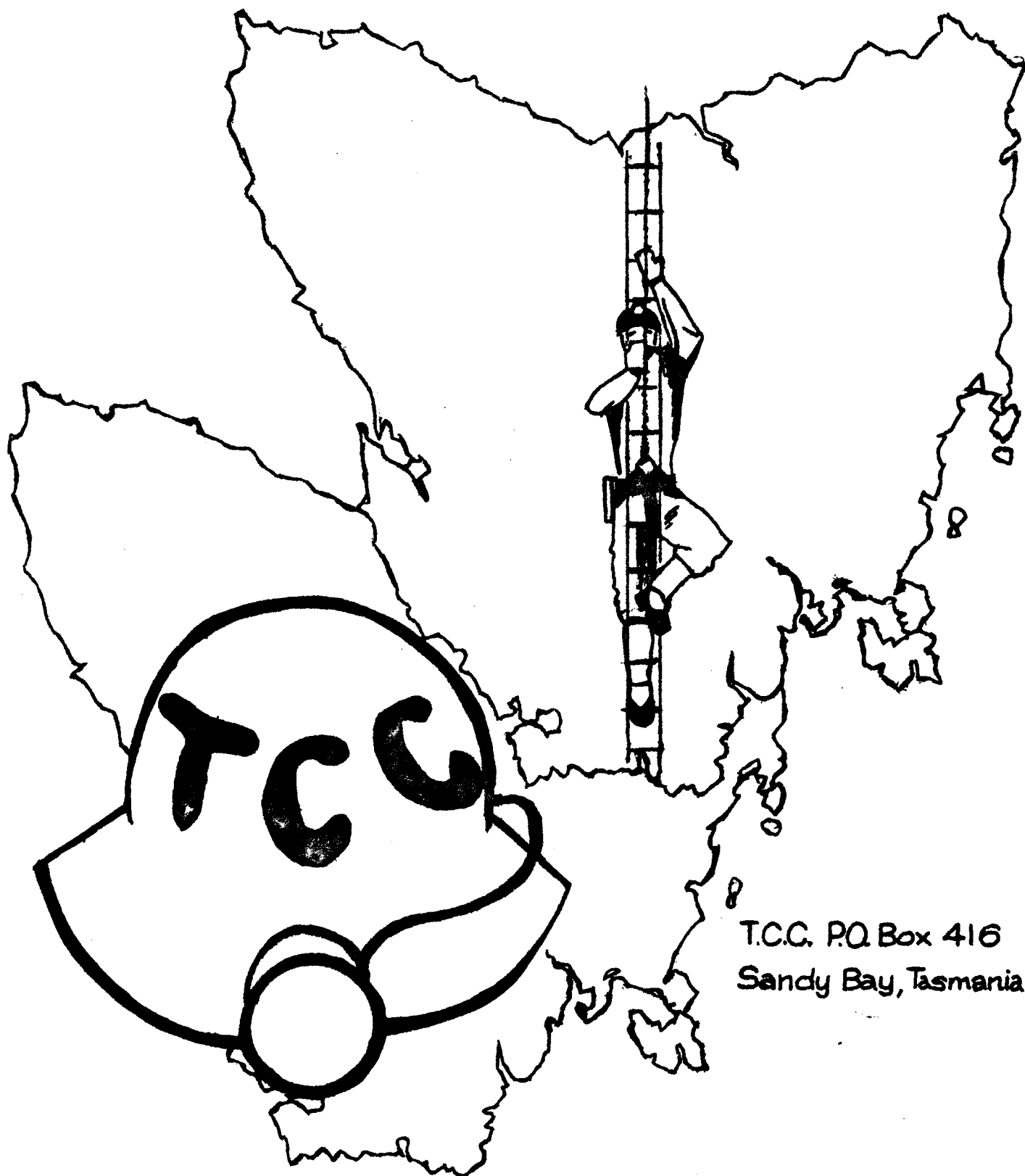


# SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

March 1978 NO 132

T.C.C. Established 1946



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

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

March 4 - Saturday: Day trip to Tasman's Arch (Eaglehawk Neck) for S.R.T. practice. Spectacular coastal scenery. Leader: Stuart Nicholas.

March 11,12 - WEEKEND: The Chairman, June Area. Leader: Stuart Nicholas. This is the last assault of the summer season. A special effort to push exploration as far as possible. Anybody who can assist with surface support please come!!

March 12 - Sunday: Day trip to Exit Cave to introduce H.M.C. students to the delights of caving. Leaders: Roy Skinner and Bruce McIntosh. Any assistance with transport would be most welcome.

March 24-27 - Easter: An unofficial trip to Maydena to celebrate birthdays of several members and incidentally do some caving. Contact Therese Goede or Bruce McIntosh for details.

March 25 - Saturday: Khazad-dum expedition 1978. Contact Stuart Nicholas for further information.

March 29 - WEDNESDAY: 8 p.m. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Election of office bearers. This meeting will be preceded by a very short Extraordinary General Meeting to approve constitutional changes required for the club to become an incorporated body of which NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.

We would like to see as many members as possible. Meeting Room Wheatsheaf Hotel.(Macquarie Street.)

(\* Extraordinary General Meeting - discussion time will be limited and at the discretion of the Chairman.)

April 1 - Saturday: Cave Search and Rescue. Either Exit Cave or Mystery Creek Cave(Entrance Cave). Contact Bill Nicholson for details.

Early April - A night to be arranged for the addressing of the A.S.F. Newsletter. Free refreshments available. Contact Tony Culberg for date.

Sometime April - A weekend trip is being planned to Mole Creek with students of H.M.C. For details contact Bruce McIntosh.

April 14-16 - WEEKEND (leave Fridaynight) The Federation of Tasmanian Bushwalking Clubs is arranging search and rescue parties to a number of areas, to test and improve radio communications. Names to Bill Nicholson as soon as possible.

PLEASE REMEMBER: There is no general meeting on the first WEDNESDAY of APRIL. Business will be dealt with at the A.G.M.

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EDITORIAL

If this issue is a bit short on trip reports it is not because there has been no caving activity during the past few weeks but because there are still some reports outstanding, e.g. Exit Cave. By all accounts this was worth writing up even if the exciting "new" passage the leader broke into after much frantic digging through the talus had been discovered before. Reminds me of another episode many years ago when members spent two weekends digging a prospect in the tourist section of Newdegate Cave. At last they broke through into a big "new" chamber. As they scrambled through excitedly to explore their find the lights were switched on!

And so we approach another A.G.M. where we will have to vote in a new committee for the coming year. It is no secret that there has been some discord in the executive during the last year partly as a result of personality clashes. It may be worthwhile reminding members that they get the committee they deserve. If you are in the usual scramble to avoid being elected you cannot complain if some of the members who are elected do not meet with your approval.

It is important for a committee of any caving club to work together in harmony. It is also important to elect office bearers who have some ability to do the job. A club secretary or Speleo Spiel editor who can not express themselves on paper are obviously not a good choice. Neither is a treasurer who cannot add two and two together or is so untidy that he cannot keep the books in order. A prospective quartermaster may reasonably be expected to have an interest in keeping club gear in order. If you get the wrong person for the job YOU could be the one to suffer the consequences! It's your club. If you have definite ideas on how it should be run and are prepared to do your share then stand for office !!

The suggestion that the club be incorporated resulted in a lively discussion at the last general meeting. Up till now the club has resisted this move because there seemed no real need for it. However, with the future income from beer tickets we will clearly be handling very much more money. This also means more risk to individual members who at present are fully liable for any debts that the club may incur. Incorporation means very limited liability.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions for 1978-79 will be due at the A.G.M. The fees for full and family membership had to be raised by 50 cents to cover an increase in A.S.F. subscriptions. Rates will be:

Full members(over 18 years)	\$ 7-50
Family members	\$10-50
Junior members	\$ 4-00
Associate members	\$ 4-00.

The full and family membership fees include a \$ 3-50 contribution to A.S.F. and entitles one to receive the A.S.F. Newsletter. Junior and Associate members wishing to subscribe can do so by paying the extra \$ 3-50.

PLEASE assist the new treasurer by paying dues promptly at the A.G.M.

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CLUB NEWS.

\* NEW MEMBERS. The following were accepted as full members at the March General Meeting, subject to filling in application forms and paying their fees before the A.G.M.

Tom Middleton, 1/136 Davey Street, Hobart, 7000.(Bus. Dept.of Construction,  
Ph. 30 6430)

Anita Truchanas, 18 Boddome Street, Sandy Bay, 7005.

Pavel Ruzicka, (address unknown)

Julie Marsh, ... Brisbane Street, Hobart. 7000.

They have all done their prescribed three trips and we welcome them to the club.

- \* Congratulations are extended to Pat and Tony Culberg on the birth of their son Jeremy on the 3/3/78.
- \* FIRST AID COURSE. At the last two general meetings the desirability of more members becoming familiar with first aid was discussed. An eight week course conducted by St. Johns starts some time in April. The course runs every Thursday from 7-30 - 9-30 p.m. The cost is \$15-00. Final numbers taking part are required at the A.G.M.
- \* Rumour has it that John Parker has departed for New Guinea on a trip of several months duration so no new caves can be expected to be found in Junee-Florentine for a while unless someone else carries on with the good work. We all wish John a good time in New Guinea.

#### CAVE NOMENCLATURE.

The following document was prepared by Albert Goede for the A.S.F. Committee in Wollongong. It is now being discussed by member clubs and he would be grateful for any comments that members may have on the proposed rules:

#### " Naming

The following rules for naming of caves and karst features (Anon, 1968; Wilcock, 1968) are suggested for examination by members of the Federation and are intended for general discussion at the committee meeting and at society level during 1978. The federation is urged to adopt a set of guideline rules at the Perth Conference in January 1979.

- (1) Names should be approved only if the locality and nature of the features have been accurately recorded in society records and archives.
- (2) A name should be concise, euphonious and in good taste and should not be such as to give offence to any person.
- (3) A feature should be named only if it is of sufficient significance to warrant naming.
- (4) Caves should not be named after living persons unless in very exceptional circumstances. On no account should a cave be named after a living member of a caving society.
- (5) Where personal names are used the possessive 's' is omitted unless this destroys the euphony or descriptive application of the name. If the possessive 's' has to be used the apostrophe should be omitted, e.g. Scotts Cave not Scott's Cave.
- (6) Hyphens should not be used in new names.
- (7) Names composed of a number of words should be avoided.
- (8) Unnatural combinations of words should not be used.
- (9) Where features are named after persons, names should not involve the use of both Christian and surname or a combination of the two.
- (10) Long and difficult aboriginal, botanic or scientific names should be avoided. If an aboriginal name is used, it should have an appropriate meaning.
- (11) Corrupted or modified names should not be used unless such forms are well established by local usage.
- (12) Names that can be construed as advertising a particular commercial or industrial enterprise are not acceptable.
- (13) If more than one name is available for a cave, the name best established in local usage should be accepted. If local usage does not provide a solution then the name that has been established longest in historical records will normally be favoured.
- (14) Changing an already accepted name should be avoided at all costs unless there are very compelling reasons for doing so. Where an existing name has been used in a scientific description, e.g. to name a geological formation or as a type locality of a new species of cave fauna the name should never be altered nor should the same name be assigned to any other feature.
- (15) The use of different names for parts of the same natural feature should be avoided.
- (16) Ownership of land on which a feature occurs is not considered grounds

for the adoption of the personal name of the owner."

. . . . . References:

- Anon, 1968. Rules of Orthography and Nomenclature: Nomenclature Board of Tasmania. Adopted at Meeting No.132 (15th February, 1968), 2p.
- Matthews, P. 1974. Handbook Commission Circular (April, 1974), Australian Speleological Federation.
- Matthews, P. 1977. Cave Summary Guide Addendum No.1 (May, 1977), Australian Speleological Federation, 8 p.
- Wilcock, A.A. 1968. 'Geographical Nomenclature' in Matthews, P. (Ed.) Speleo Handbook (First Edition), Australian Speleological Foundation, 67-69.

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CAVE DIVING SUCCESS AT MOLE CREEK.

An interstate cave diving team led by Phil Prust of Adelaide with participants from N.S.W. and Sth. Australia spent a fortnight in Tasmania during February to carry out cave dives at Mole Creek, Junee and Ida Bay.

They scored a major success at Mole Creek where after an effort lasting several days they were able to link Kubla Khan Exit with the siphon at the downstream end of Cairn Hall in Kubla Khan. About 400 metres of diving in Kubla Khan Exit was followed by a long stretch (estimated at 800 metres) of wading and swimming in a high-roofed, vertical-walled passage. Then came another dive of about 35 metres which ended in Cairn Hall. The dives have established beyond doubt that Kubla Khan Exit is the resurgence of Kubla Khan and have added an estimated 1300 metres of passage to the length of Kubla Khan.

The team also attempted to dive at Junee Cave but were beaten by extremely poor visibility and difficult passages. At Ida Bay the terminal siphon in Mystery Creek Cave (Entrance Cave) was dived and a connection made with the stream in the Canyon area - still in the same cave. Further progress here is blocked by talus. With a little engineering effort non-divers may be able to push further at this point.

Albert Goede.

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TRIP REPORTS.

Vandal Cave, Junee Area - Tues. 14th Feb, 1978.

The group left somewhat later than planned due to certain persons sleeping in. Rima, Caroline and Jules travelled up to Maydena in Bill's F.C. Strato, Lindy and John in the Fiat and Anita and Weewee (Lynn) in Frank's car.

We all met at the Maydena shop about 9.45 and after a preliminary stuffing of faces and showing of pog profiles to the dismay of the shop assistants we eventually left for the cave. The traditional rigging up and visits to a prickly twinkle parlour (Rima will explain) took a quarter of an hour. A "before" photo was taken by the group photographer, Strato, before we set off.

Due to some members of the group having had no ladder practice we set off to the right of the first entrance for the second. Carefully following John Parker's instructions we overshot the second hole by a mere 300 metres. Thirty minutes was spent farting around in the wrong area, till the mistake was realised, and it was back to the first entrance to start again. Anita found the hole in under three minutes, we had virtually walked over it before. In Strato's haste to see the second entrance he stepped into the first but was caught by the arm before he beat us all down.

The second hole required a little body jamming to drop in and some of the more well proportioned members (to ensure the writer's safety their names will be withheld) found it a bit of a squeeze. With a helping hand from Strato and a less helping handful of mud from Bill all got down safely. From the second entrance to beneath the first is a small passage of about fifteen

metres. Unfortunately to proceed further down into the cave is a mud slide requiring a ladder. After some postulation on what to do we fixed our thoughts by flinging mud. An all out everyone-for-himself mud fight lasted long enough for everyone to get their fair share of mud.

The climb out was easier than in with only a few grunts from Caroline and more grunts from Lindy. We were tripping down back to the cars by late lunchtime for an "after" photo, to prove just how mucky ten snabs can get in ten minutes.

The afternoon followed with a B.B.Q. at the homestead, and a water fight down at the creek. First prize goes to Lindy who emerged with the cleanest face, and to Weewee, who, whilst sneaking up on the homestead in the long grass, put her hand smack in the middle of a juicy cow paddy.

Julie Marsh.

Mole Creek area - 18th Feb. 1978.

Starters: Roy Skinner, Bill Nicholson, Therese Goede(Acting Leaderess), Henk Meerding, Bruce McIntosh, Tom Middleton, Julie Marsh, Rina Truchanas, Caroline Rees, Tim Philips, Pavel Ruzicka and Reg.O.

Most of the group had travelled to Mole Creek on the Friday night or at an ungodly hour on the Saturday morning. The leaderess had made a slight detour via Mangana, and left from there for Mole Creek to arrive at 9.30 a.m. Gathered from comments that some had not spent a very peaceful night and it was observed that several of the more enthusiastic trogs were still bleary eyed or in one case still asleep! After much heaping of abuse on the offending cavers concerned(who didn't even bat an eyelid), and much consumption of coffee, the group that intended going into Genghis Khan first was finally geared up and ready to go.

Genghis Khan - Party: Therese, Roy, Henk, Bruce, Tom and Tim.

For the benefit of those who hadn't had a peek at the bottom entrance of Kubla Khan Roy led a quick sprint up the hill. We then proceeded to the main object of our caving trip and all were underground by 11 a.m. The rocks at the top of the entrance look decidedly unsafe but we carefully avoided use of these as handholds. Also it was somewhat dry and slippery. Through the "hole" and into the main chamber with the rather beaut stalagmite. Looked at the pretties between the slabs on the right and then proceeded down to the section with the very white column. Some time was spent photographing and then we continued to where the leaderess had previously found a couple of bat (?) skeletons. One of these had been disturbed and was therefore collected for identification. The other one, which although more exposed, had had some protective rocks placed around it on the previous trip by Therese was thankfully still O.K. and a photo of same was taken. The rocks were then replaced and hopefully it will stay undisturbed. We then about turned and went to the section where all the helitites grow on the underneath side of a huge slab. More photographs were taken but then the photographers succumbed to the urgings of the other members of the party who were suffering hunger pangs, and we headed out. The climb back out was accomplished with some cursing on the part of some and a few rocks did roll(small ones fortunately). All out by 1.20 p.m. Returned to the hut to discover that Bill had taken the others to Baldocks Cave(I think) and that Caroline had gone on a tourist trip through Maracoopa Cave as the sole customer for the guide.

Therese Goede.

Lynds Cave - Party: Roy, Bruce, Tom, Caroline and Tim.

Following a visit to Genghis Khan with Therese we returned to the Maracoopa hut for lunch. In the customary tardy fashion of cavers, we set out to visit Lynds at 3.30 p.m. None of us had been there previously, but of course we knew it was beside the Hydro decimated Mersey River.

The weather being ideal for such purposes, Tom decided to swim across to where we could see the location of the entrance caused by the condensation where the cold cave outflow met the warmer Mersey water. He vanished into

the stream emergence and re-appeared a few minutes later at the dry entrance slightly stupefied from his cold swim.

We negotiated our way around the waterfall and followed the well worn trail as far as the massive flowstone section before the first rock-fall.

We couldn't get the thought of the warm sunshine out of our minds, (particularly Tom who seemed somewhat stunned) so after a rather brief visit we re-surfaced and spent a delightful half hour or so swimming and basking in the sun and agreeing that Lynds must be visited on a hot day.

Roy Skinner.

A report from Bill Nicholson on what his party did has not yet been received but from all accounts a merry time was had by all. A proposed trip on the Sunday morning to try and find Little Trimmer Cave fizzled due to the leaderess becoming creek. Many thanks to the proprietor of the Mole Creek Hotel for the assistance he gave. I would like to run another trip to Genghis with one or two other photo freaks who are prepared to spend at least four hours indulging in shutterclicking - any takers?

Assistance is going to be needed if we are to gate Genghis. Those who have skills with welding, cementing or can just help carry the necessary items to the entrance please speak up when the matter is discussed at a meeting.

Therese Goede.

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

- 1977-78.

During the past twelve months the Tasmanian Cavermeering Club has seen a considerable increase in membership and hence activity. Many trips have been to previously known caves both for general sight-seeing and also exploration. Trips for the exploration of recently discovered holes have also figured prominently in the Club's programme, particularly in the Junee area near Maydena.

Once again the Maydena Branch has been very active with the discovery of many entrances in the Junee-Florentine area. Some of these have been explored but many are still awaiting investigation. Since most are vertical caves, suitably trained and experienced cavers are required for the exploration of them. Despite the influx of new members, vertical trips during the past few months have attracted very few new faces, partly because of a lack of time and equipment, but mainly I suspect because of insufficient training in vertical caving techniques. S.R.T. is becoming popular which is perhaps unfortunate as laddering is still a very useful technique, considerably cheaper and probably safer.

Frequent visits to some of the State's more scenic caves have been the cause of, in some cases, considerable damage to formation. This fact indicates that access to these caves should be limited to some extent, perhaps by gating. Although already gated, Exit Cave has in my opinion received too many "social" visits recently with only two or three trips being for serious exploration and surveying. Other caves which appear to need protection are Kubla Khan and Genghis Khan at Mole Creek.

Events of significance during the year have included the beginning of a high grade survey of Exit Cave, improvement of the access track to the Cracroft area by Albert Goede, an expedition to the Precipitous Bluff area and the exploration of The Chairman on Junee Ridge which has so far revealed about 1 km. of passage and is still going. Although not a T.C.C. trip, a group of cave divers from S.A. and N.S.W. dived the resurgence of Kubla Khan and eventually broke through into the cave itself for the first time ever. Important events planned for the near future include the surveying of the Junee Ridge and a search and rescue exercise during April with the Police S. & R. Squad., the Climbers Club of Tasmania, Ambulance Board staff, bushwalkers and members of other caving clubs.

Club equipment stocks have been boosted with the manufacture of five nine metre ladders. More rope, both dynamic and static, should be purchased soon as existing stocks are deteriorating rapidly. Some equipment testing has been done and more will be carried out in the near future.

General meetings have been well attended but unfortunately there has been a tendency to combine socialising with the business session. With co-operation from members, the business session can be kept short leaving plenty of time for socialising after.

Finally I wish to thank the office bearers of T.C.C. for their work during the past twelve months, for without their concerted efforts, running of the Club would have been much more difficult.

The forthcoming A.G.M. brings with it the election of office bearers for the following twelve months. Please think carefully before nominating a member or casting a vote. I shall be available for re-election but due to study and other commitments my time will be very limited and I consider it advisable to elect a person with spare time to the position of President.

Stuart Nicholas,

President.

Please remember: T.C.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 8 P.M.  
Meeting Room, Wheatsheaf Hotel.

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