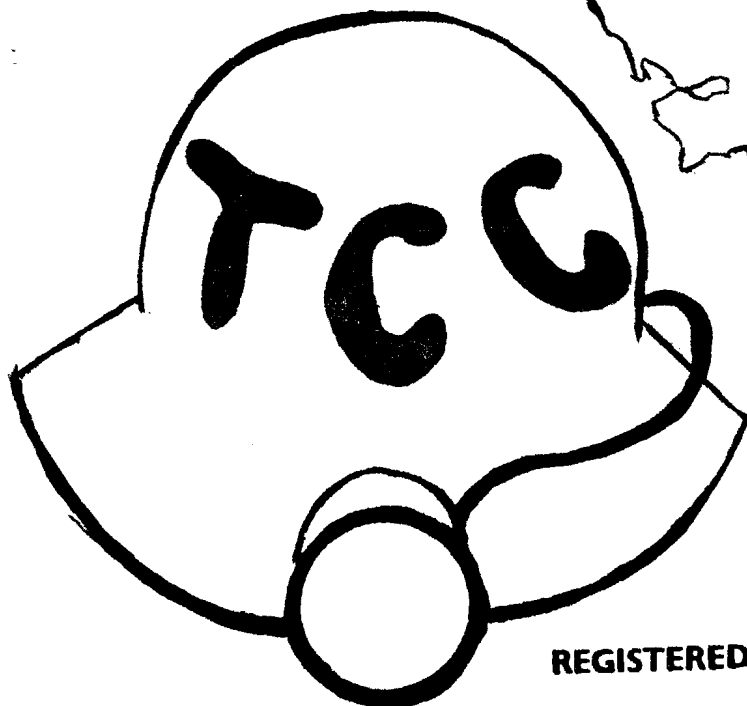
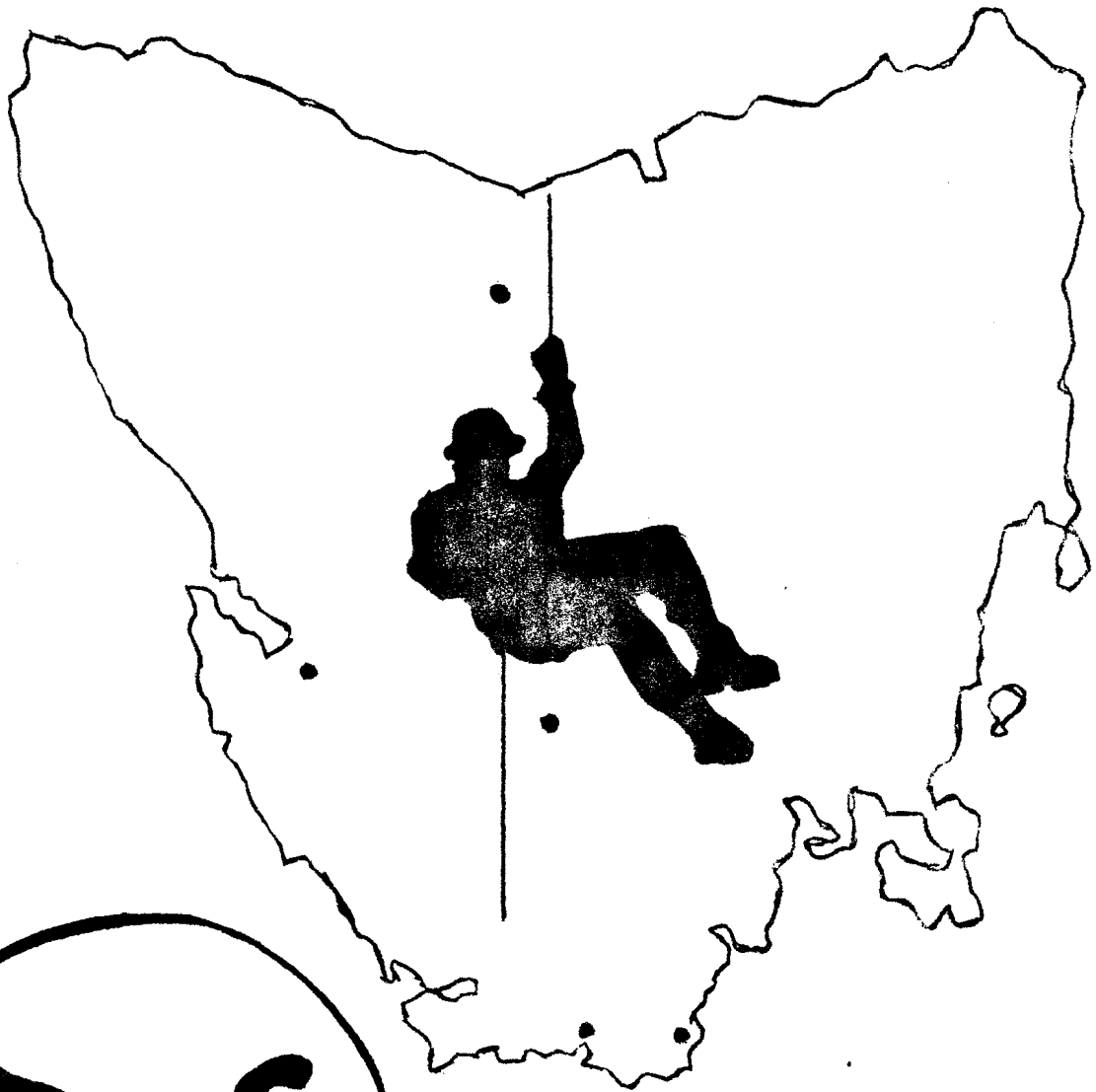


SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

MARCH 1977 No. 121

T.C.C. Established 1946



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

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL - CAT. B

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

Annual subscription \$4.00.

Single copy 40 cents.

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PRESIDENT: Stuart Nicholas, 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, 7008.

SEC./Treas: Anthony Culberg, 16 Nelumie Street, Lindisdarne, 7015.

PRESIDENT (Maydena Branch): Max Jeffries, 16 South Crescent, Maydena, 7457.

Acting EDITOR/Typist: Therese Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, 7000.

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FORWARD PROGRAMME:

- March 5-7 - Maydena. Florentine area with Laurie Moody.
- March 19-20 - Exit Cave. Leader: A.Culberg.
- March 26-27 - Mangana - look it up on the map. A farewell party for Mike March and double birthday celebrations for two club members who turn another year older around that time. For details on how to get there contact Therese or Mike at 8 Bath Street.
- MARCH 30 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING :- 13 Mason Street, Claremont. at 8 p.m. Election of office bearers.
- April 2-3 - Exit Cave. Leader: A.Culberg.
- April 8-12 - Easter. Exit Cave - surveying. A. Culberg.
- May 4 - General Meeting. 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, 8 p.m.

The Maydena branch still run regular weekend trips. Further info. Ph.88 2222.

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EDITORIAL.

" 2. The objects of the club are:-

- (a) To further Caverneering as a sport and Speleology as a science.
- (b) To preserve caves and cave scenery
- (c) To promote social intercourse between cavers. "

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A letter has been received from S.C.S. indicating that they wish to terminate the trial agreement for closer co-operation. Our club regrets the decision but respects the right of S.C.S. to make it. Individual members are, however, welcome at S.C.S. clubrooms for natter nights and it is hoped that combined caving trips will still occur.

Members are reminded that the next meeting is the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. All positions become vacant so come along and exercise your right to vote. Your decisions are important and could make or break the club.

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CLUB NEWS.

Congratulations to Heather Symes on being granted full voting rights at the February meeting.

Several new cave names for caves in the Maydena area were proposed but it was decided to wait until the A.G.M. before approving these.

Rumour has it that Therese has got bees in her bonnet - (and Max is missing a few).

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The past year has seen a moderate increase in activity over the previous year for the club, particularly at Maydena where a small but very keen group of members has been at work. Their efforts have resulted in the finding of a number of significant vertical caves in the area east of Khazad-dum not far from Rift Cave. Most of these discoveries still need exploration including the major find so far, The Chairman, which is still going both up and down stream at a depth of about 165 m. Much more surface exploration needs to be done in this area as well as at Ida Bay in the south which is a promising but largely unexplored area.

Needless to say, exploration requires people in the form of club members who are actively interested in pursuing their chosen sport. At the present time, and in fact for the past year or more, the number of active members in the club has been very small which has led to the rather unfortunate situation of trips having to be cancelled owing to lack of support. During the next twelve months the club needs to make every effort to attract new members to its ranks and entice some of the previously active members back again in order that some of the many possible projects can be tackled. Many of our major caves still need surveying - Exit and Growling Swallet for example, both of which still have good potential for exploration. A survey traverse to establish the position of the Chairman and surrounding holes needs doing urgently.

Of happenings in the past twelve months, perhaps one of the most significant was the proving of the stream connection between Growling Swallet (JF 36) and Junee Cave about 9.5 km. away as the crow flies. Also of significance was the proposal for closer co-operation between S.C.S. and T.C.C. For some of the bigger trips this has meant that gear can be shared and members of both clubs can participate, making exploration of the major holes at Maydena much easier. Although the formal agreement as published in a previous Spiel has now been terminated it is hoped that combined trips will continue.

Search and Rescue activities have received, at last, some consideration from the Police search and rescue squad and the Climbers Club of Tas., thanks to our S. & R. officer, Peter Watts. In May of last year a very successful exercise was held in Herberts Pot at Mole Creek with a good sprinkling of cavers, climbers and police S & R squad members present. A great deal was learnt by everybody about equipment, techniques and organisation and the subsequent training nights at the police garage produced discussion bringing forth potentially useful ideas. Hopefully more training exercises and organisation will produce an efficient cave rescue group for the State which up until now we have been sadly lacking.

I want to thank the office bearers of the club who have helped keep the whole show on the road during the year. The immediate past president, Andrew Skinner, who unfortunately had to resign because of personal commitments. Secretary-Treasurer, Tony Culberg, for undertaking a thankless task, and Laurie Moody and Therese Goede for editing and typing the Spiel which has continued as a record of the Club's activities.

Although at the forthcoming A.G.M. I shall be available for re-election please bear in mind that due to study commitments my time towards the latter half of the year will be severely limited.

Stuart Nicholas,

President.

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Congratulations to Bill Tomalin who was voted in as a Full Member at the February meeting. Bill is with the Division of Recreation and has been involved with caving for many years in the northern part of the state. He has also been very much involved with the C.O.O.E.E. report which is published in this Spiel for your perusal and comments will be welcomed at the next meeting.

Maydena Branch Report.Exploration of the Junee River Caves, JF 30 & 31.

Over the past month a number of trips were made to the caves(JF 30 & 31), which were shown to us by Max Jeffries on 12th Feb. JF 31 was explored by a TCC party in 1972, to a length of 90 mts., JF 30 was looked at but not entered on the same trip.

JF 31 is a horizontal cave, approx. 15 yds. up from the left river bank, midway between the efflux and the bridge. After a number of attempts John Parker and myself finally negotiated the squeeze at the 90 m. point which was the previous limit of exploration. From here we walked along a further 80 m. of dry stream bed - which finally ended in a shallow sump, very similar to that in Welcome Stranger. Emerged covered in mud, overalls in tatters - easily the mud-diast cave we've been in.

This cave does not appear to be fed by the Junee River but rather by an underground system fed by caves in the hills behind. Judging by the height of the stream passage and the well worn stones on its bed, the cave must take a large flow during the winter, which would appear to seep into the Junee from a point under the squeeze. The first 90 m. of passage is very muddy and must act as an overflow passage or perhaps was the old streambed.

JF 30 is situated on the left bank quite close to JF 31. It is described in the A.S.F. cave list as " an inflow cave taking a small part of the Junee River". We feel again that this cave may be fed by an underground system, as well as the Junee in high level times. John Parker negotiated the cave (the entrance of which drops approx. 2 m. below the river level) through head high water to a length of 30 m. but further progress was stopped by a tight squeeze. It seems almost certain that this cave comes up to join with JF 31.

In view of our findings we feel that a search of the hills behind the river might bring to light interesting finds and perhaps a small underground system, separate to the Junee Efflux System.

Anne Annan.

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PROPOSED NAMES.

- dropped*
- JF 31 - "The Letterbox" - due to the sensation of being posted through the squeeze.
- JF 30 - "Tom Smith Cave" - Tom Smith(now deceased) grew potatoes on the flats up the river from the caves - he was the discoverer of both caves and showed them to Max some years ago.

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More From Maydena. (condensed - Ed.)

Three trips to the area around the Chairman - more fissures but proved no goers. West Florentine on the 26th of Feb. - Cashion Ck. and Beginners Luck were looked at and a small cave was located in the Beginners Luck Reserve which required the removal of a big rock to gain access.

Anne Annan.

A report from John Parker has also been received and will be published in detail in the next Spiel. He has looked at areas near Rift Cave and the Humbolt River.

A detailed report on a tour of mainland caves has been received from Pat Fullerton. Due to lack of room in this Spiel it too will be published in the next.

Please remember when reading the report over-leaf that this is a summary of the caving committees advice to the C.O.O.E.E. committee and is ~~not~~ not necessarily Education Department policy (yet).

Bill Tomalin.

(Thanks to Bill for getting the stencils typed up - Editor.)

Caverneering Advisory Committee

Convenor; W. Tomalin - Teacher Kingston High School
A. Goede - Vice-Pres. T.C.C./ Tas. University (Geomorphology)
P. Murray - Curator Anthropology Tas. Museum. T.C.C.
T. Culberg - Lecturer/ Tech. College T.C.C.
M. Jagoe - Teacher New Toen High School
T. Thurstons - Teacher Kingston High School
I. Barnes - Recreation Div. C.C.C.S.I.
F. Brown - Search and Rescue consultant
D. Robertson - N.W. Representative

Cavers are all individualists with their own personal interpretations of methods and ethics. All of the above are of have been, cavers of considerable experience. It comes therefore as a pleasant surprise to find such harmonious agreement when discussing the contentious issue of School Caverneering. This report represents a condensed version of the discussions that this committee has had over the last few months- it does not indicate the commitment of individuals and Clubs over many years of caving. Most of us are introduced to this sport through Clubs and I would like to record my personal thanks to the clubs of this State. To the members of this committee, my thanks for your time, your patience and your unreserved contributions to this Report.

Bill Tomalin

Report and Recommendations of theCaverneering Advisory Committee

(Dec. 1976)

General Comments:-

Report and Recommendations
of the
Caverneering Advisory Committee

General Comments :-

Throughout discussions, formal and informal, prior to finalising this Report, two areas of concern have been constantly voiced as major problems. Leadership is the critical factor in school-caverneering and conservation of caves is the other. All aspects of school-caverneering are dependant on competent leadership and without this, no caverneering should take place.

Specific Comments :-

1. Conservation

Physical and ecological damage will be caused whenever people, adult or child, enter a cave system. Whether this be gross physical damage (breakage of formation, mud tracked over formation) or ecological (introduction of bacteria, destruction of existing fauna etc.) it is mostly an irreversible process. A cave is the most delicately balanced of all wilderness environments and, as such, must be treated with extreme care.

2. Leadership

Any adventure activity depends on leaders and leadership for its success as a recreational or educational experience. Leaders must be selected by objective (skills, experience etc.) and subjective criteria (group-control, commitment etc.). In considering teachers as leaders for this activity, it must be shown that they are a) Active b) Committed c) Experienced on three levels. (1. at Club level. 2. with contemporaries and 3. with school children).

3. Safety

An activity involving adventure can be nullified by insisting on a host of specified safety procedures. A competent leader will be well aware of the mechanics involved in a caverneering excursion and will also accept a certain risk-factor. This committee is reluctant to specify ratios of leader/students because of the wide variety of locations, difficulty of the cave, varying ages of students involved and so on. We would suggest that there be never less than two (2) experienced adults accompanying the group and that there be never more than 12 students in any cave at the one time.

The remainder of this report contains recommendations based on the comments above.

Part A. Registration

1. A register, or suitable records, of leaders be established.
2. The register contain details of a leaders's experience (standardised report form).
3. Any person with the necessary skills may apply for registration.
4. Only registered leaders be accepted for school-based caverneering.
5. Register details be available to Principals.

6. Register details may be added to by any A.S.F. (Australian Speleological Federation) affiliated organisation.
7. Registration cease
 - a) on request
 - b) after verified negligence/incompetence reports.
8. Application for registration be supported by A.S.F. affiliated organisation.
9. A leader re-apply for registration after a period of inactivity exceeding two years.

Part B. Commitment

1. Considerable commitment to Outdoor Adventure experiences must be shown by a leader.
2. Particular commitment in Caverneering be shown by the leader.

Part C. Experience

- Practical experience be considered using the following criteria :-
1. Sufficient involvement in caverneering to ensure experience of all common types of underground terrain found in Tasmanian caves (horizontal and vertical tight passages, boulder-chokes, active streamways, ladder and rope pitches etc.).
 2. Practical knowledge of rope and ladder techniques and be able to teach the relevant ones to novices.
 - a) Climb 30m. ladder - free and against face
 - b) Prugaito 30m. - free and against face
 - c) Abseil - two techniques
 - d) Basic knots used in climbing
 - e) Rig pitches and belays
 3. At least 12 days experience assisting with non-adult novices.
 4. Knowledge of suitable clothing and personal equipment (unsuitable, too).
 5. Knowledge of group equipment and ability to use it.
 6. Approved First Aid Certificate - (See Addendum).
 7. Knowledge of natural caving hazards - ability to assess and take precautions against flooding.
 8. Knowledge of A.S.F. safety codes (See Addendum).
 9. Knowledge of Search and Rescue procedures (See Addendum).
 10. Knowledge of departmental requirements for hazardous excursions.
 11. Knowledge of cave environments.

Part D. Safety

1. Ratios of leader/novices be carefully considered (See Specific Comments 3).
2. Extensive knowledge of causes and effects of hypothermia, essentially in young people - ability to diagnose and take precautions.

3. Only recommended group equipment be used (either to A.S.F. specification or British Caving Standard).
4. Suitable equipment requirements be discussed and indicated by an Equipment Committee.

Part E. Responsibility

1. A leader be capable of exercising sufficient control over the group to minimise ecological damage occurring and dangerous situations arising.
2. Final assessment of competence to lead a school group, in conjunction with the guide-lines suggested in this Report, remain the Principal's.

Part F. Suitable Caves

It is not intended to imply that these caves are "safe". The recommended caves are such that a minimum amount of damage to the cave will be caused by inexperienced cavers.

1. Only caves recommended by the A.S.F. member-Clubs in Tasmania be used for school caverneering.
2. Alterations may be made to the list of recommended caves after consultation with A.S.F. member-Clubs.
3. Other caves may be used only with special permission of the A.S.F. member-Clubs.
4. Recommended caves (see Tasmanian Caverneering Club, November 1975 No. 107) at present are :-
 - (a) Tourist areas in caves
 - (b) Ida Bay - Hastings Areas

1. Wolf-Hole	3. Bradley Chesterman
2. Entrance Cave	4. Revelation Cave
 - (c) Junee - Florentine Area

1. J.F. 1	4. J.F. 59-60
2. Cashion Creek	5. J.F. 89-90
3. Ross Walker	6. Khazad -dum (top area)
 - (d) Mole Creek Area

1. Wet Cave	4. Baldock's Cave
2. Honeycomb I	5. Spider-Blackshawl
3. Scott's Cave	

Part G. Standing Committee on Caverneering

1. A Standing Committee on Caverneering be formed.
2. The Committee should consist of :-
 - a) An executive member of each A.S.F. member-Club in Tasmania (Tasmanian Caverneering Club - T.C.C.)
(Southern Caving Society - S.C.S.)
(Northern Caverneers - N.C.)
 - b) No more than 4 active, competent and experienced teacher-cavers.

3. The functions of the Committee should be :-
- a) to implement C.O.O.E.E. policy on caving
 - b) to process leader registration
 - c) to monitor all aspects of caving standards in Tasmanian schools
 - d) to formulate and control leader-training in Tasmania.
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Addendum

- Part C (6) - It is suggested that First Aid Certification should be part of In-Service training, and not necessarily reserved for caverneering leaders.
- Part C (8) - A.S.F. Safety Codes are available (print) from
Australian Speleological Federation,
P.O. Box 388,
Broadway, N.S.W. 2007
- Part C (9) Search and Rescue procedures - information being
prepared by Frank Brown
Department of the Environment,
Hobart.

References

- 1. "Speleo Spiel" November 1975 No. 107 (T.C.C. publications)
- 2. "National Leadership Qualifications in Caving"
(Cave Leadership Training Board, 5 St. Pauls Street,
Leeds L.S.1 2NQ. U.K.).