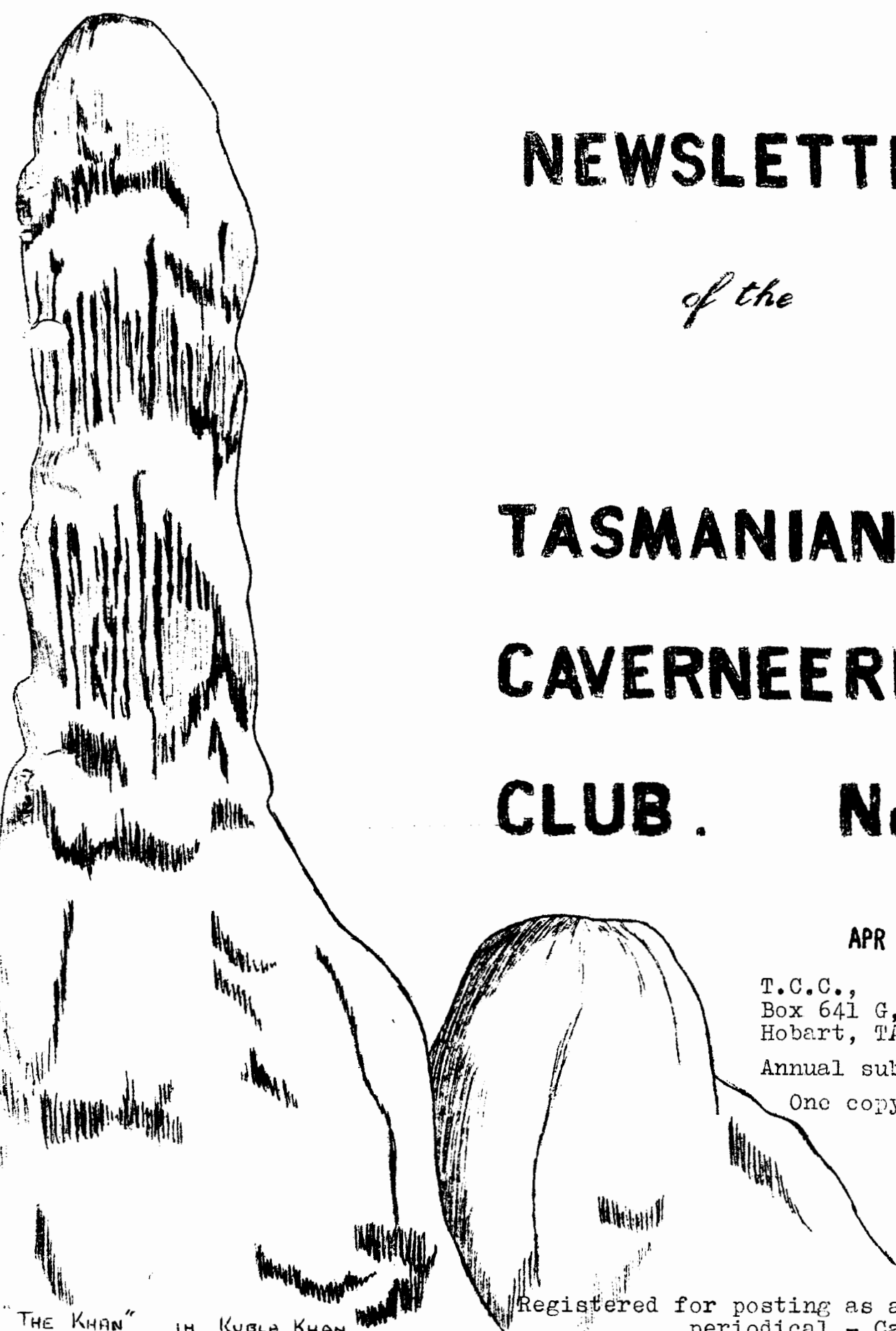
TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB . No. 78

APR 1973

T.C.C.,
Box 641 G, G.P.O.,
Hobart, TAS. 7001.

Annual sub. \$ 2.00

One copy 20 cents.



"THE KHAN" IN KUBLA KHAN.

Registered for posting as a
periodical - Category "B"

Editor: Peter Shaw.

Typist: Therese Goede.

The 'New' Committee.

President: Albert Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, 7000.
Vice-pres: Simon Stephens, 43 Seaview Avenue, Tarooma, 7006.
Secretary: Andrew Skinner, 281 Elizabeth Street, Nth.Hobart, 7000.
Treasurer: Bill Lehmann, 29A D'Arcy Street, Sth.Hobart, 7000.

Committee members:

Henk Meerding, 6 Gourlay Street, Blackmans Bay, 7152.
Stuart Nicholas, 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, 7008.
Ian Farley, P.O. Box 24, Margate, Tas. 7153.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- April 14 - Saturday: Exploration trip to Splash Pot(JF 10).
Leader: Phil Robinson.
- April 14,15 - Weekend: Exit. Friday night start, stay at Camp 1.
Conference Concourse on Saturday. Eastern extension on Sunday. Track marking will be completed (hopefully). Acting leader: Andrew Skinner.
- April 20-23 - Easter weekend: Explorations at Montagu in N.W. Tasmania. Leader: Albert Goede.
Easter weekend: South Coast. An easy walking trip to Prion Bay, with the opportunity to look at limestone at Surprise Bay. If you want to bludge on the South Coast's best beaches, this trip is a must. Acting leader: Andrew Skinner.
- April 20-25 - Extended Easter weekend: Exploratory trip to Vanishing Falls. Leader: Peter Shaw.
- April 28,29 - Weekend: Bruny Island. Trip to observe coastal landforms and investigate seacaves in south-east of island. Acting leader: Andrew Skinner.
- April 30 - May 4 - Mid-week: King Island. Caves have been reported in the south of the island by local farmers. Cost \$36 return on plane. Push-bike desirable. Acting leader: Andrew Skinner.
- May 2 - Wednesday: General meeting at Simon and Janet Stephens' place, 43 Seaview Ave., Tarooma, at 8 p.m. Slides and refreshments welcome.
- May 5,6 - Weekend: Exit Cave. Surveying in eastern extension. Beginning of detailed survey of first half mile. Acting leader: Andrew Skinner.
- May 5,6 - Weekend: Judds Cavern. In association with S & R to test radio link-up. Leader: Bill Lehmann.
- May 9 - Wednesday: Wine and Cheese evening at Brian and Jeanette's, 66 Wentworth Street, South Hobart. By popular demand! Bring your own wine and cheese.

Editorial.

Progress comes to TCC. In this issue, you will find an article by Andrew Skinner on his track marking activities in Exit Cave and at Mole Creek. Yes, says my brain, track marking is very desirable to protect delicate areas and preserve them for future generations of cavers to admire. Yet, I feel that track marking, to me, is only the lesser of two evils. I dislike seeing beautiful formations smashed, or marred by muddy footprints; but I also don't like the idea of seeing sections fenced off, it smells too much of tourist caves. I can see no alternative and track marking must continue, but I'll mourn the days when I could enter a cave and use my judgement in deciding where to walk. Maybe that's why I am an explorer.

Peter Shaw.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE!!

Treasurer, Bill Lehmann, is waiting with open hands to relieve you of the following sums of money:

Full members(over 18 years)	-	\$ 4.50.
Junior members	-	\$ 2.00.
Associate members	-	\$ 2.00.

Full membership includes \$ 1.50 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 an extra one dollar and fifty cents.

New Cave Names.

JF 14. - Dwarrowdelf. Name suggested by Andrew Pavey of UNSWSS.
Dwarrowdelf is another name for Khazad-dum.

Prospective members.

Welcome to the following prospective members:

Ray and Connie Sporne, c/o Berriedale Caravan Park, Berriedale, 7011.
Byron Dilworth, Unit 4, 3A Montague St., Lenah Valley, 7008.
J.Gaffey, 15 Brown Street, West Hobart, 7000.
B. Chetwynd, c/o Dept. of Enviromental Design, College of Advanced Education, Mt. Nelson, 7005.
Fiona Skimmer, c/o Ogilvie Girls' Hostel, New Town, 7008.
Greg Strickland, 54 Princess Street, Sandy Bay, 7005.
David Nichols, 84 Kaoota Rd., Rose Bay, 7015.
Kathryn Medlock, 6 Bellvue Parade, New Town, 7008.
Leonie Smith, 23 Mt.Stuart Rd., North Hobart, 7000.
Stephen Jager, Southport, 7116.
Wendy Mold, c/o Jane Franklin Hall, Davey Street, 7000.

Prospective members wishing to receive further copies of the Spiel are asked to pay \$ 1.00 to the treasurer before the next issue. This will be counted as their entrance fee when they join the club.

Changes of address:

Clive and Dot Boulter, 11 Sheldon Place, West Hobart, 7000.
Noel White, 3/62 Colville Street, Battery Point, 7000.

Notice of Motion - Change of Constitution.

Notice is hereby given of intention to amend clause 4 of the constitution concerning membership.

Clause 4 now reads: "Persons who have attained the full age of eighteen years shall be eligible for ordinary membership and persons under that age but who have attained the full age of sixteen years shall be eligible for junior membership".

The proposed amendment reads:

"Persons who have attained the full age of eighteen years shall be eligible for ordinary membership and married couples are entitled to family membership. Persons under that age but who have attained the full age of sixteen years shall be eligible for junior membership".

Changes will also be required to rules 5 and 16.

Last sentence of rule 5 to read:

"These grades of membership shall embrace ordinary and family members (hereinafter called "members") and junior members (hereinafter called "juniors").

Rule 16 to read:

"All classes of members shall be entitled to attend but only ordinary, family, associate and life members shall be entitled to vote or move and second motions.

A PROBLEM OF DETERIORATION.

It is evident that some of Tasmania's show caves are deteriorating due to use by cavers and others. One major problem is the widening of pathways across flowstone and other delicate floors. Many mainland visitors to Exit Cave have commented on the inadequacy of marked tracks. The deterioration is primarily caused by the widening of trails on fragile gypsum and moonmilk floors. Accordingly a programme of trail delineation has been initiated; using reflectorised markers placed at intervals of about two metres. With a head lamp, reflectors contrast well with the surrounding floor and the

trail is easily followed.

Several models of markers have been devised. The original markers used by TCC in Exit Cave were rather unsatisfactory as they did not attract enough attention, visitors straying off the pathway. Model 1 consisted of a yellow plastic strip, marked with red texta colour and mounted on a galvanised nail.(see illustration). Model 11 was of blue plastic, 9x3 cm., and also mounted on a galvanised nail. Both types were used in the high level sections of Exit before the talus. They were placed by Brian Collin in 1967-8, and have greatly helped to preserve these areas, but did not attract enough attention to ensure maximum protection.

Model 111 was constructed at the Hastings Hut on Jan. 30th, 1973. Rolled plastic was mounted on a galvanised nail and a 2x2 cm. piece of red reflector tape was placed on the curved surface. These were placed near the calcified mud cracks in Conference Concourse, the Eastern Grand Fissure, the Ballroom and the Collonade. On later inspection the tape has peeled off some of the markers as the plastic was curved. The tape was too small and no effort was made for non-reflectorised markers for the use of visitors without headlamps. Without a headlamp, these markers are useless. Edie's Treasure has been 'fenced-off' by use of aluminium pegs, about 30 cm. in height and a metre apart. These were joined together with plastic tape. The fences may help protect the remaining gypsum needles in the area.

The Model 1V marker was constructed on the 18th of March, following a donation of copious quantities of reflector tape by Greg Middleton(SSS). It was constructed of a flat flag of plastic, 10x6 cm., mounted on a nail. Both reflector tape and brightly coloured tape were used on both sides of the plastic. The advantages over Model 111 being that the tape will not peel off as it is mounted flat, visitors without a headlamp will see the non-reflectorised section, the reflector tape is much larger and obvious, and the marker is double-sided. Model 1V was tested and placed in Croesus Cave to protect flowstone areas and to mark a mud-free route over the Golden Stairs. However, this system is not quite adequate as larger plastic or aluminium signs(say 25x25 cm., at least one per cave) need to be placed in an obvious position, requesting visitors to follow the marked tracks, not to leave rubbish, mind your head mate, take your boots off, etc., etc., etcetera!

A PROGRAMME OF TRACK MARKING

Ida Bay: It is obvious that the Model 111 markers in Exit Cave need replacing as they are quite inadequate. However, the nails can be re-used and the holes already drilled can be used to lodge better markers. Entrance Cave does not possess areas needing such protection. On a recent trip to Croesus it was found that a brush and a bucket of water were sufficient to remove carbid stains; perhaps this should be attempted in Exit.

Hastings: One area in Central Binney with chocolate flowstone could be marked. Some effort could be made in the Christmas Cave to construct a low fence - similar to that in Edie's Treasure - to protect the Crystal Shower and the Magnificent Pipette. King George V is in need of cleaning up with a bucket; the flowstone could easily be restored with a few hours work when the creek is running. Subsequently some trails could be marked.

Junee-Florentine: Welcome Stranger must have been a splendid cave before us careless cavers broke many of the straw stalactites along the stream and clambered over the upper levels. However some trail marking may help protect what remains. If anybody has any suggestions of other caves in Junee-Florentine in need of this type of work, please contact me.

Mole Creek: Many caves in Mole Creek are sorely in need of some kind of protection in the form of track marking. Here, more than in any other caving area, local people "have a look at a few holes" at some time in their lives. Untrained and unaccustomed to the underground environment, the novice can easily do accidental damage. A clearly-delineated track and an explanatory sign may reduce such deteriora-

tion. Croesus has been largely completed, except for some cleaning up. The markers in the Forbidden City in Kubla Khan should probably be replaced with the more effective reflectors. A sign, requesting boot removal, could be erected at the base of the Pleasure Dome. Georgie's Hall is also on the short list for track marking. Wet Cave, Westmoreland and Pyramid-Cow Cave have some areas with delicate floors. Work could be attempted in the upstream section of Herberts Pot, particularly in the Paragon Vaults area. Scotts, Baldocks and Lynds are worthy of restoration work.

APPEAL FOR MATERIAL AND WORKERS

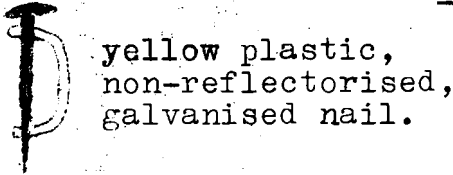
- 1. Future visits to decorated caves should attempt track marking and general restoration activity. By involving more cavers in this work, a greater awareness of the fragility of the underground environment could be generated.
- 2. Materials urgently required include plastic fruit juice containers, plastic ice cream containers and galvanised nails. Materials could be left with Brian Collin or at the SCS Clubrooms.
- 3. At present the reflector tape is donated by a mainland philanthropist; but local sources are urgently needed.

Andrew Skinner.

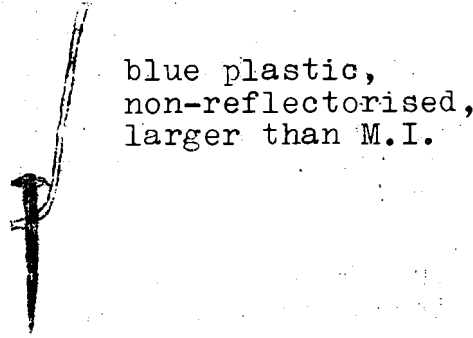
SIDE VIEW

FRONT VIEW

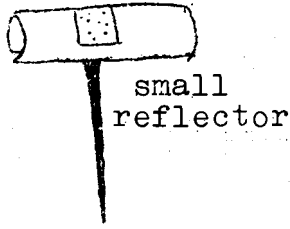
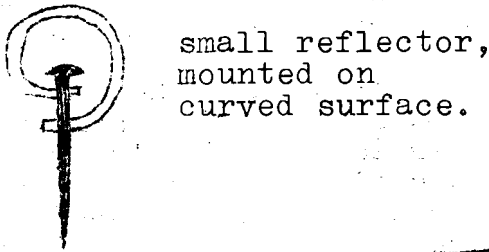
MODEL I



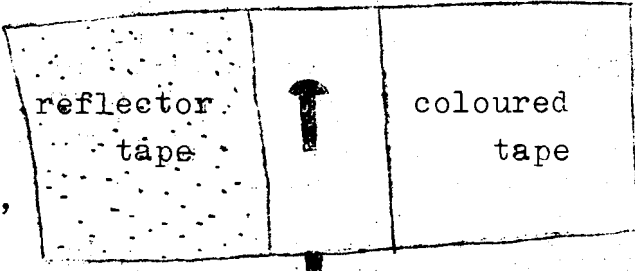
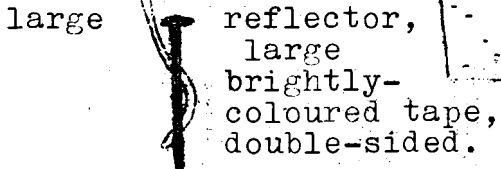
MODEL II



MODEL III



MODEL IV



Markers are drawn approximately to scale.

Cauldron PotTackle Requirements.

Peter Shaw.

1. Entrance pitch(41 metres)

Belay on tree on eastern side of hole near number; 50 metre main rope with 15 metre extra rope as tail. One tackle bag for the first edge and three metres of rope protector for the overhang ten metres down. Free pitch for the remaining thirty metres.

2. Drop from Bill's Bypass into stream(8 metres), and two short cascades(2 and 4 metres). Belay on eyebolt at top of drop into stream; 20 metre rope with 1 rope protector on the initial edge. All against the wall.

3. Chute Pitch(15 metres)

Belay on eyebolt at top of drop; 20 metre rope with two rope protectors, one on the initial edge and the other five metres down at the end of the chute. Wet pitch against the wall.

4. Eleven metre pitch.

Belay on bolt at top of drop. Hanger required for $\frac{5}{8}$ inch bolt, also tie-off to hold hanger against rock. No rope protectors. Fifteen metre rope. Wet pitch against the wall.

5. Diagonal pitch(14 metres)

Belay on eyebolt, two metres back from edge; 20 metre rope with two rope protectors. Follow ledges on eastern side of pitch to avoid the water. Hang rope over knob at top of pitch (protector here). Protector also required where pitch becomes vertical. Free for last 4 metres only.

6. Four metre cascade.

Eight metre rope. Belay to extremely dangerous looking boulder leaning against wall(you'll know it when you see it); or if you're feeling squeamish, put a bolt in. No protectors required.

7. Bolt traverse pitch(35 metres)

Spectacular pitch next to waterfall. Free after ten metres. Thirty-seven metre rope. Belay to eyebolt at head of pitch. Abseil several metres down rope and tie-off to bolt on western side. Hanger required. Abseil several more metres and tie-off to second bolt. Hero loop required. Ensure that rope hangs on the side of the knob away from the waterfall. Rope protector required at overhang.

The sump is reached by a crawlway at the end of the chamber. Exploration prospects are greatest in the dry passages below the Au Cheval Pitch.

8. Au Cheval Pitch(up 5 metres, down 15 metres)

Locating the passage is difficult, if you don't know where it is; about halfway down the chamber in the left hand wall. The passage is a narrow slit five metres up from the floor. Coil half of a twenty metre rope and toss the coils into the passage to jam it in the side of the passage. Prussik up carefully!! Belay a 30 metre rope to a block of talus in the main chamber and pass it up over the lip and down the other side. A tackle bag is necessary on the lip. The lip of the passage is a knife-edge with the five metre drop into the main chamber on one side and the fifteen metre drop on the other. All rock in the vicinity is very friable, no bolts or pegs could be placed.

TRIP REPORTS.

Maria Island - 15/1/73.

Party: Dave Gillieson and Rosie Murphy(UQSS visitors).

Riddle Bay on

While walking around the northern shore of Maria Island we came across three small sea caves, located at 913758 on the Maria 1:100,000 sheet. They are situated at the base of a west facing cliff of conglomerate, the pebbles in which are around 5 cm. in length, embedded in a limy matrix. They are 10 m., 20 m. and 40 m. deep, the shallowest being at the northern end of the cliff, and appear to be

controlled by three parallel joints. The cliff itself is about 20 m. high, and overhangs slightly, the lip being decorated with short stalactites. A dry valley running in a NE direction, sinks directly above the largest cave. Some solation pitting was noticed on rocks on the headland immediately above the caves. The outcrop of conglomerate is bounded on the west by granite (steep slabs and deep gorges) and on the east by granite (Cape des Tombeaux and Whaler's Cove). The area is overlain by dolerite, which is exposed on the beach at 912759.

Dave goes on to praise the attractions of Maria Island and also to describe a mass suicide of whales on Bloodstone Beach while they were on the island, but lack of space prevents full printing of this.

Dave Gillieson.

Mole Creek - 24,25/3/73.

Party: Peter Shaw, Phil Robinson, Yvonne Colliñ (surface only).

Armed with 500 feet of rope, we headed up the valley towards Execution Pot. "Half a mile" said Peter on setting out. "A mile" said Philip when we got there, subsequently verified as correct on examination of the map. The 300 ft. of Blue Water was rigged to a suitable dead tree and the entrance pitch of 100 ft. descended. A pleasant pitch with several ledges, with some nice flowstone at the bottom. Where's the second pitch? Toss a rock down a hole in the side of the chamber. A loud whooshing noise, as of a rock falling from a great height, and then CRASH! That must be the pitch. The remaining 200 ft. of Blue Water was tied off to a jammed log and lowered down the pitch; and what a beautiful pitch it was. Only 100 ft., a pity it wasn't longer, with smooth flowstone coated walls and the rope hanging about three feet out from the wall. The shaft was about six feet wide and twenty feet long with superb acoustics. After we had both descended, admiring the shaft in turn, we examined the stream passage which formed a T with the end of the second pitch. A rift on the same level as the foot of the pitch became too narrow after a hundred and fifty feet: The remainder of the rope was used to reach the stream which was blocked by talus after fifty feet. Upstream several short waterfalls were climbed by Philip with the passage still going upwards. After completing the survey, we returned to the surface. A few delays occurred when Peter broke a prussik sling near the top of the second pitch, and Philip turned the air blue when the rope got tangled as he hauled it up the top pitch. We reached the cars at dusk.

On Sunday we headed up to Devils Pot for some more surveying. Although the first pitch was rather grotty, the second pitch was another superb pitch with the rope hanging free several feet from the wall and a thundering waterfall plunging into the opposite side of the wall. A few short climbs in perfectly clean limestone lead to the third pitch, a fifty footer. Several hundred feet of dry passage brought us out onto the stream which emerged from a low hole and vanished down a passage about five feet wide with six inches air space. Definitely a wet suit job. The return to the surface was uneventful, emerging after five hours underground. A good weekend overall in Mole Creek's finest pots.

Tackle details:

Execution Pot.

- Pitch 1 - 100 ft, 4 rope protectors, free for the last 30 ft.
- Pitch 2 - 110 ft. free with a major ledge at 100 ft. down, 3 rope protectors. Belay to a jammed log.
- Pitch 3 - 60 ft. handline.

Note: A 300 ft. rope is sufficient for all three pitches.

Devils Pot.

- Pitch 1 - 90 ft., 4 rope protectors, steep slope for first twenty feet.
- Pitch 2 - 90 ft., 2 rope protectors, belay to large log opposite waterfall.
- Pitch 3 - 60 ft., 3 rope protectors, belay to large spike in wall.

An alternative to pitches 2 and 3 is to descend the passage on the

lower side of the hole after the first pitch. The shaft in the end of this passage should give a 70 to 80 ft. free drop into the chamber at the foot of the third pitch. A bolt may be necessary as a belay.

Peter Shaw.

Mole Creek - 24,25/3/73.

Party: Andrew Skinner(Acting leader), Ros Bell, Fiona Skinner, Josephine Heaslip(CEGSA), Jenny Forsyth(TUMC), Peter Komyshan(TUMC), Kathryn Medlock(SCS), and three members of the Tas.Uni.Geographical Society - Vincent Smith, Roger Kellaway and Michael Patten.

CROESUS CAVE (Saturday)

The party arrived intermittently and finally assembled at the Wet Caves camp site at 1100 hours. The party leader had only been to Croesus twice, and both times at night; hence he had only a very foggy memory of near which bridge on the Mersey Croesus was located. The party proceeded first to Union Bridge(oops!) thence to Liena(oops again!); finally to the cement bridge(ahh, this is it!). The cave was entered at 1300 hours. The present gate is practically useless as it can be entered at three places; the Club should attempt to ensure better protection with a stronger gate. The vandal who has been active in the area(latest Southern Caver, article by M.Cole) has not been to Croesus since Jan.27th as no further damage had been done. The first placement of reflectorised markers was opposite the "Snow Bank", in an attempt to keep visitors away from the white flowstone. Whilst the rest of the party placed the markers, the leader(who was wearing a wet suit) cleaned part of the flowstone with a nail-brush and bucket. The results were not really encouraging as some of the mud is calcified and dilute acid may be needed to remove the stains. Three other areas before the Golden Stairs were also marked, to prevent visitors from walking on the flowstone and gours. In each area the formation is easily bypassed, either by walking in shallow water or clambering over a small talus pile. The Masterlock was traversed by using the leader as a human stone and treading on his head while he trod water. The Golden Stairs also were marked to keep visitors away from the mud at the top and the upstream end. After a short lunch at the upstream extremity of the decorated section of the cave, the party made its way back to the entrance cleaning off more flowstone areas on the way. Restorative work remaining is the Snow Bank and small areas of flowstone in upper levels. Two drums and misc. pieces of wire near the Masterlock should be removed. The party returned at 1630 hours, after a satisfying 5½ hour trip.

KING SOLOMON CAVE(Sunday)

After a very sluggish start on Sunday morning, combined with car trouble, the party went on the 1400 hour inspection of King Solomon. Unfortunately little of the cave was observed as the wiring caught fire. At the time Caves Guide Chester Shaw had a bus party in the cave, together with us. When the lights failed, all cavers had helmets but only one torch. However, the tourists were safely escorted out before chlorine fumes engulfed the cave. The lead wiring in King Solomon has not been replaced since World War 1, hence it was in bad repair. It is hoped that it is renewed with plastic lead. Both Maracoopa and Newdegate have been re-wired recently. The situation in King Solomon is aggravated by the close proximity of wiring to the tourist route and by the small dimensions of the cave.

HASTINGS - NEWDEGATE CAVE 1/4/73.

(Condensed) Andrew Skinner took a party of cavers and prospectives on a whirlwind tourist type tour of the cave, and also removed rubbish and took photographs. Andrew Skinner.

P.S. Andrew wants a party of about 10 to carry a scaling pole and survey Hell's Half Acre. He also knows of lots more holes that need looking at.

On page 8 is a plan and section of Cauldron Pot. For trip report please see last months Spiel.

PLEASE PAY MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW!!

Cauldron Pot.

Plan. CRG IV.

Party: P.Shaw, P.Robinson, S.Nicholas.

10/3/73

L.Gleeson & C.Harris.

Depth 263 m. (862 ft.)

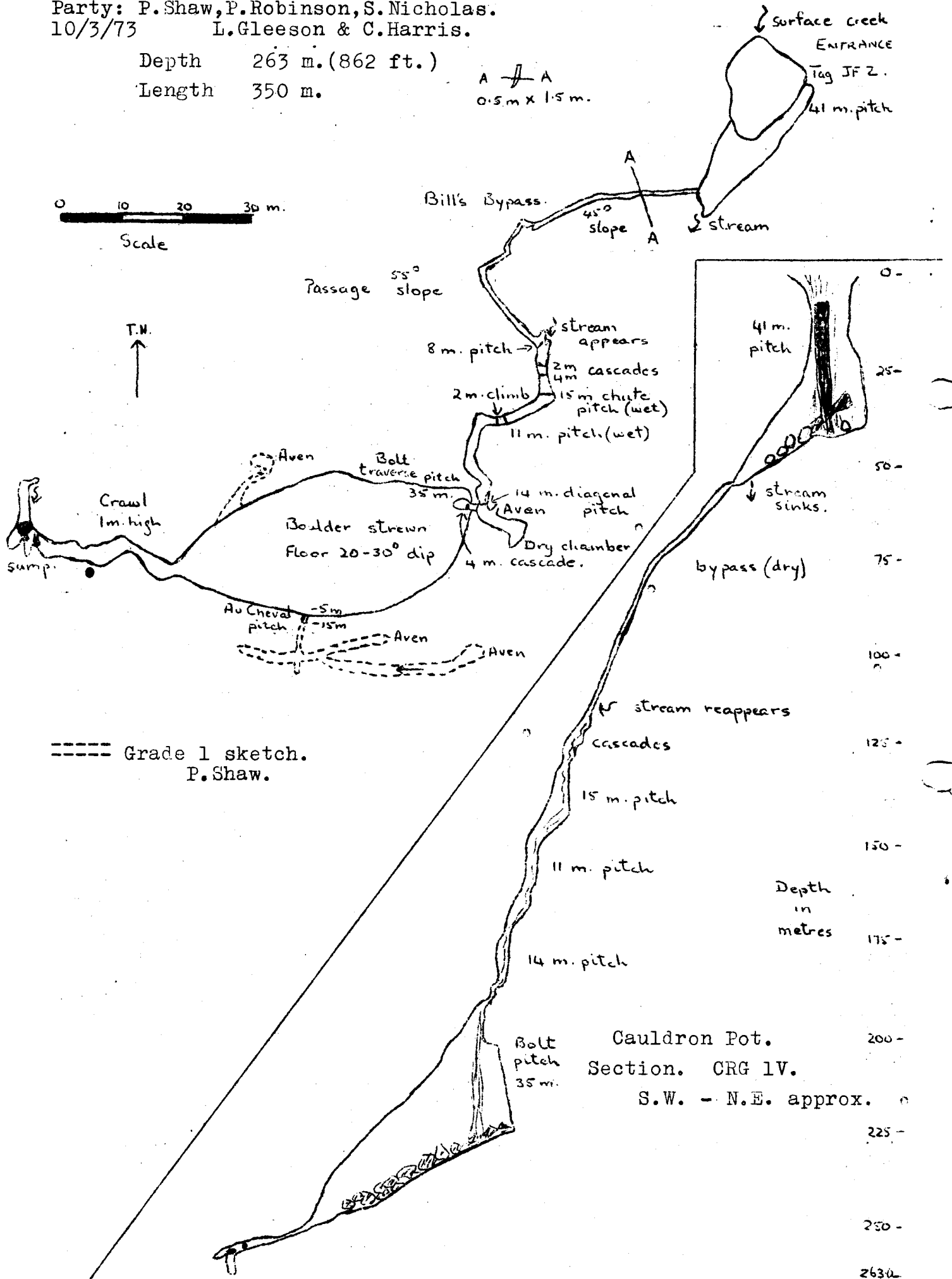
Length 350 m.

A A
0.5 m x 1.5 m.

0 10 20 30 m.

Scale

T.M.



----- Grade 1 sketch.
P.Shaw.

Cauldron Pot.
Section. CRG IV.

S.W. - N.E. approx.

200 -

225 -

250 -

2630 -

Depth
in
metres