

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$5.00

SINGLE COPIES 50 CENTS

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Forward Programme:

Sat. Nov. 21 JF147: Further exploration following the last trip which stopped through lack of gear. Leader: Trevor Wailes  
Sun. Nov. 22 JUNEES RESURGENCE: Cave diving for installation of a fixed line and general further familiarisation with the system. Chief protagonist: Nick "Nikonos" Hume  
Sun. Nov. 22 EXIT: Tourist trip for new bods. Organiser: Diana Davies  
Sat. Nov. 28 ICE TUBE: Another Eberhard (should that read "Everhard"?) hole somewhere up behind Growling Swallet. Active stream sink with great potential for, well, something. Contact Stefan Eberhard for info. (Ph: 396448)  
Sat. Nov. 28 KUBLA KHAN: The annual Bill Tomalin expedition to Mole Creek. Contact Bill for the good oil Ph: 674538(H), 306214(W)  
Wed. Dec. 02 GENERAL MEETING: 8pm at 7 Rupert Avenue. Entertainment will be slides from the recent K.D. trip, so come along and see what you missed.  
Weekend Dec. 05/06 CAVE SAREX 81: Mole Creek search and rescue exercise/workshop. See inside for more details. BE THERE!!  
Wed. Dec. 16 Theoretically a committee meeting, but maybe we should go somewhere for a counter tea and a few lemon squashes.  
Sun. Dec. 20 GROWLING SWALLET (or somewhere similar): Trip for 2nd Prince of Wales Venturer Scouts. Help needed for this one so contact Stuart if you are willing and able!  
Christmas Hols. KELLARS CELLAR, Mt. Anne: Purely a tourist trip to SRT the longest pitch in Australia. Contact Andrew Briggs. Note that this trip may be at another time.  
Wed. Jan. 06 GENERAL MEETING: 8pm at 7 Rupert Avenue. B.Y.O. entertainment.  
Wed. Jan. 20 COMMITTEE MEETING: Same time and place  
Weekend Mar. 20/21 A.S.M.F. WILDERNESS MEDICINE WORKSHOP: Waddamana is the venue. See inside and/or contact Stuart for more details, but do it now!  
Easter 1982 MOLE CREEK ?????  
Apr. 9 - 12

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EDITORIAL

Aside from the recent K.D. trip and a Junees diving trip, not much has been happening of late, but that seems fairly normal. There have, however, been more trips than there are trip reports, which is a not very subtle hint to the organisers of those trips.

Not much more to say really except - why keep the sport underground? - tell your friends, relations, work mates and anyone you meet about the sport and get them to come along on a trip; they may even enjoy it!

Stuart Nicholas.

CLUB NEWS

- Welcome to Rik Tunney and Janine McKinnon, two Sydney cavers (ex. SUSS and HCG) who have recently moved to Tassie, the caver's paradise. These bods are super-keen and will no doubt help spur some of our slacker members into action!
- Other new members voted in at the last General Meeting are Jeanine Davies and Margaret Palfrey. These two girls are also very keen, Jeanine already has SRT gear and it shouldn't be long before they are mixing it with the other SRT freaks.
- The licensee of the Wheatsheaf Hotel has an Oldham lead acid lamp for sale. The state of the battery could be dubious but for a suitable price would be worth buying. Why not go and see Dave Cook sometime and discuss the price over a couple of beers?
- Request time: The quartermaster (that's me, Stuart Nicholas, for those who don't know) is busily tearing out his remaining hair trying to keep track of the gear from week to week. If you take out gear, please bring it back promptly, or at least let me know when it is coming back. Also, remember to note down in the book in the shed what you've taken and who you are. Prompt return of lamps is also important as they need frequent maintenance and often long charging times if they are flat.
- Anyone travelling with Nick from now on will no doubt experience the 4WD sound-lounge comprising the ultra expensive, technicolour, all-electric, you-beaut, all pervading, phase 4 sound system, with (special this week only) WARP FACTOR 6!! His truck would have to be one of the few Toyota Landcruiser sound lounges in existence!
- Andrew Briggs, that hard caving, soft living, individual with red hair and a huge repertoire of bad jokes, has been temporarily reduced to invalid status. His car had a slight (?) altercation with another on a recent trip to Ida Bay and will be out of commission for a couple of months. Andy then proceeded to simulate a human torch by trying to set fire to his hand with a welding torch. He didn't succeed but it has made riding his bicycle difficult to say the least! Anyway, get well Andy's car (and Andy)!

.....IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN IN AMERICA.....

Prof. Carey recently sent in an excerpt from a brochure for the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. Quote his attached note - "We know about artificial turf for tennis, bowls and cricket, artificial flight simulators to kid Jumbo pilot trainees that they are flying, artificial insemination to deprive cows of their due (don't kid them it's all Bull!), but artificial cavermeering!"

Brochure reads as follows:-

Cavern Tour and Planetarium Show. Depart hotel 1.00p.m. Here's your chance to go spelunking in a "wet" cave without the usual required hard hat, knee pads, and boots. You'll see beautiful cave formations, stand under a waterfall, follow an underground stream, and cross a glass bridge as you thread your way through an eerie labyrinth of passageways (all indoors) in the Museum of Natural History's famous replica of a cave. Fashioned with every attention to detail, this three-storey cavern is typical of those found in Kentucky's karst topography. Then from "inner space" you'll travel to 'outer space' and star gazing with a program in the Museum's planetarium. Return to the hotel at 4.30p.m. The cost: \$8.00.

Thanks Prof. for that article. Why don't we charge \$8.00 per head for visits to our real caves??

OUT OF THE MAIL BAG.....FROM:

The Tasmanian Wilderness Society: a request for assistance in the form of volunteers and funds to fight against dams in the south-west wilderness: and a request for volunteers to staff a Wilderness Society shop in Strahan for the summer months. The letter goes..."Perhaps you would like to spend a

week or so in Strahan? Just think, long summer evenings strolling along the beach.....accommodation arranged." Contact Cathie Ploughman and let her know which week/s suit you!

The World Wildlife Fund: a request for financial assistance by becoming a member for 1 year (\$12), 2 years (\$22), 3 years (\$33), life member (\$500;"includes gold panda"). Or how about a bequest by adding a simple codicil to your will?

WWF also have a book for sale. For \$22.95 you can have SAVING THE ANIMALS by Bernard Stonehouse, and learn of WWF measures to save endangered animals from extinction.

ASMF: *advising of their Wilderness Medicine Workshop at Waddamana, March 20-21, 1982.*

Bush & Mountain Walking Leadership Training Board of Tasmania: are calling for applications for their third course which commences at Easter 1982. Pamphlets from Stuart.

Royce Padman, Recreation Officer, Div. of Recreation: *advising that he now holds a key to the Clear Hill Road Gate which provides access to Adamsfield. Phone: 303727 for further info.*

A.R.E.A. (Associated Research, Explorations & Aid): advertising a programme of expeditions for - ecologists, environmentalists, speleologists, scuba divers, ornithologists, mountaineers. A comprehensive pamphlet, without prices(!) is available at Stuart's. Looks very interesting. Does anyone know about this organisation?

Canberra Speleological Society: *drawing our attention to the inquiry into S.W. Tasmania recently established by the Australian Senate and the call by that Committee for submissions from interested parties. This will be discussed at the next general meeting.*

We have also received a request for submissions from the T.W.S. on this matter.

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#### THE 1981 CAVE SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE

WHEN: December 5 & 6

WHERE: Mole Creek, Wet Caves campsite on Mersey 1:100000 G,R, 504943

WHY: This is the only statewide SAREX held and provides an opportunity for all concerned to meet other cavers, Police S&R bods, ambulance officers, and others who would be involved in a real operation.

PLAN: Most probably will be based on a "workshop" type exercise in a short section of the bottom entrance of Kubla Khan. Various individual exercises will be carried out simultaneously with penetration into the cave proper being no more than 50m.

#### FURTHER

INFO: Be at the December 02 meeting for complete information on the exercise, or contact Stuart during that week.

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#### WILDERNESS MEDICINE WORKSHOP

WADDAMANA - MARCH 20 - 21 1982

*This will be the third W.M.W. to be run by the Southern Regional Branch of the Australian Sports Medicine Federation and, if it's anything like the others, should be a great weekend.*

*The programme covers an enormous range of topics with guest speakers from all over the state peesenting information of relevance to all involved in outdoor*

recreational pursuits. Subjects covered include protective clothing, nutritional analysis of common bushwalking foods, snakebite treatment, cold water immersion, recognition of heart attacks, first aid kits and so on.

Having been to both the previous Workshops, I can thoroughly recommend them as being informative and enjoyable. Cost for non-members is \$15 which covers accommodation for Saturday night and four meals!

If you are interested, and you should be, contact:-

Mrs Betty Parssey,  
14 Binalong Road,  
MORNINGTON. TAS. 7018.

Ph: (002) 443151

but do it soon as places are limited and fill very fast.

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### TRIP REPORTS:

Junee Resurgence: 23.10.81

Party: Roland Eberhard, Nick Hume

Junee River was down at last, so through the sump we went. Both taking turns diving, having a look about and practicing with the linereel.

It was a dive made gloomy and remote by unseen walls, invisible beyond the 2-3 metre sphere of vision for much of the time. The initial submerged passageway extends 20 metres or so back from the mouth of the sump, before taking a 90° turn to the left, through a "squeeze" (interesting with a double backpack on). This is part of an extensive, narrow fissure, which requires care on return to locate the correct place to exit.

Beyond this, an open chamber with a sandy floor and scungy roof, runs steeply away for 20 metres to a water depth of 12 metres, ending in a blank wall. Here the passageway continues to the right for an unknown distance.

There is obviously much potential for further exploration in this system and enthusiasm is high for a return. This will require one, preferably wet suited sherpa per diver for the extra gear involved in "pushing".

Other points of interest to come out of this dive were:-

- Two completely separate SCUBA systems were carried by the diver for safety in the event of a failure, e.g. free flowing regulator, blown contents gauge, etc.
- A semi-permanent line rigged in this cave would allow simpler, protracted exploration. Possibilities for tying off the line reel exist where the passageway changes direction. Equal numbers of plain slings and diver's weights with slings will suffice for this purpose.
- A second diver acted as anchor man to the lead diver and waited at the mouth of the sump, fully rigged, in case of trouble (this would probably look better in a post mortem). Unfortunately, this diver waits around, partly submerged, getting cold before his turn to dive, which is unsatisfactory.
- Siltation was no problem and visibility never got below 1 metre with care.
- Water flow was scarcely noticeable, though the passageway cleared itself of siltation about 10 minutes after each dive. The sump, therefore, seems to be diveable at most times, except after heavy rains.
- Air consumption was low, due to the slow progress required while managing the line reel. This consumption would rise with depth and as the diver became cold.
- As much as two weights could be subtracted from the weight belt, to account for the lesser buoyancy in fresh water.
- Screwgate karabiners should always be used in any line connections, except for tie-offs.

Nick Hume.

Khazad-dûm: Saturday, 31.10.81

Party: Stuart Nicholas, Nick Hume, Mike March, Len Smith and Trevor Wailes

The usual coffee drinking, roll eating ceremony at the Maydena shop concluded at a rather later hour than usual after an in-depth interview with Andrew's legs. Following that educational supplement, the five sweaty bodies (minus Andrew and his legs), struggled up the track, organised themselves and the small mountain of gear, and headed underground at about 11.30a.m.

A low stream and an efficient team made for an exhilarating and speedy descent with little wasted time. With Trev and Stuart rigging, "Nikonos" Hume was able to flash away happily with his new waterproof camera, the results of which should (but probably won't!) be worth seeing. The wet pitches still are, although with care, they can be rigged semi-dry. In this context, the definition of "semi-dry" depends on the waterproof gear one happens to be wearing at the time!

Brewing-up near the sump gave time for relaxation while various bods looked at the sump and generally poked around in the final chamber. A couple of hours later a departure was made up the magnificent bottom pitch. De-rigging went smoothly, the clean, solid rock making gear hauling a relative pleasure after the muddy, scungy holes to be found on the Junee Ridge. The sight of various bits of Trevor sticking out of rips in his wetsuit spurred everyone on, if only to escape this horrible spectacle.

Back on the surface at about 1.00a.m. (Sunday), the night was cool but clear and fine, a pleasant change from the wet internals of K.D. Nick and Trev drove home since Nick's truck had been left on the other side of the log, while Stuart, Len and Mike enjoyed a meal and a few hours sleep before washing the gear in the Junee and returning home Sunday afternoon.

Various people have labelled K.D. as the trip to do in Australia, a real classic. There is no question that this is true as all five of us will testify. A great trip!

Stuart Nicholas.

P.S. This time there was no storm during the day and hence, no flood!

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Growling Swallet (JF36): Saturday, 14.11.81

Party: Chris Davies, Danny Moore, Geoff Fisher

Yes, another trip to that family favourite, Growling Swallet. Our trip had been planned to give Danny an idea of caving as practised in the Junee-Florentine. He had had previous experience in the Cracroft, so was not unfamiliar with caves.

Our early start was set back by a large wattle blocking the Nine Road, but we still arrived reasonably early, entering the cave at 10.30a.m. The stream was carrying more water than usual but the level was receding. Rather than visit the sump, it was decided to have a look at the high, abandoned streamway beyond Mud Banks (see Speleo Spiel No. 166).

Admission to that area is gained via some tricky chimneys and squeezes but, once passed these, the cave is more open. The roar of the waterfall can't be heard there and the feeling is completely different.

A lead was noticed near the ceiling up a kind of ramp. Danny and Geoff went to viddy the prospects and...lo and behold oh faithful readers.....a way on was evident; a bifurcating tunnel about 10m long, with a small stream entering on one side. The RH branch led into an aven, complete with stream and possibility of climbing. The climb, however, would have to be made in the stream so it was not attempted. The LH branch descended and was followed a short way to a 10m drop but, having no gear, it couldn't be climbed. At this point, the "growl" of the swallet stream (?) could be heard faintly ahead.

The side stream was then explored to its origin in another aven. The possibilities of climbing were not so good, but it could probably be done at a pinch.

Geoff Fisher.

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A trip on Sunday November 29 brought to light (?) an estimated 500m of previously unknown passage, complete with waterfalls, big avens and side passages! A low wet crawl has temporarily slowed progress downstream but there is still plenty to look at.