

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

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FORWARD PROGRAMME

Sometime before end of year -Chairman JF99: Probably involving one or more underground bivvies. This trip will be run in conjunction with Gordon Taylor's visit (dates unknown as yet). See Stuart Nicholas for details of this trip and also a one day preparation trip soon.

Wed. November 21 -Committee Meeting, 8 p.m., 7 Rupert Avenue.

Sat. December 1 -Radio communications exercise at June Florentine

Sat. December 1 -Australian Sports Medicine Federation - "Intention to Attend" registration for the 1980 Conference closes.

Sun. December 2 -Bone Pit: SRT practice trip. See Chris Davies, Geoff Fisher or Stuart Nicholas.

Wed. December 5 -General Meeting, 8 p.m., 7 Rupert Avenue. Remember the NEW format! Very short business session with slides, etc. after.

Weekend, December 15 & 16 -Kubla Khan: Photographic trip concocted by Bill Tomalin. See inside for details.

Tue. January 1 to Tue. January 8- 1980 -Annual Trip to Cracroft Area: May be extended by a week. To be run in conjunction with Dave Gillieson's visit.

Wednesday evenings (or any other night) -Laddering, SRT, etc. exercises together with B-B-Q on Sphinx Rock - meet at Sphinx Rock or Stuart's place no later than 5.30 p.m. OR the same thing at Proctor's Road quarry 4 p.m. onwards. Contact Bruce McIntosh. N.B. Obviously these two exercises will not be run simultaneously!

Sat. March 1 -A.S.M.F. Annual Conference. Early registration closes.

Mon. May 26 to Fri. May 31 -A.S.M.F. Conference at University Centre. There will be two public lectures, one Tuesday, May 27 by Dr Griffith Pugh on physiological and human aspects of the 1953 first ascent of Mt. Everest and the second, Thursday, May 29 by Dr David Lewis on the planning and conduct of solo yacht voyages.

EDITORIAL

After some discussion at the October committee meeting, it was decided all the "ho-hum boring stuff" will be dealt with at committee meets in future. General meetings will probably have a short business session (10mins) but will mainly be for entertainment purposes, i.e. any slides, films and so on that may be brought along will be shown, trips discussed, etc.

The original idea behind such an arrangement of committee and general meetings was to encourage attendance at general meets by doing all the boring stuff at the committee meets. However, during the last 12-18 months, there has been a duplication of effort with long business sessions occurring at both meetings and consequent small attendance at the monthly general meetings.

Hence, you may all breathe a sigh of relief, take your ear plugs out and come along to the editor's residence on the first Wednesday of every month ( or any other Wednesday for that matter) for some entertainment instead of a prolonged sleep!

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CLUB NEWS- Summer Visitors

- (a) A group of five cavers from Canberra (NUCC) lead by Gordon Taylor will hit our State in mid-December for a two month Tassie-Trog. They have ideas of doing a Chairman trip, visiting the Cracroft, Precipitous Bluff and hopefully, exploring some of the shafts in the hill above Exit. They are bringing 300m odd of SRT rope and all other gear so will be self-contained. Gordon has indicated however, that they would like to participate in any interesting local trips that may be happening during their stay.
  - (b) The second group comprises 22 Rover Scouts from Sydney lead by George Alexander. They are apparently well known S.S.S. bods. They wish to visit Exit on the 25-26 January, 1980 for which assistance will be required from some "locals". Anyone interested? If so, contact Bruce McIntosh.
  - (c) The third group is a small crowd of UQSS cavers including Dave Gillieson who will be here during January to do some walking and caving including a week in the Cracroft area.
- A note given me by Therese reveals the information that former Club member, Ruth Stephenson, who moved to Iceland some time ago, has given birth to a son (Karl) on July 7, 1979.
  - Somebody still has the library book "Single Rope Techniques" by Neil Montgomery in their possession. It is not Julie Marsh, who kindly returned the "Caves" book last month.

I have declared an amnesty this month so, if you do happen to have any T.C.C. library books, ropes, ladders or other paraphernalia hiding in your closet, cellar or under your bed, no torture treatment, fines or other nasties will be imposed if you return the goods!

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### REPORT ON SARSYM 79

Conducted over the weekend of October 27 and 28 at Gowrie Park, the "Search and Rescue Symposium 1979" was the second such annual meeting to be held. The main aim continues to be for all attending to meet others from around the State involved in search and rescue and to become familiar with S & R procedures in activities other than their own. To this end, I am quite sure that SARSYM 79 was very successful.

Although only eighteen hods attended owing to Show Day in the south inducing people to take four day long weekends and a general lack of notification, much discussion of problems the various organisations have encountered during past S & R operations took place.

Several major problems were brought to light, particularly the call-out procedure in the North and North-West. In these areas, when the Police decide a call-out is necessary, they contact the SES who then contact clubs and societies for volunteers. In other words, there is a third party involved with a consequent loss of information essential for an effective call-out.

Other problems, including that of easy access to caves at Mole Creek and Ida Bay by unknown and unannounced individuals, were discussed. During the last twelve months, a lot more bush-walkers, cavers, climbers and so on have been registering their trips with a local Police station and deregistering at the conclusion of the trip. However, the numbers registering are still a small fraction of the total going into the great outdoors.

It was decided that a SARSYM should be held next year in conjunction with the A.S.M.F. Conference (see elsewhere in this Spiel) with the possibility of obtaining a guest speaker(s) to lecture on some aspect of the problem of survival in inhospitable environments. Alternatively, some kind of combined exercise could be held over one day of the weekend.

N.B. The Sheffield pub will never be the same again!

Stuart Nicholas.

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### AUSTRALIAN SPORTS MEDICINE FEDERATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Next year, the A.S.M.F. is holding its Annual Conference in Hobart from May 26 to May 31 inclusive at the University.

The theme of the Conference is "The Hazards of Outdoor Sports and Recreation" which is most appropriate to Tasmania since our (shrinking!) wilderness areas have claimed quite a number of lives in recent years, mainly thru' exhaustion and exposure.

Session and workshop topics include: "Exhaustion, Exposure - Causes, Management and Prevention", "Medical Aspects of Outdoor Recreation", "Acute Mountain Sickness", "Medical Aspects of Protective Clothing", "Medical Management of Exhaustion Exposure Victims", "The Hazards of Water Sports", and so on.

Registration is invited from any person interested in sports medicine and its relation to sports and recreation with particular reference to so-called "outdoor sports".

For further information on this most-worthwhile conference, write now to:

A.S.M.F. Conference (Tasmania),  
P.O. Box 65,  
LINDISFARNE. TAS. 7015.

N.B. Important dates: December 1 - Intention to attend notification closes  
March 1 - Registration at normal fees closes.

You do not have to be a member of the A.S.M.F. or involved in medicine to attend and, if you so wish, you may attend any one session (half-day) on its own.

#### KUBLA KHAN PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIP

For a variety of inconsequential reasons, the Kubla trip lead by Bill Tomalin will now be offered for December, 15th.

Since this is primarily a photography trip, cavers will be moving in pairs (one clicking, one flashing!). To get things underway with organisation, would you please write to Bill with the following details:-

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Area of cave you wish to photograph. (a.b.c.d.) \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) River Passage to Pleasure Dome  
(b) Pleasure Dome to Great Khan  
(c) Great Khan to Top Entrance  
(d) Through trip

Information by Dec. 1st please - final details to be discussed at Club meeting on Dec. 5th.

Bill Tomalin.

#### TRIP REPORTS

Exit Cave - Saturday, 6.10.79

Party: Albert Goede (leader), Bruce McIntosh, Stuart Nicholas, Sue Feeney, Chris & Diana Davies, John Adams, John Penwill, Sam Steane and Dave Southgate

Stuart and I left Hobart at 7.45 a.m. in Stuart's excitement machine to meet the remainder of the party at the junction of the Ida Bay and Hastings roads. Surprise! Everyone turned up ahead of time so we made our way to the beginning of the track to indulge in the usual "getting ready for caving" ceremony. The track was reasonably dry and the rain held off despite threatening skies.

A little after 11 a.m. the whole party was underground and heading for the Grand Fissure at quite a good pace. Some emergency rations made up by Bruce were left at Camp 2 and we arrived at our lunch spot a little after 1 p.m.

After lunch, we found our way through the rockfall into the Western Grand Fissure and continued to Keller's Squeeze: new territory for all but the leader. Diana dashed through at a remarkable pace followed by the leader trying hard to preserve his youthful image. We listened with interest to the comments of the others as they discovered the true nature of the crawl and desperately tried to stay reasonably dry.

Next was a visit to the big aven nearby with quite a shower of water coming down. From there to Six Ways (station 13) with passages leading off in all directions. More by luck than good management, the leader located the Acoustic Chamber. We soon discovered that going down into it was much easier than coming back up. Our president, a gentleman as always, waited till last. This turned out to be a mistake. Finally, goaded on by our threats to leave him there and fetch the emergency rations, he made it to the top.

As nobody was very keen to return through Keller's Squeeze, it was decided to do the Camp Pie Circuit. Here the leader's memory began to fail and we did quite a bit of route finding. Finally, we emerged into a large chamber. Here the leader made the mistake of turning right and we ended up looking down from a rock pile into a stream passage - inaccessible without rope or ladder. We were just about to retrace our steps when someone discovered the way into Broken Column Chamber. Here we admired the formations, then continued east following a small stream passage downstream. Eventually, this blocked off with rockfall forcing us to climb upwards and to the right. Here we went astray once more, lured on by a diamond smoked on a rock into a high level passage which appeared to take us in the right direction but left us stranded at the top of a big drop. Retracing our steps once again, we found the right way and were soon back in the Grand Fissure. After eating the remains of our rations, we headed back to the entrance with a visit to Camp 2 on the way.

It was about eight o'clock, dark and raining as we emerged from the entrance. The walk back to the cars seemed twice as long as it had that morning. The leader regretted being in front as he collected all the water and leaches on the way. By the time we reached the cars it had stopped raining. It was very pleasant to get into dry gear and enjoy the luxury of a car seat.

It had been a long day but most enjoyable one. The amount of ground we covered was quite an achievement for a day trip. I think everyone was duly impressed by the size, complexity and extent of Exit Cave.

Albert Goede.

Florentine Valley - Sunday, 14.10.79

Party: Stuart Nicholas, Diana & Chris Davies, Dave Southgate  
Geoff Fisher

Our party went to JF341 to descend the long pitch (See Speleo Spiel No. 149) and explore the cave if it continued from there. We made good time in the cave and soon reached the ledge on top of the pitch. We were uncertain about the amount of ladder needed but estimated that 120' would suffice. Stuart rigged the pitch and expertly set up the ropes and harness for the belay.

Geoff was tied to the belay and set off down the ladder. At the edge of the overhang he noticed that the ladder was tangled, so it was hauled up, untangled and lowered back down again. A further problem was encountered when Geoff saw the ladder was not long enough to reach the floor. Returning to the top, a 30' ladder was attached to his belt and he started off once more.

Some time passed before he shouted that he was coming back up again, apparently not having got off the ladder at the bottom. It was a slow return trip but he eventually made it. Within about 10' of the bottom of the ladder it seemed likely that the extra 30' he was carrying was still not enough, so not wishing to risk it he had no option but to ascend.

From his description the descent is into a narrow but quite long chamber. Some formation, including a few long straws, was seen on the walls. The floor was small however, because the walls tapered to the floor in a funnel shape. Parts of the walls lower down appeared to be flowstone and a large column stood in one corner. Although unsure, Geoff thought that the cave did continue beyond the floor section he'd seen.

Everyone was pretty cold by now and no one relished the thought of climbing the ladder with numb fingers and hands. We packed the gear away (into very practical bags provided by Chris) and made our way back to the surface. Having been close to bottoming the pitch we are curious to see from Stuart's next trip if the cave does continue and if so, what lies ahead.

Geoff Fisher.

Florentine Valley - Sunday, 4.11.79

Party: Geoff Fisher, Dave Southgate, Geoff Lee, Dale (Pace) Madden.

We planned to take a look at Beginner's Luck/Womguano and Cashions Creek but, unfortunately, this didn't work out. A very large tree had fallen across the road about half a mile below The Gap so we had no choice but to turn back.

Our new goal was to be JF1 near the Junee Quarry Road. Our attempts at finding this cave were to no avail, but we did however find a new cave. The entrance was a squeeze and then a short ladder pitch. The floor was about 10m below, beyond which the cave appeared to continue but via a much tighter squeeze. After that the going seemed to be easier. We would have explored further but an additional ladder was required, so we packed it in.

From there we went to inspect the Chairman entrance and on the way back found a couple of numbered caves we decided to take a look at. The first was JF149, a couple of hundred yards away from 341. It was quite small and disappointing; to judge from the large entrance we had guessed it would be fairly extensive. Our next cave was JF129 (Railway Tunnel?) which was only about 10m long and hardly deserving of comment, save for the fact it was chocka-block with crickets and spiders.

Back at Max's place we got a precise description of the location of JF1. We must have walked within metres of it! Well, at least we'll know how to find it next time.

Geoff Fisher.