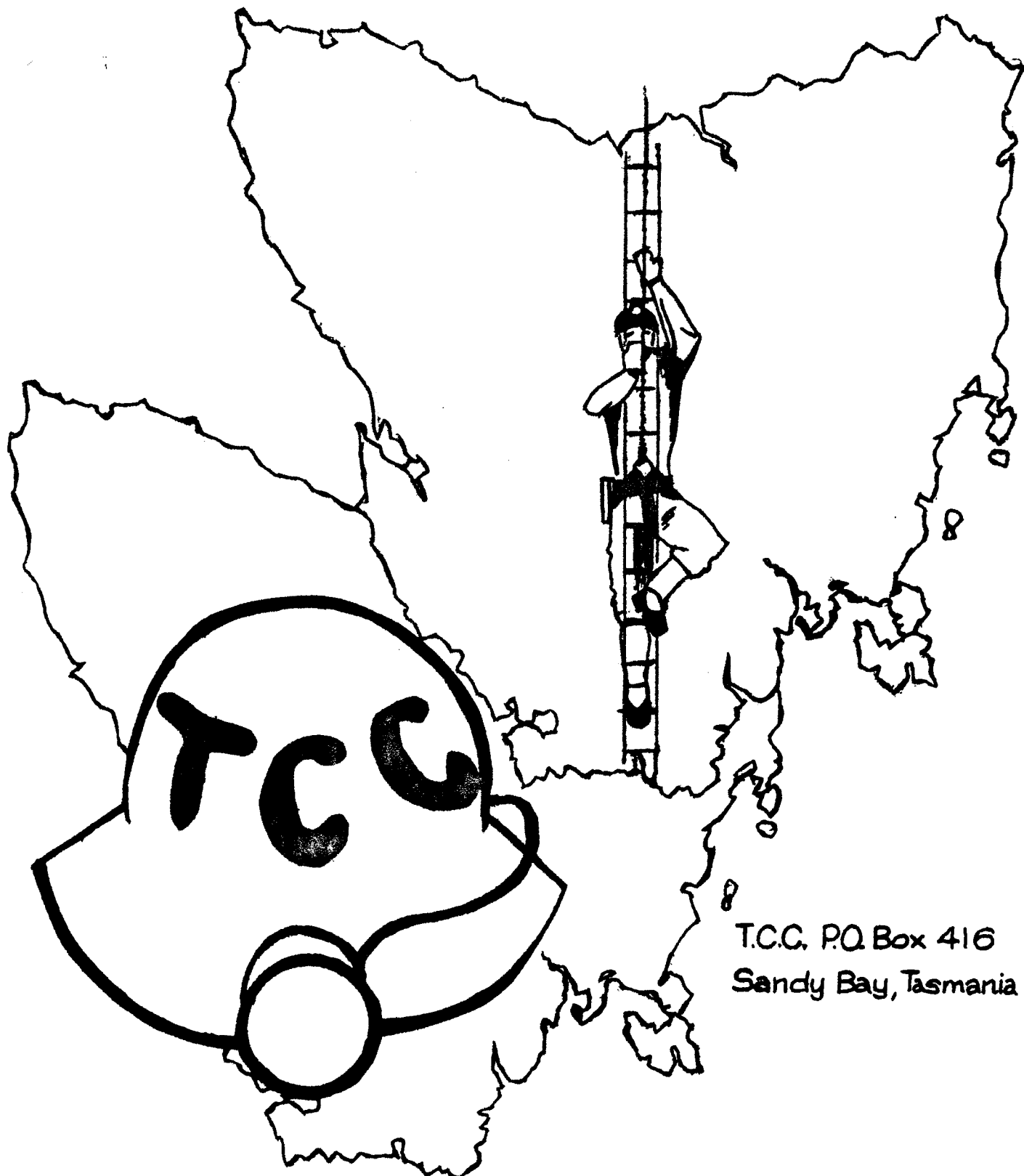


# SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

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Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

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#### FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- Oct. 18 - WEDNESDAY: Committee Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Wheatsheaf Hotel.  
(come early and have a counter meal).
- Late Oct. - Trips to Cub Hole and Wolf Hole, Hastings. For further details  
contact Ian Gothard (address as above).
- November - Binney Tunnel, Hastings. Limited numbers. Contact Ian Gothard.  
also Croesus, Mole Creek photographic trip - contact Ian.
- Nov. 4-5 - CHAIRMAN. Further exploration downstream.  
F.B. Date subject to change. Leader: Bill Nicholson.
- Dec. 2 - KUBLA KHAN. Clean-up and photographic trip.  
Limited numbers. Contact Bill Tomalin for details.
- Daylight Saving Period - WEEKLY Wednesday(probably)night ladder,  
SRT., etc. practices. Make sure that YOU are there.  
Contact Stuart Nicholas.
- ODD TIMES - SRT training for Chairman aspirants between now and the trip.  
Others welcome - Contact Bill Nicholson or Stuart Nicholas.
- SOMETIME in the next few weeks - Exploration of hole (JF 137) between Chairman  
and Victory 75. (Ladders will be used). Leader: Stuart Nicholas.

#### 1979

- JAN. 14 - 29 - ANNUAL TRIP.  
Base will be the Maydena Homestead.  
Trips will include surveying, exploration, cave numbering  
in the Junee-Florentine area as well as social intercouring.  
Mainland cavers are invited to participate and may contact  
the secretary for further information.
- JAN. 28 - FEB.5 - Possible Franklin River Trip.  
This will only go ahead if a leader can be found as Ian  
has decided to run a small private trip rather than a  
club expedition type trip.

#### EDITORIAL.

After a moderately quiet month and a not so quiet annual dinner, most members should be (and I hope are) champing at their carabiners ready to do enormous amounts of exploration and surveying in the Western Florentine. The potential of the area for caves appears to be quite large, John Parker having found about sixty worthy of a number during the last few months.

Recent trips to Kubla Khan at Mole Creek have revealed a certain amount of damage in this most spectacular cave. Another trip planned for December is

aimed at (among other things) cleaning up the shattered formation and scrubbing some sections of the Pleasure Dome to remove dirt deposited there. Ideas are currently being tossed around amongst interested parties in an attempt to find a means of stopping this unfortunate degradation. Stuart Nicholas.

#### VISITING CAVER.

Rawleigh Webb from WASG will be here in Tassie in January 1979 for a conference. After his conferring he will have a period from January 19 to January 29th free for caving. He has asked me to try and organize trips to Rhazad-dum and Exit Cave if possible. Rawleigh is an experienced cave surveyor and has indicated his willingness to survey some sections of Exit.

Could anyone who is interested in either of these trips (leading or participating) please let me know as soon as possible.

For any members who did not meet Rawleigh when he was here early this year, he is an extremely enthusiastic guy and hence we should make every effort to run trips for him during his visit.

Stuart Nicholas.

#### ADDRESS CHANGE.

Phil Robinson has decided that paying rent is "just not on", and hence has bought a house. Repayments are the same as the flat rental so maybe more people do the same thing.

Anyway, he now lives in Marlyn Road, South Hobart which is up behind the brewery. I'm not sure of the number but tune in same time, same magazine next month for further exciting news.

\*\* Need further incentive for exploration in Exit ?

Mammoth-Flint Ridge Cave in USA is almost 307 km. long!!!

\*\* For anyone interested, Stuart can supply a copy of a fairly efficient survey data reduction programme written for an HP - 29C programmable calculator. The programme is based on the flow-charts appearing in the article by Ken Grimes in ASF Newsletter No.75.

Don't forget WACCON - the 12th ASF biennial conference to be held in Perth, WA. from January 1 to 4, 1979 with field trips continuing for several weeks after the conference proper.

For anyone considering the presentation of a paper, abstracts must be received before October 31.

Registration fees are to be paid preferably before November 17 (this year!) by anyone going to the conference.

For further information, contact Ian Gothard who has all the relevant paper-work for you to fill in. Stuart also has a couple of copies of the information booklet and registration form.

UQSS are still flogging "Save Our Caves" T-shirts, although inflation since last month has put the price up to \$5. This is still worthwhile as the proceeds are going towards a campaign to save the Mt.Etna caves from mining.

Postage is 60 cents and colours available are blue, green, white, yellow bone and orange.

ORDERS may be sent to: Uni. of Queensland Speleological Society,  
c/o The Union,  
University of Queensland,  
ST. LUCIA, QUEENSLAND. 4067.

TRIP REPORTS.

Judds Cavern - 22-9-78.

While on a walk along the Farmhouse Creek Track I had a look at Judds Cavern - to say the least, a very impressive cave. Explored the cave for about an hour till the wretched light folded, leaving me to execute a rapid exit with the aid of a candle.

Has the club got any survey maps of the cave - have any searches of the surrounding area been done?

One can only hope that the access track to this particular cave does not result in damage being done to the cave.

John Parker.

Florentine Area - 23-9-78.

Investigation of burnt area adjacent to Frankcombe Cave. Spent most of the day looking at a limestone crest just before the above cave. Three narrow crawl caves were located at the base of the ridge - then two entrances were found on the top of the ridge.

The first consisted of a 20 foot sloping pitch ending in a small hole. Using the faithful entrenching shovel I widened it sufficiently to enable me to battle through it - with some trepidation on the possibility of getting out again. From here the cave opened into a large chamber with numerous beautiful formations and rim-pools on the floor - three other similar chambers continued on in a line, all with decoration, the last ending in a muddy, sloping pitch which was not looked at. From these chambers a number of side passages lead off, one ending in a nice little chamber with a large stalactite and many other formations. Two of the other tunnels ended with a possible extension after the removal of debris.

The second of the caves on the ridge crest consisted of a muddy drop of 20 feet to a decorated chamber. From here a further pitch of 20 ft. dropped into a collapsed chamber with hairy looking boulders suspended in the roof. A scramble through talus lead to a small stream with the possibility of extension.

Both caves contained numerous bones; in the first a very large leg bone was located, while the second had several inflow areas that were literally loaded with masses of bones.

Later another small cave was found in a ridge to the back of Frankcombe Cave, which consisted of several passages leading down to a sloping tube that fed into a pool of water.

At this stage the old legs were beginning to say they had had enough, so I headed back to the ute with the overalls weighing several pounds more than originally with encrusted mud.

John Parker.

Kubla Khan - 7-9-78.

The trip was planned as a photographic excursion into Forbidden City via Arbora section. Laurie had expressed a wish to have photographic records of his trip to Tasmania (Snow Camp and Canoeing in the north), possibly for publication material in the "Outdoors" magazine. John kindly arranged the gear for us and was our principle "flasher" for the day.

The slides we took should be good. In a trip lasting 8½ hours underground, I took 20 photographs, (one of them a multi-flash time-exposure in the Hall of Kings took over an hour to set up!) Laurie and Chris were highly impressed by the spectacular views through view finders.

There has been some damage in the Forbidden City. Stalagmites, possibly broken by accident, have been smashed and strewn around. In my opinion there is no possibility that all of this was accidental - it suggests a fairly large and uncontrolled party being in Kubla.

I suggest that all Clubs and organizations known to visit Kubla be circulated with the following in mind.

1. That and expensive(stainless-steel) lock be fitted to the top end gate.
2. That each organization has a key.
3. That log-books be placed inside the top-end and in Cairn Hall.

4. General agreement that boots must be removed in specified areas of this cave.
5. That the easy access to Dulcimer be permanently closed (Someone has broken through again and left an obvious entry-point).

I am trying to get a written history of the exploration of Kubla Khan together. I would appreciate any written comments or accounts of incidents to be included.

If you have relevant information, would you please send it to me  
c/o Division of Recreation,  
Kirksway House,  
Hobart. 7000.

Bill Tomalin.

Junee Ridge - 23,24-9-78.

Party: Stuart Nicholas, Pavel Ruzicka, Len Smith and John Parker(Sun.only)

Ever since the discovery of the Chairman and the surrounding pots numerous people have seen the need for a survey traverse of the Junee Ridge in order to establish the position of the caves in the area relative to Junee Cave and the Map Grid.

After several abortive attempts in previous months we finally got the traverse under way fairly late on Saturday morning. Taking as datum the number tag of Junee Cave, the traverse was run (walked?) up to the Junee Road and then along to and up Junee Quarry Road. Taking the left branch(towards Khazad-dum) we trundled up to the turn-off point for the "Kokoda Trail" having left little heaps of stones every 50 m. along the road.

When the leader finally found the relevant log to walk along at the back of the cleared area, progress was made at a rapid rate until a steep gully was reached just before Rift Cave. A considerable time elapsed before the track was relocated on the other side of the gully.

Working at maximum speed and being spurred on by frequent words of wisdom ("It isn't far now", "It can't be far now", "I don't think we're on the track!") a point (off the track) was reached when a decision was made to retreat owing to the lateness of the hour. A cairn resembling a large bon-fire was built and noted to be just near the big tree.

Back at the house of the boiling kettle a decision was made to return the next day and finish the traverse to the Chairman with the aid of John as general route guide and track clearer.

On the Sunday John managed to get us through the barrier(the gate-man was asleep!) which saved a lot of walking. Armed with a dislike for ferns and a roll of blue marking tape we marked the tricky sections of track and cleared a little of the scrub away.

The traverse through to the Chairman was quickly completed after which lunch was eaten amid stories of UFO's and Russian spy satellites.

From the obvious tree at the Chairman turn-off traverses were made to an unexplored cave JF 137 and Victory 75 (JF 110) to determine the position relative to the Chairman.

Following some midnight oil burning on the Saturday night, it took only a short time to finish the calculations when we arrived back at the Annan's place. So, with the aid of my trusty HP-29C the Chairman has now been pinpointed on the map together with the two nearby caves and Rift Cave.  
(N.B. a thick pin was used!).

Stuart Nicholas.

Your new editor would like more copy for the Spiel - lots of it!