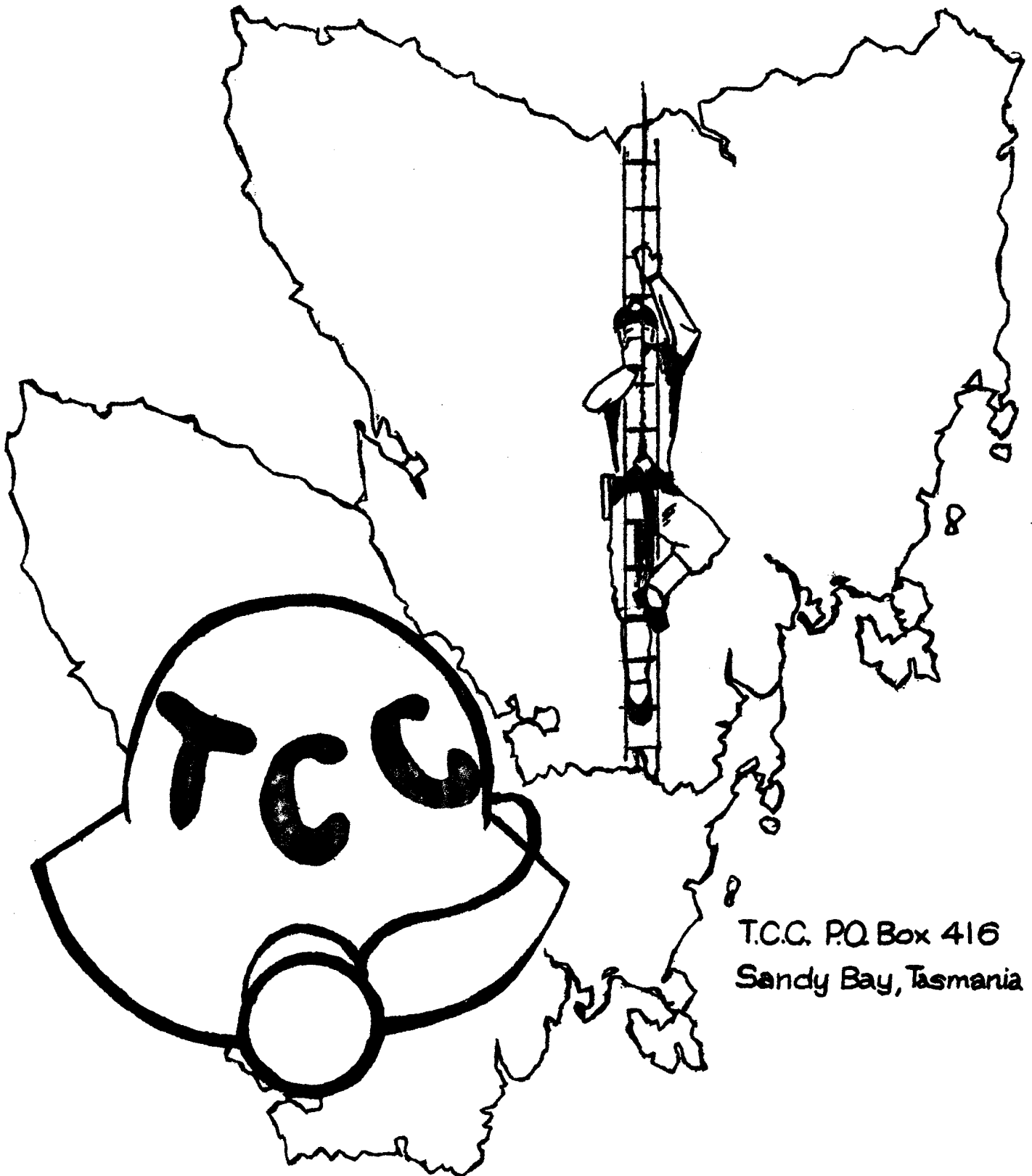


SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

APRIL 1978 NO 133

T.C.C. Established 1946



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- April 1,2 - WEEKEND. Mole Creek, Visits to Croesus, Lynds and Honeycombe Caves. Leaders: Roy Skinner and Bruce McIntosh.
- April 14-16 - WEEKEND. (leave Friday night). The Federation of Tasmanian Bushwalking Clubs is arranging search and rescue parties to a number of areas, to test and improve radio communications. Contact Bill Nicholson for further details.
- April 22 - SATURDAY. Day trip to Wolf Hole, Hastings. Leaders: Stuart Nicholas and Albert Goede.
- May 3 - WEDNESDAY: 8 p.m. General Meeting, in the Meeting Room, Wheatsheaf Hotel, 314 Macquarie Street, South Hobart.
- NOTICE IS GIVEN that the new constitution required for the incorporation of the club will be discussed. A copy of the draft is being sent in advance to all voting members.
- July 15,16 - WEEKEND: State wide search and rescue seminar to be held at Waddamanna. Contact Bill Nicholson for details.

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EDITORIAL.

Another A.G.M. has come and gone and as the meeting elected Caroline Rees as the new editor I did not expect to have to write another editorial. However, Caroline had the misfortune of falling out of a kombi van at Campbelltown on the way back from a trip to Mole Creek. Fortunately the vehicle was stationary but sufficient damage was inflicted to put her out of action as a writer and typist for a few weeks. So, I have the honour of editing the first issue of our 13th year of publication.

The A.G.M. proved to be a long, hectic and unpleasant affair. Hopefully not soon to be repeated in the club's history. The extraordinary general meeting before the AGM was a very short affair as no copies of the draft constitution were made available either before or at the meeting. After some discussion the chairman had no choice but to postpone a decision until the May general meeting. A copy of the proposed constitution should have reached all voting members by the time they receive this issue of the Spiel.

The business session of the AGM produced a new committee that can be expected to work together in harmony in the coming year. It was gratifying to see so many new faces on the new committee especially as the decision was made to deal with most of the club's business at committee level rather than at general meetings. This should enable us to make general meetings more interesting to members with opportunities for informal talks and slides.

We regret that one retiring office bearer of the club felt it necessary to resign from club membership. We thank him for the services he has rendered to the club during his period of membership.

Meanwhile, it is well to remember that active cavers are the life-blood of any caving society and the trip reports in this issue indicate that there is a good deal of active caving going on.

Albert Goede.

THE NEW COMMITTEE.

President: Bill Tomalin.
 Vice-president: Stuart Nicholas.
 Secretary: Ian Gothard.
 Treasurer: Bruce McIntosh.
 Quartermaster: Stuart Nicholas.
 Committee members: Max Jeffries.
 Albert Goede.
 Julie Marsh.
 Bill Nicholson.
 Keeper of Archives: Albert Goede.
 Editor of Speleo Spiel: Caroline Rees.
 Fed.of Tas. Bushwalking Clubs Rep.: Bill Tomalin.
 Search and Rescue Officer: Bill Nicholson.
 Search and Rescue Co-ordinators:
 Hobart: (1) Albert Goede.
 (2) Bruce McIntosh.
 Maydena: (1) Max Jeffries.
 (2) Steve Annan.
 A.S.F. Representative: Albert Goede.
 Auditor: Jack Herington.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

They are now OVERDUE. Members who remain unfinancial will not be able to vote at the May General Meeting and will not receive any Spiels after this issue. Please assist the Treasurer and the Newsletter Editor by prompt payment of dues.

Full members(over 18 years) \$4.00 plus ASF levy - \$7-50.
 Family members \$7.00 " " " - \$10.50.
 Junior members \$4.00
 Associate members \$4.00
 Subscribers to Speleo Spiel. \$4.00.

Dues can be paid direct to the Treasurer or sent to the club box,
 P.O. Box 416, Sandy Bay, 7005.

CLUB NEWS.

- * Congratulations to Dave and Leanne Cook with the birth of their daughter Nicki (hope that's the right spelling). The event was celebrated with due ceremony at the Wheatsheaf Hotel.
- * RESIGNATION. Tony and Pat Culberg have resigned as members of the club.
- * PROSPECTIVE MEMBER: Mark Forwood of 19 Randall Street, Dynnyrne, 7005 has been accepted as a prospective member. Welcome to the mob.
- * CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Don Lewis, 7 Harold Street, Stafford, Queensland, 4053.
- * ADDRESSES OF NEW MEMBERS: Pavel Ruzicka, 27 Corranga Drive, Chigwell, 7011.
 Julie Marsh, 103 Brisbane St., Hobart, 7000.

CAVE NUMBERING.

Peter Matthews, a member of the A.S.F. Nomenclature Committee, has recently produced Discussion Document No.2 dealing with cave numbering. No.1 dealt with naming and was prepared by Albert Goede. The rules suggested for naming were published in the last Spiel(No.132).

Peter's document is a very detailed one consisting of 10 pages of single spaced A4. It is too lengthy to be reprinted in the Spiel but should be read by all those interested or involved in cave numbering. A copy is being forwarded to every member club of A.S.F. Club members who wish to examine the document should contact Albert Goede who can supply copies to those

interested.

Cave Numbering - Julius River.

On 20th December, Stuart Nicholas and myself made a short visit to the Julius River area south of the Arthur River. The natural arch was visited and also a number of small caves near the Arch and between there and the point where the stream sinks at the base of a high cliff. One feature was numbered:

JR 1 - natural arch across the Julius River some 130 metres upstream from the streamsink.

No other caves were numbered because of a combination of a blunt drill and very hard rock.

The caves we observed were all very small and not worth another visit. However, the scenery is very spectacular and well worth seeing.

For details of the area see Harris, Stephen (1975): New Discovery: Caves of the Julius River, north-western Tasmania. Southern Caver 7 (1), 9-10.

Albert Goede.

King Island Sea Caves.

During a recent visit to King Island with Peter Murray we were shown the localities of two fossil sea caves by Len Sullivan of Pearshape. The caves were visited on Friday, 10th March and are of interest because both contain a considerable amount of cave decoration despite the fact that they have not developed in limestone but in quartzite. Apparently the lime has been leached from the overlying calcareous dunes and redeposited in the caves. Both are located along the high, rocky S.W. coast of the island between Cataraqui Point and Surprise Point.

The first cave is reached via Attrills Road and from there south along the coast. A steep climb down leads to an active sea cave but soon a steep slippery 4 metre high face of old cave fill is reached and beyond this point the cave is not subject to present day wave attack. Some of the formations are quite massive, most are dark brown due to the high content of iron oxide. The cave reaches into the dark zone. At the far end there is normally a small pool in which small crustaceans have been observed. On our visit the pool was dry. The cave has only been discovered in recent years and is still in a good state of preservation. Unfortunately, a considerable number of empty beer cans indicate that the cave is now well known to local youth and is unlikely to remain in its present state.

The second cave is further south not far from a creek marked Caves Creek on the new King Island 1:1000,000 map and is reached via Seal Rocks Road. This cave is shorter than the first one visited. It has been known for a much longer time and has been badly vandalised with all the more delicate formation broken or removed. It gives a fair indication of the future fate of the first cave unless it is protected.

Some local people, including Len Sullivan, are anxious to see the first cave gated to protect it from vandalism. However, the problem is to finance the project and so far nothing has been done.

The visits were interesting to me because they show that sea caves developed in non-limestone rocks can contain a wealth of formation if a source of lime is available above the cave. More exploration of sea caves around the Tasmanian coast may yield some pleasant surprises.

Albert Goede.

TRIP REPORTS.

Tasman Arch - Saturday, March 4, 1978.

Stuart Nicholas, Bill Nicholson, Ross Bridges, Therese Goede(TCC), Chris Rathbone(Ditto)from CCT, plus others names unknown to me.

It was a lovely sunny day! Stuart and I were only an hour and a half

late. The "covered waggon" and a UFO arrived at the Arch simultaneously and their occupants immediately threw themselves into feverish activity i.e. we sat in the sun and had a brew - it really was a lovely, sunny day!!

As the billy boiled the rest arrived and joined in. We sat in that sun I've been mentioning, being entertained by the local trail bike brigade. Then a strange thing happened a member of the party was seen to walk in the direction of Tasman Arch carrying three hundred feet of bluewater.

So naturally we all followed and seeing we were there anyway and it was such a sunny day we popped down to the bottom of the Arch for a few hours. Then we prussicked up (a real breeze) so we could sit in the sun and have a brew.

Useless fact Stuart ascended in eleven minutes and descended in about forty minutes!

P.S. It was a LOVELY sunny day!

WARNING Tasman Arch is a National Park. NO further trips without prior approval from N.P.W.S.

After the Arch, Bill and Co. went chasing women while Therese, Stuart and I went chasing dolphins and scuba diving. Whilst surfacing I was circled by a large school of big predatory fish. Heavens! they could have at least kept their mouths shut and their teeth hidden!!

Quote from Stuart: "We appear to have a slight snag with the anchor!"

Wolf Hole - Monday, March 6, 1978.

Peter Dempsey and Ross Bridges(TCC,Sydney Branch) and Therese Goede(TCC).

A typical trip - everybody who said they would show up for Midnight Hole didn't! Naturally we couldn't find Midnight, so Therese took Peter and I to the Wolf Hole.

We ascended the attractive entrance pitch in the dark, after a quick trip to the lake. Silhouetted in his own light, Peter ascended the ferny pitch amongst the lights of the glow-worms - quite a sight.

Kubla Khan - Tuesday, March 7, 1978.

Peter Dempsey and Ross Bridges(TCC,Sydney Branch) and Jans Howe(Resident Cave Guide at Maracoopa Cave).

Peter and I met Jans at his house and after a few hours gear sorting and resting we proceeded to the lower entrance of Kubla Khan. Briefly - we laddered the entrance pitch, detoured to the Pleasure Dome for an hour or so and then continued on to the Xanadu Chamber and the wonderful Forbidden City. We returned via the lower entrance after 10½ hours underground. Interestingly, we descended the entrance pitch in twilight and ascended the pitch in first light of dawn. Back at the cavers hut, Jans had two hours to catch his breath before starting work for the day.

Also - 1/ The gate on the caves upper entrance is unlocked still and the pad-lock is missing.

2/ After climbing along the streamway from the entrance, the way on to Cairn Hall is against the right hand wall of the streamway. The more obvious route up over the lowest section of the flowstone beneath the Pleasure Dome has caused unnecessary damage to the flowstone. I suggest that the correct route should be marked with reflective tape.

3/ The bolts on the flowstone climb at the end of Cairn Hall are a bit loose and are a little un-nerving.

4/ Beyond the flowstone it is not readily obvious where to start climbing up toward the Xanadu Chamber. Once again people have been climbing un-necessarily on decoration, probably unsure where to start the climb. To reduce damage to lovely white shawls and flowstone etc. I think it is time that the correct route from the top of the flowstone climb to the Xanadu Chamber be also marked with reflective tape, as has been done through the Forbidden City.

5/ I find it hard to understand the thoughtlessness of people who tramp

muddy boot prints across the glittering Pleasure Dome flowstone. This has happened once again. I am not sure if the cave is capable of repairing this damage. If the club feels that future water flows will not efficiently remove the mud, a small scrubbing party should enter the Pleasure Dome and give the poor old Khan a hand to clean up. To help prevent further boot-tramping damage to the Pleasure Dome a small notice with wording similar to - "Boots off before entering Pleasure Dome" could be erected.

6/ I am convinced that the beauty of this cave system and its susceptibility to damage (accidental or otherwise) warrants effective gating of both entrances. The club should work closely with H.P.W.S. to this end. Access must be restricted to small parties with experienced leaders who are appreciative of the subterranean scenery. Please, no more trips with large, inexperienced parties - for the sake of Kubla Khan.

Splash Pot - Thursday, March 9, 1978.

Peter Dempsey and Ross Bridges.

A pleasant 9 hour trip in a very grotty cave. Actually the roped pitches were quite interesting, but the horizontal, squeezey, muddy stuff near the exploration limit is uninspiring to say the least.

I managed to climb some 2 metres up where the small stream drops into the main rift (just below the bottom pitch). Belayed from a beautiful knob of rock, I traversed a few feet where I could see that from then on it was all "ninety degrees due up".

The only prospect for further exploration appears to be along the streamway after a bit of hammer work. Thanks to Max for keeping an eye on us and ensuring we returned to the Homestead in one piece.

All the reports to this point by Ross Bridges.

JF 99 - The Chairman - 11,12th March, 1978.

Advance Party: Stuart Nicholas, Ross Mansfield, Ross Bridges (TCC) Dave Buckingham (Div. of Recreation).

Support Party: Jenny Buckingham, Anthony Morgan. (Prosp.)

An early start by most people finished in a late start when 25% of the party failed to arrive at the Amman's place. This was eventually found to be the fault of Telecom Australia since their electric jingling talking communication apparatus was malfunctioning. The 25% concerned was finally tracked down at the Homestead.

After the usual gear sorting ceremony at the road end, what must be close to a record time for the walk in with heavy packs was set at 45 minutes. The entrance pitch was soon rigged with Ross Bridges' 91m Bluewater rope tied off at the 30m point. Eventually all four in the party assembled at the (very low) stream where excess gear was removed and preparations made to push exploration as far as possible. No surveying was planned, just a push downstream.

From the limit of the survey we were in unknown territory since neither Mike nor Bill who explored beyond that point were on this trip. As we grovelled on along the dry streamway, the talus under which we were crawling began to look decidedly hairy - huge blocks being jammed by small rocks in the diverging spaces between them. One often had to wriggle around or under these "chock rocks", the ends of which stuck out into the streamway - rather like the detonator used to fire a charge of gelignite!

A very rough estimate put the furthest point reached at about 150 to 200 m. from the end of the survey but this could be quite inaccurate. When our courage ran out a large cairn was built to mark the limit of exploration along the streamway.

On the way back we climbed up onto the top of the talus and found a couple of cairns left by Bill and Mike on the previous trip. Although a pitch off the edge of the talus was found and descended to yield a negative result, subsequent discussion with Bill and Mike indicates that it may not have been the one they found. Only further exploration will resolve this mystery.

More grovelling eventually got us back to the brew chamber at the foot of the pitches where several cups of coffee and soup were rapidly consumed and

enjoyed by all. A minor organizational hitch while derigging on the way out was the cause of one terylene rope being hit with a rock and cut partly through.

After a fairly hard twelve hours underground four grotty and discouraged cavers with no backsides in their overalls arrived back on the surface to be met with cups of coffee served up by Jenny and Anthony.

- Notes: (1) The far reaches of the streamway look like they could flood in heavy rain.
- (2) Unless you are very brave (or mad) do not attempt to negotiate the streamway beyond a very narrow constriction around an obstructing rock (you'll know it when you see it).
- (3) Exploration possibilities still exist in the big chamber above the talus and also downstream (see (2) above). Other high levels may still be discovered.

Stuart Nicholas.

KHAZAD "DOOM" - Saturday, March 25, 1978.

(another slack tourist trip using those fantastic eye-bolts)

Ross Bridges (TCC-S.Bch.), Peter Robertson, Daryl Carr, Miles Pierce(VSA) and Phil Hutcheson(Vic.)

Surface party and other pikers.

Stuart Nicholas, Bill Nicholson, Peter Dempsey(Sydney), Steve Annan, Lee Hanlon, and Anita(Victoria.)

We entered the cave at about midday, reaching the 90 ft. pitch via the Serpentine route. Steve, Lee and Stuart came as far as this pitch. Would you believe Stuart - one of the few Tasmanians on the trip and a pioneer in the exploration of K.D. - got lost in the Serpentine Passage.

Hours later the four Victorians and myself reached the streamway after abseiling the 90, 30 and 70 ft. pitches. The V.S.A. used those funny cave-ring-things as an abseiling device and I used a rack. Before we reached the first waterfall pitch we discovered an uncurling, green, fern frond growing in some organic sediment - how and why? It sure is a lovely streamway - clear rushing water and beautiful clean, grey limestone.

We laddered the wettest pitches and abseiled the rest. Miles and Darryl returned to investigate the Serpentine Passage after coming halfway along the streamway while Peter, Phil and myself continued to the brew chamber above the final, dry 135 ft. pitch into the end chamber. Phil and I had a quick trip to the bottom chamber and wandered around for a while. The waterfall dropping into this large chamber provides a memorable spectacle. As there were people strewn all through the cave we couldn't stay long so we soon whistled up the Blucwater. Phil bicycled, whilst I could best be described as a Trog with a Clog doing the Frog. This pitch is the easiest in the cave by the way.

We returned up the streamway collecting gear and people on the way. Apparently Miles had been given a whistle for Easter! We finally emerged into the cold night at 3 a.m. after a new slow record trip of fifteen hours. Bill, Stuart, Peter and Anita had a fire and a brew on - beauty!

I was very impressed by Darryl's smooth bicycling ascent of the 90 ft. pitch. This prussicking method seems very smooth(when done properly) and has less jerking effect on the rope than frogging. It was nice meeting the V.S.A. visitors - a great bunch of blokes.

. . . . I'm off to Sydney now after another successful trip. A thousand thanks to Stuart and his Dad (with a capital 'D'), Therese and Jans Howe (Maracoopa Guide), for all their help.

To ALL T.C.C.'s - Please look after Kubla Khan, it is a very special place!

Ross Bridges.

P.S. Quote from Stuart: The anchor seems to have snagged, by some incredible FLUKE.

* A note of thanks has been received from Pat and Tony Culberg for the card sent congratulating them on the arrival of their son Jeremy.

T.C.C. Gear List - March, 1978.

HEADERS

Thin wire 1 x 8 ft.
2 x 6 ft.
Thick wire 2 x 10 ft.
1 x 10 ft.(no C-links).
1 x 15½ ft.

KARABINERS

4 (Plain gates).

LADDERS

1 x 25 ft. - 15 inch rung spacing - stainless steel wire.
1 x 14 ft. - 10 inch rung spacing - pre 1971, Club made.
1 x 28 ft. - 10 inch " " - " " " " (SUSPECT).
1 x 30 ft. - 10 inch " " - " " " "
1 x 14 ft. - 12 inch " " - 1971, made by Club.
1 x 13 ft. - 12 inch " " - " " " "
1 x 30 ft. - 12 inch " " - " " " "
4 x 9 m. - 12 inch " " - 1977, " " " "
1 x 30 ft. - 12 inch " " - Bonvick made.

ROPES

<u>Laid Rope(Nylon)</u>	1 x 120 ft. No.3.	<u>Spinnaker Cord (Terylene)</u>	
	1 x 105 ft. No.4.	1 x 90 ft.	
	1 x 72 ft. "	1 x 60 ft.	
	1 x 23 ft. "	1 x 55 ft.	
	1 x 20 ft. "	1 x 35 ft.	<u>SRT rope</u>
	1 x 30 ft. "	1 x 68 ft.(damaged)	All privately
	1 x 35 ft. "	<u>Bluewater II (Nylon)</u>	owned by a
	1 x 27 ft. "	1 x 125 ft.(damaged)	group of club
	1 x 38 ft. "	1 x 135 ft.	members.
	1 x 22 ft. No.3.	1 x 155 ft.	
		1 x 140 ft.	

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT.

1 x Oldham-Wheat cap lamp (new battery)
1 x " " cap lamp charger (7 stations)
n x split tube rope protectors
3 x mat type rope protectors.
8 x mat type canvas "Jerry" rope protectors
3 x ladder bags - 2 virtually useless.
6 x army packs
1 x bolting kit: hammer, stardrills, ½" loxin, eyebolt, rock bolts, hangers.
4 x carbide lamps and spares, plus parts of old lamps, and carbide.
6 x helmets - all useable but some only just.
15m of firehose to make "Jerry" rope protectors.
Several short lengths of rope of misc. size.

Gear at Maydena

LADDERS

Club-made 3 x 30 ft. made in 1971.
1 x 12 ft. made prior to 1971.
Bonvick 2 x 30 ft.
1 x 20 ft.

MISCELLANEOUS

Header 1 x 8 ft. (no C-links).
1 x 6 ft. 1971.
Rope. 1 x 105 ft.
1 x 117 ft.
AND one gear bag.

SEARCH AND RESCUE OFFICER'S REPORT.

I have enjoyed working as search and rescue officer these past five of six months although I was dismayed at some recent hassles going on within the club lately.

To clear up any doubts about the cancellation of the S & R practice rescue on the 1st April, I will try to explain again. Insufficient notice was given which resulted in poor organization, and inadequate support from both clubs. So following a meeting with S & R officers from S.C.S. it was decided to postpone the exercise until late May. A committee has now been formed between S.C.S. and T.C.C. to tackle the forthcoming rescue.

If you are interested in partaking in a cave search and rescue exercise where you will learn techniques and gain information and experience on a first hand basis then come along. Please keep late May free of all weekend commitments. The rescue gear familiarization night in the police garage was well attended by members of both clubs late last year and relations between both clubs are now better, in particular with search and rescue. There have been a few close calls this year, such as when the northern tribe pilgrimaged into Khazad-dum where a girl came perilously close to becoming a statistic from hypothermia. The girl obviously lacked the necessary experience and expertise needed to tackle that particular problem.

That last "close call" was of a type that should not have happened and one which can be avoided provided one takes the necessary precautions.

However, there is also the type of incident over which no-one has any control, such as falling rocks and loose talus blocks like those encountered in The Chairman. These are called objective dangers. Although the safety aspect of vertical caving has improved in the club lately, I cannot say the same for horizontal caving. Looking back to a recent trip gave me great concern for the safety of the ten or so juniors because of the inadequate leadership I encountered on that trip.

I believe it is time the club looked into leaders and those acting as leaders involved with juniors in an attempt to reduce the unnecessary risks taken underground lately.

Enough of this raving. "Outdoor Equipment" generously donated the use of a dozen alloy snaplinks for testing underground and the T.C.A.E. results should be out soon.

Also in the future, hopefully, members will have the opportunity to partake in cliff rescue exercises and training nights with cave rescue gear.

Bill Nicholson,
Search and Rescue Officer.