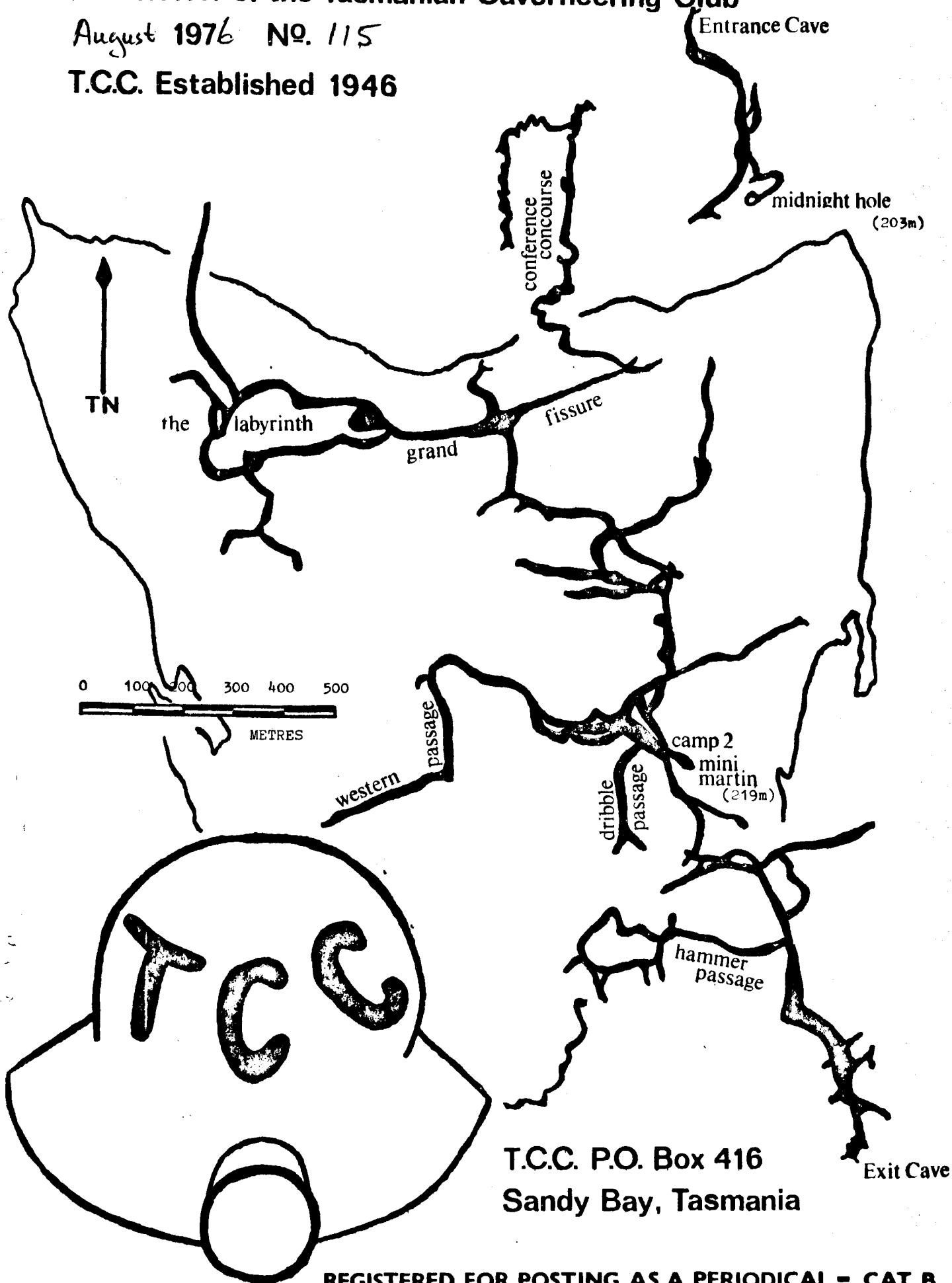


# SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

August 1976 No. 115

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T.C.C. P.O. Box 416  
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Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

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FORWARD PROGRAMME

August 7-8 : Mole Creek:- Leader: Andrew Skinner.  
August 11 : General Meeting:- Tony Culberg's place, 16 Nelumie St; Lindisfarne.  
8 PM. Sharp!! Booze-up afterwards.  
August 14 : Maydena:- Leader: Possibly Andrew Skinner.  
August 21 : Maydena:- Leader: Andrew Skinner or Albert Goede. ← PLEASE PLEASE!  
August 25 : Wednesday:- "Wet the baby's head" evening at 13 Mason St; Claremont.  
August 28 : Maydena Area:- Numbering trip - Leader: Laurie Moody.  
September 1 : General Meeting:- ~~Andrew Skinner's place, 1 Randall St; Sandy Bay.~~  
September 4-5 : Mole Creek:- Leader: Andrew Skinner. & Bath St., Battery Point.  
September 18 : ANNUAL DINNER:- Carlyle Hotel, Derwent Park. BOOK NOW!!

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EDITORIAL

A fairly quiet month with three known trips taking place. One of these was to Mole Creek to investigate the apparent discovery of a new cave not far from King Solomon Cave. A numbering trip was also carried out in the Florentine Valley and a trip was also made to Hastings.

My editorial in the July issue of Speleo Spiel has met with a somewhat mixed reaction but it also resulted that a proposed meeting be held between delegates of TCC and SCS in the near future to discuss the pros and cons of amalgamation. The main point of contention appears to be the name change! The Editors of the SCS magazine Southern Caver, have voiced their strong disapproval of any amalgamation in a 'Stop Press' type editorial in their July issue. I have since been informed that these comments were not necessarily those of all SCS members. It is hoped that a plan of some description can be devised and presented to each club in the near future. Anyone wishing to voice their approval or dis-approval in regard to an amalgamation between SCS and TCC is kindly asked to do so by writing to the editor of Speleo Spiel. All letters will be published.

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CLUB NEWS

RETRACTION OF ROY SKINNER'S RESIGNATION

EXPLANATION - The note in the July issue of Speleo Spiel regarding my retirement from caving was due to my wife's (Emily) taking over as manageress of Mrs. Bridges' restaurant at 138 Collins St; Hobart (the best meal in town). I expected that I would have a heavy committment to assist with its operation, particularly at weekends. However, this has not proved to be the case and I find I can resume virtually all of my former activities. - Roy Skinner.

NEW MEMBER

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the club in welcoming Heather Symes who was voted in as a junior member at the August general meeting. Glad to have you!

CLUB NEWS Cont;NEW CAVE NAMES

Two new cave names were approved at the August general meeting - both are in the Florentine Valley.

JF 91 : BOOMER CAVE (See cave descriptions) Page 3  
JF 97 : TITANS SHELTER (See cave descriptions) Page 4

SOUTH-WEST COMMITTEE DELEGATE.

The position which has been vacant since the March Annual General meeting, has now been filled. Bill Nicholson has accepted this position and I feel sure that he will do his best in representing the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

ANNUAL DINNER

Members are reminded that the Annual Club Dinner (the 30th Year of TCC) will be held at the Hotel Carlyle on Saturday, September 18th. If you would like to attend, please contact Andrew Skinner at your earliest convenience. We would also like to see any ex-members of TCC share in this celebration.

RESIGNATION

Owing to the number of obligations that I am over-burdened with of late, I am forced to relinquish my position as Editor of Speleo Spiel. The position of Editor will be available after the completion of the September issue No.116. Due to the afore-mentioned obligations, I have been unable to do any caving over the last few months and have been forced to spend most of my spare time hunched over a typewriter much to the consternation of my family. I would like to thank those people who have been supporting me over the last eighteen months and ask that the same support be given to whoever takes over as Editor of Speleo Spiel. I shall continue to support the club as a committee member for as long as I am needed. - Laurie Moody.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Well, well, the editor really went to town in his editorial in the July issue of the Spiel. It must have been one of those damp, dark July days which saps the spirit, especially when you know that you can't get away on a caving trip because your wife is going to have a baby in the next week or so. Anyway, that's all behind you and congratulations on the new arrival (female).

Is the picture really as black as it has been painted? We have not been very active of late. One problem is that all of the four active party leaders have found it difficult to run trips in recent months. Laurie and Andrew have both had family additions which naturally has curtailed their activities. Tony is in the process of moving into a new house and demolishing the old one and as for me - I've suffered from back trouble, domestic problems and lack of transport. All these problems are likely to be temporary and no doubt we will become more active again.

We do suffer from a shortage of young members and those we do have are either frustrated by lack of transport or by lack of ambition to organise their own trips. If some are drifting closer to SCS as the editor claims, there is nothing wrong with that provided that we do not lose them altogether through our own continued inactivity. Overlap of membership may be a good thing and should lead to closer cooperation and exchange of information. At present this leaves something to be desired. For example, Harris (1975) in Southern Caver 7 (1) claims that Bone Pit (JF203) had not been exhaustively explored by TCC and that a passage 6.5m above the floor of the final pitch represented a new discovery. In fact this passage had been explored as early as 19th March, 1960 by Jim Peterson and myself and is not only recorded in a trip report but also in Australian Outdoors of December, 1960 (John Frank, p 76).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR Cont;

We may well have made similar errors in some of our reports.

What about amalgamation of TCC and SCS? I suggested this approach myself in an annual report some years ago but found only one other member in favour. There are obvious advantages. It would enable a rationalisation of cave numbering, use of equipment, archives, conservation activity, publications and other activities.

But there are disadvantages. It is not likely to work unless a vast majority (say 80%) of the membership of both clubs is in favour of it. Also, such an amalgamation is most likely to be successful between two active clubs who can make an equal contribution. The present inactive phase of TCC is not a good time for amalgamation and is not going to solve our problems. We can only solve these by becoming more active and close-knit ourselves. A recent example of our lack of enthusiasm and interest in what other cavers are doing is shown by the attitude of many club members to recent work done by the TCC Maydena Branch. As the editor pointed out, some very worthwhile work is being done by John Parker and Steve and Anne Annan in the vicinity of Rift Cave (JF34). Very few members have shown an active interest in this very promising project.

Another disadvantage of amalgamation is that the name TCC must inevitably disappear from the scene if an amalgamation occurs as this can only work under a new name. It would be a pity to see the name of Australia's oldest caving club disappear from the scene.

By all means, let's have closer ties with SCS but at the same time let us be constructive and put some life back into TCC.

Albert Goede

PS. Since this was written, I have received a copy of Southern Caver 8 (1) containing an editorial response by Dave Elliott and Ron Mann to the July editorial of Speleo Spiel. It seems that the "bad men" of SCS (their words) are far from dead even if they do not know how to spell "Spiel". It is unfortunate that one extreme viewpoint has been put by two members who were involved in what Laurie called "this pitiful rift". One could have expected of the editors that they would have also presented the viewpoints of their younger and more active members, some of whom are well known to hold different views.

The old argument is trotted out that there is nothing like "friendly rivalry" between two clubs to bring out the best in people. That this is not true has been amply demonstrated by the Montreal Olympics. There are many sporting opportunities other than caving for those who like competing against their fellow man. To my mind this has no place in caverneering and speleology. The number of new discoveries made isn't necessarily related to the amount of effort put in although it obviously helps.

Caving gives one the opportunity to pit oneself against nature - both physically and mentally - and preferably as a closely related team. Some get their enjoyment also from admiring and photographing the beauties of the underground world or from scientific investigation of cave evolution, underground water movement, cave biology, cave palaeontology and other aspects of speleology. All this requires teamwork not competition between teams.

The "friendly rivalry" proclaimed by Elliott and Mann is "pie in the sky". This sort of attitude can only lead to secretive behaviour and non-publication of information. In the long run it is not in the interest of Tasmanian caving.

The jointly hosted 1970 ASF Conference was a success not because of "friendly rivalry" but because a handful of individuals were prepared to work together regardless of which club they belonged to.

Albert Goede.

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CAVE NUMBERING

Florentine Valley on 12/7/76. Numbering carried out by Albert Goede and Phillip Voss.

JF 91 : Small cave with low and wide sloping entrance. Presence of fossil bones reported by Laurie Moody. Sample excavation of bone deposit and further exploration by Albert Goede and Peter Murray on 18/5/76. Bones include those of Macropus titan, the big Pleistocene Kangaroo. Boomer Cave.

CAVE NUMBERING Cont;

- JF 92 : Very small cave with fissure type entrance with 2.5 metre drop. Approx. 8 metres of low-roofed passage. A few recent bones. Located NW of JF 91 in same ridge.
- JF 93 : Small cave with sloping entrance made accessible by digging. Chimney followed by sloping passages down to watertable. Fossil bones exposed in roof and chimney. Located NW of JF 92 in same ridge.
- JF 94 : Two adjoining entrances (one horizontal, one sloping) each leading into very short passage. Located W of JF 93 in same ridge. Appears to be a new find.
- JF 95 : Sloping cave entrance marked with blue rag tied to sapling. Close to the Settlement Road on opposite side from Beginners Luck Cave and in same ridge as Caves JF 91 to JF 95. Cave not entered. No details known. (Cave approx. 10 metres long, no continuation. Explored May, 1976 by Moody and Jeffries).
- JF 96 : Small cave with sloping entrance on slope below JF 97 facing N. In hill south of Cashion Creek and to the east of Cashion Creek Road. First investigated on Saturday, 8/5/76.  
Ref: Speleo Spiel 112, P.4. Trip report 8/5/76.
- JF 97 : Large shelter cave located on slope above JF 96 facing NE below crest of hill south of Cashion Creek and to the east of Cashion Creek Road. Was investigated with ANZAAS field party on Sat. 15/5/76. Contains Pleistocene bones including extinct Pleistocene kangaroo Macropus titan. Short extension explored by Jim Stockton and Albert Goede. Not pushed to limit because of tightness and strong animal smell (Devil?). Suggested name : Titans Shelter.  
Ref: Speleo Spiel 112, P. 4-5. Trip reports 8/5/76 and 15/5/76.
- JF 98 : Small cave with vertical entrance and two 5 metre pitches. Bones partly cemented in flowstone at lowest point of cave. Entrance located on the ridge not far from JF 88. Bone material collected by Albert Goede and Peter Murray on 15/5/76.  
Ref: Speleo Spiel 112, P.4-5. Trip report 15/5/76.

TRIP REPORTS

Florientine Valley - Monday, 12/7/76.

Party: Albert Goede and Phillip Voss.

The trip was run specially to catch up on numbering of some recently discovered caves in the areas around Settlement and Cashion Creek Roads. I arrived at the Barrier at about 11am. and found Phillip waiting for me as he had the day off thanks to the national strike. Went to see Don Frankcombe about the conservation of Beginners Luck Cave. He requested that we mark out the boundaries of the area we want reserved in paint and approach head office in Boyer.

We then went to Settlement Road and numbered some cave entrances on the SW side of the road, the opposite side from Beginners Luck Cave.

JF 91 was a cave I had visited previously with Peter Murray in May and which has a promising bone deposit. We did not enter the cave.

JF 92 appears to be a new find, discovered by following the same side of the ridge towards the NW. The entrance is a fissure with a 2.5 metre drop followed by approx. 8 metres of low-roofed passage. A few recent bones were found.

TRIP REPORTS Cont;

JF 93 is a cave entrance excavated by Max Jeffries and Phillip Voss. Via a 3 metre chimney an interesting system of passages can be explored which lead down to the water-table. There is some decoration. Of particular interest were remnants of bone bearing cave fill exposed in the chimney and in the roof just beyond. Phillip executed a daring climb to recover a jaw bone in the roof exposure but unfortunately it broke. Excavation of the roof site would require building a platform first.

JF 94 was a new find with two adjoining entrances (one horizontal and one sloping downwards) each leading into a very short passage. It is located to the west of JF 93 but is of no particular interest.

JF 95 was a sloping cave entrance marked with a blue rag tied to a sapling. It is close to Settlement Road on the opposite side from Beginners Luck Cave. As it had been explored previously we did not enter it.

We then returned to the vehicle for a late lunch. After lunch we went to Cashion Creek Road and first numbered a sloping entrance (JF 96) to a small cave near the base of the hill below a prominent shelter cave. The cave was not entered. Next we numbered the shelter cave JF 97 and had another look at the extension found in May. A collapse hole in the floor revealed that much of the cave fill contains bones. The tight squeeze leading off was not pushed far after a strong animal smell and fresh Devil droppings were observed.

Finally we visited a hole on the top of the ridge above JF 88 and numbered it JF 98. We did not enter it but collected some cave bones left on the surface from an earlier trip. We returned to Maydena well satisfied with the day's work. I enjoyed afternoon tea at Phil's before returning to Hobart.

Albert Goede.

HASTINGS - 10-11/7/76.

Party: Andrew Skinner, Greg Middleton, Kevin Kiernan, G. Holloway and Bill Nicholson - (almost).

On the Friday evening we were called out on the search for three children at Risdon Vale. Kevin and I left about 3am but Bill remained. When I rang him next morning? - 1.00pm he said he was rather tired and had decided to "pike". Thus to Hastings.

On Sunday morning the four of us headed into Newdegate in an attempt to investigate the aven in Hells Half Acre with a scaling pole. Just inside the entrance, Gregg's light failed - he piked, and then there were three. After deciding that six lengths of scaling pole, plus bolts, ladder, rope and other miscellany was more than we could carry through the Binney Tunnel, we proceeded with two ladders only. The aven was duly reached and investigated by Geoff and Kevin. They reported that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to scale due to loose rock.

After some fun? on the mud slides we retired to the entrance. Upon seeing three tired heaps of mud emerge from the cave, most of the would-be tourists melted away in horror. The scaling pole was left in the electricity generating shed.

Andrew Skinner.

MOLE CREEK - 31/7/76 - 1/8/76.

Party: Andrew Skinner, Roy Skinner and Brent Nightingale.

National Parks and Wildlife Officers reported a cave near King Solomon which was reported as being "larger and prettier" than the tourist cave. The aim of this trip was to investigate this find. On Saturday, we drove to Mole Creek in the rain and spent some time in King Solomon taking pictures (photographs). On Sunday morning the "new" cave was investigated. It is a small system situated on the ridge mid-way between Diamond Cave and Maze Puzzle. There are three main chambers at different levels. The first was rather poorly decorated and was trogged by Roy and Brent. The second chamber is at a higher level and has some good flowstone and stalactites. A steep flowstone bank drops into a streamway. This creek was not investigated as we did not have a rope. After numbering the cave, we adjourned to the Melville's for much appreciated cups of

TRIP REPORTS Cont;

coffee. Overall, the cave is not as good as expected but does contain some worthwhile decoration. Another trip is warranted to explore the streamway.

Andrew Skinner.

MOLE CREEK - 7-8/8/76.

Party: Albert Goede (Leader), Andrew Skinner and Jean Thomas.

The aim of the trip was to collect a broken stalagmite from Genghis Khan for use in later palaeotemperature determinations and also to inspect several small caves for possible bone deposits.

Andrew and I left Hobart at 8 am. in pouring rain and met Jean at the Mole Creek Post Office at noon by which time it had stopped raining. After a brief visit to the Mayberry Ponds, we went to the hut for lunch and found it clean and tidy. After lunch, we headed for Genghis Khan along a rather muddy track. Andrew declined coming into the cave with us as he had left his trog-suit behind at the hut. Jean and I had a good look at the cave. Fortunately, the damage is not quite as bad as we had been led to believe and appears to be due to carelessness rather than deliberate vandalism. We found the broken stalagmite but were unable to piece the fragments together to make a complete stalagmite. It appears that some of it has been souvernired so we did not collect it. We then inspected the lower levels of the cave where there is much old cave fill. At one point an upper level passage was noted with a false floor - exploration requires a short climbing pole and could be worthwhile.

After we emerged from the cave we had a quick look at the main entrance to Kubla Khan. Andrew then showed us a small cave (MC 104) at the back of Howes property. This turned out to be Elsie's Cave (first explored about 1957). As we had no ladder, we were unable to get in. We then had an exciting time driving the Holden back along the track - some of it was done sideways and with the help of Andrew and Jean's muscle power.

After spending the night at the hut we were greeted by brilliant sunshine which melted the last patches of snow around the place. We first visited Little Gem (MC 22) but were unable to go beyond a 6m drop for lack of ladder. I collected a complete recent skeleton of what appeared to be a brush-possum and an older incomplete skeleton of what is probably a bandicoot. No really old bones were found in the cave fill.

Next we visited Quarry Cave (MC 21). Access has been made easier by recent logging tracks. Getting into the cave (and out again) was a different matter as a tree had been dropped down the entrance and as well it was extremely muddy and slippery. The cave may be short but is by no means small. According to Andrew, the lake at the far end was quite low. There were some interesting helictites on the roof which have unfortunately been coated with mud. A remnant of old red cave fill was found near the entrance but did not appear to contain any bones. The cave is interesting but there are no prospects for further exploration.

We returned to the hut for lunch. In the afternoon before going home, we visited Alum Cliffs and its rustic surroundings.

Albert Goede.

CAVE NUMBERING - MOLE CREEK.

MC 114: Small cave, situated between Diamond Cave and Maze Puzzle; some reasonable formation; small stream may be a downstream section of the stream in Diamond Cave; three main chambers on differing levels; located and recorded August, 1976, but entered previously presumably by locals.

Andrew Skinner.

A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Unbeknown to members of the club (Hobart) Max Jeffries recently entered hospital for a hernia operation. I hear that he is making a speedy recovery. Get well soon, Max. Regards from Laurie and the rest of the mob!