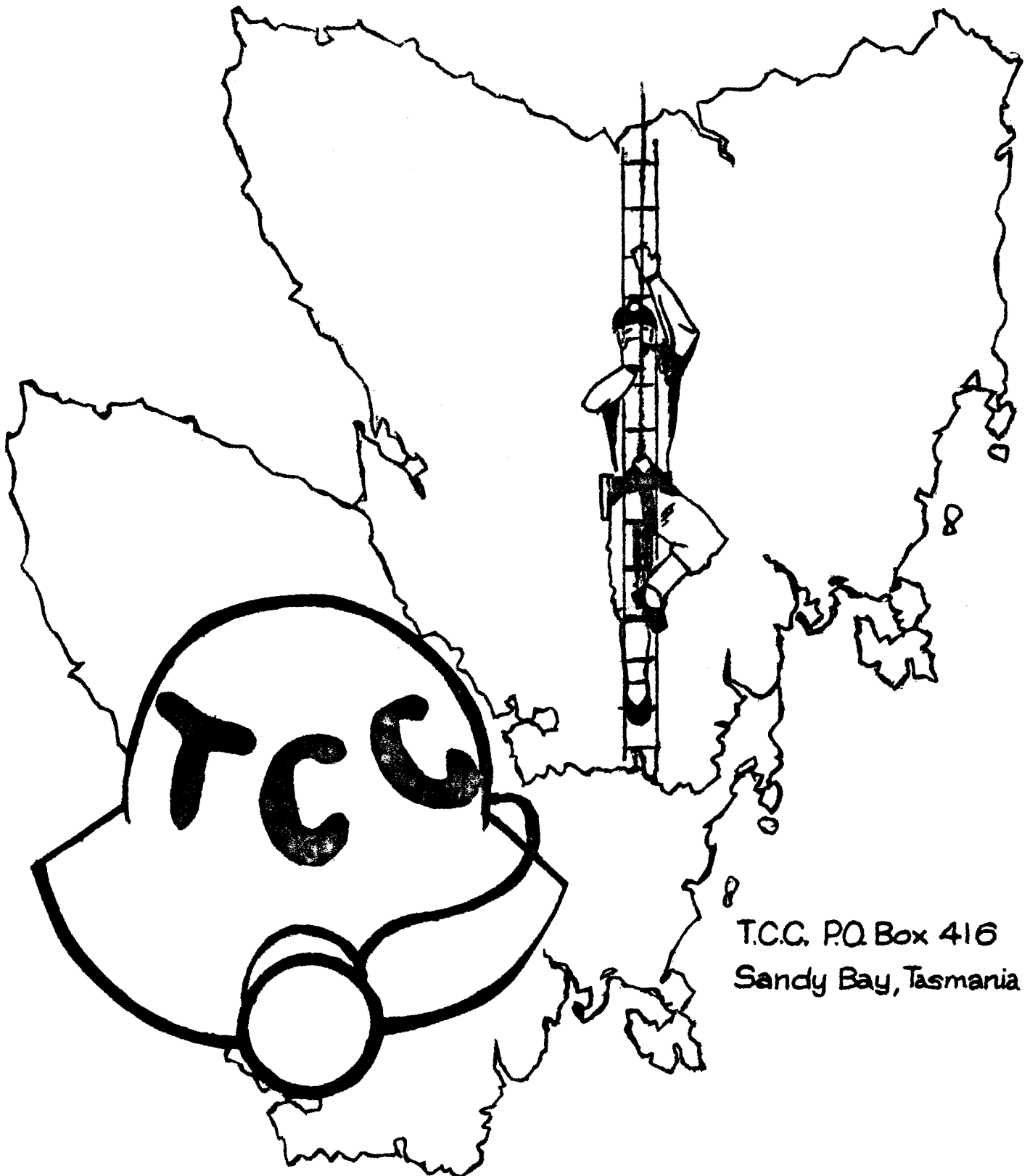


SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

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Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

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President: Bill Tomalin, c/o Division of Recreation, Kirksway House,
Kirksway Place, BATTERY POINT, 7000. Ph. 30 6214 (Bus.)

President(Maydena Bch.); Max Jeffries, 18 South Crescent,
Maydena, 7457. Ph. 88 2256.(Home).

Secretary: Ian Gothard, P.O. Box 193, SANDY BAY, 7005.

Editor: Stuart Nicholas, 7 Rupert Ave., NEW TOWN, 7008.

Typist & Distribution: Therese Goede-Verneulen, 8 Bath St., BATTERY POINT. 7000.

FORWARD PROGRAMME:

EVERY WEDNESDAY(probably, depending on interest and demand)

- EXCEPT the first Wednesday of the month,
- laddering, belaying, SRT'ing, etc. practices -
- Contact Stuart Nicholas for times, places, etc. Ph. 28 3054.

November 11 - Saturday: Exploration of JF 137 - a pot near The Chairman and Victory '75, as yet unexplored. Leader: Stuart Nicholas.

November 15 - WEDNESDAY: COMMITTEE MEETING, 8 P.M.
at the Wheatsheaf Hotel.

November 25,26 - Sat.& Sun.: Further exploration of The Chairman.
HELP is needed for portering of gear so if you are free
that weekend please lend a hand.
Leader: Bill Nicholson.

November 29 - WEDNESDAY: Meeting for ALL those going to Kubla Khan
the following weekend. Bill Tomalin.

December 2,3 - Sat.& Sun.: Kubla Khan trip for photography and possible
clean-up of some sections. Leader: Bill Tomalin.

December 6 - WEDNESDAY: GENERAL MEETING. 8 P.M.
Meeting Room, Wheatsheaf Hotel, 314 Macquarie St., South Hobart.
People with slides to show - YES PLEASE.

1979

Jan.14-29 - ANNUAL TRIP.

Base will be the Maydena Homestead.

REQUIRED - someone with ideas for the Annual Trip, which
for this year is to be a two week onslaught to the Junee-
Florentine area. Work to be carried out includes explor-
ation of the newly discovered holes in the Western Floren-
tine, closing of the Junee Ridge survey traverse and ex-
ploration of remaining holes on the ridge.

Any other brilliant flashes of inspiration may be directed to
Bruce McIntosh, who is the co-ordinator of the whole affair,
at Springvale Hostel, 2 Midwood Street, New Town, 7008.

Jan.28-Feb.5 - Possible Franklin River Trip. WANTED: 1 Leader.

Mid.January - 2 - Surveying trip(s) to Exit Cave by W.A.S.G. member Rauleigh
Webb. Need a small group with at least one person who is fam-
iliar with some, or all, of the cave to give assistance.

NOTE: For more information on these trips and any impromptu ones that may occur come along on Wednesday evenings to the Wheatsheaf Hotel.

EDITORIAL.

It seems that conviviality and freindship has returned to the Club. Wednesday night gatherings are attracting quite large crowds even with exams close at hand. As can be seen from the trip reports, caving is also going ahead at a great rate in that prime caving area, the Junee-Florentine.

The recent discovery in that area of quite old animal bones has also helped to heighten the interest in the Western Florentine. John Parker is still hard at work out there discovering yet more caves, many of which are still waiting to be explored.

Stuart Nicholas.

Large posters advertising the WACCON Conference, and depicting a close-up of a droplet of water on a helictite, have been received by the club. Sale of these is hoped for to recoup printing costs. Ian Gothard has several copies and at \$1.00 each they represent excellent value.

A new magazine aimed at cavers has hit the world market:-

CAVING INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

is for the caver who is interested in the world-wide caving scene. It is an English language publication with the emphasis on caving in North America, Australasia and Europe. Translations of significant exploration, articles and technical developments will occasionally be included from foreign publications.

The magazine will be published quarterly and the first issue was due out in September, 1978. Cost \$A6.25 -surface mail or \$A8.60 - air mail.

For details on ordering contact Ian Gothard.

DESIGN A COVER FOR YOUR MAGAZINE.

Aspiring artists in the club are requested to submit their ideas for a new cover-page design to the editor before November 30.

A prize in keeping with the spirit of the club will be awarded for the winning entry, so put pen(or pencil) to paper and discover your hidden talents.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Albert and Judy Goede have moved house to 6 Seacroft Court, South Arm. As there are no mail deliveries in that part of the world their postal address is P.O. Box 338, SANDY BAY, 7005. Their phone number is 39 9265.

The South Hobart phone number which also appears on the Search and Rescue list has been disconnected.

SUBTERRANEAN SHRIMPS OF TASMANIA.

The latest issue of Helictite (Journal of Australasian Cave Research) vol.15(1) contains an article by P.S.Lake and D.J.Coleman "On the Subterranean Syncarids of Tasmania". This is the group to which the well-known Tasmanian Mountain Shrimp Anaspides tasmaniae belongs. Its occurrence is mentioned in caves at Mole Creek, Hastings and Ida Bay. A special mention is made of the

Anaspides in Lake Pluto in the Wolf Hole System which is the only locality where an eyeless form has been found. Anaspides from this locality also differ in the number and arrangement of spines on the telson from surface dwelling representatives and they are obviously an isolated population of true cave dwellers(troglobites). The article features a photograph of a blind Anaspides collected by Peter Murray from Lake Pluto three years ago.

Most of the species mentioned in the paper have not been recorded from caves but have been collected from springs, river beds and crayfish burrows. Several new species have been found in recent years and some of these may turn up in caves sooner or later.

The only other species found in caves so far is a species of Atopobathynella from a sandbank bordering the underground stream in Western Grand Fissure, Exit Cave. It was collected by a Japanese scientist nearly four years ago. Club members are not likely to spot that one. It lives in water between grains of sand and is so small that it is barely visible to the naked eye!

Albert Goede.

TRIP REPORTS.

Florentine Valley - 8-10-78.

As usual I trundelled out to the Florentine Valley to continue looking at the burnt out area, and to try out the new wonder cave-numbering drill.

Began by continuing exploration of the big cave mentioned in the previous report, several new passages found, but as per usual the light failed and I had to high-tail it out with a candle stump - this cave is still going - numbered JF 154.

From here checked out the limestone dome just before the Frizons Road turn off. Slogged around the hill finding little, till Tim(dog) nosed down a tiny crack between some boulders and using a crowbar I broke into a low-roofed sloping chamber with many formations - high in one corner a small passage lead off - entering into a long high-roofed passage with a lot of formation. A number of side passages lead off but only one was looked at and this led up into the roof ending in a day-light hole. The main passage ended in a narrow squeeze, but this was bypassed by a high-level passage that entered a large chamber halfway up the wall, with a high arched roof above and a large sandy sump below and with passages leading off. Having no ladder I could not investigate further. The cave was numbered JF 160. Suggested name - "Tim's Reward".

Looked at a few other holes at the rim of the above limestone dome. One cave - after a bit of work with the bar - opened up into a spiralled, walkable passage ending in a small, formation filled chamber. About 75 feet of passage, numbered JF 159. Fifty yards east of the previous cave another hole was located, consisting of a 25 ft. pitch leading into two small chambers complete with crickets and several frogs. The cave has two adjacent entrances - the "easiest" entrance being the one numbered. Anyone contemplating looking at this cave would have to have suicidal tendencies, it being near impossible to get out of the narrow pitch - pieces of my overalls will be seen hanging all the way up this pitch. Cave numbered JF 163.

A cave was noted 60 ft. north of the above and consisted of a 30 ft. pitch ending in nothing - VERY DANGEROUS - not numbered.

JF 155 - steep entrance slope into large chamber, many formations, then a 20 ft. pitch into collapsed chamber with incredible number of bones. Small stream in the cave; some nasty boulders suspended in the roof.

JF 156 - Small cave 200 ft. west across from JF 154 at the base of the ridge. Two entrances, 50 ft. of narrow passage.

JF 157 - Cave 150 ft. north of JF 156 - two entrances, narrow passages.

A number of small caves were noted at the end of the ridge closest to Frankcombe Cave but these were not numbered.

JF 158 - Small, two-levelled cave, both levels leading down into a water-filled

sump. Cave is 250 ft. west of Frankcombes Cave, at the base of ridge - three entrances, the central one being numbered.

- JF 164 - Small cave in the second low limestone ridge on the left of Leo Thorne's Road going out along the road - consists of low passage with some formations, ending in a small, muddy pitch which was not investigated.
- JF 165 - Alternative entrance to JF 87. No ladder needed - a few yards north of JF 87.
- JF 166 - Small cave consisting of sloping pitch of 20 ft. into chamber with number of formations - a squeeze into another chamber again with formations. Situated 60 ft. north of JF 165 in side of small valley.
- JF 167 - Cave to be found in the head of the first limestone ridge on the left going out Leo Thorne's Road. Low, wide entrance leading into a maze of muddy crawls.
- JF 162 - Small cave in the Junee Ridge below The Chairman track, near JF 143. Narrow entrance - 60 ft. pitch insight - not explored.

The cordless drill makes numbering a breeze - the charge lasts about twenty holes.

John Parker.

Florentine Valley - Sunday, 15-10-78.

Continued investigation of Frizons Road area. Firstly looked at JF 160 mentioned in the last report. Using a ladder I got down into the sump - the pitch being about 15 ft. The walls of the sump chamber are covered with formations extending from roof to floor. From the pitch a number of low, dry passages lead off, also a narrow fissure tube leading down into what seems like another chamber. None of these were looked at as at this point the faithful light punctually failed.

Then looked at the lower ridges further down Frizons Road. Numerous low small passages found throughout the area, but few caves of any size. Three caves were numbered - two others may rate tags after a bit of digging.

- JF 168 - Cave to the west of JF 160, about 300 yds. - one ridge from Frizons Road. VERY difficult entrance pitch of about 20 feet leading into a quite large, well-decorated chamber - many bones embedded in and around the rimpools and flowstone. Several passages lead up towards the surface from this chamber - these all interconnected and contain many formations. From the main chamber a narrow squeeze leads into another small chamber, together with several passages - one leading into a sump.
- JF 169 - A small cave on the crest of the same ridge as JF 168 but 40 yds. further west. It consists of two well-decorated chambers - together with many bones deeply embedded in flowstone, some of large size.
- JF 171. - Rather a small cave with a low sloping roof and a few muddy formations. Cave to be found in low limestone crest at the corner of the main Frizons Road and the spur road, which runs behind Frankcombe Cave ridge.

John Parker.

P.S. - Need more tags please - at least 40.

Florentine Area - Saturday, 21-10-78.

Cavers arrived at Steve and Ann's place at 10 a.m. - a party of seven from TCC, Hobart and John Parker, Ann, and Max Jeffries from Maydena Branch. Owing to sickness with one of Ann's recent arrivals of twin kids (goats) her devoted love and kindness prevailed and she decided to nurse the sick kid and go caving another day - full points to Ann. The rest of the party headed for the Florentine. Albert Goede, John Parker and myself to the Frankcombe Cave area to explore John's recent discoveries, with Albert deadbent on the numerous bone deposits.

Bruce McIntosh, Roy Skinner, Mark Forwood(Muscles), Diana P., Caroline Rees and friend were going to do some photography in Welcome Stranger and meeting us later. As they weren't too familiar with the cave's locality I did a detour round West Field to show them the entrance. I then continued on to join Albert and John who by this time were just returning to the surface like prehistoric cannibals loaded down with bones from JF 154. In a matter of minutes we were descending yet another cave(JF 155) which was quite large with an easy entrance to a chamber. We then rigged a 30 ft. ladder and while I sat at the top of the pitch playing in the clay like a child, John and Albert descended into the depths and then up a steep climb into an aven in the roof where the bone deposit is. From the overheard conversation it sounded good. After a short time they started a shuttle service of plastic bags of bone down the slope and then up the ladder with which I assisted for a few minutes. It reminded me of a check-out counter in a Supermarket. Albert, now quite delighted with a good quantity of very old bones, decided to go and have lunch (I suggested pre-historic soup - but no go!). Lunch over, we three moved down Frizon's Road in my ute to yet another of John's finds. It is only a few yards off the road in a small doline. After another crow-bar job to gain access(the handtool of the profession) we entered cave number JF 160. This is quite a fantastic cave formation-wise for this area, with some 400 ft. of main passage plus side passages and it still has prospects of going on with the aid of a rope to an upper level. We did quite a bit of exploring in this cave and rigged one ladder pitch, but everything petered out. John intends to explore the upper level with Ann on Sunday as prospects there look good. We just couldn't stay to argue with still more caves to do, so out and on again. The next was cave number JF 169. Rather small, but a bonanza for Albert with quite extensive bone deposits. He was delighted to find the jaw bone and tooth deposit of a marsupial lion some ten thousand years old and, I think, only the third known find of this in Tasmania.

One more to go said John - only a small drop but bl..dy tough. Ladder rigged and down a tight squeeze 10 ft. onto the floor of a reasonable sized chamber. While the relentless search for bones went on here I pushed another squeeze which John had done previously into another big chamber with quite good formation. I did quite a bit of fossicking in here in an effort to push on but it doesn't seem to go. On returning to the first chamber I discovered my mates had done a bunk back to the surface. The tight squeeze up and out is only short - but a real bottler. One almost needs muscles in his excretea to get out, but with John on the surface pulling and directing and me grunting and farting, I finally reached good old terra firma again. John and I still had a bit of petrol in our tanks so we made a quick dash to investigate still another cave in the Upper Tiger area, which my workmate had found the previous day. Quite a roomy cave some 50 ft. long. A couple of chambers, impressive entrance and a fair draught - too tight to continue, but a pleasure to number with our new cordless drill. Hand drills definitely went out with button-up boots. Max Jeffries.

Despite all the T.L.C, the baby goat died - our sympathy to Anne, Max.

Florentine Valley - 21-10-78.

Party: Albert Goede, John Parker and Max Jeffries.

I arrived at John's place at Maydena to find everybody already waiting including a party led by Bruce McIntosh and Roy Skinner who were going to visit Welcome Stranger. After passing through the barrier Max went with the Welcome Stranger party to guide them to the cave and particularly the upper entrance.

John and I went to where the Frankcombe Cave stream crosses the Florentine Road and headed up the first hill to the south of the one in which Frankcombe Cave is located to have a look at JF 154. John had recently discovered and explored this cave and collected a large emu bone from it. The cave has a sloping rift-like entrance narrowing to a tight squeeze. After this the cave opens up and there is some good formation. Soon one comes to a second squeeze by crawling under a flowstone sheet. This is where John had found the bone. A little digging revealed a second bone(a femur) probably belonging to the same bird. I went through the squeeze where the cave opens out again. Again there is some formation. I was finally stopped by a 3 metre drop which according to John

leads down to a sump. There is a lot of cave fill in this part of the cave but few, if any, bones. On the way back we explored a side passage going off between the first and second squeeze. Again there was a lot of cave fill and a few bones were found but nothing of any significance. I suggest that the cave be named Emu Cave.

We emerged from the cave to find Max waiting for us and headed for the next cave (JF 155) a little further along the ridge. This has an entrance of reasonable dimensions with a debris covered slope leading into a sizeable chamber. A ladder is required to go down a near vertical muddy slope. The chamber has a lot of fallen blocks and gravelly fill in it. At the opposite side of the chamber it is possible to climb up to the base of a high angle debris fan consisting of clay rich sediment and with many large bones sticking out of it. This looked an exciting find. With John's assistance I collected four plastic bags full of material. The bone was in a beautiful state of preservation and as far as I could see included wallaby, big kangaroo and emu. The deposit warrants a major excavation.

Back to the vehicle to have our lunch. After lunch I joined the others in Max's car to go up Frizon's Road. The first cave we looked at was on the left hand side in a prominent hill. This is JF 160 (suggested name 'Tim's Reward', as it was John's dog who first sniffed out the entrance). The entrance is a fairly tight sloping hole leading into a low-roofed sloping bedding plane chamber. From here a passage goes off for some distance. The cave is fairly roomy and there is some attractive formation. Finally a point is reached where a short ladder has to be used to get down to the floor of a high-roofed chamber. From the top of the ladder drop an exposed climb could give access to a higher level but this requires a rope and has not yet been attempted. At the bottom three side passages - one containing numerous straws - all petered out. This is a very attractive and well decorated cave but rather vulnerable to damage by visitors. There is some scope for further exploration.

We then drove further along Frizons Road taking the left hand branch which swings towards the Florentine. On a ridge to the left(south) of the road is the entrance to JF 169 (suggested name 'Leos Lair'). This cave has a sloping entrance and is only 6 metres long. It would not be worth visiting if it was not for the fact that against the roof there is preserved a pocket of well-cemented old cave fill containing a number of large bones. On inspecting the roof closely I made an exciting discovery - a large tooth(premolar) of the marsupial lion (Thylacoleo carnifex) - only the third time that remains of this animal have been discovered in Tasmania. We all admired the big tooth and I noticed that a smaller tooth next to it had been freshly broken off. John suspected that this had happened during his first visit and set about to look for the missing pieces while I slid down a tight hole to the bottom of the cave. Bones of what appeared to be a wombat were embedded in the floor in and under a thin sheet of flowstone. Some of these were collected. Meanwhile John had managed to find many of the fragments of the shattered tooth. There are obvious advantages in being a dentist by profession!

The fourth cave(JF 168: suggested name 'Ultimate') has a narrow vertical entrance and is a little further along the ridge. It proved to be most difficult to enter and even more difficult to get out of (John performing an "extraction" on Max). The entrance is a vertical slot three metres deep and a ladder is required to provide hand and foot holds. The cave itself consists of a couple of chambers and several passages. There is quite a lot of bone particularly in the first chamber but most of it appears to be fairly recent although it is cemented to and embedded in the floor. One large bone - probably belonging to an emu - was found in a passage sloping back up towards the surface and was brought out for identification.

In all, it proved to be a most interesting and rewarding day in which we visited five caves. The weather was fine and sunny and that made it all the more pleasant.

Albert Goede.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Carol and Peter Murray on the recent birth of their son Robert Watson-Murray. Maybe even Albert's new exciting bone deposit discoveries won't tempt Peter for a while.

Tasman Arch - 21-10-78.

Party: Bill Nicholson, Pavel Ruzicka, Chris(Ditto)Rathbone, Peter(Piker)Watts and Stuart Nicholas.

Amidst rumours of a brand new 90 m. Blue Water rope, sixty percent of the party assembled at the top of the Arch ready for a day of action. Bill and Ditto were apparently not ready for anything as they were last observed sitting on the sea-shore near Dinnalley "taking the morning air" after a hard day's night.

They did finally arrive, however, and the rumours about the new rope were confirmed - a glistening coil was carefully brought into daylight and examined by all present.

After the usual setting up ceremony, Ditto was unanimously elected to descend the tail to put the protectors on the main rope. With the sleeves in place he ascended and Bill went down the tail and transferred to the main rope below the last protector. At this stage it was discovered just how fast a new rope really is!

Eventually a suitable communication was received over the walkie-talkie radio(courtesy of Outdoor Equipment) that indicated Bill had reached the bottom. While Stuart and Pavel descended, Peter and Ditto rigged a traverse rope across the hole and proceeded to traverse across it, much to the amazement of the watching spectators.

Somehow Pete managed to avoid being talked into going down the rope - it may have had something to do with Pavel's initially very rapid descent - but he successfully occupied himself on the traverse taking pictures from his rather unusual perch.

Altogether a most enjoyable day was had by all and with the kind permission of NPWS we may do it again sometime.

Stuart Nicholas.

Florentine Valley - 22-10-78.

John Parker, Anne Parker and Jenny Annan plus two dogs.

Began by looking again at JF 160 in Frizons Road. In the sump area we found a new chamber leading up towards the surface. Further back towards the entrance Anne found a passage leading on for some distance with possible extension after a little work.

From here we went on to see the cave that contains the lions upper jaw and teeth - some further bone deposits were located in this cave.

After lunch we continued investigating the area behind Frankcombe Cave near the Florentine River. Several holes were found in line on one ridge but were not explored, however, from the surface one entrance appears to contain good formation. Judging from the caves position it may be an old passage system of Frankcombe Cave.

Several high ridges of limestone abutting the river were then looked at - one cave located near S.C.S. cave no. JF 260. It has two entrances numbered JF 173 and JF 174 (JF 174 being the easiest entrance). Once inside JF 174 a low passage about 40 ft. long leads into a pool of clear cold water of about 5 ft. in depth. Anne pushed on through the water for about 15 ft. and then the cave continues with a muddy crawl for about 30 ft. followed by more water to where the cave ends. Another entrance to JF 260 was found and given the number JF 175 plus an adjacent new entrance - but having no more numbering tags could not number this one.

Need more numbers PLEASE - at least 50 if possible.

John Parker.

P.S. Just remembered that on Sat. 21-10-78 I numbered a cave on the left of Gittus Road.(This road will soon be called Upper Tiger, and has now been pushed back along the river - with the usual destruction - to join road Eleven.)

The cave is about half a mile from the beginning of Gittus Road and 50 yards off the road. It has an impressive entrance leading into a number of low chambers, with passage length of approx. 70 - 80 feet.

Numbered this cave JF 172.

J.P.

Frizon's Road Area, Florentine Valley - 5-11-78.

Purpose of the trip was to finish investigation of the limestone areas around Frizons Road down to the Florentine River. The weather was beautiful and sunny - the snakes also thought so and were very active - one being killed.

Four caves mentioned in the last report were looked at. The first cave in the ridge consisted of a 30 ft. pitch into a series of narrow passages - a number of heavily encrusted bones were found plus several lively frogs. West of the above hole two adjacent caves were located which was probably one continuous cave prior to a collapse - both had formation and there was a possibility of extension in both.

The last cave in the ridge comprised of a 20 ft. pitch into a high roofed, muddy sump of considerable area, large deposits of bones - probably of recent date.

Two new caves were located west of the ridge containing JF 154 and JF 155. One had a very impressive entrance but quickly ended in water-filled sump. This cave was numbered JF 170 and a suggested name is "The Bunker" - it's near to impossible to see the entrance from the surface until you are right up to it.

The second cave was entered only after much work. It consisted of a walkable, sloping-roofed chamber of about 120 ft. in length with a number of narrow crawls. It appears to lead into a sump area.

The area where JF 48, JF 260 and JF 174 are located was then searched over. Three caves were found close to the road - mostly being very muddy outflows, probably from Frankcombe Cave.

Above these, two more caves were found - but not looked at - being at that stage thoroughly burnt out.

The last area to yield caves was some low crests close to the Florentine River. Three caves were found, all being low crawls smelling of the resident wombats.

Whilst exploring one of the caves a large slab of rock fell and struck me on the face. Limestone in the burnt areas that has been subjected to heat has been badly fractured making entry into some caves pretty hairy - be careful!

John Parker.

AT LAST - (Better late than never) - WELL, MAYBE !

the promised trip report from BELGIUM. (June 1977.)

The Refuge Norbet Casteret is situated in the heart of the main Belgian caving area at Le Mont. On Sat. 4th June I arrived with a party of Chelsea Caving Club members for a ten day trip. Behind the Refuge the Belgians have erected a practice tower suitable for ladder, S.R.T. and climbing. We spent the day of arrival performing like clowns on the tower between bouts of beer drinking.

Caving clubs over here have a far less formal approach than in Tasmania, which I found refreshing.

The cavers I encountered on the trip were friendly, deeply involved in their sport and had a sense of humour!

On one of our rest days we visited the Grottes de Hans sur Lesse on the fringe of the Ardennes. I found it hard to believe my eyes. Here was a huge cave developed for tourism in the Belgian style. Slap bang in the middle of the cave is a cavern which has a huge restaurant where people can "rest" for 10 minutes. A character comes running down the darkened cave with a burning torch to the delight and applause of the tourists and as you leave the cave in a boat some joker lets off a cannon!!!

Back to the caves of Le Mont and Godinne.

The caves we 'did' are of the sporting type, at no time did I see any formation worth noting. The cave which had the most interest, and was probably the hardest encountered was the Trou Bernard. One reaches the siphon by way of a tight fissure known as the Chicane, five ladder pitches - one being 80-100 ft. - and a thrutch and crawl through the Labyrinthe. The cave has two main extensions known as No.1 and No.2. They rise towards the sur-

face, and very tight upwards slanting S-bend tubes have to be negotiated, followed by some difficult climbing. Nine hours were spent in the Trou Bernard.

Other caves worth mentioning are the Trou D'Haquin and the Trou Weron. At the Trou D'Haquin we managed to get through a siphon and explore a series of long streambed squeezes and a truly magnificent bypass - very long squeeze tube turning in all directions with dips and bumps and turns, beautifully slippery and wet and finally spitting you out like a cork into a chamber. More squeezes, low level passages, and the final siphon was reached. Seeing that the whole system is subject to flash flooding we started on our way back straight away.

If you ever have the opportunity to cave with the Chelsea group you'll have a good time. Anti-Australian - English jokes were rampant! Bruce the Drongo Wombat being one of the lesser derogatory names used by the Poms! They seemed to be content with accepting Pommy B.....d and 'go stick your head up a dead bears Bum' after I had run out of rude things to say to them. It keeps you on your toes when outnumbered 10-1 !

Mike March.

The DO-IT-YOURSELF Way To INSTANT HARDNESS.

Uncompetitive eh!, Sounds like a good idea. A "sport" with no competition, interesting, exciting and with a fair bit of physical activity. Looks good, so, our friends, join the caving club. Freshers trip(whoops, New Members trip) first up, to introduce the 'young wet' to the refined art of caving. "Let the HARDS show you how to do it" they shout. But what does this mean? Who are these strange people - THE HARDS - and how did they come by such a strange name?

So the group arrive at their destination (i.e. side of a road) and there's a cave somewhere out there in the scrub and they're going underground (and coming back, of course). They start to get ready, all but a few. These fuss around jumping in and out of vans, cupping and uncupping krabs, looking at several hundred feet of rope and playing "ball" with someone's new helmet. Our friend asks them if they are coming along too? "Maybe", came the quiet reply, "later perhaps", and our gullible friend was gullible enough to believe that these people were slack. You can guess who was the first down the entrance pitch, much to the awe and amazement of the plebs. Now the meaning of hard is clear?

"I trogged 21 systems and S.R.T.ed 1700 ft. in 4 days, it was hard man, no place for the inexperienced." This sort of phrase can be used by any caver who has been on an extended trip over the holidays. It is usually exaggerated about ten times, but then no one knows the truth because all the others who were on the trip are exaggerating to the same extent.

There is only one problem about being a hard caver - you actually have to be hard! Well, I mean, at least you have to be willing to crawl along endless passages, find your way through innumerable rockfalls, grow big bristly hairs on your chest(black tea - real man's tea, helps achieve this - no sugar though), you carry/drag a big hundred pound pack everywhere, even on day trips. Move at ten miles per hour at all times, even around the camp fire, through squeezes, etc. be at least 100 yards ahead of the rest of the party, even if it buggers you to hell, and drink copious quantities of Fizzy with absolutely no effects - well at least don't show any, a few extra pairs of jocks may help in this regard.

Now you may feel a little depressed after reading this formidable list, but not to worry, there is a way out for those who can't even achieve one of these requirements. You become a VERTICAL CAVER - what I mean is you can tell everyone you are a vertical caver.

Some people seem to be awe struck when you quietly drop the fact that YOU vertical cave. That is, people who have never actually seen you caving and have never seen a cave.

Make a note of these people - these are your friends - the ones that think you're HARD.

A caver's life is an easy one, you only visit caves that are right next to the road. This eliminates the need to carry all that heavy gear over tough, arduous terrain. If, however, you do visit a cave that requires a moderate walk

in(note, I said visit not go caving) it is a good idea to borrow as many people's gear as possible and pile it all into the back of your van. On arrival at the end of the road:

1. Remove all gear from back of van and drape it around your neck. Have mate take photo of you with a rugged, far-a-way look on your face. Then, put gear back into van.
2. Attach telephoto lens to camera and take, as if close-up, a picture of bottom of pitch. Some how your thumb gets in the way and spoils part of photo.
3. Get back into van and drive to beach for rest of day.

There is a problem, however, in being a vertical caver. Your capabilities can be gauged by the type of caves you go to. When you first meet a caving stranger, or is it a strange caver, probably one of the first questions you might ask each other is "Where have you been?". In this way you get some idea of how experienced the other fellow is. With caving you may ask "What's the hardest cave you've done?" He may answer, for example, "K.D." There is a black and white measure of the fellow's ability. Now this may start to worry our budding hard, but as always there is a solution.

1. He can become a real hard caver and do a real, hard cave,

OR, failing this,

2. He can become a solo caver.

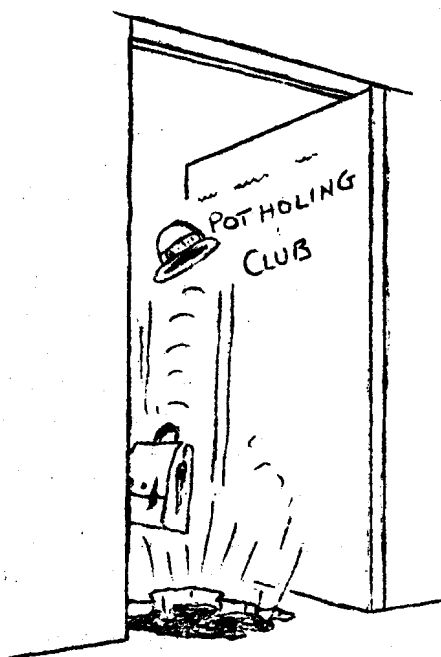
Solo caving is the solution to end all problems. Here at last the budding hard can get away by himself to do all those caves he always wanted to do - or not to do - it doesn't really matter what he does, he just has to make up a tale to tell.

...Found the rope a bit short on the 240 found the duck a bit tight to get through Lost a jummar so had to hand over hand the

Hang a krab from your van's key ring. Makes a nice conversation piece. But make sure it is permanently attached to the ring. If not, someone might ask you to use it and you wouldn't want that!

Peter Watts.

(Adapted from the "Do-It-Yourself Way to Instant Hardness")





T.C.C. ANNUAL TRIP 14-29 JANUARY 1979 JUNEE-FLORENTINE.

Recent exploration in the Florentine Valley has turned up a large number of caves. The main aim of the Annual Trip is to explore the new finds and search for more.

Whatever your inclination - horizontal or vertical - there's bound to be something for you.

We extend a
Special Invitation
to Past Members and
less active Members who may
think they're past it but really aren't.

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FULL DETAILS IN THE DECEMBER "SPIEL".

