

# SPELEO — SPIEL

## NEWSLETTER

*of the*

## TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB . No. 86

DEC 1973

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

Annual sub. \$ 2.00

One copy 20 cents.

"THE KHAN" IN KUGLA KHAN.

Registered for posting as a  
periodical - Category "B"

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Secretary: Andrew Skinner, 5A Hampden Road, Battery Pt., Tas. 7000.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- December 6 - LOST WORLD, (Mt. Wellington) Exploration and mapping dolerite caves. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- Dec.7. - Wolf Hole. New Norfolk High Adventure Camp. Leader: Ross Mansfield.
- Dec.8. - Wolf Hole. Surveying. Leader: Laurie Moody.
- Dec.15-16 - Mole Creek. Meeting of Tasmanian Council of Speleology on Sat. followed by a dinner arranged by the Northern Caverneers. Caving on Sunday. Delegates: Bill Lehmann, Simon Stephens and Andrew Skinner.
- Dec.22-23 - Upper Macleay, N.S.W. Leader: Noel White.
- Dec.23-24 - Hastings, Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- Dec.23-24 - "Back to Dover" celebrations. TCC is preparing a display on Exit and Hastings. Display material to secretary, Andrew Skinner.
- Dec.26-31 - Mole Creek. Exploration in Wet Cave with scaling pole. Numbering. Cleaning up in Kubla Khan. Surveying in new cave near King Solomon and perhaps Ghen-gis Khan, lilo racing. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- Dec.31 - New Year's Eve: Festivities at 13 Mason Street, Claremont. Camp on the Moody's back lawn if you don't want to drive home. Slides will be shown of the South Coast, Precipitous Bluff and Surprise Bay. Bring your own grog.
- Jan.5-6(1974) - Growling Swallet. Leader: Laurie Moody.
- Jan.19-20 - Ida Bay, possibly Exit. Leader: Laurie Moody.
- Jan 26 - ASF Committee Meeting, Melbourne, followed by a trip to Buchan. Andrew Skinner.
- Feb. - Lower Gordon. Inquiries to Southern Caving Society, Box 121, Moonah, 7009.
- Feb.6. - General Meeting. 5A Hampden Road, Battery Point.
- Feb.9-10 - Maydena. Possibly track marking in Welcome Stranger. Leader: Laurie Moody.
- Easter '74 - Maria Island(tentative).
- Dec.'74-Jan.'75 - ASF Conference in Brisbane, Q'ld.

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SPHINX ROCK - Climbing practice every Wednesday night. Leave 66 Wentworth Street, Sth.Hobart at 6.00p.m. Be THERE!

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Some other trips will probably occur and will be arranged on Wednesday evenings at 66 Wentworth Street, South Hobart.

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EDITORIAL.

Six caving trips were held last month and some new discoveries were made. At Surprise Bay, on Tasmania's South coast, some small caves were explored, numbered and surveyed in Ordovician limestone. The new caves are all quite small with the longest being 80 metres(in Permian conglomerate).

During a mid-week trip the Lost World on Mount Wellington was visited. Four dolerite fissure caves were explored and three of them mapped. The largest was 360 metres in length whilst the others yielded 305, 135 and 100 metres of passages. The largest one, tentatively named "Dolerite Delight", is probably the longest non-limestone cave in the State. Situated at an altitude of 1,150 metres, it

is probably also one of the coldest caves in Tasmania!

The mapping of Wolf Hole(Hastings) is proving to be a larger project than anticipated. Two surveying trips have been made and over a kilometre of passage is now on paper, 520 metres being added on 8/12/73. Many passages still remain to be mapped and it is quite likely that the cave is the longest in the Hastings area as Newdegate is only 1,650(+) metres long.

Andrew Skinner.

#### SPELEO-MISCELLANY:

##### + Prospective members:-

Robyn Smith, 6 Constance Ave, Glenorchy. (Rumoured to be on a diet).  
Stefan Karpiniac, Wellwood St., Lenah Valley. Stefan is well on the way to becoming one of Tasmania's more experienced "sea cavers", having been on trips to Maria Is. and Surprise Bay. He has also visited Exit, Hastings and the Lost World.

Noel Ancell, 65 Hampden Road, Battery Point. Noel was formerly a member of CEGSA and is acquainted with such people as Ian Lewis and Grant Gartrell. CEGSA characteristics and traits apparent, he was seen digging in a cave in dolerite!

##### + Cave numbering: (Names are not official)

SB 1.

SB 2. Twin Arches.

SB 3. (number assigned only)

SB 4. Shoemaker Cave.

SB 5. Crustacean Cave(Australia's most southerly).

SB 6. Driftwood Shelter.

Descriptions of these caves are in the Surprise Bay article.

Other proposed cave names are Camper's Cavern, Dolerite Delight, and Lost World Grotto. Descriptions in trip report on the Lost World.

+ Have you read Australian Outdoors (Dec. issue) ? The article "Into Australia's Second Deepest Hole" was written by Peter Shaw and features some good photographs, including one of a bearded, mud-covered Philip Robinson.

+ The club has received the first annual report of the Tasmanian Environment Centre. The TEC provides information, advisory, office, liaison and referral services to the Tasmanian community. It aims at encouraging community conservation education and responsible attitudes to the environment and to undertake objective research. It is thus a service organisation and is not aligned with any particular group or political party. It exists so that community environment groups, individuals and societies can make use of its services. Volunteer staff are needed in the fields of fund raising, research, secretarial, telephone, typing and library services. If you can help, please contact Dr. Robert Walker, Mrs. Shirley Bartholomew or Leigh Holloway at the TEC, 281 Elizabeth St., Phone No. 34 5543.

+ The TCC submission to the Australian Government's Inquiry into the National Estate was presented on 4-12-73 by Andrew Skinner and Brian Collin. The Submission is concerned mainly with the protection of Exit, Kubla Khan and Croesus Caves. It was pointed out that these three are of certain national significance and should be added to the national estate or be declared state reserves. Brief comments were made on cave protection legislation, recreational zoning, and the need for protection at Precipitous Bluff and re-alignment of the Hastings Cave Reserve. Members could take individual initiatives on Exit and Kubla Khan by writing to the newspapers and politicians, especially Mr. Costello and Mr. Miller. Copies of the submission can be borrowed from the Secretary.

+ The 1973-74 ASF Conference Committee (UQSS, c/o The Union, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Q'ld. 4067) is inviting 20 minute papers for the Conference on the following topics:

Tropical karst  
 Geology, geomorphology, hydrology, palaeontology  
 surface and subsurface flora and fauna of limestone areas  
 anthropology  
 expedition reports - overseas and local  
 conservation  
 pseudo-karst and lava tunnels  
 techniques - photography, surveying, caving, rescue.

To facilitate early publication of the proceedings of the Conference and precirculation of abstracts, text should be submitted, including an abstract of up to 150 words, by the 1st of September, 1974.

+ SPECIAL PROSPECTOR'S LICENCE AT IDA BAY. Notice of application for this licence was given in The Mercury of 13/11/73. The area sought, slightly impinged on the proposed State Reserve to protect Exit Cave. The Mines Dept., answering a verbal inquiry from a Club representative, said that the licence would be refused as it impinged on an existing mining lease. Accordingly no attempt was made to object to the licence on behalf of the Club. Subsequently it was learned that the application was indeed valid. The Southern Caving Society has officially objected to the application and the company involved (Benders Spreading Services) has agreed (in writing to SCS) to relinquish that part of their application which impinges on the proposed reserve. TCC has written to the Director of Mines asking that our objections be considered "on an administrative basis".

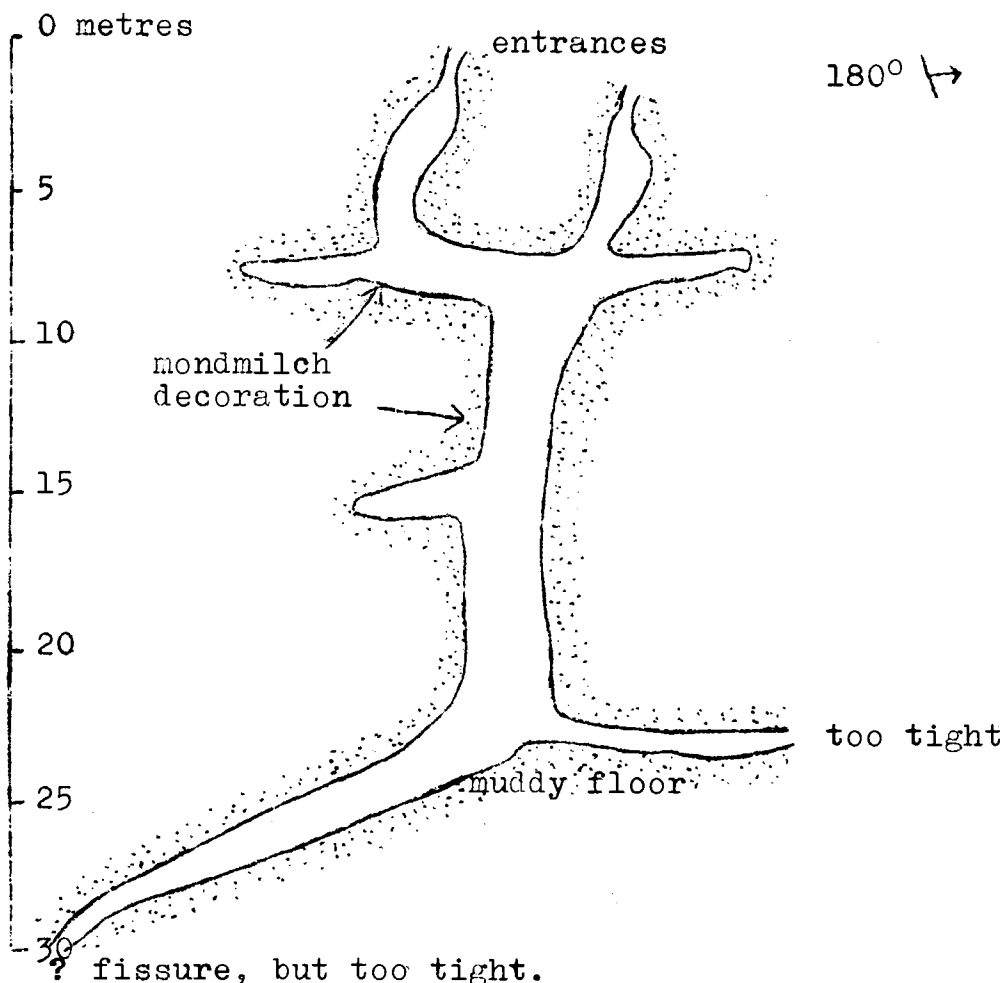
Section of Quarry Hole - JF 46, Maydena, Tasmania.

C.R.G. Grade 4, ASF Map 7JF46TCC1.

Explored by L. Moody, F. Skinner, N. Berwick, M. Jeffries on 28/10/73.

Surveyed by A. & R. Skinner, L. Conrades and M. Jeffries on 11/11/73.

Scale 1:250      Depth: 30 metres.



TRIP REPORTS.

Craycroft Saddle area. 3-4/10/73.

Party: Attila Vrana and Brian Collin.

Numerous dolines were found in an area some  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile S.E. of the Saddle camp site. The dolines were mainly depression type with little bare rock showing, however, one was very impressive being 60 feet deep with clean limestone walls on three sides and a steep slope down which flowed a small creek on the fourth side. The cave at the bottom could only be entered for about 20 feet where it blocked off with clay and dolerite boulders.

Another doline had a reasonable sized creek flowing underground through a boulder choked fissure.

Opinion at this stage is:

1) The water going underground on the eastern side of the Saddle flows out Judds Cavern on the western side about 1 mile away.

2) There could be an extensive cave system but dolerite boulders and dolerite clay could make trogging messy.

Brian Collin.

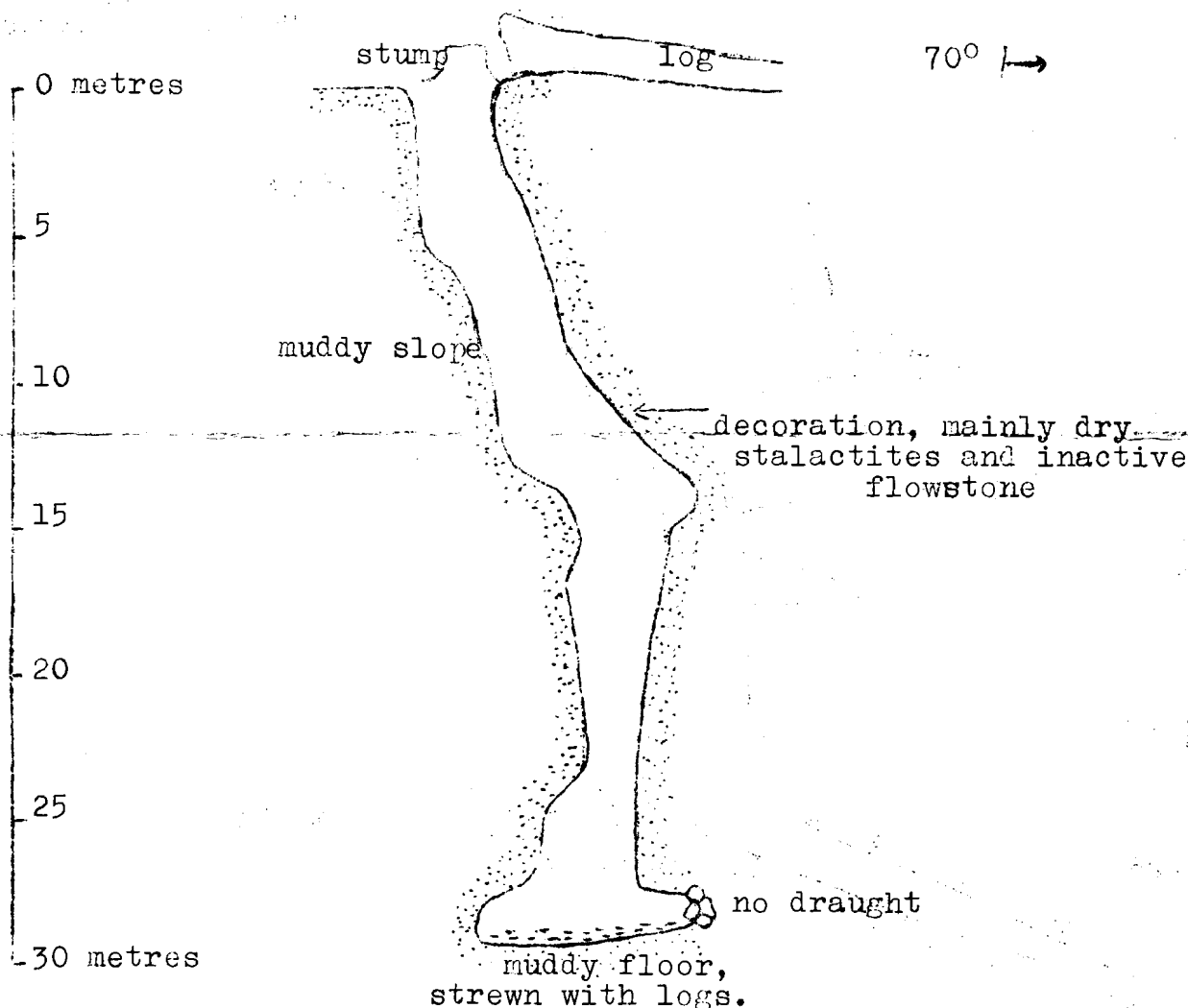
Section of SUICIDE POT JF 47, Maydena, Tasmania.

C.R.G. Grade 3, ASF Map 7JF47TCC1.

Explored on 11/11/73 by L.Moody and A.Skinner; assisted by M.Jeffries, H.van Twillert, L.Conrades, G.Pinnington and R.Skinner.

Scale 1:250

Depth: 30 metres.



Hastings - 25/11/73.

Party: Laurie Moody, Glenn Pinnington and Robyn Smith(P).

We arrived at Hastings about 10.30 a.m., and after depositing my wife and kids plus one Fiona Skinner at the Thermal Pool, proceeded to the Wolf Hole. On arrival, I decided against descending due to the fact that we didn't possess enough ladders. However, another trip is planned for December 8th.

We then adjourned to King George V where I was pleased to see that the gate had not been disturbed since our last visit in September. As Robyn had done no previous laddering, I acted as belay. Glenn descended first and Robyn followed. Her nimbleness surprised both Glenn and myself.

After a tour of K.G.V. we headed for Newdegate, arriving some minutes before the commencement of the 1.15p.m. tour. Masses of tourist types everywhere. We preceded the gaping mass and made our way down but not before some female tourist had asked "Do we get helmets and lights too?"

Our tour of the Pophole proved very memorable for Robyn as the deep pool claimed yet another victim. We capped the day off by visiting Binney Cave and our return to the surface brought "oohs and aahs" from yet another bunch of Sunday "cavers". A very enjoyable days caving was had by one and all.

Laurie Moody.

# TWIN ARCHES

SB 2.

C.R.G. Grade 3 ASF Map 7SB2TCC1. 1:100

Mag. North

Plan

cross

profile

bedding

○ cobbles

⌋ flowstone

⌋ stalactites

0 1 2 3 4 metres

Explored, numbered and surveyed  
on 28/11/73 by A. Skinner and  
S. Karpiniec.

0 1 2 3 metres

# DRIFTWOOD SHELTER SB 6.

C.R.G. Grade 3 ASF Map 7SB6TCC1.

Plan

Cross profile

entrances

a

b

a

b

Explored, numbered and surveyed  
on 28/11/73 by A. Skinner and  
S. Karpiniec.

⋯ sand

○ cobbles

⌋ roof height

⌋ driftwood

Magnetic  
North.

SURPRISE BAY - 28/11/73.

Andrew Skinner.

Background: Surprise Bay, Australia's most southerly caving area, is situated on Tasmania's south coast, midway between South Cape Bay and New River Lagoon. It has been visited only twice by speleologists; by Kevin Kiernan and the author on 23/1/73, and by the author and Stefan Karpinić on 28/11/73.

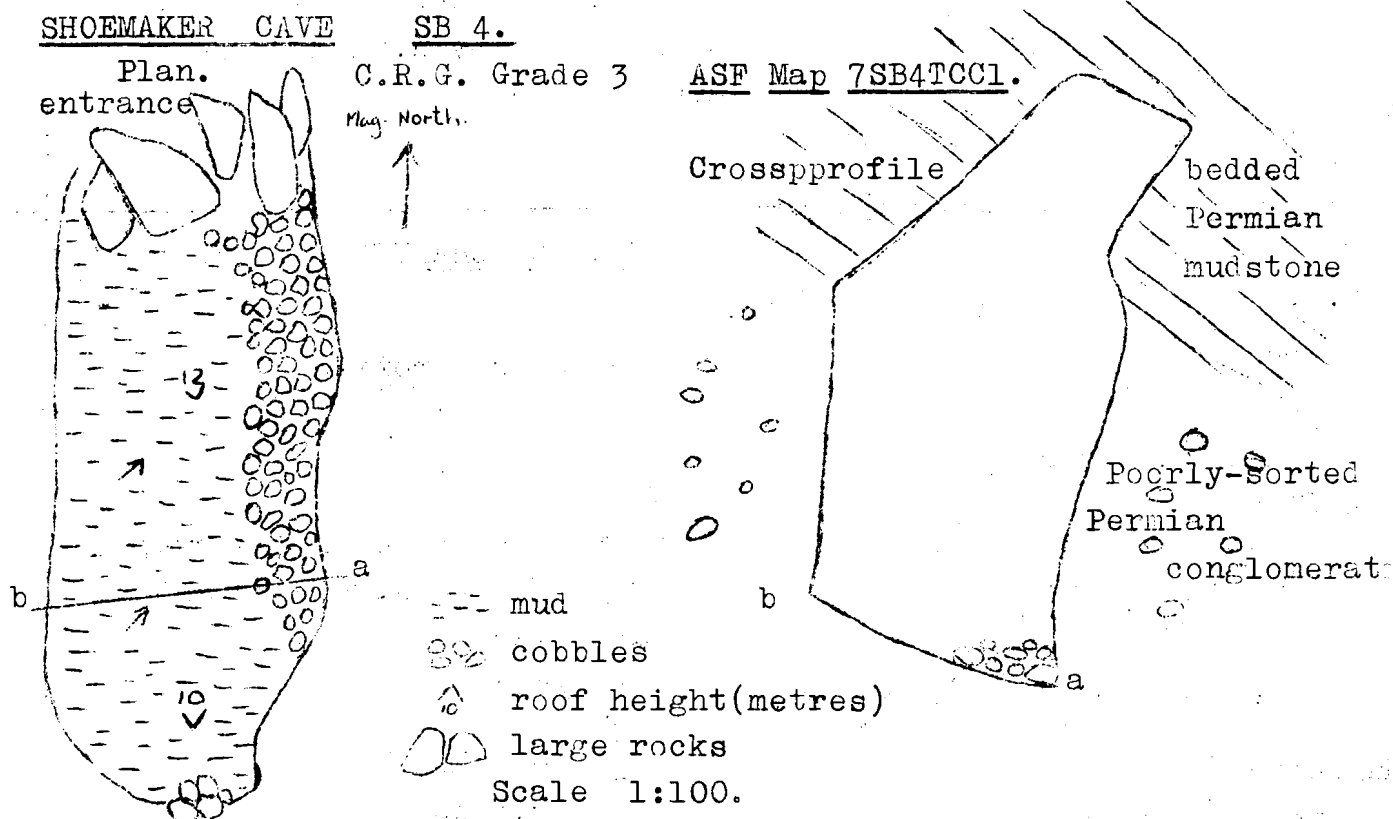
Gordon limestone outcrops to the east of Surprise Bay along the shore of Shoemaker Point. The limestone dips strongly to the east at an angle of 50-60°. The strike varies, but it is generally towards the north. The limestone has a maximum relief of 35 metres near the southern end of the outcrop. Inland there are pebbly conglomerates and mudstones, possibly Permian.

The sea has created an interesting karren surface on the limestone, making progress across the sharp rock slow. The structure of the limestone is relatively simple with the general orientation as already described. About 1.5 km south of the beach there is an outcrop with a complicated folded structure. This part of the limestone is very contorted, with tight anticlines and synclines evident. The rock is blue-grey in colour with many white calcite veins and nodules. It is well-jointed and finely bedded. Some shaly horizons are present.

In the South the limestone is overlain (unconformably) by a poorly-sorted conglomerate. This rock is probably of Permian age as it seems to include fragments of many older rocks, including granites, quartzites and limestone. The fragments range from 1mm to 5 metres in size. The conglomerate is poorly bedded but appears to dip gently east and strike about 20° west of north. It is interbedded with mudstone.

#### CAVES:

Kiernan, (1973), describes four small caves in the limestone, the largest being about 20 metres long. On 28/11/73, a further five caves were explored, numbered and mapped. They are all apparently of marine formation but modified as they are in limestone. Unfortunately, several small coastal streams did not run through the limestone, but across it, cutting deep gullies in places.



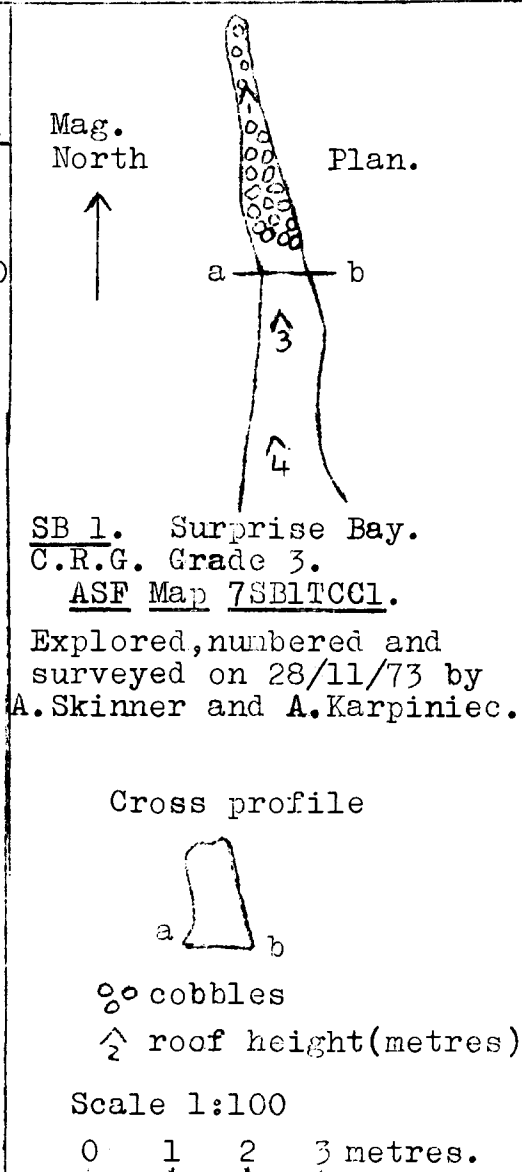
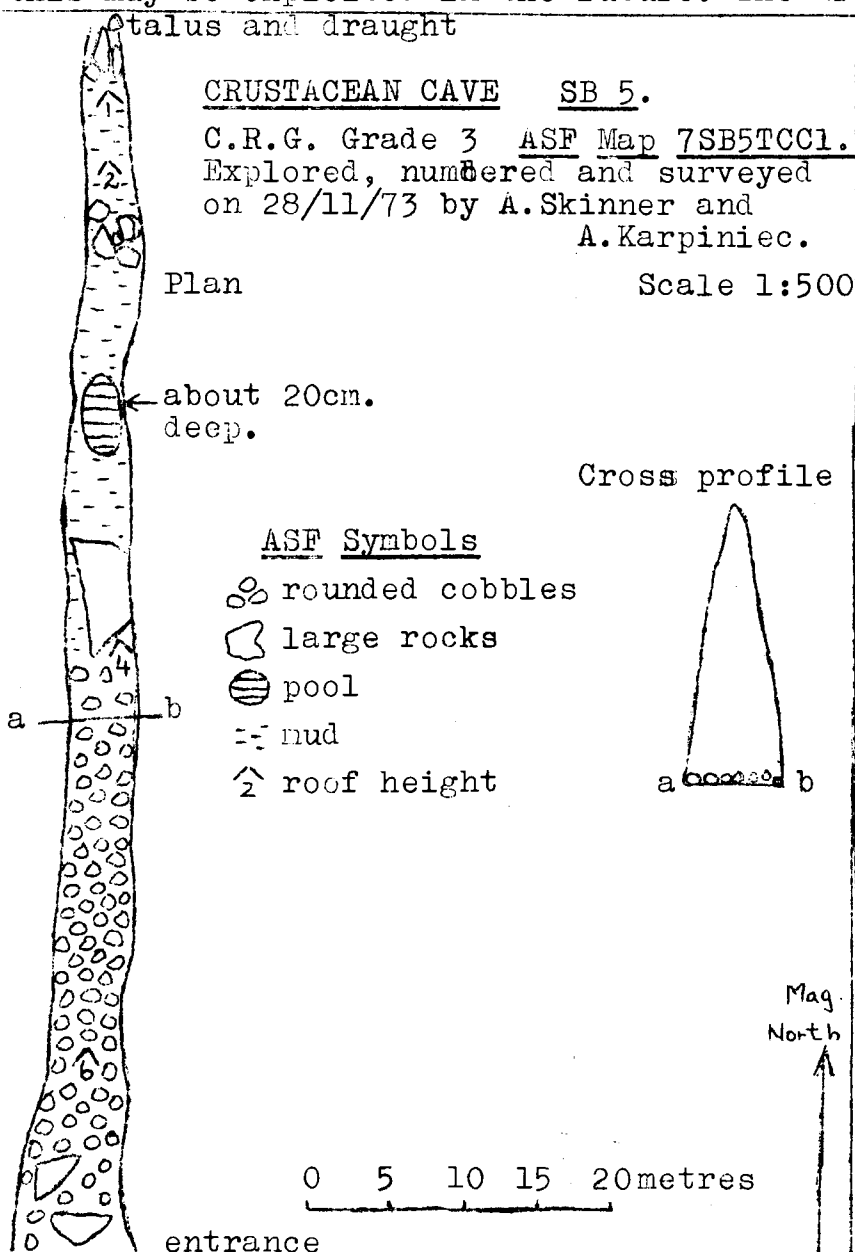
Explored, numbered and surveyed on 28/11/73 by A. Skinner & A. Karpinić.

DESCRIPTIONS:

- SB 1 small cave along strike, 8 metres long, blocked with cobbles, cannot be entered at high tide. C.R.G. 3 sketch.
- SB 2 Twin Arches adjacent natural arches, controlled by strike, some decoration. C.R.G. 3 sketch.
- SB 3 (number assigned only) unexplored entrance on a small island, south of SB 2; entrance 4 m. wide, 3 m. high. Could possibly be reached at low tide.
- SB 4 Shoemaker Cave. Cave with impressive entrance, facing south, 12 metres long, in Permian mudstone and conglomerate. C.R.G. 3 sketch.
- SB 5 Crustacean Cave; largest in the area, in Permian conglomerate, 80 metres long, along strike, talus with draught at northern end. C.R.G. 3 sketch.
- SB 6 Driftwood Shelter. Small cave with two entrances, 15 metres long, driftwood deposits. C.R.G. 3 sketch.

Photographs were taken of SB 2,3,4 and 5. Crustaceans were collected from SB 5.

CONCLUSION: Further caving potential is quite limited as all the limestone has been investigated. Further progress around Shoemaker Point would be difficult as there are cliffs to negotiate. Although there is a lack of "real" caves, Surprise Bay is well worth visiting for its scenery. It is wild, rugged and totally unspoilt by Man. However, the Surprise Valley contains commercially valuable timber and this may be exploited in the future. The area is presently outside





the South-West National Park, and even when this reservation is extended, Surprise Bay will remain outside the boundary.

Reference:

KIERNAN, K. (1973) The Surprise Bay Area, Southern Caver 5 (2).

LOST WORLD GROTTO, Mt. Wellington

C.R.G. Grade 3 Section

Scale 1:500

Total length of passages:

305 metres

Depth: 42 metres.

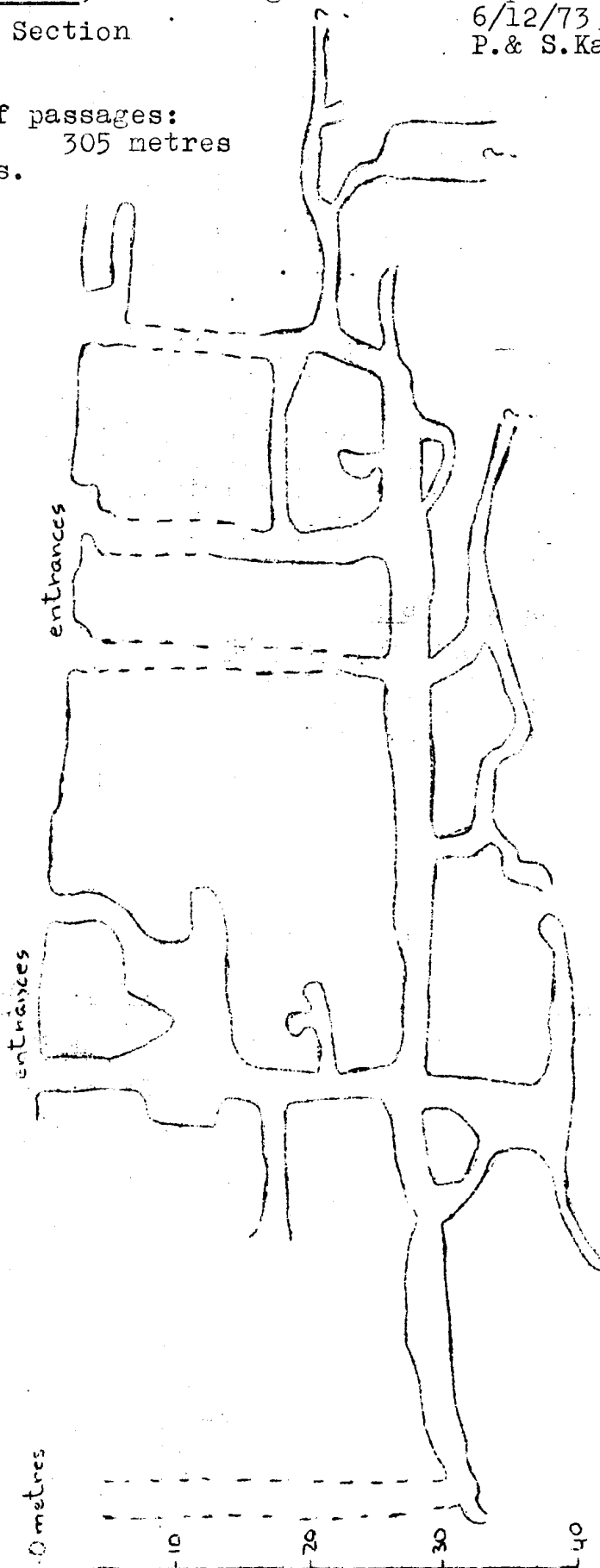
Explored and mapped on

6/12/73 by A. Skinner,

P. & S. Karpiniec and

N. Ancell.

LONG SECTION  
← 140° 320° →

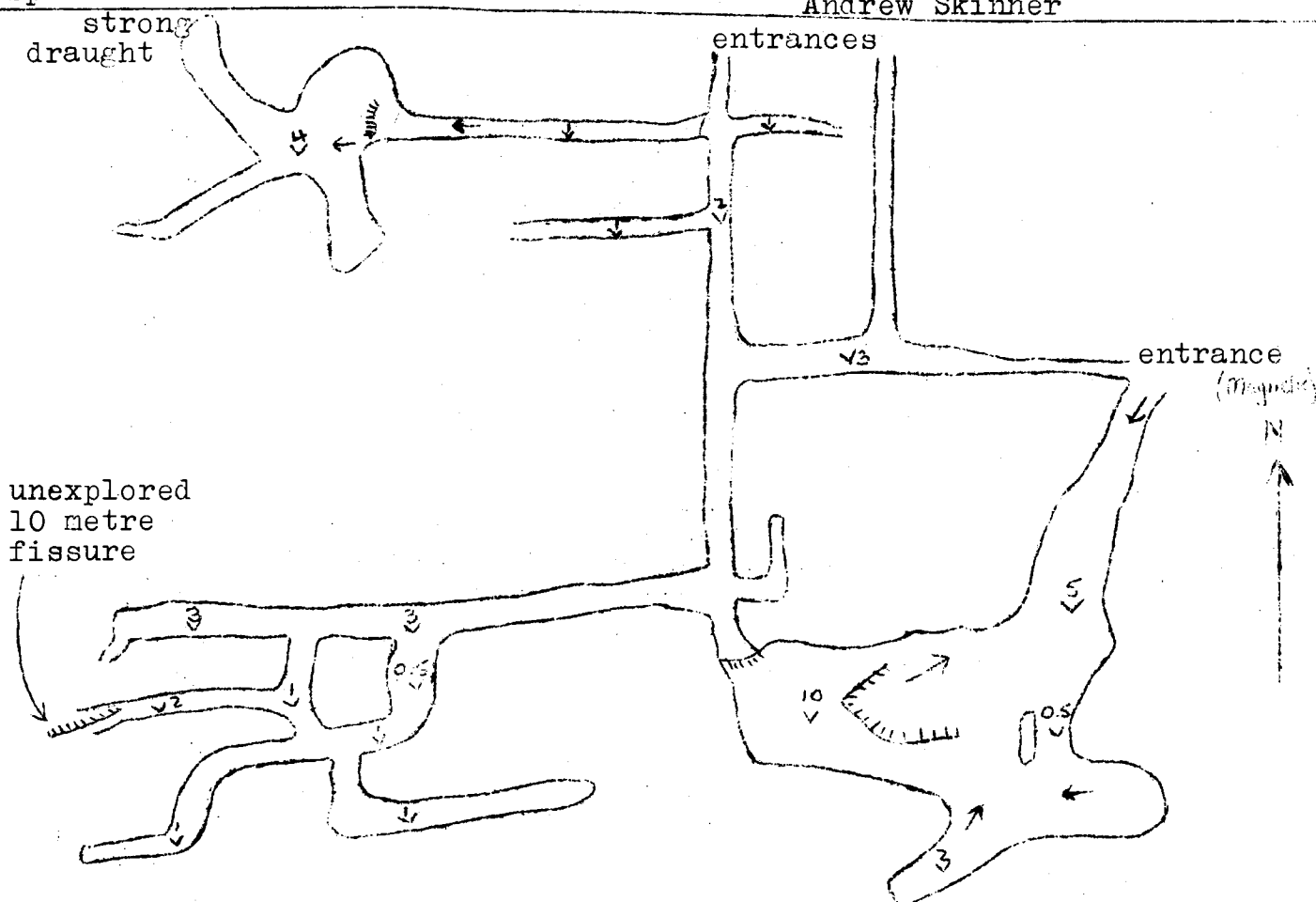


The Lost World, Mt. Wellington. 6/12/73.

Party: A. Skinner(L), Noel Ancell(ex.CEGSA), Stefan and Paul Karpiniec.

The Lost World is situated at an altitude of 1,150 metres on Mt. Wellington. A set of dolerite columns has collapsed and is now parallel to the ground. Underneath the columns are fissure caves, called "the Grottos" on an early Hobart Walking Club map. The first cave(proposed name Lost World Grotto, see map) was descended using 40 metres of ladder. Stefan, Paul and Noel descended by ladder to the main laval, about 30 metres down, and I abseiled down a further few metres to the bottom. After exploring the eastern part we all moved to the western end where Stefan pushed some squeezes. On returning to the surface we had lunch and then commenced to explore the eastern end of the columns. The second cave(Dolerite Delight, see map) proved to be the largest in the area, yielding 360 metres of relatively small passages. This cave could perhaps be linked with the first hole by descending a 10 metres fissure. Another smaller cave was explored nearby but was not surveyed, being only about 100 metres long. At the northern end of the columns a dry fissure cave was explored for 135 metres. (Campers Cavern, see map) This cave shows some sign of habitation by bushwalkers. All four caves were very cold, but quite dry. Hickmania and Parvotettix were noticed and an unidentified spider was collected.

Andrew Skinner



Plan of DOLERITE DELIGHT  
The Lost World, Mt. Wellington.  
1:500 C.R.G. Grade 3  
ASF Symbols

Explored and surveyed on 6/12/73 by  
A. Skinner, S. and P. Karpiniec.  
Total length of passages: 360 metres

precipice  
roof height (metres)  
direction of slope

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 metres

Hastings - 8/12/73.

Party: Laurie Moody(L), Glenn Pinnington, Andrew Skinner, Robyn Smith.

The aim of this trip was to complete the Wolf Hole survey, but the cave was much larger than anticipated and at least two more trips would be necessary to complete the project. Glenn and Robyn were belayed down the entrance pitch whilst the other two abseiled. We commenced surveying passages on the south-eastern side of the entrance doline. Very soon several hundred metres of passages were sketched in and it was realised that the entrance doline is completely surrounded by passages. Several holes in the floor were not investigated in this area and remain unsurveyed. The main stream passage was next surveyed and was found to run east, parallel to the main route to the lake. Small streams from the main passage enter the streamway at various points and these were all surveyed. The stream ends in an impassable crack, but digging may widen this obstruction. Two avens are at the downstream end, and water probably enters here in the winter period. One aven was climbed and surprisingly led back to the main chamber near the doline. The other aven was too muddy to scale, but the position on the survey indicates that it may join a passage leading south-west from near the entrance doline. After solving the "riddle of the rivers", the party headed for Lake Pluto. Two short stream passages entering the lake were surveyed until they became too tight to negotiate. Other passages entering the lake are not yet mapped, this will require wading. As time was short, we returned to the surface, surveying a short side passage (old streamway, but no draught, blocked with mud deposits) en route. Laurie ascended first and was almost eaten alive by mosquitos by the time we all arrived at the surface. 520 metres was added to the survey and the traverse is now 1,070 metres long. Probably almost as much passage remains unmapped. As Newdegate is only 1,659 metres long and King George V 560 metres, it is quite likely that, when completely surveyed, Wolf Hole may be the longest cave in the Hastings area.

Andrew Skinner.

New Norfolk High Adventure Camp - 2-8/12/73.

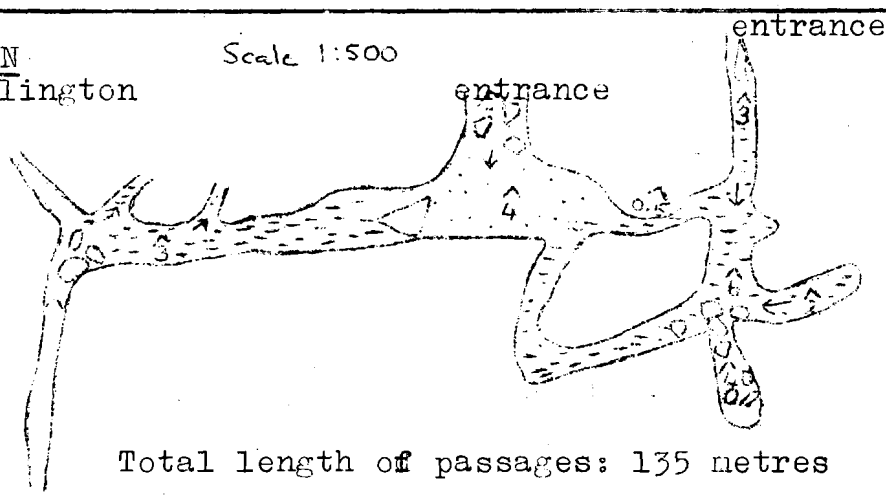
2/12/73 - Simon Stephens(L), Ross Mansfield, Noel White, Andrew Skinner and N.N.H. boys visited Entrance Cave. Most areas of the cave were trogged and some squeezes were (re)explored near Midnight Hole. On 7/12/73 Ross and Noel took the more able (climbing-wise) students to the Wolf Hole.

(Condensed report by A. Skinner)

Plan of CAMPERS CAVERN  
The Lost World, Mt. Wellington

Scale 1:500

Magnetic  
NORTH



Total length of passages: 135 metres

C.R.G. Grade 3  
Surveyed and explored on  
6/12/73 by A. Skinner  
and P. Karpiniec.

◊ blocks

. sand

- mud

↙ direction of slope

^ roof height (metres)

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 metres