## 

### 

## NEWSLETTER

## TASMANIAR

# CAVERNEERING

Zo. 8

1973

20 Annual

cobl

s a Category"B"

President: Albert Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, Tas. 7000. Secretary: Andrew Skinner, 2/62 Colville Street, Battery Pt. 7000.

Editor: Andrew Skinner.

### FORWARD PROGRAMME.

July 21	_	Saturday: Inaugural meeting of state liaison
		council at SCS Clubrooms, 132 Davey Street, Hobart.
T 7 00		

Sunday: Climbing practice at Spinx Rock. July 22

Leader: Andrew Skinner. Tuesday: 8.00 p.m. Public Meeting at Town Hall on July 31

Precipitous Bluff.

Wednesday: General meeting 8 Bath St., Battery **Au**gust 1 Point, 8 p.m. BYO drinks and refreshments.

August 11,12 Kubla Khan(cleaning flowstone). Tourist trip to Wet Cave. Leader: Andrew Skinner.

August 14-17 Tues.-Fri.: Mid-week trip to Exit Cave. Leader: Andrew Skinner.

Weekend: Junee-Florentine. Programme undecided August 18-19 but probably track marking in Welcome Stranger. Leader: Andrew Skinner.

### EDITORIAL.

Another relatively quiet month underground, with the silence of the underworld little punctuated by the presence of speleologists. In the Florentine Valley several new holes were investigated but nothing of major significance was discovered. Thanks to Max Jeffries for a very pleasant day. In Exit Cave a party by-passed the 'dig' reported in the last Spiel. Water was observed to drip from three avens behind the area of the dig. Two-way radios were used successfully in Exit, being quite useful for photographing large chambers. Wolf Hole was surveyed and the results will appear in the next Spiel. At the July meeting the club approved the concept of the formation of a state liaison council, similar to the set-up in NSW. My local grapevine tells me that both other caving groups are similarly inclined. The first meeting will take place at the SCS Clubrooms on July 21. The Tasmanian newspapers have been alive with "cave" news, with Precipitous Bluff, Vanishing Falls and Exit Cave being mentioned.

### Club News.

- Congratulations to Ross Mansfield who was elected a party leader at the last meeting.
- Our roving reporter, Peter Shaw, has succumbed to looking at tourist caves and has visited Naracoorte, Glenelg River and Buchan. Peter has also visited Wyanbene with ISS and Bungonia. In his own words: "..very angry to hear about P.B. can't do much at the moment but after August, all I can. Looks like I might return to

Tas. in September or November. Amazing how much you miss a place where it's cold, wet, windy with the most horrible scrub and scungiest caves."

SUSS are in for a celebration for their 25th Annual Dinner is due. Established in 1948, it is the oldest club on the mainland. Best wishes SUSS, us oldies have to stick together.

+ From the "Huon News", June 21st.

" In the East, there are dolerites and sedimentary rocks, including extensive beds of limestone appearing from time to time between Hastings, the New River and the Cracroft Gorge. At Hastings one cave has been developed and attracts some 20,000 visitors a year. A small group of enthusiastic caverneers, in association with professed conservationists, seems to be claiming an exclusive right and interest over the rest of the lime.....

"WHAT DO YOU THINK???" Come along and find out at the public meeting at 8 p.m. July 31st at the Town Hall.

Topic: Precipitous Bluff, Land Use Problems.

Chairman; Prof. Peter Scott.

Min. Holdings (Aust.) the Esperance Council and Mr. Reece have been

invited to speak.

+ Quote: Alwin Toffler. 'Future Shock'(p.22).
"It has been observed, for example, that if the last 50,000 years of man's existence were divided into lifetimes of approximately sixty-two years each, there would be about 800 such lifetimes, of these 800, fully 650 were spent in caves."

Prospective Members.

We welcome the following: -

Mike Jagoe, Springvale Hostel, 2 Midwood St., New Town, 7008.

Laurence R. Moody, 13 Mason St., Claremont, 7011. Nicholas Gould, 12 Pascoe Avenue, Claremont, 7011.

Mike is rejoining the club and is in fact a past vice-president and

party leader.

Change of Address:

Tony Sprent, Grays Road, Fern Tree, 7101.
Roy, Pam and Fiona Skinner, 12 Nixon Street, Sandy Bay, 7005.

Cave Numbering.

Numbered early this year; small cave; two entrances at JF 43,44 base of low cliff; steeply sloping passage to small chamber followed by short drop; further north on same ridge as JF 1(J).

JF 45 Small cave in limestone hillock adjacent to road; 60 metres of winding passage; short distance NW of Cashion Creek Cave. Numbered on 17/6/73. Located in Florentine Valley.

### WANTED.

Slides that make non-cavers say Yeech!!! I am gathering/taking/pinching slides for the annual Launceston Walking Club slide show. We do this every now and then to add a professional touch to the evening. This year instead of showing the grandeur of K.K. (not K.K. the writer) we hope to show a series on cavers, particularly those doing those terrible things that give plebs the horrors, e.g. caver being lowered into small hole by the feet. Anyway if anybody can help me out with slides or copies(I'll pay) I'd be most obliged. Contributors will be acknowledged at least by club if not by name. Frank C. Brown,

18 Kenbrae Place, South Launceston.

The Morocl 'miracle'.
Reference: Arthur Clarke's letter, June Spiel.

re: comments on "SRT bravados" in Tassy Pot.

The printing of such stirring correspondence cannot go unanswered. It is over two years since the original bottoming of Tassy Pot. It was Arthur's description at the time(i.e. large aven but no further depth) that prompted Peter Shaw and myself not to pass the wet squeeze. The passage beyond has obviously enlarged with time! Philip Robinson.

Illustrated Lecture Arts Lecture Theatre Wednesday, 25th July, 1973. 8 p.m.

George Harris " Walking and Climbing in the South Island of New Zealand." All cavers, walkers, climbers welcome. Admission \$1.00 per head.

### BOLTS AS ARTIFICIAL ANCHORS

Peter Shaw.

In this article I do not propose to mention the expansion bolt type of anchorage such as Loxins and terriers.

The technique is as follows.

1. A hole 1-12 inches in depth is drilled using a 1/4 inch

diameter masonry drill and a piton hammer.

2. A 5/16 inch high tensile steel bolt, which has been filed down is hammered into the hole.

3. A keyhole bracket is fitted over the head of the bolt

and a karabiner clipped to it.

Speleo Spiel. Page 3. The gear required is a piton hammer, several drills, a drill holder. a wedge for removing broken drills, several feet of plastic tubing, several bolts and keyhole brackets.

The drills, drill holder and wedge may be purchased from a hardware store. Two types of drill are available: - a star type drill is made by Rawlplug and an ordinary corkscrew type drill is made by Sabco. Neither drill seems to drill faster but the Sabco drill tends to break more often because of its lower cross-sectional area.

Bolts required are one and a half, and two inches long, with 5/16 inch diameter. They should be high tensile bolts. Mild steel bolts are easier to file but will tend to bend more often, when being inserted. Before use, they must be tapered with a file to within a quarter of an inch of the head.

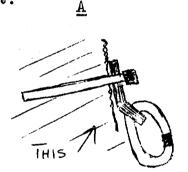
It's a good idea to have slightly different tapers on the bolts. In good hard limestone, the hole will be almost cylindrical; but in typical Junee type muck the hole will have more of a taper.

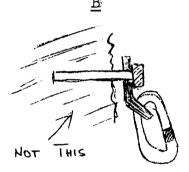
The keyhole bracket is cut from \frac{1}{8} inch mild steel with the dimensions as indicated. After machining, it is bent through an angle of thirty degrees at the dotted line. In use the bracket is fitted onto the bolt by putting the large hole over the head of the bolt and sliding the bracket down. If a krab is clipped through the hole, the bracket cannot be removed without first removing the krab.

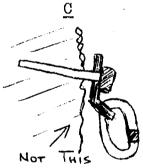
### Putting a bolt in.

The site for the hole should be smch that the bracket can be fitted over the bolt when it is in place, i.e. the hole should not be in a hollow in the rock.

The hole should be inclined so that the bracket will sit against the rock not hang off the head of the bolt.







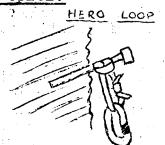
In B, the bolt will tend to bend where it touches the rock; and in C, the bolt could be pulled out. Two inch bolts are preferable where the pitch is long, the placing awkward or where the bolt can not be tied back to another anchorage.

The hole is made by alternately hitting the drill and then twisting it slightly. When some dust has accumulated in the hole, it is removed by blowing through the plastic tubing. Having drilled the hole, the bolt with the best taper to match the hole should be select -ed and hammered into the hole. Be careful not to overdrive the bolt, and hit it squarely to avoid either bending the bolt or fracturing the head.

Having hammered the bolt in, you will sometimes find that it will not go all the way, and the head is sticking out too far. There are two solutions for this. One is to tie the bolt off using a hero loop, and the other is to tie a knot with some tape, between the bracket and the head of the bolt, so that the bracket can not slide out and place undue strain on the bolt. A hero loop is a short loop of half inch Tiger webbing tied with a tape knot.

Hero loops are useful also if the placement is such that a bracket cannot be fitted over the bolt. The second method is preferable when you haven't anything to use as a here loop with you

able when you haven't anything to use as a hero loop with you.



KNOT BETWEEN BRACKET



AND BOLT HEAD.

The advantages of this method over Loxins is the comparative weight. The bolting gear required for the above can be carried on every exploration trup, whereas the weight of gear required for putting in Loxins does not encourage taking it every time. I do not have any comparative strength details but a Loxin tends to be more psychologically satisfying and does not require quite so much care in placement. Peter Shaw.

### DESCRIPTION OF JF 14.

### DWARROWDELF

DEPTH 836'.

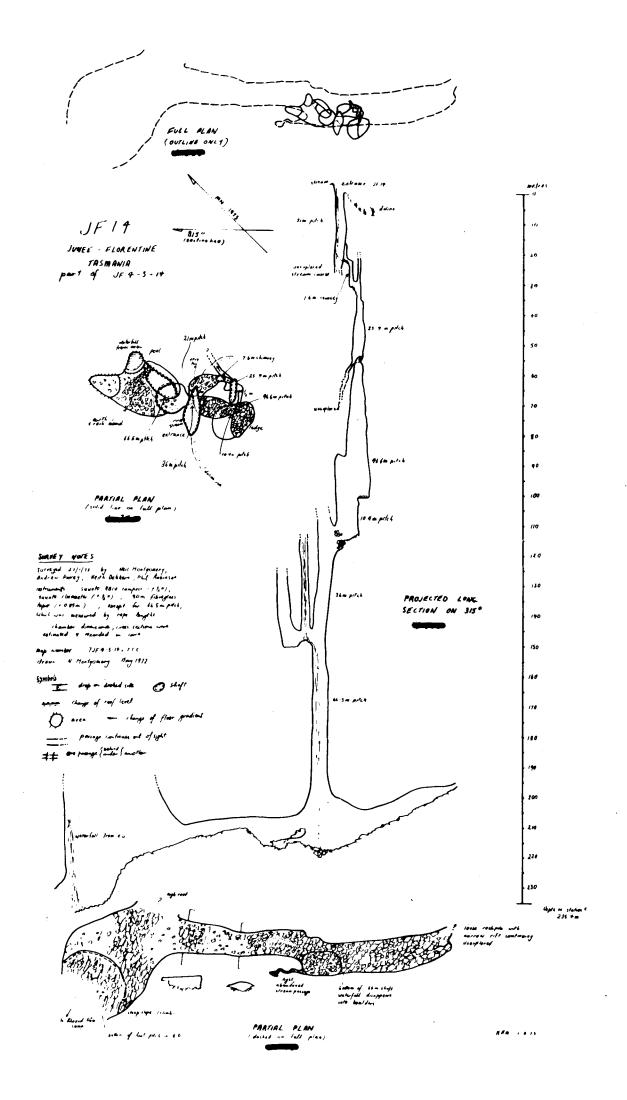
JF 14 is the lowest entrance to the JF 4-5-14 system. It is on the side of a largish doline, about 8 m. above the doling floor. The entrance is elliptical, with a stream(generally small) running in on the northern side. The entrance pitch(21 m.) is belayed from a tree on the eastern side of the entrance. It is against rock and requires three protectors and 25 m. of rope. The rock is crumbly, with many fine shale lenses that protrude from the walls. This character is maintained right through the cave.

At the bottom of the pitch one leaves the stream and a sloping, rubble floored passage is taken. This drops quickly into an easy 7.6 m. chimney and the passage meets a cross rift, about 1 m. wide trending on 240°. The rift continues upward for at least 8 m., but going downwards bells into a shaft averaging 4 m. in diameter. This shaft is descended by belaying on a chockstone 3.5 m. from the shaft lip. Thirty five metres of rope and 2 protectors are required for the 25.4 m. pitch. It is largely against rock, with a ledge 14 m. down. The obvious way on is down a small north trending passage inclined at  $40^{\circ}$ . This is not taken and instead a SW trending passage is followed, of equally small dimensions. After a few metres this drops into a 57 m. shaft, averaging about 8 m. in diameter. A bolt needs to be placed here, with a tie-back to the rope from the second pitch. There is a pitch of 46.6 m. to a wide ledge where a boulder is used as a tie-off for a further 10.4 m. pitch. Sixty metres of rope, a 3 m. trace and four protedtors are used to tackle the shaft.

A sloping, boulder floored chamber is followed to the next pitch. There is a cluster of chockstones in the roof above the pitch. A piton or bolt is required, with a tie-back to a floor boulder. The pitch of 36 m. starts in a north trending rift and then goes down a sloping face. Forty metres of rope a 3 m. trace and a couple of protectors are used. The shaft leads straight into a second, larger shaft of 66.5 m., but it is possible to step off into a chamber at this point. Two avens come into the chamber, one containing what is probably the entrance stream. There is a poorly cemented mud and

boulder pile in the centre of the chamber.

A bolt is placed th belay the 66.5 m. shaft with a tie-back to the rope above. Two protectors are used on the lip and then there is a superb free abseil down the centre of the shaft. The shaft is fairly constant in size, about 8 m.X 4 m. and elliptical in cross section. Light and dark banding in the shaft walls reflect varying mud content in the limestone. A shower of water (the stream from the aven) may make for poor visibility while climbing. The shaft bells out towards the end into a large passage and the pitch ends in a boulder filled depression in the chamber floor. The water disappears into the boulders. A small, dry, meandering stream passage probably represents a former course of the water. This passage ends in a rockfall after about 15 m.



Speleo Spiel.

o Spiel. Page 5. July. 1973. The main passage is 5 - 10 m. wide and up to 10 m. high, floored with roof colllapse boulders, sand and gravel. It can be followed SE and upwards for about 4 m. to a narrow rift, or NW for a similar distance, where it opens out into the immense final chamber of Khazad -Dum. A climb down a steep boulder and clay slope in necessary to reach the terminal sump. Neil Montgomery, 4/6/1973.

### MARIA ISLAND

Background:

In September 1972 Maria Island was visited by the Tasmanian University Geographical Society. They reported three sea caves in the south of the north island, east of Reidle Bay. Subsequently these caves were visited by Dave Gillieson and Rosie Murphy of UQSS. who passed on a report to TCC. With this knowledge, and aware of limestone outcrops in the north of the island, a trip was organised by TCC including members of SCS, the Uni. Mountaineering Club and the Tas. Uni. Geographical Society.

Geological Background:

Silurian and Devonian strata are overlain unconformably by Permian rocks. Due to extensive North-South faulting a broad section of the Permian series has been exposed along the eastern side of the fault line, particularly at the northern end. Jurassic dolerite caps Permian sediments and forms the peaks and high land of the main massif. Intrusions of Devonian granite are present in the south of the north island. The Permian strata form a magnificent cliff in the northern end of the island. These beds are richly fossiliferous and consist of silt, sand and limestone formations. Banks(1965), cites it as being the best example of the lower Permian in Tasmania.

Cave Development:

Two days were spent investigating the northern coast and two caves were discovered.

Tearflesh Chasm is developed in limestone on a headland (856884 on Maria Is. 1:100,000 map sheet). It is a blowhole with a major side passage leading off to a rear entrance. The blowhole faces seaward and its orientation appears to be controlled by jointing. The side passage through the headland (Piranha Passage) branches into

tight squeezes. Some flowstone, gours and stalactites were present.

Pigface Cavern is situated at 846895 on the map sheet. It is a 20 m. long sea cave with talus at the entrance and is about 10 m. above sea level(see map). Two deposits of travertine were observed east of Pigface Cavern. One deposit was about 40 m. above sea level and a trickle of water issued from a small hole above. However, as it is situated half-way down an overhanging cliff, access is very difficult. Another small cave has been reported near the abandoned lime-

stone quarry(Goede, pers.comm.).
A visit to the known caves in the vicinity of Reidle Bay was attempted on a day trip involving a 23 mile hike. Reaching the headland facing the three entrances at dusk it was noted that the tide was in and the party started the long walk back to the campsite at Darlington. The three caves are located at 913758 on the map and are formed in limy conglomerate bounded on the west and east by Devonian granite. They are not very extensive, the largest being 40 m. long. A dry valley sinks above the largest cave. (Gillieson, 1973).

Future Prospects:

The caves of Maria Is. are basically of marine formation but are modified by the extra solubility of the parent rock. It is likely that similar caves to Tearflesh Chasm could be found around the eastern shore of the north island. One creek sinks near Bishop and Clerk and is probably the source of water cascading from the travertine deposit described earlier. Access to the cliffs under Bishop and Clerk is not easy as it requires swimming across sections of sea where there is no shore platform. Scuba divers have also reported undersea caves at the base of the cliffs.

### Bibliography:

Banks, M.R., (1965). Geological Excursions for A.N.Z.A.A.S., pp.34-

37, Tas. Dept. Mines.
Gillieson, D., (1973). Maria Island Trip Report, Speleo Spiel No.78.
Kiernan, K.(1973). Maria Island Area Report, Southern Caver, Vol.5,
No.1.

ASF Map. No. 7 MI 1 SCS 1.

Appendix:

The explorers of Tearflesh Chasm were wearing shorts at the time. From the name 'Pirahna Passage' one can guess that the rock was sharp! To Tearflesh Chasm the following is dedicated:

"Through me you pass into the city of woe:
I am the gateway to eternal pain:
The gateway to the souls of the lost.
Justice was the spur to my mighty creator:
To rear me was the task of power divine,
Supremest wisdom, and primeval love.
Before me, of things created there were none,
Save things eternal, and eternal I endure.
Abandon hope, all you who enter here."

(Dante)

Gear Requirements:

For traversing around the base of the cliffs there are three alternatives:

(1) wetsuits and/or lilos.

(2) pitons and climbing rope for traversing.

(3) descend cliffs with 30 m. rope. D Rigface Cavern - Haria Island Tear flesh Chasm CRG Grade 1 Sketch. Darlington Visited on 30/5/73 by A. Skinner and Pinface Cavern AND CLERK Map No. 7 HI 2 TCC 1. Asr. symbols 7 metres. entrance Mr. MARIA Talus (approx) MARIA ISLAND (State Reserve) REIDLE BAY Sea caves blank well I Km.

### REPORTS TRIP

Hastings - 22/5/73.

Party: Andrew and Fiona Skinner and Kevin Kiernan.

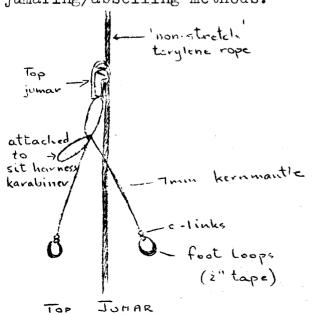
Ten hours were spent mapping King George V Cave as the previous surveys were either inadequate or misplaced. The cave itself proved to be larger than expected and required over 50 stations. Upstream the rockfall was bypassed, possibly for the first time. A tight squeeze to the left ledgeto an area of unstable talus, ending in a small vertical fissure. This are of the cave is probably under the Permian Unconformity. The stream divides with the right fork ending in a squeeze next to the final rockfall. The left fork was followed until it terminated in a small waterfall. Kevin amused us by climbing 5 m. up the rather grotty walls of the waterfall and extinguishing his carbide lamp. The fall seemed to continue vertically for at least another 4 m. but could not be climbed without artificial gear. For us it was the first time we had seen the waterfall, but there is little scope for further exploration. Returning to the surface I discovered that the Suunto compass was missing. Kevin and Fiona made a fruitless search for about an hour. Andrew Skinner.

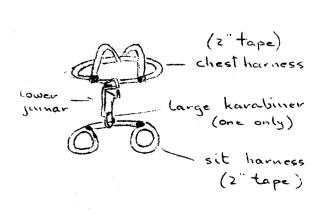
Prussiking/Abseiling Practice at Rocky Tom. - 9/6/1973. Participants: Phil Robinson, Stuart Nicholas, Nick Cummings, Jan Hardy, Albert Goede and Andrew Skinner.

The mighty cliff hung in a misty drizzle. With my new(refined) whaletail, terylene rope, rope 'protector', tape chest-sit harness, foot loops, leg slings, jumars, ... etc. etc.? I prepared for the dizzy descent of 10 metres. A knot at -5 m. is included for interest. "Oh where are the simple days of ladders?" said the caver of yester year. "Where the hell do I put this karabiner? says Jan. " Flease don't hang upside down all day" comments Phil.

So the (complicated?) assortment of cord, tapes and krabs was sorted out. Just needs a little thought. In space we changed from abseiling to jumaring, jumaring to abseiling and passed knots. A standard prussiking system was used throughout (see below). Thus problems were common to all; a great advantage. The method is used by experienced mainland potholers. For safety and versatility it is excellent. The leapfrog action needed is very easy to learn. Bend both legs and move up the top jumar with both hands. Next stand up, still keeping hold of the top jumar. As one is near vertical this requires little effort. The 'chest' jumar moves up automatically. With a comfortable 2" tape seat one can rest indefinitely. Just stop all movement and hang there ....!

The next training session will involve rope protection problems, horizontal rope traverses, piton and bolt work as well as the usual jumaring/abseiling methods. Phil Robinson.





LUMAR LOWER

Speleo Spiel. Page 8. July, 1973. Florentine Valley - Sunday, 17/6/73.

Party: Albert Goede (leader), Therese and Diana Goede, Nick Cummings, Andrew and Fiona Skinner, Max and Tim Jeffries, Ros Bell, Noel White, Scott Drake, Dale Roberts, Sth. Australian visitors Grant Gartrell (CEGSA. President), Lesley and Holly Gartrell. Prospective members: Michelle Farrel, David Nichols, Greg Strickland, Kate Jenkins and Bruce Chetwynd.

This was undoubtedlt the largest caving party to leave Hobart for some time which just goes to show that there is plenty of interest in an easy, social type trip. Owing to its large size the party left Hobart somewhat late and a further hour was spent at the barrier waiting for Bruce Chetwynd and co. Needless to say Bruce's chances of becoming a member dimmed considerably during that time as it was bitterly cold and foggy. One half of the party was kindly taken in by the gatekeeper while the other half amused themselves by throwing ice at each other.

First we explored a numbervof holes in a small limestone hillock a short distance NW of Cashion Ck.Cave bordering the western side of the main Florentine Road. One of these led into a small dry cave with about sixty metres of passage with a daylight hole near the far end. All lower levels are filled with cave fill but there is some prospect for a dig. The cave was numbered JF 45. We then investigated an area at about 420 E761N, (yards), near a newly'constructed'road. Two creek sinks were found. The northerly one sinks just east of the road into a mud filled doline and offers no prospects. The southerly one crosses the road and sinks a short distance to the west at the foot of a low ridge. One very wet crawl was investigated by Andrew and may be possible in summer. We then followed the ridge towards the west for some distance and found at least six small caves - none of these were numbered as the numbering gear had been left at JF 45.

To conclude the day we retired to the picnic shelter on No.7 road for a late picnic lunch where with Max's expert assistance we soon had a roaring fire going. There was even enough snow for a snow fight. It is in the rain forest and would be a lovely picnic spot on a hot summers day.

The final event of the day occurred on the way home when two cars went astmay. One came home via Hamilton while the other almost reached Tarraleah(you've guessed it - Bruce was driving that one). Many thanks to Max Jeffries and his son Tim for acting as guides on a most enjoyable day. More trips of this kind should be run.

Albert Goede.

Exit Cave - 23,24/6/1973.

Party: Andrew Skinner and Prospective members Bruce Chetwynd and Greg Strickland.

The party walked into Camp 2 on Friday night, arranging a rope across the D'Entrecasteaux crossing en route. After reaching Camp 2 it was realized that nobody had a watch! On Saturday a visit was made to a side passage leading west near the Entrance Creek Passage but nothing new was found. At'the dig' area a pile of talus was bypassed, leading to a complex area with several avens. Water dropping from them is certainly the source of the small creek running to the dig. This passage had been surveyed partly before but the avens must have been overlooked. As we had no survey gear, mapping had to be left for a future trip. A very loose pile of talus at the end of the chamber of Damocles was pushed for about an hour with no result. A short side passage was discovered to the south, and this appears unentered previously. The rest of Saturday was spent photographing in the Mud Passage and in the Eastern Grand Fissure area. Two-way radios were useful for co-ordination in multiple flash photographs. A quick visit was made to the Devils Stovepipe late on Saturday. Upon awakening on Sunday water could be heard dripping from the roof near the Dribble System. The flow soon increased to a cascading miniwaterfall. Although the creek had not yet risen at Camp 2 we decided to make a quick exit. At the D'Entrecasteaux crossing the water was already high and rising rapidly. Luckily we had rigged the rope on

the way in. The log bridge was crossed without incident and we reached Hastings at 10.30 p.m. Andrew Skinner.

Single Rope Practice, Gunners Quoin - 7/7/73.

Party: Phil Robinson, Albert Goede, Stuart Nicholas, Atilla Vrana, Hilary Cane and Ron Akhurst(or was it David Cripps?).

As it was an icy morning cars were not very cooperative and we left Hobart somewhat late. We called at Col Hocking's on the way to buy some additional hardware and arrived at the Risdon Brook Reservoir at 10.45 a.m. where we left the cars. Nobody in the party had been from there to Gunners Quoin before- in fact our leader had never been there at all - but he did have a notion that it was only half an hour's walk. We were soon scrambling up and down frost-bitten slopes and over logs hoary with needle ice and despite the cold were soon sweating freely. One and a half hours later we reached the Quoin - a little late since Atilla, Hilary and myself had intended to come for only half a day. A 180 ft. free drop was found which effectively cut down the number of volunteers and most of us were content to watch while Philip and Atilla made the descent and then came up again. By then it was time for three of us to head back to the car. Atilla decided to be cunning and head for a vehicle track further east we discovered however, that we had two extremely deep gullies to cross(one almost a gorge) in order to get there and on an empty stomach(no lunch) it did not go down to well. It took us nearly as long to walk back as in and we returned to Hobart at 4 p.m. for a very late lunch. Albert Goede.

### $\mathtt{BIG}$ BILL IS FUMING!

In the last Spiel there was a search and rescue information sheet which all members were asked to return regardless of whether or not they are available for S and R.

Two people have returned the sheet (one an associate member, the other a non-member from the NW). To make Big Bill happy please return those sheets to him before the end of July!