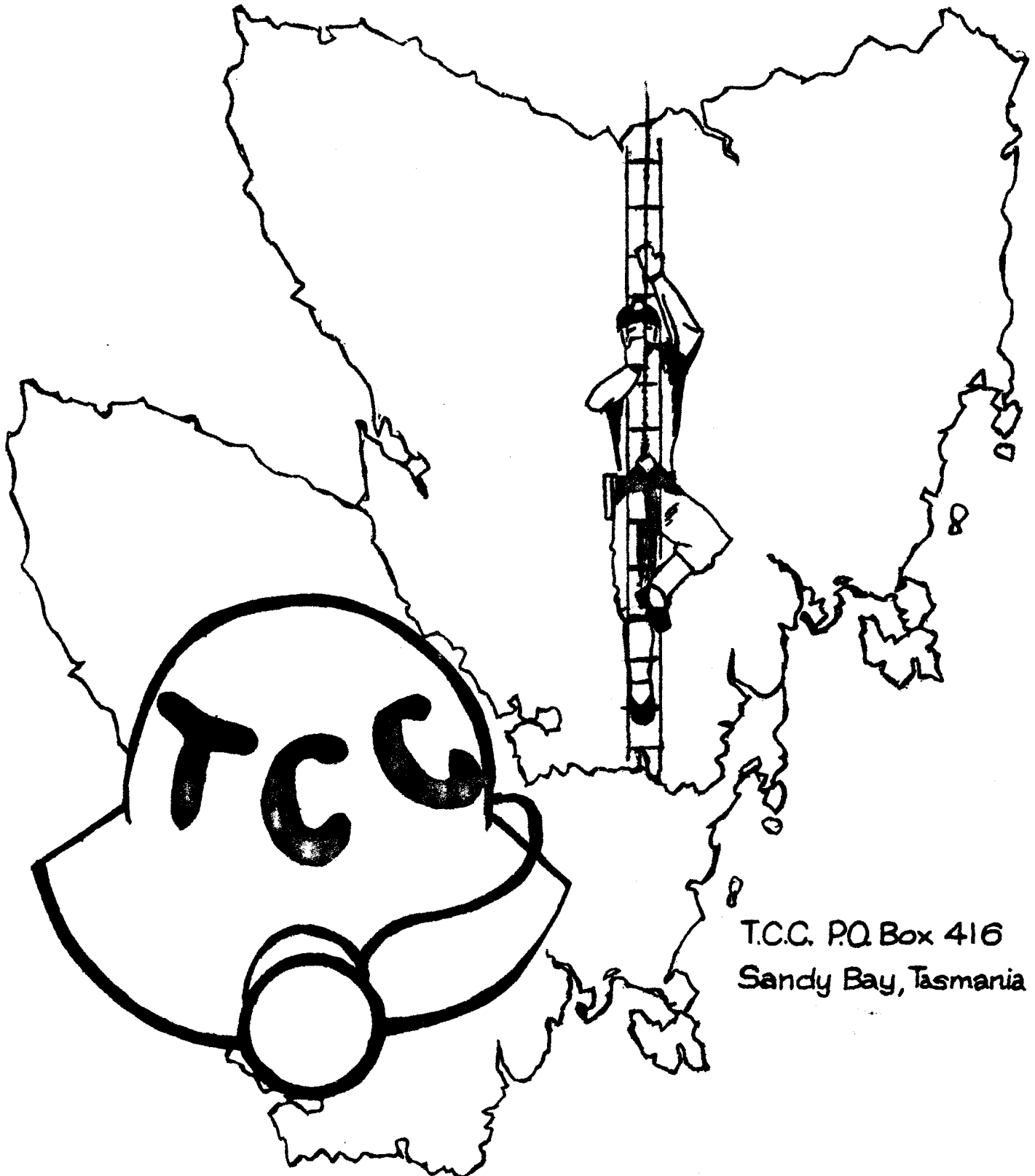


SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

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Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

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FORWARD PROGRAMME.

March 10,11 - Exit Cave. Leader: Bruce McIntosh.

March 18 (SUN.) - Exit Cave. E.M.C. beginners trip(maximum of 10 students).
Leaders: Roy Skinner and Bruce McIntosh.

MARCH 28 - WEDNESDAY. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Meeting Room, Wheatsheaf Hotel, 8 p.m.

Would all members please make every effort to attend this
meeting. See 'Club News' for further details.

May 2 - General meeting, Wheatsheaf Hotel, 8 p.m.

Near future - Trip to The Chairman. See Bill Nicholson if interested.

Mid.July - Hells Passage, Wolf Hole. Leader: Ian Gothard.

Dec. 1,2 - Kubla Khan. Photography etc. Leader: Bill Tomalin.

Late Jan.,early Feb.1980 - Another expedition to Franklin River Area - see
Club News for further details.

Mid.to late Feb. 1980 - Possible expedition to Cracroft Area - see Club News.

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EDITORIAL.

My dear subjects,

We wish it known that your President is grateful for the co-operation of his various minions, serfs and general underdogs in the completion of yet another year in the history of our ancient Club. It should be noted that the free, liberating sport of caving could not proper without the back-up services of a long-suffering, totally unselfish, highly dedicated band of people generally known as "the Committee". To thank each individual who has given to the smooth running of such a complex organization as ours would be impossible and probably highly contentious. Suffice it to say that, in honour of their unceasing efforts over the tumultuous twelve months past, it is now decreed that they may

(a) sit in my presence, and

(b) refer to me by Christian name(in Committee only!!).

We are informed by our"collector of Speleo material", Therese, that I am not getting away with a short editorial, so, in an effort to boost the length of this article, I shall try to say something pleasant about a few selected individuals - a task extremely taxing but one to which I shall bend my not-inconsiderable mental powers.

Stuart Nicholas (Vice-President and Quartermaster) - for services rendered in the production of fine gear(and wrecking of same) plus the distinction

of testing the S. and R. organisation we award the Order of Superior Knotting.

Ian Gothard (Secretary) - for meritorious work involving the Incorporation of the Club, the Keeping of Minutes and the design of an unlockable lock for Kubla Khan - we award 7 out of 10.

Bruce the Mack (Treasurer) - for keeping everyone completely in the dark as to the wealth of the Club and thus enforcing a Saving Policy, for keeping his cool in various Kombinations, for writing his name (with no spelling mistakes) on 27 cheques - we award 0.05.

Albert Goede (Archives and A.S.F.) - for the production of many scientific (and completely incomprehensible) papers ranging from spiders to speleoforns, and for steering the Committee through various administrative problems - elevated to the rank of Arch-Arachnida (A.A.).

Bill Nicholson (S. & R.) - for searching and rescuing, buying and selling (and aiding in wrecking) and generally spreading the name of the Club (See M.C. 206 - pub) - we award a First Class Honours Degree in Speling.

Max Jeffries (Maydena) - for managing to avoid 97.4% of Committee meetings - Meritorious Award (Zone A Class III).

Julie Marsh (female) - for lending a note of colour to the Committee, refusing to blush or react to various chauvanistic sallies by Certain People and for keeping us in order (sometimes) we award the Nobel Garter of the Chauvanette.

One could go on! The annals of the Club ring with names like Max, Pavel, Therese, Gurney Grapple, etc., etc. This has been a memorable year with a vast array of new caves numbered, exploration of The Chairman, Incorporation, training standards, new members, multitudes of trip reports, the civilisation of Muscles (who is, alas, gone to the North) and so on.

One gentle reminder - we have the Annual General Meeting to get through - here is your chance to get your own back on the valiant few. Come and join battle, perhaps you may be elevated to the peerage.

Yours,

King Trog (Bill)

* * * * *

CLUB NEWS.

Annual General Meeting:

Foreshadowed motions:

- a) Subscription rates will be discussed and reviewed.
- b) Max Jeffries to be nominated for election as a Life Member of the Club.

ALL executive posotions will become vacant at the A.G.M.

NOMINATIONS will be accepted at the A.G.M.

The newly created position of Public Officer will need to be filled at the A.G.M.

Proxy votes will be accepted at the A.G.M. but these must be in writing please.

We hope to see you there on March 28th, at the Wheatsheaf.

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* Stuart the Ed. (alias Selby's Jetsetter) is in Melbourne undertaking a training course, so many thanks to those who helped provide "instant" material to fill this issue of the Spiel. (T.G.)

** Caroline Rees - ex.Ed. and very versatile young lady has returned from a banking course in Melbourne and has now taken up sky-diving. Hopefully she will still have time to drop

in to Club gatherings. (Also - Happy birthday)

- * Various contentious issues have arisen lately within the Club. One is the placing of a permanent or semi-permanent telephone cable in "major risk" caves for use in emergencies. Another is the proposed blocking/gating of the easy access to the Dulciner area in Kubla Khan. Your views on the same would be gratefully received by the Editor for publishing in the Spiel and comments at meetings are also invited - so put your pen to paper and air your opinions!
- * Franklin River Expedition - 1980.
The recent trip into this area indicated that a great deal more time would be necessary to do justice to its potential. Therefore plans for a longer - up to 4 weeks - trip are already being worked out. Flying in of gear and people would be feasible if finances permit. People interested in this trip should contact Ian Gothard, 9 James Avenue, Kingston Beach, 7150, before the end of June.
- * About a week after the completion of the above expedition Bill Nicholson is planning to do some major work in the Cracroft area. Recent visits into the area have indicated that it is worth doing further in-depth research, and the possibility of further caves is very likely. Bill Nicholson should be contacted if you are interested - address: 9 Heather Road, Risdon Vale, 7019.
- * Your Editor is still waiting for an artistic person within the Club to design a new cover for the Spiel. Please send all efforts to Stuart.
- * Bill Tomalin is hoping to complete the Kubla Khan survey in 1980-81. This is a very demanding task and he has undertaken to co-ordinate things so any information regarding this cave should be sent to Bill (see address p.1), thank you,

* * * * *

WACCON Conference - Perth - January 1979.

The conference was well attended with over 100 cavers present - mostly from interstate. With few exceptions cavers from Eastern Australia drove across the Nullarbor and there were the usual sad stories of vehicles abandoned in various out of the way places for expensive repairs while their unfortunate owners hitchhiked the rest of the way. Yours truly and his wife decided to do it a different way by driving to Launceston, then flying to Melbourne and from there by train to Perth. An interesting experience but not to be done too often. We left Melbourne on the night of the 28th Dec. and arrived in Perth in the early hours of 31st Dec. Meals on board the train were quite good but the sleeping accommodation for tourist class is incredibly cramped. Fortunately cavers do not suffer from claustrophobia. Anyway, we saw the Nullarbor in air-conditioned comfort but unable to get off to look at some of the caves. Perhaps just as well as the temperature in Cocklebidy rose to 51° C on one day!

In Perth we were met by Norm Poulter, well known to older TCC cavers for his exploits in Khazad-dun during a six-month stay following the Hobart conference in 1970. Norm is now married and has a bouncing son. Norm and his wife Natalie kindly put us up during the conference and we are very grateful for their hospitality. They expect to come to Tasmania for an extended holiday in early 1981 following the Melbourne A.S.F. Conference.

The Perth Conference was held in a Teachers College close to the Uni. of W.A. and accommodation was provided in Currie Hall - a university residential college. The paper sessions were well attended with many papers on conservation issues and technical aspects of caving. The scientific side was rather disappointing and some papers were withdrawn at the last minute. The photographic competition was extremely well organised by Ros Hart who went to very considerable trouble persuading photographic firms to donate prizes for various categories of slides and prints. Entries were dominated by W.A. The only Tasmanian entries were from Northern Caverneers unfortunately without any indication of where they were taken. Although there were some really outstanding entries the overall standard was a bit disappointing. The trophy for the best entry overall was won by Norm Poulter with a slide of a drop of water on the end of a straw.

The Cavenans Dinner must rate as the quietest ever held. Just as the first buns started to fly the organizers very cleverly introduced Elery Hamilton-Smith to give an illustrated talk on National Parks for caves and karst in Yugoslavia.

It was a very informative and interesting contribution. Even though Elery had accidentally left his best slides at home they were better than most other peoples!

Speleo Sports organized by Rauleigh Webb was another successful venture and was held on a rocky limestone coast near the mouth of the Swan River. It included laddering, swimming, wall scaling, stormdrain crawling and attempting to wriggle under a shower of imitation straws (consisting of suspended metal rods) without touching any.

The committee meetings are a necessary evil which as TCC delegate I had to attend. The three vice-presidents of ASF (including myself) were retired. The newly elected three came from Queensland (Glenn Pure), N.S.W. (Andrew Pavey) and S.A. (Jin Cundy). This means that Tasmania is no longer represented at this level. After many years of service as A.S.F. President, Nick White retired and Ken Lance of W.A. was elected in his place. Ken was also responsible for the organization of the WACCON Conference.

Laurie Moody resigned as newsletter editor and a motion of special thanks was moved for all the hard work he has put in over the last few years. Rosie Shannon was elected to the job. Her address is 44 McCaul St., Taringa, Queensland, 4068. She can also be contacted by phone on 07 - 3708959 but either before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m. (Queensland time) please!

The recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Nomenclature on cave naming and numbering were accepted and having completed its function the committee was disbanded.

The ASF Handbook is still a long way from being completed but Peter Matthews is still quietly working away ironing out all the computer bugs.

The next ASF Committee Meeting will be held from 26-28 January, 1980 in Buchan, Victoria and catering will be provided. The next ASF Conference will be CONVIC and will be held between Christmas and New Year somewhere in Victoria - probably in Melbourne. Tasmania is due to host another conference in December 1984.

All in all the Perth Conference was a very successful event. Our thanks to Ken Lance and his organizing committee for all the work they have put in.

WACCON Fieldtrips.

Fieldtrips were held both before and after the conference. As we wanted to see a little more of W.A. we were only able to spend a couple of days in the Yallingup - Augusta area. As the WASGA campsite was badly overcrowded with nearly 60 cavers we camped at the SRG hut with Norm and his family. Two wild caves were visited. We looked at Norm's dig in Crystal Cave and admired some of the formations nearby. Unfortunately most of the cave was out of bounds as the WA cavers had decided to severely restrict access to their better caves because of their vulnerability to damage. We also visited one very badly vandalized former tourist cave - a sad example of what can happen to an unlocked cave close to a road.

In addition we visited three tourist caves. Yallingup Cave is run by a local council. It is quite attractive but very poorly lit and developed although there are plans for improvements. It contains some very fine formations including many helictites. Tourists have the option of doing a wilderness stint down a tight sloping passage to a small chamber with a concrete floor. The powerful smell of urine in this part of the cave does not add to the attraction of the place.

Mammoth Cave is a well known tourist cave and in the past has yielded fossil bones. It is one of the few stream caves in W.A. and contains large chambers with massive formations.

Jewel Cave near Augusta is a very spectacular cave only recently developed for tourists. This is undoubtedly the most spectacular cave we saw. Unfortunately our pleasure of seeing the cave is somewhat spoiled by the very large parties that were being pushed through so that most time was spent standing jam-packed together with 100 or more other tourists. Trick and coloured lighting is used and while it may be attractive to the average tourist it is unlikely to inspire many cavers.

Beaches in the South-West offer a pleasant alternative when one gets

tired of seeing pretties. It is a wonder that W.A. cavers get underground at all.

We were also able to see many other aspects of the S.W. of Western Australia - the extensive forests of the Manjinup area, the spectacular scenery of the south coast, the Stirling Ranges and Wave Rock at Hyden. We really enjoyed our stay in W.A. even though we were able to see only a small part of the largest state of Australia.

Albert Goede.

Exit Cave Survey.

Exit Cave has a reputation as Australia's longest cave system. A great deal of it has been surveyed but much of it, although explored, has not. Some has been mapped in detail (the glow-worm chambers and Conference Concourse) but mostly simple line transects make up the survey maps. Apart from some published material, most of the accurate survey details are in the hands of a number of people who carried them out.

In late January a surveying trip was held in Exit at the request of some interstate visitors who were eager to help add to our map (trip report and maps will be published soon), and we were more than mildly surprised to find that we had no accurate complete map of the work already done. The January trip resulted in maps of two sections of cave previously not surveyed, as far as we know but, lacking an accurate map of the main passage, we find it difficult to attach our result to anything.

All this inspired a recent meeting to appoint an Exit Cave Survey Co-ordinator who would collate and correlate information, as is done for several large cave systems on the mainland where surveying is performed by a variety of people over a period of years. Having been an instigator of this move, I am stuck with the above imposing title and my first act in office is to issue the following invitation:

WOULD PEOPLE WHO HAVE SURVEY INFORMATION FOR EXIT CAVE
AND WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A COMPLETE MAP OF THE
SYSTEM PLEASE CONTACT ME.

Bruce McIntosh,
"Springvale",
Midwood Street,
NEW TOWN, 7008.

Khazad-dum Communications.

Recent events in K-D have started a debate, mainly between vertical cavers and surface support people, about the ethics of communication by telephone in dangerous vertical caves. During the initial exploration of K-D a telephone line was set up which eventually connected the surface and the sump. In the event of a party being seriously overdue, such a line would prove invaluable to people on the surface who must make a decision about making a search and rescue call-out. BUT, say the people who use the cave, this would detract from the aspect of adventure, risk, excitement or whatever turns you on in such a cave.

Would the maintenance of a permanent line be inadvisable in K-D because it would make the cave "tame"? Would this objection be outweighed by the certain benefits in the event of accident or other difficulty? Would it be better to have a line kept at Maydena which could be easily reeled out by a descending party? Would . . . etc. etc. ??

Comments are invited in the form of brief letters to the Editor, especially comments from vertical cavers.

Just to get the ball rolling, I would vote for a permanent line to the sump in K-D, with access points at several strategic places to plug in lightweight telephone transceivers. Any arguments?

Bruce McIntosh.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 28.

TRIP REPORTS.

Death or Glory Inc. - 1979 Cracroft Expedition.

Leaders(Party): Bill Nicholson and Pavel Ruzicka.

Well, where do we start?

You wouldn't believe how hard the conditions were, rugged, ye rugged. We've had it rugged before but never as rugged as this. Put it this way, if JF 99, 110 and 172 were rated as severe - well, where do we start?

We won't mention the weather but we could have had it better.

The first stage of the walk in, along Farnhouse Creek, ended up as somewhat of an epic. As per usual Pavel charged off in front while Bill slogged along, being occasionally overtaken by the odd snail. Meanwhile, Pav had managed to get lost, fall off a rotten log and land on a nest of jackjumpers. A dozen or so bites later Pav jumps up, becomes very itchy, and runs like the clappers for the creek. After a while of sitting naked in the creek his face and back puffed up alarmingly. Anyway, Pav got better, but meanwhile, Bill was still slogging up Farnhouse. We eventually met and made camp at Pine Camp that night.

Next day we did "Four Tape Cave"(proposed name) - a cave Albert Goede and Bill had partly explored last year, and proceeded down along to Judds Cavern, Visited Judds on Monday - the stream was very low - and explored the partly surveyed passage near the siphon. Also visited Matchlight Cavern.

Four Tape Cave:

Albert, remember that cave we visited? Quote "I suppose you could call it a cave" -

Well, we pushed and pushed and found 600 metres of new cave, large passages, chambers and very large avens. No real formation to speak of but there are so many passages we didn't have time to explore it's not funny. "Four Tape" is a lot more complex than Wolf Hole with leads running into every direction of the compass.

The length of "Four Tape" could very easily be pushed up to a kilometre or more, but who will survey it!

There is great potential for large systems in this area so if you are interested drop me a note(plain s.a.e. please). Bill Nicholson.

Mole Creek - Long Weekend, March 3-5, 1979.

Party: Bill Nicholson, Rina Truchanas, Tony Morgan and Peter Tedds.

The aim of the weekend was to meet and socialise with other cavers, relax, and caverneer. I'm pleased to say that we did all three and enjoyed ourselves in doing so.

Now I have received several comments to the effect of "was Mole Creek a booze-up like usual?", or "Did you do any caving?", "Why do we Mole Creek?", Because it's a beautiful area, nowhere in Tassie will you find a publican who will go out of his way so much to make you feel at home, the atmosphere of the area and the people, makes it a very relaxful weekend. And in today's life of tension, stress and other nasties, you must find an outlet or you become defunct.

Also when we do the same caves over and over again it's not because we are slacking(well not really) but it's because that's all we know. So let it be known that Mole Creek weekends are not all purely booze-ups.

We spent the weekend with a family from Savage River(N.C. Members)and on Monday with Peter Cover(Pres.N.C.) Following negotiation with Peter Cover, a solid attempt will be made for an interclub caving weekend sometime in the future which I'm sure members will participate in. Rina and I experimented with lights and cameras in Genghis Khan and showed Frank Salt and Co.(Savage River) around the cave generally.

To introduce Peter Tedds to this mad-cap sport we did a tour of Honeycomb, picked blackberries and drove home via the east coast.

It was a great weekend.

Bill Nicholson.

PLEASE remember - payment of subscriptions at the A.G.M. would be appreciated.

T.C.C. President's Report, 1978-79.

Within Tasmania there are approximately 120 known cavers of whom 50 are Tasmanian Caverneering Club members. The majority of the remainder are affiliated to the T.C.C. with an active group (Southern Caving Society) making up the balance. The fact of a few non-affiliated people who go caving should not be a source of irritation to the Club but, as is so often the case, this very small minority does create tension within caving circles.

It would be to the Club's advantage and the caving fraternity's (and sorority) peace of mind to encourage all would-be cavers to liaise with the Caving Clubs of this State. This will not be done by sniping at the various "non-aligned" cavers, or by heaping semi-official regulations on access to caves. It is my contention that these unaffiliated groups be invited to contribute to caving, by discussion, exchange of information (Speleo Spiel), and by joining trips with Clubs (and vice versa).

During my travels around the State in connection with my work, I have met many individuals who would like to "go caving" and some who do "go caving" with highly suspect motives. In many cases they reject the idea of affiliating with a Club on the bases of: "too many regulations", "costs too much", "what do we get out of it?", "Clubs have no business telling me what to do" and so on. On further analysis, it often appears that there have been a distortion of reports re. the activities of these people - I suggest that the T.C.C. investigates a forum to discuss these problems (Ombudsman)?

At the last A.G.M. a call was made for the younger members to contribute to the running of the Club. This challenge has been accepted with excellent results. The Committee has within its ranks several younger members who bring a note of colour to what could be a very boring exercise. I would like to record my appreciation of the efforts being made by the whole Committee and in particular to these younger members. I hope for a continuation of this involvement during 1979-80.

A word of warning on this last. Too often the running of a Club becomes dependant on very few individuals. It is for every member to realise that they have a significant part to play in support of Club activities whether on Committee or not. I would go as far as to suggest that every member of the Club should be asked to contribute at least one article per year to the Speleo Spiel and to attend a basic minimum of general meetings.

I must, reluctantly, withdraw from regular participation in Club affairs for the next couple of years. I have a new, very time-consuming job, and a degree to get through, a house to complete and three children who must be trained to wriggle, crawl, climb and develop a healthy regard for mud. To all cavers in Tasmania and particularly in the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, thank you for your support over the 1978-79 caving season.

Bill Tonalin (signed).