

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

JULY 6 - General Meeting, 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, at 8 p.m.

* PLEASE NOTE THE ALTERATION OF VENUE!

July 9-10 - Laddering (day) weekend at Maydena - probably some caving as well.
Leader: Stuart Nicholas.

Sept. 10 - ANNUAL DINNER in the comfortable surroundings of the Bavarian Tavern. If you are a teetotaler, and only eat the main course it shouldn't cost you more than \$5.00. A deposit of \$2.00 per pers. making a booking would be appreciated and will be refunded to you on the evening of the dinner - after that you'll be paying your own way. For further information contact Stuart Nicholas (Ph. 28 3054) or Therese Goede. Pre-dinner drinks 7.30 p.m. Dinner will be served around 8.00 p.m.

DEC.(early) - KUBLA KHAN. Leader: Bill Tomalin.

Please note that there is a party limit of 9 for this trip.

CAVING most weekends at Maydena, contact Anne Annan on 88 2222 for details.

LADDER MAKING anytime at 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, for details Ph. 28 3054.

NATTER NIGHTS any WEDNESDAY (except the first Wed. of the month) at Therese Goede's, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. ALL Welcome - first come first served with regard to seating accommodation!

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EDITORIAL

Due to a misunderstanding between the Secretary and other Committee Members the June General Meeting was cancelled and the President instead called a Committee Meeting. The matter concerning the Committee is now in hand and hopefully such misunderstandings will not recur. Apologies are extended to the confused members and the welcome horde of prospective members who arrived promptly at 8 p.m. After hurried introductions Roy Skinner extended his invitation that they all adjourn to his house for a chat. (Thanks to Roy for his hospitality!). The next official General Meeting will be at 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town at the usual time of 8 p.m. and it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend. Please note, if your helmet on the cover has a red light you are (to the best of my knowledge) unfinancial - could you please do something about it as soon as possible!

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Prospective members! (We hope to see you again in the near future).

Matthew Lewis, Anita Truchanas, Ian Gothard, Tim Philips,
Hugh Stevenson, Stephen Smillie Antoni Sikora

They have (apparently) all been caving with Roy and will be a welcome asset to the

Club.

CLUB NEWS.

- * Bill Tomalin is looking a little pale lately - seems he's just been told his wife is having twins! They're expected around Sept.10 - but please Bill, don't let them interfere with your attending the club do!
- * It appears, from a recent circular, that congratulations are due to Tony Culberg and Pat Fullerton on their marriage.
- * C.O.O.E.E. Report - this will be discussed at the July meeting as proposed, as long as the people whom it concerns are in attendance.

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MEMBERSHIP FEES 1977-78.

Family membership	\$10.00	Prospective members pay \$2.00
Full membership	\$ 7.00	and this entitles them to three
Junior membership	\$ 4.00	copies of the Newsletter. When
Associate membership	\$ 4.00	they become members the \$2.00
Entry fee	\$ 2.00	paid counts as their entry fee.
Subscription to Spiel	\$ 4.00	

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(My apologies to Laurie Moody for not checking my meter box - this was meant for the last Spiel along with the trip report of the 7/5/77.)

ITEM OF INTEREST.

Whilst reading a small booklet produced by the Country Womens' Association(South-Western Group) and dated December, 1947, I came across the following article supplied by a member of the North Bruny Branch. It was simply entitled " A True Story " and appears below in its original form.

" Walking along the coastline at the northern end of Bull Bay, North Bruny Island, many years ago, a family of four small girls(the eldest about eleven years of age), were clambering up the steep face of a cliff, and in doing so were pulling away the overhanging growth which they discovered was covering a hole of interesting character.

One of the children, more venturesome than the rest, spent some time in investigating what could have caused this cavity, as well as how deep it may be. Peering into the darkness and not being able to decide just what they had found, they decided to keep this secret, and to make opportunity to return. This they did on the following weekend.

Equipped with a candle, these four children, unknown to their parents, returned to the scene of their secret discovery. Feeling just a little nervous, while telling stories of wild cats and other dangers, they followed one behind the other along a narrow low passageway, which opened into a high roofed cave, as big as a large room, but more lofty. Aided by the light of the candle they discovered flints, stones, wood and shells.

When at length their secret was revealed, it was found that, none, not even the oldest residents knew of the existence of this cave. Perhaps it may be that years before some of the island's black population had sheltered there when on a fishing expedition."

Being familiar with this section of North Bruny, I find the above story a little hard to digest but there are cliffs and I intend to look closely at this area in June.

Laurie Moody.

* * * * *

Peter Watts has left the Outdoor Shop and is now working for Nat. Parks and Wildlife at Hastings. Half his luck getting a job in a prime caving area.

Commentary on "Climbing a Ladder Without a Belay". (Spiel. no.123).

The purpose of a belay is two fold

- a) to save the climber if h the ladder fails
- b) to save the climber if he is knocked off the ladder by a falling rock.

In situation (a) the method described will be of no use whatever.

In situation (b) a person knocked unconscious will be hanging by his waist band with no way that he can be lowered to the ground. A person's life expectancy while supported by a waist band is less than ten minutes, due to compression of the diaphragm and a consequent loss of breathing.

Situation (b) will also lead to a most unnatural load on the ladder. Instead of each wire carrying the load equally, all the load will be on one side. When the potential rescuer climbs the ladder, the load on one side will be approaching the limit.

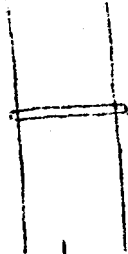
E.g. climber weighs $12\frac{1}{2}$ stone, 175 lb. rescuer weighs the same, (still of course no belay). Load of fallen climber on one wire 175 lb.
Load of rescuer on one wire $87\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

262 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

Maximum permissible load 1 wire 500 lb.

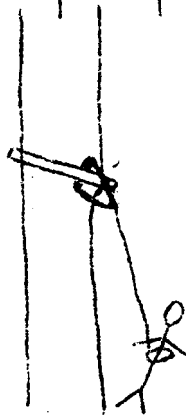
Maximum, of course, relates to a new ladder made under ideal controlled conditions, with new materials. The reduction in strength of the rung due to metal fatigue is not measureable.

- (1) NORMAL LOAD IS SPREAD OVER BOTH WIRES.



rung. Note no kinks.

- (2)



Load where climber has fallen.

note(1) The wire must be kinked where it comes out of the rungweakened.

note(2) Load is carried on one wire only.

The real point is that all members should be practised in climbing techniques, and trip leaders should avoid situations described in Spiel, No.123 p.3.

(The solution is easy - position a person on the ledge who sends the rope the rest of the way down. He either belays on a separate rope or clips onto the ladder - this is not very good, but the fact that it is a static situation reduces significantly the risk - i.e. if he's not actually climbing he can't fall).

T. Culberg.

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For those members who want to practice tying knots, rope will be provided at the Wednesday night get-togethers. Until we get them right a certain amount of butter-fingeredness and ensuing hilarity is to be expected. We hope to have Stuart there to put us right .

TRIP REPORT

Florentine - West Florentine - 7/5/77.

Party: Max Jeffries, Anne Annan, John Parker, Louise Moody and Laurie Moody.

After our arrival at Maydena, it was decided that we would investigate a new find at the far end of Settlement Road. We duly arrived at the area in question at about 10.45 a.m. It took five to ten minutes to locate the cave which was on the top side of the road and on the southern side of the low ridge. Several minutes were then spent in locating the entrance which finally proved to be between some loose-looking boulders. Laurie descended first and found himself in a small chamber. He was soon joined by John and they discovered a 5 metre pitch. Max secured a rope to a tree outside the entrance and Laurie descended only to find that the cave terminated in a sump at a depth of about 20 metres. A small, tight passage was also noted and appeared to lead back to the surface in a south-easterly direction. After emerging back at the entrance, John scouted around and located what appeared to be another hole some 30 metres east of the first one. He duly descended and informed Laurie that it opened into a small chamber. After negotiating the steeply inclined, low-roofed rift, Laurie discovered that this passage was the one he had noted on his earlier descent. CURSES! Foiled again!!

After regaining the surface, a number JP 117 was assigned to the second entrance and fixed in place. An hour or so was spent scrub-bashing (someone ought to form a society for the prevention of cruelty to scrub! - Ed.) around this area but no further caves were found.

Lunch was consumed and we adjourned to the western-Florentine as Laurie intended to do some photography in JP 107. Due to the logging operations which are in progress, we had some difficulty in locating the cave but eventually it was found. Max, Louise and Laurie entered the cave, having left Anne and John to busy themselves cutting lengths of tea-tree further down the road.

Some time was spent taking photographs, despite Louise's inability to adapt herself to the slippery floor. This finally resulted in a cut hand which prompted her return to the surface with Max. Finally, satisfied that photography is not as easy as it looks, Laurie eventually exhausted his film and rejoined Max and Louise at the car.

We rejoined Anne and John and assisted in loading Max's ute with a great heap of tea-tree, then paid a quick visit to JP 103(Quick-visit Cave) This was mainly for the benefit of John and Anne who had not seen the cave before.

The party eventually arrived back at the Annan's just on dark for a welcome cup of coffee. However, this was not gained before we had freed Max's ute which managed to get bogged in the Annan's backyard. I feel that there is no need to mention the details in regard to this incident - I'll leave that to Max!

Laurie Moody.

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CAVES by Tony Waltham.

A comprehensive book written by a Pom(we won't hold that against him) and dealing with most aspects of caving. Two hundred and forty pages, many pretty pictures, colour as well as black and white, and it even mentions some Tasmanian caves. Chapters are entitled 1) The World of Caves, 2) The World of Karst, 3) Cave Exploration, 4) The Use of Caves, 5) Formation of Caves, 6) Decorated Caves and Cave Deposits, 7) Life in Caves, 8) Man in Caves, 9) Caves of the World. It also gives a list for further reading.

PRICE \$4.30 - and you can inspect before buying at 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. Be quick, as of the original 40 copies available there are just

Statistical 'Trivia'.

Some statistics derived from the longest and deepest caves in Australia list as published in the A.S.P. Newsletter, No.75. The list contains caves of 500 m. or more in length and 58 m. or more in depth.

Of the total documented cave length, the state by state break-up is as follows:

TAS.	29.5%
NSW.	19.4%
W.A.	16.7%
QLD.	14.9%
S.A.	14.9%
N.T.	2.52%
VIC.	1.98%

Similarly for the deepest caves, the break-up is as follows:

TAS.	43.6%
NSW.	22.9%
W.A.	13.0%
S.A.	9.45%
QLD.	8.50%
VIC.	2.52%

Well, it has been thought for a long time that if you are a caver Tassie is a good place to live, so I guess the above figures just confirm this.

Stuart Nicholas.

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The following is a trip report received from a ten year old taken on the recent survey trip to Exit. It is reprinted as received.

EXIT CAVE.

" It was a long trip to the beginning of the track to the cave. There were about 20 people going to Exit Cave and a few of them were from Sydney. They came over here just to survey the cave. We were the last to get to the meeting place so we stated almost as soon as we got there. The track was not at all obvious and when we came to the rain forest I sometimes thought we were lost. When we got to about the middle of the track we saw an old rotting rail way track made of wood used to transport wood to some place. The rails were in a rainforest where there were a few big logs and millions of thin tall trees. It was a bit muddy in the rain forest and there were some little streams some too long to jump over and some small enough to step over. About $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour after we came out of the rain forest we saw the river that goes out of Exit and in somewhere else the track was very thin until we saw the river where it widened up a little. We had to cross a log bridge which seemed slippery but wasn't much. The track was filled with pampas grass and you could easily trip over it. We finally got to the entrance of the cave but before we could go in we had to climb over huge logs. The vast entrance was made by big boulders and rocks falling down off the roof and all piling up in the cave making a sort of stairway down to the ground where there is a sort of "beach" with sand and the river just next to us. We had lunch on the beach because it took us one hour and $\frac{1}{2}$ to get to the cave and we left about eleven o'clock. After lunch we packed everything up and got ready to go again. To cross the river we had a choice of climbing back up and go on to a ledge when there was a rope to hold on to while you put your feet on little steps on the wall but I thought I might fall off because I didn't see the steps

so I had a pigg back by Roy who was taking surveying gear across to the other side. It was fairly steep on the other side and slippery too. There was a rock on that side so I could hold on to the rock to get up. Then Roy carried the packs over and put them on the rock where I was standing. There were lots of holes in the wall and I thought we go through the biggest one but we didn't we went through a hole just big enough to fit the biggest sack through. Some one went in that hole to unlock the door that was to stop people from wandering in and getting lost. Only leaders from T.C.C. (Tasmanian Caverning Club) are allowed to take people in there to explore. The cave hasn't been surveyed down to the end yet so they were going to see a bit more and might do a bit more surveying too. It was muddy near the door and the passage was only small so we had to drag the packs through the mud. We had to walk through the mud or go on your hands and knees in the mud because it was so muddy. Once we were inside we could see that it widened up into a very high passage. It was very dark inside so we had to put on our torches to see where we were going. We saw some roots of plants on the ceiling and we saw some stalactites too. We went through until we came to a sloping ledge. I was a bit slippery but I didn't slip in. We then had to cross a river and then we started going up. The rocks were slippery and some hard to get up. There was a steep bit of mud and at the side a bit there were some rocks and a person behind me tried to go up the mud bit and not the rocks and kept sliding down but I climbed up the rocky part and was much easier to get up. We then climbed more rocks and then we crossed the river again and then up a sandy slope to camp one. They had tea but I didn't have any and then we would just explore a bit. After tea (drink) we asked if any one else was coming and they said that they would rest so we got our torches and set off. First of all we went to a big cavern sort of thing and we had to wait for some other men who were fixing there lamps. We waited for a long while, while they fixed it. While we were waiting, Peter (leader) went exploring up the way a bit and took pictures of things down below. Peter is a very fast walker and it only took him a few minutes to get up and take all the pictures he wanted. When he was coming back down he turned off his light so it was very dark for a minute or so. After a long time, the men came so we started to go up where Peter went. We wanted to go down to the bottom of the "cavern" to see what was down there. We had to go up a bit before we could go down. It was squelchy going down and was a bit slippery but it didn't slip. After we got down we looked around but there was nothing much to see so we went up again but on a different path. It was just as slippery but it had rocks to hang on to, to get up. As soon as we got up we saw some stalactites hanging from the ceiling. It was the first time I could touch the roof of the cave that is about twenty meters high from camp one. The stalactites were called soda straws because they were hollow all the way through. I didn't know why it was hollow and neither did anyone else. We went further in and saw some rim stones which are like little dams formed to make a circle with circles inside circles. We saw a soda straw just one cm off the ground so in a million years or so it would have touched the ground. After a while we set off to do some more exploring. We went down again and up to a small opening it wasn't very big and there was a sort of hill with a very thin top. Down one side was a hole which you could easily fall down if you were small. On the other side there was a cliff going down a long way then we got over the hill and started going down. Then when we got down we went up a bit and came to a sort of a small cave which had the pendulum. A pendulum on a clock makes it tick, tock by swing to and fro. A pendulum also has a weight at the bottom to make it swing fast or slow. The pendulum we saw was made of water dripping to make a straw with a big limestone ball on the end. You possibly could not touch it without breaking it because it is so delicate after that we went to the rockfall. At the rock fall there is a hole you can go down to get back to camp one. Peter found a hole but it was only big enough for me to fit into so that wasn't the right way so we had to go up again and find another way. We went up to where it flattened out a bit and found a hole big enough for the packs and everyone to fit through. It went down to the waters edge so our boots got a bit wet. After a long mins walk

we got back to camp one. It was about 5 o'clock when we had tea and I was a bit tired from all the walking we had done so I went to bed early.

I woke up about midnight and heard voices. It was very dark. I saw the glow-worms on the wall and ceiling and looked pale yellowy-green but hardly gave any light. The drips off the roof sounded like rain from far away. I looked over towards the entrance of the cave and saw some lights I then knew they must be the Tonys who I thought would come in the morning because it would be as dark outside as in the cave. I was the first to see them so I woke up everyone else to tell them that Tony Colberg and Tony Sprent were here and a few from Sydney. They said that they would go to camp two because it was crowded at camp one. I couldn't sleep for the rest of the night and I don't know why. At eight o'clock next morning we all got up and had breakfast after breakfast some people said that they would go and wake up the people at camp two. It would have taken them an hour and one half to get there and the same time back. While they were out we went exploring a bit. We used about an hour exploring just $\frac{1}{4}$ of a km. After exploring we went back to camp one. We waited a bit longer for them to come back but they didn't come back. We took some pictures and after we took the last picture we heard them. We had tea with them and then went to the other men and then set off back to the beginning of the cave the water had risen up and we got out before it rained and for the river to go up.

Sally Gosden 10. "

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In reply to the " Commentary on 'Climbing a Ladder Without a Belay'."

Self belay should never be used if there are other better means of belay possible.

A short pitch of 7 metres is very rarely belayed and proposes no real risk for a well co-ordinated caver; but after a long hard trip, and especially if carrying ladders and ropes, co-ordination is greatly reduced which makes an easy pitch into a potentially dangerous climb. A fall of 7 metres can prove serious if not fatal, and an underground rescue proposes many problems. By self belay a potentially dangerous climb can be rendered safer.

In situation (b) a person knocked unconscious will be hanging from his seat harness and not his waistband, which, if used properly, proposes none of the problems as described elsewhere.

In the event of a fall the strain on the ladder would be very little as the possible distance of fall would only be 30 - 60 cm. (1 - 2 feet).

In the ladders we use the wires have a breaking strain of in excess of 2,000 lb. when new, at the moment a little under, but nowhere near the limit as was described in the other article.

Again, with the ladders we use, the design of the attachment of rungs ensures less kinking than when compared with some commercially produced ladders.

In conclusion, there is not much trip leaders can do to avoid such situations (see Spiel No.123), and you cannot belay every short pitch.

Bill Nicholson.

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On the 8th of June a record must have been set - 16 prospective members turned up at 8 Bath Street, for a natter as well as five club members. A club trip was arranged for them for Sun.12th June to be led by members of the Maydena Branch and it is hoped they can make it for the training weekend at Maydena on the 9-10th July. Hope to see you all again soon.