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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

Herberts Pot:- Leader: Peter Shaw. March 6-7 March 6-7 Exit Cavo: Loader: Albert Goede.

- Maydena (School Trip):- Leader:- Tony Culberg. March 13-14

Junce (Gap area): - Leader: Lauric Moody. March 14

- Ida Bay: - Leader: ? ? ? - Marble Hill - Thun Junction Gave. Harch 20 - Armual General Moeting:- Due to unforeseen circumstances, the March 24

venue for this meeting has been changed. PLEASE MOTE - it will now be held at 13 Hason Street, Claremont at 8.00pm. SHARP. Members including those at Maydena are asked to attend.

Hastings:- To finish off survey of Wolfhole. Leaders: Madrew April 3-4

Skirmer and Laurie Moody.

Search & Rescue Exercise at Herberts Pot. Mole Creek. (tentative May I-2

Maria Island Trip:- If interested see Laurie Moody or Andrew May 22-27 Skirner.

Editorial.

There is nothing startling to report but the year is under way and the coming programme is full of things to do. It is great to see that Peter Watts has been hard at work assisting in organising the approaching search and rescue exercise which is to be held early in May. This is one aspect that has long needed some attention. It has also been suggested that a training weekend be held at Maydena to assist numbers of our Maydona Branch to familiarise themselves with caving methods etc. Another demanding issue which has again reared its ugly head, is that of cave mis-use! A more detailed report concerning caves in question and damage can be read on Page 5. However, I feel that attention must be drawn to the fact that nost current danage is being caused by cavers themselves, usually through thoughtlessness and negligence. How about taking a little extra care when you go caving next! Another point to pender on while we're on this subject - is 'popular' caves! Are they becoming too popular? Thy is it that cavers prefer to visit these wellknown caves time after time? This, I feel, is one thing that leads to mis-use of a cave - think about it!

NEW LEGIBER.

Ross Bridges - velcome to the nob. I have yet to get your address but will publish it next issue.

CHAMGE OF ADDRESS.

Ruth Stephenson, Elimbah, Queensland. 4516.

REMEMBER - CHANGE OF VENUE - AGM - 13 MASON STEETS, CLAREFORT - MAICH 24th - 8.00PM.

"OPERATION FERRET"

CAVE SHARCH & RESCUE EXERCISE.

When? I-2 MAY, 1976. Where? Herberts Pot, Mole Creek.

This exercise will be a combined operation involving Northern Caverneers, the Southern Caving Society, Tasmanian University Mountaineering Club, Climbers Club of Tasmania, Police Search & Rescue Unit and the Tasmanian Caverneering Club. The aim of this exercise is to acquaint people with Search & Rescue methods and also to test the Police Alpine winch under cave conditions. The initial "call-out" will be made by the Northern Caverneers, who, after having rigged the pitch and placed a bod to act as "casualty", a reasonable distance from the bottom of the pitch, will, be helped in removing the "casualty" from the cave by police and other cavers. At the end of the practical section of the exercise, a conference will be held which will last at least one hour.

Forsons attending will use their own personal caving equipment. Ropes & ladders will be provided by the clubs and special equipment - radios, winch and stretcher - will be provided by the police. Cavers will have to supply their own food - as for a normal weekend - as well as camping gear and tents. A camp will be set up in the vicinity of Herberts Fot. Transport will be provided by the police and will leave Hobart and Bollerive Police Stations.

Interested persons are asked to contact Feter Watts, 22 Raymont Terrace, Hount Stuart or phone 28 3074.

SEARCH & RESCUE LISTING - TCC, FEBRUARY, 1976.

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47 8676 (H)
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                   16 Nelumie St; Lindisfarme, 43 8546 (H)
Culberg, Tomy
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                   8 Bath St; Battery Point.
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                                                98 3137 (H)
Rushton, Graham
                   Hastings Caves.
                                                23 5380 (H)
Skirmer, Andrew
                   1 Randall St; Sandy Bay.
                                                             30 2336 (V)
                                               28 3074 (H)
Watts, Peter
                   22 Raymont Tce: Mt. Stuart.
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REMEMBER - CHANCE OF VIEWE - AGM - 24th. MARCH - 13 MASON ST: CLARETOMY - 8.00PM.

INTEL OF DETERMINE.

Saw a rather good documentary on TV the other night. It featured Colossal Cave in Arizona, USA. The filming was rather well done and the cave lighting must have been rather pleasing as far as the producer was concerned. The filming was set around the exploits of two outlaws who held up a train in the latter part of the last century. They acquired gold and money worth \$65,000 (US) and were forced to leave the money and gold in a section of Colossal Cave known as Bandits Cave. One of the outlaws was killed in the process and the other was later captured. The "loot" was hever found and the search still continues. The programme was "Trails to Alventure" and was shown at 5.45pm. on 2/3/76 on Channel Two. A repent of this programme would be well worth seeing if someone could arrange it! Is any—one able to do this? Len.

A LETTER.

It has been sometime since we have published something concerning the conservation scene. Admittedly, there are a number of najor items going on in Tasmania at the present, namely the quarting of red granite at Coles Bay and the Bond Bay airstrip issue to name a couple. However, in or about June last year, Roy Skinner presented me with a copy of a letter which he (Roy) wrote to Mr. Michael Auden, who is the Research Officer for the Tasmanian Environment Centre. Due to a lack of space at that particular time, the letter was "filed" and eventually forgotten. Then, whilst looking for an article for this month's Spiel, I happened to re-locate this letter of Roy's. It hereby appears below -

"Dear Sir,

Referring to the three areas of impact by tourism on the environment mentioned in your memorandum of May 22, I wish to make the following comments.

As a former Superintendent of Hastings Caves I am bost qualified to comment on areas of high density tourist usage of "improved" natural facilities and to pass on the conclusions drawn from experience and observations over a twenty year period. Further, I am able to refer to comparisons made with similar high density usage areas interstate and overseas. I would suggest that as Mecreational areas, such as national parks, will certainly be subjected to visitation by ever increasing numbers of people, established facilities such as tourist caves should be regarded as very important areas of study into visitor behaviour, environmental impact, presentation and interpretation of natural features, and supervision/custodianship.

The question of roads in wilderness areas is another matter and one about which my knowledge and experience is limited. As a generalisation however, I will say that these should be minimal and that the same conditions as suggested in the

following paragraphs can and should be applicable.

The original formulation of national parks philosophy that led to the establishment of the world's first national park, Yellowstone in U.S.A. in 1872. was concerned with the setting aside of areas of outstanding natural werit for the enjoyment of the population in perpetuity, and the retention of these areas in as mear as possible their natural condition. Although these whose far-sightedness achieved their goal, they perhaps underestimated the extreme visitor pressure to which national parks were to become subjected to in the relatively short span of one hundred years, particularly with the advent of and universal acceptance of the motor car enabling vast numbers of people to reach formerly remote areas easily. However, despite the enormous demands presently made on national parks in the U.S.A. my observations forced me to conclude that the vision of the founders of the national park concept has been fully vindicated and admirably interpreted by the custodians of national parks in that country, and I attribute this to two factors, head and shoulders above all others - the high esteen in which the National Park Service is held by the general public, and the enthusiasm and dedication of Service personnel in the field. I believe this is the key to all problems of environmental protection of tourist areas.

How do we achieve these two objectives in Tasmania? I believe in two ways. Firstly, to arrive at a situation where the National Parks and Wildlife Service is regarded as the highly responsible and benevolent custodian of our natural environment, it must be seen that, equally with being a group of highly qualified specialists carrying out a programme of environmental and ecological endeavour, it has a commitment to leadership in the field of public recreation. Mational parks are created primarily for people, not as vast ecological laboratories. We have wonderful apportunities these days, through the media, to reach the widest possible audionce to put the message of national parks across to thousands of people who have never consciously thought about the basic reasons for the setting up of national parks. The only occasions when the M.P.W.S. receive television coverage for instance. are when controversial subjects arise and the Service is called upon to defend its attitude. Instead of this negative kind of projection, surely the image of the Service would be greatly enhanced by a series of positive media presentations interpreting its role in various fields of activity and exhibiting instructional naterial on park use by the public. If thoughtfully done, the public will respond with a higher regard for recreational areas amounting almost to reverrence and to violation of park rules as sacrilegious. There is no reason why this image of benevolence and public

service should set a pattern for other ostensibly environmentally oriented instrumentalities such as the Forestry Department, Lands Department, H.E.C., Local Government etc., but the N.P.V.S. should be the trend-setters.

Secondly, is to carry the message into the field. Selection of park rangers is of utnost importance. These people are the grass roots of any national park organisation. They are the ones who are in constant contact with visitors and are the immediate custodians of their respective areas. It is vitally important that they must be seen by all visitors and that they must be seen to be dedicated to their vocation in every respect. They must be conscientious litter wardens. I have found that if an area is immaculate at the start of a day, it tends to remain largely that way, provided of course that adequate means of disposal are available. Also that some attention is drawn to its availability and that personnel are conspicuous in their efforts to politely but firmly insist upon proper means of disposal. What is trong with vigorous advertising for park rangers in the same way as that for the Army or Police Force? It is my firm belief that in the past, too little attention has been paid to recruitment of really suitable park personnel, that their role is not given adequate status and that too little effort has gone into maintaining their morale. The image of a park ranger should be that of a highly competent, dedicated, well-informed but always approachable guardian of a park environment.

A third point I might make, is the provision of Visitor Centres at all national parks. These are essential as an introductory and interpretive facility; and as a focal point for visitor congregation and the dispensation of information. range of interpretive and informative natorial to be available is unlimited. These are a feature of outstanling value at all Now Zoaland national parks and fulfil a most necessary function. A park ranger should be in attendance at all times. The destruction of flora and fauna by walkers does not seen to me a major problem. The use of fireards is prohibited and with the exception of destruction by fire, I believe that flora destruction under normal circumstances is unlikely to be perpetrated to any significant degree by tourist visitation. But again, education of the public and regular ranger patrol and example should create respect for the environmont. I think this kind of potential damage to the environment should be kept in persepective. There are those who tend to over-react to the impact of tourism on the environment. Intense visitor traffic will be restricted to the more easily accossable areas, and the application of the steps I have outlined should ensure a reasonable degree of protection.

Trends in society are changing rapidly and at an accelerating rate. The value of recreational areas is increasingly recognised. Even the philosophy of the validity of expension of connercial and industrial enterprise is being closely scrutinised in many quarters, and problems associated with this philosophy are nowhere more evident than in Tasmania. Thilst I don't see the growth of tourism as the answer to all our problems, it will certainly escalate. Because of this escalation, the impact on the environment should be cushioned and planning for cushioning the impact should be our impodiate concern.

Unfortunately, all societies contain a minority of irresponsible and anti-social elements and inevitably these elements find their vay to recreational areas from time to time. Therefore, some desceration of the environment is inevitable, but it can be kept to a minimum by constant vigilance and intelligent public enlighterment. At the same time, it must be recognised that society consists of individuals of the widest possible range of intellectual capacity and comprehension, and that many in the lower stratum, even the illiterate and inarticulate can be expected to visit a matical park and other recreational areas, so let us not aim only at those more fortunately enlowed. Provision, as in Government, must be made to identify with the entire range of human limitations and capabilities.

Roy Skinner"

REMERBER - AGM - CHAUGE OF VEHUE - 24th. MARCH AT 13 MASON STREET, CLAUTIONT - SPM.

FEE STRUCTURE 1976-77.

Full Membership ST Iovy \$3.00

TCC levy \$4.00

\$7.00 per individual

Family Membership \$10.00
Junior Membership \$ 4.00
Entry Fee \$ 2.00

Subscription Spiel \$ 4.00

Associate Membership \$4-00

All above rates will be effective from Ist. April, 1976.

REMEMBER - AGM - CHANCE OF VEHUE - 24th. MARCH - 13 MASON STITHET, CLAREMONT - 8.00PM.

CAVE USAGE AND ABUSE.

It has come to my notice that three of our prized caves are or have been, subject to vanishism of late. The caves, Exit, Kuble Khan and Genghis Khan have apparently been vanishised. Apparently Exit was entered by persons unknown and initials now decorate the wall at Camp One. Damage has also been noted along the river passage at Kubla while in Genghis, decoration has suffered. If this causes you to shudder, then you can't be guilty! However, someone is! Admittedly, two of these caves are the focal points of interest to all cavers whether local or interstate and both have been so well-known that everybody and his dog knows where they are. Kubla, according to reliable information, has been relegated to the status of a 'training cave'! How does that grab you? Apparently a certain school concern is introducing caving into its sports programme and it's said that if you can do Kubla you're pretty good! Genghis, so I am told, has an extremely well-defined track leading to the entrance—you just cant miss it! Woefull to say the least. I am hoping that this brief article will draw attention to the fact that suggestions, information and advice will be forthcoming by the next issue of Spiel. Anyone who can assist in this extremely urgent matter is asked to contact the Editor at your earliest convenience.

TRIP REPORTS.

JUHEN ARMA - 14/2/76...

Party: Tony Culharg, Stuart Nicholas, Pat Fullerton, (TCC) Mirian Davey, Rude Frank (VSA), Ross Bridges (NST).

The party gathered at the ANM gate and after studying the clouds (thick and black) made its way up to Khozad-dun after first having to get the key for the gate which is now securely locked. At the track, much discussion ensued about the weather and it was decided not to attempt the cave. At this point, Ross and Stuart decided to go back to Hebart while the rest of us went to the SLIP, which is now dry and firm. Our visitors remarked upon the quantities of mud involved in this earth nowing exercise. Some photographs were taken. At the top of the slip, we made our way to the stream alias TocCook Folly and loseemided a shaft about 10m beyond the stream. The shaft proved to be about 25m deep. We then continued around the contact some way seeing many delines but no provising entrances. We hade our way back to the creek and checked out one other hole, between the creek and the slip. This hale went to about 25 - 30m also. It would seem that all the holes cheke off at about this depth. Which, is rather disappointing. We also found that the limestone is very fracile as a chunk that Tony was sitting on after he had prussiked out of a hole disintergrated. Fortunately, he was still attached to the rope. Adrian had been sitting on this same piece of rock minutes earlier taking photos of Tony as he prussiked out without a belay:

We important now points about the Junee-Florentine should be noted -

- a) the gate on Juneo Quarry Road now requires a key
- b) the rack at the top of the SLIP is fragile

Pat Fullerton.

IDA BAY - 15/2/76.

Party: Tony Culberg (L), Stuart Hicholas, Pat Fullerton, (TCC), Alrian Davey, Rudi Frank (VSA).

Aim: a pleasant day.

The party arrived at Entrance parking lot at 10.00am and set off for Midnight Hole. This was reached by 11.30am and the party entered the cave, with Adrian leading the first pitch. We negotiated all 5 pitches with Adrian taking shots at various points. On the last pitch, Rudy stopped several times to fire the flash for Adrian who was standing at the bottom. The party then crawled through Matchbox Squeeze and walked out through Entrance Cave, arriving back at the cars by 3.50pm after a most enjoyable trip.

Pat Fullerton.

JUNEE-FLORENTINE - 21/2/76.

Party: Laurie & Louise Moody, Hugh King, Max Jeffries.

After a somewhat belated type start, we arrived at Maydena around IO.00am. We only had one starter from our Maydena Branch and in due course, the small party arrived at the pot which had been located on our last trip to the area below the Gap. Location had been relatively easy and yours truly was the first to descend after the two ladders had been rigged. However, I wasn't very enthusiastic about two large rocks which appeared to be sitting rather precariously beside the ladder, some 5 metres or so down. Before vacating the premises, I did notice that a small hole lead our at the bottom of the 12 metre pitch.

Max descended and after inspecting the two rocks, declared that they were a little more stable than they looked. Hugh then followed suit and the hole was investigated. It proved to be about 3-4 metres long and choked off.

The party then returned to the vehicle, scrub-bashing en route, found nothing and then had a quick lunch. We then headed off into the Florentine on the off-chance of locating a hole which had been noted by John Miller. It was supposedly at the end of a spur road running off the F9 road. However, our efforts to locate it were unsuccessful. We did find a large deline but alas - no hole! As Max had only a rough idea of the exact position, we decided to give it a miss and head for Stan Murrays Road on the Vest Florentine. Clearing had begun in this area and we had some difficulty in locating JF84 which had been numbered on a previous occasion. This cave was duly investigated for further leads as there had been quite a bit of water in this cave when it had been numbered. Surprisingly, the water was not much lower than before. Nothing eventuated. Further scrub-bashing to the north of this cave led us to a recent find by Max. It was a small cave in the side of a small rise, with a single chamber and a little decoration. We then scrub-bashed our way back to the car but no further finds were forthcoming.

Finally, just to show Hugh that not all caves are wet, muddy, miserable and lacking in decoration, a quick visit was made to Cashion Creek Cave and we are glad to say that he was reasonably impressed.

Laurie Moody.

REMEMBER - AGM - CHANGE OF VENUE - 13 MASON STREET, CLAUFTONT - MARCH 24th. - 8.00PM.

SEARCH & RESCUE LISTING - IF YOUR NAME IS HISSING - LET HE KNOW BY NEXT ISSUE:

T.C.C. GEAR REPORT.

Gear in quarternaster's store at 3/3/76.

- 1 x 91 netro Blue Water 300ft.) owned by a small group
- 2 x 45 notre Blue Water 150ft.) of club members
- 2 x 30 metre Terylone 100ft.
- 2 x 16 metre Torylone 60ft.
- 5 x 50 33 metre No.4 laid mylon rope 100 -120ft.
- 1 x 19 metre No.4 laid mylon rope 70 ft.
- 5 x 9.2 metre No.4 laid hylon rope 30ft.
- 5 x 9.2 metro fadders Club Made
- 1 x 4 notre fadder
- I x 3.5 netre labler "
- 3 x 9.2 metre ladders Bornick
- 8 x I 2.5 notre headers
- 6 x krabs (various types)
- 1 only wet cell cap lamp
- 15 only tube type rope protectors) various
- 3 only mat type rope protectors) lengths

Bolting coar:- one 31b. harmer, 5 only star drills (various sizes), 2 only bolts and plates.

- 8 only Army type cear packs
- 3 only cylindrical ladder bags virtually usoless
 - 2 only carbide lamps, spares and approx. 501b. carbide.

Motos.

- One of the Borrick ladders is suspect and has been withdrawn from the store.
- One of the 33 netro laid mylon ropes has been cut into shorter lengths due to the fact that it was badly chopped in two places.
- I believe there are two 9.2 metre ladders on lean to the Maydena Branch, bring-ing the total owned by the club to seven.
- The battery charger is also at my place along with a set of tools to fit the Oldham Theat cap lamps, so if your lamp meets any repairs let me have it and I will attempt to fix it.
- If you need goar, please ring up first on 28 3054 to ensure that it is in the store otherwise you may waste a trip to my place.

Stuart Nicholas, Q.M.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1975-76.

The past twelve months have not been a particularly active time for the club. In an annual report three years ago, I commented on the fact that too many club trips were difficult ones and there was not enough variety to suit all tastes. During the last year, the reverse has been true. Most trips have been tourist trips to the same old caves and the challenge of exploration has not really been not and there has been a marked lack of enthusiasm. There are many projects the club could tackle. Many worthwhile caves still need surveying. Exit Cave provides an excellent challenge — could we once again make it the longest cave in the Southern Memisphere — only systematic survey and exploration will tell. Don't say that it's too difficult to get to the cave — thanks to Roy Skinner's outhusiasm we now have a super-highway and Recce's Bog has passed into history.

Page 8.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT;

The only significant cave discovery during the past year has been Beginners buck Cave in the Florentine Valley, which not only proved to be an interesting sporting cave but was also found to contain vary all (Pleintheene) bone deposits including the bones of an extinct giant species of browsing kangaroo. Study is still in progress and two club members will be presenting a paper at the A.N.Z.A.A.S. Comformace to be held at the University of Tasmania in May.

Club equipment has seen little use during the year. There is an urgent need to provide training in ladders and SRT techniques for both our own and branch members.

A happy occasion during the year has been the formation of the Maydena Branch which under the energetic leadership of Max Jeffries, have been doing a good deal of exploratory work.

When this mevsletter comes out, Speleo Spiol will have completed ten years of continuous publication and we are grateful to Laurie Moody who has done a great job as Editor. However, if you want him to continue, he would like some encouragement

in the form of more contributions.

I am grateful to the other office bearers who have kept the club going. Vice-President, Andrew Skinner and his wife Ros, for providing a weekly meeting place at their home. Secretary-treasurer, Tony Culberg for doing most of the dirty work - (writing letters and counting money) and last but not least to quartermoster Stuart Nicholas, who welunteered to take over from Brian Collin during the year and has done an excellent job looking after the club's moveable assets.

Peter Watts has recently taken over as Search & Rescue Officer and we now have some active co-operation with the police department with a full scale search and rescue exercise likely in Herberts Pot (Mole Creek) in May. As one club member remarked: "It would be kinder to shoot an injured caver in Herberts Pot than to try and get him (her) out:" Needless to say, we are still looking for a volunteer to act as victim. Any volunteers?

Conservation remains our biggest concern. Kubla Khan is one cave which continues to attract large numbers of visitors - including some in-experienced and careless cavers and a much stricter policy in access is desperately needed. Genghis Khan has also suffered some damage.

In the South, Tkit Cave remains vulnerable as witnessed by the recent appearance of two large initials (sets of) on the wall at Camp One. The National Parks and Wildlife Service are still making slow progress in protecting the principal caves in the Ida Bay area. The prospects of protecting the area around Kubla Khan Took brighter as long as the Tasmanian Government is willing and able to finance the required purchase of land.

Although I shall be available for re-election, if this is what club members want, I would prefer to see someone else take over as other commitments may make it difficult for no in the coming year to devote as much time and energy to the job as I would like.

Your president, Albert Goede.

NEWS THEM.

Leonic Snith is alive and well. She is at present in France and advises me that she is living on a farm at Lodere on the plateau south of the Massif Central. The farmhouse is built of dolonite, half in 1430 and added to in the 17th century. There is also a cave not far from the house which is called Cheese Cave. Apparently it obtained its name as Rocquefort Cheese was made and natured in it. The entrance chamber is littered with broken support columns and planks but further in, it does get interesting. If anyone is interested in writing to Leonic, her address is — Chez. M. Lacour; Grezae le Bas, 13700 Lodere; France.

REMEMBER - CHANGE OF VENUE - AGM - 13 MASON STREET, CLAREMONT - 24th MARCH - 8.00PM.