

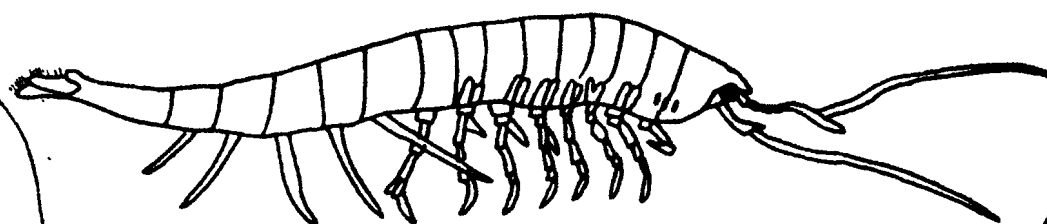
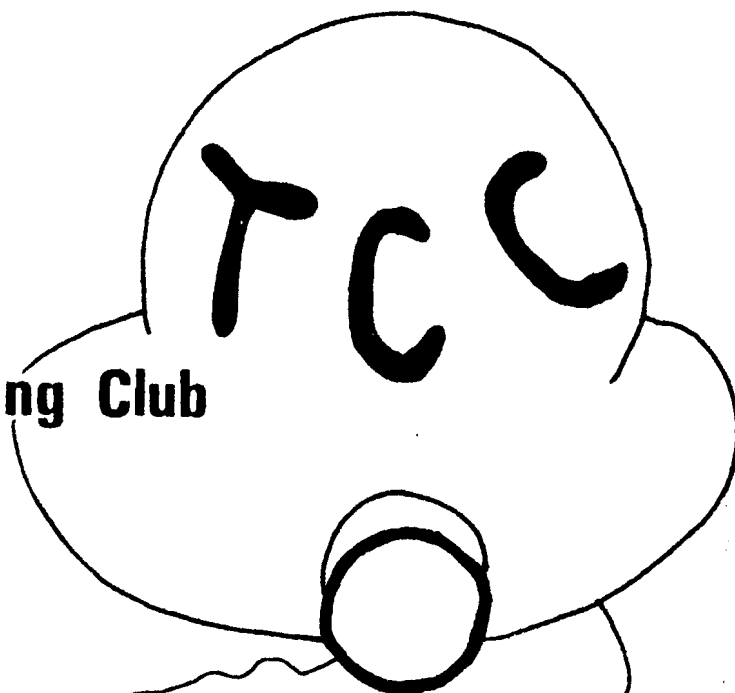
SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the

Tasmanian Caverneering Club

Feb. 1975

No. 109



Tasmanian mountain shrimp
(Anaspides tasmaniae)

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

SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$3.00

Single copy 30 cents.

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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

February 7-8 - Weld River:- Leader: Albert Goede
 February 14-15 - Khazad-dum:- Leader: Stuart Nicholas
 February 21-22 - Kubla Khan:- Leaders: Andrew Skinner & Tony Culberg
 February 21 - Junee Area:- To investigate 20m shaft found Jan. 31st. Looks
 good - could be more. Leader: Laurie Moody
 Feb-March 28-1 - Long Weekend Trip to Exit - Labyrinth. Leader: Andrew Skinner
 March 3 - General Meeting:- 1 Randall Street, Sandy Bay. I have been in-
 structed to advise you that no apologies will be accepted - be
 there!
 March 6-7 - Herberts Pot:- Leader: Peter Shaw
 March 13-14 - Maydena Area:- Leader: Tony Culberg

APPROACHING EVENTS.

April 17-20 - EASTER - Exit. Leader: Adrian Davey (VSA)
 May 1-2 - Search & Rescue Exercise. More news next issue.
 May - Date to be announced. Either an extended stay in Exit or
 a week on Maria Island. Leaders: Skinner & Moody.

Editorial.

The Christmas-New Year period saw very little in the way of speleological activ-
 ity. However, the end of January saw a mass invasion of the Junee-Florentine by
 one of the largest parties to visit the area for some time. A promise of things
 to come? Let's hope so! Although this particular trip was in a tourist vein, two,
 no - three discoveries were made. The hole that I discovered in November was duly
 investigated and went - nowhere, a 20m shaft was located and this looks good, and
 a small cave in the Florentine was investigated and despite an obstacle which has
 yet to be negotiated - has two promising leads beyond. There are a number of
 trips in the near future and to a variety of areas. Give the trip leaders support
 and go along. Incidentally, TCC needs a blood transfusion! If you know of anyone
 who might be interested in caving - bring them along to the next meeting. You can
 assure them of a good welcome!

Annual General Meeting.

Members are reminded that the A.G.M. will be held at 8pm on Wednesday, 31st of
 March. As this is a particularly important meeting all those who can possibly
 make it should attend. Maydena Branch members are also asked to attend if at all
 possible.

As is the common practice, the A.G.M. will be held at 8 Bath Street, Battery Pt.

ASF NEWS: The club has received a letter from the Editor of the ASF Newsletter
 asking that a delegate be nominated to supply club news for the Down
 Under All Over series. If a member could volunteer to carry out this important
 task it would be appreciated. The Summer issue is now at the printers and features
 an article on the Junee-Florentine.

FLYING SAUCERSSECRET BASES HIDDEN UNDERGROUND.

UFO bases underground, may sound a little far fetched but there is a mounting store of evidence suggesting that this might well be true. The clues that sparked off the new theory stem from the ancient legends about dwarfs and goblins who lived underground. When Dr. Morris Jessup, a famous US UFOlogist, began searching for the links between "little men from flying saucers" AND THE LITTLE MEN OF LEGEND, amazing facts began to emerge.

Dr. Jessup started thinking that he was on the right track while studying the cave systems in Europe and South America that were linked with stories of "mini men". He found that most of them were carved out by highly skilled masons between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago, in fact, the glaze on the walls indicate that a type of laser beam was used, so it would be stupid to think that they were fashioned by primitive cave-men.

This might have remained a matter of speculation but for some discoveries made recently by Chinese archaeologists investigating caves on the border of China and Tibet. They uncovered an incredible collection of discs dating back at least some 12,000 years. They had holes and grooves like gramophone records and when electrically charged - vibrated violently.

The world's experts have so far failed to work out what they are but they refute the possibility of them being made by primitive cave-men. Who-ever inhabited the cave must have been highly developed. That conclusion, reached by the archaeologists made the next discovery all the more intriguing. Not far from the discs, they found the skeletons of many men - all no more than four feet tall with huge craniums.

French archaeologist, Henri Lette, stumbled onto and up to this time, unsuspected cave system in the Sahara and was amazed to find beautifully executed frescoes depicting men in space suits, similar to those found in Japan, Russia and Australia.

At the time, the doctor was careful to avoid speculation except to wonder how such similar pictures came to be scattered so widely around the world. Then it hit him - the common denominator was caves and he began checking modern UFO sightings more carefully. The facts tell their own story; of the UFO's sighted, an incredible number have been near caves or extensive underground workings.

One report had special significance for him. Two miners who claimed to have seen a saucer land near a mine in Caledonia, Canada, said that three small men emerged and they were all wearing hats similar to those worn by miners, with amber lights at the peak.

Another mine, another UFO, but to date, thousands of sightings have been reported in similar regions, including N.S.W. and Queensland.

Dr. Jessup's theory would certainly explain the strange markings high in the Andes and other mountainous regions of South America. Though many of thousands of years old, they are clearly directional signs and can only be seen from the air. His idea is supported by the fact that inexplicable electrical humming noises have been heard from caves in the area.

And they are not just the imaginings of local natives. Experienced speleologists, who have delved in the depths of the world's deepest caves, have reported hearing strange hums and babbling sounds like people talking. But keeping to facts which seem to support the "men from underground" theory, here are three that are real enough, though all hard to explain. First there is the extreme purity of the air in most caves. Some are totally devoid of any pollen dust or any other pollutants, for which there can only be two explanations. Either there is a reservoir of pure air inside the earth or the air is pumped in! How and by whom? Second; there are the vertical shafts often many kilometres long rising from the bowels of the earth which are as smoothly polished as shot-gun barrels, and are completely straight and symmetrical. It is reasonable to believe that they could be entrances to some vast underground complex.

Could this explain why -

- vast areas of land are sinking into the earth?
- such places Devil's Triangle exist? Ships and planes CANNOT be sucked into a solid. Maybe this is how air is pumped into the earth. The air being filtered by the water would become extremely pure.

AMATEURS CAVE

Gunns Plains, Tas.

EXPLORED TCC/NC 17.5.75

PLAN VIEW ASF GRADE 21

DEPTH 30 METRES LENGTH 100 METRES

DRAWN A.D.SKINNER 26.1.76

ASF SYMBOLS

⬡ BLOCKS

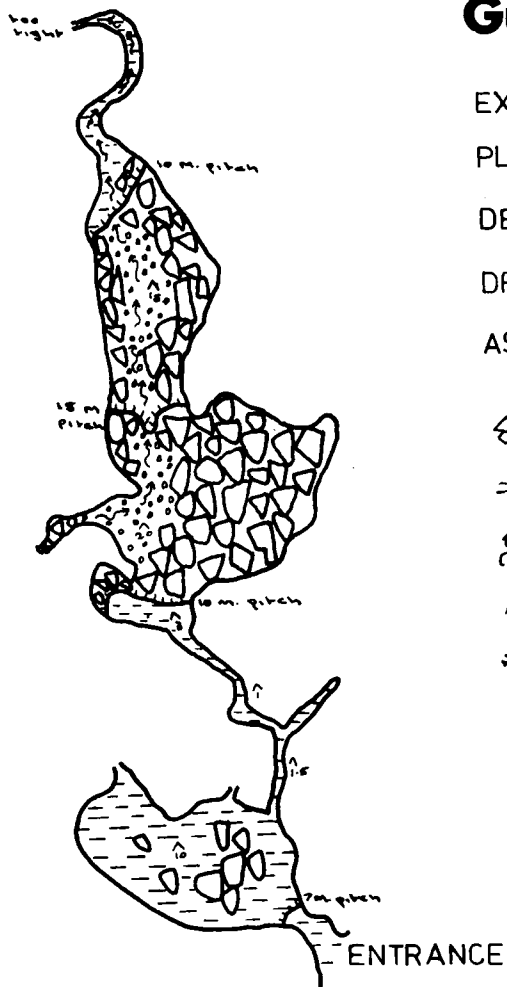
≡ MUD

§ STREAM

△ ROOF HEIGHT (METRES)

↗ PITCH

• GRAVEL



0 20 METRES



MALODOROUS CAVE

Mole Creek, Tas.

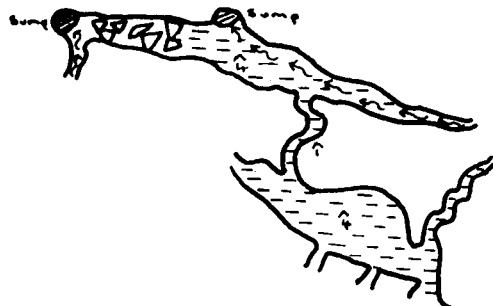
EXPLORED TCC 30-5-75

PLAN VIEW ASF GRADE 21

DRAWN A.D.SKINNER 26-1-76

LENGTH 60 METRES

RESURGENCES



SINK

SINK

ENTRANCES

0 20 METRES



(The above article was taken from "Insight" magazine which is the magazine of the School Investigations Committee of Aerial Phenomena). Compliments of Therese Goede.

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by Albert Goede.

The deputy leader of the expedition, Andrew Bavis, and his wife, made a lightning visit to Tasmania for a quick look at Exit Cave. A number of Hobart cavers were able to see a selection of slides of the activities of the expedition.

Wilde, K.A., 1975: Preliminary results from the British Speleological Exped. to Papua New Guinea, *Nuigini Caver* 3 (4), 109-110.

by Albert Goede.

In Mystery Creek Cave, three specimens of a new cave-adapted species of harvestman were discovered by Therese Goede who accompanied Aola Richards on a collecting trip. The specimens have been identified by Glenn Hunt of the Australian Museum as

belonging to a new species of the genus Loricella. It is similar to but not the same as another new cave-adapted species discovered five years ago, also by Therese, in King George V Cave at Hastings.

The three specimens she collected were all females and before a species can be described, specimens of both sexes should be known, so Therese is going back to Mystery Creek Cave to hunt for males!

In Exit Cave, Cliff Ollier found a large fossil bone lying on a sloping slab of limestone about 5 metres past Kellers Squeeze at the beginning of the Camp Pie Circuit. The bone was identified by Peter Murray as part of an extinct browsing kangaroo, belonging to the genus Sthenurus. These animals stood up to 2.5 metres tall and were considerably larger and more massive than the Forester Kangaroo. The bone is in a beautiful state of preservation and a thin coating of cemented sandy sediment on the outside suggests that it comes from a cave fill. A fresh fracture at one end of the bone indicates that it was recently broken. We suspect that some caver found it sticking out of the cave sediment in the vicinity and broke it off. It was probably carried a short distance and then left behind. A quick search in the immediate vicinity of the find was not successful and was hampered by lack of time. Albert Goode and Peter Murray would dearly love to know where this particular specimen came from. The only possible entrances into that part of the cave are vertical, as it is a long way below the surface. It is likely that the animal fell down a shaft. If the source of the bone can be found, there is an excellent chance of finding a complete skeleton. Anyone knowing anything about the source of this particular bone is asked to contact Albert.

If we don't hear from anyone in the near future, we plan to organise a search in the vicinity of the find.

TOURISM AND EXIT CAVE.

by Roy Skinner.

An assessment of comments from visitors and of my observations, indicates that my Adventure Excursions at Exit Cave are proving a link between the casual cave visitor and the sporting caverneer.

A typical reaction is that from a group of 17-18 year olds who, after having got themselves suitably muddy and done their share of slithering around slippery slopes, expressed vigorous opposition to the idea of any tourist "development" for Exit Cave.

("You can get all that from Hastings - it would take all the fun out of it")

Another from an American visitor " . . . the most exhilarating caving experience we have ever had!"

This kind of reaction expresses exactly the concept of the need for such a link, and an appreciation of a moderate alternative cave experience.

Due to dispensation of advance information, I have so far found that my clientele is automatically selective, and I am pleased to report that I have found a completely unanimous respect for, and awareness of, cave environment and ecology. An illustration of the psychological effect of a "wilderness" cave town, is that by allowing unfettered activity around the lower, stream-level sections, I have no difficulty in imposing discipline around the vulnerable formation areas where intentional or accidental damage could occur. Of course, there are not too many caves to which my brand of cave tourism can be applied, but because of its characteristics, Exit Cave is ideally suitable.

A by-product of this active participation type of cave experience is an inclination in some people to venture further, which I am sure will ultimately result in recruitment for caving groups.

It seems unlikely that the demand to visit Exit Cave will become very intense in the immediate future, and I cannot envisage a mass tourism build-up within the next say five to ten years. Meanwhile, a steadily growing nucleus of devotees will emerge who will support the interests of not only Exit but other caves which may come under threat of one kind or another.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE WOLLONGONG ASF COMMITTEE MEETING.

by Tony Culberg, Secretary ASF.

- 1) The annual capitation fee was increased to \$3.00 per full member. Of this, \$2.00 has been allocated to the ASF Newsletter.
- 2) Some constitutional amendments were passed. These were of an administrative nature only; full details are available from the Secretary.
- 3) An amount of \$300 was lent to UQSS to help publish Australian Speleology 1972.
- 4) Pat Fullerton and Tony Culberg agreed to edit Australian Speleology 1973.
- 5) An adhoc committee to produce a discussion paper on publication policy was formed - Tony Culberg and Lex Brown are running this and would like to hear from you.
- 6) Several officers, in their reports, lamented the lack of feedback from many societies & members concerning their particular tasks. In particular, the editor and the conservation secretary would like to hear of any items of interest.
- 7) Some discussion on incorporation of ASF occurred. Any people with ideas on this should let the Secretary know.
- 8) Each delegate was asked to ensure that his club discussed in depth the matters raised at the committee meeting and also to ensure that all letters etc. from ASF to clubs were discussed at meetings.
- 9) Baptist Caving Association (NSW) was voted in as a full member of ASF.

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TRIP REPORTS.
MOLE CREEK - 6-7 December, 1975.

Party: Albert Goode, Ruth Stephenson and Peter Watts.

We left Hobart on Saturday morning after searching in vain for Brent Nightingale whom we were supposed to meet at the ferry terminal. On arrival at Mole Creek, we went straight to Mersey Hill where we requested permission from Ken Miles to visit Mersey Hill Cave. Then a long walk down the hill towards the Mersey where we found the entrance without difficulty. We even found the cave number hanging precariously from one screw which goes to show that people who are in a hurry to number 100 caves don't always do it well!

Quite a bit of time was spent in the first part of the cave looking at the various side passages. We even discovered the upper level passage that goes to The Dungeon but didn't go down into it for lack of ladder.

Three years ago, I had started re-surveying the cave with field assistant, Adrian Bowden and got as far as 287 metres. The only pre-existing survey was a rather poor quality one and incomplete. It was done by a group of Launceston Rover Scouts in 1957, who surveyed 542 metres of passage.

We made our way to the end of the re-surveyed section and were surprised the piece of paper with the station no. (16) still there under a stone where it had been left some three years ago. We continued the survey using orange plastic markers with punched numbers as station markers. They were pegged down with galvanised nails. We managed to get as far as station 45, surveyed another 229 metres to bring the total length of the new survey to 516 metres. Our courage failed when we reached the Nutcracker, which is still a considerable distance from the end. There is a good chance that a complete survey of the cave will reach 1,000 metres. This makes it a major system. Rather surprising when you consider how rarely it is visited by cavers. Our survey also included a muddy side passage leading off to the left somewhere near the "Frozen Brown Waterfall". At the far end there is a beautiful white formation formed by descending water which has pools with the same crystal formations as the top of the "Snowbank" in Croesus. Unfortunately, the formation has been rather muddied. The cave tends to discourage exploration to the end as it is characterised by progressively wetter and tighter crawls - all with gravel floors which is really hard on the knees.

When we reached the Mole Creek Hut, we found three UNSWSS cavers already in possession. They were Alan Warild, Lynn and a third bod whose name I cannot remember.

They had been caving in the Mole Creek area for about a week and planned to stay a few days longer.

The following morning, Alan and Lynn kindly offered to take us to Genghis Khan, a cave none of us had seen. The track to it is rather obvious and suggests a fair amount of traffic in recent years. It is an outstanding formation cave - the helictites and aragonite clusters are really hard to beat. The three of us began an orgy of photography, kindly assisted by Alan and Lynn who had done theirs the day before. As it turned out later, the results were very satisfactory.

In the afternoon before going home, I promised Alan & Co. to show them where Herberts Pot was, as they wanted to see it. Unfortunately, I made the mistake of trying to approach it from South Mole Creek. The girls wisely stayed with the cars and Peter soon wearied of the chase, as it was rather a hot afternoon.

The remaining three of us got ourselves entangled in some really ferocious scrub with a very solid understorey of blackberries. Eventually, we found quite a sizeable creek running into a large depression which we assumed - wrongly as it turned out - to be Herberts Pot. We tried to follow down the stream but the blackberries beat us. We then attempted a circumnavigation of the doline on the theory that if it was Herberts, there ought to be an access track to the entrance. On all sides was an impenetrable mass of blackberries - a creditable imitation of the approaches to Briar Rose's castle. We did establish however, that quite a significant stream disappears underground and that it was not Herberts Pot! We eventually made our way back to the cars by means of a rather easier route. The disappearing stream is worthy of further investigation but a flamethrower is recommended. The three of us finally returned to Hobart after a pleasant and profitable weekend.

Albert Goede.

FLORENTINE - Jan. 31st-Feb. 1st.

Party: Therese Goede, Laurie Moody, Stuart Nicholas, Charles Franklin, Jim Stockton, Jill Beswick, Vincent Smith, Bill Nicholson, Brent Nightingale, Dave Martyn and Geoff (?) - from SSS, Ros and Andrew Skinner (plus Ailsa), Max Jeffries, Phillip Voss, Michael Bromfield and "Boo-boo" (?), MBTCC.

Sat: Looked at a hole that Laurie had found some time before. Prospects good but gear necessary and this had been left at the car, so it was decided to postpone investigations. Proceeded to Welcome Stranger Cave so the Sydneyites could indulge in a spot of photography. Emerged after 3½ hours and headed for Cashion Creek Cave, where we met up with Vincent, Jill and Jim. Did Cashion Creek and then went and had a quick look at some holes Max had found. Spent the night at the Homestead and Len returned to Hobart with the Sydney beds and Stuart and Charles did likewise.

Sun: Overcast and rain threatened. The proposed trip up to K-D was discarded and while Therese decided to go to Beginners Luck, most of the party decided to visit the caves near the Scott's Peak Dam. However, due to the perverseness of one Vincent they never made it. Beginners Luck was enjoyed by those that went there. Returned home late Sunday after a slightly mad but enjoyable weekend.

Therese Goede.

IDA BAY - February 4th. (Mystery Creek Cave)

Party: Therese Goede, Bill Nicholson, Brent Nightingale, Tony Ware, Jim Stockton and Stuart Nicholas.

Quick trip in to introduce Tony to caving, catch males of the Loranella species and help Bill make up for not having been caving for months! Two harvestmen were caught and hopefully they are 'men'. Thanks are due to Stuart who took the others caving while Therese bug-hunted.

Therese Goede.

SPACE FILLER:

Tony Culberg advises members that he has a limited number of copies of AUSTRALIAN NATURAL HISTORY - Special Issue - Australian Caves. If you would like a copy contact Tony quickly before you miss out. Price: \$1.40.