

NEWS LETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Annual subscription \$5.00

Single copies 50 cents

President: Geoff Fisher, 115 Brooker Avenue, Glebe, 7000.
Phone: 20 8357 (W)

Secretary: Chris Davies, 2 Eleanor Place, West Moonah, 7009.
Phone: 72 4104 (H)

Treasurer: Bruce McIntosh, "Springvale Hostel", 2 Midwood St.,
New Town, 7008. Phone: 28 1282 (H), 34 2833 (W)

Editor: Stuart Nicholas, 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, 7008.
Phone: 28 3054 (H)

FORWARD PROGRAMME

Sun. June 29 -Exit trip to rescue the scaling pole so we can leave
it down JF341 for a while.

Wed. July 2 -General meeting - 8pm at 7 Rupert Avenue., New
Town. Bring slides, new gear, or anything else of
interest.

Wed. July 16 -Committee Meeting - 8pm at 7 Rupert Avenue, New
Town.

Stuart is still trying to instigate a Chairman Trip or a Trapdoor
Swallet trip, or both! Di Davies is keen to organize a survey
trip to establish a grid datum in the Junee Ridge area and tape
to JF1; anyone with theodolite experience interested? Khazad-dum
top section trip is also a possibility along with any others
anyone wants to go to.

EDITORIAL

Due to pressure of work and general absence from the southern
part of the state, our Editor handed his pen over to the Vice-
President and Secretary, hence he takes no responsibility for this
issue. We can but try.

With little daylight hours and increasing wet weather, weekend
trips have dropped off in frequency. There has been plenty of
activity on the conference scene with the Australian Sports Medi-
cine Conference and Sarsym 80 both being informative and generally
successful. We can look forward to a joint Search and Rescue
exercise in September which hopefully will increase our knowledge
of rescue operations, get to know other cavers and associated
police and other personnel.

CLUB NEWS

If all went according to plan you should find a Tasmanian Cavern-
eering Club Search and Rescue Listing form attached to this
issue. Please fill it out and return it to Stuart Nicholas,
7 Rupert Avenue, New Town or send to the club address:-

The Secretary,
Tasmanian Caverneering Club,
P.O. Box 41 ,
SANDY BAY. 7005.

This information will save valuable time in the event of a
call out, so please make the effort.

You will have, no doubt, noticed a sketch of the nearly empty
Treasurer's briefcase in the last Spiel. Last Spiel was to
be the second last Spiel non financial members will receive
thus, this issue is the very last you will receive if you
don't pay up.

No name in the Treasurer's receipt book = no Spiel.
Annual Subscriptions are:-

Full member	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Junior	\$ 5.00
Speleo Spiel	\$ 5.00
Prospective	\$ 3.00

While on the subject of forms and membership, it has been proposed that the next Spiel should contain a membership form with details for you to fill us in on.

We don't know if Stuart's all electric HP-29C programmable calculator is still for sale but he is trying to sell not one, but two steel wheels complete with tyres, spokes and all sorts of good things for a bicycle. See Stuart Nicholas and perhaps you can organize a package deal and have the first two-wheeled "electric number cruncher" in your area!

RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

CHECK-LIST OF
AUSTRALIAN CAVES AND KARST
1979

4,000 caves

73 pages

\$6.00 to ASF Members
\$10.00 to Approved Outside Buyers
Plus Postage if Applicable:
Single copy: 45¢
Bulk: Based on 195¢ per copy

Contact Chris Davies (with your money in hand) if you want one, and we will bulk order.

Australian Speleological Federation

Copy for the second ASF Newsletter for this year is desperately low, so see if you have anything that you can contribute. Contact Stuart Nicholas.

**** SARSYM 80 ****

The following is a sketchy outline with a caver's bias of the Search and Rescue Symposium held at Beresford House on June 6th to 8th.

Friday, 6th - Trade Exhibition

Following a display of new gear provided by Allgoods including Goretex, packs, sleeping bags and many other goodies, the evening was kicked off by discussing what's wrong with Japara jackets (most people had a complaint). Goretex wearers were generally satisfied and suggest that it should be washed every few months. Condensation problems seem common in single skin Goretex tents in freezing conditions. As far as footwear was concerned - if the boot fits, wear it, unless you are Bill Tomalin - he fibreglasses his. Fibrefill rather than down bags were preferred in situations where it is difficult to keep a bag dry (snow rescue).

Saturday, 7th - Symposium

Following a resume of Sarsyms 78, 79, Andrew Boon, WICEN, spoke on Emergency Radio Communications. After recent success in "Welcome Stranger" with radio communications, it would seem a good idea to hold a similar exercise in a surveyed deep cave (KD springs to mind).

Due to fog, a helicopter was not available for Sen.Const. Keith Harper's talk on helicopter usage so we had to make do with a picture of one. Basically, keep your head down and watch the pilot. Film of high speed abseiling from a helicopter was amazing to say the least.

Bill Tomalin presented facts and figures on the incidence of illness and injury in the Tasmanian bush. Sunburn seems to be the least of our problems! Dr. David Hutchinson spoke vividly of strangulated hernias and what to do with an appendicitis case. Dr Kevin Doran presented an enormous but well considered list of what a medical kit for an expedition should contain and also presented a resume of the Sports Medicine Conference.

The remainder of the day was devoted to snow and wild river workshops. Stuart attended the snow workshop and Chris and I attended the wild river workshop so, if you are interested, please ask.

Sunday, 8th - Rescue Demonstration

If bleary eyes are any indication, Saturday night's social evening was a success. Stuart, Chris and I rigged a 120' SRT pitch in the Cataract Gorge along with SCS's ladder pitch and the winch crew. Meanwhile, Bob Crosthwaite had paddled up the Gorge and was feigning unconsciousness at the foot of the cliff. He was helmeted and strapped to the stretcher. Unfortunately, he suffocated on the way up the cliff due to no provision for head restraint on the stretcher for a vertical lift. The winch crew had difficulties with the winch rope kinking badly. Our rope protectors foxed a northern caver as he was using a Gibbs in his rig, making passing ascenders over the protectors difficult. Beware of other cavers' SRT techniques!

Sarsym 80 was summed up and you can look forward to Sarsym 81 in the south of the State.

Di Davies.

TASMANIA'S DEEPEST CAVES - LATEST EDITION

by Albert Goede

The last time I published a list of Tasmania's deepest caves was in November 1976 (Speleo Spiel 118). Since that time there have been quite a few changes and additions making it worthwhile to present a revised list. As before, the list is restricted to caves 90 metres or more in depth.

The depth figure given for Khazad-dum in the last list has been reduced as the claims made by R. King and others that their Easter 1976 trip had increased the depth of the system by a significant amount have been refuted by a subsequent survey (see Southern Caver 10(4), page 24). Three Falls Cave has been dropped from the list as a recent survey by SCS has shown that the system is only 84 metres deep. New caves added to the list are Owl Pot and Victory 75, JF-341 in the Junee Florentine area and Big Tree Pot at Ida Bay. The depths of Sesame II Cave and The Chairman have been extended. The latter is still not fully explored and may eventually reach still greater depths.

The list as it stands at present is as follows:-

	<u>Cave</u>	<u>Depth in metres</u>
1.	Khazad-dum, Junee Florentine	323
2.	Cauldron Pot, Junee Florentine	263
3.	Owl Pot, Junee Florentine	244
4.	Tassy Pot, Junee Florentine	231

Tasmania's Deepest Caves (cont.)

<u>Cave</u>	<u>Depth in metres</u>
5. Sesame II, Junee Florentine	229
6. Mini Martin-Exit Cave, Ida Bay	220
7. Midnight Hole-Mystery Ck.Cave, Ida Bay	203
8. The Chairman, Junee Florentine	197
9. Growling Swallet, Junee Florentine	176
10. JF-341, Junee Florentine	165
11. Keller Cellar, Mount Anne	155
12. Niagara Pot, Junee Florentine	149
13. Satan's Lair, Junee Florentine	143
14. Revelation Cave, Ida Bay	137
15. Rift Cave, Junee Florentine	131
16. Victory 75, Junee Florentine	130
17. Gormenghast, Junee Florentine	128
18. Thun Junction Cave, Ida Bay	120
19. Big Tree Pot, Ida Bay	120
20. Col-in-Cavern, Mount Anne	119
21. Herbert's Pot, Mole Creek	116
22. Rescue Pot, Junee Florentine	107
23. Devil's Pot, Mole Creek	105
24. Pillinger's Creek Cave, Junee Florentine	99
25. Bone Pit, Junee Florentine	98
26. Splash Pot, Junee Florentine	98
27. Dribblespit Swallet, Junee Florentine	91
28. Croesus Cave, Mole Creek	91
29. Execution Pot, Mole Creek	90
30. Kelly's Pot, Mole Creek	90

We still have 13 out of the 15 deepest caves in Australia located in Tasmania - most of them in Junee Florentine. The deepest caves in the Australian mainland are Eagle's Nest Cave System (NSW) at 174 metres and Odyssey Cave (NSW) at 148 metres. There is still relatively little vertical caving being done in Tasmania and considerable scope for more deep caves exists in a number of areas.

HISTORY OF JF-341

1. The partially blocked entrance to 341 was found on an exploration trip by a party composed of G. Fisher, C. & D. Davies and S. Feeney on 26th May, 1979. (See Spiel 148)
2. On 4th August, with the addition of S. Nicholas to the original party, the first trip into the cave was made. Exploration to a depth of approx. 70 metres. (See Spiel 150)
3. A further trip on 8th September gained another 10 metres and found "the big pitch". (See Spiel 150)
4. The 14th October saw the first attempt on the pitch and failure with Geoff hanging off the ladder about three quarters of the way down (or a quarter of the way up). This resulted in a rest for 341 while the prospective explorers developed single rope techniques. (See Spiel 151)
5. The NUCC trip about the beginning of 1980 bottomed the cave and began the survey of the main level. The big pitch was estimated to be 200 feet. The full extent of the cave was not determined although NUCC were very thorough.
6. The first SRT trip for TCC was on 17th February, 1980 with Nick Hume, Geoff Fisher and Chris Davies. The cave was bottomed (we think) and the fabled crystal pool described by NUCC was seen but not crossed despite ideas of floating across. Diana did some solo surveying in the upper section, and Stuart had a wog in his stomach and stayed in his car all day.

7. The following weekend, Diana D., Stuart N., and Dave Southgate bottomed 341 and tied in with the two existing surveys. The big pitch was taped at 38.2 metres free hanging. The main level was surveyed to the second to last chamber. A lot of surveying remains to be done. Rock bolting around the pool was declared "not on". Diana drew up the plan of the developed section on the accompanying pages, using both TCC surveys and some NUCC information kindly sent by Gordon Taylor.

Hopefully, when we have reclaimed the scaling pole from Exit, we can cross the crystal pool or at least reach a rift in the wall half way around the pool. Yet another rift hasn't been looked at and the chamber of the big pitch requires further exploration.

G. Fisher, D. & C. Davies

Note: Regarding the accompanying surveys, sorry for the strange scales but they resulted from photo-reduction. I also accidentally labelled the sections the wrong way round. -D. Davies

TRIP REPORT

June-Florentine: Sunday, 25th May

Party: Stuart Nicholas, Geoff Fisher, Dave Southgate, Andrew Briggs, Trevor Waites, Greg Kerfoot

As proposed in the forward programme of the previous "Spiel", our party set off to clear the entrance of Trapdoor Swallet. Unfortunately, it became evident as we drove to Maydena that we would not have any luck. The Tyenna River was carrying much more water than usual, indicating heavy rain earlier, which would prevent entry to the cave.

JF1 was suggested as an alternative, not being very far from the Florentine Gate. Despite the fact that Stuart and myself had visited this cave before (in my case only 4 months ago!), we were unable to find the entrance. We searched for about 3/4 hour and eventually decided to try something else.

Having a hammer and lever, we went off to attempt an entry in the "Letterbox", a slit discovered on the way to JF341. This entrance had previously defied all efforts and held promise of being a reasonable sort of cave. After some levering and hammering, Trevor managed to get inside and was able to tell us that it didn't "go". He also added some memorable quotes describing the tightness of the squeeze.

Stymied yet again, we headed off to JF148 to see if any extension could be made. A report by Chris & Di Davies suggested that this was a good prospect. The heavy rain made conditions in JF148 difficult and dangerous so our trip was pretty brief. A descent was made to about 50m at which point excavation would be necessary. The presence of a small stream however, made this impossible but, under normal (?) dry conditions, it may well be worthwhile. As we were all wet and cold by this time, we packed it in and headed back to Maydena, where Max was able to provide concise details of the location of the elusive JF1.

Geoff Fisher.

BUSH RESCUES: Are you available for searches? *YES NO

If YES - at any time for short periods? *YES NO

- at any time for extended periods? YES NO

- for weekends only? YES NO

State notice required

What areas do you know best?

.....

.....

What is your previous search experience?

.....

.....

FIRE EMERGENCY: Are you available for call out? *YES NO

If YES - at any time for short periods? *YES NO

- at any time for extended periods? YES NO

- for weekends only? YES NO

What areas are you interested in?

.....

Do you have any previous fire fighting experience or specialized knowledge?

.....

OTHER OUTDOOR SKILLS: Are you experienced in any other outdoor activities? (eg. canoeing, climbing, cross-country skiing or other)

Are you available for call out in any of these activities? Please list

.....

* please strike out one not applicable.

JF 341

Plan

Scale 1:500

MN

0 5 10m

Survey Grade ASF 5.2

Present Survey Length 367.2m

12/79 G.Taylor et al NUCC

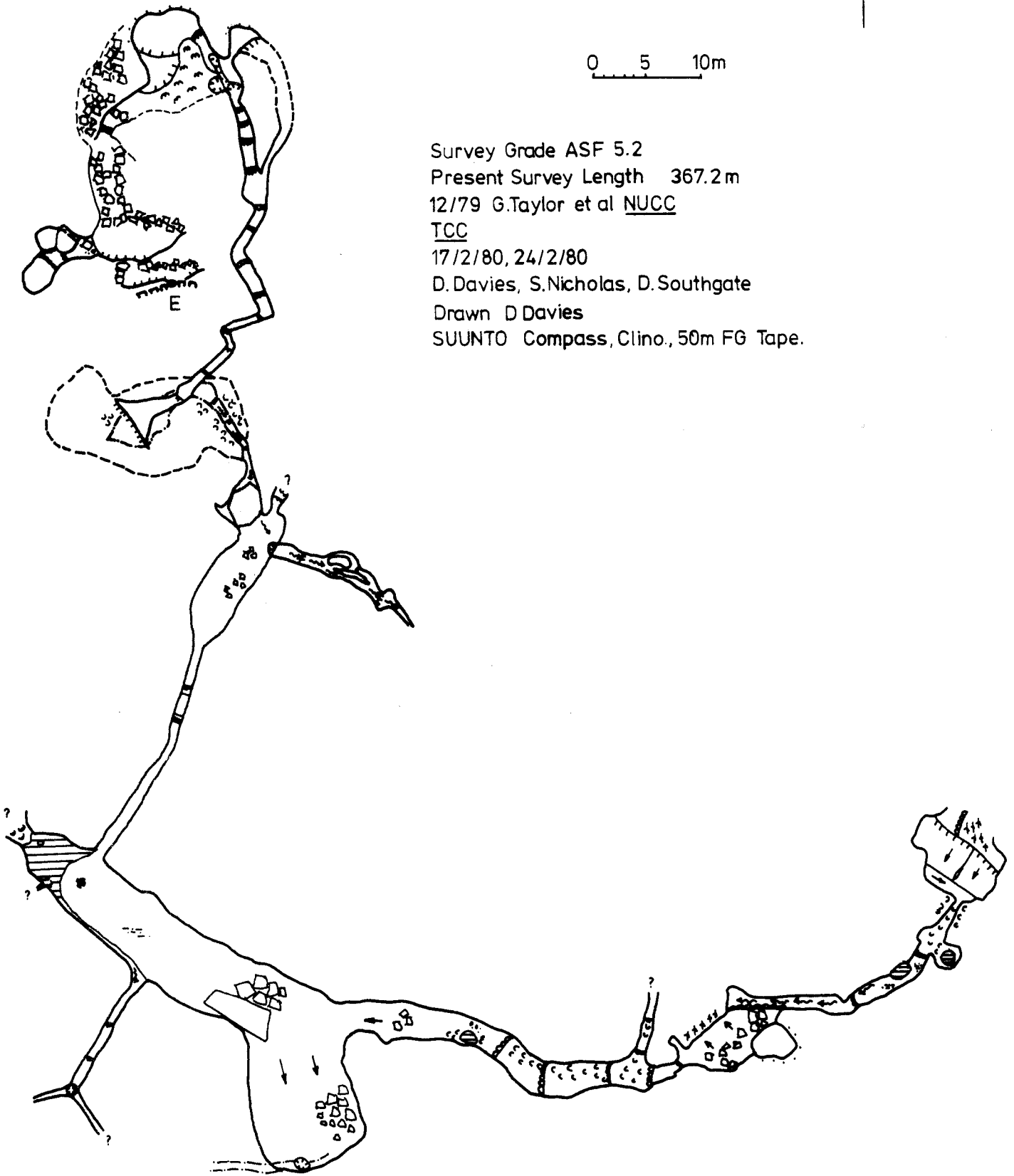
TCC

17/2/80, 24/2/80

D.Davies, S.Nicholas, D.Southgate

Drawn D Davies

SUUNTO Compass, Clino., 50m FG Tape.



JF 341

Longitudinal Developed Section

Scale 1:930

