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Stuart Nicholas.

## CLUB NEWS.....

- The last couple of Speleo Spiels have been somewhat late. This is unfortunate but production problems have held up the proceedings. Hopefully, this will be ironed out for the New Year and our great little magazine will hit the streets on time again.
- The Growling Swallet breakthrough provided some information for a press release to The Mercury which, although becoming slightly garbled (is G.S. really 800m deep?), gave some valuable publicity to our Club. As a result, a couple of phone calls have been received by the Editor from bodies interested in joining our happy band of trogs!
- That evergreen everhard, Stefan Eberhard, is off to N.Z. for caving and climbing during the Summer. He hopes to participate in the Nettlebed expedition and do the usual trips over there including Harwood Hole with its 180m entrance pitch!
- Big things are happening on the diving scene. Nick Hume and Rolan Eberhard have set a fixed line in the Junee Resurgence extending in 100m. Further extensions of this line will enable high speed travel to the end-point and thereby increase the time available for exploration.....as they say - "Cave divers penetrate deeper!" or perhaps in this case it should be - "Cave divers penetrate faster!"
- Looks like the usual invasion of north islanders will occur this Summer. At least three groups are known to be hitting the local caving scene but no doubt, there are plenty more that have not told anyone they are coming to Tassie. Let us hope that none of them get into trouble.
- Other bodies leaving our shores for a while include Nick Hume (taking another couple of flex-months!) who is heading to NZ for climbing and general culture absorption, and Rolan Eberhard who is off to Alice Springs in an attempt to earn some money.
- Part-time caver, mountaineer, expatriot banana bender, and canoeist extraordinaire, Paul Caffyn, was in Tasmania recently on a flying visit promoting his next adventure - a canoe trip around Australia! For those who missed his slide show of his British circumnavigation - bad luck - but he'll be back after the Aussie trip for a slightly longer visit sometime early in 1983.
- Rumour has it there will be a house-warming sometime in January at Mike Martyn's recently acquired establishment on Knocklofty, West Hobart. Stay tuned for further details.

## TRIP REPORTS.....

*MOUNT ANNE: November 18 - 21*

With huge holes like Col-in-Cavern and Kellars Cellar to provide incentive, the purpose of this four day trip was to further explore the north-east ridge of Mount Anne.

Wednesday 18th was taken up with the 3hr walk up to the top of the ridge. It is another 15mins. to a sheltered campsite at Pandani Shelf. The whole of the next day was spent searching, without success, for the mighty shafts which must exist. Only a comparatively small portion of the ridge was examined and all the sink-holes and shafts encountered, appeared to be completely blocked by crap. Perhaps it is the exceptionally large size of Col-in-Cavern and Kellars Cellar which allows them to go slightly further before choking off. Conversely, exploration of the smaller holes (if they exist) on the flanks of the ridge where the frost-shattering has been less severe, may be more productive.

The ridge itself is extremely rugged and difficult to traverse, consisting of deep sinkholes and clefts, bordered by sharp dolomite pinnacles and ridges. Thick scrub (and snakes) further hinder progress. There are some big depressions visible towards the end of the ridge; the potential is certainly there (max. 600m) and further scrub-bashing may be worthwhile, but only if you have absolutely nothing better to do.

On Friday, Mount Anne itself was climbed to provide some impressive views of the south west, except for the big HEC lake which somewhat stuffed the place. Made it back to camp just as the mist closed in and the rain came down.

Saturday dawned fine and clear however, and before departing, a small hole which was noticed on a previous trip, in the base of the deep doline, required further investigation. By removing a couple of rocks it was possible to squeeze through into a very loose, steeply descending talus collapse. Unfortunately, this choked off abruptly some 15m lower down. Further searching in the same doline revealed a small entrance in the northern wall. A draughty 12m crawl, in good solid rock for a change, was followed until it tended vertically beneath a perched boulder. This lead is worth pursuing some time.

The walk back was made more interesting by the need to avoid tripping over all the bushwalkers who swarm up this popular route on weekends.

Stefen Eberhard.

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GROWLING SWALLET: Sunday, November, 29

Party: Geoff Fisher, Graeme Michalek, Stuart Nicholas (first group), and Nick Hume, Trevor Wailes, Stefan Eberhard (second group)

With uncommon enthusiasm, the hard men of the first group left Hobart about 0700 armed with ladders and ropes to push the newly found but unexplored "beyond sump" section of G.S. A leisurely walk to the cave in bright sunshine was followed by a rapid descent to mud-banks area.

Pushing through the rift and doing the climbs soon had us in a large aven chamber complete with a small stream. The choice then was to go upstream or drop down the 7m pitch into the unknown downstream section - some choice! A ladder rigged, a few jelly-beans in the mouth and away we went just as the second group arrived. The small streamway led down to a junction with another from the left and a large aven further down on the right. Excitement was high as we literally ran down the stream - where would it end? Several hundred metres later, having passed a waterfall entering on the right, a mud bank was reached with the stream disappearing under the left side.

Trev managed to climb the bank and push through a narrow incredibly muddy squeeze to yet another aven. Stefan managed to climb 10m up the far side but gave it away as being futile. Sinking knee-deep in the mud, a return was made to more habitable conditions back in the streamway.

Exploration of the other major streamway near the pitch, led to a climb through some very hairy talus and on up for a considerable distance. Nick and Geoff estimated to have reached a point 80-100m above the main streamway but progress was stopped by a talus jam. Another waterfall enters this passage about 50m from the main junction.

Unfortunately, we did not locate the main Growling Swallet stream but there are still plenty of possibilities for exploration.

Surveying has yet to reveal the location of the newly found passages but it appears to be a separate drainage system originating in the Trapdoor Swallet valley south east of Growling Swallet. No doubt, the streams sinking in Trapdoor and Pendant Pot enter the system but where do the others come from? Some climbing is planned soon to investigate the waterfalls and the avens, a couple of which have promising holes only 8-10m up from the floor. Who's willing to help with the scaling pole and the surveying??

On only his third ever caving trip, Graeme was somewhat astounded by the whole scene and is now thoroughly hooked on caving. It's a pity there aren't more trips like this one!

Stuart Nicholas.

JUNEE RESURGENCE: December, 1

Divers: Rolan Eberhard, Stefan Eberhard, Nick Hume

Low rainfall, alcohol enhanced suicidal tendencies, unlimited flex- leave credit.....perfect conditions for further exploration of this sump. The author was first in, tying off a 50 metre permanent line in the initial passageway to make things easier on subsequent dives. This process took half an hour, largely spent sorting through a catch bag of unco-operative slings (ever tried untying a double fishermans underwater, with wet suit gloves on?)

Rolan was next and rigged up with twin ninety cubic foot cylinders for the "push". Arriving at the end of my fixed line, he tied off his line-reel and continued on through straightforward passageway for a further 50 metres before turning back - 100 metres from airspace and still going!!!!

The passageway so far reaches a maximum depth of 18 metres at a point 50-60 metres from airspace, then tends upwards to a depth of 12 metres before levelling out. No constrictions bar the way at this stage and before long, extensions of fixed line will open the way for further exploration. Stefan also took a plunge for a look see, thus adding to our group of diving looneys.

Submerged times of 40 minutes with existing wet suits appears to be the limit because low water temperatures. Therefore, the value of a permanent line in speeding up transit times is enormous and the line also adds considerably to one's confidence!

Nick Hume.

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JUNEE RESURGENCE: December, 6

A return was made to the sump, with an army of helpers from the previous day's pathetic fiasco in Ice Tube. So many assistants waiting on you hand and foot tends to enlarge one's confidence and I managed to rig more fixed line, up to a squeeze about 100 metres or so from airspace. This was done by tying off the guideline to weights and blocks of limestone on the cave floor.

For safety, this squeeze may have to be negotiated with side mounted air tanks. Maybe next week, more next issue.....

Nick Hume.

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ICE TUBE: Saturday, December 5

arty: Nick Hume, Trevor Wailes, Andrew Briggs, Rik Tunney, Janine McKinnon, Fred Steele (C.T.C.G.), Stefan Eberhard

With such a large and apparently capable team, and stacks of gear, prospects initially looked bright for a strong push into this promising pothole. Ice Tube was previously explored down a series of pitches to the edge of a deep shaft which requires bolting in order to avoid the suicidal torrent of water. (Many thanks to Stuart who chased us all the way up to Maydena with the bolt hangers, which we had been unable to locate earlier. Ironically, the bolting kit was never used.)

Much procrastinating and stuffing about eventually saw everyone stagger up to the entrance at the ridiculously late hour of 2.30p.m. Even more discussion ensued before Rik and Janine volunteered to remain on the surface, in order to reduce waiting time on the pitches. At this point, Andrew decided not to go underground and went surface trogging instead. This reduced the effective pushing team to three.....and, the mainland visitor, Fred.

Fortunately, the stream level was comparatively low, reducing what was a severe drenching in winter to a mere spraying. By the time the bottom of the second pitch was reached, however, the bullshit was getting so thick that the trip seemed doomed to failure and it was decided to retreat. This proved a wise decision although, at this stage, the competence of the visitor, Fred, had never really been doubted since he handled the 45m of abseiling O.K.

Nick and I started out, but it soon became apparent to Trev, still down the bottom, that something was up when it was found necessary to persuade Fred to use a safety loop on his upper (brand, spanking new) Jumar. It appears that Fred had never prusiked before! It took him an hour to ascend the 20m waterfall pitch alone. Furthermore, the chest ascender was supported around his neck by a single loop of climbing tape; this is a convenient method of hanging one elf.

The first 24m pitch involves a pendulum into a dry, parallel shaft, with a second tie-off around a large spike. Trev removed the re-belay on his way up so that Fred would be able to ascend directly up without having to perform the potentially dangerous act of crossing over ropes (How he managed to pass this obstacle on the way down, without coming off, remains a complete mystery). Because of the awkward pendulum across a knife-edge, the essential rope protectors seemed redundant and it was therefore necessary for Stefan to re-descend and position the rope off the edge, whilst Fred prusiked slowly up past the critical section.

By now, the trip had taken on the proportions of a minor epic (or a hell of a big stuff-up) and by the time the surface was reached Fred was exhausted, and suffering from the cold. A hasty scrub-bash in the gathering dark followed, made somewhat easier by the blue tape markers placed by Andrew and Trevor on the trek in.

It is strongly felt that a major accident was narrowly avoided. If catastrophic gear failure had not done it, simple exhaustion/exposure may well have. Whilst it is the responsibility of the trip leader to ensure adequate experience and competence in all members of the party, this can only be enforced to a certain degree. It is also the responsibility of each individual to judge, for himself, the situation and his own capabilities. It is far better to back out, when the going gets too tough, than to continue on and hence endanger the safety of the rest party.

Despite the faux-pas of the night before, some of us were still keen for some action on the Sunday and so assisted Nick with gear portering for another dive in the Junee Resurgence sump. He laid in another 60m of a 100m polypropylene line, from the end of the 40m live fixed previously. He was under for 35 mins. before turning back at a narrow section.

Stefan Eberhard.

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Do you want to tie the trace on to the flake here or shall I move it over there?!

JF 147 - The one no-one wants to know.

Originally found by Chris Davies, Max Jeffries, Di Davies, Sue Feeney and Geoff Fisher (see Spiel 144). The next trip in was July 27, 1980 (see Spiel 159) where it was surveyed to the top of an estimated 20m pitch with no belay point. The following trip took a long time to eventuate as the previous party weren't happy with any of the belay points in the whole system and a bolting trip planned stagnated. At great length S. & R. Eberhard, Nick Hume, Andrew Briggs and myself went to examine the final pitch. As memory man Andrew was on the previous survey trip with Nick Hume, he told us of the tackle required. On reaching the final pitch, however, and belaying to a large mud flake, we only had enough gear to rig down to a large hall/aven - Junction Hall. The end of the rope was let down the obvious route (another pitch 15m) but proved to be 6m short. Rolan descended and continued to the bottom on slings. The report was of another tight 10m pitch, to this date untouched. He returned to Junction Hall where we had sat in the spray from the small stream. A hole in the wall was enlarged with the foot and another pitch of 20m was unearthed (almost literally). This pitch seemed to be in a totally different system and just out of sight, a small stream falling down the pitch could be heard (possibly the stream that sinks near the then entrance to 147). With no tackle left, we exited with thoughts of a great system still to be discovered.

The next trip was a "Tassie"\* trip and your ever fearful president rolled up with a 100ft of ladder, 900ft of rope, all the wire traces in the store and no rope protectors! That's all history. Interest had waned on 147 to the lowest possible sump dive, until I conned Rolan (who knew) and Rik Tunney and Janine McKinnon (who didn't know) into another look-see trip.

The first drop down a squeeze was rigged with a hand line and Roland and I quickly rigged the 22m pitch (free hanging) following, and decided to free climb the third pitch by climbing over a flake and following a natural staircase back to the (today) dry stream passage. The steps on the next pitch were rigged with a rope to use as either hand line or prusik on the return. The 5th is a continuation of the 4th pitch and this put us at the bottom of the surveyed section above the 6th (20m) pitch into Junction Hall. At Junction Hall, which was relatively dry, we decided on the Window Pitch. Rik was bringing up the rear protecting and the....rope, when free, was fed through the window into new space. As Rolan rigged it, I thought he should go first (as with all pitches in this system, its nice to have the belays proved!!). I followed to find myself in an almost dry chamber with the small stream falling down a small tight hole into a recess 3m off the floor. Janine followed me down as I negotiated a squeeze, following Rolan.

This section was perhaps the longest horizontal (almost) development so far, but not for long. Rolan was at the top of a 10m drop down a rift which he part free climbed, part jumped, so I waited for Janine and the ladder she was carrying. This rigged and descended, we followed more semi-horizontal past an accessible hole in the right hand wall which was taking what water there was. We followed the abandoned section on down to a tight squeeze - awkward with a tackle bag and even worse on the return. Past this is a climb down to a small chamber with a pitch over hung with large talus blocks. We were running short of gear having only 2 ropes, 1 ladder and 2 protectors left, and a couple of traces.

We rigged this pitch with a 30m rope to one of the blocks and I descended down one drop then another step and stopped at the top of yet another one - maybe 10m. I wasn't sure if the rope was long enough and I could see yet another black hole. Rolan and Janine came down to my ledge and continued down to the next step where we hung a 10m ladder to the end of the rope as there was no belay point. Rolan was off again and in the distance reported horizontal passage - about time! The ladder climb down was spring loaded to the extreme "4ft of bounce" to yet another step. Five metres down, we were on the level in serpentine type passage which ended in a T-junction with a small stream passage.

I tried downstream but it started small and became tighter but not impossibly so as the cobbles were removed. Backing out uphill was a struggle, dragging my lamp and helmet after me. Rolan, Janine and Rik (who had run out of R.P.s) had gone upstream into an ascending rift with high avens. This route was not followed to any conclusion but rises as a steady climb. So that was it as far as we were concerned; we had one rope left and a couple of traces and nowhere to go but back so we started our return; Rolan and Rik in front with Janine and I detackling.

At the foot of the rope after coiling the ladder and waiting for Janine to ascend, I noticed what I presumed was a normal cave type shrimp 6-7cm long climbing a vertical wall, also what appeared to be a normal, if somewhat colourless, earthworm snaking its way across a vertical wall (300m below the surface with too small a stream to carry it?) The return to the surface was uneventful if somewhat slow.

Chris Davies in his report of the trip in Spiel 159 closes with the statement..."and is getting safer with depth". This is not entirely true!! Andrew Briggs proposed the name 'Two Straws'- lower down there is more formation (well a little more!). If we are proposing names, I would like to suggest 'Peanut Brittle Pot' for obvious reasons.

Although we had a successful day and more than doubled the depth and length of this system, I feel there is more to find. If my guess work survey is anywhere near close, the original obvious route out of Junction Hall, if pushed, with some luck would put it beyond the squeeze in the horizontal section of the bottom of this pot which could have far reaching connections. I presume the hole in the wall above the awkward squeeze

below the Window pitch, leads into the final big pitch. Where the water comes from and goes to down the window pitch is a mystery! Any one interested? Give me a couple of months to forget this shithole so I only remember the good bits, and we'll look again! Estimated depth: 615ft. Length: 1,100ft. Conditions: R/S!

\*Tassi - psyched up ready to go but impossible due to unforeseen balls up! (see Spiel 168 club news and happenings!)

Tackle for JF 147 "Two Straws" or "Peanut Brittle Pot"

- 1st pitch 25ft handline - if rigged from tree outside, 90ft
- 2nd " 70-80ft free hanging - wire header/trace around suspect flake also tie to pitch 1. 2 rope protectors.
- 3rd " 30ft ladder - can be free climbed -1 r.p.(super-long header)
- 4th " 50ft handline for steps. 1 header, 3 r.p.s (good belay point)
- 5th " 40ft - tie to pitch 4. ? R.p.s
- 6th " 60ft into Junction Hall, tie to pitch 4, 2 r.p.s, 1 header
- 7th " 50ft obvious route, ? thereon - tie to pitch 6, 2 r.p.s
- 7th " 70ft Window pitch - tie to pitch 6 plus 1 header, 3 r.p.s
- 8th " 30ft ladder, short header (good belay point)
- 9th " 30m rope + 30ft ladder, 1 header, 3r.p.s (good belay point), if longer rope used - 4 r.p.s

Trevor Wailes.

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### STOP PRESS:

(a) December 18/19 was the 10th anniversary of the bottoming of K.D. Maybe we should have taken a cake and candles into K.D. and had a re-uniting of the Khazad-dum Gourmets and Gluttons Society!

(b) Instead of K.D., we went back to Growling Swallet and found even more new stuff in the roof of the passage recently found. Additional surveyed length is 450m with plenty more yet to have a tape run over it.

(c) Nick Hume and Co. have installed a total of about 130m of line in Junee Resurgence, well past the squeeze, and it's still going!