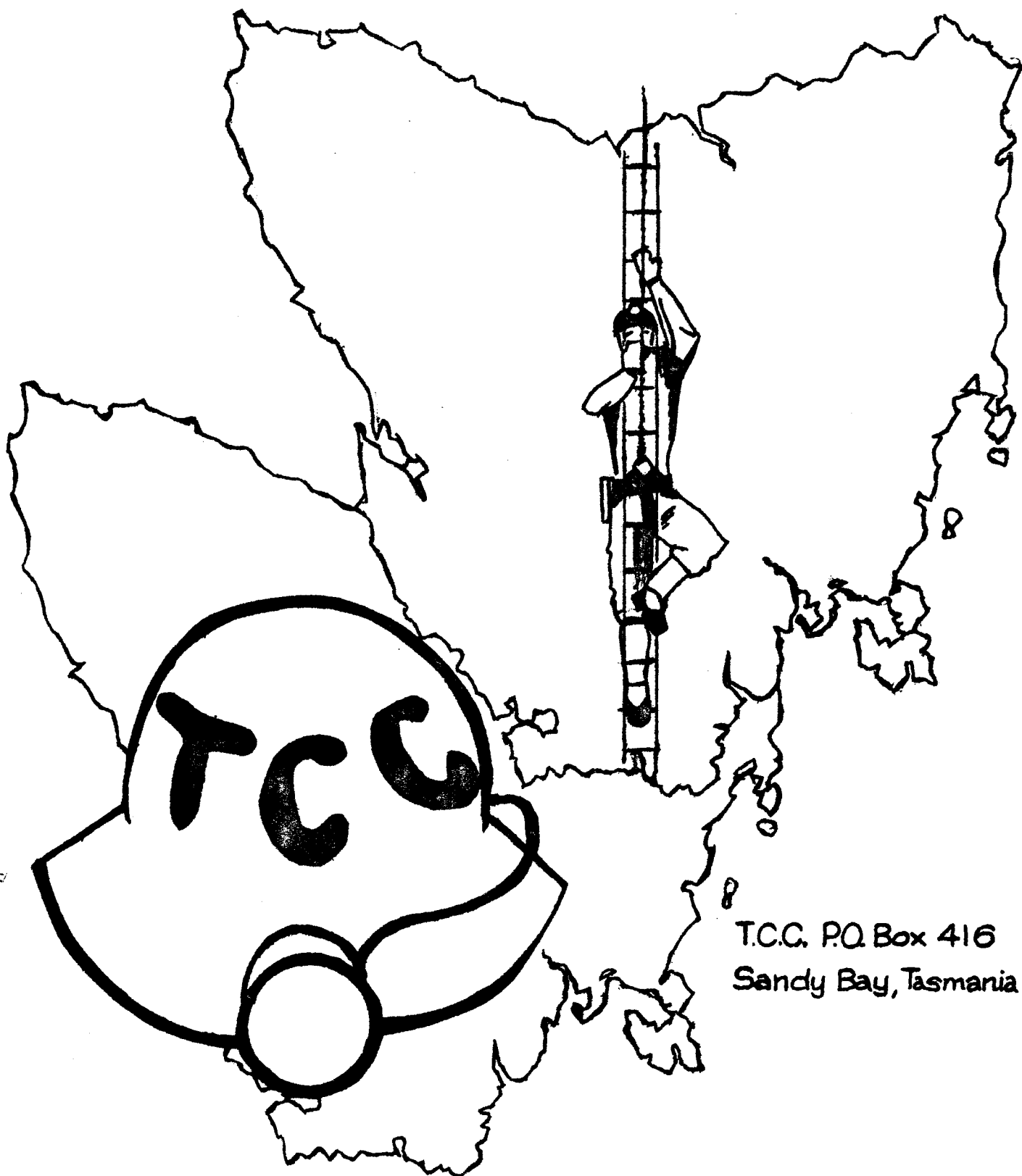


# SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

JUNE 1978 NO 135

T.C.C. Established 1946



Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club  
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FORWARD PROGRAMME

June 10,11 - WEEKEND: HMC Trip. Maydena. Caves yet to be decided.  
Leader. Bruce McIntosh.

June 17,18 - WEEKEND: Florentine Area. Sporting Cave, Gormanghast.  
Leader. Bill Nicholson.

June 21 - WEDNESDAY: Committee Meeting, 8 p.m. in the meeting  
room, Wheatsheaf Hotel, 314 Macquarie St.

July 5 - WEDNESDAY: General Meeting, 8 p.m., meeting room,  
Wheatsheaf Hotel, 314 Macquarie St. Sth.  
Hobart.

After there will be a showing of slides by Bruce and a  
film "Caves in Japanese Karst" by Roy.

July 15,16 - WEEKEND: S & R Seminar. Two Volunteer office bearers  
required to attend along with Bill & Pavel.  
Contact Bill Nicholson.

July 22,23 - WEEKEND: Mole Creek Area. Contact Bruce McIntosh.

September 16 - SATURDAY: This date has been set for the Annual  
Dinner. It has been suggested to hold it at the  
Matra Restaurant. All other suggestions welcome.

Annual Trip - Possibilities will be discussed at the next General  
Jan. 1979 Meeting. Ideas are Franklin River, Vanishing Falls.  
All other suggestions welcome.  
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EDITORIAL

Firstly apologies to Dave Barry who is not a prospective member, as  
stated in the last Spiel, he is in fact a junior member.

The last month appears to have been a fairly active month. With  
Operation Womguana which proved to be successful and all problems are  
now being discussed. There have also been other trips.

More Articles of Interest are Needed to Add to the Reading of This  
YOUR Newsletter.  
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CLUB NEWS

Election of a Publicity Officer will be conducted at the next General  
Meeting. The Committee will discuss possible nominations. All  
nominations welcome, please forward these to the Committee or General  
Meeting.

Welcome to Mark Forwood who is now a junior member. Also to Lindy Dew  
Anetia Wilson (VAA) who have become prospective members.

CLUB NEWS cont.

Congratulations to Muscles who broke the record by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in passing through SCS' squeeze bar.

AUSTRALIAN CAVE COUNT SUMMARY

Compiled by Peter Matthews, A.S.F. Convenor of Ad Hoc Committee on Cave Documentation, as part of the A.S.F. National Heritage Assessment Study. (18th October, 1977).

Statistics on a state basis extracted from cave summary forms:

State	Caves Numbered	Other Karst Features Numbered	Total Numbered	Total Passage Length (M)
NSW	1168	265	1433	55,571++
VIC	420	23	443	26,400
QLD	463	77	540	52,321++
SA	289	128	417	38,859++
WA	531	196	727	40,000++
TAS	536	72	608	71,554++
NT	40	-	40	4,000++
Totals	3447	761	4208	289,705++

State	No. of Caves Greater Than 1 km in length	Total Length of these Caves (metres)	Percentage of Caves	Percentage of pass- age length
NSW	12	26,711	34	19
VIC	5	6,980	12	9
QLD	10	22,135	13	18
SA	11	22,500	8	14
WA	9	23,611	16	14
TAS	17	44,891	16	25
NT	2	3,525	1	1
Totals	66	150,353	100	100

(Communicated by: Albert Goede.)

The information is rather incomplete as many caves in all states have not been surveyed. Passage length is based on those caves for which it is known or estimated.

Although Tasmania only has 3% of Australia's population it is rather well off for caves. Tasmania has 16% of Australia's caves and not less than 25% of the total cave passage length of 289 kilometres recorded for Australian Caves. Of the 66 caves known in Australia which have a passage length in excess of 1 kilometre, not less than 17 (26%) are located in Tasmania. Tasmania's position is probably even better than statistics indicate as we are likely to have a smaller proportion of our caves surveyed than most mainland states.

Not shown in these statistics are the facts that Tasmania has Australia's longest cave (Exit Cave, Ida Bay) while out of the 15 deepest caves in Australia not less than 13 are located in our state.

Albert Goede.

TRIP REPORTS

Florentine - Upper Tiger Area - Sunday April 23rd.

Party: Max Jeffries, Steve Annan, Anne Parker, Jenny Annan.

First stop was No. 11 Road to investigate two holes reported.

TRIP REPORTS (contd.)

These two holes turned out to be the entrances to what seemed to be a fascinating cave, incorporating approx. 400 ft. of passage.

We entered by the smaller of the two holes and dropped down into a stream passage which we pushed as far as possible in both directions. Steve went out to look at the other entrances. This entrance looks to be very much like "Settler Cave", similar to the entrance of Bureccia Ridge Cave.

This would be the largest cave found so far in the Upper Tiger Area.

Next we drove to the newly burnt area between Settlement and Leo Thorne's Rd., (just before Beginners Luck Reserve).

Here we found two caves. The first a stream passage approx. 400 ft. long but not fully explored. The passage had some very interesting fossils embedded in the walls most of which appeared to be some sort of large sea snail and shells.

The other cave (which is alongside JF 87) contained two sizable chambers and some pretty formations in approx. 120 ft. of passage.

Anne Parker & Max Jeffries

Bone Pit - Saturday 8th April (late report)

Party: Leaders Max Jeffries & Philip Voss. Prospective members Geoff Fisher, Sue Feeney, Chris & Diana Davies.

Party arrived at Maydena 10 O'clock. After introductions we finally headed for the cave. On arriving at a large double tree that had fallen over Crisps Road and been a source of annoyance for several years, promptly removed it and the 3/4 mile walk no longer exists.

We rigged a ladder at the entrance pitch then did a quick Cooks Tour of the rest of the cave, then back to the pitch. Philip by this time was complaining about feeling cold and headed for the glorious sunshine.

Geoff, Chris and Diana headed for the bottom, Sue and I belaying between shivers in the cold draught that predominated. Due to an oversight in rigging we had to uncouple the ladders and lower these down another 25 ft. to reach the bottom. They caved warm and happy while Sue & I shivered for some 2½ hours. Gear and people successfully returned to the surface to find Vossy asleep after devouring his and my lunch. We then returned to Maydena. Geoff, Sue, Chris and Diana decided to join T.C.C.

Max Jeffries

Florentine Area - Sunday 6th May

Party: Max Jeffries, Geoff Fisher, Sue Feeney, Chris & Diana Davies.

The objective of this trip was to look over the burnt areas of the Florentine and number caves previously found a fortnight before (see Anne Parker's report).

Arriving at the cave and me being the hero that I am sent them down alone to have a look, after giving a bit of scant knowledge of the cave. This is now No. 150, number intact. (upper level entrance). Hearing muffled noises below me, I now decided to enter the cave and see how they were going. Catching up as they were pushing up the stream passage which we had previously thought too tight, they had found a by-pass. Although tight they were determined to push on, I knew that this would link up with another entrance Steve Annan & I had investigated before, so I nicked back with another number, 151, and had it affixed before four grotty cavers appeared out the entrance. I then showed them the easy way in.

TRIP REPORTS (contd.)

As time was sneaking by I reserved No. 152 which in due course I'll fix on the Ray Youd entrance. Suggested name (Gibraltar Cave) situated in a large out cropping rock.

After lunch we went to investigate a cave I'd found the previous day in the area where I am felling timber. (Lower Tiger Area). This turned out to be better than expected. Its a cave in a cliff face right at the waters edge on the Florentine River, subject to some flooding at high water. Quite an interesting cave with some fair formation, cave crickets, frogs, spiders, approx. 170 ft. of passage going round in a complete loop with off shoots which are either too narrow or blocked with mud. After doing the circuit you discover a daylight hole only to discover its the one you came in. This cave I numbered 153 on Monday. Suggested name Loop Cave. We then had a look at 104 and 107 and needless to say once again we did not get to the burnt area.

Max Jeffries.

Mystery Creek Cave (Entrance Cave) Ida Bay - Saturday 6th May.

Party: Albert Goede (leader), Bruce McIntosh, Ian Gothard, Pavel Ruzicka, Mark Forwood, Alex Tubb and N.S.W. visitor Linda Fullex (member of M.U.S.T.G.)

We met at Franklin Square at 8 a.m. in drizzly rain. As the co-leader had pulled out the day before and the weather in any case did not promise very pleasant conditions for going down the Wolf Hole we agreed to change the venue to Ida Bay. At Huonville we stopped to collect Linda who had made quite sure of not being overlooked by displaying her caving helmet on the roof of a car.

When we arrived at Ida Bay we parked the cars below the quarry and headed for the cave along the old railway embankment. We were pleased to reach the entrance and get out of the rain. There had obviously not been enough rain to raise the level of the stream and the cave was quite dry.

A short distance inside where the stream disappears from the main cavern everybody except the leader went down to have a look at the waterfall and then follow the stream down for some distance.

Next we went through the talus to the final chamber. Several of the party had a good look at the rockfall blocking the end of the cave but the only discovery was a liberal quantity of sticky mud. The leader had some trouble finding the way back through the rockfall but by trial and error we got back to station 38. Ian and Pavel decided to explore a lowroofed passage off to the left but didn't get far before being stopped by a tight and wet spot. They got themselves covered with organic debris and found some interesting cave creatures crawling around before emerging again. Near the entrance Mark and Ian decided to chimney up to the upper level to have a quick look at the upper entrance. Then back to the cars where we arrived in good time after a pleasant and relaxing trip. Bruce insisted on lining us all up for a group picture before we had a chance to escape from the rain.

Albert Goede.

GUIDELINES FOR NAMING CAVES AND CAVE FEATURES

by Greg Middleton.

As one who has been interested in the subject of cave names for some years I noted with interest Albert Goede's article 'Cave Nomenclature', Speleo Spiel, 132:3-4 and take this opportunity to express my views on this discussion document.

In many cases I am in general agreement with the guidelines annumerated (Goede 1978) but with a number of specific qualifications; in some cases I would object outright to the guidelines as proposed. Firstly, I make the following general observations:

1. In writing a document such as this it is easy to get carried away with a desire for order and propriety which tends to be bureaucratic and is neither desirable nor necessary. For a start, the document should be called something like 'Cave Nomenclature Code' or 'Guidelines for Naming Caves and Cave Features' it should not be, and should not purport to be, a set of rules or rigid regulations. Names serve a greater function than just filling a clerk's register or taking up blank spaces on maps - a fact which official nomenclature bodies have a tendency to forget. An original, imaginative or inspired name can add real interest to a feature - compare Wet Cave and Growling Swallet, Deep Hole and Long Drop Pot, Bone Cave and Thylacine Lair. Rigid nomenclature rules tend to stifle originality and spontaneity but this is not to say that there is not a good case for some guidelines - and perhaps even some prohibitions.

2. Many caves and probably all cave features will probably never appear on official maps or in gazetteers so there is not the need in these cases for the same restrictions as apply in some nomenclature codes developed for topographic features generally. 'Hic Spelaeum Coprolorum' (Shannon 1970) may seem out of place on an Ordnance Survey map but that does not mean that we must exclude it as the name for a minor cave.

3. It is in fact very questionable whether many cave names should ever be submitted to official naming bodies, in the interests of conservation. Often official acceptance results in names appearing on maps and in Government Gazettes with grid references. Certainly show caves should be indicated on official maps but to give the location of unprotected caves is only to invite entry by inexperienced people and possibly vandals. The A.S.F. Code of Ethics (distributed May 1975) specifically states: 1.(3) Members of A.S.F. Societies will be discreet in disseminating information that might endanger caves. In particular they should not broadcast their knowledge of entrances locations or routes.

4. It is easy to be negative when writing rules; to be more constructive I believe the guidelines should start off with something like:

Persons assigning names to caves, caves features or cave-related features should try to be descriptive, constructive and original in their choice of names; the opportunity to name new caves does not arise very often and should be undertaken with care.

To now consider the specific guidelines proposed by Goede:

GUIDELINES FOR NAMING CAVES AND CAVE FEATURES (contd.)

(1) The wording implies that names should be "approved" but does not indicate by whom; surely not by State nomenclature or geographical names bodies. It is questionable whether A.S.F. should set up any body to vet names and the degree of interest in nomenclature varies greatly between societies and individuals. Furthermore, the guideline as worded would make it difficult to refer to lost or rumoured caves. I suggest the following revised wording.

New names should only be used or published where the location and nature of the feature (and, preferably some explanation of the reason for, or origin of, the name) are accurately recorded in society records.

(2) The only point I would question here is the phrase "in good taste". This is very much a matter of individual judgement and prevailing social mores. Perhaps it would be sufficient to say:

A name should be concise, euphonious and not such as might give offence.

(3) As worded, this guideline is largely tautological. Perhaps the following would suffice:

Names should not be applied to trivial or insignificant features.

(4) I very strongly agree that caves should be named after living persons only in exceptional circumstances. For example, the naming of a cave which is in imminent danger of destruction after a politician who could act to save it so as to draw public attention to the cave's existence would be a classic case of 'exceptional circumstances'. I would extend the second sentence of the guideline to:

On no account should a cave or cave feature be named after a living member of a caving society or other caver.

(5) I strongly agree that the possessive 's' should not be used, but if it is, that no apostrophe should be included.

(6) I personally regard the hyphen as old fashioned but it may still have its place, e.g. in Murra-el-elevyn or when two caves thought to be separate are joined such as Tomato-Stick Cave at Naracoorte. Perhaps this could be just:

Use of hyphens should be avoided in new names.

(7) I do not think there is any particular need to avoid names composed of a number of words. We may not want a proliferation of names like 'The Cave With the Thing That Went Thump' (Shannon 1970) but to deny the possibility of such a name occasionally arising is a bureaucratic imposition which we do not need.

(8) I do not understand what an "unnatural combination of words" means, but again this guideline appears to be designed to stifle originality and I would believe should be omitted.

(9) I believe it is far more important to discourage the naming of caves after living people than to stop the use of given names. Is it suggested that Kubla Khan Cave should be changed to Khan Cave? I suggest a guideline (to follow 4):

Caves should not even be named after deceased persons except where they have made some major contribution to the community and have some link with the cave area or where they have played a significant part in exploring, conserving or researching a particular cave or area.

GUIDELINES FOR NAMING CAVES AND CAVE FEATURES (contd.)

(10) An embargo on difficult names does not seem particularly necessary; few of us are in danger of overtaxing our mental capacity. Such a policy might have deprived us of names like Woolloomooloo and Kosciuszko. It is difficult to understand how an Aboriginal locality name can be required to have an "appropriate meaning".

(11), (12) These guidelines seem appropriate.

(13) This guideline is endorsed. Sadly this was not followed by the NSW Geographic Names Board when it renamed Gooradigbee Cave at Wee Jasper, 'Careys Cave' (Middleton 1973).

(14) As worded, the first sentence is repetitious; "at all costs" should be omitted. I do not agree that the fact that a name has been used in a scientific description should make it immutable. This may be convenient for a small group of people but if a name is clearly wrong or for some "compelling reason" should be changed, it should make no difference whether or not it has been used in a particular context. Further, avoidance of assigning the same name to more than one feature should not only be required if the name is in the scientific literature. There could well be a separate guideline to the effect that:

The same name should not be assigned to two or more different features, particularly in the same region. Where duplication is discovered and could cause confusion it may constitute adequate grounds for changing one of the names.

(15) As worded this guideline is ambiguous. Does it mean that one should not name particular mountains in a mountain range, or different chambers in a cave system? This guideline should be reworded or omitted.

(16) Surely this is only a special case of the situation already covered by (4).

One point by Goede (1978) is the fact that names usually consist of a specific part and a generic part. Ideally (at least in the bureaucrat's eyes) every geographic name should indicate the sort of feature it applies to (towns and localities excepted). Thus 'The Chairman' would be frowned upon and 'Chairman Cave' preferred. Generally names lacking a generic part are only acceptable in a parochial or specialist context, unless they apply to an outstanding or widely known feature.

A further point worthy of mention is that the use of points of the compass is not encouraged, nor are other additions of this kind. It may be easier to add, e.g. 'north', 'south', 'lower' and in some extreme cases 'No. 2' to an existing name than to think up a new one but an entirely new name would generally be better.

In summary, I propose the following revised 'Guidelines for Naming Caves and Cave Features':

1) Persons assigning names to caves, cave features or cave-related features should try to be descriptive, constructive and original in their choice of names; the opportunity to name new caves does not arise very often and should be undertaken with care.

2) New names should only be used or published where the location and nature of the feature (and, preferably, some explanation of the reason for, or origin of, the name) are accurately recorded in society records.



GUIDELINES FOR NAMING CAVES AND CAVE FEATURES (contd.)

3) A name should be concise, euphonious and not such as might give offence.

4) Names should not be applied to trivial or insignificant features.

5) Caves should not be named after living persons except in very exceptional circumstances. On no account should a cave or cave feature be named after a living member of a caving society or other caver.

6) Caves should not even be named after deceased persons except where they have made some major contribution to the community and have some link with the cave or area, or where they have played a significant part in exploring, researching or conserving a particular cave or area.

7) Where personal names are used the possessive 's' should be omitted unless this destroys the euphony or descriptive application of the name. If the possessive 's' has to be used, the apostrophe should always be omitted.

8) Use of hyphens should be avoided in new names.

9) Corrupted or modified names should not be used unless such forms are well established by local usage.

10) Names that can be construed as advertising a particular product or commercial enterprise are generally not acceptable.

11) 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.

12) Changing an already accepted name should be avoided unless there are compelling reasons for doing so.

13) The same name should not be assigned to two or more different features, particularly in the same region.

14) It is generally desirable for names to indicate the types of features to which they apply. Names of the type 'The Sentinal' should be used sparingly, if at all and only to features of outstanding importance.

15) It is preferable to create a new name for an unnamed feature, rather than to modify an existing name by addition of 'north', 'south', 'lower', 'central', etc.

REFERENCES:

GOEDE. A. 1978 Cave Nomenclature. Speleo Spiel, 132:3-4  
(Condensed from an unpublished report 'Discussion Document First Draft, 7/12/77' produced for ASF Ad hoc Committee for Nomenclature.)

MIDDLETON. G. 1973 A Note on the History and Nomenclature of "Careys" Cave, Wee Jasper. J.Syd. speleol. Soc., 17(5): 135-136

SHANNON. C.H.C. 1970 Cave Discriptions (in) Sprent, J.K. (Ed.)  
Mount Etna Caves (UQSS:Brisbane) pp. 22-36

CAVE NUMBERING - Junee Florentine Area

- JF 143: Entrance is a large fissure. Cave fully explored to depth of 36 metres. It has a muddy floor and further exploration is blocked by debris. The cave is located to the left of 'The Chairman' track approximately 400 metres before reaching that cave.
- JF 144: Entrance is cylindrical hole - such a perfect shape that it looks man-made. Twenty-four metre ladder pitch to floor. At the bottom a very narrow squeeze with out-going draught not entered. Located very close to JF 143.
- JF 145: A seven metre entrance pitch followed by 15 metres of muddy passage. Approximately 20 metres from JF 143.
- JF 161: Small entrance in the side of a doline. Thirty metres of passage. Few formations. Short distance south of JF 143, JF 144 and JF 145.