

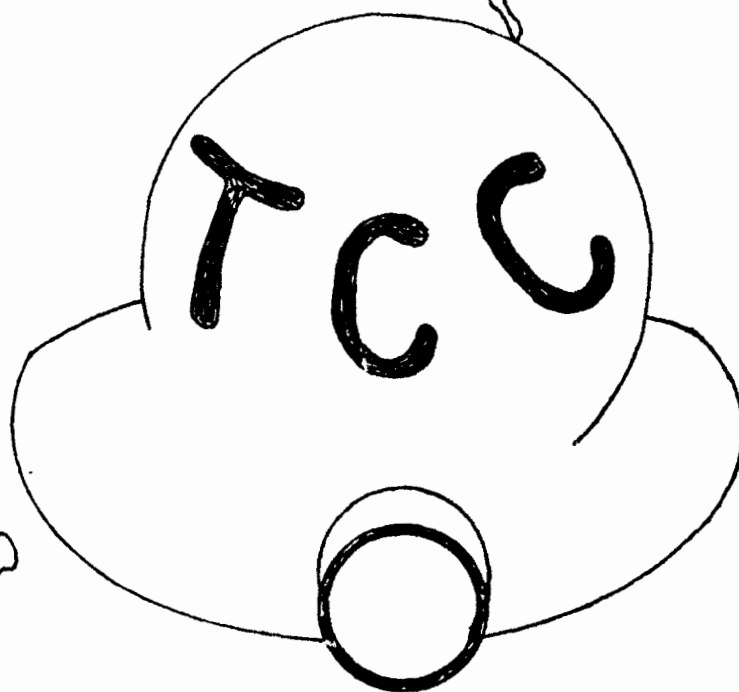
SPELEO SPIEL

NEWSLETTER of the

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Nov. **1974**

NO. 96



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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.

November 23,24 -- Weekend: Cave numbering at Mole Creek. Leader: Andrew Skinner.

November 27 - Wednesday: ...WINE AND CHEESE EVENING. ... at Brian and Jeanette's, 66 Wentworth Street, Sth.Hobart. Bring some wine and some cheese and have a great evening!

November 30,31 - Weekend: Hastings. Surveying in Wolf Hole. Leader: Andrew Skinner.

December 4 - Wednesday: General meeting at 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. Slide and refreshments welcome. Meeting starts at 8 p.m.

December 8 - Sunday: Mole Creek. Surveying in Croesus Cave. Leader: Andrew Skinner.

December 14 - Saturday: B A R B E Q U E at Sally and Clive Morris', 11 Church Street, Kingston. Bring your own meat and grog.

December 21,22 -- Weekend: Exit Cave - Eastern Extension and Labyrinth area. Leader: Andrew Skinner.

Jan.25-Feb.2, 1975 - T.C.C.1975 CRACROFT EXPEDITION.

Leaders: Brian Collin and Albert Goede.

NEWS FROM NORTHERN TASMANIA. - by your northern speleo correspondent.

Northern Caverneers.

Have been assisting TCC with the Mole Creek numbering project, with over 50 caves tagged since April. A successful film evening was held recently. Visits to Croesus (scaling pole work), Crack Pot and Execution Pot have been made lately. Exploration of Haile Selassie Cave has been declared complete after a ten metre pitch was investigated on 12/10/74. Have commenced surveying Croesus. The three entrances were linked by surface traverse on 26/10/74. Forward programme includes scrub-bashing near Trimmer Valley, completion of Croesus survey and scaling pole work, survey Lynds and visit My Cave and Long Drop. Several members hope to make the Cracroft trip with TCC. The summer should see some more cave diving. A trip has been planned to Precipitous Bluff in December - January.

Launceston Speleo Club.

Have concentrated activities on the Kubla Khan and Sassafras Creek areas. The Kubla area has been subject to intensive scrub-bashing, but with little result. Two underground camps have been held in the cave. At Sassafras Creek a new cave, Martins, has been discovered. This is a medium-sized system with a ten metre pitch at the entrance. On a recent trip a live cow was discovered at the bottom of the entrance pitch. It was removed by tying a rope around its legs and hauling it to the surface. The animal appears to have

been in the cave for several days as it was rather thin but otherwise appeared unharmed. LSC occupy palatial clubrooms at 107 Balfour Street and pursue an active social life.

North West Groups.

Little has been seen or heard of cavers from this area lately. The Latrobe group intends to start mapping Goughs Khan- soon. They have also made two reconnaissances to the Mackintosh-Southwell River limestone area.

A.D.S.

MOLE CREEK CAVE NUMBERING. (up to 26/10/74)

- MC 4 - Execution Pot: Pothole in Little Trimmer Valley; three pitches of 31, 34 and 14 metres to a small creek at the bottom. Deepest cave in Mole Creek Area.(106 metres).
- MC 43 - Crocus Cave: (Top Hole).
- MC 50 - Un-named cave: Stream sinks near Cheops Pyramid but siphons soon after. Could be explored further in dry weather.
- MC 51 - Crocus Cave: (April Fools entrance).
- MC 52 - Scotts Cave: (lower entrance) Former tourist cave of medium size and with two entrances; decoration damaged by acetylene lighting. Map Grade 4.
- MC 53 - Un-named cave: Small cave near Execution Pot; two entrances lead to small chamber; no draught.

Item of Interest!

The following article appeared in the June edition of Newsprint Log published by the Australian Newsprint Mills, Boyer.

" APPITA - Boyer Local Section.

The February meeting was of general interest and consisted of a talk by Mr. A. Skinner, Secretary of the Tasman Caverneering Society, about caves in Tasmania. Slides were also shown and very much appreciated by the large audience. Tasmania has the largest and deepest cave in Australia and the ninth longest in the world. The exit cave has been surveyed to 10 miles and Thazad-dum cave to 1,054 feet deep.

Many caves in Tasmania have streams flowing through them and caverns 1,000 feet long and 100 feet high are not unusual. Beautiful floor patterns are also found and will have to be protected from damage when opened to tourists.

The Club was formed in 1946 by Professor S.W. Carey and has participated in the mapping of tourist caves throughout Tasmania. Members of the Club undergo careful training and orientation before being allowed on a caverneering trip, thus reducing accident potential. Carbide lamps, miners cap lamps, safety rope, duralium and wire rope ladders and climbing ropes, are the main equipment requirements. The newer nylon rope method using a mechanical climbing harness is faster but is difficult to use by inexperienced persons."

The above article is reproduced exactly as it appeared in the magazine.

Laurie Moody.

TRIP REPORTS.

Wolf Hole .. 5/10/74.

Party: Andrew and Ros Skinner, Fiona Skinner, Pip Casey, David O'Brien.

The aim of this trip was to "complete" the survey started during 1973. We left Hobart at 8 a.m. but due to "slackness fever" and "pikeritis" were not at the cave until noon. Some side passages near the entrance chamber were added to the survey and soon we proceeded towards Lake Pluto. Strangely we entered the wrong passage, finding ourselves in unfamiliar territory. A small passage headed North,

eventually opening into a chamber 100 metres long, 50 metres wide and 10 - 20 metres high. Albert Goede mentions this area in a 1954 trip report. The passage and chamber beyond were surveyed, adding 400 metres to the existing survey. An attempt was made to explore a rift in the floor, but our 10 metre ladder was insufficient for this purpose. At the end of the chamber was talus. After a few minutes systematic probing, David and I broke through this obstacle, emerging in a complex area of rockfall. A dry streamway was discovered and eagerly explored, but only to a disappointing sump. This is certainly new territory with altogether about 300 - 400 metres of passage. After a brew we returned to the entrance doline. Fiona's ascent of the ladder pitch was very dramatic, with cries of "I'm going to fall off" "HELP!!", "Ahhh!". She did actually slip off the ladder near the overhang, but David and Pip managed to pull her up. The Wolf Hole survey is now 1,500 metres long, with at least another 500 - 800 metres to be added - the cave seems to grow between trips. Andrew Skinner.

Junee Florentine - Thursday, 24/10/74.

Party: Laurie Moody, John Richardson, Philip Voss(prosp.), Max Jeffries, Peter Shaw, Leonie Smith and Albert Goede.

Showday gave us a good opportunity to get away from Hobart and get some caving done. We all met at the barrier and after the usual signing-in ceremony and some lighthearted banter with the gatekeeper about Prince Charlie's impending visit for the following day, we headed for Cave Hill to investigate JF 58 and 68. JF 58 was soon found and three ladders were lowered. John Richardson had left his caving gear in Devonport and had sworn he would not go caving today. However with a little gentle persuasion and a borrowed helmet and light he was soon on his way down. The hole proved to be muddy and barely 17 metres deep and the third ladder was quite unnecessary. This hole must be the pothole discovered and named Anticline by SCS some years ago.

Then up the hill to JF 68, where Leonie was already waiting for us. After the usual rock-throwing ceremonies Peter went down on ladders to a broad ledge about 11 metres down. He was followed by John and Philip, who was keen to have his first experience of climbing ladders and stepped over the edge after a 1 minute instruction course. John managed to squirm down another four metres along a tight fissure but was stopped by a hole about the same diameter as his arm - definitely no go.

We then headed for the Florentine Valley and Leo Thorns Road where we looked at and numbered some caves in a low hill on the eastern side of the road. JF 74 has a two metre drop into a small chamber with numerous native snail shells scattered about. From here a short crawl leads to a second chamber with two short passages both petering out. The entrance to JF 75 was an inclined tunnel which degenerated into a maze of tight passages with a total length of about 20 metres. Leonie found another exit, or thought she had, but could not quite make it. We suggested leaving her there so Prince Charles could feed peanuts to the native animals next day but she was not impressed with the idea. JF 76 was an inclined tunnel petering out after about 5 metres. Nothing more than an over-sized wombat hole.

Lunched at the creek which crosses the road and continued on to JF 71 to show it to those who had not seen it before. We headed down to the water where Albert caused some loud splashes and nearly came to grief when a large rock on which he was sitting decided it was time to move. Peter, Laurie and Albert moved back towards the entrance and had a look at the extension discovered last time by Andrew and David. We were not impressed. There were two chambers, one with two daylightholes and a lot of loose talus. It is possible to go down further through the talus but this requires a rope. Back at the entrance we settled down to wait for the others. Meanwhile, a howling

gale started to blow and we looked anxiously at the dead trees near us swaying back and forth. Then a mighty roar and crash as a medium-sized tree 50 yards away hit the dust. Laurie was half-way down the cave before we had time to turn around. We all agreed it was MUCH safer underground. Eventually Philip, Max and Leonie turned up. They had found a narrow squeeze which they negotiated and had added some more passage to the system. We retreated to our cars. An attempt by Max to show us another cave entrance near Cashion Creek Rd. was not successful as the road was blocked by logging activities. The trip was concluded by the usual cuppa and other goodies at the Jeffries residence for which many thanks.

Albert Goede.

Exit Cave - 2-4 November, 1974.

Party: A. Skinner, J. Richardson, M. Jeffries, J. Foitakis (pros.) TCC; Jed Butler, Penny Knox (N.C.); and John Boden (L.H.C.C.).

A very pleasant weekend was had by all in the dry surrounds of Exit Cave. We walked in on Saturday afternoon, arriving at base camp at 4.00 p.m. A brief trip was made to Edie's Treasure before retiring to sleeping bags.

On Sunday we visited several areas - the end of the Western Passage, the Eastern Extension, passages near "the dig", and the beginning of Conference Concourse. Quite a few photographs were taken. That evening heralded the appearance of the first cave streakers, a phenomenon in the forms of Jed and John R. rushing around the camp site. (I do hope the photos come out). It was jokingly suggested that they streak to the entrance and back wearing boots, helmets and lights and bring back with them a green twig. On Monday we made a slow withdrawal from the cave. Next trip (before Christmas) we hope to systematically investigate the Eastern Extension area and visit the Labyrinth area.

Andrew Skinner.

Junee Florentine - 11/11/74.

Party: Laurie Moody (L), Leonie Smith and Roy ? (pros.)

A leisurely start saw us signing in at the barrier around 10.30 a.m. The objective of this trip was to visit Bone Pit (JP 203) and if time permitted, endeavour to locate Growling Swallet (JP 36). Eleven o'clock saw a ladder ropped at the entrance to Bone Pit and we set off down the steeply inclining passageway. Soon we discovered how the cave got its name, and after a brief examination of the numerous bones we pushed on. Reaching the lowest point of the first section called for a little climbing. The way on was fairly simple until we emerged at the top of a gaping pitch. The pitch itself appeared to drop off in a series of pitches and no doubt leads to the bottom of the cave. A short distance from here, suddenly found us on the top of a five metre pitch. It was obvious that this passage continued and by back-tracking several metres, soon discovered a passage leading down on our right. By following this we soon emerged at the base of the five metre pitch.

Passing through a small chamber and into another passage soon produced yet another obstacle, - a classic example of a 'letter-box' type squeeze. Our leader shoved his head through the slot and decided that this was the way on, proceeding to worm his way through. However, much to his annoyance, he succeeded in jamming himself halfway (Bloody accumulators). After recovering from a fit of insane laughter and proclaiming his temporary predicament to the others, he finally made it! (Must watch that spare tyre). After Leonie and Roy had eased themselves through the slot, we negotiated a small chimney and moving on reached yet another minor obstacle. Ducking down beneath a low section the leader was confronted with a pool of water and once again put his foot in it - and I don't mean that as a figure of speech!! I do recall someone saying that you must put your best foot forward and that's exactly what I did! My foot disappeared from view in wet,

gooney, muck! By the time it had reached my knee with nothing solid underneath I hastily withdrew it. Using half a dozen large rocks, I was finally able to establish a reasonably solid support and we then emerged in a fairly large chamber. Inspection of this chamber yielded nothing of significance and the way on appeared to be at yet another lower level. Leonie volunteered to explore this lower level and after inspecting two small tunnels, finally emerged cold, wet and no way-on.

Satisfied that we had examined all but the chasm we headed back out handling the obstacle course with the ease of professionals. Pausing only to inspect some of the many bones littering the floor near the entrance, we emerged after spending some two hours underground.

After a change of clothes and lunch, we headed off to look for Growling Swallet, following directions kindly supplied by Max Jeffries. The track was easy to locate but Leonie and Roy piked out and I set off on my lonesome. After covering less than a kilometre, I decided it was getting just a bit too windy. With all the tall timber and evidence of recent fallen limbs, I hastily retreated to the car. A discussion with Max on the way home prompted us to organise another trip to Growling Swallet for the approaching weekend.

Laurie Moody.

Florentine - 16/11/74.

Party: Laurie Moody(L), Leonie Smith, Roy ?, John Richardson, Philip Voss, Max and Tim Jeffries.

After an unavoidable delay, we arrived at the barrier around 10.15 a.m. However, the Maydena area had done us proud and the weather was really something to shout about(joyously for a change). Several opinions were expressed in regard to the fact that it was too nice to go underground but were finally convinced that this was indeed a genuine caving trip. After leaving the cars at the end of the F 9 road, we set off along the track to Growling Swallet. Less than half an hour's walk saw us standing outside the impressive entrance but unfortunately the swallet was taking a bit more water than anticipated. This was probably due to the fact that the recent fall of snow which had fallen mid-week was melting. As none of us had ever visited this cave before, we were relying somewhat on John's sketchy info. that he had received from Phil Robinson. Some time was spent endeavouring to find a reasonably dry way down. It was eventually decided to rig a rope on the right-hand side of the cave and from here, we descended into a tributary of the main stream. This was followed for about 15 metres back to the main stream where we noticed a passage leading off to the right. This was followed down for some distance before we emerged at the top of an awkward 6 metre sloping pitch. A ladder was rigged and on descending, we found ourselves back in the main streamway. At this point, wet feet were the order of the day and several rather dampening cascades were negotiated as we pushed on down. Before long, a very impressive display of glow-worms was observed in a small chamber and some minutes were spent observing these fascinating creatures. Undoubtedly this would be one of the best displays yet observed in the Junco Florentine area to date. Suggestions that this section be known as "Glow-worm Grotto" were forthcoming and wholeheartedly supported by all present.

Further down the streamway, we eventually reached a section that needed traversing and it was apparent that this was proving rather difficult for the inexperienced members amongst us. Several people were already observed to be cold and wet and it was decided that it would be rather risky to continue. Several side passages were investigated on the return journey including one which ran parallel to the main one and also carried a fair bit of water. The source of this stream was found to be a small hole which could not be entered.

On reaching the ladder, most of the party elected to head straight for the surface, however, Leonie, Roy and myself decided to push on up the streamway in an effort to locate an easier way out. A series

of small waterfalls appeared before us and an attempt to bypass them was made. The gallant leader sighted what appeared to be the way on and took off through one of the waterfalls like he'd been attacked by a swarm of bees. Much to his consternation and the amusement of the onlookers, he found himself in a cul-de-sac. Pirouetting as gracefully as any member of the Bolshoi Ballet, the sodden figure retraced his steps through the fall at a speed equal to that of light (well almost)! Convinced that a way out in this direction was definitely a myth, we returned to the ladder. We emerged into daylight after spending some three hours underground and found the others eating lunch and endeavouring to dry their clothes in the hot sunshine. Around this time Tim accidentally broke his father's thermos and dropped Max's camera in the creek ruining the five remaining shots and most likely the treasured shots of the Exit Cave trip a fortnight previously.

On arrival back at the cars, wet clothes were exchanged for dry and several sneaky photos were taken of various members in a state of undress. The president reports that the hand is definitely faster than the shutter of a camera and has a photo to prove it. Whilst waiting for Leonie and Roy (who both claimed to be 'slow walkers') a discussion was held on the pros. and cons. of the new Lake Pedder - in 'amicable' tones. On the whole a great social caving trip was enjoyed by one and all and another trip to Growling Swallet is envisaged - under drier conditions.

Laurie Moody.

JUMARS - TROG. LIGHT.

A set of as new Jumars are for sale + tape for harness, also a little used wet cell trog.light. Both were purchased about 9 months ago (new) by a younger member who has now given up caving. He has handed them to Stuart Nicholas for sale and anyone who is interested can contact Stuart at 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town and negotiate a price.

SEARCH AND RESCUE LIST.

On the following page is a list requesting information for compilation of a comprehensive list of people available for search and rescue emergencies.

PLEASE - FILL IN IMMEDIATELY, so that the list can be compiled before the Christmas holidays. This list is vital

it could be YOU who needs the help.

Quotable:

Overheard at the last meeting -

"What are you doing for screws lately??"

ask Andrew!

SEARCH AND RESCUE LISTING.TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB.

Name:

Address:

Ph.Nos: - Home: Business:

NOTE: If telephone contact at home or business is not normally possible, but may be used in an emergency only please state here:

Do you wish your employer to be contacted in advance to arrange for your release, by police for possible searches or rural fires board for fire fighting: YES: NO:

If yes state name and title of person to be contacted:

CAR: Make and type:(e.g.Holden ute):

Capacity: Driver + Passengers +Packs.

TENT: Capacity:Man.

BUSH Are you available for search? YES..... NO.....

If YES, - at any time for short periods,
- at any time for extended periods,
- for weekends only.

State notice required(e.g. 2-3 hours, 1 day etc.)

What areas do you know best?

Any previous search experience?

CAVING Are you available for search? YES. NO.

If YES, - at any time for short periods,
- at any time for extended periods,
- for weekends only.

State notice required(e.g. 2-3 hours, 1 day etc.)

Which areas do you have knowledge of?(e.g. cave location, problems, etc.):

Any previous search experience?

FIRE EMERGENCY Are you available for call out? YES..... NO.....

If YES, - at any time for short periods,
- at any time for extended periods,
- for weekends only.

State notice required(e.g.2-3 hours, 1 day etc.)

What areas are you interested in?(e.g. Mt. Anne, Frankland Rg. etc.)

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE THAT WOULD HELP IN ANY SEARCH & RESCUE ? (e.g. First Aid Certificate, Wireless operation, etc.)

ANY OTHER REMARKS:

RETURN PAGE IMMEDIATELY TO: Bill Lehmann, 29A D'Arcy St., Sth. Hobart.