

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Annual Subscription \$5.00

Single copies 50 cents

President: Geoff Fisher, 115 Brooker Avenue, Glebe, 7000.
Phone: 20 8476 (W)

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

Treasurer: Bruce McIntosh, 243 Davey Street, South Hobart. 7000.
Phone: 34 2833 (W)

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

FORWARD PROGRAMME

Friday, 12th September

ANNUAL DINNER - Ali Baba Restaurant,
16a Princes Street,
SANDY BAY.

BE THERE! Contact Chris Davies for
information.

Wednesday, 17th September

COMMITTEE MEETING 8.00 p.m. at
7 Rupert Avenue.

Weekend 20th-21st September

CAVE S & R WORKSHOP - Annual S. & R.
workshop can exercise. See inside for
details and/or contact Stuart Nicholas
for information.
BE THERE ALSO!

Weekend 27th-28th September



Wednesday, 1st October

CHAIRMAN JF99 Yet another insane venture
for further exploration, surveying and soon.
We need SHERPAS - interested in seeing
four absolutely buggered people emerge
from the depths in the middle of the night?
Why not be there to witness this strange
happening!
See Stuart Nicholas.

GENERAL MEETING 8.00 p.m. at 7 Rupert
Avenue. Bring your slides and so on for
entertaining the assembled horde.

EDITORIAL

Not much to say this month except "stick with it". Enthusiasm
is running high, new members are rolling in (we still need more), new
and/or different caves are being visited, everything's hunky dory!

Please, everyone, make an effort to get even more potential
new members along - mention the sport to all your friends, relations and
anyone else you come across. Caving is one of the few activities left in
which real exploration can still be done. That in itself should help induce
people to take up the sport aside from the many other facets which make up
this intriguing sport.

And now for something completely different - what did you think of
the new image for the Spiel (in case you did not notice, it was offset
printed)?

PILLINGERS CREEK CAVE JF66

Following Nick Hume's broken hand it was recommended at the last G.M. that this particular cave be "black-banned" and further visits to it actively discouraged. We have more than enough to do without involving ourselves in dangers beyond our control, i.e. loose rock-piles.

Apparently the rock pile in Owl Pot JF221 has been found to be very dangerous also hence it is recommended to stay clear of that section of the cave.

I am sure there are other caves which are similarly dangerous, but these two have recently been proven unsafe. If anyone knows of others I would appreciate being told so that everyone can be informed via Speleo Spiel and hopefully another accident avoided.

Stuart Nicholas,
Safety Officer

SOME STATISTICAL TRIVIA

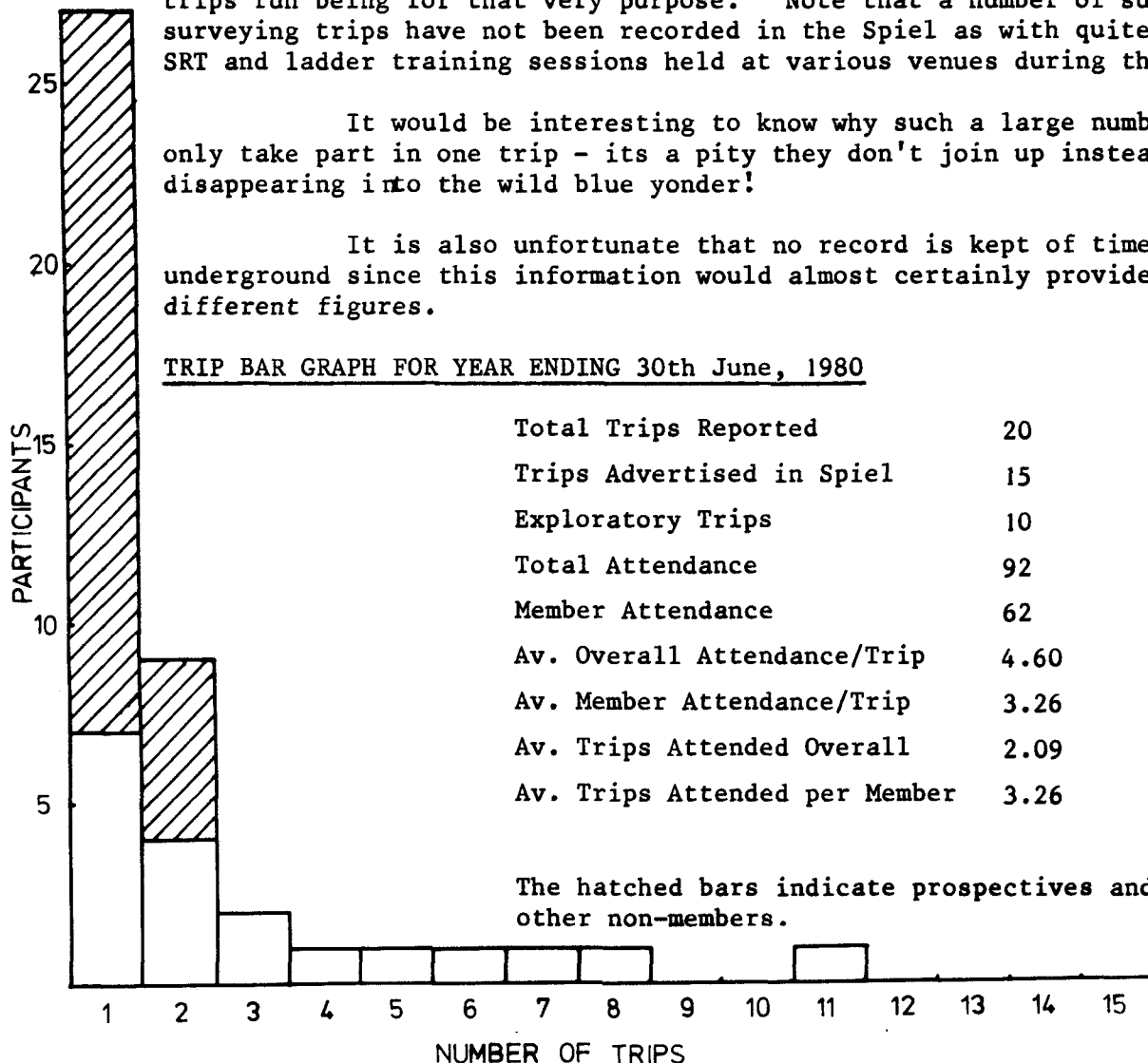
Having nothing to do on a wet Sunday a couple of weeks ago I derived the following information from the Speleo Spiel July, 1979 to June, 1980, this being an arbitrary 12 month period which includes a significant upward trend in activity and membership for T.C.C.

Exploration is obviously the name of the game with half the trips run being for that very purpose. Note that a number of surface surveying trips have not been recorded in the Spiel as with quite a few SRT and ladder training sessions held at various venues during the summer.

It would be interesting to know why such a large number of people only take part in one trip - its a pity they don't join up instead of disappearing into the wild blue yonder!

It is also unfortunate that no record is kept of time spent underground since this information would almost certainly provide very different figures.

TRIP BAR GRAPH FOR YEAR ENDING 30th June, 1980



Total Trips Reported	20
Trips Advertised in Spiel	15
Exploratory Trips	10
Total Attendance	92
Member Attendance	62
Av. Overall Attendance/Trip	4.60
Av. Member Attendance/Trip	3.26
Av. Trips Attended Overall	2.09
Av. Trips Attended per Member	3.26

ANNUAL DINNER

PLACE: ALI BABA RESTAURANT
16A PRINCES STREET,
SANDY BAY.

DATE: FRIDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1980

TIME: 8.00 P.M.

COST: ABOUT \$11.00 B.Y.O.

B E T H E R E !

CONTACT CHRIS DAVIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
TELEPHONE 72 4104(H).

CAVE SEARCH AND RESCUE WEEKEND WORKSHOP

Place: Mole Creek - Wet Caves Campsite : G.R.504 943
on 1:100000 Mersey Sheet

Date: Weekend September 20th-21st - Note: It is requested
that you arrive on the Friday night if at all possible
to avoid a lot of stuff ing around on Saturday morning.

Programme: Saturday: Two sessions with lunch between. The entire
crowd will be split into 7 or 8 groups, each with a specific
objective - e.g. manoeuvre a drag sheet (with victim) through
a particular section of cave. After lunch the groups will
swap venues and objectives.

Saturday night: Socialising at the campsite.

Sunday morning: A mass grid search of the hill side above Wet
Cave with inspection of any holes found for possible
"victim". Hole locations to be noted and marked on paper
provided.

Sunday afternoon: De-brief of weekend, pack-up and go home!

Other Information:
There is plenty of camping space, but the organisers want everyone
to camp fairly close and mixed in with other groups to enable
more "social intercourse" to take place!

Water is in plentiful supply from Wet Cave creek but you'll
have to bring your own food etc.

CAVE SEARCH AND RESCUE WEEKEND WORKSHOP (continued)

At the same time as the main exercises are taking place, four Police divers together with two TCC members will be trying their hand at cave diving (with an air-space, not penetration diving) and a human monitoring programme will hopefully be carried out over the entire weekend. This will involve the maintenance and monitoring of a patient by Ambulance Officers in order to establish a base-line or data-base on which to estimate a real patient's condition.

For further information contact Stuart Nicholas but in any case you should make an effort to be at workshop weekend (there is no limit on numbers) which promises to be both informative and enjoyable.

NEW ADDRESS

Our hard-working Treasurer Bruce McIntosh has decided he has enough grey hair from looking after the boys of the Hostel and hence no longer resides there. His new address is 243 Davey Street, South Hobart, just opposite the end of the Southern Outlet.

Talking of new addresses and so on, Geoff Fisher's telephone has changed to 20 8476(W).

BOOK LIST

Attached to the back of this Spiel you will find a short catalogue of books available from Speleo Shoppe in U.S.A. If anyone is keen to buy any of these it might be an idea to send a bulk order to cut down on freight and so on. Perhaps the Club should purchase some of the titles not already in the library?

The list is courtesy of Chris Davies and Geoff Fisher.

KAYAK ACHIEVER

A caver, known to some of our longer standing members, by the name of Paul Caffyn has recently completed the first round trip of the British Isles by kayak. Apparently he was involved in the Western Australian caving scene for some time as well as in Queensland. I am lead to believe he was here in the late 60's and knows such people as Brian and Jeanette Collin, Tony Sprent and Albert Goede.

For those interested (too bad if you're not!) he lives and works part-time in New Zealand as a "freelance geologist" during winter and is currently an instructor with Geoff Wayatt's Mountain Recreation School of Mountaineering in the South Island (that is where yours truly met him during summer).

He is one of few people to have been to the top of New Zealand's highest mountain and the bottom of their deepest cave. He also canoed solo around the North Island and all the way around the South Island, partly solo. The South Island epic has been written up as the book "Obscured by Waves" and is definitely worthreading.

Following his successful British jaunt he is contemplating a solo trip around Tassie next year sometime and although not really in our field of interest, I'm sure all of us would welcome him and lend a hand where necessary for what would be an historic journey.

FOR SALE (This is serious!)

Yacht 25ft. Top Hat design, fibreglass
Heaps of offshore gear, storm sails, spinnakers,
Radio Telephone, depth sounder, compass.

Built by Fibreglass Yachts in 1972-1973.
Beautifully fitted out above and below decks.
(It even floats!)

Price - \$17 000 (negotiable)

Contact: Ross Bridges (TCC, Sydney branch!)
1 Eastwood Avenue,
EASTWOOD.
Sydney. N.S.W. 2122

Telephone: 02-888 7155(W)
02-854 895(H)

WANTED TO BUY

Steel or timber cruising cutter 35-38ft.
Long keel \$30 - \$35 000 (maybe to \$40 000)

Contact TCC's Sydney branch - see above.

(Maybe the club should buy Ross' yacht for sea-caving
trips! - Ed)

TRIP REPORT - JF326 Saturday, 16th August.
JF327
JF328
JF329

Party: Geoff Fisher, Trevor Wailes, Dave Southgate and Andrew Briggs.

Geoff thought that it might be a good idea to have a look at
some unexplored holes in the ground, which conveniently were grouped around
the end of Leo Thornes road.

After much stuffing about Geoff showed us a small black thing
which he insisted was a cave, namely JF-329. We groped in along a low
passage with pools in the floor to lie in. Somebody pointed out one of
Chris's "little men" in the first small chamber we came to. A small squeeze
followed which led into another small chamber with some formation and we then
arrived at a sump via another hole in the floor and a 20' ladder pitch.

Various attempts to enlarge yet another small passage with "rock"
hammer and the opinions of a peanut gallery which assembled for the occasion
failed, so we retraced our steps to yet another sump which Trevor attempted to
swim. Luch was voted upon, after which we discovered that JF-327 joined
up with JF-328 via a tight squeeze. JF-326 which promised to be good turned
out to be just a 3m entrance pitch with various sumps arranged in the bottom.

We made our way back to Max's place for coffee and to return
the ladders which live there. Overall a good day caving with another four
caves in the bag.

Andrew Briggs

JUNEE FLORENTINE - TRAPDOOR SWALLET - JF38 30th September, 1980

Party: Stuart Nicholas, Trevor Wailes, Chris Davies, and Andrew Briggs.

Discovered in May, 1972 (Spiel No. 68) this cave has obvious potential but has resisted several attempts of entry. For the uninitiated, it is located in a large doline approx. 500m SE of Growling Swallet and accessed via a dry gully heading south from the Growling Swallet stream a couple of hundred metres upstream from the GS sink. In the same gully may be found Pendant Pot (JF37) and Slaughterhouse Pot (un-numbered and still going!).

To waste some time I decided to show Trevor, Chris and Andrew locations of Tassy Pot, Owl Pot and Three Falls Cave all of which are further up the R.H. branch of the Nine Road. This idea succeeded beyond my wildest expectations as Andrew spent a long time pointing out various peaks and other topographical features from our high view point on this beaut warm clear day.

Anyway to get to the topic of this short story, Trapdoor Swallet has been opened up and is still going at about 20-25m deep! A fine warm day made the prospect of getting drenched by the strongly flowing freezing cold stream slightly appealing so Chris and Andrew dived into the "climb down" entrance but could not get near the jammed block because of water. Retreating to the "walk in" entrance armed with various slings and an axe Chris and Stuart managed to break and/or move several blocks including the famed Trapdoor enabling Chris to get through and, after clearing more debris, open up the way for further exploration. Trevor and Andrew meanwhile were emulating the H.E.C. by building stream diversion dams all over the place.

The cave so far is very wet but the rock is good and solid unlike the grotty stuff on Junee Ridge which makes for easy climbing. No specific directional trend is apparent since exploration is still in the rock pile but the next trip will see us into the cave proper. Some further work with a hammer and crow-bar will make progress easier as will the wearing of a wet-suit under one's trog-suit! Everyone was extremely cold so after two hours underground we beat a hasty retreat back to the cars where tea and soup was enjoyed by all thanks to Trevor and his cooking stove.

A very satisfying day was finished off with coffee at Max's followed by a drop of the hard stuff at the National Park Pub where Trevor and Chris had one of the (slightly enebriated) locals totally confused with their explanations of the hydrology of the Junee Florentine area.

Stuart Nicholas.

JUNEE FLORENTINE: BONE PIT 23rd September, 1980

Party: Chris Davies, Trevor Wailes, Geoff Fisher, Peter Watts, Andrew Briggs, Stuart Nicholas, Greg Kenfoot and Diana Davies (surface trogging and surveying)

How low can a pommy get!

Its been a few years since I left the dales of Yorkshire to wander further afield and looking at the atlas the figurative blisters prove it. But Hobart is home for a while. After joining this wonderful, enthusiastic, diverse club TCC and groveling through some of the easier caves i.e. Womguano hole or, in english, Wombat shit Hole which speaks for itself. Another was Pillingers Creek Cave which should be renamed shrapnel hole as rocks are likely to move in the general direction of down, on people! This imense rock pile does tend to make one a little nervous.

JUNEE FLORENTINE: BONE PIT (continued)

Looking over the area I have been involved with (Junee-Florentine) the potential is extreme, so much to do and so few to do it. This must be something of a golden age especially after toiling with so little reward in Yorkshire to find something new. One can find new caves or extensions to existing caves so easily.

The Bonepit is a cave (trip suggested maybe 6 weeks ago but finally had the opportunity to get into this the first vertical cave I've done, last week. A fairly large party of 9 (1 abstention) armed with too much rope and not enough ladder (typical SRT bods) found ourselves halfway up Tyenna Peak on Chrisps Road confronted by a 4ft thick log across our track. Time was lost while a chainsaw was commandeered (thanks to Max Jefferies) and implemented on said log (an old tree rotten in the core probably 60ft high recently collapsed across the track) which is now in many pieces care of Geoff and Pete chainsaw arteests and lumber merchants. Half a mile of steep track further was the clearing for the Spar (logging term!) and 200yds. further (after getting changed) through horizontal rotting forest was the exposed aven of the Bone Pit. An impressive entrance high on Cave Hill which could have depth potential of 1500ft. but as yet is only 300ft. A small pitch into the base of the aven probably 25ft. had to be abbed as mentioned before this TCC is pretty tight with ladders.

The steeply decending boulder strewn floor soon funneled into a very old steeply graded dry stream passage with thick chert (moonmilk) covering the walls offering no hand holds on some of the more awkward climbs — not so bad going in with gravity but returning without it can be hard. The passage seems to nose dive from the entrance aven and after scrambling down said climbs and over infill boulders a Y junction is confronted. To the left down a series of easy climbs is the pitch, but straight on, in high wide passage through one or two collapses the cave tends upwards again under several high avens which must be close to the surface. This passage ends in an almost impossible climb up over some massive sheer sided boulders coated with chert into a very high aven with a steep boulder slope down to the top of the said boulders. A little way back from here is a rathole entrance into a small rising rift which was pushed beyond previous exploration to a tight section which if someone is serious enough will go on up into the enlarging continuing rift. A small curtain was removed at this point and Andrew Briggs was pushed into the orifice without success although I'm confident it is not impossible.

Back to the junction leading to the pitch below begins the old winding stream passage which runs steeply down into a rift of which all but the last 70ft. can be free climbed through a series of back and foot dents. The trickle of water appearing in the bottom of the rift runs over a lip into the aven pitch about 20ft down, but in the top of the aven is aneagles nest of a few stout boulders with the rift continuing over the pitch head (This continuation was not looked at this time but had potential?). The pitch rigging for both SRT and ladders was a little lengthy but were soon hung and the descent began. The pitch 70ft. and free hanging after about 15ft. of rock protrusions which needed rope protectors for the SRT rope. Everyone abseiled down using clog fig 8's, racks or whaletails. The foot of this pitch is the present termination of this system but there is no sump. The trickle of water coming down the pitch sinks in some boulders which have quite large calcite deposits on them, it was possible to see about 3ft down the aven wall through these rocks and hear the water running away. Our half hearted efforts to clear a way through the mud and rocks were futile without some metals tools i.e. crowbar or lump hammer. So thats something to look at sometime in the future. From the base of the pitch is a 12ft climb up into what looks like a continuing rift passage but this is all part of the aven floor. One possible way on would need other bolt or a may-pole as the rift peters out into what looked like a boulder slope above a rather difficult over hang so Geoff and I returned to the base of the pitch to rejoin the others. The 12ft. climb down is quite

JUNEE FLORENTINE: BONE PIT (continued)

awkward and some of the holds aren't too safe (they move under pressure) and returning to the group found mouths full of my favourite choc. Animals all of them, my ammo box taking the cream and leaving me only sardines - Animals!

Some of us SRT'ed out of the chamber and some laddered, a nice easy pitch and quicker to climb with ladders than SRT because of the frequent removal and replacement of rope protectors. All went smoothly if a little slow and the pitch was soon detackled and the outward trip was made. Some of the climbs were difficult with all the tackle and ammo box that Chris carried for me, he made me feel quite exhausted as we pulled ourselves out up the last 25ft. ladder climb^o surface. A good trip - the best I've had since leaving Yorkshire. A cave with quite a bit of potential and one that will have to be looked at again.

Footnote



The Bone Pit is a very apt name as skeletal remains were abundant throughout the main passage from top to bottom. From the skulls there appeared to be mainly bluetounge or stumpytails probably looking for refuge during past bushfires.

Not having seen a survey it's difficult to say how much of the cave is known or if the emergence of the water in the rift has been looked at to any conclusion.

Trevor Wailes.

Trip: Bone Pit 23rd September, 1980

Party: D. Davies

Surface survey (and cave survey ASF2.2) from the "spar" to 203 Bone Pit, 207 Voltera, 208 and a few un-numbered entrances. Located an un-numbered but obviously visited cave in outcrop above an impressive doline. The cave although not extensive merits a number. Water flowing into the doline was draining away through a small stream passage with a pebbly floor. Turned back after about 5 metres as the squeeze was getting too tight and wet. Located a small entrance close to the doline with dubious potential.

Visited 208 and surveyed. A nice cave with large moonmilk "hanger downers". Located what turned out to be 207 Voltera although I couldn't find a tag; neither could Max on an earlier visit. Surveyed to 10m pitch only.

An interesting result was that of the three caves visited the major development is 306 MN (dip controlled). The unconformity (dolerite/Benjamin Limestone) has been plotted on the survey.

Di Davies.