



# SPELEO SPIEL

No. 101

MAY.

1975

NEWSLETTER of the TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB (T.C.C. Established 1946 )

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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- May 17-18 - Weekend: Walk to the Walls of Jerusalem. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- May 19 - "Ferry Tales" : Monday night. Theatre party to the Uni Revue. Go and have a laugh with the "mob". Get your name to the Secretary as soon as you can!
- May 21 - Wednesday: Wine and Cheese evening at Brian and Jeanette's place, 66 Wentworth Street, South Hobart. Bring your own wine and cheese - please!
- May 24-25 - Mole Creek Numbering: Go north and have a ball with Andrew Skinner and Co.
- May-June 31-I - Hastings - Loon's Cave, Wolf Hole - surveying. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- June 4 - General Meeting: Presumably Albert Goede's, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. Time - 8.00pm.
- June 7-8 - Maydena Area: Go and join our Maydena mob and you can bet they'll find a cave. Leader: Max Jeffries.
- June 14-16 - Mole Creek: Leader: Andrew Skinner. If you survive the Friday night booze-up (see Page II) go caving at Mole Creek and get over it all!
- May 24 - Florentine Area: Scrub-bashing etc. Leader: Laurie Moody.

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Editorial.

April has been one of the most active months for some time as far as TCC are concerned. There have been a number of trips and several "finds" have resulted. A fairly extensive system has been explored in the Florentine Valley yielding in excess of 300 metres of cave (JF 79-80). This cave also featured in the discovery of bones which proved to belong to an extinct species of kangaroo and also an extinct species of flightless bird. All told, six new caves have been discovered in the Florentine of which two still require numbering. Trips were also held to Khazad-dum, Cashion Creek Cave and a surface exploration of an area above Chrisp's Road. Other areas to receive attention were Mole Creek, Ida Bay and the Quoin near Ross. Another event which took place was the formation of the Maydena Branch of TCC. As this is my first attempt at editing Spiel, no doubt a few mistakes will be evident. However, no doubt the standard will improve in time.

Laurie Moody.

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ASF NEWSLETTER.

Perhaps some of you have been wondering what has happened to the Summer and Autumn editions of this magazine. All is under control and they should reach you in the next month or so. Circumstances which are far too complicated to explain have resulted in the unfortunate delay of this magazine.

NORTHERN SPELEO NEWS.

by our Northern Speleo Ferret.

NORTHERN CAVERNEERS - have had a very slack period, with few trips this year so far. Several members participated in the UNSWSS Kubla Khan film. A party bottomed Execution Pot and Long Drop using SRT in early March, but no new discoveries were made. Union Cave has been visited several times.

LAUNCESTON SPELEO CLUB - this group has been quite active over the past three months, but there is little exciting to report. MC 70 has been visited frequently to train beginners in the gentle arts of ladder climbing and squeezing. Kubla Khan has been visited twice. Trips have been held to Exit Cave (with TCC) and to Loongana (with TCC and NC). The palatial clubrooms at 107 Balfour Street have received a coat of paint. LSC were accepted as an associate member of ASF at the Brisbane Conference in January.

Andrew Skinner.

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MOLE CREEK - Numbering 15-16th. March.

- MC 65 - Top entrance to Lynds Cave.
- MC 66 - LIME PIT. (also known as Disappointment Cave, Parking Lot Cave.) Resurgence with waterflow corresponding to that of Execution Pot, very short and blocked by sump.
- MC 67 - SHEEP DIP. (suggested name) Small cave with four entrances in hill east of Wet Cave; many sheep skeletons.
- MC 68 - Un-named cave on opposite side of hill to Howe's Cave; close to MC 41; short drop leads to water; further exploration possible in dry weather.
- MC 69 - Un-named cave in small swallet at Mayberry Ponds; explored for about 10 metres; further possibilities in dry weather; takes water from the Maracoopa Creek.
- MC 70 - TRAINING CAVE. (suggested name) Situated in doline near turn-off on Mersey Hill Road; pothole approx. 45 metres deep with two ladder pitches and strong draught; some decoration; used by LSC for training beginners.

LOONGANA NUMBERING - 29th. March.

- L IO - Small resurgence cave on bank of River Leven about 100 metres upstream from remains of bridge; can only be entered for several metres to a sump; probably the efflux of water from L 4-6 (Mostyn Hardy Cave).
- L II - Small fissure cave on northern side of spur on Ulstergren's property; 5 metres long; no draught.

JUNEE-FLORENTINE NUMBERING - 12th. - 13th. April.

- JF 77 - Small tight hole leading into a small fissure type chamber; several tight passages; length approx. 20 metres; number above entrance; located off Settlement Road in Florentine Valley.
- JF 78 - Small inclined entrance leading to passage and small chamber; on rise above JF 77; extension passage off chamber leads a short distance to choke; length 30 metres.
- JF 79 - 80.  
JF 79 is one of three entrances leading into a rather complex system of passages on same rise as JF 78; 20 metre entrance drop can be free-climbed but a rope is an advantage; links with JF 80; some decoration. JF 80 is the bottom entrance to JF 79 system; horizontal passages; has several chambers, squeezes and crawls; one particular passage which runs for about 20 metres has very good display of straws and formation; approx. length of cave exceeds 400 metres.

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TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB.

BOX 416, P.O, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA. 7005.

SPECIAL FEATURE!!!

- Speleo Limericks - composed by Uncle Lem.

We all know that caver called Bill,  
 He's known for his S&R skill,  
 If you're stuck in a cave,  
 You're life he will save -  
 Especially if you're on the Pill!

An oldie we all know as Max,  
 Locates us all kinds of cracks.  
 In the Florentine Valley,  
 We scurry and sally -  
 Along all of those ANM tracks!

A fellow we all know as Shaw,  
 Has been down in the "Khaza" once more.  
 By ladder and rope,  
 And a sprinkling of hope -  
 "It's the bloody last time -!" he swore!

A bearded old bloke known as Brian,  
 Spent time at the Cracroft a-tryin'  
 To find a way through,  
 For me and for you -  
 "It's a bloody beaut cavern!" he's  
 cryin'!

More in the next issue if popularity demands - Lem.

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WHAT IS A CAVER?

Cavers come in all shapes and sizes. There are big ones, small, thin, fat and so forth. They can be male or female and come from all walks of life. Their occupations can cover a very wide scope. Some are university lecturers, clerks, students, doctors, teachers, technicians, mechanics, contractors, panel-beaters, carpenters and even prison officers. Despite their sordid backgrounds, all of these people have one thing in common - a love of the natural beauty that lies beneath the surface of the earth. No doubt at some time or another, during a conversation, caving is invariably mentioned. You may also mention that you do a bit of caving yourself. A look of incredibility sometimes appears on the face of the person or persons you may be talking with and they may say - "You go caving???" Immediately a feeling of pride envelops you and you generally go on to explain what it's like beneath the surface.

However, in a fair majority of cases, people tend to regard you as some kind of nut! They're probably right in nine out of ten cases - seriously - have you ever paused for a moment and asked yourself why you go caving? If you're either an archaeologist, naturalist or a geologist then the answer is fairly straightforward. However, if you don't fit into this category, chances are that you will find it a little more difficult to provide some sort of satisfactory answer. Fortunately, or unfortunately, (depends on which way you look at it) not many people are inspired to spend long hours underground poking in cold, wet, grotty holes.

The fascination and intrigue of caves has existed from since the beginning of time but only in the last 100 years has man seen fit to venture into the "inner sanctum" of those subterranean wonders. Undoubtedly curiosity has had a lot to do with it. Some people are more curious than others and this is where cavers fit into the picture. Even the "father" of modern caving, Casteret, could not explain what drove him on his ceaseless search of any cave, no matter how small or how deep! This resourceful and stubborn Frenchman, pushed on through many an "impenetrable" siphon, naked, his only light - a piece of candle! How many of us would be able to do the same thing today? Okay, apart from the Cracroft explorers, who had wet-suits, who else? Cavers today are definitely "softer" than those pioneers of our beloved sport. Modern technology and modern resources have undoubtedly made the going much easier than it was in those times.

This inevitably brings us back to the original question! What is a caver? Scientifically speaking, a caver is a person who is interested in recording physical, biological and archaeological data and cave development. So, next time you're asked that question fire back the above answer and watch for the re-action. They'll probably regard you with awe and remark how game you are. Inwardly, they're still thinking that you're definitely not all there and when you go on to mention that you have even dangled over a gaping 30 metre shaft on a wire ladder - they're bloody convinced!

Laurie Moody.

WHAT IS A CAVE LIKE KUBLA KHAN FOR?

The recent film making effort in Kubla Khan Cave by a party of Mainlanders has evoked some critical comment from persons concerned about resultant damage caused in the process. It has also been stated that publicity surrounding the venture will more than compensate for the damage. A further point has been made that it is hoped the film will justify the use of the top entrance. Inherent in all these comments is a common concern for the cave's protection. Let us then try to determine by whom and for whom the cave should be protected.

First of all, the filming did take place and nobody legally could have prevented it. Some apprehension was expressed beforehand that some damage was bound to occur and this apparently was shown to be an accurate prophecy. The publicity was intended, by those who initiated it, to draw greater attention to and awareness of the cave's visual attractiveness. I think it would be correct to assume that this was also the principal motivation for the decision to make a film there in the first place - with the challenge to the skill of the speleocinematographers as an added incentive. As for the quality of the film justifying the damage, according to reports filtering through, I think we can forget about this. It is unlikely to be acclaimed with any great enthusiasm as a milestone in the evolution of the cinematographic art, albeit my personal good wishes of success for the perpetrators.

So a film was made, some damage occurred, considerable publicity accrued and the film can at best be expected to be moderately successful. Was the damage justified?

Kubla Khan is known by everybody who knows anything - as Australia's most beautiful cave. As such, it is agreed that it must be preserved in its natural state as far as is humanly possible. Does this mean that it must be preserved by cavers for cavers forever? I don't think so! The recent publicity has probably had its desired effect. Many more non-cavers will be intrigued by the glowing descriptions of the cave's features and would like to see them but lacking the caver's ability and inclination, they may not do so until access and means of progression are made much easier.

Once a cave has been explored, observed, mapped and photographed it is not really of much further use to the caver. Any cave of outstanding quality comes under notice of all those who are involved in caving at a particular time and those who make a point of visiting such a cave do so at their first opportunity. It must be admitted that caving as a recreational pursuit attracts a very small percentage of individuals in any community. Tasmania is no exception and there is no evidence to suggest that any change in this situation is likely in the foreseeable future. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that caves such as Kubla will be visited by at best a few hundred people annually and with exploration being already complete, subsequent visitations will be in the nature of "tourist" visits. It is also reasonable to suppose that in the absence of clearly defined (or constructed) walkways etc. and due to lack of mandatory supervision, further damage will take place.

Obviously, the ultimate means of protection in perpetuity is to impose a total ban on entry. Any alternative must involve compromise. Compromise can mean a form of restricted entry but this involves problems of selectivity and is no guarantee against un-authorised entry or errors in selection, both conducive to occurrence of further damage. Even if these things did not happen, the means of progression through the cave must bring about fairly severe deterioration.

Another alternative is to completely or partially dis-allow entry for an unspecified interim period terminating at a point in time usually defined vaguely as "when the demand warrants and funds are available to develop the cave for the general public". I maintain that the point in time is now. The demand for recreational facilities for the general public is great enough at the present time to justify initial planning for the very best methods of exhibiting our superior caves, ensuring that past mistakes are not repeated and drawing upon the sum total of accumulated knowledge and experience to preserve, present and interpret the natural features to the best of our ability.

To identify with this objective means that cavers can play a more positive role in forward planning and cave conservation and also in the achievement of a worth-

while goal to which their past efforts have greatly contributed. I know that many cavers are contemptuous of and are reluctant to identify with "tourist caves", but don't forget that you have all been or will be a tourist in some form or another at some stage of your life. However, the day will come when you inevitably must hang up your trog suit and bash hat for good!

Roy Skinner.

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### TRIP REPORTS.

#### MOLE CREEK - 15-16/3/75.

Party: Andrew Skinner, David Cameron (TCC), Hugh King (NC), Chris Spencer and several other LSC bods.

On Saturday several outcrops of limestone south of Chudleigh were investigated but yielded no caves. The limestone was too low and the drainage was surface. On Sunday LSC visited Kubla Khan, whilst the leftovers numbered several caves. Lynd's Cave (MC 65), Lime Pit (MC 66) were tagged. A small cave east of Wet Cave was explored and tagged (MC 67). The suggested name is 'Sheep Dip'. A hole near MC 4I was tagged (MC 68) and explored until progress was stopped by deep water. A small swallet was numbered in the area of Mayberry Ponds (MC 69). This may be a different cave to that reported by Albert Goede in the ASF cave list. A pot used by LSC for training purposes was also numbered (MC 70).

Andrew Skinner.

#### LOONGANA-GUNN'S PLAINS - 27-30/3/75.

Party: Andrew and Ros Skinner, Albert Goede, Tony Culberg, David Walton, Alan ?, Mr. & Mrs. Bell (TCC), George Bamford and family, Ron Williams, Ray Kearnes and family, Russell, Chris and Ian Spencer and family (LSC), Hugh King, Tim Daniel and Peter Dowde (NC).

Friday 27th. Mostyn Hardy Cave was visited and surveyed for 350 metres until yours truly lost the pencil in the river. The talus near the sump was pushed but to no avail.

Saturday 28th. Swallownest Cave was surveyed to the final siphon, yielding 220 metres of passage. An upper level was explored in the cave but progress was stopped by decoration. The cave seems to go beyond the obstacle and a draught is present. In the afternoon, the Mostyn Hardy Cave survey was continued. Almost 700 metres of passage was mapped. An unsuccessful search was made for a reported passage leading to another entrance. Several LSC members made a fruitless search in the bush for the reported second entrance.

Sunday 29th. Most of the party visited the Gunn's Plains tourist cave in the morning. An unsuccessful search was made for a reported outflow cave on the western side of the river (Leven) at Gunn's Plains. Three of the party amused themselves by racing lilos down the swollen Leven River. On returning to Loongana, two numbers were affixed. Peter Dowde and three others climbed Black Bluff. David and Allan further explored Mostyn Hardy reporting a new passage in a high level above the stream.

Monday 30th. Before leaving the area, another lilo race was held, this time from the old Ulstergren Bridge down to the Loongana Road bridge. (No race results have yet been forwarded to the Editor! Ed.) Little scrub-bashing was attempted on the trip due mainly to the lousy weather.

Andrew Skinner.

#### JUNEE-FLORENTINE - 12/4/75.

Party: Laurie Moody & Andrew Skinner (TCC), Penny Knox (NC).

The trio arrived at the Maydena barrier around 10.15am. and proceeded to Settlement Road in the Florentine Valley. Some weeks back, Max Jeffries had reported several holes in this area. Following the directions on a map that had been supplied by Max, we travelled down this road for nearly one kilometre



until we located a cairn on the side of the road. This had been left by Max as a guide to a cat-track. Donning our trog-suits, we followed the cat-track a short distance and Andrew soon located our first hole. It was ladies first and whilst Andrew busied himself affixing the number, I set off after Penny. The cave was of a fissure type and rather cramped. Penny ventured into several small passages but nothing resulted. Length was estimated to be 20 metres. The number allocated was JF 77. A short walk to the top of a nearby rise resulted in the discovery of yet another hole at the base of a large tree. We clambered down the inclined entrance and followed a short passage, emerging in a small but high chamber. Another short passage was negotiated to a choke. Length of this cave was estimated at 30 metres. It was duly numbered JF 78. A short distance from here on the same rise, Andrew located another hole which led downwards at a fairly steep angle. It proved to have a 20 metre entrance pitch which Andrew managed to negotiate in a free climb.

However, a brief glance by yours truly resulted in the fetching of a rope which made the going much easier. Two passages led off at the bottom, one to a small sump and the other choking off. Andrew managed to climb up to an upper level above the sump and was gone for some time before returning. He reported that he had gone some distance and had noticed several side passages. He had also left a cairn to mark his point of progress. Andrew suggested that we return on Sunday to survey and explore further.

After emerging, we decided on some lunch and then proceeded to Cashion Creek Cave, which we surveyed to a distance of over 300 metres. We then returned to Maydena.

Sunday - 13/4/75.

Party: Laurie Moody, Andrew Skinner, Tony Culberg and David Walton (TCC), Max & Tim Jeffries, Phillip Voss, John Miller, Michael Bromfield (TCC/MB) and visitors Ruth Stephenson and Richard Priest.

A large combined party (some with thick heads) proceeded out to the Florentine Valley and Settlement Road for another go at JF 79 and to see what else we could turn up. A brief stop was made en route to locate a resurgence previously discovered by Max. A reasonable spring emerges but the flow of water did not live up to expectations.

Eventually, the party arrived at the cairn in Settlement Road and Max led us to the cave that he had discovered. It was not one of the ones we had found the day before. Andrew and I had walked past it twice on the previous day and had failed to notice it. The rather large entrance lay hidden down a bank behind fallen logs and ferns. It contained a lower and upper passage. After a brief inspection, Ruth, David and Phillip diverted their attention to the upper passage and that was the last that we saw of them for nearly three hours. After affixing a number (JF 80), I joined the remainder of the party and went inside for a look. The passage was followed as far as a small chamber with a daylight hole and this was duly climbed by Andrew. (The third entrance) Max, Tim and yours truly decided to check out an upper level in this chamber and crawled cautiously along one of the best decorated passages I have yet seen in this area. Great care was taken and only essential formation was broken. The passage extended for some 30 metres and contained a good amount of straws, a pendulum-shaped stalactite (not as good as Exit) and a few gourds and rimpools.

On surfacing, we learnt that Ruth, David and Phillip had not yet emerged. It was suggested that they may have come out of the daylight hole but Andrew was adamant that this was not the case. A brief search inside revealed nothing so we decided to return to the cars and have lunch. The trio had still not returned by the time lunch was over, so John, Michael and myself returned to the daylight hole and went in for yet another look. Another small tunnel led off in this chamber and on an earlier inspection apparently did not appear to go. I saw that there was a 5 metre drop and called for a ladder. On reaching the bottom, I then looked up and noticed that there appeared to be a way on. By placing one's feet on one wall and your rear end on the other it was possible to get to this higher level by crab-fashion. Eventually Andrew joined me and we pushed on along the passage and through a rock-fall area. We pushed through several squeezes but found nothing to indicate that there had been anyone through here before us. About this time, I heard a voice call out and thinking it was Andrew, I did not take much notice.

Andrew shushed me into silence and voices were again heard. Contact had been established at last. They then informed us that they had established a link with JF 79 and noted a cairn which Andrew had built the previous day. They finally

emerged after spending about three hours underground. Estimated length of passage to date exceeds 400 metres. The Maydena "mob" finished off the day by visiting Cashion Creek Cave while the Hobart contingent headed for home.

A very enjoyable weekend's caving with what could be classed as one of the best "finds" in this area for some time. I would also like to take this opportunity of saying thankyou to Max and his wife for the great "spread" that they put on for us on the Saturday night. Thanks again! Laurie Moody.

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FORMATION OF MAYDEN A BRANCH (TCC-MB).

A slide evening, followed by a meeting of interested persons was conducted by members of TCC at Maydena on Saturday night 12th. April. Unfortunately, the attendance was rather low but a number of people who could not attend due to prior commitments, have assured Max of their support. The slides were presented by Andrew Skinner and Tony Culberg condescended to act as Chairman. Twelve names were submitted for membership and it was decided that Maydena members would hereby pay for Spiel and ASF plus a 50c fee which would be paid to TCC. Further fees to their own club have yet to be decided and this will probably eventuate at their first club meeting which has yet to be fixed. A trip to the Florentine Valley was arranged for the following day and some new faces participated. A Maydena Branch news section will be featured in Spiel in future issues.

Laurie Moody.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPELEO SPIEL.

Contributions to Spiel are needed. If you have any caving news or any item that may be of interest to our readers - let me know. Editor.

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RESULT OF MAYDEN A BRANCH ELECTIONS.

Information has reached me in time regarding the results of the first inaugural meeting of our Maydena Branch. Congratulations are due to those who were elected.

President: Max Jeffries. Vice-President: Phillip Voss.  
Secretary: John Miller. Delegate to TCC: John Miller.  
Treasurer: Geoff Mears.

Other positions will be filled in due course. Max also reports that the first independent trip was held on Sunday 20th. April. John Miller has apparently acquired some aerial photos of the June area and a subsequent inspection of a depression, high above the Dewhurst- Chrisp's Road area, resulted in the discovery of a small crater-lake. A cave was also noted in this same region and is thought to be Satan's Lair. It is un-numbered and shows signs of activity. A trip report is expected to reach us before this edition goes to press.

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MORE TRIP REPORTS.

June area - 12/4/75. Khazad-Dûm.

Party: Peter Shaw (L), Dave Walton, Tony Culberg (TCC) Ruth Stephenson (V)

Despite the extensive earthworks at Maydena, re-routing the June River and a large bulldozer parked across the track to the homestead, we arranged sufficient sleep and met Peter on Saturday at about 9.00am. at the ANM gate. We reached KD at about 11.00am. and went straight in.

The water level was up, so we only went as far as the wet 30' pitch at the end of the horizontal streamway. The only notable event was Peter's light failing at the foot of the 70' pitch just above the streamway. We emerged, after varying degrees of difficulty on the prussiks, at about 3.30pm.



At the gate on the way out we met Laurie, Andrew and Penny who had just found a new cave on Settlement Road. Peter returned to Hobart while the rest stayed at Maydena for the slide show.

Tony Culberg.

Entrance-Exit Caves - 8-9th. March, 1975.

Party: Dave Walton, Tony Culberg (TCC), Laurie Cole, David Montgomery (SCS), Ruth Stephenson, Joanna Hunt, David Tollard, Stephen Wilson, Grant Wilsher, Greg Fannon, (Rose Bay High School Walking Club).

The party assembled at the gate to the quarry prior to walking to Entrance. We entered the cave about 11.00am. and looked at Matchbox Squeeze, the waterfall and most of the cave. We left about 2.30pm. and adjourned to the hut at Hastings for tea, a swim and the night.

Sunday was spent looking at Exit, including the Sword of Damocles, Western Passage, Devil's Stovepipe and Edie's Treasure. Most of the people were suitably impressed with caving and seem keen to go away again.

Tony Culberg.

Florentine Valley and Junee Area - 3/5/75.

Party: Laurie Moody, Andrew Skinner, Albert Goede, Louise Moody (TCC), Jeb Butler (NC), Bob Cockerill, Lindsay Wilson (SCS), Max and Tim Jeffries, Phillip Voss (TCC/MB).

Most of us arrived at the ANM barrier around the prescribed time of 9.00am. but one of our number was running a little late. Leaving this unfortunate individual to play "Guess where we are?" we headed off to JF I to size up its suitability in regards to a proposed S & R exercise. After completing our inspection and deciding that it would be okay, we headed off to the Florentine and that cave down Settlement Road. It was there that our missing member found us shortly after our arrival. It was intended that the party would survey JF 79-80 but owing to the apparent difficulties arising from continuous squeezes, this was abandoned. Our illustrious President managed to extract some bones which later proved to be a find of some significance.

The party emerged around 3.00pm. and most headed home. Max, Tim, Phillip and yours truly and his daughter decided to take a look at another hole further up the road and on the opposite side. A small rift led to a squeeze and on a short way to where some bones were discovered. As they appeared to be that of possums and a wallaby, they were left piled to one side. A way on was possible but owing to the unstable-looking nature of the roof we decided to emerge. From here, we then proceeded to Leo Thorne's Road to investigate one of Phillip's "finds". A short walk back in the direction of JF 79-80 ( which is not too far away) found us on a rise where we were shown an impressive-looking rift which appeared to be about 6 metres deep. Phillip and I went down and discovered quite an extensive system of "walk-in, walk-out" passages. Thick layers of dry mud were apparent on the floor and walls, indicating that it fills with water during a wet period. Further investigation of this system is warranted. Phillip also showed us another impressive rift nearby which was not investigated but appears to be at least 25 metres deep and requires laddering.

Laurie Moody.

Mole Creek - 20-21/4/75.

Party: Andrew Skinner (L), Tony Culberg, Dave Walton, Ros Skinner (TCC), Jed Butler (NC President!), Max ? (UQSS).

The aim of the party was to survey Lynd's Cave. We rock-hopped down the near-dry bed of the Mersey River from the bridge to the cave and commenced the survey at approximately 12.30pm. The stream in Lynd's was low - about waist-deep. The cave was surveyed at CRG grade 5 to the first sump. The length of the cave is 1,087.2 metres - less than expected. We exited the cave after the survey was completed as Tony's light was fading. After wading through the water of the cave for four hours - even the Mersey felt warm! After a late lunch, Tony returned to Deloraine for petrol whilst the remainder of the party made a reconnaissance (by

road) of the lower Sassafras Creek and Gillam Creek areas. The Mayberry Ponds were also visited. MC 69 was visited but the hole petered out just beyond the daylight zone - blocked with flood debris. We returned to the Mayberry hut, to find Tony and Max in residence. Sunday dawned fine and cool. We were seduced by the Autumn sun and decided on surface surveying. Two kilometres of surface traverse were completed by Max, Jed and myself. Lynd's (MC 14), the three Croesus Cave entrances (MC 13, MC 43, MC 51) and Rubbish Heap Cave (MC 27) are now connected by surface survey.

Andrew Skinner.

Surface Exploration Chrisp's Area - 20/4/75.

Maydena Branch.

Party: Max and Tim Jeffries, Phillip Voss, John Miller, Geoff Meares.

We left the cars on the last switchback on the righthand fork of the Chrisp's Road and walked on a bearing of 55 degrees 30' for 55 chain hoping to find a sizeable sinkhole that we had picked up on aerial photographs. En route the bearing took us across two caves, the first about 15 chains from the road, in a shallow dry gully. After spending a few minutes pulling debris away from the entrance, we found that it has some potential and should be kept in mind for further exploration.

Continuing on over the ridge and down a very steep slope into a deep gully, we came across our second cave. Quite a volume of water was running into this, then cascaded vertically for about 10 metres. No identification tag was found but Max thinks it could be Satan's Lair. There had been quite a bit of activity around the entrance of the cave at sometime - trees and logs cut, one myrtle in particular bearing the inscriptions (M.H)(W.H) (A.R). It had now been  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours since we left the cars and we continued on, hopes high for the Granddaddy of them all but to our disappointment, there on the brow of the ridge was the sinkhole - full of water!

Several theories were put forward over lunch as to how it got there but at this moment enough said. I've yet to live it down if Vossy has anything to do with it. Several other possibilities interpreted from the aerial photographs are yet to be investigated. We are hoping that some of these may prove more rewarding.

John Miller.

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CAVE NUMBERING AT MOLE CREEK.

During a recent form filling session for the ASF Handbook, two errors were discovered in lists of numbered caves published in the Spiel during the last six months or so. The number MC 53 was issued twice. It was applied to a small un-named cave near Execution Pot (see Speleo-Spiel 96, Page 2) and also to the resurgence entrance to Union Cave (see Speleo-Spiel 97, Page 3). For the Handbook entry, a decision had to be made and the number was allotted to Union Cave. Will anyone wandering around near Execution Pot in the near future please remove the other number 53.

The name Sun Cave was applied to a small cave at the base of a hill near the limestone quarry when it was numbered MC 58 (see Speleo-Spiel 97, Page 3). A check with Ron Mann and Bob Cockerill of SCS makes it quite clear that this is not Sun Cave. The real Sun Cave requires a ladder for entry and has not yet been numbered.

Albert Goede.

Keeper of Archives.

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FOSSIL BONE FIND IN JF 79, FLORENTINE VALLEY.

This cave was first explored on Sunday, 13th. April, the day following the in-auguration of the Maydena Branch of TCC. An estimated 300 metres of passage were found and the presence of bones was observed by Dave Walton. Four long bones were brought out by him for examination and were found to belong to a large kangaroo-like animal. Then on Saturday 3rd. of May, a

return trip was made to the cave for the purpose of collecting some more of the bones. A quantity of material was collected by myself from two localities. The bone was in a remarkable good state of preservation and looked so fresh that we wondered if it could have come from stray cattle from the old Dawson Settlement not far away especially as some of the bones were rather large.

Peter Murray has had a quick look at the material and it contains several specimens of Sthenurus an extinct giant browsing kangaroo and also bones of a large flightless bird - possibly an extinct species of emu.

The discovery is particularly exciting because all previous finds of extinct Tasmanian animals have been made in Northern Tasmania and the Bass Strait Islands. Also since the deposit appears to be a relatively young one it may tell us something about the time when these animals became extinct.

Albert Goede.

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TASMANIA'S LONGEST CAVES - SOME COMMENTS.

In the March issue of Speleo Spiel we published Ross Ellis's list of Tasmania's Longest Caves together with some comments. Although we are not yet in a position to publish a revised list, some additional information has already come to hand. Since few of our caves are completely surveyed a revised list will have to include both surveyed length and estimated total length.

The length of surveyed passages in Loon's Cave, Ida Bay, is only 411 metres and a total estimated length of 1,000 metres for this cave is probably generous. The Newdegate Cave at Hastings has 1,207 metres of surveyed passage but this does not include Hell's Half Acre. SCS have done some surveying there but no details are to hand. Total length of this cave should be at least 1,600 metres. Mostyn Hardy Cave at Loongana was partially surveyed at Easter. Surveyed length is 695 metres with an estimated total length of 900 metres. Wolf Hole, Hastings has a surveyed length of 1,056 metres with an estimated total length of 2,000 metres (probably generous). Lynd's Cave, Mole Creek was recently surveyed by Andrew Skinner and party and has 1,081 metres of passage.

Mystery Creek Cave (Entrance Cave), Ida Bay has 902 metres of surveyed passage and a conservative estimate of its total length is 1,200 metres. Since the survey does not include the upper level passages near the entrance, Midnight Hole and the network of passages beyond the Canyon, total length could well exceed the original estimate.

Albert Goede  
Keeper of Archives.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Members are reminded that many of them are still unfinancial! For details of subs see last issue of Spiel!

A cross here \_\_\_\_\_ means that you are still unfinancial and that this will be the last issue of the Spiel you will receive unless you send your subscription. Send your subs to P.O BOX 416, Sandy Bay, 7005 or hand direct to Tony Culberg!

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SEARCH AND RESCUE.

A search and rescue exercise is being organised in conjunction with SCS and the Police Search and Rescue Squad. The organisers hope to hold the exercise in either late June or early July. As our club has had little or no practise for some time, it is hoped that all members will be able to participate. The area is expected to be either Hastings or the Junee Florentine areas. Bill Lehmann has also asked me to demand that all forms regarding your availability for S & R be filled in and returned immediately! If you do not have a form - see Bill and give him the details!

Laurie Moody.

NOTICES.

A social evening will be held at R.A.O.B. Temple Rowan Avenue, Newstead, Launceston on the 14th. June 1975. It will be conducted by the Launceston Speleo Club and members of TCC are invited to attend. Time - 7.30 - 11.30. Admission is \$3.00 Adults and Children 50c. Supper, booze will be supplied and anyone interested is asked to contact the following:-

Ray Kearnes, 16 Humphrey Street, Waverley, Phone 391037.

Buck Rigby, 15 Grubb Street, Mowbray.

Barry Jacobson, 7 Pritchard Street, Waverley.

If you don't know any of these people, contact Andrew Skinner.

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AUSTRALIAN SPELEO ABSTRACTS.

The 1973 issue (complete in one 120 page volume) is now available. A.S.A is the concise, comprehensive and convenient summary of published works relating to caves and caving in Australia. The 1973 issue contains references to nearly 1,300 items - a single volume library! Keep abreast of what's happening on the Australian scene.

A.S.A 1973 is now available from: Greg Middleton

9 Nixon Street, Sandy Bay, 7005.

Cost: \$2.00 (50c extra if posted). Get yours now!!!

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SURVEYING.

Laurie Moody.

Surveying is a very important part of cave exploration and unfortunately we don't appear to be doing very much about it. Albert Goede mentioned on the previous page that very few of our caves have been surveyed and of those that have, very few are complete. Surveying makes it possible to detect connections in regard to other caves or sinkholes, determines the relationship of caves to surface features, shafts and underground rivers. The following grades of survey can be carried out:

Grade 1 - A rough diagram from memory, not to scale.

Grade 2 - Sketch plan, roughly to scale, no instruments used, direction and distances estimated.

Grade 3 - Rough plan survey, a small pocket compass graduated to ten degrees, a cord knotted at marked intervals.

Grade 4 - Prismatic compass, graduated in single degrees (compass error not known) measuring tape or marked cord.

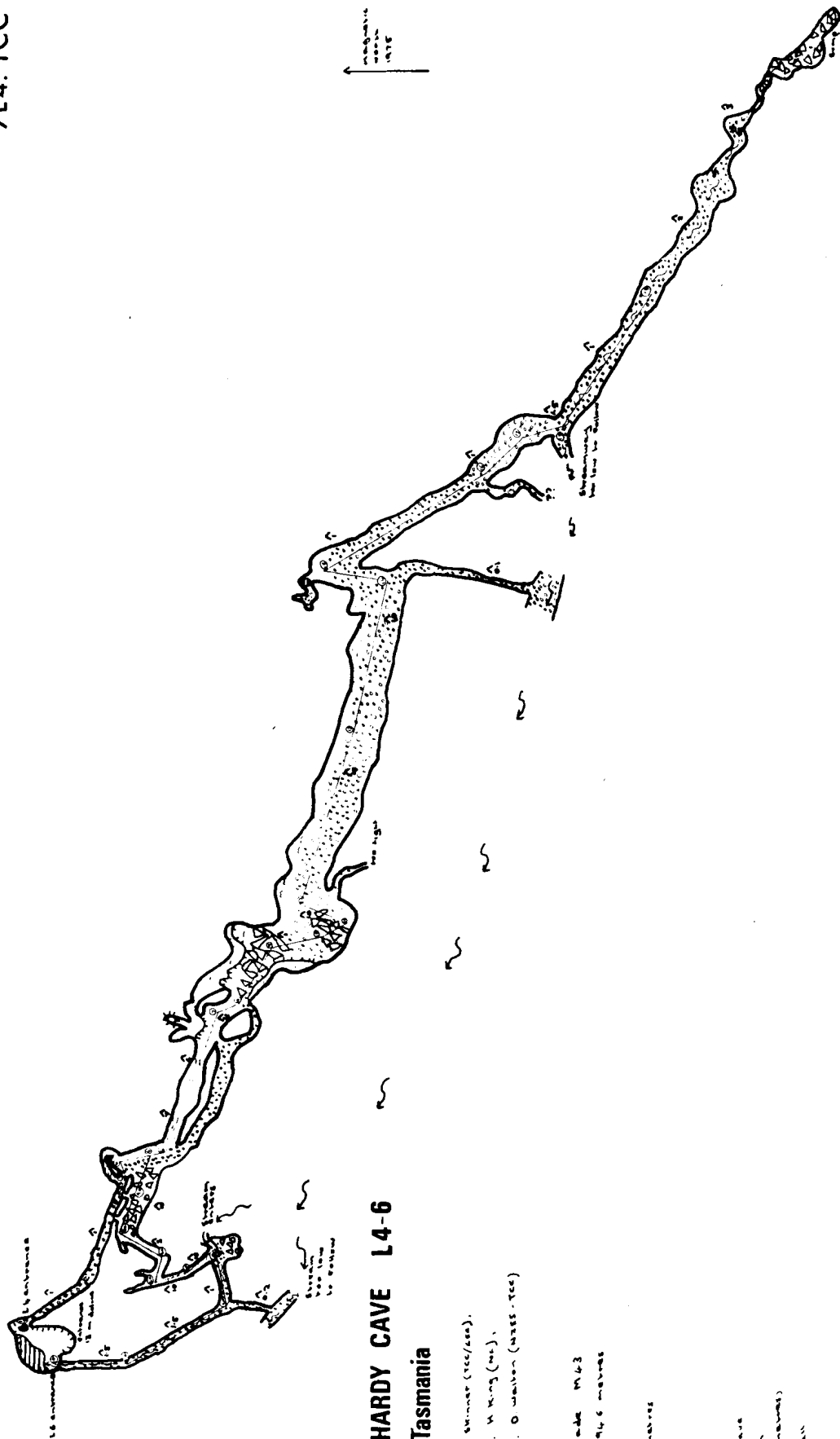
Grade 5 - Calibrated prismatic compass, clinometer, metallic or steel tape bearing to the nearest degree.

Grade 6 - Calibrated prismatic compass and clinometer on tripods, or miners dial, chain or steel tape.

Grade 7 - Theodolite for bearings and slopes, distances by steel tape or chain or by tachometry, or by any more accurate method.

The survey always starts at the cave entrance and the first point or station should always be the cave number on the rock face outside the cave. From there the surveyor takes his first reading, sighting the light of his assistant. The assistant will have moved inside the cave unwinding the tape until he reaches some feature which can be taken as a reference point. This can consist of an odd piece of formation, fissure or a bend in the passage. This will become station two. After sighting with the compass, the bearing will be noted in a notebook. The slope can also be measured as well as the tape length. As it is difficult to remember the complete cave, a rough sketch is made, starting at the entrance by drawing in the passage, measuring the width, noting it on the sketch together with any other features which are present. Stations one and two can now be marked in.

To be continued in next issue.



# **MOSTYN HARDY CAVE L4-6** **Loongana, Tasmania**

Surveyed by R. Walker (TCC/ASD).

G. Bennett (L46), H. King (M42).

R. Williams (L46), D. Walker (M42-TCC)

on 28/2/75

ASD Survey Grade M42

Total length 641.6 metres

Scale 1:500

0 5 10 15 metres

Plan view

ASD Symbols

/ outline of cave

① Survey station

② Spot height (metres)

③ Valve, manometer

④ Stream

⑤ River gravel

⑥ Stream bank/valley

⑦ Stream bank

⑧ Spot height

⑨ Spot height

⑩ Spot height

⑪ Spot height

⑫ Spot height

7L5. TCC 116

# SWALLOWNEST CAVE L5 Loongana, Tasmania

Surveyed by R. Skinner (TCC/LSC), M. King (MC),  
R. Williams (LSC) and D. Walton (WSS/TCC)  
on 29/3/75

ASF survey grade M43

Plan View

Drawn R.D. Skinner 1/4/75

Scale 1:200  
metres

Magnetic  
North 1975

ASO Symbols

△ valve, rockfall

⊂ stream

☆ aven

⊙ pool

⊗ rock height (metres)

⊙ boring station

/ cave outline

Total length of passage 220.4 metres

