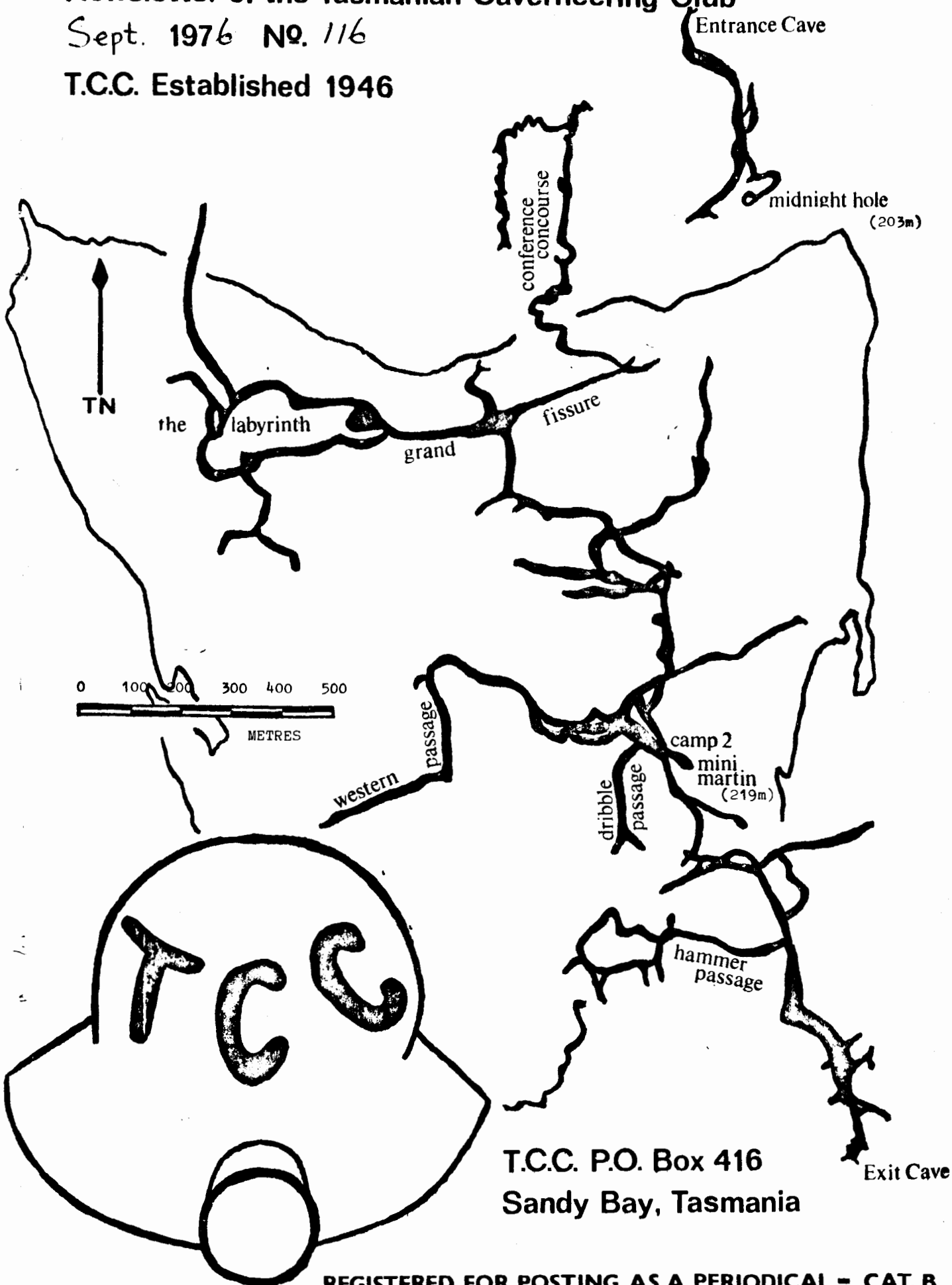


SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

Sept. 1976 No. 116

T.C.C. Established 1946



T.C.C. P.O. Box 416
Sandy Bay, Tasmania

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Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

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 Editor Speleo Spiel: Laurie Moody, 13 Mason Street, Claremont. 7011
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FORWARD PROGRAMME

September 11-12 : Maydena:- Therese Goede & Annans - anyone interested is asked to attend.
 September 11-12 : Mole Creek:- Leader: Andrew Skinner.
 September 18 : Maydena:- Leader: Laurie Moody.
 September 18 : ANNUAL DINNER - Carlyle Hotel.
 September 19 : Possible trip - venue can be obtained at the DINNER.
 September 25-26 : No information.
 October 2-3 : Again no information.
 October 6 : General Meeting:- Stuart Nicholas', 7 Rupert Ave; New Town.
 (May be subject to alteration - depending on arrangements with SCS.)
 October 9,10 : Weekend. Exit Cave. Leader: Albert Goede
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EDITORIAL

The month of August (and early September) has proved to be one of the most significant for sometime. Inter-club relations were undoubtedly strengthened when three representatives of both TCC and SCS met to discuss the feasibility of both clubs working in much closer conjunction with each other. Proposals subjected for discussion were submitted to each club and as a result, the clubs have agreed to work together over a twelve month trial period. I, personally, look at this as being the best possible thing that has ever happened to Tasmanian caving. Tasmanian caving can only profit from the decision that has been made and already members of both clubs are participating in trips together.

Secondly, fluorescein tests conducted by Albert Goede and Leigh Gleeson have finally established that the waters of Growling Swallet (JF36) flow into the Junee system! Approximate distance covered is approximately 15 kilometres as the crow flies. Just exactly what lies between Growling Swallet and Junee Cave can only be imagined at this stage!
 9.5

Lastly, the spectacular doline discovered by John Parker and the Annan's, in the Junee, has so far reached an estimated depth of 165 metres. This cave, "The Chairman", now rates as ninth deepest cave in Australia. Prospects for extending this depth are considered to be possible but only further exploration will prove this point. The most gratifying aspect has been the teamwork and co-operation between members of SCS, TCC and the Maydena Branch of TCC.

Unfortunately, this is my last editorial for Speleo Spiel but it has been a pleasure which I have had to forego due to other commitments. Albert Goede will be taking over as Editor with issue No.117. I would like to thank those of you who have assisted me throughout the last eighteen months and hope to hear from you on behalf of the ASF Newsletter.

Laurie Moody.

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 ANNUAL DINNER - CARLYLE HOTEL - DERWENT PARK - SATURDAY - 18th SEPTEMBER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The following letter was received from Mr. Greg Middleton.

Sir,

As an interested observer of the Tasmanian caving scene I have been interested in editorial comments in Southern Caver, 8(1) and Speleo Spiel, 114 on the possibility of amalgamation of Hobart's two speleological groups.

At the risk of being branded an "interfering mainlander" (although I've been here nearly three years) I would like to express a view on the question of unification. Although not a member of either group, I have caved and taken part in discussions on caving and related matters with many members of both groups. One of the reasons I have not joined is that to join either is to take sides in a pointless, and in my view counter-productive, division; to join both would be to waste money and to acquiesce to a bipartite situation which I do not support.

I do not believe the arguments put forward in support of the present state of affairs can be substantiated. If rivalry and competition are necessary or even important factors in the progress of speleology in this State, it is a very sad reflection on its practitioners. That sort of thing has its place in football clubs and political parties but it should not be important in either the sporting or scientific aspects of caving. Very active and productive groups exist in Adelaide and Brisbane without the spur of local rivals. This is not to deny that comparisons and standards are not active in promoting most forms of human endeavour but surely the standards can be set and the competition contained within a cohesive group, or even individuals. Sub-groups or cliques form within every group and these can serve those who desire some form of oppression or competition to achieve their best, thus promoting the interests of the group as a whole.

I am neither aware of, nor interested in, the detailed reasons for the existence of two groups but it apparently sprang from a certain lack of compatibility between some individuals, most of whom are either no longer active or at least no longer harbour old grievances. Any original justification there may have been for two groups no longer exists and I do not believe it has been replaced by a valid new one. The situation tends to become self-perpetuating, with newcomers either unthinkingly accepting it or inventing rationalisations which attempt to justify it.

Mottos such as "In Unity is Strength" and the U.S.'s "Out of Many, One" are based on the conviction that unification brings benefits and advantages. It may be trite to cite here benefits such as economies of scale, better use of personnel, improved communication of knowledge and ideas, and greater backing to statements on such matters as conservation, but these are real issues, worthy of objective consideration.

Perhaps some thought should be given to some practical aspects which might arise.

- a) Much effort has gone into the production of Speleo Spiel and Southern Caver with the result that both are well known publications in the Australian caving scene; would one or both need to be abandoned? I believe not; some rationalisation might be of advantage (perhaps with the Spiel being reduced in size, carrying forward programmes and items of news and interest, and Southern Caver carrying more substantial items of longer term significance). Editors everywhere have trouble getting material from time to time; amalgamation should greatly reduce this problem.
- b) TCC is the oldest caving society in the country - should it be allowed to go out of existence? This might in some aspects be unfortunate but it's largely a matter of "what's in a name?" If the new body was to be called, for example - the Tasmanian Caverneering Association, it could claim, as the direct successor to TCC, to have originated in 1946.
- c) SCS meets in its clubrooms, while TCC members meet in their homes. A satisfactory compromise here might have to be regular formal meetings at the SCS clubrooms, monthly or fortnightly and to have informal meetings in houses at other times.

Is all this conjectural waffle, or is there some real basis for unity? The

Cont. Page 7.

SPECIAL FEATURE!!

This month marks up the 30th year of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club. As a special feature, it has been decided that we publish the minutes of the inaugural meeting - read on!

Tasmanian Caverneering Club

Inaugural meeting held in the Museum, Hobart, Friday 13th. September, 1946. About 30 people present. Dr. S.W.Carey in the chair.

Dr. Carey explained that a provisional constitution had been drawn up by a committee consisting of:- Messrs. P. Allnutt, T. deBarey, S.W.Carey, K.S.Iredale, A.Love, L.Luckman, M.Sharland, David Steane, Doug Steane and Mrs. D.Wilson.

This constitution was read and Mr.Luckman moved that it be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Doug Steane.

The constitution was now read paragraph by paragraph and ammendments accepted.

Name. Mr. D.Lyons moved that 'society' be substituted for club. Seconded by Mr.Read.
Motion lost.

Objects. Moved by Mr. Read, seconded by Mr. Pedder, the words 'to endeavour' be inserted before 'to ensure'.
Motion carried.

Fees. Moved by Mr. Lyons that 'committee' be deleted and 'general meeting', provided that the committee have power to fix or alter rates pending the next general meeting be inserted.

Motion withdrawn after explanation by chairman.

Moved by Mr. C.Elliott that 'subject to the approval of the general meeting' be added after 'committee'. Seconded by Mr. Doug Steane.

Motion lost.

Moved by Mr. D.Wilson delete 'entrance fee' and after annual subscriptions add 'shall be 10/-'. Seconded by Mr. Pedder.

After discussion the ammendment was changed to 'Entrance fee 5/- and annual subscription 5/-'.

Motion lost.

Meetings. Proposed by Mr. Lyons 'shall' be substituted for 'may'. Seconded by Miss N. Shaw.

Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. D.M.Elliott, seconded by Mr. D.Steane, 'in writing' be added after 'Fourteen days notice'.

Motion carried.

Office Bearers.

Moved by Mr. Lyons that 'Hon. Secretary' be added after vice president. The motion lapsed for lack of a seconder.

Moved by Mr. Lyons that 'upon the recommendation of the committee and' be deleted. Seconded by Miss Shaw.

Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. C.Elliott, seconded by Mr. J deBarey that clause re Patron be deleted.

Motion lost.

Duties of Office Bearers.

Moved by Mr. K.Iredale, seconded by Mr. D.Wilson, the words 'and manage' be inserted after committee shall conduct.

Carried.

Moved by Mr. Read, seconded by Mr. Doug Steane after Secretary shall, 'act as executive officer of the committee' to be inserted.

Motion carried.

Moved by Miss Shaw, seconded by Mr. Luckman that 'handle' be substituted for 'keep' after 'record resolutions and'.

Motion carried.

Cont. from Page 3.

Moved by Mr. Steane, seconded by Mr. Lyons that 'and the name be ratified by a general meeting' be inserted before 'it shall be recorded'.

Motion carried.

Proxy.

Moved by Mr. Read, seconded by Mr. deBarey that the following clause be inserted after quorum. 'Members may vote by proxy which shall be in a form which meets with the approval of the chairman of the meeting.'

Motion carried.

Expulsion.

Moved by Mr. Lyons that 'unanimous' be substituted for 'three quarters'.
Not seconded.

Moved by Mr. Lyons, seconded by Miss Warren that 'A member so expelled shall have the right to appeal to a general meeting' be added to the expulsion clause.

Motion carried.

Alterations to Constitution.

Moved by Mr. Lyons:- For the purpose of forming a branch any alterations to constitution may be passed by a simple majority. Not seconded.

The original motion for adoption of constitution was now passed and carried.

Election of Office Bearers.

President: Dr. S.W.Carey

proposed Mr. Luckman

seconded Mr. Allnutt

Vice President: Mr. L.Luckman

proposed Mr. J. deBarey

seconded Mr. D.Lyons

Committee:

Nine people were nominated:- Mr. D.Wilson, Mr. K.Iredale, Mr. P.Allnutt, Mr. Doug Steane, Mr. A.Love, Mrs. D.Wilson, Mr. deBarey, Mr. Sharland, Miss N.Shaw.

Mr. Luckman proposed that nominations be closed. Seconded by Mr. deBarey. The following were elected:- Mr. & Mrs. D.Wilson, Messrs. Allnutt, Iredale, Sharland and Doug Steane.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm. and Foundation Members were enrolled.

Foundation Members

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| P. Allnutt | 94 Augusta Rd., Newtown. | W2230 |
| S.W. Carey | 27 Augusta Rd., Newtown. | W1835 |
| J.B. Corby | 65 Hopkins St., Moonah. | |
| P. Court (Miss) | Auvergne Ave., Newtown. | |
| J.M. deBarey | 'Woodstock', Cascades. | 5726 |
| C. Elliott | 26 Bay Rd., Newtown. | W1159 |
| D.M. Elliott | 128 Newtown Rd., Newtown. | W1603 |
| H.F. Gulline (Miss) | Lindisfarne | 75 |
| B. Gulline | Lindisfarne | 75 |
| A. Harvey | 261 Elizabeth St., Hobart. | |
| N. Hunter (Miss) | Forestry Dept. | |
| K.S. Iredale | 49 Montague St., Newtown. | W1157 |
| S.R. Lighton | 76 Waimea Ave., Sandy Bay. | |
| A. Love | 5 Queen? St., Sandy Bay. | 4704 |
| L. Luckman | 36 Clare St., Newtown. | |
| G.D. Lyons | 'The Villa', Fern Tree. | |
| A. Pedder | 'Sherbourne', Newtown. | |
| H.J. Read | 20 Waverley Ave., Newtown. | W1993 |
| P. Richardson (Miss) | Risdon Rd., Lindisfarne. | 61 |

Cont. from Page 4

Foundation Members

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| M. Sharland | C/- The Mercury | |
| N. Shaw (Miss) | 251 Davey St., Hobart. | 3104 |
| David Steane | 9 Tower Rd., Newtown. | W1002 |
| J. Douglas Steane | 59 Montpelier Rd., Sandy Bay. | 6515 |
| D. Turner | Apsley St., Cascades. | |
| R. Warren (Miss) | 24 Princes St., Sandy Bay. | 5838 |
| D. Wilson (Mrs.) | 30 Fitzroy Place. | |
| D. Wilson | 30 Fitzroy Place. | |

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UFOLOGY AND CAVES - What have the Caves Revealed?

by Laurie Moody.

Throughout the ages man has accumulated much in the way of knowledge through the study and exploration of the Earth's caves. Most of us involved in caving are aware of the 'average' discoveries but what of those related to man's origin and ufology?

Changes in ideology during this century have permitted man to take a longer and deeper look at himself and how he came to be here. Modern science has revealed that man's existence on this planet goes back much further than the theory of just a few decades ago. Man was then thought to be around 600,000 years old. At present reckonings, man's age has now increased to be in the close vicinity of two million years! Two recent discoveries, one in Ethiopia and one in South Africa, have added support to this particular figure.

People are now (slowly) beginning to accept the fact that cultures, possibly equal to those on Earth today, existed approximately some 2,500 years ago. Most of us are familiar with such civilizations and cultures as the Ancient Egyptians, Incas, Mayas, Greek, Roman, Ancient India and China. However, such facts concerning the discovery of electric batteries in ancient Babylon, the amazingly accurate maps of Piri Reis, the Greek computer and Maya paintings, which depict men in "space-craft", have yet to be readily accepted.

Scepticism in relation to ufology has slowly been declining in the last decade or so. People are preferring to keep an open mind on the subject and are accepting the fact that too many reliable people are reporting unusual occurrences.

No doubt many of you are familiar with the numerous books that are now available regarding the fact that the Earth has/is a "stopping-off point" for space travellers. I don't intend to elaborate on what has already been written but intend to draw your attention to some of the unusual discoveries that have been made in caves throughout the world.

One of the more common cave discoveries, only made in the latter half of the 19th century, have been the rock paintings of Altamira, Lascaux, Ribadesella and others. These paintings depict aurochs, horses, stags and other beasts and are considered as masterpieces, not only of prehistoric art but of art in any period. The Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Babylonians painted in a stylised form. However, the animals depicted at Altamira and Lascaux are said to resemble the work of Picasso or Leonardo! The realism and beauty of these particular paintings makes them immensely superior to the paintings found in Egypt, Babylon or Greece! Sketches have also been discovered in these caves and it is said that they suggest the existence of art schools - at least 15,000 years ago. The rock paintings of the Cro-Magnon are more than 10,000 years older than the artistic productions of ancient civilizations.

At Ajanta, near Bombay, are also excellent cave paintings. However, these particular paintings were painted with luminous paints! In one of the 6th century catacombs, there is reputed to be a picture showing a group of women carrying gifts. When the electric light is extinguished, the figures on the wall gain a 3-D effect. This was apparently obtained by the ancient artist's clever use of luminous paints!

Continued on Page 6.

UFOLOGY AND CAVES Cont;

A Professor Luther S. Cressman of the University of Oregon discovered two hundred pairs of woven fibre sandals in Lamos Cave in east Nevada. These skilfully made articles are similar to to-days modern beach sandals. Nothing unusual about that, you say? Well, a carbon 14 test revealed that these particular sandals were well over 9,000 years old!

Although not a cave find, a shoe-print was discovered in a coal seam in the Fisher Canyon, also in Nevada. The age of this footprint was estimated to be over 15,000,000 years.

Around the turn of this century, in Australia, Joseph Bradshaw discovered strange paintings in a cave west of the Kimberleys. They depicted men and women **totally** unlike the aborigines and are thought to be of Europeans. The women have delicate hands and feet and strange hair styles and one bearded man wears a mitre or a crown. There is yet another slender figure in this particular painting. It has no eyes, nose or mouth and its round head resembles that of a diver's helmet or even a space helmet with a band around its neck. Tassel-like adornments are appended to the arms and waist of the being. A strange oval with two arms protrudes from the helmet. Behind this group is a snake, symbol of the Dreamtime. In the distance a spiral and a horseshoe-shaped object with rays can be seen. Undecipherable hieroglyphics above the picture add to the mystery. Visitors from another time or from outer space perhaps?

A discovery in 1964, in the Kleinfontein Valley in the Transvaal, South Africa, revealed a complete underground village! Archaeologists were amazed by its similarity to modern nuclear war shelters. The village, in caves deep underground, is made up of huts with mud walls about 30cm thick; each cave contains approximately 20 huts. At ground level are the remains of another village constructed by the same race. It is thought that these mystery people - of whom no record appears - took refuge underground due to some unexplained reason.

In 1932, a rather interesting discovery was made in a cave at Casper, Wyoming, in the United States. The cave contained an ancient mummified body of a very tiny man. Resultant X-rays made by the Anthropological Dept. of Harvard revealed:-

"An X-ray showed that here was a creature that had been a man, or man-like. Its tiny skull, the spine, the rib cage, the bones of the arms and legs, were readily discernable. The little fellow had been about 14 inches tall in life. Mummified, he weighs about 12 ounces. The X-rays show a full set of teeth. Biologists who have examined it declare that the creature was about 65 years old at the time of death."

In 1938, certain unusual discoveries were made in East Asian caves. Some 716 mysterious, metallic/stone discs and short-statured skeletal remains of beings with huge craniums which cannot be ethnologically classified were found.

In 1969, archaeologists discovered an archaic grave containing the 50,000 year old skeleton of a ceremonially-buried child! The grave was found in the Qaf'zeh Cave, close to the Mount of Precipitation, in Galilee. This indicates that civilized people were living in the area many thousands of years before the Jews arrived.

Also in 1969, two American professors discovered 11 mummified bodies - many thousands of years older than the Egyptian mummies - in an Argentinian cave! Symbols of the Moon, Sun and Venus were also discovered in this cave.

In old Sanscrit texts mention is made of the Nagas or Serpent Gods who livid in underground palaces somewhere in the Himalayas. The Nagas were supposedly flying creatures who go/went on long voyages in the sky. It is thought that the subterranean city of the Nagas - Bhogawati, which was brilliantly illuminated by diamonds, may be a folklore image of a space base, lighted and air-conditioned. There is also rumoured to be a secret cave beneath the Potala palace in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa. Many mysteries surround the Himalayan area and the limestone potential of this area is virtually untapped and unlimited. It is possible that the key to the Earth's creation lies beneath the Himalayas. Is it feasible to believe that an underground city could exist there?

The most recent discovery, which appeared in the press only a few days ago, announced that scientists had found a man-like skull more than 2,000,000 years old. It apparently has more human-like properties than the fossils of Australopithecus-Africanus which was thought to be the oldest man-ape. The discovery was made by

UFOLOGY AND CAVES Cont;

Professor Alun Hughes, of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, who announced that he had found the fossil in the Sterkfontein Caves, some 80 kilometres north-west of Johannesburg. It was here that the Australopithecus remains were discovered in the 1930's. The Sterkfontein Caves apparently have a limestone base which makes conditions particularly favourable for the preservation of fossils.

Recently, a UFO was observed several times over a period of weeks in the vicinity of Maydena. A number of cavers were amongst the many people that observed it. This particular sighting was regarded as genuine. Somewhere along the line, UFO's and caves are connected! Food for thought the next time that you go caving. You may just happen to be under observation - and - you may not be alone!

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR Cont;

fact that it is being openly discussed and comments published shows that people can conceive of it - and that is an important start. Of course, the question has been raised before, particularly in June 1973 by Andrew Skinner (Speleo Spiel, 80:1) but it has not received sufficient support to yet succeed. Yet it did lead to the formation of the Tasmanian Council of Speleology so there has been a spirit of co-operation in the air. But the Council seems to have languished and does not seem to have put an end to suggestions for unification. (Of course, in terms of conservation of effort the Council idea is wasteful and is the opposite of the advantages of amalgamation.

Perhaps with goodwill on both sides, careful and objective consideration of the advantages of union will now lead to some positive developments. As an interested and uncommitted party, I would be pleased to help in any way I could, to foster the movement for unification.

Greg Middleton.

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TRIP REPORTS

Florentine Valley - Thursday, 26/8/76.

Party: Albert Goede and Denis Charlesworth.

This was a university trip with the aim of inserting 3 kgs. of fluorescein into Growling Swallet (JF36) to trace the resurgence of the waters.

We left Hobart at 9.25am and drove straight to the Florentine Valley. The weather was fine with sunny conditions in the morning but lightly overcast in the afternoon. Streams were running strongly as a result of melting snow on the mountains but were not in flood.

We turned up No.9 road and took the third branch to the right. From where we left the car we found the route to the old packtrack roughly marked with red paint and blue marking tape. Denis brought a chain saw so we could do some track clearing. We then followed the track south. It was generally easy to follow except in two places where there had been major tree-falls coinciding with a change in the direction of the track. The fluorescein was inserted at 12.35pm just upstream from the cave mouth and dissolved readily in the strong flow. The water was still a brilliant green when we left the cave ten minutes later. We were back at the vehicle at 1.25pm and after a quick lunch we made a tour of likely resurgences to place charcoal detectors. One was placed in the Lawrence Creek Rising at 1.55pm, a second at the Florentine Road bridge across the Tyenna River at 2.30pm, and a third inside June Cave (JF8) at 2.50pm. The stage height in June Cave was 1.20 feet corresponding to a rate of flow of 1618 litres/sec. We then returned to Hobart.

Albert Goede.

Continued Page 8.

TRIP REPORTS Cont;

Junee Area - Weekend 28-29/8/76.

Party: Albert Goede, Laurie Moody, (TCC), Max Jeffries, Philip Voss, Steve and Anne Annan (TCC-MB), Leigh Gleeson and Derek Shield (SCS).

Leigh, Derek and I left Hobart at 8.20am. The first stop was at Laurie's place where we heard that the fluorescein from Growling Swallet had already reappeared in the Junee River, where Max had spotted it at 4pm on Friday afternoon. Derek transferred to Laurie's car. On arrival at Maydena, Leigh and I made a dash for the Junee but no trace of the dye remained.

The party then assembled at Max's who gave us the full details on his observations of the previous afternoon. Max then went to get Steve and Anne while I went to Junee Cave and collected the charcoal detector at 10.45am. We then converged on Vandal Cave (JF90), where I wanted to inspect the bones. The cave contains no fossil bone deposits and only a few recent bones of wallaby and possum. No crickets were found. We left Junee Road at 11.30am and Phil went home while the rest of us went up John Bull Road and then followed the old forestry road along the Junee Ridge to an impressive hole recently discovered by the Maydena Branch. The entrance is in virgin rainforest a short distance east of the track and was reached at 1.00pm. It is 20 metres across and occurs in limestone dipping to the west at an angle 70 to 80 degrees.

The Maydena Branch refer to it as "The Chairman" and Laurie numbered it JF99. The pitch was rigged on the opposite side from the fireplace. At this point, there is a 15 metre long steep slope before the shaft becomes vertical. A natural balcony, just short of the edge, provided a safe and convenient stance for the belays. Quite some time was spent laddering the hole with six 9 metre ladders. Leigh went down first with two additional ladders on his belt and was belayed by Derek. He ran out of ladder and added on the two extra 9 metre lengths. He still found himself 12 metres short of the floor and was lowered the remaining distance on the safety line. Derek then descended with three ladders on his belt and was belayed by me. Two of these ladders were required to reach the bottom of the first pitch which was estimated to be 75 m deep, making it the fourth deepest pitch in Tasmania.

Leigh and Derek reported a sizeable chamber at the bottom and went off exploring at 3.45pm. Laurie took over the manning of the pitch from Steve and myself, while Anne and Max headed off to Maydena as they both had to be back early. Prior to this, Max and Laurie numbered a small swallet only a short distance above JF99. It was duly numbered JF100, with the number being fixed to a tree as no rock face was available. Apparently the swallet has been partially explored by the Maydena Branch and is still going.

Leigh and Derek eventually returned to the bottom of the shaft and were hauled up by Laurie and myself. They reported that they had reached a depth of nearly 120 metres and were stopped by another shaft of an estimated 15 - 25 metres as they did not have enough ladder to tackle it. They also reported the presence of a strong draught which sounded particularly promising. We decided that an early attempt should be made to bottom the hole and the ladders were left in place.

We left the cave at 5.40pm and reached the cars just after dark at 6.25pm. Leigh and I spent the night at the Annan's place and we were grateful for their hospitality. Laurie and Derek returned to Hobart on Saturday night.

The next day the party was reduced to two (Leigh and myself). We first dropped in at Max's place for a cuppa while waiting for the frost to clear and the fog to lift. The charcoal bag in the Lawrence Creek Rising was collected at 10.25am. We then visited JF88 in a vain search for bone deposits but found it quite an interesting little cave. We failed to locate the second entrance either underground or on the surface. We returned to the car at 12.30pm after a look at the entrance to JF98.

We then visited JF96 which turned out to be a very interesting little cave system with classical examples of solution tubes. Next up the hill to Titans Shelter (JF97) where I showed Leigh the excavations for bones. Two tight squeezes were pushed by Leigh without success although one offers promise of going further with some work.

We finally had a late lunch at Cashion Creek and after lunch entered Cashion Creek Cave to collect some biological specimens for Dr. Aola Richards. We left the cave at 3.40pm after meeting up with Tony Culberg and Pat Fullerton and Tony's father.

Cont. from previous page;

The charcoal detector in the Tyenna River was collected at 4.00pm and we arrived back in Hobart at 5.30pm. In all, a very successful weekend under really pleasant weather conditions.

Albert Goede.

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PROPOSAL FOR POSSIBLE LONG-TERM AMALGAMATION OF SOUTHERN CAVING SOCIETY AND TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB.

1. It is proposed that TCC and SCS activities be more closely integrated with a possible view to long term amalgamation of the two clubs.
2. For an initial twelve month period; several suggestions are put forward:
 - (a) General meetings of each club to be held either fortnightly or monthly at the Davey St; venue, whilst informal get togethers be held afterwards.
 - (b) General meetings of each club to be held alternately. All members of both clubs to have discussion rights but not voting rights unless a full member of that club.
 - (c) Trips are to be run on a joint basis.
 - (d) Separate finances to be retained for the trial period.
 - (e) Separate publications to continue for the time being.
 - (f) That TCC and SCS ropes, ladders and headers be kept at the Davey St; venue and be marked distinctively.
 - (g) That TCC pay half the yearly rent of the Davey St; venue.
3. It is not proposed that the individual clubs dissolve but that separate Constitutions be retained for the twelve month period. If at the end of the trial it is felt that the experiment is not successful, then the clubs can go their separate ways.
4. These proposals are not exhaustive and there are certainly other points to be considered.

The above proposals etc. were discussed between the clubs and after a vote, SCS members have decided to agree to the proposals. However, further discussion is warranted and a meeting between club representatives is being planned as Spiel goes to print.

Club representatives are:- TCC - Albert Goede, Andrew Skinner, Laurie Moody.
SCS - Ron Mann, Michael Cole, Leigh Gleeson.

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ATTENTION! NOTE FROM THE QUARTERMASTER!

Owing to causes unknown, the 300ft Blue Water rope is now in TWO pieces - 130ft and 170ft in length. The cut was discovered on the recent trip (5/9/76) to "The Chairman", when the first person descended - a rather un-nerving experience!

Please take care with the gear and report any damage as it may be you that depends on it sometime!

Stuart Nicholas.

STOP PRESS!

Late Trip Report.

Maydena - 5/9/76.

Party: Leigh Gleeson, Derek Shields, Stuart Nicholas, Mike Johnston, Andrew Davey,
Max Jeffries and Therese Goede.

Aim of the trip was to continue exploration in The Chairman (JF99), the large pot discovered by the Maydena Branch. After an early start (relatively) and some drama with abseil ropes, we were all underground before noon. Meantime, Max and Therese were doing some valuable track clearing work.

We continued on from the 80m entrance pitch down a 15m rope pitch to the previous limit of exploration. This turned out to be 40m (nearly free-hanging) pitch. I am not certain of details from here on as I remained at the top of this pitch. However, I gathered that there was a 10m rope pitch and a 10m ladder pitch directly below the 40m pitch leading to a large chamber with a small stream flowing through it. The exploration continued down stream, in a "railway tunnel", to a rock-fall where crawling had to be resorted to. Progress was halted by a narrow 15cm slit into which the stream disappeared. Estimated depth is 165m with plenty of exploration work still to be done.

All were on the surface by 9pm where a fire left by Max and Therese was most welcome.

Stuart Nicholas.

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ANNUAL DINNER

Last reminder that the annual dinner will be held at the Carlyle Hotel, on Saturday, 18th September. If you would like to go and this includes members of SCS, get your names to Andrew Skinner at your earliest possible convenience!

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