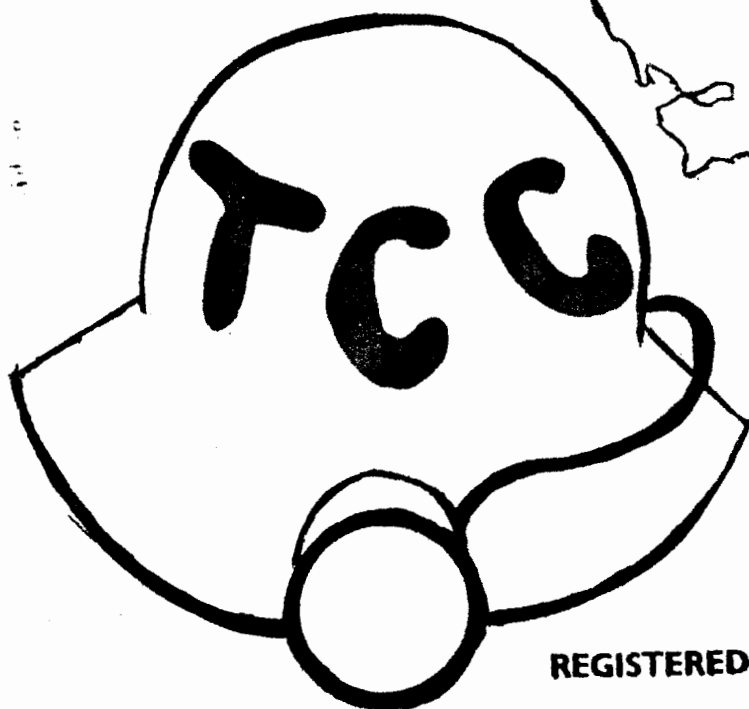
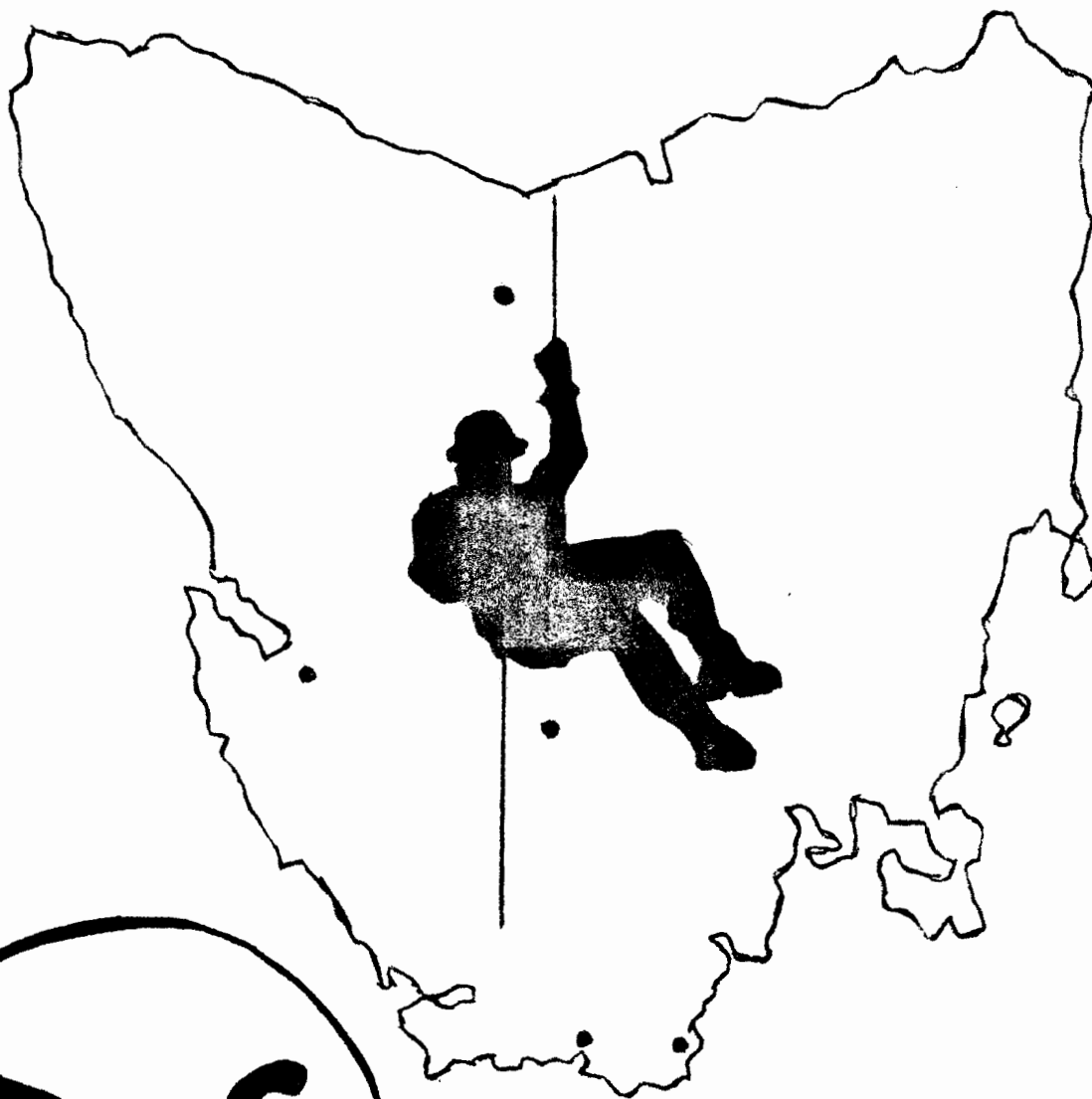


SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

APRIL 1977 No. 122

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.

Annual Subscription \$4.00.

Single copy 40 cents.

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

SECRETARY: Anthony Culberg, P.O. Box 36, Lindisfarne, 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

- April 2 - Exit Cave. Taking in gear for Easter trip. A. Culberg.
April 3 - Maydena, Florentine area. Max Jeffries.
Easter weekend - Exit Cave - surveying. A. Culberg and mainlanders, etc.
Easter Sunday - Khazad-dum, (possibly), Anne Annan.
April 23-25 - Exit Cave - removal of gear used for surveying trip. A.Culberg.
April 28 - Australian Heritage Commission and Register of the National Estate. An important meeting to discuss both will be held in the S.C.S. Clubrooms on the 28th of April.
May 4 - General Meeting, 2 Midwood Street, New Town(Springvale Hostel). at 8 p.m. (Please note alteration of venue).

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EDITORIAL

The last A.G.M. was reasonably well attended - thanks to all those who were able to make it, and for their patience during the business part of the meeting. A temporary problem occurred when A.Goede was elected as Vice-President and Treasurer and Tony then advised us that the Treasurer could then counter-sign his own cheques - very improper! So Bill Tomalin was quickly elected to the position of Vice-President. In the absence of Albert, Tony will act as Acting-Treasurer so please send your subs to him as soon as possible.

Ros Skinner has tendered her resignation from the club, apparently being somewhat insular has its problems.

The Mangana party was postponed because of a proposed assault on "The Chairman" - this subsequently fell through due to foul weather. Anne Annan did, however, manage to celebrate her birthday in the appropriate manner and rumour has it that there were many sore heads next morning.

At the next general meeting the COOEE report attached to Spiel No.121. must be discussed.

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The rest of your committee (apart from those mentioned above) is as follows:
Vice-President: Bill Tomalin, c/o Div.of Recreation, Kirksway House, Hobart.
Treasurer: Albert Goede, c/o Uni.of Tasmania,(Geog.Dept.), Sandy Bay, 7005.
Q'master: Stuart Nicholas, address as above.

Committee members: Anne Annan John Parker
Therese Goede Max Jeffries

South West Committee Delegate: no nominee.

Fed.of Tas.B'walking Clubs Delegates: T.Goede and B.Tomalin.

Editor: Albert Goede (T.Goede in his absence).

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+++ (N.B.) It was restated that trip leaders are the only ones the club allows to run trips, and that permits are available to leaders only.
A.Culberg.

Item of interest:

Secretary's report said, inter alia,
 "...Carefully consider the candidates for the executive and ensure that (those) elected have the interests of Speleology at heart as well as the time"

More than half of the executive positions are filled by people who either have indicated they do not have all the time they feel the position warrants, or have not had the time to compile reports of their previous commissions.

A. Culberg.

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Secretary/Treasurer - Annual Report.

During the last year there has been quite a bit of disruption to the routine of the club. I have been unable to do some of my duties due to physical isolation, with a result that whoever did clear the box did not pass on things like accounts for payment. That issue has been cleared up.

It is not possible for a person to be secretary if he is not given the mail, over the last year it has not been anyone's fault, but I have not always known what has been happening. It is not just to give a person a responsibility and then frustrate his attempts to do his duty.

On a brighter note, the last year saw seven new members, including some very active people at Maydena, and Bill Tomalin, who has "returned to the fold". The Education Department has accepted the report of a Committee chaired by Bill, which is similar to our proposals of just two years ago. Other youth organizations will soon be adopting similar guidelines.

The clubs finances are sound, and it does not appear necessary to alter the fees structure for this year.

The future trip programme has picked up lately, and with various members resuming active caving the club's prognosis should improve. Current projects include:

- 1) Locating on large scale maps the caves of Junea Florentine.
- 2) Re-surveying at a very high grade EXIT Cave with a view to finding 5 km. of new passage.

I would ask all members to carefully consider the candidates for the executive, and ensure that the people selected have the interests of speleology at heart, as well as the time to adequately execute their commission.

A. Culberg,
 15/3/1977.

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Financial Statement

Year ended 30/3/77.

Tasmanian Caverneering Club

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance brought forward	206.06	F.O. Box rental	15.00
Subscriptions		Letterhead	18.00
A.S.F. Levy 78		Library	29.50
Full members 122		Subscriptions to other	
Junior 60		bodies -	
Entry fees 12	272.00	A.S.F. 75	
Sale of publications	7.90	Fed.Tas.B.W.C. 30	
Hire of equipment	11.00	Sth.West C'tee 10	115.00
Grant from Education Dept. (1)	250.00	Conservation items - Exit	18.28
Bank Interest	9.00	Speleo Spiel	
Fish night	39.00	Paper and Stat. 81.08	
Other income	25.00	Postage 81.27	162.35
		Other expenses	26.11
Total Income	819.96	Equipment (1)	57.70
		Total expenses	441.94
		Bank balance (C.S.B.)	378.02
		A/c 900193, Rosny)	819.96

Financial Statement (cont.)

(1) A grant of \$ 250.00 was received from the Division of Recreation, Education Department, Tasmania to assist in purchasing equipment for use by the club with school parties. The club has decided how to spend the money, but has not in fact spent all of it yet.

Signed: A. Culberg,
Treasurer.

I have examined the books of account of T.C.C. and the above statement reflects the transactions in those books.

Signed: J.K. Herington, A.A.S.A.

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NOTES ON JF 99 "THE CHAIRMAN"

by Alan Warild.

In September 1976, Anne Annan and John Parker of TCC (Maydena Branch, Australia's most active speleo club at present) were cave hunting in the Junees hill(area) at about the same altitude as Khazad-dum, but further east. Having given up on finding anything, they were walking back to the main track which traverses the area, having walked down the gully before, they went back down along the gentle ridge. About 80 m. up from the track they were stopped in their tracks: before them lay a cave entrance 20 m by 30 m. and 30 m. to the first ledge, the pitch continued into the blackness - a large entrance by anyone's standards. Anne and John named the new hole "The Chairman" because it dominated the other caves in the area.

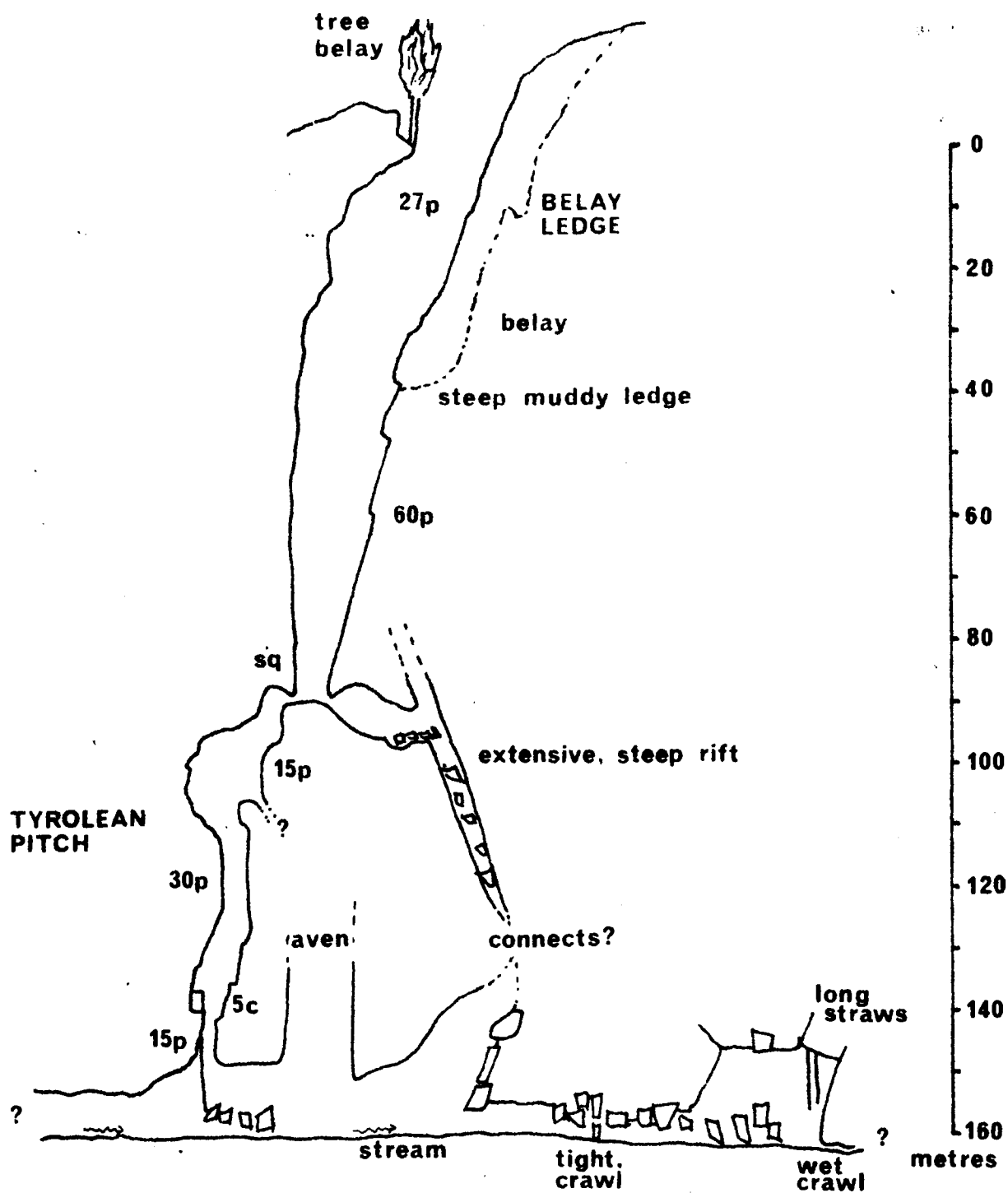
The first attempt at bottoming the hole only resulted in having people dangling on the bottom of a ladder which didn't come anywhere near the bottom. A little more expertise and a lot more gear had to be imported from Hobart, but caving being what it is today meant that the "heavies" were much more interested in meeting procedure than a small bunch of keen but under equipped cavers and some grotty cave they had found.

Eventually, more gear and people were gathered. The next assault took them to the bottom of an 88 m. entrance pitch, and a few smaller drops but as usual gear ran short again. Finally, in a 12 hour trip the hole was "bottomed" on ladders, leaving people sitting on ledges at the top of the 3 pitches and allowing 2 to get a quick look at the bottom before exiting. They found an aven, and a stream disappearing into rockpile before they left. It was snowing when they reached the surface and they met a search party on their way down the hill. From caver's descriptions Leigh Gleeson put together the first map of the cave.

Armed with the map and no ladders, John Minchin and I of UNSWSS and Randall King of SUSS went down to have another look at this cave. The following is both as accurate a cave description as I can give plus the story of how we went down this spectacular pothole.

Without even getting into the entrance, our first problem had cropped up, Randall's carbide lamp was at the hut - never mind we had a torch and 2 spare cyalumes. The first 27 m. is a superb free hanger from the obvious tree on the south(lower) side of the entrance. This lands just below a good tie-off for the rest of the pitch, which is about 60 m. down muddy slabs to a flat mud floor -90m. The obvious hole down a mudslope to the right leads to a series of rifts which kept us busy for over an hour. They hadn't been entered before and are still not fully explored.

The way on is almost as obvious. A squeeze at the other end of the pitch bottom opens onto a chimney requiring a 15 m. handline. It is almost a pitch, but to rig it as such would require very many rope protectors. Also care should be exercised as this, and the next drop both throw rocks. Looking up on the left there is a large flake about 3 m. up the wall. It is a reasonable belay for the next pitch except that it would entail 3 (at least) critical rope protectors. After a spot of interesting climbing, I had the rope hanging free down the centre of the shaft from an excellent natural belay on the far side of the pitch. With a protector just below the knot, I abseiled 30 m. to the floor, leaving Randall and John to figure out how they would cross the Tyrolean traverse I had just set up. I was now at -135 m.



The CHAIRMAN JF 99

Alan Warild
ASF grade 11
8-2-77

As the rocks continued to rain from above, I climbed down the easy 5 m. to the next pitch, which from the obvious bollard, dropped 15 m. to a rock-pile below. Walking down the boulders leads to a small stream at -160 m., the chamber is quite large and a huge aven leads upward much further than our lights could shine. Moving downstream we quickly passed the last limit of exploration (a cairn ?) and after crawling 20 m. down the now dry streamway, John and I stepped into more large chamber. This time however, it was adorned with masses of formation including two 5 m. long straws. All quite impressive, but as our carbides were fading we had to go.

Getting out was slow as derigging a technically hard cave can be almost as slow as rigging one. The end result was one damaged rope on the entrance pitch, a 12 hour trip, and the feeling that "We'll have to come back and do the rest of this cave".

The Chairman is the type of cave (like K.D.) which could greatly benefit by a massive assault in the form of a rigging, an exploration, and perhaps a separate derigging team. Possibly even leaving the cave rigged for a few days. The streamway at the bottom is still going in both directions - upstream is easy walk-through passage, downstream is a wet crawl or a bypass through the large, open rockpile above. All it needs is enough people at the bottom to look about.

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(According to a Maydena source a party of cavers from Launceston recently went down the cave described above and could not find some of the features mentioned - e.g. the two 5 m. long straws. Perhaps the map sent by Alan will clear things up - and perhaps another trip to this cave could be expected in the near future. - Ed.)

+ + + + +

While we are on the subject of caves on the Junee Hill it may be a good time to point out that we badly need a map giving accurate locations of the caves on this hill. So - WANTED - several people who know how to survey, have got patience and determination and the time (and some fine weather).

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MAINLAND MEANDERINGS

by Pat Fullerton.

The main aim of our "Mainland Trip" was to go to the Canberra Conference. We did not intend to do any caving and by and large we didn't. However, we did visit several caving areas and the following comments may be of interest. Buchan is in Eastern Victoria about 400 km. from Melbourne with a good road all the way. It is a very beautiful area, rolling hills and valleys with clear streams. 'Homeleigh', where we stayed, belongs to members of VSA. It used to be a guesthouse and according to Nick White covers about 62 sqs. Anyway, it's large with a main dining table larger than a table tennis table.

You can drive to Jindabyne from Buchan along a road which follows the Snowy River for some distance. It's an very scenic trip, however, the road is labelled 'Closed' and does entail a splash crossing (the bridge over a creek is washed out) and some careful negotiation.

Wyanbene Cave, South-East of Canberra is reached after driving along a disconcerting dirt road. Disconcerting because some of it is broad and well surfaced and then without warning degenerates to a narrow winding country road. You have to go through two gates, a splash crossing and some patches of very rutted ground. It's obviously very swampy when wet. We didn't have time to go in but Wyanbene Cave is essentially a horizontal stream passage with some very large chambers. (See L. Robinson's article in Cavconact Proceedings). There are some well decorated sections and some wet squeezes. Our next stop was to look at the Big Hole. The track here was over another splash crossing (no caving area in N.S.W. is complete without one of these!). This crossing had only recently been graded was reached across a sandbank - the bed of the river rolled and moved beneath the car, and you got out up a clay bank! The area where the cars stop is a swamp, and has been badly churned up, so, if you value your car, walk. The Big Hole is just that, a large hole 200 ft. in diameter by about 400 ft. deep. The only way to get to the bottom sensibly is by abseiling or ladder.

After the conference we were invited up to Orange by the A.S.F. Librarian Brian Lefoe and with him we journeyed out to Cliefden and wandered around Cliefden Main Cave for a while. This cave reminded me somewhat of Genghis Khan in shape but without the formation, in as much as the entrance and first chamber are similar. However, it has lots of lower passages and Tony and Brian went exploring, but I stayed in the main chamber as I had an infected foot from a leech bite collected the previous day on a canyoning trip.

We decided to leave Cliefden fairly early in the day as a thunderstorm was brewing and there were many mutters to the effect that the 'road' out could be 'very interesting' when wet.

The following day we went to Borenore and explored the arch there. You can walk right through and the cows obviously bed down in it at night. It had a high level section with a completely dark zone, which went right through on one side of the arch i.e. above the present stream but not parallel to it. It was very interesting. From there we drove to Wellington where there are approx. 28 caves with 2 currently being shown. We went through Cathedral Cave which had the "largest stalagmite in the world". This cave is NOTHEPHREATIC with beautiful wall scallops and a sump at one end which has been dived.

Wellington is very tourist oriented. The cave area was well maintained with a good kiosk with its own little museum and maps of the caves. There was also a clock museum, ample parking and a really beautiful caravan park. The caves are run by the local council who have also organised various places in the municipality for tourists including a winery and museums.

We drove back to Sydney from Orange via Abercrombie and Wombeyan. The Cave at Abercrombie is a long and high Arch with lots of formation and a trout stocked stream flowing through it. There are several side galleries off the main chamber. The stream is also good for gem hunters having gold, black diamonds, garnets, rubies, sapphires, etc. in its gravels. About 3 miles downstream there is a very spectacular 55 metre waterfall.

We arrived at Wombeyan too late to do any of the trips but we did look at the Arch, a quite spectacular feature. The road into and out of Wombeyan is a narrow, winding dirt road, making its way up and down the steep sides of some very spectacular river valleys. The scenery is stupendous but don't try the road if you are towing a caravan, it's possible but is not recommended by the authorities as the road is very narrow, has many hairpin bends and you often have to pick your spot and wait for the oncoming traffic to have room to pass.

On our way back to Melbourne we travelled via Canberra and then drove over the Brindabella Range to Brindabella and the Brindabella Stock Route. This used to be a good country road until the log trucks got to it. This road leads to Cooleman Plain and Yarrangobilly. It's beautiful country but don't expect a rapid journey as the road has not been maintained and had many dry 'wallows' at lower points and corrugations everywhere. We arrived at Yarrangobilly too late to view anything, but we did see their thermal pool and the limestone outcrops. This is a heavily forested area very like the Florentine and very steep. There were several papers on this area at the conference.

In conclusion, mainland cavers suffer from having to drive considerable distances to go caving and one realizes how well off we are in Tasmania after looking at a minute proportion of the N.S.W. caving scene.

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We are indebt to Bill Nicholson for the excellent design of our new cover. Bill is also responsible for a display of caving photographs currently on show in the "Outdoor Shop" - most of the photographs were taken by one of the club's better photographers, Peter Watts. Even if you think you've "seen it all before" the set-up is well worth viewing - just be careful not to get talked into buying a new pair of caving boots or some other caving necessity by super salesman Pete while you are there.

(Thanks to the management of the 'Outdoor Shop' for permitting the display.)

TRIP REPORTS

Exit Cave - February 20, 1977.

Party: T.Culberg, P. Fullerton and A. Sprent(visitor).

The purpose of this trip was to allow Tony Sprent to evaluate Exit for a proposed survey trip at Easter.

We went to the Chamber of Damocles, Edies Treasure and the Dribble System. There were no noteworthy items other than Tony Sprent's amazement at the size of the cave. He determined the type of equipment and methodology to use.

Someone has left crumpled Alfoil on key rocks in the talus - any confessions??

T.Culberg.

Exit Cave - March 19,1977.

Party: Roy Skinner, T. Culberg, P. Fullerton, R. Dean(P), and Staff and students of Hobart Matriculation College.

The purpose of this trip was to replace the bridge destroyed in Nov. 1976(See Spiel.No.119 and ASF N/L 74 p.15).

After a somewhat late start, we assembled at the entrance, noted the water level was a bit higher, measured the span and regrouped near a suitable stand of 175 mm. diameter blackwoods. Three were cut, after some discussion over which side of the knot was the correct length.(The keeper of the official length had forgotten whether it was the short or the long end!!) We chose the long end, as it is easier to shorten than lengthen.

It seems green blackwood floats about 200 mm. below surface level - we floated the logs up to the site with the aid of courlene ropes and so on.

Roy and I located one end on the steep rock while Pat co-ordinated the chaos on the other side. It seems the short end of the rope would have been o.k. As a result the new bridge is some 600 mm. higher than the old. It is useable, but needs to be lashed down to new bolts. I will attempt this during the Easter trip.

It is possible at present, if there was a high flood, for it to be washed away. A step is needed half-way up the steep rock as well.

The opportunity was taken to clean up the fallen debris on the track in.

The clubs gratitude is due to the 5 HMC boys and 1 Geilston Bay student who provided the muscle power to restore the cave to a safe status.

T. Culberg.

Exit Cave - April 2,1977.

Party: T. Culberg(L), P. Fullerton, R. Dean(J), and N. Burgess (visitor).

Purpose: To carry in some heavy equipment for use over Easter.

The party left on time and after talking to Roy at the parking lot made its way to the cave. Despite heavy rain the week before the track was dry and the water level in the cave not very high, although it had been.

We reached Inner Base Camp after 2 hours of non-strenuous caving, left the gear and returned to the car.

Robert Dean has now completed the requisite trips for his membership.

T. Culberg.

* * * * *

CLUB ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner this year will probably be held on either the 10th or 17th of September. A venue has yet to be decided, but this should be done soon to ensure a booking.

Tentatively may I suggest we consider holding the dinner at the Bavarian Tavern. The service and meals here are excellent and a band is there on a Saturday night. Cost of a meal averages out at \$ 6.50 which is Soup of the day, Main Course(5-6 choices), Dessert and Coffee. Wine is extra. Discussion invited at the next meeting. (ED.)

Trip Reports(cont.)

(And now for something completely different!)

149 Liverpool Street, Hobart, - March 23, 1977.

Following an invitation from the manager of this place, Pat and I attended on March 23. The entrance is via a long, smooth sided dry passage with some "natural" light of varying intensity. This gives on to a large open space, with different levels, with some strangely shaped roof pendants and very regular columns.

We were led to our allocated vantage point and were able to observe the other features. There was constant background noise at about 80 dba, quite pleasant in fact to the ear. Refreshments were served, prawns for entree, steak and then sweets. The wine was expensive but correctly served.

In all the environment was quite pleasant, but do take a well stocked wallet. I will not, despite the generosity of the management, be recommending that the club make a party booking at Hobart's Exclusive Restaurant-Disco - SILVERS.

T. Culberg.

GROWLING SWALLET, Florentine Valley - 12/3/77.

Party: Stuart Nicholas, Bill Nicholson and John Parker.

The proving of the steeam connection between Growling Swallet (JF 36) and Junee Cave last year has provided some inspiration for further exploration of Growling Swallet. So, armed with high hopes and three shovels, we proceeded to the cave via a couple of wrong roads and a wrong turn off the old horse track. The stream was quite low, although I have seen it lower, which made the descent fairly easy.

With great enthusiasm we rushed along the Mud Passage below the pitch to the point where the funnel shaped depression in the side of the passage leads to a small tube. (Refer to the trip report and sketch map in Spiel No.111, April, 1976). Unfortunately, the main sump in the stream passage was full which prevented access to the bottom end of the afore mentioned tube. Anyway, to make a short story even shorter, we found after a few minutes digging that the supposed sand or mud tube was in fact a small and lined rock tube - a real blow. This discovery was made even more frustrating by the fact that running stream type noises could be heard coming from the tube - at least this confirms that the tube does go through to the stream passage.

After much moaning and groaning we proceeded out of the cave, getting rather wet in the process. (It's amazing how wet one gets when climbing a 4 m. waterfall!) The cuppa and the fire was much appreciated when we eventually returned to the Annan's after about four hours underground.

Remaining Possibilities.

About halfway between the bottom of the ladder pitch and the normal sump there is a side branch to the left which normally takes a little water. Without much trouble a diversion dam could be constructed from the rocks on the floor and a large sheet of plastic, thereby sending the stream down the other passage. This has the effect of lowering the sump enabling it to be passed (we tried this last year without the plastic) and hence giving access (hopefully) to the new extension.

Other work to be done includes complete exploration of all side passages and then surveying the whole system. The only snag is that the cave tends to flood in heavy rain.

Stuart Nicholas.

Maydena Branch Report.

Three trips have been made to the deep fissure near The Chairman, found by John Parker in January, and mentioned in the February Spiel.
11th Feb. - Party: John Parker and Niel Bridges(P), descended to a depth of 35 m. but were stopped short through lack of ladder.
15th Feb. - John Parker descended to a depth of 45 m.
20th Feb. - Party: John Parker and Philip Voss (who has been lured by skin diving,

rather than by caving over the past months) - descended to a depth of 55 m. and report that the cave ends in a large cavern containing a spectacular archway, but no prospects for further depth.

West Florentine Area - 26th Feb.1977.

Party: John Parker, Anne Annan and Timbo and Gemma(dogs).

This trip was originally organized to show some of our caves to a West Australian caver who failed to arrive. First stop was for a quick look through Cashion Ck. Cave - then on to Beginners Luck, where we grovelled around for nearly 3 hrs. We also located a small hole in the Beginners Luck Reserve - entered after removing a big rock from the entrance - the cave is very small (10 m.) with some formation.

27th Feb - While searching for caves in the area behind the Junee Efflux

John Parker found a large fissure - appears to be approx. 20 m. deep with passage leading off. This cave is located in horrible scrub and it is not likely that it has been seen before. John intends exploring the cave next weekend.

Anne Annan.

4th March - Trip to Rift Cave.

Party consisted of myself and my parents.

We used the short cut track from the K.D. road and scrambled down to the sump - visitors were most impressed.

While talking of Rift Cave - over the previous months I have come across several caves in the vicinity of this hole. About 200 yds. S-E of the cave is a large cave in a dome of limestone - have been down 60 ft. to a sloping mud floor, rocks thrown in fall for a considerable period. S-W of Rift, a passage found in a face of limestone - explored this and found a twisted passage dropping for about 50 ft. to a sandy sump. At the back of Rift Cave in the direction of K.D. a fair size pot exists, across from this a creek flows into a muddy passage - have been into this for a distance of 50 ft. - there is a fair draught coming up.

12th March - Went up to the cave located above the Junee Efflux - the hole

drops 35 ft. into a sloping passage of 20 ft. long leading into a small chamber with a number of straws in the roof. Later in the afternoon I went with Max and Anne to an area east of the Humbolt River - walked up the ridge for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles - no limestone seen, but from reports of timber getters who worked the area in the 1930's several caves were known to be there. Further searching may yield some results.

Laurie has secured 16 number plates for the Maydena branch - these will be affixed as soon as possible, however, we could do with a few more.

John Parker.

A number of caving trips have been made to the West Florentine in the past month, resulting in new caves being explored in Settlement, Leo Thorne and Frizon's Roads. All are small horizontal caves with some formation. Frankcombe Cave was also visited with Therese Goede and a group from Hobart(Bill Nicholson, Heather Symes and Don Lewis(P)).

On Sunday, 10th April, Max, John and myself walked into the Cole River Valley(in W.Florentine area) to look around in the area of limestone reported by John Miller(TCC-MB). No significant finds but this is a promising area.

John Parker has been doing some numbering up in the vicinity of the Chairman as follows: JF 111 - N.W. of The Chairman 120 yds. unexplored, believed to be very deep. Proposed name "15 Seconds" -(it takes 15 seconds for a stone to drop out of ear shot in the cave). JF 112 - Left of Forestry track towards Tyenna Peak, close to JF 101. Partially explored to depth of 40 m. Proposed name "The Slot". JF 113 - Off Forestry track to right, close to Rift Cave. Fully explored - vertical pitch of 20 m. to floor, followed by 22 m. pitch to sandy floor.

Anne Annan.

WANTED - one good secondhand down sleeping bag, also a carbide lamp.

Contact Anne Annan - c/o Maydena P.O. or Ph. 88 2222.