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Single Copy 30 cents

President: Laurie Moody, 13 Mason Street, Claremont.

Secretary: Therese Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. 7000

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

April 20 - Saturday: Up the creek with Albert. Surface exploration up the Tyenna following the promising water samples of the previous trip. Leader: Albert Goade.

April 27-28 - Weekend: Caving at Mole Creek. No other details available.

Leader: Andrew Skinner.

May 1 - Wednesday: General meeting at Laurie Moody's place, 13
Mason St., Claremont. Starts at 8 p.m. Refreshments and slides welcome.

May 4 - Saturday: The trained monkeys make their debut in exploration at Marble Hill. Help stamp out unsafe trips by coming along and increasing the party size above two. Leader:

Peter Shaw.

May 11-12 - Weekend: Caving at Mole Creek. Leader: Andrew Skinner. Dec. 1974-Jan. 75 - Tenth A.S.F. Convention in Brisbane, Queensland.

NEW COMMITTEE

Congratulations to the new committee who were elected at the March A.G.M.

President: Laurie Moody
Vice-President: Bill Lehmann
Secretary: Therese Goede
Treasurer: Albert Goede
Editor: Peter Shaw

Editorial Assistant: Yvonne Collin

Quartermaster: Brian Collin

Search and Rescue Officer: Bill Lehmann

Search and Rescue Co-ordinator: Brian Collin

Archivist : Albert Goede

Committee Members: Stuart Nicholas, Ian Farley, Andrew Skinner

Delegates to Tasmanian Council of Speleology: Albert Goede, Bill Lehmann, Laurie Moody.

Delegates to Federation of Bushwalking Clubs: Jeanette Collin, Bill Lehmann.

Delegate to South West Committee: Roy Skinner

Delegate to A.S.F.: Andrew Skinner

Is this a committee or a bureaucracy?

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1974-75 are now overdue. In order to make ends meet, subscriptions had to be raised at the A.G.M. and rates are now:

Full Members (over 18 years) \$5.50
Family Members \$8.00
Junior Members \$3.00
Associate Members \$3.00

The full and family membership fees include a \$2.00 contribution to A.S.F. and entitles one to receive the A.S.F. Newsletter. Junior and Associate members wishing to subscribe can do so by paying the extra \$2.00

The treasurer (Albert Goede) would like your money as soon as possible. Subs. can be handed either to Albert (8 Bath St., Battery Point) or sent to the Club box (Box 641G., G.P.O., Hobart). A cross in this squre indicates that

you are unfinancial and unless YOUR subscription is received before May Spiel is posted this issue will be the last one you will receive.

The entrance fee (\$1.00) payable by prospective members has not been increased.

AEW MEMBERS - The following new members were elected at the last A.G.M. Frank Brown, 68 Carella St., Howrah, 7019 (full member)

Tony Culberg, P.O. Box 47, Sandy Bay, 7005 (full member)

Shane Pinnington, 20 Leighland Rd., Claremont, 7011 (junior member)

THANGES OF ADDRESS
Feter Shaw, Unit 2, 2 Plimsoll Place, Sandy Bay.

Yvonne Collin, "

Kevin Kiernan, P.O. Box 235, Sandy Bay, 7005.

A WORD (OR TWO) FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members present at the A.G.M. who somehow convinced me that I would be suitable for the position of Club President. You will all be excommunicated at the next G.M. Seriously, having been connected with the club for less than twelve months. I had not given any thought to being considered for such a responsible position. Over the last nine months, my family and I have made many wonderful friendships within the club but without the tolerance and guidance of you people. I could not have even considered accepting this position.

Unfortunately, I have yet to meet all T.C.C. members and hereby urge those who have not attended for sometime to come along and make my acquaintance as well as renew former friendships within the club. The coming twelve months should prove rewarding in our particular field. Exploration has just been renewed at Ida Bay with the S.R.T. gang out in force. Brian Collin and Co. have been very busy in the Picton-Cracroft area and are now beginning to reap the glory with Judd's Cavern being the major prize to date. Andrew Skinner and others have located several caves along the banks of the Upper Huon River in the vicinity of the Scott's Peak Dam and further exploration could result in moré finds being made. The team of Jeffries and Moody and Co. have been busy in the Junee-Florentine area and new holes are being located on every trip.

Over the last seven years, under the leadership of the former President, Albert Goede, the T.C.C. has developed into possibly the most active caving club in Australia. I intend to maintain this high standard and therefore ask all members for their support during the coming twelve months. However, we are to lose the services of the former Secretary, Andrew Skinner and his wife Ros, for approximately twelve months as they are moving to Launceston. Finally, I would like to congratulate the other office bearers on their appointments and last but not least, I would like to give a special vote of thanks to Brian and Jeanette Collin for the use of their home on Wednesday nights and trust that they can put up with us for another twelve months.

Laurie Moody.

Have YOU paid your subs yet? See Albert today! -000-

QUARTERMASTERS REPORT

Gear as at now in Q'Master's Store. 10 Gear Bags (army pack type)

Ladders:

- 10 30ft. Ladders (7 club made 3 Bonwick)
 - 20ft. Bonwick 1
 - 2 13ft. club made

Krabs:

1 ASMU
7 Assorted

Bolting Gear:
31b Hammer
Some ½" eye bolts & 7/8" Loxins
1/8" star drill

Carbide Lamps:
3 Pinnacle
Assorted spares

Climbing Pole
1 30ft with two 5ft lengths spare
Helmet

1

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TASMANIAN CAVE FAUNA
by Albert and Therese Goede
Part 3 - Ticks and Mites (Acarina)

70ft

Ticks and mites belong to the order Acarina and are distant relatives of spiders, harvestmen, pseudo-scorpions and scorpions with which they are included in the class: Arachnida. All members of this class are characterized by eight legs in contrast to insects which always have six. Many mites are peculiar however in that they hatch as larvae with only six legs although the adults have eight (Savory, 1964).

Ticks and mites are generally small animals and many of them make a living as parasites on other animals including man. Others live in the soil and as a group mites are amongst the most important of all soil animals. They are most numerous in decaying organic material (litter and humus found in the soil (Kevan, 1962), where they may be predators on other small animals, parasites or live on manure, carrion and other organic matter. Ticks are a group within, the order which are parasites on vertebrate animals. They are larger than most mites and have a hard, leathery skin. The ticks of the Tasmanian native fauna have been listed by Green and Munday (1971).

Most ticks and mites found in caves are associated with bats and bat guano. Since cave-inhabiting bats are absent in Tasmania ticks and mites are uncommon. Only seven species have been recorded and all but one must be regarded as trogloxenes (accidental visitors to caves). Of these species three are parasites on native mammals, three appear to be soil mites while the seventh is probably a troglophile belonging to a group where larvae are frequently parasitic on other arthropods.

The classification of mites and ticks is -

Phylum: Arthropoda Class: Arachnida Order: Acarina.

They are generally grouped into six sub-orders (Savory, 1964) of which three (Parasitiformes, Trombidiformes and Sarcoptiformes) have been recorded from six caves.

The species found are:

Parasitiformes (sub-group Metastigmata): (Commonly known as ticks)

Aponomma auruginans, Schulze 1936. Identified by Dr F.H.S. Roberts.

Two female specimens have been collected from the twilight zone of panga Cave, Flinders Island. It is a common tick of both the Tasmanian and mainland wombats and may well turn up in small caves at Mole Creek some of which are frequently visited by wombats.

ixodes trichosuri, Roberts 1960. Identified by Dr H. Hoogstraal. One male specimen has been collected in the dark zone not far from the entrance of Mersey Hill Cave, Mole Creek. The most probable cave host is the bush possum (Trichosurus vulpecula fuliginosa) but it also occurs on rat kangaroos and introduced rats.

Ixodes ornithorhynchi, Lucas 1845. Identified by Dr H. Hoogstraal. A female specimen has been collected from the twilight zone in the Wind Tunnel, Exit Cave, Ida Bay and a male specimen from the dark zone in Scotts Cave, Mole Creek. The host is the platypus (Ornithorhynchus anatinus) which has an occasions been encountered in caves. Hamilton-Smith (1968) records an occurrence in Croesus Cave, Mole Creek. The specimen from Scotts Cave is particularly interesting because it is the first male of this species to be recorded.

Parasitiformes (sub-group Mesostigmata)

Two specimens of long-nosed mites close to the family Macrochelidae (Fig 1) have been collected in the dark zone in organic debris in King George V Cave, Hastings. A number of specimens of "beetle" mites (Fig 3) belonging to the family Uropodidae have been collected from the same environment in King George V Cave. Identified by Dr P. Robertson, they belong to a group of obscure soil mites.

Sarcoptiformes (Cryptostigmata)

A large number of tiny "seed" mites (Fig 2) belonging to the family Oribate idae have been found associated with buried damp wood in the twi-light zone of King George V Cave, Hastings. Identified by Dr P. Robertson. They are smaller than the head of a pin and belong to a group of soil and debris mites which feed on organic matter. They look very interesting under the microscope because they are able to fold the fore part of the body against the hind part to take on a spherical aspect. This may be a protection against drying, flooding or predators.

Trombidiformes (Prostigmata)

Microtrombidium n. sp. A number of specimens belonging to a new species of this genus in the family Trombidiidae have been found in the dark zone of Cashion Greek Cave, Florentine Valley. Identified by Dr P. Robertson. The family has a world-wide distribution but is more abundant in the tropics. Most of the species remain undescribed. The adult is a large, bright red mite which may be found on the floor of the cave under pebbles or organic debris. It has been found on several occasions indicating that it is no accidental visitor to the cave. The family has many species with larvae parasitic on other arthropods while nymphs and adults feed on arthropod eggs and young. The Cashion Creek Cave species may be associated with cave crickets in this way since the cave harbours a permanent large population of Micropathus tasmaniensis.

Although mites and ticks are usually found only as accidental visitors to our caves, collecting them can be of interest. They can be collected and preserved in the same way as springtails (see Part 2 - Speleo Spiel No. 80 - June 1973).

Acknowledgements

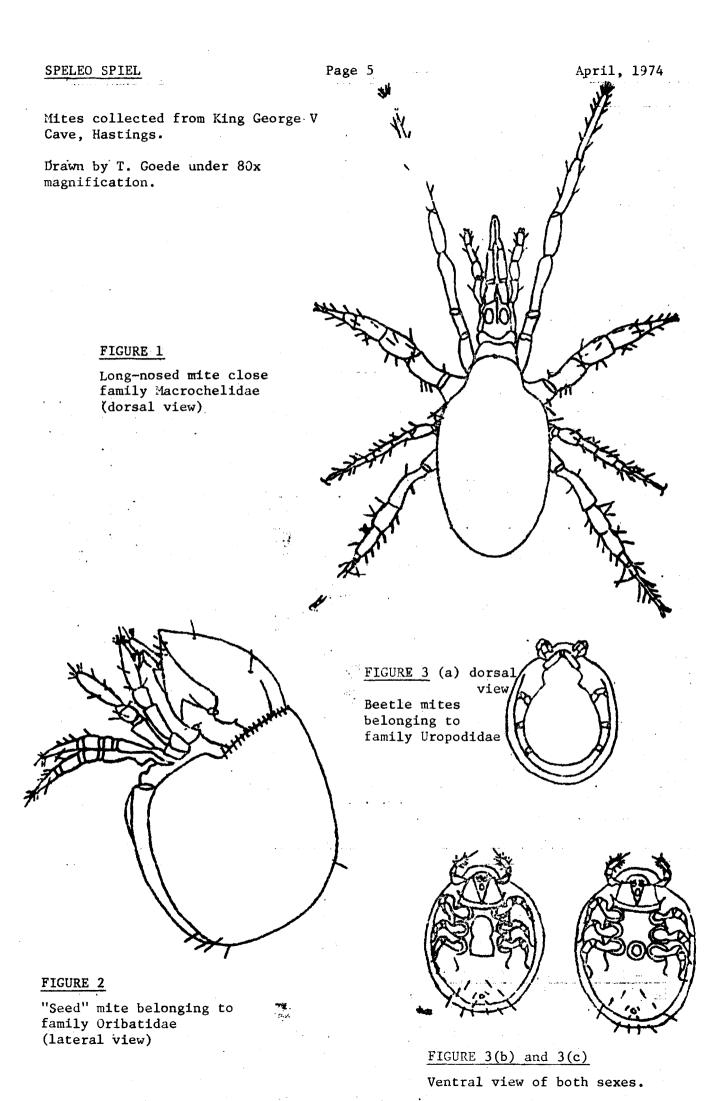
Our thanks are due to Dr A.M. Richards who arranged for the identification of specimens and to Dr F.H.I. Roberts, Dr H. Hoogstraal and Dr P. Robertson who identified the species discussed here.

References:

Green, R.H. and Munday, B.L., 1971: Parasites of Tasmanian Native and Feral Fauna. Part 1, Arthropoda. Records of the Queen Victoria Museum No. 41, 16p.

Hamilton-Smith, E.; 1968: Platypus in Caves. Victorian Naturalist 85 (10). 292 Kevin, D.K. McE., 1962: Soil Animals (Aspects of Zoology), (Witherby, London), 237 p.

Savory, T., 1964: Spiders and Other Arachnids (Modern Biology), (English Universities Press Ltd), 91 p.



TRIP REPORTS

Tyenna River, Junee Area, Saturday, 16/3/1974.
Party: Albert Goede (leader), Peter Shaw, Andrew Skinner.

We left Hobart in Peter's car and signed in at the Barrier at 8.40 a.m. The aim of the trip was to find out if any of the water going underground in the Junee area resurges along the Tyenna River or whether all the water goes to the Junee Rising. We planned to follow down a tributary to the Tyenna River from below Wherretts Lookout close to the contact between the limestone and the underlying rocks. Then to follow the Tyenna River downstream to the Gentle Annie crossing while keeping a close lookout for any tributaries coming in from the north. Sample bottles were taken to sample the water of the main stream as well as any tributaries. The weather was cool but bright and sunny and ideal for our purpose.

At 9.30 a.m. we left the car at the 7 mile peg and followed down the dry valley crossing the road just to the west. At the start the going was easy and the first outcrop we found in the bed of the valley showed that we had crossed the limestone boundary and were on sandstone. Soon enough surface drainage had collected to form a small surface stream which we followed down through thick horizontal until we reached the Tyenna River at 11.15 a.m. A sample of river water (TY1) was taken just upstream of the junction. We followed the river downstream mostly by wading until at 12.20 p.m. we reached an area of buttongrass on the north bank at the foot of a low hill. There we stopped for lunch while enjoying a good view of Wherretts Lookout.

We set off again at 1.00 p.m. and twenty minutes later found a large tributary coming in from the south. At 1.30 p.m. two shallow mine adits were observed in thinly bedded and strongly folded quartzite (Precambrian?) near the right bank. At 1.50 p.m. a small tributary (little more than a trickle) was found coming in from the north and water sample TY2 was taken. On the same side of the stream the dry bed of a small tributary was found at 2.23 p.m.

The river now started to develop a continuous floodplain and on several occasions it was found that some of the water was diverted into small anabranches sometimes with a course partly underground through the alluvium. In one such case (3.00 p.m.) it was difficult to decide whether we were dealing with an anabranch or a small tributary coming in from the north and water sample TY3 was taken. At 3.15 p.m. we arrived at the Gentle Annie Rd "crossing" and water sample TY4 was taken here. We left at 3.45 p.m. for a five mile uphill trudge along the road back to the car which we reached at 5.15 p.m. A strenuous but pleasant day's work which showed that no significant amounts of water are entering the Tyenna from the north upstream from Gentle Annie crossing. No outcrops of limestone were found envelore along the river. Rocks exposed were sandstone and quartzite.

The four water samples were subsequently analysed in the laboratory for calcium and total carbonate using E.D.T.A. titrations and the conductivity was also measured. The results were:-

Sample	Calcium hardness	Total hardness	<u>Conductivity</u>
- 	(p.p.m)	(p.p.m)	(micromho/cm)
TYI	80	157.5	/ / 260
TY2	17	22.5	// 62
TY3.	107.5	202.5	// 31 5
TY4	105.5	202	// 315
(For discu	assion of results, se	e next page)	-de think
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Junee - Florentine, 17/3/1974.

Party: Laurie Moody (leader), Sue, Louise, Richard Moody, Mr and Mrs W.C.

Moody, David Moody and Max Jeffries.

A casual start saw us arrive at the Maydena gate around 10.00 a.m. where the old team of Jeffries and Moody linked up once again. The trip was intended to be of a sight-seeing nature but a certain amount of caving was carried out. Three caves were inspected down Felix Curtain Road and it was noted that none of these were numbered. One of these caves developed into an

extremely tight passage and prospects for further exploration may be possible. Another cave which had been located by Max just recently, was also investigated. This particular cave is in the same region as the others but very close to the Florentine River.

This cave appears to be of the outflow variety and contains an extremely clear, deep pool which I estimated to be approximately 8 metres deep. The pool disappears from view up a passage which cannot be negotiated in the usual way. This passage appears to contain an excessive amount of deep water and wetsuits are essential. However, with assistance from Max and my father, I was able to work my way around the left-hand side wall and follow another passage which led off above the water level. This passage led into a small chamber but once again further progress was terminated by deep water. Further exploration of this cave is warranted before winter sets in. This cave is yet another which requires numbering.

After lunching at the 'Pagoda', we decided on a brief visit to Welcome Stranger and my father, who is nearly 74 years old, (could this be some kind of caving record?) was persuaded to enter his first and last cave. We only ventured as far as where the creek joins before returning to the surface.

On vacating this cave, Max suggested that we take a look at an area on the other side of the Gap where some 30 years back, he and several others, noted an outflow cave close to the old Adamsfield Track. A quick search of this area succeeded in the location of Chrisp's Hut, which is on the old track, location of the creek, and the discovery of two lyre-bird dancing mounds.

Over the next two months, I intend to concentrate on these particular areas and any assistance from interested members would be appreciated. There are at least half a dozen holes which require numbering and several which require further exploration.

Laurie Moody.

Tyenna Water Analyses - 16/3/74 (from previous page)

These analyses show several interesting things. The most surprising one being the high carbonate content of the Tyenna River, a good deal higher than the highest values ever recorded at the Junee Rising. The analyses also indicate that the carbonate is derived from dolomite and not from limestone and that the Upper Tyenna must have an underground source at the foot of Tim Shea. Since carbonate content increases significantly downstream the large tributary coming in from the south which was not sampled must also have a high carbonate content.

The analysis of TY2 indicates that this stream is not draining any limestone while that of TY3 shows that we are dealing with an anabranch of the river and not with a tributary since the water is identical with that of TY4.

The trip has yielded two important results. It shows that none of the water entering the limestone in the western Junee area flows south to enter the Tyenna River and that all this water most probably resurges at Junee. Secondly it indicates the presence of a substantial underground drainage system supplying the Tyenna River at the foot of Tim Shea.

You can guess where the next party is going.

Albert Goede.

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Scotts Peak, Saturday, 23/3/1974
Party: Albert Goede, Therese Goede, Andrew Skinner, (Diana and Andrew Goede)

We left Hobart at 9.15 a.m. and arrived at the lookout point near Scotts Peak dam-site in time for an early lunch. After lunch Therese, Andrew and myself went to SP1,2 to do some fauna collecting and see the cave. The cave is uninspiring being small and muddy and only just extends into the dark zone. A collection was made of cave crickets, beetles (3), millipedes (11), harvestmen (6) and one spider. Of these the harvestmen appear to be the most interesting as they appear to belong to the genus Monoxyomma with cave dwelling species at Hastings, Ida Bay and Mole Ck. We cleaned up in the lake afterwards while Andrew went for a swim, then headed back just in time to avoid a thunderstorm.

Albert Goede.

Farty: Peter Shaw (leader), Phil Robinson, Nick Cummings.

A final trip to Niagara Pot to survey the cave and explore a previously unentered section. We set off from the entrance at 11.15 a.m. using single ropes and surveying downwards as we went. The stream was only a trickle which made conditions relatively pleasant. We reached the dry chambers at the bottom at 3.00 p.m. and continued surveying towards our one chance for exploration. After climbing down a sixty degree talus slope, we reached the top of a fifteen foot drop and rigged a rope down it. I abseiled down and found that the passage closed off immediately. We returned to the first dry chamber for a snack and then headed off out, reaching the surface after three hours. Calculation of the survey results revealed that Niagara Pot has a depth of 489 feet.

Fitch Details:

- 1. Twenty foot pitch, just inside entrance. 30' rope. 6' header. 3 rope protectors. Narrow slot followed by small ledge and short overhanging section. Belay to large boulder.
- 2. Thirty foot waterfall pitch. 40' rope. 6' header. 1 rope protector. Usually quite wet, overhanging rear bottom. Belay to large boulder.
- 3. Fifty foot pitch. 70' rope. 10' header. 4 rope protectors. Free pitch. Belay to boulder in chamber at foot of previous pitch.
- 4. Fifty foot rift. 30° rope as handline. Belay to knob at top of rift.
- 5 and 6. Fifteen foot and twenty foot pitches. Rigged as one pitch. Cross over hole in streamway to eye-bolt and descend on far side of eye-bolt. Belay to eye-bolt. 4 rope protectors. 60' rope. Fifteen foot scungy wall, around slight corner and then twenty foot free pitch, immediately overhanging the following pitch. Swing across onto ledge for next pitch.
- 7. Eighty foot pitch. 90' rope. 2 rope protectors. Bely to eye-bolt. Free hanging pitch with water dripping down. To reach first chamber, go down smallish passage on right from the bottom of the pitch. To reach the dry chambers, refer to survey in next month's "Spiel".
- N.B. The eye-bolts referred to above were placed in November 1972. No responsibility is accepted for their condition.

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Peter Shaw.

Junee Area, Sunday 31/3/1974. Party: Albert Goede, Max Jeffries.

We left Hobart at 8.20 a.m. and met up with the others at the barrier at 9.45 a.m. The whole party drove to the branch road nearest Chrisps Hut where we left the vehicles. At 10.30 a.m. we were all assembled at the remains of the hut. Laurie Moody led most of the party upstream along the creekbed that passes close to the hut. Max and I headed west and found two holes north of the track and about a 10 minute walk from the hut. The first, close to the track, was a 4 metre deep pot followed by a steep slope. The second was furtherest from the track and consisted of a hole (Approx. 1 metre across) down which rocks could roll for quite a distance. Using angular fragments of limestone (back to the stone age!) we roughly blazed back to the track where we arrived at 12 noon.

The two holes were investigated in the afternoon by Laurie and his party guided by Max. Apparently the first hole petered out while the second became too narrow after a short distance.

Albert Goede.

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Junee Area, Sunday 31/3/1974.

Party: Laurie Moody (leader) Max Jeffries, Glenn Pinnington, Andrew and Ros Skinner, Andrew Davey, Albert, Therese Goede and family.

Our intentions were to scrub-bash in the area of Chrisp's Creek and endeavour to locate several caves that had been discovered some years ago. We all arrived around 10.30 a.m. and left Therese babysitting. (We were later informed that as well as the children, Therese had to babysit five snakes which

were apparently attracted to the area. Perhaps they hadn't seen a Subaru before?) Upon reaching the hut, Albert and Max set off along the old Adamsfield track in a westerly direction to look for holes. The rest of us decided to follow Chrisp's Creek in an effort to locate its source.

We followed the creek upstream for some distance and eventually, after climbing a series of small waterfalls, Andrew D. and I arrived at the crest of a high hill. At this point we decided to return downstream and scrub-bash a limestone outcrop on the eastern side of the creek. A somewhat impressive entrance was located but that was all it proved to be. We then rejoined the creek and ventured onto the western bank where I had intentions of locating another creek which runs parallel to Chrisp's. About this time, Andrew S. discovered a very small hole in the side of the creek bank which had an exceptionally strong draught. As entry was impossible without the aid of a "jelly-man", we ventured on and another small hole was located and duly explored.

My intentions of reaching this other creek were foiled by dense pockets of horizontal scrub and a hostile party of cavers. After much crawling, clambering, tripping etc. we finally emerged near the Adamsfield track and found Albert waiting for us. After lunch, we set off to explore the holes located by Max and Albert. The first hole was explored by Andrew S. but only went a short distance. The other hole permitted entry for about two or three metres then developed into a letter-box type sqeeze. Both Andrews attempted to push this vertical squeeze but lack of manoeuvring room prevented further exploration.

Further exploration of this area is still required and interested persons are always welcome.

Laurie Moody.

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Splash Pot, Junee - Saturday, 6/4/1974. Party: Peter Shaw, Stuart Nicholas

The objective was to tie up a few loose ends in Splash Pot before commencing exploration on Marble Hill. Nearly fifty millimetres of rain had fallen during the previous week changing the area from very dry to very wet. We reached Splash Pot at 9.30 a.m. in a slight drizzle to find it taking quite a bit of water. We were obviously in for a soaking. We rigged the ladder and were underground by 10.00 a.m. We reached the top of the pitches at 10.30 a.m. On the two intermediate ledges, we were subject to a continual spray of water and were glad to reach the bottom and get out of the water. At 11.30 a.m., we set off to look at the unexplored possibilities and an hour later were back at the pitch with exploration complete. We set off out at 1.00 p.m. and were out by 3.00 p.m. after a five hour trip. It was quite a change to emerge in daylight after a trip underground.

Peter Shaw.

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For Tolkien Addicts

Tolkien readers are advised that another book which is along similar lines to that of "Lord of the Rings", is available at the State Library. It is titled "The Mad God's Amulet" and its author is Michael Moorcock. This book is apparently a sequel to "The Jewel in the Skull", also written by Moorcock.

"Having braved incredible dangers and hardships, and wearied by his battle against the science-sorcery of the Dark Empire, Dorien Hawkmoon was returning to his adopted homeland. But even worse awaited him.

His betrothed Yisselda had been abducted by the Mad God, an evil sorcerer who had usurped the Red Amulet of the Runestaff. The amulet gave great power to its possessor and the Mad God was perverting the power to his own unimaginably evil ends. Hawkmoon knew that he would have the task of rescuing Yisselda and the Red Amulet. But had he, a man, the power to overcome a God?"

Laurie Moody.