

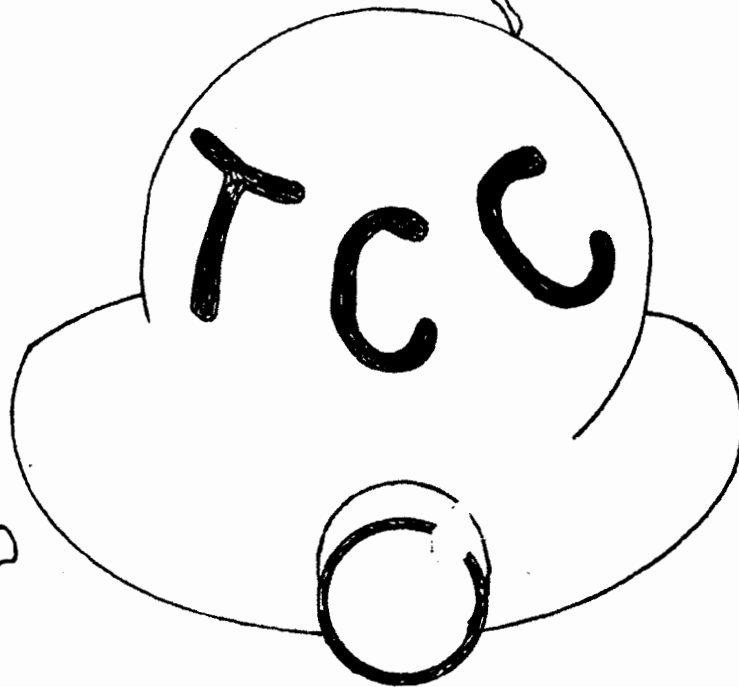
SPELEO SPIEL

NEWSLETTER of the

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Sept. 1974

NO. 94



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Annual subscription \$3.00.Single copy 30 cents.President: Laurie Moody, 13 Mason Street, Claremont, 7011.Secretary: Therese Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, 7000.FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- September 14 - Saturday: Surface trogging in the Florentine.
Leader: Laurie Moody.
- September 14 - Saturday: Junee, visiting Khazad-dum(to top of 90' pitch), Cauldron Pot entrance, Junee Cave. Trip with Launceston Speleo Club and Northern Caverneers. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- SEPTEMBER 14 - Saturday evening: ANNUAL DINNER ANNUAL DINNER. Black Buffalo Hotel, Letitia Street, North Hobart. 7.30 p.m. 4 course dinner - \$5.25 per person. Bookings immediately to the secretary, with \$2.00 per person deposit.
- September 15 - Sunday: Florentine. Flowstone cleaning in Welcome Stranger and cave numbering near JF 50. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- September 21-22 - Weekend: Exit Cave. Leader: Albert Goede.
- September 28-29 - Weekend: Possibly Arthur River or cave numbering at Mole Creek. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- October 2 - Wednesday: General Meeting at 8 Bath Street, Battery Point at 8 p.m. Slides and refreshments welcome.
- October 5-6 - Weekend: Hastings. Surveying and photography in Wolf Hole. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- October 6 - Sunday: Junee - Ross Walker Cave and nearby holes. Leaders: Albert Goede.
- November 2-4 - Long weekend: Exit Cave. Trogging in Western Passage and North West Creek areas. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- Dec. '74-Jan. '75 - TENTH BIENNIAL CAVING CONVENTION in Brisbane. See Therese for enrolment forms.
- January 25-Feb.2 - TCC 1975 CRACROFT EXPEDITION. Leaders: Brian Collin and Albert Goede.

NEW CAVE NAMES.

Great Expectation Cave, Marble Hill, Ida Bay. - Discovered on 4/5/74 by Brian Collin and Noel White. Explored on 13/4/74. Large impressive walk-in entrance with small stream entering. Ten metre pitch-wet. Two hundred metres of passage with no further prospects. Stream disappears into very small hole.

Thun Junction Cave, (IB 20), Marble Hill, Ida Bay. Doline entrance at point where track down south side of Marble Hill turns westwards. Small steep entrance passage opens into narrow steeply dropping rift. Nine metre ladder pitch followed by 150 cm. high narrow winding stream passage. After several hundred metres, an undescended estimated thirty metre pitch.

SEARCH AND RESCUE.

Anyone interested in taking part in a cave rescue exercise should contact Bill Lehmann, 29A D'arcy St., Sth.Hobart. Bill is willing to set up a "rescue" if there is the demand.

Gating off Genghis Khan Cave.

At the September General Meeting, it was decided to investi-

gate the gating of Genghis Khan to protect the cave from damage. Location of and access to the keys to the top entrance of Kubla Khan are also to be investigated.

CAVE NUMBERING.Ida Bay:

- IB 16 Doline with 10 metre pitch; small cave at bottom; intermittent stream disappears into impenetrable cracks; located 4/5/74; explored 13/7/74. Sketch C.R.G. Grade 1.
- IB 17 Small horizontal cave; 60 metres long; dry; no draught. Located and explored on 13/7/74. Sketch C.R.G. Grade 1.
- IB 18 Western Creek Swallet. No description available.
- IB 19 Pothole in valley next to Western Creek; two entrances, one a twenty metre pitch, other a five metre pitch; several small passages at the bottom; becomes a swallet after rain. Explored 4/5/74.
- IB 20 Partially explored pothole; steeply-sloping passage with two short drops; unexplored pitch at bottom. Explored 4/5/74.
- IB 21 Small cave next to IB 20; ten metre pitch with several small passages at the bottom. Explored 4/5/74.

Mole Creek:

- MC 32-33 Baldocks Cave: Former tourist cave; dry; good decoration but damaged by acetylene lighting; protected by State Reserve; map C.R.G. Grade 4.
- MC 30 Grunter Catrun No.1.: A narrow dry passage leads to Grunter Creek, but this stream siphons soon after.
- MC 34 Grunter Catrun No.2.: Steeply dipping passage drops into siphon approx. 10 metres below the surface; cave not enterable in wet weather.
- MC 35 Number not yet assigned.
- MC 36,42 Grunter Catrun No.3.: Cave with two entrances; situated slightly to east of Grunter watercourse; MC 42 entrance blocked with debris; MC 36 a steep water-worn passage leading to sump.
- MC 37 Un-named cave, downstream from MC 36,42; dry; entered for 10 metres but blocked with flowstone.
- MC 39 Little Trimmer: Outflow cave with intermittent stream; medium sized system; good decoration.
- MC 40 Grunter Catrun No.4.: Swallet marking final disappearance of Grunter Creek when in flood; situated in deep doline downstream from Genghis Khan; strong draught but blocked with logs.
- MC 41 Un-named cave; situated on other side of hill from Howe's Cave; eneterable for a few metres; becomes a swallet after very heavy rain.

Note on the Grunter Catruns.

These four caves are listed by Northern Caverneers in their archives, but do not appear in the current ASF Mole Creek cave listings. They are situated downstream from the Grunter swallets and take water from Grunter Creek and its tributaries when in flood. Exploration is not possible in wet conditions but they could be excavated during a dry summer. MC 40 seems to be the most promising.

My thanks to George Bamford, Ray Kearnes and members of the Launceston Speleo Club for assistance in numbering the above caves and to

Bob Woolhouse of Northern Caverneers for access to archive material.

Andrew Skinner.

TRIP REPORTS:

Hastings - 13/7/74.

Party: Andrew and Ros Skinner, Richard Bennett.

After piking out of climbing Adamson's Peak - the rain might have made our feet wet, you know - Ros and I retired to the Hastings Hut. Richard was contacted by phone and a photographic trip was arranged to Newdegate Cave.

A couple of hours were spent underground taking photos of bods in squeezes, climbing muddy banks and wading Mystery Creek. After Richard complained of water above his knees we returned to the entrance.

Andrew Skinner.

Florentine Valley - Sat. 3/8/74.

Party: Laurie Moody and daughter Louise, Max Jeffries and Philip Voss (morning).

After a slight delay owing to the temporary absence of the gate-keeper, we set off into the Florentine a little after 10.00a.m. Max had informed us of the recent location of two new horizontal caves north-west of Tiger Road via Cashion Ck. Road, and it was decided to take a look. Doubts as to whether we would be able to explore them thoroughly were expressed due to the heavy rain that had been falling of late. Earlier that week Max, Philip and another bushman had ventured some distance into each of the caves during their lunch-hour. Time, however, prevented full exploration.

The first, now numbered JF 59, was only four or five metres from the road at the foot of a low relief limestone outcrop. It has two entrances of which only one was numbered. This entrance was of the walk-in type and led past the other entrance into what appeared to be a stream passage. Several small tunnels led off at different points, some of which contained undetermined depths of water and were therefore not entered.

Owing to the unexplained disappearance of the tag JF 60, the second cave was numbered JF 61. This cave is also in the same outcrop as JF 59 and also only a few metres from the road. After a small descent, the passage led to a small chamber where two tight passages branched off. We decided to push the right-hand one and after negotiating this small tight squeeze, with Louise having the easiest task, we were again able to stand upright. Proceeding onwards I was rather amazed at the extent of the passage and also amazed to find it so dry after the heavy rain. Formation, e.g. straws, flowstone, was also apparent as we worked our way along, investigating several short side passages en route. Max and Philip on their previous visit had penetrated both tunnels but had not established a link-up, although considering it to be possible. On reaching the limit of the previous visit, we were faced with a very tight squeeze. Max led the way into this squeeze and after three or four metres, emerged into a slightly larger passage containing a reasonable amount of formation. Again, Louise had the advantage due to her size. After several more metres, Max announced that he had reached the point where exploration of the second tunnel had terminated. A round trip was possible. At this point another passage led off and was explored only to its narrowest point. Excavation is needed to explore further. An ideal cave for beginners. The two systems do not appear to link but JF 59 and 61 are somewhat similar to JF 48-49-50, behind Frankcombe's Cave, but much drier!

It was then decided to look for a hole reported to be on a ridge at present being logged a short distance from JF 59 and 61. Philip had an approximate idea of where it was but after an hours scrub-bashing we had still failed to locate it. (Back at Max's that evening, Philip called in and announced that he had found a large

hole on this same ridge while trimming timber. It's to be looked at next trip.)

At this point we left Philip to join his father trimming timber and had our lunch. After lunch, Max, Louise and I headed off to have a look at an area previously trogged on the 17/6/73 by Albert Goede and a very large party. On this occasion two creek sinks were found, plus six small caves, which were not numbered due to the gear being left at JF 45.

We visited this area and located two of the above mentioned caves plus one of which " was not found that day"(Max Jeffries). This rather small entrance was investigated by Max and myself and proved to have two high but narrow chambers, seperated by a "duck-under". Moon-milk was in abundance and a possible extension above the second chamber would require excavation. It was numbered JF 62. However, due to a lack of bits and screws and time, none of the other caves were numbered. A proposed trip back to this area in three weeks is envisaged.

The weather was kind to us and the sun was in evidence most of the day. Another three caves numbered with more to be looked at. All in all, another profitable days caving in the Florentine.

Postnote: Owing to adverse weather conditions, work on the Western Florentine area has temporarily ceased. In other words, the Florentine River is running high at present.

Laurie Moody.

Mole Creek - 24,25/8/74.

Genghis Khan Cave.

Party: (Sat.) Laurie Moody(L), Fiona Skinner, Nick Gould and Nick Berwick.(Sun.) L.Moody(L), Bruce Chetwynd, Mike and wife Pat ? (Sth.Aussie visitors).

Due to the delayed arrival of John Dunkley and his wife Jeanette on the Saturday, the proposed trip to Kubla Khan was also delayed and eventually abandoned. Having heard good reports regarding Genghis Khan, I finally managed to persuade John Richardson to guide us to the cave entrance about 11.00 a.m. Apparently due to the exceptionally fine weather, plus the extended wait for John Dunkley, a pronounced slackness seemed to be prevailing and it was a great effort to entice anyone underground. This party of four was the only group to do any real caving that day.

Genghis is only a small cave with one large chamber, the floor being strewn with large blocks of talus. However, several levels are in evidence and the formation, which includes a very impressive display of helictites, crystals and straws, is undoubtedly one of the best in the state. A further trip on the Sunday only served to heighten my regard for this cave.

Apparently discovered by Northern Caverneers in 1971, Genghis Khan is well worthy of a visit for photographic purposes. I have since learnt that another high level exists which we failed to locate on both trips. My next trip to Mole Creek will no doubt see me in this cave, camera in hand.

Laurie Moody.

SEE YOU AT THE DINNER!

PLEASE BOOK IMMEDIATELY!!!