

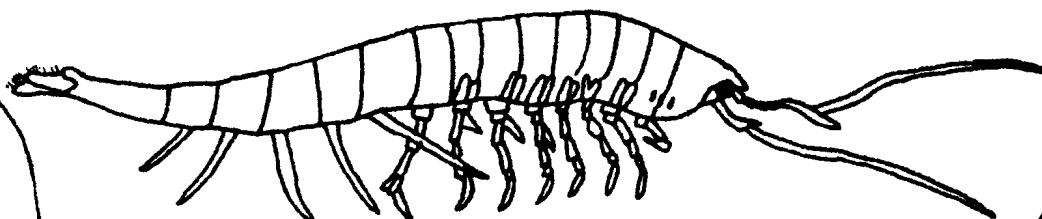
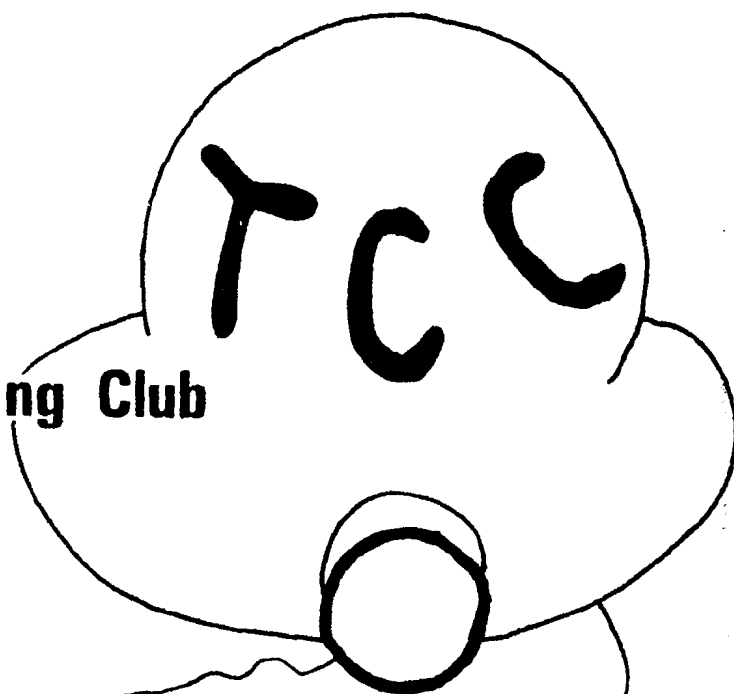
SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the

Tasmanian Caverneering Club

July 1975

No. 103



Tasmanian mountain shrimp
(Anaspides tasmaniae)

T.C.C. P.O. BOX 416,

SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005

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President: Albert Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. 7000.

Secretary: Tony Culberg, P.O. Box 47, Sandy Bay. 7005.

Editor Speleo Spiel: Laurie Moody, 13 Mason Street, Claremont. 7011.

Phone 493316

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- July 5-6 - Weekend Trip: Spend two days at Exit Cave, Ida Bay.
Leader: Tony Culberg.
- July 5 - Saturday: Cave numbering and scrub-bashing - Florentine area. Leader: Laurie Moody.
- July 12-13 - Weekend Trip: Mole Creek - exploration and numbering.
Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- July 19-20 - Weekend Trip: Wolfhole, Hastings. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- July 26-27 - Weekend Trip: Maydena Area - Leader: Tony Culberg.
- August 2-3 - Weekend Trip: Ida Bay Area - Track-cutting to Midnight Hole. Leader: Tony Culberg.
- August 6 - Wednesday: General Meeting at 18 Nixon Street, Sandy Bay.
(Guess who lives there!)
- August 9-10 - Weekend Trip: Table Mountain Caves, South Africa. Leader: Albert Goede.

There will be NO September General Meeting! Repeat- NO September meeting!

October General Meeting will be held at Hank Meerding's, 7 Gourlay Street, Blackman's Bay.

Editorial.

Another fairly active month with trips to usual areas. Numbering at Mole Creek is past the century while in the Junee-Florentine, 86 caves now sport a little aluminium tag. Once again, attendance at General Meetings has again dropped and as several regulars won't be available in September, there will no meeting for this month. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have been supplying me with articles for Spiel - many thanks.

Laurie Moody.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The following letter was received from John Bosler (UNSWSS) and is dated 1/7/75.

Dear Sir,

In Speleo Spiel (No. 100), Andrew Skinner described a trip into Exit Cave at Hastings. In his report, he criticised my action in cutting steps on the mud-bank from the river to inner base camp.

He said that "this modification makes walking up the bank with billies of water much easier but (I) disagree strongly with the principle of improving a cave for mere convenience to cavers. Growl!!"

My decision to cut the steps was based on two factors.

Firstly, the steps were cut after two members of the party had slipped on the bank. They were not cut for "mere convenience" but for safety reasons.

Yours in caving,
John Bosler.
UNSWSS.

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J.C."

Contributors are advised that the AUTUMN issue of this magazine has been completed and should be in the post later this month (we hope). As to the whereabouts of the SUMMER issue - no one is exactly sure! However, a deadline date for articles re the WINTER issue closes August 1st.

NORTHERN SPELEO NEWS.

by your Northern Speleo Ferret.

NORTHERN CAVERNEERS.

There have been quite a few trips to Mole Creek but there is little exciting to report. One trip to survey April Fools' entrance in Croesus was seduced by fine weather and ended up as a Landrover trip up the Western Tiers. Ghengis Khan and the Honeycomb system were also visited.

LAUNCESTON SPELEO CLUB.

Exploration of two new caves at Loongana has been completed: (See description). A very successful social evening was held in Launceston, netting over \$300 for the club. LSC are planning to publish a journal soon - does anybody have a second-hand duplicator for sale? Caves visited at Mole Creek during the month included:- Little Trimmer, Croesus, and Ghengis Khan. Several caves were also visited in the Howe's Cave area for numbering.

Andrew Skinner.

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CAVE NUMBERING.

LOONGANA.

- LO 13:- PUZZLE II:- Inflow cave north-east of Ulstergren bridge on top side of road; approximately 200 metres of passage; some decoration in upper levels; stream becomes too low to follow; discovered by LSC in May, 1975.
- LO 12:- PUZZLE I:- Outflow cave downstream from Puzzle II; about 100 metres of tight passages; very muddy; several avens; small stream probably does not originate in Puzzle II; discovered by LSC in May, 1975.

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MOLE CREEK.

- MC 84 & 95:- HONEYCOMB I:- Large system with numerous entrances and complex system of passages; several levels with stream in lowest; part of Mole Creek system; mapped to Grade 6; entrances numbered in downstream direction.
- MC 96:- SASSAFRAS CAVE:- (Outflow entrance); stream cave, being the source of Sassafras Creek; three entrances; formation in the upper levels; discovered 1900 or earlier; ends in sump.
- MC 97:- Un-named cave; small pothole south-east of Sassafras Cave; 10 metres deep; blocked with rocks; no draught.
- MC 98:- MARTIN'S CAVE:- Medium-sized cave on hill near Sassafras Cave; 10 metre entrance pitch leads to several chambers; some decoration.
- MC 99:- Un-named cave; small fissure cave near Martin's Cave; two chambers with squeeze at far end; draught; may connect with Martin's Cave.
- MC 100:- FIRST OUTING:- Small cave on opposite side of hill to Martin's Cave; two chambers; some decoration.

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two chambers; some decoration.

- JUNEE-FLORENTINE.**

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TRIP REPORTS.

MOLE CREEK - 20-21/6/75.

Party: Andrew and Ros Skinner, Jed Butler and Hugh King.

On Saturday, we visited Ghengis Khan and later joined an LSC party and numbered several caves south-west of Howe's house. On Sunday, Honeycomb II was numbered.

(That would be the shortest trip report on record, Andrew! Did your biro run out?)

MOLE CREEK - 15/6/75.

Party: Andrew and Ros Skinner, Roy and Fiona Skinner, Pip Casey and Lyn Duncombe.

A very pleasant day was had by all after the LSC "booze-up". Three tags were affixed in the Lower Sassafras Creek area. Baldock's, Honeycomb I, First Outing and Sassafras Caves were visited. Several names were found in Sassafras Cave, scratched on flowstone in an upper level: one was from 1900 and two from 1930. On Monday, we went on a trip to Loongana, arranged by LSC. Puzzle One and Two were visited and grovelling around in small muddy passages was

much appreciated. (Just like Hastings) An attempt was made to number Leven Cave but after wading through the rather cold waters of the Leven River - snow and all - I found that Albert Goede had been there before me and already had numbered it! (Curses - tough and all that jazz. Ed.)

MOLE CREEK - 7-8/6/75.

Party: Andrew and Ros Skinner, John Richardson, Jed Butler.

One Saturday, we intended to visit Croesus, surveying the April Fools' entrance. However, as the rope wasn't collected from Launceston, we decided to drive up the Western Tiers. Whilst the other's left in Bob's Landrover, I numbered entrances to Honeycomb I. On Sunday, several caves were numbered in the lower Sassafras Creek area. Number 100 was affixed to First Outing - note time Mr. Moody - 2.30pm. on Sunday 8th. June.

(Time noted - but I'm not numbering rabbit burrows!!! ED.)

Andrew Skinner.

WESTERN FLORENTINE - 14/6/75.

Party: Max and Tim Jeffries, Phillip Voss, John Miller(TCC-MB) Laurie Moody(TCC)

The main objective of this trip was to investigate several holes off Stan Murray's Road on the Western side of the Florentine River. The holes had been looked at briefly by members of the Maydena Branch prior to this trip but as it was late afternoon, a trip back was necessary. There is quite an extensive outcrop of limestone in this area which extends some distance inland from the river. Further scrub-bashing in AREA ONE could result in some significant finds. AREA TWO (see map) is at the top end of Gittus Road about 1½ kilometres west of Gong Cave (JF 51).

The party arrived at AREA ONE around 10.00am. A temporary obstacle in the form of a fallen tree further down the road bared progress but with the aid of Phillip's chainsaw, we were soon able to press on. Mud and slush due to the extensive rain in this region, held doubts at one stage to our crossing the Florentine River but the level was much lower than we expected. Donning our trog-suits, we headed into the scrub and five minutes later, reached the first of the holes. A ladder was rigged and I descended the 6 metre pitch into a small chamber which contained a sump and nothing else. From here, we moved a short way up the bank and were able to scramble down into another hole (JF 84). This led down a small slope and into a passage containing a small stream and despite a traverse to avoid wet feet, it was finally unavoidable. The passage ended some 10 metres past the creek which emerged from a low bedding plane and ended in a small hole not much bigger than a fist. It appeared to open up again past this obstacle. Some formation, including several long straws (one metre is long in this area) were in evidence. Phillip and myself then followed the stream a short distance to where it disappeared into a sump, emerging again outside the cave. We exited several metres away from where we went in, through another entrance.

From here, we proceeded to scrub-bash the immediate area but although several dolines and a couple of holes were investigated, nothing eventuated. (Rabbit burrows again) It was then decided to have a look at the other "find" from the previous visit. This was not far from JF 84 and up hill. The Maydena boys had explored this cave and were keen to push a "dig" at the far end of the cave.

Whilst the "dig" was in progress, I made a Grade 2 survey and then attached a number above the entrance (JF 83). In the meantime, Max and Co. succeeded in widening the passage and proceeded down a short way to a sump.

Another choked hole on the opposite side of the road was "excavated" by Max and John but failed to go very far. By now, most of the party were wet and cold so we then adjourned to the top end of Gittus Road where we lit a "bonfire" and had lunch. After "drying out", we set off on the southern side of the road to

investigate several large dolines. The first of these produced several small holes which unfortunately, were too small to enter. Whilst the exploration of the first one was taking place, I scrambled down into an adjoining one and found a most impressive looking entrance - stream and all! However, after only a few metres, it fizzled! Further scrub-bashing revealed one other minor hole which was about 8 metres deep but we didn't even bother to number it. (Another rabbit hole)

Nothing major resulted after the day's events but further prospects in this region could be encouraging. Another trip to this area is planned for early in July.

Laurie Moody.

Map of this area appears on Page 8.

JUNEE-FLORENTINE - 5/7/75.

Party: Max & Tim Jeffries, Phillip Voss, Michael Bromfield (TCC/MB) and Laurie Moody (TCC).

What a day to go caving! It was pouring with rain when I left Hobart and still pouring when I arrived at Maydena! Anyway, the party assembled at Max's and then headed out the Junee Road towards Junee Rising. A week before, Max had "rescued" three teenage girls from a cave whilst checking his bees. The cave is on the top side of the road less than half a kilometre from the Junee Bridge. (See separate article on rescue). We trogged up in our wet weather gear and climbed the clearly defined track and found a man-size hole in the limestone. Max informed us of another entrance some 10 metres away and after numbering it (JF 90), we, that is Max, Michael and myself, descended a three metre pitch into the cave. After negotiating a steep muddy bank we then proceeded to investigate as much of the cave as we could. Unfortunately, everywhere we went there was plain evidence that the cave had been extensively vandalised. Tree saplings had been cut down and dropped into the cave apparently to serve as "waddies" to knock off the formations. Prior to the vandalism of this cave, it would have undoubtedly been the prettiest cave yet discovered in the Junee Area.

Approximately 100 metres of passage exist and further extensions could be possible as a 4 metre pitch was not descended due to the absence of a ladder. Many animal bones were noted as were also a sardine tin and other rubbish. A hammer and chisel were also found and duly removed. Only the one entrance was numbered due to the fact that the top hole is common knowledge and the possibility of the number remaining in plain view for any long period was doubted.

We then adjourned to the Florentine Valley and had lunch. After this, we then attached a further two numbers to Beginner's Luck Cave. The daylight hole was numbered JF 81 and the Wonguano Passage entrance, JF 82. Further scrub bashing some 200-300 metres down the road revealed another hole which was duly numbered JF 85. As it was still raining and most of us were wet and cold we decided to call it a day and returned to Maydena.

Laurie Moody.

EXIT CAVE - 5-6/7/75.

Party: Tony Culberg (L), Peter Watts, Ruth Stephenson and Gaynor Avery (P).

We left the car after checking out the level of the D'Entrecasteaux River at the bridge. It was barely swollen, so we headed in. Used the high level traverse at the entrance merely to avoid thigh-deep water. Headed in to Camp Two. The river crossings were a little deeper than on my first visit to Exit. After lunch, we visited the Chamber of Danocles, admiring the many "pretties" en route. Returned to Camp Two after some photographic sessions and duly admired Edie's Treasure.

After breakfast on Sunday, we headed for the Western Passage and had

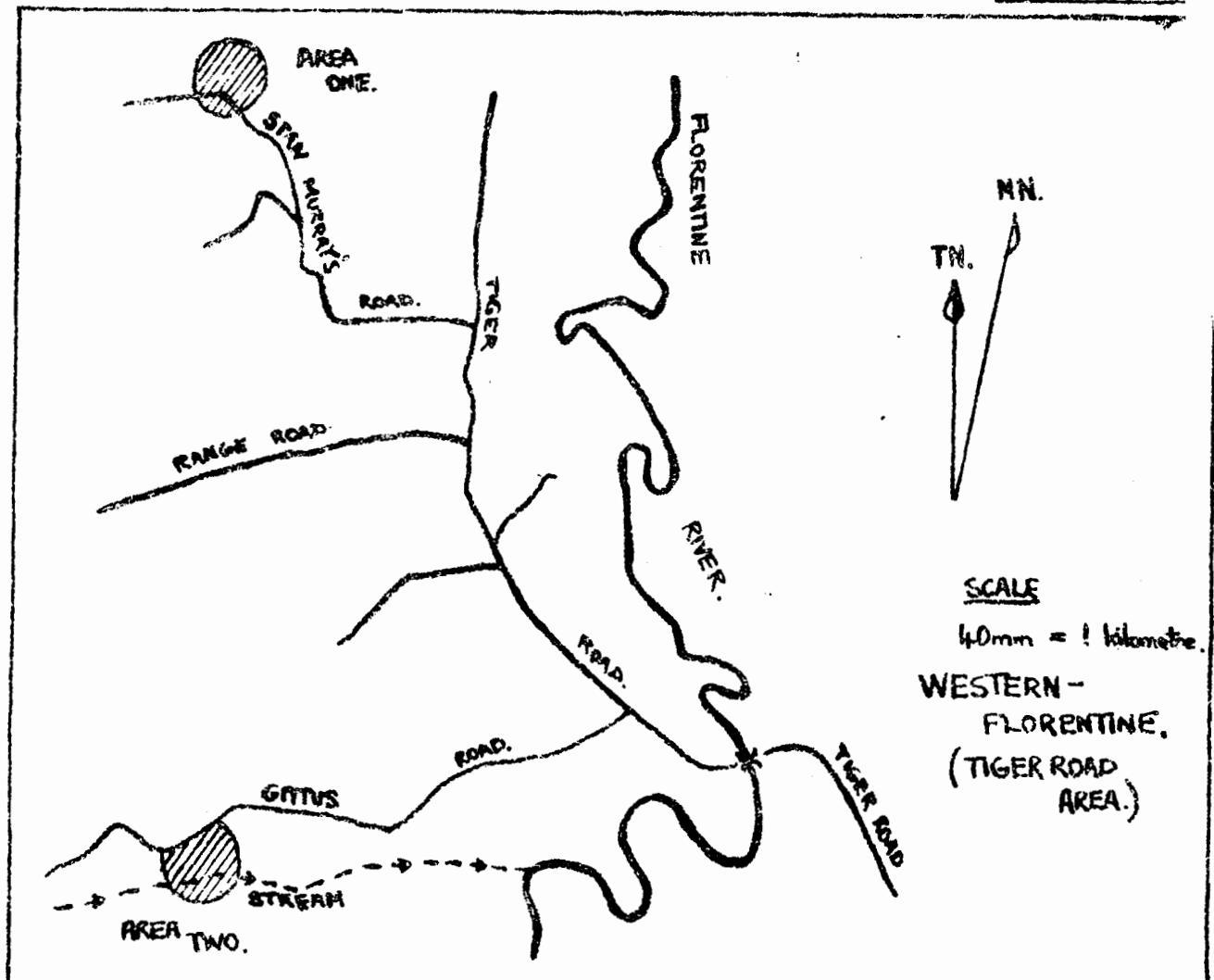
Experiencing that amount of water in Exit is worth while - once BUT - Happiness is warm, dry clothes!

Culberg's thought for the day - Help Conserve our Native Forests - Re-use Your Envelopes!

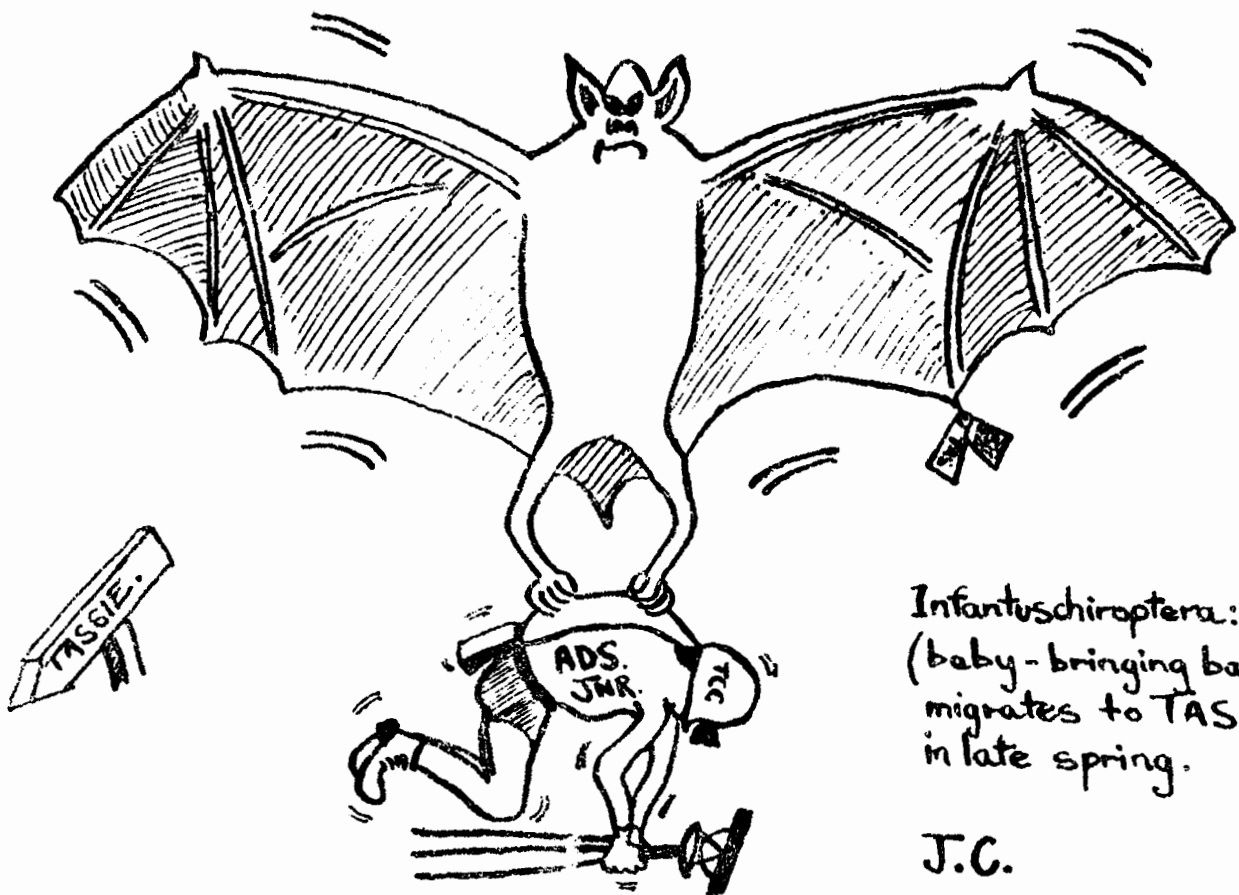
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Laurie Moody.

JF 90:- VANDALISATION CAVE (Suggested name); Cave with two vertical entrances 2-3 metres and 6-7 metres respectively; a short distance above Junee Road; approximately 100 metres of passage; exploration incomplete; previous to being extensively vandalised, would have had perhaps the best displays of formation in the Junee area; many bones. (J)



CONGRATULATIONS!



Infantus chiroptera:
(baby-bringing bat)
migrates to TAS
in late spring.

J.C.