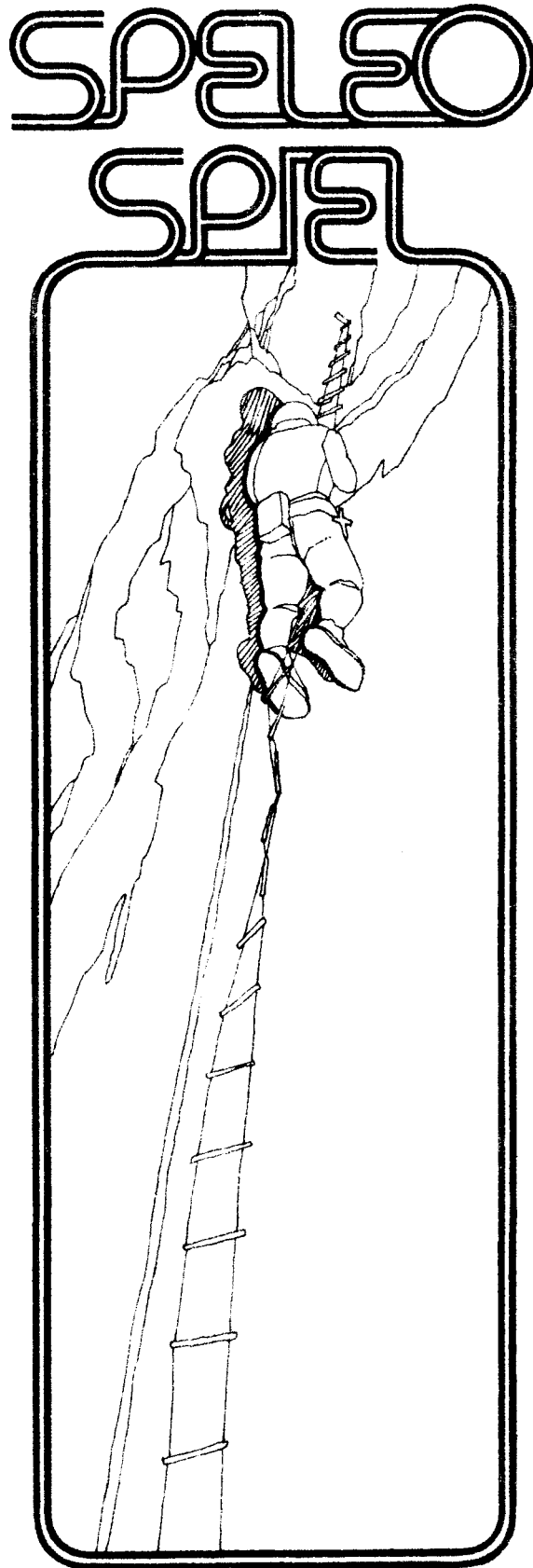


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Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club. Established 1946



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NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB.

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FORWARD PROGRAMME:

ANNUAL DINNER - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15th - 6.30 P.M. - Prince of Wales Hotel.  
Further details elsewhere in this Spiel.

Laddering Exercises - In conjunction with E.M.C., Thursdays 20th, 27th September,  
4th, 11th October, 1.30 p.m. onwards at Proctors Road Quarry.

Exit Cave - SATURDAY: OCTOBER 6th.

Leader: Albert Goode.

Come around to Stuart's the Wednesday before for details.

WOLF Hole - E.M.C. trip, Saturday, October 13th.

Assistance needed. Contact Bruce McIntosh or Bill Tomalin(30 6214).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT GET-TO-GETHERS : WEDNESDAY NIGHT GET-TO-GETHERS : WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
If you haven't been getting there you haven't been getting it all together cavingwise.  
Come and organize a trip, natter, show slides or just about anything else. If you  
can't make it but want to know further details of forthcoming trips phone up on  
28 3054.  
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EDITORIAL.

What has been happening during the last month? -

NOTHING!

I won't say any more.

S.N.

ANNUAL DINNER SEPT. 15TH : ANNUAL DINNER SEPT. 15 THX: ANNUAL DINNER SEPT. 15TH

ANNUAL DINNER:

Place: Prince of Wales Hotel, Saturday, September 15th, 1979.

Time: 5.30p.m. - 7.00p.m. - pre-dinner drinks, dinner 7p.m.

Food: Counter tea menu - Soup, entrees, main course(good choice), sweets.

Contact: If you are going please ring Sue Feeney before Saturday 15th, Phone 34 6299  
(8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.) at work or leave a message.

\* \* \* \* \*

CLUB NEWS:

- \* Long standing member and hard-caver of the early seventies Peter Shaw has just returned (with Yvonne of course!) from a fifteen month working holiday cum orienteering and sightseeing trip to England and Europe. Great to see you back.
- \* Once again on the BHP mining lease issue, another bug crept into the info. in last month's Spiel - the lease area is 97.59 sq.km. NOT 9759 sq.km. ! Baring further typographical glitches we should the whole correct this time.
- \* Apparently a certain bod generally referred to as Bill Nicholson has led us all up the proverbial garden path (or should I say jungle track ?). He is NOT joining the army; he is , however, resigning as CAVSAR Officer. Bill will no doubt remember the coming together of Ditto and the Wet Caves stream at the S & R exercise earlier this year. Ditto also remembers that Bill escaped this ceremony (only just!). Bill - BE WARNED ! !
- \* An apology to Dave Martin (S.S.S.) is in order. Owing to a mix-up in the mail collection system, his letter which was sent in April did not reach the Editor until last month. Sorry about that Dave, we certainly appreciate letters from members of other clubs. Your note contained some very pertinent information particularly as regards bolt placement - I'll certainly agree with that!

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

This is VERY DEFINITELY the last Spiel that you will receive if you do not pay promptly. All those (most of the members) who have not yet paid will find a large RED MARK on this month's cover.

So PAY UP ! Please.

Full members \$7.50; Junior members (under 18) \$4.00.

A.S.F. Subscription(for other than full members) \$3.50.

TCC Prospective Membership \$2.00.(entitles prospective members to 3 Speleo Spiels)

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KARST IN CHINA - All copies have now been sold. If and when further copies become available notification will be given in the Spiel.

\* \* \* \* \*

Unclassified Advertisements:

FOR SALE, HIRE, LEASE OR GENERAL DISPOSAL.

Special; this month only! Never to be repeated offer !

- (1) WET SUIT - "Farmer John" style size 3, very thick lined neoprene, little use - ideal for Tassie's cold water!

\$60 - negotiable ?

- (2) BOOTS - Two boots (one left and one right) excellent condition, Blundstone size 10 lo-cut walking boot. Reason for sale - they are too big, even for me!!

They have only been on one K.D. trip, a few Chairman trips and one Cauldron Pot trip, hence they are tried and true hard-caving boots. Haggling starts at \$25.

CONTACT: Stuart Nicholas for further details on these two GREAT bargains !

\*\*\*\*\*  
Review: - Atea Kanada - the Atea River Cave in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

This article appears in GCo (vol.1, no.2, pages 8-35.) - Australia's Geographical Magazine - published by the Magazine Division of Paul Hamlyn Pty.Ltd. and available from book sellers at \$3.50.

The article is written by Gary Steer who was a member of the 1978 Atea expedition which attempted to break the world depth record held by Gouffre Pierre St. Martin in France with a depth of 1332 metres. While the expedition was not successful in this, they did explore one of the most challenging caves in the world and surveyed a total passage length of 30.5 kilometres to make it the longest cave in the Southern Hemisphere. The article is well written and has an extensive collection of colour photographs showing aspects of the country, the expedition site, the very impressive Atea stream sink and action photographs inside the cave. Several photographs of surface and cave fauna are also included.

The Atea river sink was first visited by the 1973 Muller Range expedition in which two members of T.C.C. took part: Peter Shaw and Phil Robinson. At that time many cavers felt that the system would never be explored because of the very large quantities of water entering the cave even in the dry season. The threat of sudden floods is ever present especially as the rainfall is extremely high - about the same as Lake Margaret on the West Coast Range in Tasmania. The 1976 expedition visited the cave again and found that the main entrance could be by-passed. They also realized the depth potential of the cave as well as exploring and mapping 3.8 kilometres of passage.

Atea 78 was a massive expedition and took two years to plan. Fifty cavers took part most of whom were Australians. The leader was Julia James from Sydney who is well known for her deep caving activities. Three years ago she organized an Easter Expedition to Tasmania which in four days bottomed Khazad-dum, Niagara Pot, Tassy Pot as well as making a through trip to Kubla Khan ! The secret is S.R.T. and keeping fit.

Review: Atea Kanada (cont.)

The expedition went in June - August because it was the driest time of the year. At the base camp half a hectare (more than an acre) of forest was removed to make room for buildings, a helipad and an approach path for the choppers. The expedition used native carriers to get all the equipment to the site. The expedition members who walked in with the carriers took 2 to 3 days to walk from the nearest settlement to the base camp - the base camp was at an altitude of 2000 metres - after climbing over a mountain range 2800 metres high (Mt. Ossa - Tasmania's highest mountain - is 1500 metres high).

One party concentrated on exploring the Atea streamway downstream, while another pushed upstream along an underground tributary. A third party made a four hour walk to the Nali Valley where the resurgence was thought to be. The underground parties explored and surveyed in groups of four. All survey information was immediately plotted on a master map back at the base camp to get an overall picture.

SRT gear was used predominantly for vertical drops but wear was found to be heavy because the system is very muddy. The Nali Valley party confirmed by water tracing that the Atea resurged there but was unable to find a way into the system at the resurgence.

The upstream tributary passage was explored for a distance of 6.5 kms. Downstream exploration was slower because of the fast, deep water and the constant threat of flooding. A sump was eventually reached. Three cavers were nearly drowned while trying to find a by-pass route. As the writer says "To push for depth under these conditions requires a certain type of madness."

The expedition also carried out scientific work. A lot of biological specimens were collected - both on the surface and underground. Cave adapted species of beetles, spiders and harvestmen were found. Perhaps the most interesting find was a new species of cave adapted fresh-water crab. Fresh-water crabs are also known from Camooweal caves in N.W. Queensland and a cave in the Limestone Ranges in the north of Western Australia.

Other items of interest to cavers in Geo are:

- (1) An oblique aerial photograph of the coast near Devils Kitchen and Tasman Arch showing a spectacular array of sea caves (pages 110-111).
- (2) The entrance to a cave in the Northern Territory which was discovered during an aerial search for the wreck of the historical aircraft 'Kookaburra' which crashed in 1929. Apparently the cave remains unexplored (pages 128 - 129).

Albert Goede.

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DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL DINNER -

WE HOPE WE'LL SEE YOU THERE ! ?

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