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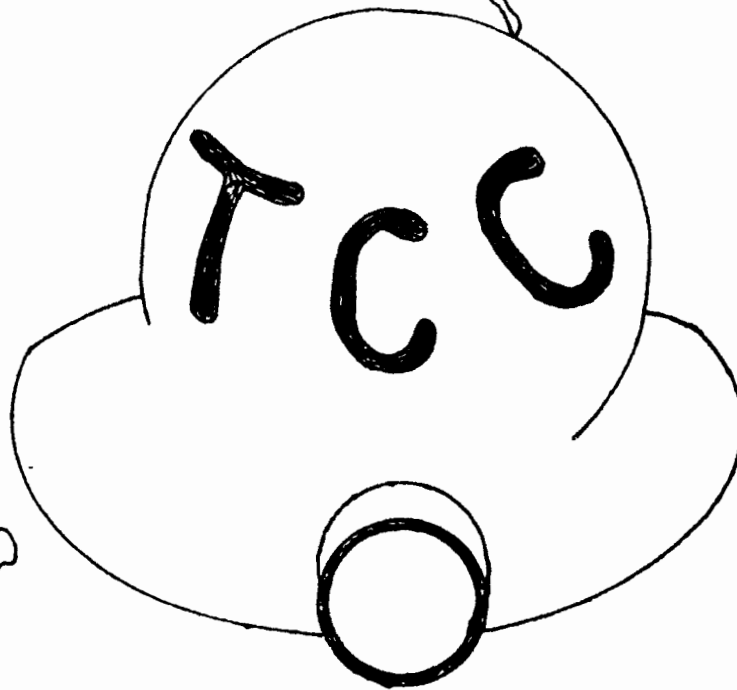
SPELEO SPIEL

NEWSLETTER of the

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Dec. 1974

NO. 97



T.C.C. Established 1946

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President: Laurie Moody, 13 Mason Street, Claremont, 7011.Secretary: Therese Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, 7000.FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- Dec.14 - Saturday: B A R-B E-Q U E at Sally and Clive Morris',
11 Church Street, Kingston, any time after 5 p.m.
Bring your own meat and grog.
- Dec.15 - Sunday: Hastings. Surveying in Wolf Hole. Leader:
Andrew Skinner.
- Dec. 16 - Monday: Florentine Valley. Visit to a "new" cave and
cave numbering. Leaders: Laurie Moody and Albert
Goede.
- Dec.21-23 - Saturday to Monday: Exit Cave. Visits to Eastern Ext.
Western Passage and photography. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- Dec.24 - Tuesday: Visit to King George V Cave to inspect cave
fauna with Japanese visitors. Leader: Albert Goede.
- Dec.24-Jan.1 - South Coast including visit to Precipitous Bluff.
Caving and walking. If interested contact the leader
soon. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- 1 9 7 5 - H A P P Y N E W Y E A R !!!
- Jan.4,5 - Mole Creek. Cave numbering. Bods wanting to come on
- Jan.11,12 - Mole Creek. Cave numbering. these trips should con-
- Jan.18,19 - Mole Creek. Cave numbering. tact me by phoning
Launceston 31 1491. Andrew Skinner(Leader).
- Jan.25-Feb.2 - T.C.C. 1975 Cracroft Expedition. Leaders: Brian Col-
lin and Albert Goede.
- Feb.1-10 - Mole Creek. FILMING IN KUBLA KHAN. Andrew Pavey
and co. of UNSWSS are making a film in Kubla Khan
during this period. Local cavers willing to assist are
urgently needed. Contact Roy Skinner(ph. 23 1560)
soon if you are interested.
- February 5 - Wednesday: General meeting at 8 Bath Street, Battery
Point. Slides and refreshments welcome. Meeting
starts at 8 p.m.

SHAME! GROWL! GRIPE! AND GROAN!!!

The members of the committee, including yours truly, are rather concerned by the poor turn-ups by members at the last two general meetings. In fact, it has been so bad that, on both occasions a quorum could not be formed. We realise that the caving scene is pretty quiet at the moment but as club business has to be discussed, it is important that as many financial members as possible attend these monthly meetings. It has been noted that the attendance of "social" meetings far exceeds that of the general meetings. Admittedly some of these meetings can be a bit of a drag at times but we can't run the club on our own. This, unfortunately, is becoming the case! We, and I speak for the office bearers, are not the club itself! The club includes each and everyone of you who is a financial member. DON'T leave it to the few! Come along and have your say. Surely you can spare an hour or so once a month to help in running the club. The next meeting will be held on the first Wednesday in February and make bloody sure you're there!!

On the brighter side - those who did attend the December meeting are grateful to Albert for showing us his slides of Judd's Cavern & the Cracroft Area - very entertaining.

As from Thurs.12th Dec. I will be on the phone at home. At the

moment of writing, I do not yet know the number but it can be obtained by ringing 013.

Finally, on behalf of my family and myself, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all club members and their families, contributors and other clubs -- a very Happy and Safe Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Laurence R. Moody.

Death of Ambrose Howe.

We deeply regret having to announce the death at Mole Creek some months ago of Ambrose("Amy") Howe. He and his wife, Ivy, own the property nearest to Kubla Khan and for many years, prior to the advent of the hut, played host to large numbers of cavers who camped on their property and slept on their floors. Amongst the older cavers their hospitality will be long remembered.

Ivy is anxious to obtain a good photograph of her husband and we will be pleased to hear of any member who can help. Please contact the secretary or Ros Skinner(40 Grove Road, Glenorchy)

Vale - Anne Parkes.

It was with regret that we heard of the death of Anne Parkes as the result of a car accident on the N.W. coast. Anne and Terry Parkes were active members of the club some years ago and our sincere sympathies go to Terry and their young daughter.

The Speleo Ferret Strikes Again - News from Up-North.

Northern Caverneers: Activity centred on Union Cave(2 trips) and My Cave(2 trips). In recent weeks a new cave, Riley's Upstream has been explored uphill from My Cave. A trip to Precipitous Bluff has been arranged for the Christmas/New Year. N.C. meets at Pierres Restaurant, George Street, Launceston at 5.30p.m. on Monday nights. The president(Dr.Richard Schmidt) can be contacted on(003) 263445.

Launceston Speleo Club: Have visited Tailender Cave, Union Cave, Wallaby Cave, My Cave and Ashdowns Cave during the last month. A new cave, First Outing, was found recently near Martin's Cave in the Sassafras Creek area. L.S.C. are applying for Associate membership of A.S.F. at the Brisbane Convention. The group meets formally at 7.30 p.m. on the last Saturday of the month at 107 Balfour St., Launceston. The vice-president, Ray Kearnes, can be contacted on (003) 391037.

Latrobe Group: Have arranged an excursion to the Mackintosh/Southwell River Area in January.

A.D.S.

Christmas Greetings.

The club has received a Christmas card from the one time "Silent" Rover, Norm Poulter, who has come to rest in Perth, W.A. He sends Season's Greetings to all his friends in T.C.C. Norm now has his own home "Norm's Place", 81 Hamersley Ave., Morley, W.A. 6062.

Overseas Visitors.

Two speleologists from Japan will be visiting Tasmania from the 19th to the 28th December. They are Shun-Ichi Ueno, secretary of the Japanese Speleological Society and Yoshinobu Morimoto, who is a zoologist interested in crustacea. Shun-Ichi is a specialist in carab beetles and is interested in seeing some of our cave beetles. They hope to visit Exit Cave and would also like to see caves in other areas as well as having a look at some of our mountains.

Filming in Kubla Khan.

Andrew Pavey and his co-workers from Sydney have been given a grant to make a film in Kubla Khan. They will be

there during the first ten days in February. The first 2-3 days will consist of location reconnaissance and feasibility study. The generator will be installed at one of the entrances and cable laying will be required. This will be followed by six to eight days of intensive on location filming along the river traverse and the main formation areas. Two 16mm. cameras will be used simultaneously and it is also planned to cover the entire show with a portable T.V. unit. Three camera men will be needed. The team will consist of about a dozen bods from all over Australia but more people are needed. So, if you haven't made any holiday plans yet, and want to get into the movie industry, contact Roy Skinner(phone 23 1560).

CAVE NUMBERING.Mole Creek 1/12/74.

- MC 53 - Union Cave: (Resurgence entrance). Cave on bank of Mersey River; five entrances; upper entrance leads to short duck followed by 130 metres of stream passage to deep, clear, wide sump.
- MC 54 - Union Cave: (Lower entrance).
- MC 55 - Union Cave: (Vertical entrance).
- MC 56 - Wallaby Cave: Small cave; bone deposits; decoration; unidentified human skeleton was recovered from this cave.
- MC 57 - Ashdowns Cave: Small cave in limestone hillock with some decoration; single large chamber; still pools of water at bottom.
- MC 58 - Sun Cave: Rift 15 metres deep; bone deposits; side passage with draught; very clean and dry; small dimensions.
- MC 59 - Unexplored vertical hole near MC 58; at least 10 metres deep.

Andrew Skinner.

Florentine 24/10/74.

- JF 74 - Unnamed cave; two metre drop into small chamber; short crawl leads to second chamber with two short passages both petering out.
- JF 75 - Unnamed cave; Inclined entrance tunnel which degenerates into a maze of tight passages with total length of about 20 metres.
- JF 76 - Unnamed cave; Inclined entrance tunnel peters out after about 5 metres.

These three caves are located close to each other in a low hill east of Leo Thorns Road.

Albert Goede et al.

A Child's Impression of Caving." Exploring a Cave.

One day Joe and I went exploring a cave in the South-West of Tasmania. The cave's name was Bunajarra. Before going Joe and I checked everything. We were wearing thick woollen clothes, strong boots and carried picks and lighting. We had two carbide lamps and one head lamp. We were going to get some fossils for a geology exam at the University.

Slowly we stepped down the ladder and ventured deeper into the cave. Joe picked out some marvellous fossils. We went down a little further and saw some fascinating sights. We saw stalagmites and stalagmites gleaming in the darkness. We also saw columns and helictes.

Joe could hear some water. He looked down and saw a stream as calm as calm can be. It looked as if no one had ever touched it. We went to touch the water and saw some fish swimming about.

Suddenly there was a cave-in. Joe and I felt very worried. Would we survive or get out of the cave? After two hours had passed we felt a bit better and at that moment the roar of a Land Rover pulled up outside the cave's entrance. In less than five minutes Joe

and I were safe.

"What a frightening experience!" Joe told his wife. The next day was the test and Joe and I are now geologists."

Master Jody Brockman,
Grade 6 G, Chigwell Primary School
November, 1974.

TRIP REPORT.

Cracroft Reconnaissance Expedition: 16-24 November, 1974.

Party: Brian Collin and Albert Goede.

Report: The aim of the trip was to make preparations for the 1975 T.C.C Cracroft Expedition by improving track marking, carrying out surface exploration in the Cracroft area and marking the airdrop site.

Saturday, 16/11 - We left the car at 10 a.m. in fine, sunny conditions and following down the old forestry track reached the Pionon River 20 minutes later. We then followed the T.C.C. track south along the western bank of the river. Brian broke us in gently. After an hour, having just passed Cooks Creek, we stopped for morning tea. We reached High Camp by 12-15 p.m. and the campsite at the Big Bend one hour later. Stopped there for lunch. We left at 2-15 with the track striking inland through a tea tree- bauera- cutting grass swamp towards Farmhouse Creek. The creek was low and crossing to the southern bank was easy. From here the track begins to climb steadily and progress was slowed by numerous fallen logs but the country is surprisingly dry and open. At 5-05 Pine Camp was reached. We spent a comfortable night camped next to the fast flowing creek.

Sunday, 17/11 - Weather still fine and sunny. We left camp at 8-10 a.m. and at 9-20 sighted our first sinkhole. Five minutes later we reached Attila's double red tape which indicates the proximity of an area of sinkholes and swallets close to the saddle. We left our packs and following a compass bearing (120°M) put in a marked route with blue tapes. We first looked at impressive stream sink with vertical walls on three sides and a small stream flowing into it. The cave at the bottom blocks off after only 3 metres. The limestone dips 95°M at an angle of 33°. Then following a line of sinkholes down the valley we picked up a route marked by red tapes. This route, surveyed by Attila and Jeanette, was followed from stations 31B to 34B. We went as far as the main stream sink which is also blocked. At 11-00 we were back on the track and passed Saddle Camp 10 minutes later. At noon, just before reaching the button-grass plain, we passed some solid outcrops of limestone. The rock here dips 140°M at an angle of 36°. Rounding the limestone spur towards Judds Cavern proved rather difficult going and we arrived at the cave a little after one o'clock feeling rather dehydrated. After lunch we set up camp and collected a good supply of fire wood.

At 3.30 p.m. we entered Judds Cavern. The entrance is quite impressive. Just inside the cave the limestone dips 60°M at an angle of approx. 25°. The cave is of impressive size and our small hand torches were rather inadequate. We waded through the water most of the way and it seemed every bit as cold as the water at the Junees Rising. A striking feature of the cave is the lack of organic debris which makes it a poor prospect for the collecting of cave fauna. The only life observed were half a dozen cave crickets (Micropathus) near the entrance.

At the far end the dry passage was looked at first. The climb near the limit of exploration was not attempted but this section is well worth pushing further. There is a strong draught and a roof channel about 3 metres in diameter continues through here from the main cave indicating that in the early stages of development of the cave this passage carried most of the water.

The siphon was then inspected but neither of us had any inclination to do another "Attila". The limestone at the siphon was estimated to dip 120°M at an angle of approx. 30°.

Monday 18/11 - Light overnight rain. Weather cool and cloudy. We rose late and left camp at 10-15 a.m. to sidle up the limestone hill behind the cave entrance in an attempt to find an easier route from the cave to Saddle Camp. We climbed rather steeply through dense dogwood passing not far below the summit and then through the saddle between the hill and Burgess Bluff using red marking tape all the way. The first promising hole was an elongated sink hole sloping down to an inviting entrance at the opposite end. It was investigated and found to block off after 5 metres. Some animal bones were present on the floor. The hole was marked with a double red tape. Shortly after we passed to the right of a rift at least 15 metres deep. Bottom could be seen but passage may go off at an angle. A rope is required for entry.

Quite some distance further on a large deep doline was found with vertical shaft at base. Rocks indicate at least ten metres to the first ledge and it looks promising. Hole marked with red tape. A little later we ran out of tape. We continued balzing and changed direction to intersect the main track. The junction near a large doline was marked with two red tapes. We improved the main track on our way back to Judds Cavern and arrived at camp rather hungry at 3-50p.m. to have a late lunch.

Tuesday, 19/11 - We left camp at 10-30 a.m. following the dry valley up for a short distance. We found one resurgence with water coming from an inclined hole and following on the surface for a few metres before disappearing again into an impenetrable hole. We then angled up the slopes of Burgess Bluff going N.E. (35°M) blazing a route. We found several sinkholes including one impressive one with limestone cliffs but no go. It was marked with one blue tape. We continued through thick horizontal and broken limestone outcrop eventually giving way to dolerite talus. We had lunch at the highest point reached (about 600 metres).

Coming back down we found one doline with 15 metre deep vertical fissure. It is worthy of exploration and was marked with two blue tapes. Then through difficult sinkhole country. One hole worthy of further exploration was marked with three blue tapes. We then struck uphill to intersect the red track at the saddle. We were back at camp at 3-45 p.m. The remainder of the afternoon was spent looking unsuccessfully for Matchlight Cavern. We found one rift 15 metres deep worthy of exploration at the end of a string of dolines. After dinner we went up the limestone hill behind the camp to watch the sunset over Federation Peak.

Wednesday 20/11 - We broke camp and left Judds Cavern at 9-40 a.m. Blue tape was used to mark the route all the way across the button grass. Two halves of an orange ground sheet were used to tie around two bushes for airdrop markers. We then rebalazed the route all the way up to Saddle Camp arriving there at 1-30p.m. We left our packs here at 2p.m. and headed down the dry valley on the western side to attempt to locate "Attila's Hole". Our first find half an hour later was a big doline with a cave entrance at the western end requiring a rope for further exploration. The line of dolines was then followed downhill. One hole found but not explored consisted of a short drop followed by a long slope. In another large doline we found a small cave in a limestone cliff; Brian investigated but it didn't go far. At 3p.m. we found "Attila's Hole" marked by a single orange tape. There was a strong draught of cold moist air blowing out. As I had no torch Brian did the exploration. He reached Attila's previous limit but being alone did not push on. Left hole at 3-50p.m. heading Mag. North on compass bearing and 10 mins. later intersected track at a big leatherwood tree. Back at Saddle Camp at 4-25p.m. collected packs before heading for L. Sydney and Mt. Bobs where we spent next few days. Back at car noon 24/11. Albert Goede.