

SPELEO SPIEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE

T.C.C.

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

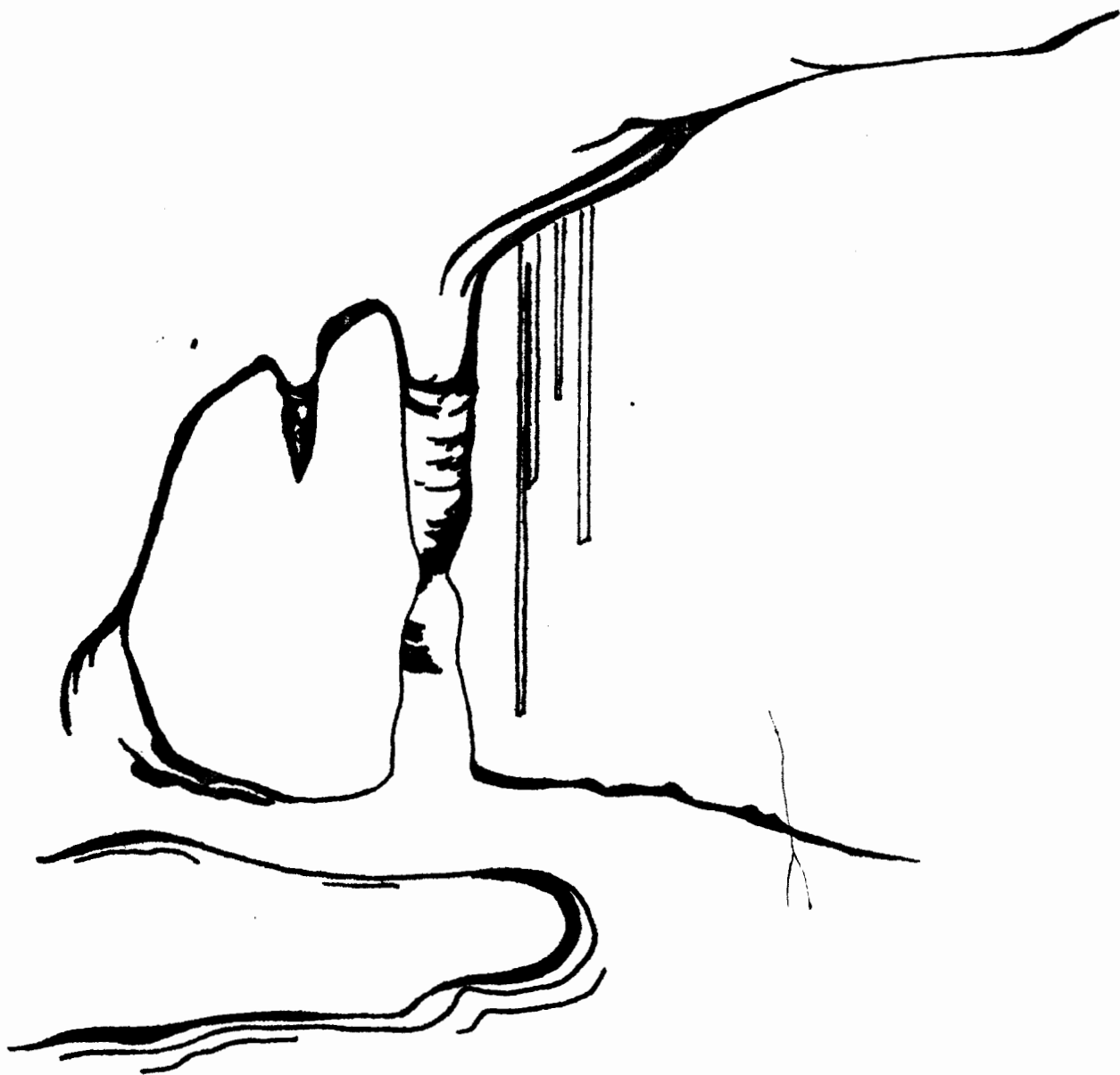
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NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

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FORWARD PROGRAMME

- Thur., May 24 - Search and Rescue training commences at Police S&R store - Princes No. 3 shed on wharf (near where Empress used to berth). See elsewhere in this Spiel for more details.
- Sat.&Sun., May 26,27 - S & R Exercise/Workshop at Mole Creek. If you don't know about this now its too late anyway!
- Sat., June 2 - Weather permitting, a trip to look at Trap-door Swallet and/or Slaughterhouse Pot, both of which are up behind Growling Swallet (a trip to do some real exploration). Leader: Stuart Nicholas
- Late June or early July - Possible Chairman trip to further explore and survey downstream, high level and maybe upstream sections. Will possibly involve underground bivvy to extend total time available. Who's interested?? Leader: Stuart Nicholas (maybe!)
- Any weekend - Exit surveying with Bruce McIntosh
- Wed., June 6 - General Meeting at Wheatsheaf Hotel, 8 p.m.
- Wed., June 20 - Committee meeting at Wheatsheaf Hotel, 8 p.m.
- Wed., July 4 - General Meeting at Wheatsheaf Hotel, 8 p.m.
- Sometime (maybe) - With any luck one or more of the very few active leaders in our club might also be going somewhere sometime!
- July - Skiing and general snow season starts.

EDITORIAL

The annual winter apathy syndrome seems to be setting in again with very little happening during the past month and not many

trips planned for the next month. What's happened to everyone?
How can I write raving editorials with nothing to rave about?

Perhaps the only thing of note is the forthcoming Search and Rescue exercise at Mole Creek together with the weekly (Thursday night) exercises and discussions to be held at the S & R store beginning Thursday, May 24. For anyone even remotely interested in S & R (and we all should be) these sessions should prove invaluable since they are designed specifically for cavers. All members should make an effort to attend.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Once again it's pay-up time, in fact, it's well past it!!! With inflation galloping ahead, the annual subs. for our Club are ridiculously cheap so, if you wish to receive any more editions of this brilliant publication and enjoy the many other benefits of membership of T.C.C. - PAY UP NOW !!

Senior \$7.50

Junior \$4.00

Family \$10.50

Prospective membership fee \$2.00

Bill Nicholson is the Treasurer and he is very eager to remove some of your hard earned money from you (for the Club, of course!)

CLUB NEWS

- Our jet-setting member, Peter Watts, has just returned from the "land of the long white cloud" (New Zealand for the uninitiated) after spending about six months over there climbing and walking. Hopefully, I may be able to extract some sort of story from him concerning his exploits whilst there for a future Spiel.
- With the arrival of the Suunto Clinometer and Compass and the potential arrival in the near future of a 50 m tape, there is now no excuse for not getting stuck into all the surveying that needs to be done. More surface work is required on June Ridge, Growling Swallet, Exit and the far extremes of The Chairman to name but a few - all need surveying. Stuart is willing and able (?) to instruct anyone and everyone in this noble art so, why not get into it this weekend?
- You may have observed a new cover last month and this month. This has been a combination of the efforts of Rauleigh Webb and Diana Davies. Next month we will have a very smart one from Geoff Fisher who just happens to know a graphic designer who just happened to get talked into designing our cover. I believe there are more from the same source in the pipeline yet. Thanks to Rauleigh and Diana for making an effort and producing cover designs and to Geoff for twisting a few professional arms.
- Owing to a minor error, last month's cover was numbered 145 when, in fact, it should have been 144. Sorry about that! Apologies also for the rather oversize format - the Spiel was churned out on foolscap instead of A4. Sorry about that too!!

- A couple of weeks ago (Sunday, May 13) the City-to-Casino "Run for Fun" was held. Cavers being hardy types and supposedly fit, it was rather strange that only two (as far as the Editor knows) members of the underground brigade took part. At least four members of that slack breed called climbers took part. What happened? Are we all so fit that it is not worth taking part? I think not. Perhaps a little fitness training would not go astray particularly for some of the so-called "hards" in our Club.
- A surveying exercise carried out the other night by Bruce McIntosh, Chris Davies and Stuart Nicholas proved interesting and also rather embarrassing! An 800 m traverse of a fitness track on the Eastern Shore gave some slightly awkward results when the loop was closed. More of these evening exercises will be held on an impromptu basis in the near future. Contact Stuart Nicholas for info.
- For two weeks early this month a group of five Sydney cavers (including Alan Warild) invaded our shores to spend the first week at Maydena and the second at Mole Creek - a total of ten days caving out of fourteen in the State. At this stage I don't know much of their activities but I'm sure some word will come through as to their achievements while here.

!! ATTENTION !!

A cave rescue team is being formed. We need cavers who can spare a few hours one night a fortnight to be trained in basic cave and cliff rescue skills ie. Tryomont winching system, stretcher usage, communications, first aid and general rescue procedure. Remember, the skills you acquire, may at some time during your caving career help to save a friend.

So please, if you care, contact me at work, 34 4395, or drop around to "The Pit", 198 Davey Street after 6.15 p.m. weekdays.

Bill Nicholson,
Cavsar Officer.

--CAVE RESCUE TEAM AGENDA--

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| May 24th | -Introduction & gear familiarisation
(Princes III Wharf, 5.30 p.m.) |
| June 7th | -Medical Problems Underground - Col Ransley
(Wheatsheaf Hotel or 198 Davey Street) |
| June 14th | -Winching Practice
(Princes III Wharf, 5.30 p.m.) |
| June 23rd | -One Day Exercise - Stretcher carry up a creek
or scree slope |
| June 28th | -Winching Practice & scrutinisation of gear
(Princes Wharf III, 5.30 p.m.) |
| July 5th | -Communications Run Down (Problems, Systems, etc.)
- Frank Brown (Clarence SES H.Q.) |
| Sometime in
the future | -(a) First Aid Course adapted for Cave use
- Col Ransley
-(b) Communications exercise |

Bill Nicholson, 344395(W)
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TRIP REPORTS

Deception Ridge (Mt. Anne) - Half-way: Easter 1979

Party: Bill Tomalin, Bill Nicholson, John de Jong, Mark Mather

THE FACTS -

Why is it that whenever I question bushwalkers about this route on Mt. Anne, that condescending smiles appear or a shudder runs across the broad shoulders of my interviewee? Why has there been no written account of this traverse in the walking-club brochures? How did it get the name, Deception Ridge?

To answer these questions, a trip to the ridge was demanded. Accordingly, I armed myself with a 1:50,000 map, a 4 inch to 1 mile map, a large blow-up aerial photograph, me trusty Silva Special, an up to date Met. forecast, three selected companions and headed off during the Easter break.

We parked ourselves overnight at Condominium Creek in the company of the Wallace trip (more smiles and shudders) and left early next morning via the buttongrass plain leading directly to the foot of the north-west spur of Deception Ridge.

For some hours we had a marvellous time over knee-high T-tree, button-grass and banksia, climbing very steeply to the rock outcrops at the top of the ridge. A couple of detours to check possible mistakes in route-finding, and we arrived at the beginning proper.

Smiles disappeared and shudders took over, permanently! A knife-edge ridge, absolutely choked with unmentionable scrub headed directly away to Mt. Anne. There are no alternatives but to stay right on the ridge, so scrub gloves on and packs tightened, we crawled out onto the traverse.

With a lead change every five minutes we pushed for two hours and just over four hundred metres. The idea was to make camp on a saddle between the ridge and a towering gendarme off the south. When we arrived we fought our way down to the ground and cleared a reasonable space to put up a tent and a fly. Water was dug for about 40 metres and 20 minutes away.

After a surprisingly comfortable night and superb sunsets over Lake Gordon, we climbed the gendarme to view the rest of the ridge. Even refreshed, we estimated 10 hours to the nearest boulder slope on Mt. Anne. Our Met. report had indicated poor, cold conditions on Sunday, and as we would have been in a very exposed situation, reluctantly, we headed back.

The return four hundred metres was done in an hour which gave us time for an extended lunch at the top of the ridge. Two metal stakes were found ("Waratah" and "P.C.") which, presumably, mark the West/South boundary line. There is an incredible view from our lunch spot, the Druids to the north and Gordon to the south - well worth the trip just to this point.

So, we join the smilers and shudderers until next year, when, with bivouac gear, non-cookable food and dulled memories, we will finish the traverse.

Bill Tomalin.

Deception Ridge: April 13 - 15

Party: Bill Tomalin, Bill Nicholson, John de Jong, Mark Mather

THE DRAMA -

Our aim for this insane venture was primarily to mark an escape route from Mt. Anne and secondly, to determine if the ridge was, in fact, limestone. The total achievement was several pairs of sore hands and knees and an incomplete mission.

The ridge seems to be composed not only of thick scrub but also some sort of metamorphosed quartzite disguised as rock. It is warm to cold to the touch, hard, has the usual rock smell and is pink to grey in colour. It was not limestone!

The going is fairly open to the ridge top but all of a sudden - KAPOW! ZOCK! BANG! SHOCK! - medium thick (impenetrable!) scrub is everywhere. The party took 2 hours to bash 500 metres and that was good going. We bivvied the night in a saddle overlooking Mt. Solitary and the lake. Weather was worsening so we took off down to Condominium Creek the next day.

A follow-up trip is planned which will probably involve 3 days on the ridge and another to reach the top of Mt. Anne and walk out via the usual tourist route.

If anyone is interested in this (mis-ad)venture, contact Bill. Only seasoned hard men need apply!

Bill Nicholson.

Cracroft: April 17 - 20

Party: Bill Nicholson, Pavel Ruzicka

Pavel walked out to the cars to meet me and to collect extra rations. On Tuesday we proceeded back to Judd's camp.

Wednesday we visited Judd's Cavern and pushed a new lead Pav found in the main left passage before the siphon. It finished in a blocked talus chamber with no other leads. The collapse is recent, probably in the last 100 years. Rock is very loose. Proposed name: "The Gallows". Also looked at a few other leads in the main passage.

Thursday we visited Geoff Fisher's "Sassafras Hole". Amongst the numerous wombat bones is a skull that is very likely to be from a now extinct animal (Ed's. note: could also be a platypus skull from all reports). We plan to remove that Sassafras pole next trip and burn it!

Next we took a ladder into Matchlight Cavern to look at a hole which needs more ladders. Checking with both surveys, it seems that this hole leads into Judd's. We also came across the partial bone remains of a young Thylacine.

Friday on the tw~~h~~a out we located "King Billy Hole" and later attacked Huonville in our muddy, smelly state.

As I said before, there is untold potential in this area. Maybe we could have the annual trip there. It's only 4 hours walk in - good campsite and views.

Your ideas on this suggestion would be appreciated.

Bill Nicholson.

Florentine Valley: Saturday, May 12

Party: Max Jeffries, Di and Chris Davies, Geoff Fisher (Maydena branch)

Left Maydena at 10.00 a.m. Headed off to the Junee Road with the aim of exploring a cave found by John Parker about a year ago. Max and John had entered the cave but didn't have enough gear to get very far.

As our cave was located roughly halfway between "Rift" and "The Chairman", it was no trouble to go and inspect the entrance to "The Chairman". Most spectacular, definitely a 'must' for the future.

A bit of a hunt around and we soon found the cave quite near JF128 and also near JF148. Access is via a squeeze into a small chamber, from there down a short pitch to a bigger chamber. The only way from there is down a 70' ladder pitch.

Seen from the ladder the hole appeared to go nowhere, but on investigation, the descent continued. Max remained in the larger chamber, Diana, Chris and I pushing on.

The going was slow due to the loose, crumbly rock and steepness of the climb. We were eventually stopped (after 200 - 250 feet) by a 50' pitch. Having only one ladder left, we returned to the surface.

We didn't really mind because the cave was nothing to rave about and was potentially dangerous. Anyone who is keen enough could well push further, but from what we saw, it is a fairly uninteresting cave.

Geoff Fisher.
