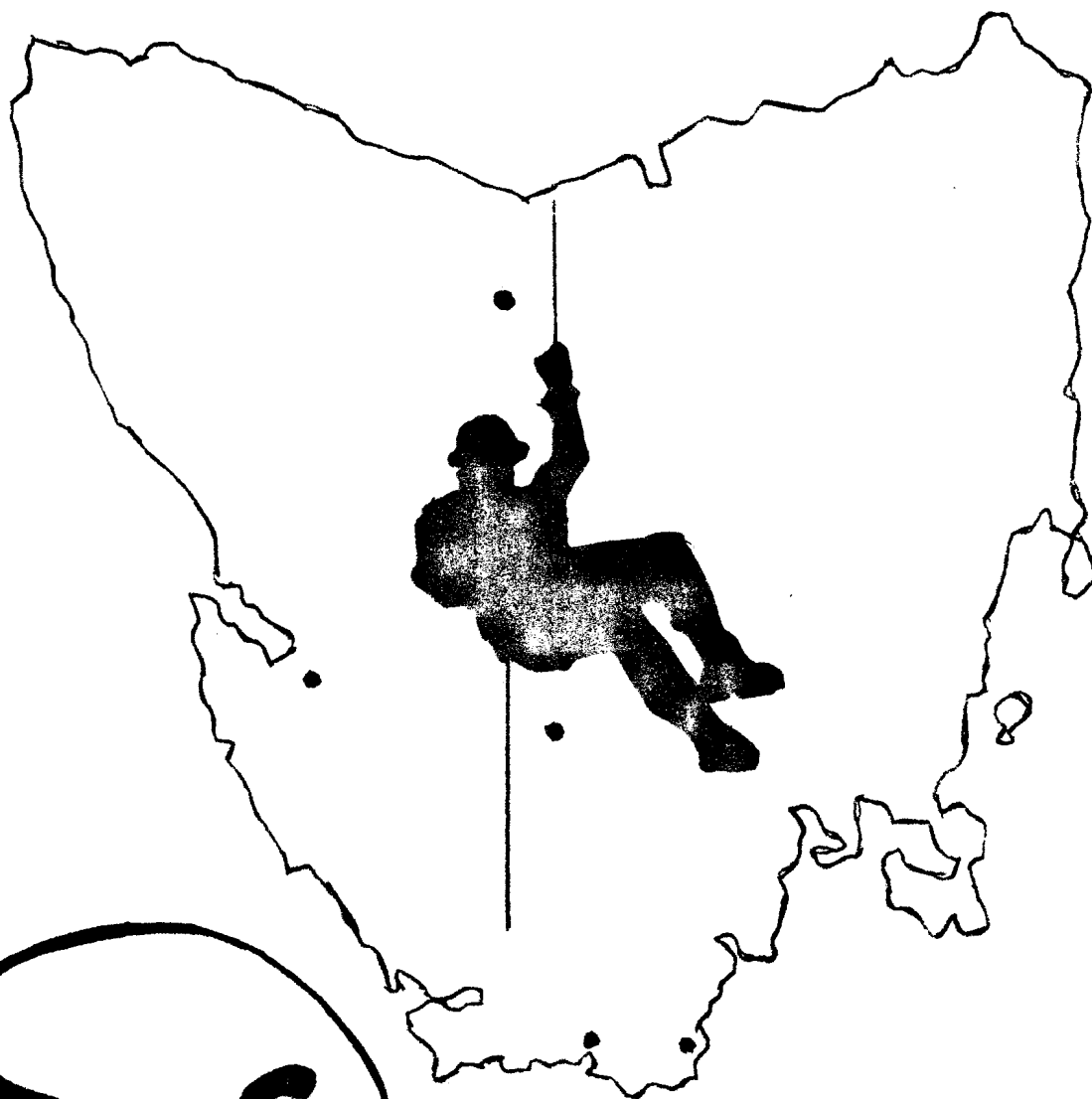


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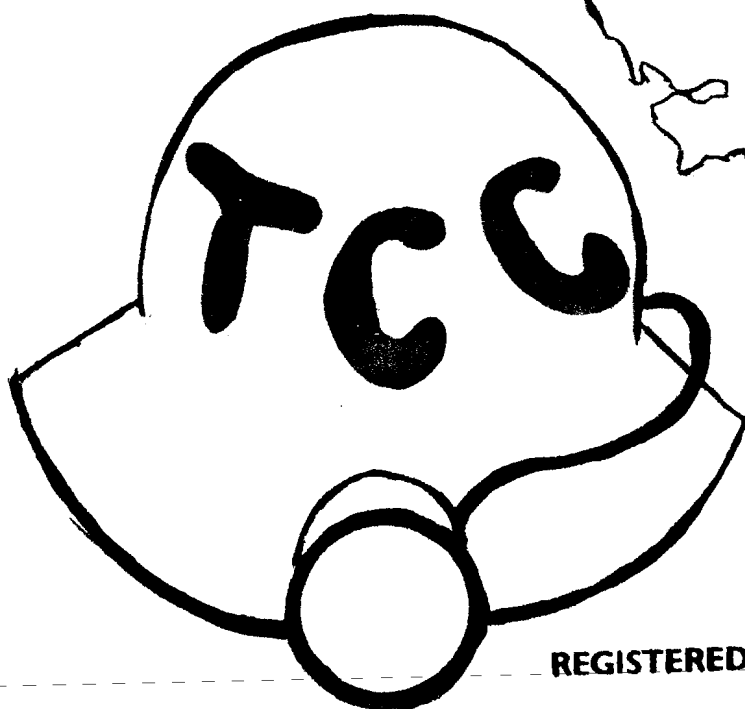
Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

MAY 1977 No. 123.

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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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

We seem to have reached that time of the year once again when our members prefer warm homes and hot coffee, to wet bush and cold feet. Add to this the fact that our more active cavers are elsewhere at present and we have no forward programme. However, I have been led to believe that Maydena branch members can still be persuaded to leave their home fires and go bush so if you want to go caving this month you'd best phone up Anne Annan on 88 2222.

Next GENERAL MEETING - JUNE 1, 8 p.m. Have not received notification of a pre-arranged meeting place so the venue for this meeting will be

8 Bath Street, Battery Point.

ANNUAL DINNER.

At the last meeting it was decided that this would be held on the 10th of September, at the "Bavarian Tavern" (in Liverpool Street.) Time yet to be finalized but we'll probably meet at 7.30 for pre-dinner drinks and start our dinner at 8.00p.m. A deposit would be appreciated upon booking and will be returned to you on the evening of the dinner. For further information contact Therese Goede or the acting treasurer T.Culberg.

EDITORIAL.

When there's nothing to say don't waste your breath(or in this case - club stencils). The only thing of note is that Wednesday night gatherings are once again occurring. By general consensus cavers are now meeting at the old gathering place of 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. Unlike the first time when people had a choice of sitting on floor boards or apple cases you can now sit on the lounge suite or comfy carpet. Hope to have an article from Peter Murray for the next Spiel probably on recent finds in the Florentine Valley. Anyone else who would like to have something published? I'd sure like to hear from you!
Ed.

*** Laurie Moody has a new phone number, you can now contact him on
49 3842.

"CAVES"

"CAVES"

"CAVES"

"CAVES"

"CAVES"

"CAVES"

by Tony Waltham.

Have been able to obtain some more copies of this excellent book. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy can contact me at 8 Bath Street, Battery Point.

PRICE \$4.30 repeat \$4.30 (if nesc. add postage.)

* Ladder making.

As we are still waiting for the aluminium tubing we decided to purchase 100 pre-drilled rungs which S.C.S. had to spare. Ladder making can now commence and volunteers should phone Stuart Nicholas on 28 3054.

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Financial Members.

The Secretary has advised me that the following are financial. If you sent your sub. after 14/5/77 you won't be on this list. If you haven't yet sent your sub. please do so as soon as possible.

W.M. Tomalin	R. Dean	P. Fullerton
M. Jagoe	H. Symes	P. Watts
A. and S. Annan	M. and T. Jeffries	B. Nicholson
T. Goede	L. Moody	H. Heerding
R. and E. Skinner	R. Booth	M. March
L. Robinson	A. Redman	N. Poulter
	D. Martin	

* * * * *

MAYDENA BRANCH REPORT. (Thanks John - Ed.)

Over Easter we received a visit from three mainland cavers - Stephen Beenton, Graeme Smith(SUSS) and David Stenson(MCG), - who stayed with us on the Friday night. On Saturday we guided them up to Phazad-dum, which they duly bottomed.

The Pillingers Creek area was visited on several occasions, with the result that a new inflow cave has been located on the western slope of Roberts Hill.

1st May - a group of fanatics attempted to walk along the bed of Eden Creek, but foiled by mountains of thistles and stingers - this was followed by a scrub-bashing session in an adjacent area, the only result of this being that we all got lost.

6th May - Max, Anne and John, with Laurie and Louise Moody.

Beautiful day for once. Drove out to Settlement Road to look at caves reported in the area. Battled around for several hours - through felled timber and stingers, finding only a few small caves - the area should reveal more caves when the area is burnt.

Following this we went up to JF 103 and JF 105 so that Laurie could take some photos. While he did so Anne and I loaded Max's ute up with firewood and tea tree.

Caves numbered over the past few weeks include:

- JF 114 - Cave 1/2 mile past Chrisps Hut - fully explored to a depth of 120 ft. Strong draught.
- JF 115 - Adjacent cave - fully explored to depth of 160 ft. A foul, muddy hole.
- JF 116 - Small cave at end of Stan Lovell Rd. 30 ft entrance pitch leading into small crawl passages.
- JF 117 - Cave at the end of Settlement Road. Fully explored to a depth of 60 ft.

* * * * *

TRIP REPORTS.EXIT CAVE - EASTER, 1977.

Party: (Fri.) Roy Skinner(M)

(Fri.-Sat.) Dave Gosden, Sally Gosden(V's.) Graeme Smith, Steve Bunton, David Stenson (MCG, SUSS) H. Symes(J).

(Fri.-Sun.) Peter Watts(M), Bill Lark, Lyn Lark, Paul Bolland(V's.)

(Fri.-Mon.) A.Culberg(L), Bill Nicholson(J), Brian and Gerry Lefoe, Graeme Ferguson(UFSWSS), Ted Anderson, John Dunkley(CSS), Tony Green(V), Tony Sprent.

The organisation of this trip was done by myself and involved 3 separate parties from the mainland:-

Ted Anderson, John Dunkley and Tony Green who flew by Cherokee 140 from

Canberra. Brian and Gerry Lefoe and Graeme Ferguson who drove from Orange to Sydney then flew by normal scheduled flight.

Dave Stenson, Graeme Smith and Steve Bunton who flew from Sydney via normal commercial flight.

Needless to say "Huey", the Department of Transport and the airlines combined to delay the start of the trip substantially.

One half of the party carried in gear on Good Friday while the remainder gathered in Hobart, then made a late start for the cave. The pre-trip planning meant that most of the camping gear was at inner base camp, while the people were at Camp One

By lunchtime Saturday the survey was underway under the guidance of one PhD., one doctoral student, one experienced graduate field surveyor and two final year survey students. We may in fact have had too much expertise

I spent much of the trip getting people and equipment at the same place at the same time. This meant several trips through the rockfall with packs, and also meant I did not do any surveying or work of that kind.

Results: Of the 20 people who attended at various times 5 were club members, 8 were from other ASF clubs and the remainder visitors.

We have decided it is better to use Camp 1; it is fifteen minutes to the bush outside for toilets etc. and does not involve the lost time that pack hauling in the rockfall does.

Surveying takes much longer than we thought!!! Explosive powered fastening devices (Ramset, Hilti, etc.) don't work in limestone.

A. Culberg.

EXIT CAVE - April 24, 1977.

Party: T.Culberg(L), P.Fullerton(M), R.Dean(J) and J.Wise(V).

PURPOSE: to clean up the gear after the Easter surveying trip.

The party proceeded to inner base camp and gathered up the surplus material, both rubbish and reusable supplies. The stockpile of carbide and candles was replenished. We made a quick visit into Edies Treasure.

At Camp 1 all the gear except 2 tripods was removed and 4 heavily laden people wended their weary way home. A short trip was made to "The Collonades" as 'reward' for the work of the helpers.

Roy Skinner was in the cave at the same time but we did not see him, although he did remove some of the gear from Camp 1.

Serious thought should be given to restricting camping to Camp 1, as this would minimise ecological damage to the rest of the cave. It takes only 40 minutes for a person to reach Inner Base Camp from Camp 1, which is a small cost to pay.

A. Culberg.

* * * * *

CLIMBING A LADDER WITHOUT BELAY FROM ABOVE OR BELOW

There are two situations which come under this heading, one is on a short pitch, e.g. 7 metres; two is a situation in which I found myself early this year in JF 110, (Victory '75). I was on a ledge near the bottom of the 180 ft. pitch waiting for the belay rope, Stuart and Laurie above at the top of the pitch tried 3-4 times unsuccessfully to throw the rope clear of a minute ledge half-way down.

No luck, rope was stuck, nothing to do but to climb the 20-27 metres up to it unbelayed. This I did by clipping onto each second rung with a karabiner from my seat harness. It was time consuming but safe.

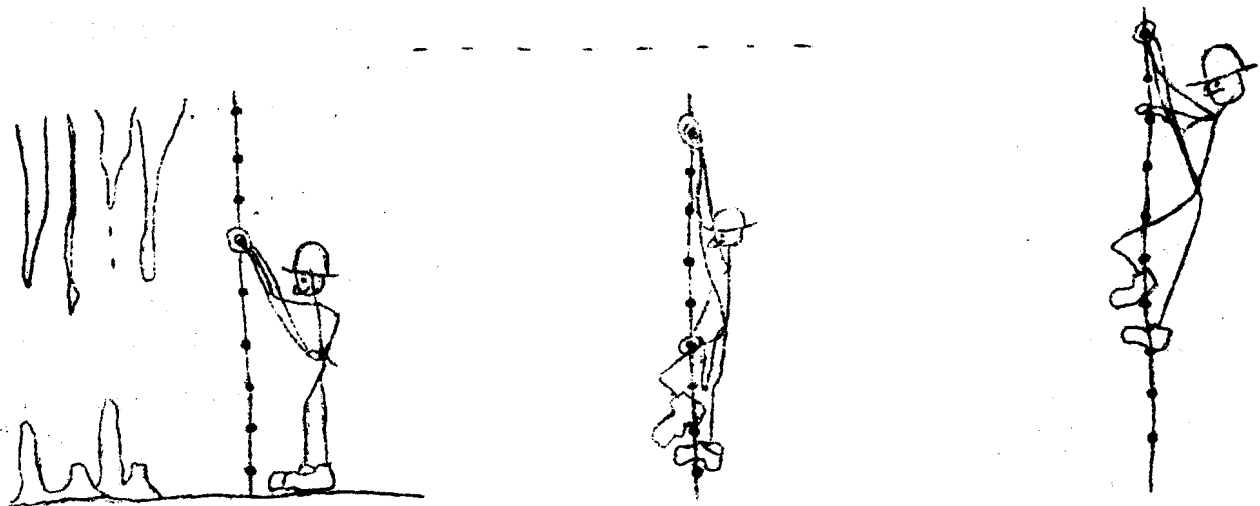
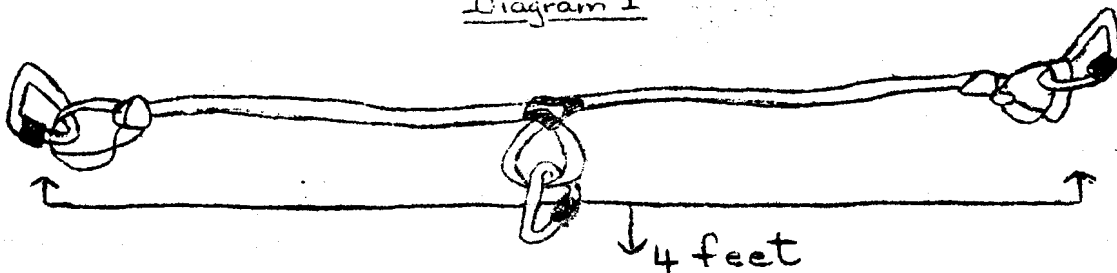
Recently I tried out a similar technique above ground incase one would unfortunately find himself(or herself) in a similar situation or if one wanted some protection on an unbelayed pitch this would help.

A length of one inch tubular webbing with a loop tied at each end and one in the middle. (See diagram 1, on next page.)

The middle loop is clipped into the seat harness and one karabiner clipped into each end loop.

Clip both krabs onto a rung above your head, climb up until the krabbed rung is level with your belly button or lower, unclip one and clip it onto the next rung above your head and then do the same with the other, repeat the routine over and over until you are at the top. (See diagram 2).

" Why use two krabs?" cried the ignorant b.....d on the back bench. By using the two krabs you are never unclipped from the ladder from the start to the finish. A fit person can climb 3 metres under 30 seconds - not much, but safer than free climbing.

Diagram 1Diagram 2

Bill Nicholson.

PROPOSED CAVE NAMES.

- JF 114 - Suggested name for this cave is 'Tom Halam Cave'.
JF 115 - One young man's introduction to caving so the suggested name for this very muddy hole is 'Terry's Debut', and if he comes caving again he has got to be really keen.
-

It seems that although they have more active members than the Hobart branch, the Maydena branch is still not satisfied.

Congratulations to Philip and Noreen Voss on the birth of their daughter Charni, on Friday 13th, May.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

Our treasurer was almost flooded out of his rondavel (a round holiday house) a few weeks ago, but apart from that is having a lovely time in South Africa. Although engaged in doing research on blockstreams in some of the mountains he has plenty of spare time to photograph the native flora and fauna and should have some interesting slides to show on his return. On Sunday 15th May he was to go on a guided tour of "Wonder Cave" with Mike Schultz, the Town Clerk of Schoemanshoek. Hopefully he will have taken his camera with him and he'll have some good photos of the cave to show also.

TYING YOUR OWN KNOT.

(Or - How not to get your knickers in onc).

It is most important that every caver knows when and where to use a particular knot and how to tie it. Although the number of knots which should be known is limited to four or five, you should be able to tie any of them in any position without having to think about how to do it.

The knots which should be known are Bowline, Figure-of-eight, Double Fisherman's, Tape Knot and possibly the Prusik knot.

BOWLINE: This is used to make a secure loop in the end of the rope and is the knot generally used to tie onto the belay rope when climbing ladders. The main loop is made around your waist and the knot tied in front, the short, free end being secured with a thumb knot around the rope forming the loop.

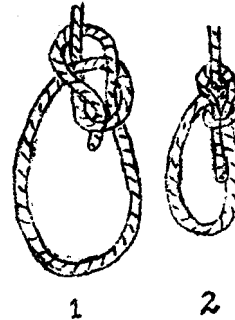
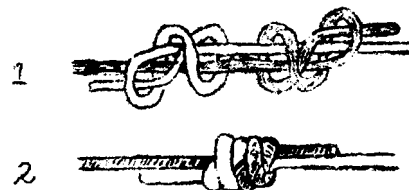


FIGURE-OF-EIGHT: Normally used by the belayer to tie himself to the rope since access to the end of the rope is not required. Also used for loops in the end of rope for gear hauling and so on.



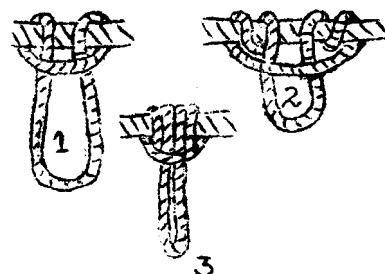
DOUBLE FISHERMAN'S: This is the ONLY knot to use for joining two ropes, a practice which should be avoided if at all possible. Make sure each half is pulled tight and both halves are pulled tightly together.



TAPE KNOT: If using tape or webbing for any purpose the ONLY knot to use for tying ends together is the tape knot. Once again it is most important that it is pulled tight and checked regularly while in use.

See page 6.

PRUSIK KNOT: Has many applications on a caving trip wherever a temporary tie-on to a rope already rigged is needed. Also useful as a third prusik when climbing up over the lip at the top of an S.R.T. pitch. In some cases six loops are preferable to four. Use your head when using this knot as it is potentially hazardous. (Refer to article in Speleo Spiel, Oct.1976, No.117.)



Approximate static strengths of the above knots, expressed as a percentage of the ultimate breaking strength of the rope, are as follows:

Bowline	-	70 - 75
Figure-of-eight	-	70
Double Fisherman's	-	60 - 65
Tape knot	-	55 - 65
Prusik knot	-	? (variable, from zero up).

Thumb knot - 70 - 75 (in tested length).

Make certain that any knots you tie are correct and work them tight before use, except for the prusik which is fairly loose. Occasionally half hitches are used as lock-knots or stopper knots to protect other knots. It is more satisfactory to use a thumb knot (Granny knot) since half hitches easily shake out when tied in nylon.

Stuart Nicholas.

FILLER (with apologies to W. Cole)

A song of thanks.

It's sensible that stalactites
 Hang downward as they grow,
 For I would hate to step on one
 In flowstone, don't you know.

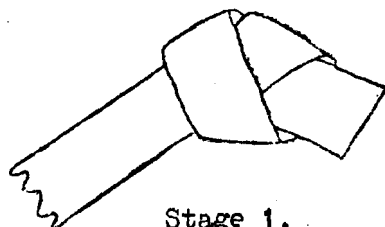
It's really best that caves get "lost"
 Then found again, you see,
 For even though refound it's
 Like a new discovery.

I've never thought that meetings were
 A necessary chore,
 But when there's too much politics
 They turn into a bore.

It's best of all that everyone's
 So tolerant today
 That I can write this sort of stuff
 And NOT get put away.

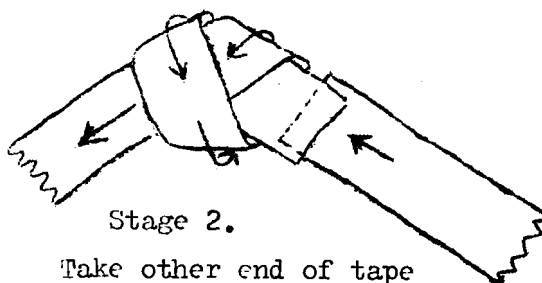
It's sometimes really hard to think
 Of articles you'll like,
 So rather than get in a stew
YOU write, and I'll just type!

(Ed.)



Stage 1.

Tie a simple thumb knot near one end of tape; leave it fairly loose.



Stage 2.

Take other end of tape and pass it behind short end and follow around the original thumb knot. Work tight.

Thumb (or Overhand) Knot.

