

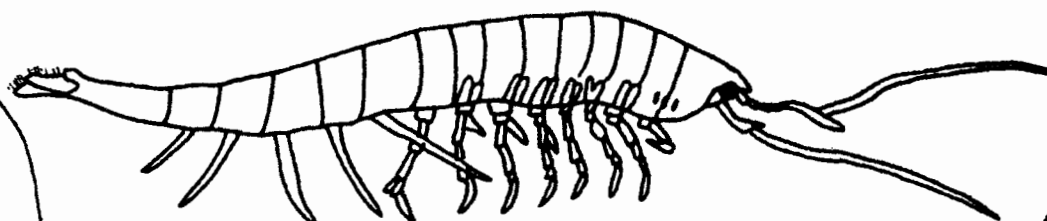
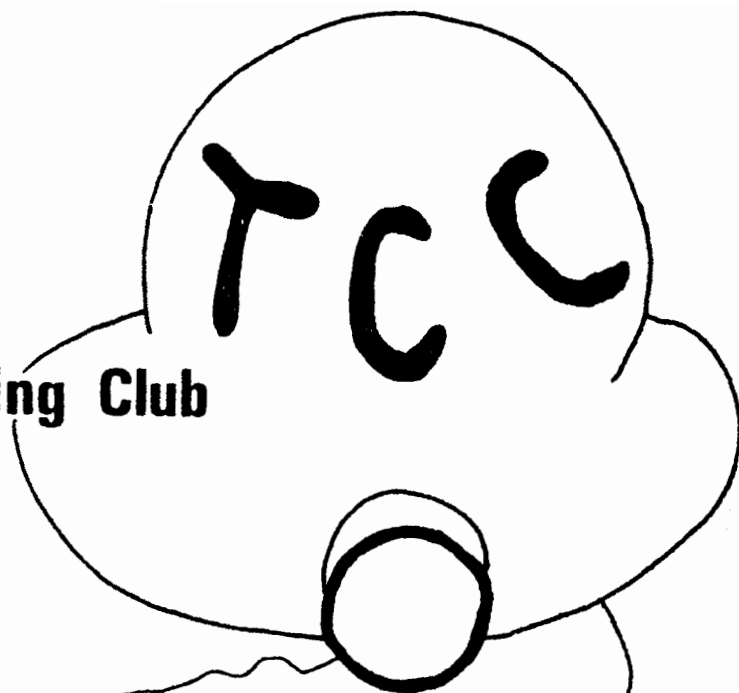
SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the

Tasmanian Caverneering Club

Dec. 1975

No. 108



Tasmanian mountain shrimp
(Anaspides tasmaniae)

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

SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005

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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

December 20 - BARBECUE - Mystery Location! This one is being organised by Andrew Skinner and Stuart Nicholas. Fun for young and old - don't miss it! Be at the Sandy Bay Yacht Club, Maryville Esplanade by 2.00pm. Make sure you're there - no excuses accepted and B.Y.O.G!

(1976)

January 3-4 - Mole Creek:- Leaders: Andrew Skinner & Albert Goede.
January 10 - Saturday: Junee Area - to have a look at a cave near "The Gap" discovered in November. Leader: Laurie Moody.
January 24-26 - Loongana:- Leader: Andrew Skinner.
February 4 - General Meeting:- Wednesday - Hank Meering's, 7 Gourlay Street, Blackman's Bay. 8.00pm.
February 7-8 - Either Mt. Anne or the Weld River, Leader: Albert Goede.

Editorial.

Despite adverse weather conditions, November proved to be quite an active month as far as trips are concerned. As has been the trend of late, most trips were confined to the Hastings-Ida Bay and Junee-Florentine areas respectively. Possibly two of the most significant events of 1975 were the exploration of the Cracroft and the discovery of Beginners Luck Cave in the Florentine. Club attendance figures have been at an ebb for the most of the year but due to efforts by Tony Culberg, are now showing signs of improving, due to the influx of some junior members. Let's look forward to bigger and better things in 1976.

Remember, there is no Speleo Spiel for January. Sue, my family and myself, would like to take this opportunity of wishing all club members and subscribers a -

HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

REMEMBER:- DRIVE SAFELY - THE CAR YOU HIT - MAY BE MINE!

CLUB NEWS.

Congratulations to Brent Nightingale who was elected a junior member at the Dec. General Meeting. Welcome to the mob!

TCC would also like to wish Ruth Stephenson bon voyage. Ruth is going overseas some time this month. Have a good time and hurry back - we need our cavers!

Apologies are due to Andrew and Ros Skinner who we neglected to add on the list of club members in the November issue (No. 107). Sorry about that! At the time of typing, Ros has not yet had her baby but by the time she reads this, it will have been born. CONGRATULATIONS from all TCC members - Andrew and Ros.

CLUB NEWS Cont;Change of Address.

Pip Casey, 1 Cascade Road, South Hobart. 7000
Joan and Peter Brabon, Old Beach Road, Mt. Direction, 7402

A little "bird" tells me that CONGRATULATIONS are due to Yvonne Collin and Peter Shaw. Apparently they were married a few weeks ago. Congrats from the TCC mob!
What a month for news! Seems an opportune moment to announce that Sue and myself are expecting another addition to the family in July, '76.

TRIP STATISTICS FOR 1975.

The following number of trips held by TCC in 1975 (January to December) were as appears below:-

<u>CRACROFT</u>	<u>FLOWERY GULLY</u>	<u>HASTINGS</u>	<u>IDA BAY</u>	<u>JUNEE- FLORENTINE</u>	<u>LOONGANA</u>	<u>GUNN'S PLAINS</u>	<u>MOLE CREEK</u>
1	3	5	8	18	1	1	18

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRIPS:- 55

A TIP FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS.

Heard about a new idea for un-fogging camera lens'. I have been assured that it really works. This is what you can do:-

Turn on your electric headlamp and hold it against and pointing into the lens. This should warm the lens up a degree or two after a few minutes. You can also try holding your camera 9-10 inches away from a carbide flame with the lens pointed at it. The infra-red warms up the lens in a few minutes.

A MODERN SPELEOLOGIST, A Poem.

I am the very model of a modern speleologist,
I'm thought by all to be a very eminent geologist,
I know how helictites are formed, I'm hip on archaeology,
I reel off facts on carbon tests and speleo-biology,
I'm very well acquainted too with matters of geography,
I'll tell you where a cave is, from descriptions of topography,
I'm expert on formation, and though it may sound trite,
I never get mixed up and call a stalagnite a stalactite,
I know where all the caves are found, from Wombeyan to Mandalay,
I've read the works of Charles E. Mohr, the Abbe Breuil and Casteret,
In short, as cave authority and eminent geologist,
I am the very model of a modern speleologist.

- from NSS News via SPAR.

"WHAT EVER TURNS YOU ON". "DON'T TELL ME YOUR PROBLEMS".

"UNHAND THAT WOMAN - YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE SHE'S BEEN". "MAY I QUOTE YOU?"

"IF YOU HAD ANOTHER BRAIN IT WOULD BE LONELY". "GOOD GRIEF, IT THINKS!"

You asked for it and here they are! Name the quoter and win a prize! I have yet to decide on a prize - perhaps a lock of hair? No? A pair of worn-out caving boots? Yes? First correct entry to reach me - wins! Phewwwwwww!

FAMOUS AMERICAN CAVE SYSTEMS

Compiled by Laurie Moody.

Over the last three issues of Spiel, I have presented brief articles on several famous American cave systems. With the total of US National Parks exceeding 32 in number, it is interesting to note that three of these were specifically formed as protection for three famous cave systems. Five other systems have been declared National Monuments. However, prior to dealing with the last major system, I would like to outline the US National Park System itself. By and all, it should make some interesting reading.

The system is made up of 214 units, with a total area (in 1966) of approximately 27,169,000 acres (this includes the White House and eleven National Recreation Areas), of which the federal government owns all but about 620,000 acres. This extensive system is administered by the National Park Service, a bureau of the US Department of the Interior.

The many units which make up the National Park System include superlative examples of the natural scene - segments of America essentially as they were before the first Europeans landed. Among them are also places of extraordinary geological, zoological, or botanical interest; sites on which structures and artifacts exemplify the varied cultures and many accomplishments of prehistoric peoples; and lands and other structures associated with significant events in American colonial or national history or with men and women who have played important parts in that history. Their preservation and management have been accepted by the American people and their representatives as a proper responsibility of the whole nation.

The system itself consists of no less than 16 categories, several of which are generally characterised by exceptionally beautiful and inspiring scenery and total 32. Many of the 77 national monuments - the most numerous category - contain some superb scenery, but the basis of their establishment has been, as a rule, the conservation of features or exhibits of scientific, historic, or prehistoric importance.

The idea of designating areas of outstanding natural beauty and grandeur as national parks and retaining them as far as possible unimpaired for present and future public enjoyment, originated in the United States. Yellowstone National Park which was established on March 1st, 1872, was the world's first national park.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES.

The Act of August 25th, 1916, establishing the National Park Service, stated that the purpose of the areas entrusted to it was to "conserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The enjoyment envisioned is taken to mean primarily that which comes from contact with an understanding of the natural scene or historic or prehistoric areas or objects; so the preservation of these is a basic policy. Through roads, tracks, camping grounds, various kinds of structures and utilities must be provided, road mileage is sharply limited, and other facilities are provided in relatively few locations.

Interpretation.

Convinced that knowledge and understanding heighten enjoyment of great scenery or places of historic or scientific interest, the Service has developed an extensive educational or interpretive programme. Visitor centres, of which many have been constructed in the "Mission 66" programme, usually house museums that provide a basic understanding of the geology, natural history etc. concerning the area in which they are situated, therefore stimulating the visitor to explore for himself.

Concessions.

Most of the lodges, hotels, restaurants, stores and other similar facilities in the National Park System have been provided by private capital; all such facilities, including those owned by the government, are operated by concessionaires, under a contract with the National Park Service, with rates, seasons, character and location of structures, and services to be provided - all subject to Service approval. Until

1958, the period of such contracts was limited to 20 years, subject to renewal; to provide a longer certain period for investment amortisation, Congress, in that year, extended the maximum to 30 years.

Revenues.

The charging of vehicle, guide, entrance and other fees began long before the establishment of the National Park Service. Receipts from these and other forms of revenue average in excess of \$6,000,000 a year. Since January 1965, all guide, entrance and other such fees have been put aside into the Land and Conservation Fund. Other revenues which still go to the Park Service amount to around \$1.5 million a year. Excepting for private donations, all funds for management and development of the areas administered by the Service come from Congressional appropriations.

Appropriations.

The National Park Service's appropriation in its first full year, the fiscal year 1918, was \$747,280. In 1948, it was \$10,628,055; in 1965 - the twelve months ending June 30, 1965, the tenth year of the "Mission 66" programme - it was a staggering \$128,185,000. About 44% of this was for general administrative expenses, management and protection, and maintenance and rehabilitation; about 56% was for roads and tracks, parkways, structures and utilities, and also for land acquisition.

Land Acquisition.

An announced objective of the National Park Service is the ultimate acquisition of all non-federal lands lying within the authorised boundaries of the area that it administers; on January 1st, 1966, these totaled 619,994 acres. From establishment of the Service through the 1966 fiscal year, Congress has appropriated outright for land acquisition \$57,974,835; in addition, it has appropriated \$5.6 million expendable only to the extent that they are matched by funds from other sources. Matching funds to a total of \$5,600,000 have been obtained. Normally, the Service has authority to resort to the right of condemnation, or eminent domain, and has done so from time to time either because of inability to agree on purchase price or to gain clear title. No statistics concerning the amount of land obtained through this method are available.

Considerable acreage, especially in the West, has been acquired through exchange of public-domain lands outside odd area boundaries for lands that are needed within the boundaries.

Public Use.

Recreational use of the National Park System units is intensive and has been increasing rapidly. In 1965, visitors numbered over 120 million, the heaviest attendance yet recorded. No doubt this number has possibly increased during the last few years.

Service Employment.

The National Park Service employs over 5,500 men and women on a year-round basis. Temporary and seasonal employees - rangers, naturalists, historians, firecontrol aides, maintenance crews, clerks, etc. - greatly swell this number during periods of heavy public use. All permanent employment, with the exception of five top positions, including that of the director, is on merit, subject to rules and regulations of the US Civil Service Commission.

CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK.

This park is situated approximately 32kms southwest of Carlsbad, New Mexico, in the foothills of the Guadalupe Mountains. It contains perhaps the largest series of caves in the world, acclaimed for their spaciousness, beauty and great variety.

The natural entrance to these caverns, Bat Cave, was known to the prehistoric Indians and to early white settlers and was used as a bat guano mine during the early 1900's. James L. White, a guano miner, was the first to make extensive explorations of the caverns in modern times, and it was chiefly through his efforts that they were brought to public attention. The area was designated as a national monument on October 25, 1923, and as Carlsbad Caverns National Park on May 14, 1930. The original land area of the park was only 700 acres, but it now covers over 126 square kilometres.

The caverns were formed by the dissolving action of water penetrating massive limestone formations. Their full extent is still not fully known; levels as deep as 335m below the surface have been explored, and deeper ones exist, but the section open to the public is limited to the 228m and 253m levels. Many beautiful stalactites hang from the ceilings and fantastically shaped stalagmites rise from the floor. Huge columns are also another impressive feature. The main chamber, The Big Room, is about 2kms in circumference and has a ceiling with a maximum height of 87m. It contains the majestic Rock of Ages formation and the Giant Dome, a huge stalagmite that resembles the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Other scenic chambers include the King's Palace, Queen's Chamber and Papoose's Chamber.

The caves have an ingenious electrical illumination system, artfully concealed behind rocks. The complete guided tour route covers a walking distance of nearly five kilometres, beginning at the natural entrance. An underground lunchroom has been installed at the 228m level, near the entrance to the Big Room, and an elevator leads directly from the lunchroom to the surface for the convenience of visitors. Though temperatures vary at the surface, depending on the time of the day or season, the temperature within the cave remains constant at about 14 degrees Celsius the year round.

Every evening during the summer months, millions of bats fly out of the Bat Cave entrance to hunt insects, causing "smoke" of several hours duration. They return before dawn, after having consumed an estimated 11½ tons of insects during the night, in feeding grounds as far as 80kms away. During the day, they hang in dense clusters from the walls and ceilings. In wintertime, when insects are not available most of the bats migrate to warmer regions. Of the 14 species found in the caverns, the Mexican free-tailed bat is the most numerous.

Reference

Collier's Encyclopedia.

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TRIP REPORTS

MOLE CREEK - 11-12/10/75.

Party: Albert Goede (L), Therese Goede, Andrew and Ros Skinner, Hank Meerdink and Hilary and Ben Goede.

This proved to be a very wet weekend. We left Hobart on Saturday morning about 8.00am and eventually met up at Mole Creek. Because of the rain, a visit to Mersey Hill Cave was out of the question, so we decided to go to the hut for lunch. We were rather sorry to see the state it was in. The stuffed eagle which for many years adorned the space above the fireplace had disappeared as had also many other moveable items. The back door hung crazily on its hinges and the place was rather dirty. Much of the firewood supply had been left out in the rain. A good deal of cleaning up and some temporary repair work was done - resulting in the place being left in a much better condition than we found it.

After lunch, Andrew, Hank and I, headed for Croesus Cave in the Susuki after collecting the key from Tory Richardson at King Solomon. The aim was for Hank to show us a large upper level chamber in the first part of Croesus before the Master Lock. This seems to be known to very few cavers. We were quite impressed with the size although the formations were not outstanding. We then investigated several other high level leads without success. One possibility remains but requires a short climbing pole. We finally finished up doing some photography near the Snow Bank. On our way out we discovered that the water had risen another 10cms and we got very wet especially going through the entrance crawl.

The next morning the rain had eased to showers and the same three of us decided to

pay a visit to Joe's Lair to investigate the possibility of bone bearing cave fill. The Susuki performed quite well. The track has recently been cleared by loggers but has some deep ruts. Joe's Lair was duly found and investigated but the cave fill - a thick deposit of fine silty sand - appears to be totally devoid of bone. The final pitch was not descended due to lack of ladders. Next we followed the cliffs a bit further around and Hank made two discoveries. A tiny cave about 3m long, part-way up the cliff, and also a swallet at the bottom which takes some of the water from a creek flowing around the base of the hill. This is worth investigating further in dry weather and may be the source of the water in Union Cave.

We returned to the road to find Ros, Therese and the children waiting for us. As the weather was still wet and unpleasant, we decided on an early return to Hobart.

Albert Goede.

JUNEE AREA - 18-19/10/75.

Party: Tony Culberg (L), Therese Goede, Max Jeffries, Stuart Nicholas, Andrew and Ros Skinner, Pat Fullerton, Tim Jeffries, Michael Bronfield, Phillip Voss (all TCC and TCC/MB), plus visitors S. Gilbert, G. Harrington, H. Symes, B. Nightingale and Bill Nicholson (Geilston Bay High).

We made our way up a slightly sloppy landslip and the gear was set up at a cave previously entered by Tony Culberg. This cave ended in a gravel choke through which the water percolates at a depth of -40m. Phillip and Tim entered another hole which ended the same way at a depth of -55m. Stuart and Tony et al were busy at the sink diverting the stream to allow the cave to dry out and stabilize. While this was in progress, Therese was busily engaged cleaning up the Homestead.

On Sunday, we went to Cashion Creek Cave with Andrew and Ros and from there to Beginners Luck which had dried out somewhat. The wombat had rotted away. Max and Therese looked at some new holes along with Phillip and Tim. At least one new cave was found. We left the area at about 3.15pm and headed for home.

Bill Nicholson.

HASTINGS AREA - 1-2/11/75.

Party: Tony Culberg (L), Therese Goede, Stuart Nicholas (TCC), Heather Symes, Pam Lane, Janine Barwick, Bill Nicholson, Graeme Harrington, Brent Nightingale (Geilston Bay High) Pat Fullerton (P).

Saturday: We arrived around 11.00am and headed to Wolf Hole. The large party took some considerable time to descend the ladder and Stuart took a small group on a brief tour of the cave.

When the party assembled, we made our way to Lake Pluto. As it was a large party and we anticipated a slow ladder pitch, we returned to the foot of the ladder. The egress took about 2½ hours, including one person who piked part way up.

Sunday: Most of the party did a lengthy tour of Entrance Cave, including high level passages, both streamways and the waterfall. As some of the people were tired we returned to the cars early. Our bridge game? was disturbed by a shower of gravel from a rapidly driven Renault. The party then split into the various cars for the return journey, some going straight home while other loitered.

Tony Culberg.

HASTINGS AREA - 1-2/11/75.

Saturday: As for T.C's report except that I went bug-hunting along the track and returned to help belay party out of Wolf Hole.

Sunday: Most of the party decided to visit Entrance Cave, however, Therese and Bill Nicholson opted for King George V Cave and after accompanying the party to the entrance of Entrance (oh Boy) returned to the Renault. Suitable lumps of wood along the track to Entrance were examined for bugs on the return walk but not much

was found. Bill did an exciting variation of an Indian War Dance after being bitten by a large bull-ant. The resultant stinging was soon stopped by the application of bracken fern sap - an old bushman's remedy - which works! War was waged against the bull-ant's home from a safe distance by pelting it with rocks and we then continued. Back to Hastings and up to King George. Numerous freshly fallen trees across the track made it more like an obstacle course, however, the entrance was reached and Bill was allowed 5 mins. of confusion looking for the well-camouflaged hole. The ladder was rigged and we descended. Bug-hunting in the entrance chamber resulted in the bottling of two large harvestmen spiders. Further along, the graffiti from the early 1900's was examined, then on into the main stream chamber. Here, three more harvestmen were collected (different from previous catch) by Therese, and Bill wandered around admiring the formation and picking up spent flash-bulbs. These, plus other rubbish, were removed from the cave. Time was running out so we regretfully exited and bolted (well almost) back along the track. A rapid change of clothes and back to the quarry to pick up the Entrance party.

Reshuffling of passengers and the arrival of parents of one of the party to help with the transport, resulted in a more comfortable return journey for all.

Quote of the trip:- "I have not got my hand on your drumstick"!

Therese Goede.

JUNEE-FLORENTINE - 8-9/11/75.

Party: Therese Goede (A/L), Stuart Nicholas, Andrew and Ros Skinner, Bill Nicholson, Brent Nightingale (P), Peter Watts plus LEM.

Saturday: Stuart took the bulk of the party up the landslip to scrub-bash looking for the elusive "big" hole. Therese stayed at Maydena for the woodchop events & ended up giving Max Jeffries a hand with "money-taking". Ros enjoyed an easy day at the "Homestead". Stuart & company found nought on Wherrett's & after returning Peter and Andrew to the "Homestead", Stuart, Bill and Brent returned to Hobart.

Those left, were invited to a barbecue by one of the local axemen, which was very much appreciated. After much food, intoxicating beverages, more food etc. etc., we returned to the "Homestead" with Max and "Bronny" (Michael Bronfield) in pursuit. Much philosophical discussion followed while bottles were emptied, & although Max made it home Bronny flaked on the sofa (fortunately he had brought his sleeping bag).

Sunday: The alarm went at 7.30am and groans were heard from Bronny & Andrew. After breakfast, Therese and Peter went to Max's to see if there were any starters for Sunday caving & and to receive an expected phone call. Max & Tin were also suffering and both piked on joining Laurie for some scrub-bashing near "The Gap". Eventually, Laurie and Bronny took to the scrub and Therese and Peter headed for the Florentine and Beginners Luck, where some rope needed retrieving, & Therese wanted to search in the Wonguano entrance for bugs. Peter obligingly sat in solemn silence while Therese hunted and a profitable three hours were spent collecting some more "crawlies". The dead wombat is "no more" but some very interesting growths of mold and fungus were noted on the remains which are now well spread out along the passage. The rope was collected & a hole pointed out earlier by Max was looked at & prospects discussed - but exploration was left for another day. The rain returned and we hurriedly changed and left. Called in at Max's but he was out. Phyllis provided scones & drinks before the drive home - many thanks.

Therese Goede.

EXIT CAVE - IDA BAY - 15-16/11/75.

Party: Albert Goede, Andrew Skinner, Tony Culberg, Pat Fullerton, Ruth Stephenson, Cliff Ollier and Peter Watts.

Purpose:- to assist Cliff in the preparation of his submission for N.P.W.S. concerning forestry activities.

"AH:" "AH, YES" "AH, YES WELL" "AH, NO:" "YES, MY SON"

Happenings:- It will be noted that the trip had many of the club "heavies", the president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer and sub-officers. The party finally assembled at the late hour of 1.30pm at the log bridge. Cliff, Albert & Andrew went to look at where the D'Entrecasteaux bifurcates and at where the Exit creek branch sinks. The rest of the party made their way to Camp I after noting that the gate was not padlocked properly and visiting a short side branch that ended in a deep puddle of water under some lovely straws.

We left our packs at Camp I and visited the Harmer Passage. We didn't know its name but we'd found the markers when we were looking for the way out last time in a flood. We oohed and ahed and said tourist type things. Got to the "end" only to find out later that you could get through that little hole. Photographed on the way back and then headed through the talus to Edie's Treasure. (Pat's opinion of the talus is best left unmentioned) There, we took more photographs then returned to Camp I. The remainder of the party were there by then.

After tea, all but Pat and Tony returned to Harmer Passage to have a look thru the squeeze. Andrew finally got through without taking his clothes off. It was well worth getting through. A lot of time could be spent looking in there but we were all getting a bit tired. Back to Camp I by 10.10pm and to bed.

After a leisurely start at 11.00am the whole party made its way to the section known as "The Colonnades" and then up to "The Ballroom". Both areas were photographed. Albert then led us down the backway to the talus and also showed us some alternate ways through sections of the talus. We noticed the high level of a recent flood. It had reached the roof in an area with the head channel between the talus and Mini Martin. There was fresh vegetable debris 6 metres above the creek at Inner Base Camp. We continued through to the Grand Fissure where the party then divided. Pat and Tony visited the Chamber of Damocles and then began to head out to the daylight. The rest of the party went up the Western Grand Fissure and thru Keller's Squeeze. We looked at avens, found millipedes & found the Acoustic Fissure before it was time to head back, if Ruth was going to get to the cars at the same time as Pat and Tony.

On the way back, Cliff picked up a big bone. All returned to Inner Base Camp. Albert, Andrew and Cliff stayed to look at Edie's Treasure while Ruth and Peter returned to Camp I. Ruth then left and caught Pat & Tony en route to the car. Lucky people left in the cave for another day - wish it had rained!

Ruth Stephenson
Tony Culberg.

EXIT AREA - 30/11/75.

A party of five visited the Exit area on Sunday 30th to continue cutting the new route to the cave. The party consisted of Roy Skinner, Andrew Skinner, ? Forster and another chap who'll have to forgive me for forgetting his name. The party had a somewhat late start but a fair amount of work was done. Progress was assisted greatly by the presence of three chain-saws which proved their worth. Anyone that is intending to go to Exit in the near future is asked to use this track to break it in. Another trip is planned for the following weekend and it is hoped that the whole route will be completed.

Laurie Moody.

ENTRANCE CAVE - 15/11/75.

Party: Therese Goede (A/L), Bill Nicholson, G. Harrington (TCC), Dr. Aola Richards (Zoologist Uni. of NSW), Garry Haigh (N.P.W.S).

Happenings:- water sampling & insect collecting.

FLORENTINE AREA - 16/11/75.

Happenings:- Tour of A.N.M. area around Westfield Rd; Beginners Luck area; Cashion Creek Cave - insect collecting. Both trips were for the benefit of Dr. Richards who is doing an ecological study. Thanks are due to Bill & Gordon who assisted on the trip. - Therese Goede.

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MAD - BUT IT HELPS!"