

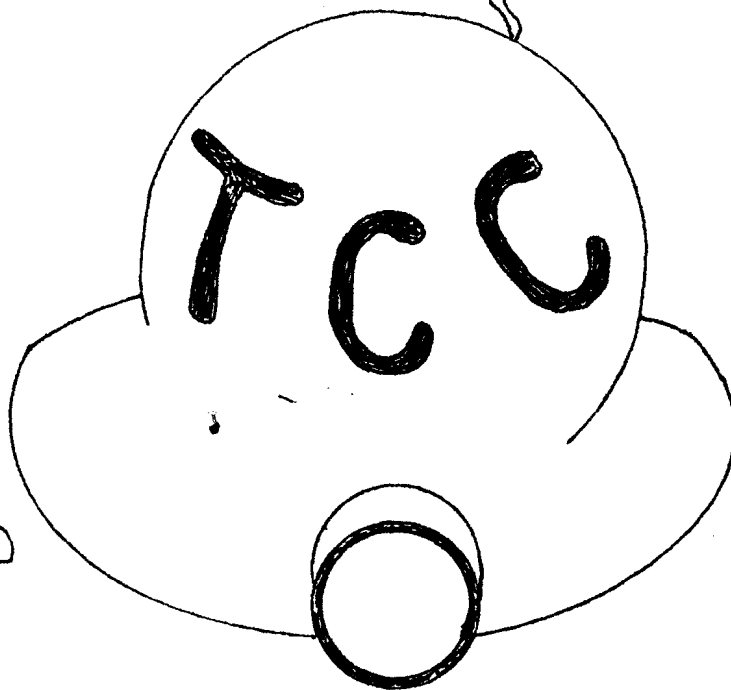
SPELEO SPIEL

NEWSLETTER of the

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

March 1975

NO. 99



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President: Laurie Moody, 13 Mason Street, Claremont, 7011.

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

- March 15 - Saturday: Visit to non-limestone cave in East Tamar area. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- March 16 - Sunday: Cave numbering at Mole Creek. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- March 22 - Saturday: Exploration of Thun Junction Cave, Ida Bay. Leader: Peter Shaw.
- March 22,23 - Weekend: Police cliff search and rescue exercise at CAPE RAOUL. Contact Col Hocking, ph.43 8572 if you are interested.
- March 26 - Wednesday: Annual General Meeting, 8 p.m. 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. ALL members are urged to attend. Election of the new committee and important business dealing with club management.
- March 28-April 1 - EASTER: Gunns Plains and Loongana. Combined trip with Launceston Speleos. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- April 5 - Saturday: Day trip to The Quoin east of Ross - a chance to explore some non-limestone caves. Leader: Albert Goede.
- April 12 - Saturday: Trip to Khazad-dum, Junee area. S.R.T. party ONLY. Leader: Peter Shaw.
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Editorial.

No world shattering discoveries were made last month but trips were held to Mole Creek, Florentine Valley and Ida Bay(Exit Cave). At Mole Creek some more cave numbering was done and an unsuccessful search made in a number of small caves for fossil bone deposits. Andrew led the way in a very exciting drive to Dogs Head to locate Joe's Lair. Things were not helped by wrong turns, fallen logs and rotten bridges. In the Florentine Valley Laurie led a boating party down the Florentine River and discovered lots of limestone cliffs with even a few small caves. Exit Cave was visited with the Launceston Speleo Club. No report to hand but by all accounts sleeping underground was an important part of the long week-ends activities.

Annual General Meeting.

Members are reminded that the A.G.M. will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 26th March. As this is a particularly important meeting all those who can possibly make it should attend. (Attention Eastern Shore members - transport from ferry terminal can be arranged. Phone 23 1920 Wed.19th for arrangements.)

Notice of the following motion, to be moved at the A.G.M. was given at the February General Meeting.

"That general meetings be held quarterly until enthusiasm in the club returns."

Attendance at the March general meeting was no better than in February and a quorum was not reached until 9 p.m.

Prospective Member.

We welcome Peter Murray, Garthfield Ave., Cygnet as a prospective member. Peter has done some spelunking in the U.S. before coming to Tasmania. He is now involved with Albert in the excavation of fossil bone deposits in the Montagu Caves in north-western Tasmania.

New Name.

At the March general meeting the name "Pleistocene" was

proposed and accepted for a small cave at Montagu located close to Main Cave(MU 201,202). The entrance is a vertical slit with a 2.5 metre drop to an earth floor. The cave was discovered by Albert Goede and Steve Harris last December(see Feb.Spiel) and is rich in Pleistocene bone deposits including extinct species.

Cave Numbering.

Mole Creek - 22,23/2/75 by Andrew Skinner and party.

- MC 60 - Toboggan Cave. Horizontal entrance passage followed by rift with 20 metre drop to bottom. Higher levels contain attractive formation and recent bone deposits. First explored in 1966.
- MC 61 - Unnamed resurgence cave with three fissure entrances 3 to 4 metres high and 1 metre wide. Small stream flows from left hand fissure. Located below and a little to the south of Joe's Lair.
- MC 62 - Joe's Lair. Located on western slopes of Dogs Head. Entrance 5 metres wide and 2 metres high; strong draught; 45 metres in is earth slope followed by six metre drop to deep water; further progress stopped by sump.
- MC 63 - Mill Cave. (Tailender 1) Small cave 45 metres long; 800 metres upstream from Croesus Cave.
- MC 64 - Tailender Cave.(Tailender 2) Two hundred metres of tight stream passage leading to sump and difficult 10 metre climb; beyond climb is an estimated 800 metres of passage with good formations.

K-D. Is it REALLY Finished??

To bottom Khazad-dum is a regular tourist trip for North Island hard core cavers these days - just to be able to say that you've been at Australia's lowest point. Everyone knows that it ends in an impenetrable sump so when you get to the bottom the one thing to do is to get out again as soon as possible. But just suppose --- there's a way on somewhere down there. Have we really investigated every possibility or is K-D one day going to be another Tassy Pot or Herberts Pot where cavers from another society and perhaps a future generation are going to make another major breakthrough?? Perhaps to discover the most extensive cave in Australia - the elusive Junee River System. A little paragraph published in a trip report in Nargun(March 1973) by Lou Williams(VSA) makes me wonder. Here I quote:

" At the top of the sand bank above the sump is a passage leading on - small by Tassie standards - where Phil Robertson(means Robinson.Ed.) had been down for a couple of hundred feet. There were three leads going off from this, and Rudy pushed one and Brian and I pushed another which was soon choked by very loose talus, but a passage could be seen on the other side of it. Back out in the main lead, I pushed on past some formation and up a short climb, most of the going was fairly tight up till this stage(and my trog suit began to fall apart), it then opened out but not for long. I kept going until I came to a small chamber, some 50 ft. past here it closed down to a mud-filled flattener with a good breeze - would have to be dug to get anywhere and may be a way round the sump, who knows. I built a cairn back in the little chamber and moved back to the others. On reaching them my trog suit had completely been torn to shreds."

Well, has anyone been back there since? Maybe that pommie's glasses were fogged up when he first explored that part of the cave. Who knows? It would be a pity if we missed out.

Albert Goede.

Tasmania's Longest Caves.

The following list was published in the January 1975 issue of the Journal of the S.S.S. by Ross Ellis and includes all Tasmanian caves over 400 metres known to him. The number in brackets

indicates ranking in the Australia's longest cave list. Some corrections have been made to cave names and areas(three caves were placed in wrong areas.)

1.	(1)	Exit Cave, Ida Bay.	17.0 km.
2.	(6)	Herberts Pot, Mole Creek.	4.4 km.
3.	(13)	Wet Cave-Georgies Hall, Mole Creek.	2.29 km.
4.	(17)	Loons Cave, Ida Bay.	2.02 km.
5.	(23)	Wolf Hole, Hastings.	2.01 km.
6.	(24)	Khazad-dum, Junee-Florentine.	1774 m.
7.	(27)	Croesus Cave, Mole Creek.	1670 m.
8.	(28)	Newdegate Cave, Hastings.	1660 m.
9.	(29)	Welcome Stranger, Junee-Florentine.	1650 m.
10.	(32)	Kubla Khan Cave, Mole Creek.	1590 m.
11.	(49)	Judds Cavern, Cracroft.	1000 m.
12.	(52)	Damper Cave, Precipitous Bluff.	990 m.
13.	(54)	Frankcombe Cave, Junee Florentine.	980 m.
14.	(55)	Quetzalcoatl Conduit, Precipitous Bluff.	950 m.
15.	(57)	Honeycomb Cave, Mole Creek.	940 m.
16.	(63)	Marakoopa I Cave, Mole Creek.	910 m.
17.	(68)	Lynds Cave, Mole Creek.	760 m.
18.	(73)	Gunns Plains Cave, Gunns Plains.	750 m.
19.	(-)	Thun Junction Cave, Ida Bay.	500 m.
20.	(-)	King George V Cave, Hastings.	400 m.

What I would like is as much information as possible so that we can publish a revised list in the next few months. The problem is that our longest caves are far less well known than our deepest - a lack of surveys is the basic problem. Few of the above figures are accurate and even fewer represent surveyed lengths. For example Exit Cave only has 13 kms. of surveyed passage although about 17 kms. is known. I very much doubt if Loons Cave is 2.02 km. or Thun Junction Cave 500 metres. On the other hand the length of Croesus is certainly underestimated. Judds Cavern now has 1721 m. of surveyed passage and about 2000 m. total length.

Caves which should be in the list but are not:

- i) Mystery Ck. Cave(Entrance Cave), Ida Bay - incompletely surveyed but surveyed length exceeds 400 metres.
- ii) Niagara Pot, Junee-Florentine. Surveyed length 410 metres(complete).
- iii) Gormaghast, Junee-Florentine. Surveyed length 582 metres(complete).
- iv) Tailender Cave, Mole Creek. Only 200 m. surveyed but total passage length estimated to be 1000 m.
- v) Spider-Pyramid-Cow Cave System, Mole Creek. Never surveyed. Total passage length could be 2 kms. Obviously needs doing.
- vi) Mersey Hill Cave, Mole Creek. Surveyed length 542 metres. Probably not complete.
- vii) Growling Swallet, Junee-Florentine. Mostly unsurveyed. Total length likely to exceed 500 m.

There's obviously a lot of surveying to be done! Any corrections or additional information will be welcomed.

Albert Goede,

Keeper of Archives.

TRIP REPORTS.

Cracroft Expedition 1975 - The First Three Days.

by Albert Goede.

Saturday: Brian and I left with the tail end of the expedition on Saturday morning, 25th Jan. true to the ancient tradition that leaders should lead from the rear. The advance party led by Peter Shaw and Attila Vrana had already departed the previous day. We left the cars at 9.55 a.m. under cool and overcast conditions and had a morning tea break at High Camp. At 1.20 p.m. we arrived at Big Bend and left the Picton. At the Farmhouse Creek crossing we caught up with

Bill Lehmann and his long weekend party and joined forces. It seemed a long hard struggle up Farmhouse Creek most of us arriving at Pine Camp at 5.40 p.m. where we found Tom and Joyce Whaite already in possession of the one and only tent site. Some quick machete work soon gave us enough space for a few more tents.

Sunday: Overnight it began to rain and Sunday morning dawned wet and miserable. A short break from the rain gave us the opportunity to have a hasty breakfast. Just as we were about to leave Brian, who had been camped further downstream with Carey Handfield, strolled into camp and produced a large sheet of orange plastic to cut a cape for Bob Woolhouse who had left his parka in the car. We left Pine Camp at 9.40 a.m. with Bob looking rather grotesque but at least keeping the upper part of his body dry. When we reached the turn-off to the large sinkholes on the eastern side of the main saddle John Taylor and I took 3 kgs. of fluorescein down to the small stream that disappears underground. The dye was placed in the stream at noon and produced the usual brilliant green effect. On the way back to the main track we were hit by a shower of hail. We retrieved our packs and passed Saddle Camp at 1 p.m. We did not catch up with the others and finally arrived at the Judds Cavern Camp at 2.45 p.m. This looked rather like a refugee centre with tents and airdrop tins everywhere. After a late lunch and having set up camp about eight of us headed back to the airdrop site to rescue the remaining tins and also the supplies airdropped for Tom and Joyce Whaite and their party.

The leaders came in for a good deal of lighthearted criticism when it was discovered that the Whaites had dropped such tinned goodies as ham and asparagus tips, - a far cry from our basic diet of muesli, bix and dehydres. Despite rain all rubbish and packing from the airdrop was burned on the spot and the remains buried. Loaded down with tins we staggered back to the camp where an orgy of unpacking and sorting followed. Meanwhile it kept on raining and the creek continued to rise steadily. An ideal situation for water tracing but our hopes of pushing the siphon in Judds grew steadily dimmer. A last negative check of the creek for fluorescein before turning in at 11 p.m.

Monday: At 1 a.m. goes the alarm and quick look at the creek from Judds Cavern shows it to be a brilliant fluorescent green. Eureka! I tried to stir up some of the others to witness the event but nobody seemed interested. Next morning at daybreak there was no trace of the dye left and of course some lazy blighters claimed it never happened! During the morning light rain continued and the stream was now quite high. Everybody seemed very lethargic.

Finally at 1 p.m. two parties left camp - one led by Attila and one by Brian and myself. Both started off by following the Red Track. Attila's party soon swung downhill in an effort to locate Matchlight Cavern. We continued to the saddle through which the track passes, then headed downhill (northwards) to locate the trail we had blazed last November and where we had marked several holes with blue tape. We found the hole marked with three blue tapes (about a 6 metre drop). We then located another four holes each of which we marked with double red tape. The first two required rope for further exploration. The other two were fully explored and did not go.

We continued until we reached the hole marked with two blue tapes at the end of the trail. A red tape was added. This was a deep pot requiring ropes and ladders. At this point Attila's party caught up with us and reported that they had found and explored Matchlight Cavern and that it was a horizontal system with some outstanding formations including rimstone terraces and numerous long straws. They claimed to have explored at least 500 metres of passage (a survey later showed 380 metres). There were further possibilities to be looked at including two shafts of 13 and 26

metres in depth. Attila and party left us to head NW in an effort to locate the Blue Track we had marked in November.

Brian, Bruce, John and myself retraced our steps downhill and then headed west in another effort to locate the Blue Track marking our route with red tape. Before long we reached Matchlight Cavern. From there we continued our route of red tape westwards until we ran out of tape. Just beyond this point we found a doline with an inclined passage containing formation. It was looked at by John who claims it may go with a little work shifting rocks. Finally we reached a bare limestone outcrop with steeply dipping beds where we surprised an angry tiger snake. Then down a very steep slope, past several waterfilled sinkholes until we met Judds Creek which we followed upstream to camp arriving there at 5.40 p.m.

Attila's party returned a little later having followed in our footsteps and having completed our unfinished red tape track with blue tape. A short distance NW from the deep shaft where we had met up earlier in the day they had located another steeply sloping cave system (later named Skull Cave). They had explored it for some distance without reaching the bottom. Embedded in the mud they found a beautifully preserved skeleton of a Thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger) and had brought out the skull for positive identification. That concluded a most successful day.

My last act of the day was to go up to Judds Cavern and fix the number 1 to the limestone face beside the entrance. As the rain had stopped earlier in the day the creek level was now falling rapidly raising our hopes for the further exploration of Judds Cavern.

(To be continued)

MOLE CREEK REPORT OR " WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY IMMORTALIZED

THE KHAN".

7-9th February, 1975.

Max Jeffries and yours truly left Hobart at 4.30 p.m. on a sweltering Friday afternoon and arrived at the Marakooa Hut around 9.30 p.m. The trip was virtually uneventful apart from several "waterhole" stops on route. Surprisingly enough the "Caver's Arms" Hotel at Mole Creek was completely free of caving characters and after a few quick ones we finally arrived at the command post. Some of the 'film-makers' (BUMOFF INC.) were gathered around an open fire and introductions were subsequently made. Unfortunately I cannot remember what the 'BU' stood for but 'MOFF' indicated Makers of Fine Films. We were then informed that we should have passed the 'alcoholics' en route to the pub. They were apparently being led astray by some individual known as 'Skinner'!! With final filming scheduled for early the following morning, Max and I set about rigging our tent in the nearest available space. No sooner had we finished, than the 'alcoholics' arrived in several cars. Greetings were exchanged, along with several bottles of bootleg, and eventually we got to bed.

The advance film party left for Kubla Khan around 8.00 a.m. and between then and mid-afternoon a constant stream of cavers, representing numerous clubs, headed into the cave via the top entrance. Max, Andrew Skinner and myself entered around 11.00 a.m. and immediately set about placing reflectorized markers over the flowstone to minimize damage. Eventually we reached Xanadu Chamber and found a group of early arrivals sitting around 'singing' Peter, Paul and Mary folk tunes. What a racket! Director Pavey, minus a chair, waited patiently for the generator to function and readied his cast (aways) for the next 'take'.

After a slight delay, due no doubt to the word of mouth communication system, the power came on and on the risk of repeating myself all systems were 'go'. The Khan and Begum were illuminated by the powerful lights, movie camera adjusted, 'actors' in position and a sequence was duly filmed. It was undoubtedly a sight

worth seeing as the large cavern revealed its beauty for all to see.

In the meantime, the audience was steadily growing in this natural amphitheatre. The cavern twinkled with a myriad of lights, truly a memorable occasion. Out of curiosity, I began to count the number of people visible and on exceeding forty, I gave up. Lloyd Robinson arrived with his 'di-protodon' lighting system and began to set up his gear. About this time the word went out that the generator had ceased to function no doubt due to lack of fuel. Volunteers were called for to replenish the tank and as there was little we could do at that stage of the proceedings, Max and I decided to visit the Jade Pool.

I was pleased to note that forty odd pairs of feet had avoided this section and undoubtedly thanks are due to Andrew Skinner. As I was rather keen to obtain several close-up photos of the 'Cork-screw', we set off through the Forbidden City until reaching my objective. How I wished my film had been colour instead of black and white! (What's more, my wish did come true. Unbeknown to me, it was colour not black and white!!) Around this time, the two generator volunteers passed by on their way back in, so Max and I elected to return to the surface and keep the generator going.

Emerging from the cave around 6.00 p.m. we decided to pay a quick visit to Genghis Khan Cave whilst waiting for the filming to finish. (Original estimates were supposed to be 7.00 p.m.) Returning an hour or so later, we then learnt that it was expected to be around midnight before filming would be completed. Several cavers had emerged including that well-known figure, Mr. Anthony Culberg.

Around 8.00 p.m. it was decided that a quick snack would be in order and several reels of cable were returned to the car-park. After a bite to eat we again returned to the cave entrance and found that the generator had run out of petrol. Once more the word of mouth communication system went into operation. "Do you require more petrol?". An affirmative "yes" was the reply!

Tony Culberg and yours truly headed back to the car-park and immediately set about obtaining several gallons of fuel from the most suitable tank which finally turned out to be my own! Less than twenty minutes later, we were again at the top entrance. The generator functioned with Max's help and filming commenced once again.

By 11.00 p.m. a fair majority of the cavers had left the cave and only the filming crew and the 'actors' remained. Gear began to trickle out in dribs and drabs. Tony and Co. departed, leaving two bottles of cider and a bottle of ale which were to be made available to anyone now emerging. Max and I had stationed ourselves in the entrance tunnel after encountering several scorpions and bull ants in the outer fringes of the entrance and there we made ourselves relatively comfortable, awaiting any developments. Around mid-night Andrew Skinner and another caver arrived to share our vigil. After a period of time several cavers, including Lloyd Robinson and all his gear, arrived at the surface and still the filming continued.

Around 2.30 a.m., with filming still in progress, the refreshments long since gone, we decided to call it a day. Several reels of cable were split up amongst us and we set off down to the car-park. (It was well after 4.00 a.m. before the film-makers returned to the hut, after spending approximately 17-18 hours underground.)

Most of us were up and about by 10.00a.m. that same morning and volunteers were recruited to bring down the remainder of the gear, which included the portable generator. On arrival at the car-park, Max, David Walton (a Kiwi caver) and myself, found that we were the first to arrive. We reached the generator, once again admiring the effort that had been taken to man-handle it up to the cave entrance in the first place.

Deciding not to waste any time, we immediately set about carting it back down-hill. We had only covered a short distance,

however, when the others arrived. Relieving them of one extra manpower, we continued on down arriving at the car-park some twenty minutes later. The others arrived some ten minutes later with the remaining gear and cable and after stowing generator and the other stuff in the trailer, we all proceeded to Union Bridge for a well-earned swim.

L. Moody.

POSTNOTE.

It would be pointless to say that little damage was done to the cave during filming as reports of varying degrees have reached the writer. However, from what I personally saw, efforts were made to keep damage to a minimum by the film-makers. Regrettably a large number of people visited the cave on the final day of filming and although care was taken in most cases, further damage would have resulted. All efforts should now be made in closing the top entrance for an indefinite period. Let us hope that the film justified the use of this particular entrance.

Mole Creek - 22,23 February, 1975.

Party: Andrew Skinner(leader), Ros Skinner, Albert Goede, Mike Martyn(S.S.S.), and Dave Walton(N.Z.S.S.).

I left Hobart about 7.45 a.m. with Mike and Dave. We met up with Andrew and Ros in Deloraine at 11 a.m. and reached our destination near the limestone quarry at Mole Creek at about noon. Our aim was to visit Toboggan Cave but somehow I had the notion that it was in the small hillock left of the road just before the gate to the quarry. Of course we didn't find it but we did locate MC 58 and MC 59 numbered by Andrew last December. MC 59 was explored by Mike and Dave who found it only five metres deep(not 10 as previously claimed) and a dead end. MC 58 is a more interesting cave with tight passages and some bones. It is claimed to be Sun Cave but if this is so the grid reference given by S.C.S.(328861) is incorrect as MC 58 is located at 325861. On the other hand it may not be Sun Cave!

After a break and a look at the map we headed for the right hill and quickly located the entrance - a horizontal tunnel about 1½ metres high. After a short distance this leads to the top of a 20 metre fissure with a massive column providing a suitable belay. Mike and Dave chimneyed across and downwards to an upper level where they reported good formation and recent bones. I descended to the bottom by ladder, belayed by Andrew, but found only recent bones. The cave was numbered MC 60.

Next on the programme was Dogs Head. Despite Andrew leading us astray several times on some very rough tracks we did eventually get there. From the track at the SW corner of Dogs Head we followed the base of the hill northwards until we located the resurgence which was numbered MC 61. After a little climbing we discovered Joe's Lair which had a strong draught coming out. This was numbered MC 62. Andrew and Ros headed back to Launceston that night while the remaining three of us went to the hut where we were met by an U.N.S.W.S.S. caver(Alan Warild)and a party of four Monash Bushwalkers. Andrew returned in the middle of the night and nearly ruined us all as he tried to drive into the garage.

The following morning I went with Andrew and Alan to look at Wallaby and Ashdowns Cave. There were no fossil bone deposits but some recent bones were collected from Wallaby Cave. Then back to the hut. In the afternoon Andrew, with Mike and Dave ran a surface traverse from the Mersey near Croesus to Lynds Cave. They were then joined by Alan and set off upstream to number Mill and Tailender Cave while I left to go to Burnie and on to Montagu.

Albert Goede.

Florentine River - 2/3/75.

Party: Max and Tim Jeffries, David Walton(NZSS), and Laurie Moody(River), and Sur, Louise and Richard Moody(Pick-up point).

An early start saw us at Max's place around 8.15 a.m. After a cup of coffee, we proceeded to the ANM barrier, signed in, and headed off into the Florentine. F ll road was reached and negotiated as far as the new bridge which now crosses the Florentine River approximately 1.5 kms. upstream from Deviation Cave(JF 55). The trip had previously been announced as being a li-lo expedition but luckily, (and I mean luckily) Max was able to obtain the use of an inflatable rubber dinghy. The reason for this particular trip was mainly to view a series of limestone cliffs known to exist in an area south of the new bridge on the off-chance that we might locate some new caves. However, as is commonly the occurrence, things didn't go exactly to plan. Leaving my vehicle and family at the bridge, the exploration group headed back to Bill Hanlon's Rd. in Max's ute. On reaching the end of this road, we parked the vehicle and set off down a 'cat track' towards where I imagined the river to be - but alas and alack - no river! The party then split and individual efforts were made to locate it but to no avail. After a brief conference we returned to the ute, collected the dinghy and gear, then set off back to the end of the 'cat track'. From here we followed a series of red painted markers eventually ending up on the banks of a small creek. It was then decided to take a compass bearing of 260 degrees and a short time later, we emerged on the banks of the Florentine River.

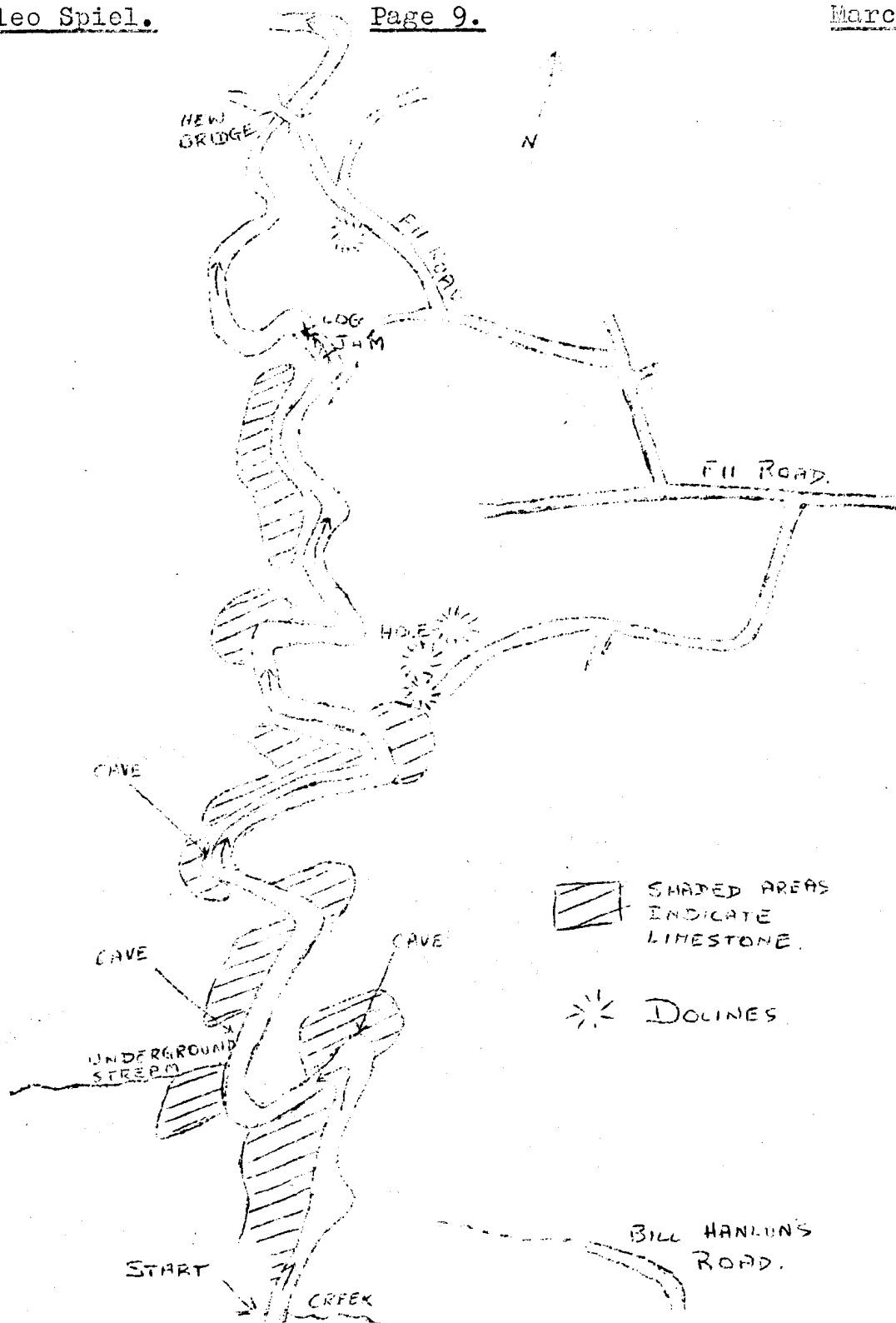
Forty minutes or so was then spent on inflating the dinghy and by 11.30 a.m. we were finally afloat. The epic journey was under way but our problems were far from over. Although the dinghy proved its worth, it was frequently being lifted over log obstacles often in deep water, and being carried over shallow sections. The western bank proved to be an almost continuous section of limestone cliffs and outcrops. Only one stream was observed entering the river from the eastern side and this was undoubtedly the stream that Albert Goede and myself had briefly investigated late last year. The stream itself emerged some 300 metres downstream of our launching spot.

Two limestone cliffs, including the one I fell down in June of last year were duly investigated but apart from one small cave, the eastern side of the river yielded nothing. Although only two small caves were boted on the western banks of the river, prospects inland could prove rewarding. The trip eventually ended some 500 metres upstream of the new bridge due to an excessive amount of flood debris which could have been negotiated had time permitted. Wet, cold, but pleased with our efforts, we struggled ashore manhandling the dinghy over fallen timber until we reached a nearby 'cat track'. This track led to the F ll Road, a short distance from the bridge. It had taken us over five hours to cover four kilometres of river, including time spent investigating en route. A fairly successful day was enjoyed by all and it is hoped that another trip to this area can be organised shortly. A map of the area investigated appears overleaf.

Laurie Moody.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. - 1974-75.

The preceeding twelve months have been fairly quiet with little to show in the way of major discoveries. Undoubtedly the most significant event occurred in January-February of this year. The Cracroft Expedition resulted in the subsequent discovery of numerous caves and a 1,000 metre extension of Judds Cavern. Individual efforts in several areas have succeeded in vast improvements in cave documentation. It was also pleasing to note that inter-club relationships increased somewhat with several members of S.C.S. working in close conjunction with myself and other members of our club. May 1974 saw the discovery and part-exploration of several promising holes on Marble Hill above Exit Cave. June 1974 also saw a face to face meeting with the Minister for Tourism, regarding the development of Exit and the establishment of cave reserves. Although



an attempt was made to provide us with what could be termed as a "satisfactory answer", a large question mark still remains. This particular month also saw the "first ever" exploration of caves on the western banks of the Florentine River. The remaining months of 1974 consisted of scattered trips to various areas with an undisputed emphasis on the Junee-Florentine. Other events included a visit to Exit by the Minister for Tourism (plus a TV coverage), a recon. trip to the Cracroft Area, a visit by two Japanese speleos. and a noticeable lack of attendance at the November and December general meetings.

The first three months of 1975 have been taken up with the Cracroft Expedition, filming at Kubla Khan, trips to Exit and Montagu (where Albert has unearthed some extinct marsupial remains) and an exploration by rubber dinghy of a section of the Florentine River.

The financial position is in the capable hands of the treasurer but alas, due to rising costs of which we are all aware, in

all probability club fees will have to rise for the coming twelve months. Many thanks to the outgoing office bearers who have worked hard in an effort to keep the club running through the year. As I will be unavailable for re-election as club president, I would like to take this opportunity of saying thank you for the support I have received with a special thank you to Albert Goede for his backing and advice. I wish the succeeding club president the best of success in the coming year.

Laurie Moody.

Trip reports(continued).

Mole Creek - 18,19/1/75.

Party: Andrew and Ros Skinner(TCC), Jed Butler(NC), Miff Williams, Margaret Russell, Steve Street(SCS), Peter Ruxon, Neil Hickson(SSS), and Lorna Schmidt(NC).

A quick trip was held to Croesus to show visitors to the cave and to commence the underground part of the survey project. About 600 metres of surface traverse were completed. On Saturday afternoon a Georgies Hall-Wet Cave through trip was held. Fortunately the water was relatively low - but Miff insisted on splashing everybody. We had the last laugh when she got stuck in the rockfall and had to return to the lower entrance with Steve. On Sunday a trip was held to Herberts Pot, but no exploration was attempted.

A.D.Skinner.

Exit Cave - 8-10/2/75.

Party: Andrew, Roy, Fiona Skinner, Tony Culberg, Pip Casey, Ross Bridges(TCC), Mike Martyn(SSS), Jed Butler, Penny Knox(NC), Alan Warild, John Carmichael(UNSWSS), and David Walton(HTG-NZSS).

Most of the party entered the cave on Saturday afternoon, arriving at inner base camp at 4.00p.m. After tea some visited the Western Passage and Edies Treasure. At 7 p.m. we headed to the Chamber of Damocles to push the talus systematically. Approx. 100 metres of passage was discovered on the northern side. On Sunday Roy, Fiona, and Pip joined us, bringing the Sunday Examiner Express. After a visit to the Devil's Stovepipe(returning via the thin passage) Roy, Fiona, Pip, Tony and Penny left for the entrance. The remnants of the party systematically pushed passages on the east between the Talus and the Eastern Extension. Nothing notable was found but John and Ross were rather peeved, after grovelling along an almost water-filled passage, to find an inscription on the wall - it read 'idiot'. (Keller strikes again). Next morning we returned to the cars, visiting the high level areas en route.

A.D.Skinner.

Mole Creek - 15,16/2/75.

Party: Andrew Skinner, Albert Goede(TCC), Mike Martyn(SSS), David Walton(HTG-NZSS), Allan Warild(UNSWSS).

The main purpose of this trip was to investigate some caves in the district for bone deposits. On Saturday Sun Cave and Toboggan Cave were visited, but no material was collected. Numbers were affixed to Toboggan Cave(MC 60), Joe's Lair(MC 62) and a resurgence cave near Joe's Lair(MC 61). On Sunday bones were collected from Wallaby Cave and Ashdowns Cave. A surface traverse from the Mersey Bridge to Lynds Cave was completed. Tags were affixed to Mill Cave (MC 63) and Tailender Cave(MC 64).

A.D. Skinner.

(Andrew Skinners other two reports plus sketch maps of the extension in Exit and Soda Creek Cave, will be published in the next Spiel).