

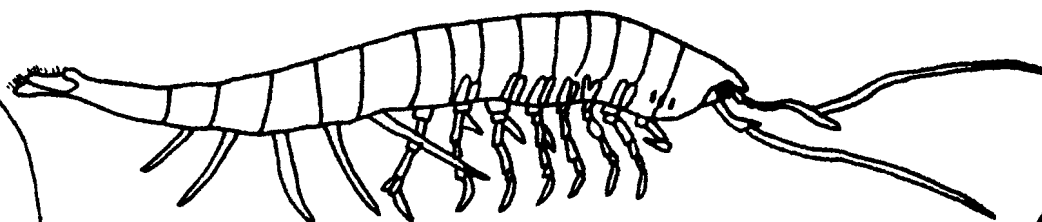
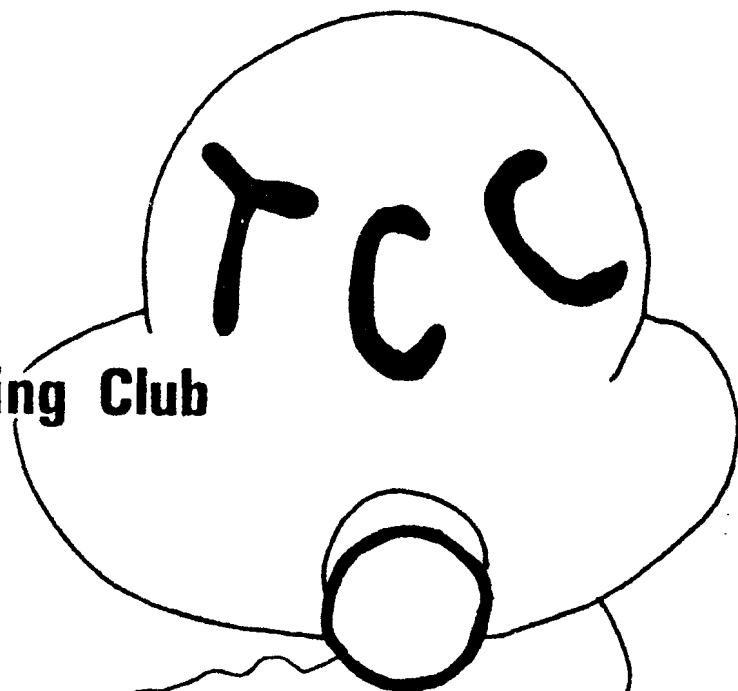
**SPELEO SPIEL**

**Newsletter of the**

**Tasmanian Caverneering Club**

**Sept. 1975**

**No. 105**



Tasmanian mountain shrimp  
(Anaspides tasmaniae)

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

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## FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- September 7 - Sunday: Junee Area- general trogging & scrub-bashing in the Cave Hill area. Leaders: Moody, Jeffries and Skinner.
- September 13-14 - ? ? ?
- September 20 - Annual Dinner - Saturday: Prince of Wales Hotel, Hampden Road, Battery Point. Make sure that you're there! Should start rolling around 7.00pm. If you have not confirmed - let Roy Skinner know as soon as possible. Phone him on - 23 1506 NOW!!! Possibly a trip Sunday?
- September 27 - Saturday: Junee Area - Join Jeffries & Moody & Co. in what could be the trip of the year! Help squash reports that the "era of deep caving is over".
- September 27-28 - Weekend Trip to Mole Creek: Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- October 1 - General Meeting: Hank Meerdings's, 7 Gourlay Street, Blackman's Bay. 8.00pm.

# Editorial.

SHADES OF K.D!?!?

August was a fairly quiet month with few trips and then usually for the old practise of numbering. However, September could hold some promise of better things to come. A party of four consisting of two TCC members and two from our Maydena Branch, located a number of caves whilst scrub-bashing in an area north of Bone Pit (JF 203) on the 7th. September. Although some of these caves were sporting SCS numbers, several were virgin finds. One in particular, shows signs of promise in being a swallet taking a fair quantity of water. It was entered by two members of the party who were prevented from going too far due to the presence of a 6-8 metre pitch. It was also late in the afternoon. What adds further interest is the fact that it is approximately 700 metres up on the relief. Khazad-dum is on a relief of 488 metres. Plenty of scope for a deep one? Anyway, a further trip to this area late in September may prove that the deep cave era is not yet finished. We've got our fingers crossed on this one!

## NOTICES.

INDEX TO SPELEO SPIEL. - Nos. 76 - 100

There are still plenty of copies available. The price is only 40 cents which includes postage. (Cheep-cheep considering the price of postage these days). A handy reference for anything that you would like to know about the better known Tasmanian caves. Contact Laurie Moody or Tony Culberg for your copy!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Once again, we have received a letter regarding the cutting of steps in Exit Cave at Ida Bay. See Speleo Spiel No. 103, Page 1.

The Editor, Speleo Spiel;

Re the "Letter to the Editor" from John Bosler in Speleo Spiel, No. 103, July 1975; the "metal steps bolted into the rocks at the entrance" are a "justifiable safety measure" for use as a high level exit when the D'Entrecasteaux River is in flood. Steps cut in the "mud" bank - between the river and inner base camp - are not! If members of Bosler's party were sufficiently incompetent to slip during the five minute walk down to the stream to fill their water bags, (What were they carrying - 5 gallon jerry cans?), I shudder to think how they fared in the rest of the cave! Or did John's party have to place steps through the talus as well?

One of my favourite memories of Exit Cave is of walking down the (then) relatively pristine bank to the stream to get water.

TAKE NOTHING BUT PHOTOGRAPHS AND SURVEY NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS ETC.  
LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS - ALSO BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU PUT YOUR GREAT CLUMSY FEET!

Kerry Williamson (WASG) 31/8/75.

ATTENTION ALL CAVERS!

During a recent attempt to penetrate Sesame Two Cave (JF 211), by a TCC/ Maydena Branch party, a plastic bag containing carbide was found at the top of the first pitch below the entrance pitch. Can anyone give an explanation as to why the bag was not removed from the cave and buried?

CLUB MEMBER ACCEPTS POSITION IN NEW GUINEA.

TCC are about to lose a long standing member, Bill Lehmann, to New Guinea. Apparently Bill has accepted a position with the PMG Department and his services will no doubt be missed. Bill has been the Search and Rescue delegate for some years and no doubt we will find it hard to replace him. The Club wishes you all the best and hopes to hear from you occasionally.

CAVE NUMBERING.

JF 85: (Florentine) Small cave, close to road. 35 metres of passage; no continuation; 200-300 metres down road from Beginners Luck Cave; on same side of road.

JF 86: Small pot on ridge; towards end of Frizon's Road (past JF 49-50); has 6 metre entrance pitch; some decoration; blocks after about another 6-7 metres; bone samples were removed from this cave.

JF 87: Cave in rift off Leo Thorne's Road; NE of Beginner's Luck; contains an interesting series of mud-floored passages; not fully explored; cannot be entered far in wet weather.

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL DINNER - SEPTEMBER 20th. - PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL -!!!!

BIG NOEL'S TASSIE TROG.Part Three.

On the Saturday, we prepared for our trip to the Junee-Florentine area at Maydena. In this area a permit is needed as the land is leased by the Australian Newsprint Mills. We arrived there in the afternoon and took a look at the Junee Rising where the water emerges from the higher level swallets and caves that are in the area. A majority of the water comes from Khazad-Dum, Cauldron Pot and Niagara Pot. I also learnt that this efflux has the biggest flow of water of any cave in Australia.

We were then conducted to the Junee Homestead which is used by cavers when they are in the area in groups. Due to the story of the homestead being haunted small parties of two or three prefer not to use it. The story goes that a bloke killed somebody and came back to the house to commit suicide but botched the job! The noises that can be heard during the night consist of a door being opened, footsteps and other un-explainable things. The noise of the door being opened has even been heard when the door had been wired up tight. I was even informed that on one particular night two very brave cavers stood on either side of the door and the noise was heard even though the door did not open. (Does anyone know of a good exorcist?)

The night was spent camped in one of the huts near Cashion Creek which were apparently used by timber workers when they were in the area. Not a bad hut but the one in the Junee would have been better as it was closed in on all sides. The following morning, we returned to the barrier and waited for the party to arrive. When they had not turned up by 10.15am. we decided that we had better not tarry any longer and set off for Khazad-Dum leaving a map behind for the others if they turned up.

We soon reached the parking area via one of the logging roads, trogged up and set off for the cave. We reached the cave after wending our way through a mile of dense rain forest. This was one of the caves that I had heard a lot about and was the deepest in Australia. It was 1,054 feet deep. It was our intention to reach the top of the "Ninety Footer" and followed Andrew in, getting wet in the icy cold water as we were only 200ft. below the snowline. A short ladder pitch was negotiated taking us above the stream passage, along a short passage and then down another ladder pitch. Another passage which dipped steeply required a rope and at the bottom of this we had to manoeuvre through about 30-40 feet of a "flattener" before emerging near the top of the "Ninety Footer". About this time, members of the second party arrived and after one and all had had a look at the pitch and the waterfall, we headed out. It was then decided to take a look at the entrance to Cauldron Pot but not before inspecting a very scungy hole close to Khazad-Dum. JF 40, I think. Members of the two party's if I can remember correctly were - Andrew and Ros Skinner, Jan Hardy, Glenn and Shane Pinnington, Nick Gould, Fiona Skinner, Max Jeffries, Nick Berwick, Robert Eaton and Laurie Moody.

The caves in the Junee-Florentine are very wet and muddy (scungy). The caves are nearly all vertical and one has to be interested in vertical caving and an expert in SRT, which yours truly is not! The limestone in the area has been tossed nearly vertical and the area is just below the snowline thus having all the qualities for very deep caves.

THE END.

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LOST

Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of a brand new, very beautiful, very expensive and totally irreplaceable orange mug please forward it to either the vice-president or the editor as soon as possible; as the owner (female) has been highly distressed by it's loss. In an exclusive, highly emotional interview, it was revealed that it (the mug) was lost somewhere in the vicinity of the Hastings area. A reward (in the form of a kiss) will be paid on delivery. No not by the vice-pres or by the editor - the owner pays the reward!

THE MOLE CREEK HUT.

The Mole Creek hut near Marakoopa, has recently come into frequent use by parties both from other parts of Tassie and also from the North Island. Some of these groups tidy up after themselves but some do not! None seem to know anything about the hut and most seem to have the attitude that, as cavers, they are entitled to use it.

It must be emphasised that this hut is private property, as is also the field in which it stands. It belongs to Roy Byard of South Mole Creek. Roy is NOT a caver but some years ago he very generously allowed some of us, who he counted as his friends, to make use of it freely with no strings attached. Roy cannot be blamed if he feels that his hospitality is being abused, and he has every right to close off the hut.

The Northern Caverneers attempt to act as custodians. The charge of 10 cents per night was initiated to cover the costs of minor repairs, replacement of gas cylinders and so on. However, our treasurer has received no money in the last year for the hut account from any but our own members, and we are now minority users of the hut, as we mostly return to Launceston at night.

In the days when we first negotiated for the hut, I had had an accident and was out of caving, so I poured a few beers into Frank Brown Jnr. to persuade him to give a first hand account. Seemingly I overdid things, but older members may find his historical ramblings of some interest. (See Speleo Spiel No. 104)

For the record, in chronological order, the huts Frank mentions are:-

- 1) The forestry shack with a broken door at Liena Mill (taken away at least 12 years ago).
- 2) "Rather nice house" was a genuine house belonging to the Sassafras Mill, across the road from the Mill, obtained by Doug Turner's glib tongue.
- 3) The old house in the middle of the paddock was on the track up to Sassafras Cave. Again TCC negotiated this one.
- 4) The three room shack was at Sassafras Mill. It was a wreck until we took it over but later learnt that tenants should beware of making improvements.
- 5) The "house in the back paddocks" was near Toboggan in the Den Plain area. It cost us ten shillings a week which with about six active members, was a drain on our resources. This would have been about 1965.

Bob Woolhouse.

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PUBLIC NOTICE:-

Hear ye, Hear ye! (Hear you too!)

Let it be known to all cavers from this day forth that the yucky old, orange, Coles type mug at the bottom of Wolf-hole is not (N.B. NOT) a decoration to be left untouched by human hands!

It is, in actual fact, a piece of formation commonly known as "speleologus discardus"! It has been requested that the next caver to enter ye olde cave bring out this specimen and take it to his place of abode. Ye never know - someone may have a use for it!

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TRIP REPORTS.

JUNEE-FLORENTINE - 16/8/75.

Continued on Page 6

Party: Max & Tim Jeffries, Michael Bromfield (TCC/MB), Andrew & Ros Skinner and Laurie Moody.

On the Saturday, we travelled out to Frizon's Road in the Florentine Valley to investigate yet another hole located by Max. The weather was not the best and rain fell most of the morning. The hole was located on a ridge and duly

Speleo-Spiel "Findwords".

A nice and easy brain-teaser for those weekends when it is too wet to go caving. Find 51 words related to caves and caving.

S T T E T R E N I B A R A K C T  
 G H R P A M R O O L F E S L A F  
 U T O O E C N E G R U S E R V A  
 B R G R G E M A N L T E M L E H  
 T O Y G O L O E L E P S E T R S  
 A G O U R P O O L I T E I R N R  
 L L F B E C N P D P O T H O L E  
 U O F E F A M M H S C B A G A T  
 S X U L F N I U E O S R L E I  
 W E T A L D L D L O L R E O F N  
 A N D Y U L K E T E U E E B M O  
 L E O I X E H S R L M K N I U G  
 L G O H B S D I A E N C R T S A  
 E V A C P R N N C P E I E E P R  
 T S R A K I A K K S U R V E Y A  
 F L U O R E S C E I N P A D G E  
 L O O P E N O T S M I R C L I P

Check off the words as you find them. The hidden words can be found by looking Forwards, Backwards, Up, Down, Vertically, Horizontally or Diagonally.

|               |             |  |
|---------------|-------------|--|
| rimstone pool | boots       | oolite                                 |
| flattener     | shaft       | cavern                                 |
| moonmilk      | gypsum      | helmet                                 |
| trogloxene    | survey      | map                                    |
| Speleo-Spiel  | swallet     | karst                                  |
| fluorescein   | cave        | weta                                   |
| resurgence    | rope        | trog                                   |
| troglophile   | talus       | bugs                                   |
| karabiner     | sink (hole) | influx                                 |
| gourpool      | column      | siphon                                 |
| aragonite     | candles     | efflux                                 |
| caverneer     | carbide     | pricker(for clearing carbide lamp jet) |
| troglobite    | belay       | mud                                    |
| speleology    | tufa        | tuff(synonymous to tufa)               |
| helictite     | track       | name(of the cave)                      |
| false floor   | dip         | clip(C-clip)                           |
| pothole       | sand        | tag(with cave number)                  |

N.B. cave, cavern and caverneer are to be found independently of each other.

TRIP REPORTS Continued;

investigated. It proved to have a 6 metre pitch and sloped steeply another 6-7 metres where it became too tight to follow. A number of bones were collected before we emerged. Further scrub-bashing failed to find anything else in the immediate area and we adjourned to the cars for lunch.

After lunch we adjourned to an area just off Leo Thorne's Road and not far from Beginners Luck. We had noted two caves in this area on a previous trip and it was our intention to explore them further and number each. However, timber felling had been taking place since our last visit and one of the caves which we had not yet explored was buried beneath a huge fallen tree. Access was denied. The other cave was duly numbered JF 87.

It was then decided to take a quick trip into the Western Florentine and in due course, we arrived at Stan Murray's Road. We had to leave the cars close to JF 83 and JF 84, as large water channels had damaged the remainder of the road. We walked some 600 metres up the road and then descended into the valley following a creek down to a point some 200 metres below the cars. Although several limestone outcrops were noted nothing of interest evolved.

On the way home, we made a quick search of an area between Cave Hill and Bone Pit (JF 203) and succeeded in locating JF 210 (Sesame One). A further trip to this area is planned.

Laurie Moody.

JUNEE AREA - 7/9/75.

Party: Max Jeffries, Phillip Voss (TCC/MB), Andrew Skinner and Laurie Moody.

The four of us arrived at Sesame One (JF 210) around 10.30am. and soon found our objective, Sesame Two (JF 211), Australia's fifth deepest cave. Andrew abseiled down the entrance pitch and the rest of us followed after first taking care to dispose of a rather precarious looking log which was balanced on a small ledge halfway down the pitch. It was our intention to go as far as we could but after Andrew and myself had descended the second pitch, we decided that to go too far in the talus without more gear, would be a bit risky. Therefore, we decided to abandon our attempt on this cave.

After emerging, we skirted the bank above this cave and soon arrived at the entrance to a fairly active swallet. It was blocked by debris and no way in could be found. About that time, I noticed what appeared to be a cave on the opposite bank. Investigation proved it to be JF 209. On first inspection it did not appear to go far but Phillip decided to investigate a hole off to the right. It proved to be an upper level and showed no signs of being entered prior to our visit. Approximately 35 metres of passage, which contained some good examples of flowstone, were found. A possible extension was entered but was not pushed due to the fact that Andrew blocked up the entrance with large rocks - Phillip was still inside! His report that it still continued was not checked - mainly because no-one trusted Andrew and I don't think he trusted us!

We then made our way back to the car where a check on the cave numbers showed that JF 209 had not been fully explored. After a snack, I finally managed to convince Andrew that it would be better to scrub-bash up towards Bone Pit than to drive up in the car. (I apologise Andrew) Anyway, we reached the Bone Pit area after a fruitless and steady slog then began combing a ridge above this cave. Several holes were located, JF 204 and JF 206 being two I can remember. JF 204 was descended by Phillip and proved to be about 25 metres deep. After this we worked in pairs with Andrew and I heading down the ridge while Max and Phillip headed down into the valley behind it.

Andrew and I located several more holes including JF 206 and one un-numbered hole which is well worth a return visit. Max and Phillip located several holes including a very promising looking un-numbered swallet. This area appears to have some potential and due to the high relief, a trip back on the 27th. Sept. could have some interesting results.

Laurie Moody.