

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Annual Subscription \$5.00

Single copies 50 cents

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FORWARD PROGRAMME

Wed. April 21 COMMITTEE MEETING: 8pm 7 Rupert Av. New Town, all concerned
please attend.

Sat. April 24

Wed. April 28 PUB MEETING: Wheatsheaf Hotel probably informal.
(venue could change) "Will somebody come and keep me company!"

Sat. May 1

Wed. May 5 SOCIAL MEETING: 7 Rupert Av. New Town. B.Y.O. slides, grog etc.

Sat. May 8 RESCUE POT: a fresh look at one of the original classics.

Sat. May 15 PENDANT POT: surface survey from Growling.

Wed. May 19 COMMITTEE MEETING: 7 Rupert Av. New Town, all those concerned
please attend.

Sat. May 22 TASSY POT: see Di Davies.

EDITORIAL

Stuart Nicholas has for the past five years edited the "Spiel". During this time the overall quality has risen to what is possibly the most widely read Club Magazine in Australia. This is how we would like to keep it. However, Stuarts meteoric rise through the ranks to higher echelons of his company has had its toll on his "free time" and he has temporarily passed the "book" on to us Chris Davies and Trevor Wailes. We both gave little thought to the intricacies of literary pieces that occasionally have to be corrected. This latest Spiel which is a double month issue due to said problems and those yet to mention is the result of Stuart's, Chris's and my own efforts.

Sue Feeney who has typed the "Spiel" for 2 years has also found time pressing on what is basically a thankless task and has now passed the "headache" on to Jeanine Davies.

Our thanks should go to all these people both for past efforts and for the ones to come. We all hope you enjoy reading what your club is doing in this very varied issue.

Co-Editor T. Wailes

OFFICE BEARERS 1982-83

The Annual General Meeting of the T.C.C was held on the last Wednesday of March as always and resulted in the following people being elected to these office positions.

President: Trevor Wailes, as is

Secretary: Andrew Briggs, you know

Treasurer: Diana Davies, as above

Vice President: Albert Goede, unknown

Committee: Therese Greenhill

Rolan Eberhard

Stefan Eberhard

Co-Editors: (Temp) Trevor Wailes and Chris Davies

Quartermaster: Stuart Nicholas

Search & Rescue: Stuart Nicholas) 7 Rupert Av. New Town

Albert Goede once again kindly offered to act as Archivist.

CLUB NEWS & OTHER TRIVIA

Despite what was said, the last edition was very late. Due to a series of circumstances beyond most peoples control, it was almost unavoidable. The situation seems to be improving however and with any luck most future editions should be roughly on time.

Still on the Speleo Spiel, for those who do not know the absolute dead line for articles, trip reports and so on it's normally the Monday following the monthly General Meeting.

Mike Martyn, tells me that the long awaited house warming of his now not so recently acquired Knocklofty residence will be sometime in April.

July will see a strong Tasmanian contingent going on the Muller '82 Australian Caving Expedition to Nuigini. Participants at this time are Rolan and Stefan Eberhard, Nick Hume, Mike Martyn and Stuart Nicholas. The last time a Tasmanian went to that land of rain, mud and giant leeches was, to the best of my knowledge, in 1973 when Pete Shaw and Phil Robinson took part in the original NSRE trip and did some early work in Atea Kananda. Leigh Gleeson (SCS) was a participant in the 1975 New Zealand expedition.

Stefan Eberhard has recently returned from New Zealand, where, among other things, he visited Greenliak, Harwood Hole (complete with Gooft entrance pitch) and did some valuable exploration work in Nettlebed. That cave is now over 600m high with reasonable scope for linking to the surface above, giving a through trip involving a vertical descent (or ascent!) of over 800m!

PRESIDENTS REPORT 1981-82

The past year, which was the thirty fifth year since the founding of the TCC has been a relatively successful one. Old systems have been pushed with a new determination and new ones tackled with a very confident approach. The "Press Gang" attitude of the TCC has brought about a number of otherwise unknown record depth potential systems which makes our area in the A.N.M. concern - Mt. Field National Park the envy of Australia. Happily to say the only scoop, mainland cavers have achieved this year was in the "Chairman" in which T. White (of ULSA SJJSS and many other clubs?) had success in reaching the final canal while some TCC member fell asleep on his way out.

Some years ago a South Australian diving team successfully attempted to crack the sump in Junee cave. In the past year our own divers have had some success in those very cold waters and dare we consider conventional caving in "The Master Cave" in the near future.

Surveying is still in progress in many systems, in the past we have been pretty slack in this area so at this stage we are looking at a giant task. To be honest we really can't afford to find more caves and look at them thoroughly enough with the manpower we have at present!

New members of all shapes and sizes have joined us over the last year, some new to caving, some new to the TCC, and as I mentioned previously some "Press Ganged". Your support of "your" club whether you are interested in only the odd trip now and again or whether you are off in all weathers (sort of fun!) weekly! is invaluable to the success and future of your TCC. Which reminds me Subscriptions are now due for the 82-83 session.

Novice members wanting trips should make their wants known, trips can be arranged and you will not be insulted by something too easy and boring, thankfully some of our older members with vast experience delight in watching novices get wet, complain, grunt, scream have hysterics and generally enjoy themselves. Please all you novices step forward and join in. Our safety record still stands very high and the integrity of our trip leaders appears to be of the highest standard.

The immediate future of the TCC is assured. New rope and the renovating of ladder will ensure continued caving if the members are keen enough. Clubs in general tend to build to a peak of cliques and then disintergrate. We would like to avoid this by training suitable apprentices. (Anyone want to be indentured?)

Our past social events calendar has been a bit bare with virtually only the annual dinner holding it together. If anyone has any ideas, or would like the thankless job of social secretary please step forward.

T. Wailes
President 1981-82
Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Receipts and Payments Statement for the Year Ended March 1982.

<u>Receipts</u>	\$	<u>Expenditure</u>	\$
Cheque Account carried forward	291.87	Category B Registration	20.00
Cheque Account interest	14.05	<u>Speleo Spiel Costs</u>	
Special Investment Account carried forward	791.49	Printing	36.01
Special Investment Account interest	87.69	Postage	78.89
<u>Subscriptions</u>		Equipment	360.21
ASF Levy	98.00	Library Aquisitions	75.75
Full Membership	189.00	ASF Capitation Fee (1981)	87.50
Associate Membership	5.00	Hire of Northern Cavers Hut	3.00
Junior Membership	nil	Refund Max Jeffries for Annual Dinner Costs	32.00
Speleo Spiel Subscriptions	45.00	Special Investment Account balance	879.16
Entry Fees	27.00	Cheque Account balance	270.41
<u>Other</u>		Cheque Book	3.00
Badge Sales	1.00	Cheques paid from previous year	89.95
Special Rope Fund	165.00		
Raffle for Rope Fund	77.00		
Sports Card for Rope Fund	10.00		
Sale of Spiels	5.50		
Sale of Conference Proceedings	8.00		
Cap Lamp hire	57.00		
Hire of Northern Cavers Hut	0.30		
Donations	63.00		
Unpresented Cheques	nil		
	<u>1935.88</u>		<u>1935.88</u>

The Special Rope Fund was opened to enable the Club to purchase a 200m roll of Blue Water II SRT rope. SRT cavers donated \$20.00 each. Bill Nicholson donated a pair of boots which were raffled to assist in the purchase of the rope. The cost of the rope was \$342.00 including a credit note for \$10.00 from Caving Equipment.

Subscriptions for 1982 are now due and are as follows:

Full Membership including ASF Levy	\$10.00
Family Membership including ASF Levy	\$15.00
Junior Membership	\$ 5.00
Associate Membership	\$ 5.00
Speleo Spiel Subscription	\$ 5.00
Prospective Membership	\$ 3.00

Cheques should be made payable to the "Tasmanian Caverneering Club".

D. Davies
Hon. Treasurer

BELOW IS PRINTED A LETTER AND AN ARTICLE FROM FRANK SALT
WHO IS BASED AT SAVAGE RIVER. IT IS GREAT TO HEAR FROM
OUR FAR FLUNG MEMBERS, AND HOPE TO HEAR MORE IN THE FUTURE

Dear Stuart and T.C.C.,

Enclosed is a short article on a recent trip/accident at Mole Creek. I'm afraid that a combination of distance, slow transport and other odd pass-times have limited my meeting most of your members but hope that a trip report from near strangers may be of interest for the newsletter.

In all this forgotten corner of Tasmania has half a dozen cavers hiding in it whose total caving experience covers about 50 years and a few countries. (We even number 3 cavers amongst that number).

Efforts must be made to motivate ourselves further south and show our faces occasionally.

Yours,

Frank Salt.

KISS MY WHIP

(A Masochists Guide to Caving)

Having spent most of the winter months in rain, and painful attempts to get off the west and north coasts with scuba gear for a dive, the summer arrived at last and the sea began to flatten.

Obviously time to give up while I was still on a losing streak and try something else. (CAVING!!!) I blew the dust of my gear and tried on the dried up and crumpled boots, the grit impregnated vests and the S.R.T. Harness that had fitted me so nicely when I'd been 10kg lighter. Agony!!

So off to Mole Creek to give it all a try. Our party numbered 7 on Saturday morning (18.12.81) and the day dawned warm and clear and lovely for walking. With this in mind we donned our gear and made our way to Kubla Khan taking with us not only S.R.T. gear but also ladders to double up on possible perversions. The day had been designated a photographic day much to the upset of the two younger members of the party who were hoping to at least get a good days caving out of the trip. So, passage down the drops and through the cave was further slowed by the process of blinding people with flashes and making photographic models spend long periods kneeling in cold pools (It makes them look deeper on the photo).

At last the 2 younger members could bear it no longer, and casting remarks as to the mental state of the rest of the party, shot out of the cave leaving us looking at photographic subjects and making remarks like "Three weeks at f8" to the blue figures in the pools.

At this point I made an attempt to photograph "The Great Khan", a 10m + high stalagmite in a huge rock filled chamber, using magnesium flash powder. I set up the camera, opened the shutter and pored out 1/2 of a cup full of magnesium mixture. I then inserted a 200mm long length of slow fuse into the mixture, (enough for 20 seconds according to ICI) and lit the end. Instead of making the normal fizzing noise the fuse made a high pitched whistle. The noise was so unexpected that I froze over the flash for a second, still

holding the match in my hand, when the 20 second fuse blew through, (approx 1½ seconds) and the flare exploded.

For about 5 minutes I was unable to see anything except a large dancing white blob in front of my eyes, but as my vision came back the first thing I could see was my right hand, blackened and with what looked like a lace curtain of burnt skin hanging from it.

As my vision returned so did the feeling in my hand and eyelids. A move was made as far as the first cold rimstone pool and both face and hand was plunged in. A rapid exit through the cave was made with stops at every cold pool (fortunately there are a fair number when one looks). The fact that we had also brought 3 x 10m ladders with us made it easy for me to get up the pitches. (I dread to think how I would have managed with a blasted hand on S.R.T.).

Once out of the cave I found the run between the entrance and Mole Creek reached an all time high in pain due to the lack of cold pools and the heat of the day. The nurse at Mole Creek quickly passed me on to Deloraine Hospital, who in turn passed me on to Launceston. A quick patch job there and I was passed on to Savage River where 6 days in hospital was followed by 6 weeks of dressings 3 times a day.

The end result was a hand that looks a little like something out of an Egyptian tomb, although it can still push a jummar up a rope. The photo? That didn't come out. My body, crouched over the flash threw a vast black shadow down the chamber. However, I did get the Masochist of The Year award from my friends; a choice between a new whip or some more flash powder.

Frank Salt

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TRIP REPORTS

Party: Andrew Briggs, Jeanine Davies, Janine McKinnon and Rick Tunney.

Saturday morning early saw us struggling up the Wherrits Lookout land-slip to look down the holes near the top. I had already looked in some of these caves with Geoff and Nick a year ago. After the normal pre-trip mumblings Rick decided to remain on the surface. The first hole we descended proved to be very interesting but unfortunately choked off at approximately 70m depth. The second hole did not go quite as deep but the entrance pitch of 25m was very spectacular.

We then decided to do some surface trogging on the other side of the slip, nothing turned up so we decided to call it a day. We arrived back at the cars at 5pm after a good day.

Andrew Briggs

Party: Jeanine Davies, George Albion, Andrew Briggs.

6/2/82 Growling Swallet

Yes another Growling trip, not really energetic like Trevor's because Andy wanted to waste some more film and to have a quick poke around in the new extension. The forecast temp. for Saturday was 28 degrees with strong northerly winds so I was not surprised when the gate-keeper told me that all permits had been cancelled, after a certain amount of groveling on my part the boss man allowed us through.

The stream in Growling was very low, so the going was easy, though the photos not as spectacular. Communication with the flasher was difficult due to the noise from the stream. After a certain amount of friggin' around we entered the new section which is quite spectacular; as this was our first trip in the new extension, we progressed slowly and when leaving it was decided that a return trip would be organized for the following week-end.

A semi-hasty retreat was then called for, the tour people had lunch ready and this was eaten with enthusiasm before we departed on the bus and cable car for the surface. George said that he was all wet and I agreed so Jeanine bought him a nappy which he gratefully accepted.

But back to sense, a good, if slack trip was had by all.

Andrew Briggs

Growling Swallet, 13/2/82

Not Growling again. Yes, the purpose to descend a pitch estimated to be 30m plus and try to get into or over a large boulder pile presently blocking further progress and more exploration. Geoff organized the gate permit and the necessary gear, and an amazingly early start saw us at the entrance of Growling at 9.15am and caving by 9.30am. The party was T. Wailes, G. Fisher, P. Shaw and A. Briggs. We progressed down to the rift in two groups, Andy and Geoff went first and we met up in the first aven which young Geoff tried to climb but without success.

We then went up to where the stream comes in, and to a point about 30m upstream where a very small stream falls into the passage from a very high and narrow rift in the ceiling. Andy and Trevor climbed up and along this small stream passage until no further progress could be made, Geoff and Peter had by this time returned and we continued to explore the rift. Progress was made by jamming one's hips in the rift and moving one's arms either forward or backward, remembering that we were 10/15m off the floor. After much stuffing around we arrived back at the junction of the stream and main passage having traversed about 30m of passage.

It was now 12 noon so we decided to wander down to the pitch via the fossil passage, which is so dry that it contains what looks and feels like flour. The pitch was rigged to a rather dubious boulder and down Geoff went, followed by Trev and Andy, while Peter explored around the top of the aven. By the time Andy arrived back at the pitch top Peter had found, via a squeeze, yet another undescended pitch. At the bottom of the aven progress seemed to be limited so we decided to call it a day, but not before we decided to have a gawk at possibly the best stream passage in the Florentine, dry though it is, it is good, and well worth photographing.

A quick exit was made and we were all back on the surface by 4.30pm, tired but able to walk back to the cars. A great trip to a cave which is getting better each time a party goes down it and finds more cave.

Andrew Briggs

Icetube, Junee Resurgence 27/28-3-82

Party: N. Hume, S. Eberhard and R. Eberhard.

Despite an apparent excess of people keen to continue the exploration of Icetube, it was only the three of us who eventually set out on the all too familiar track to Growling Swallet. A further half an hours scrub bash is necessary through the (in this case) sodden rainforest to reach the very impressive entrance of Icetube.

We soon descended the first two pitches of 25m and 20m before tackling the 'hairy traverse' which bypasses two short waterfalls. Two choices are open at this stage, either to continue along the active stream passage and a wet 10m drop, or a dry bypass and pitches of 10m and 15m. Regrettably we had to opt for the former because of the amount of gear our team could carry.

From here the water plunges down yet another waterfall into a very roomy chamber. This is reached via some abandoned stream passage and a pleasant 25m abseil against the wall. Predictably the water pours down another shaft and this is the deepest point reached so far. After traversing out into the rift above the waterfall a bolt was placed as no natural belay points occur. At this stage an atmosphere of apathy seemed to have diminished everyone's enthusiasm, probably due to the thought of bashing around the rainforest in the dark carrying wet ropes. At length Stefan took the incentive and abseiled down a superb 45m shaft, past a second tie-off to a large flake, to the ledge at the top of a 13m drop to the base of the shaft proper. At this furthest point the cave is at least 200m deep and as yet has no end in sight.

A couple of hundred feet of prussiking later we were back on the surface and had managed to reach G.S. just as darkness took over.

Sunday saw much carrying of gear and flashing of cameras in the process of yet another dive into the Junee Resurgence. I dived first taking Stuart's line reel to the end of the 150m of fixed line. The passage at this point appears out into a very spacious chamber, and due to extensive silting problems which reduce visibility to almost nil, it is hard to determine its extent and the best direction to continue laying the fixed line. The purpose of the line reel was to make a reconnaissance of the possibilities, and the overall impres-

sion I gained is that apart from the narrow ascending passage Nick had entered on the last dive, exploration may be most productive several metres before the end of the fixed line so far, and off to the right hand side.

Stefan dived to the end of the fixed line and back for a general look-see.

Rolan Eberhard

Advertisement:

Wanted Urgently: Gibbs Ascender
Contact Rolan Eberhard, Ph. 39-6448

Episodes 2 of this gripping educational programme

When the survey of Sesame II was drawn up it looked incomplete and had too many ?'s on it, so in order to rectify some of these mysteries it was decided to organise a trip to Sesame I and survey!

A large party for Sesame I dimensions was assembled with some wanting to photograph and some to survey. The entrance to Sesame I is 74°E (27.5 scale metres distant: Eds. Note) which was surface surveyed to see what our margin of error was. The short walk to the entrance was a pleasant change and Rowlan Eberhard led the way down a slot into a roomy chamber with square dimensions formed by the collapse of the roof long ago, the floor was earthen and at the far end from the entrance slot was a rather small entrance through blocks into a boulder pile. We surveyed almost vertically down through the talus pile with probably some error until solid walls were encountered. These formed the beginning of a descending rift; care had to be taken as loose rocks of all dimensions moved in the obvious direction and shelter was hard to find. At the base of the rift the passage continued as a low crawl which occasionally became flat out; a junction was encountered but all ways except for the continuing crawl appeared blocked by talus. The crawl continued past a small inlet on the left which was ignored, over some gently scalloped solid floor, through a short squeeze into a small chamber with a large collapsed block straight ahead. Some corners of this chamber were not followed to any conclusion and our survey continued through a crawl alongside the large fallen block. Parts of this crawl are rather small and awkward; the original discoverers S. and R. Eberhard and R. Hortle encountered a rather large nematode through here and the crawl has since been named after this rather nasty crawl. Nematode crawl enters the Sesame II system at Hoopers Hall.

From here R.E., A.B. and J.D. went through into Sesame St. and on down to the breakdown chamber above Big Birds Nest to look at possible extensions. T.W., R.T. and A.C. surveyed upstream in Sesame St. After 100m it closed down into an impenetrable rift; returning to the turn off a side passage was noted and surveyed (Sesame Avenue), some old heavily water-eroded formation occupied the base of an aven with possible extensions above, from the initial chamber an ascending rift with climbs was followed until a side passage crawl (Sesame Lane) was pushed to three closely grouped avens that connected with Sesame Avenue above. There is a possibility of further extensions in this area and it was felt the surface couldn't be far above! With surveying completed we headed out through Sesame I, the only problem being the tight squeeze up into the earthen chamber prior to the entrance slot.

A trip through to the bottom of Sesame II using the Sesame I entrance would not be easy as transport of tackle through the crawls would not be any quicker than rigging from the upper entrance of Sesame II. However no tackle is needed for Sesame I and the tight sections at the top of the pitch in Sesame II would be avoided.

Tackle List for Sesame I(to the bottom of the Sesame system):

	5th pitch	Handline 25m to Nest
Big Birds'	6th pitch	20m ladder, 25m belay line, two medium traces
Oscars'	7th pitch	10m ladder, medium header
Counts'	8th pitch	4m ladder, long header
Ernie and Berts'	9th pitch	10m ladder, short header.

Survey Team: Rick Tunny, Trevor Wailes, Andrew Cooper.

Tourists: Andrew Briggs, Jeanine Davies, Rolan Eberhard.

Trevor Wailes.

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Littering of Tracks.

It appears some of our mainland "friends" do not share the same ideals as Tasmanian Cavers in so far as the dropping of litter is concerned.

A visit earlier in the year by a somewhat controversial group from W.A. left not only some bad impressions but also various items of clothing, empty drink cans, plastic food bags, cigarette boxes and so on strewn about. Examples of the articles mentioned above and more were found on both the Growling Swallet and Khazad-dum tracks shortly after the visit. Brands and so on left no doubt as to the source of the litter.

I hope this is an example of what not to do - every effort should be made, particularly by visitors, to ensure that tracks and caves themselves are left as clean as possible! Most of the "known" caves in the Florentine are in fact within the Mt. Field National Park, the rules for which (both common sense and actual), are well known, I am sure.

Stuart Nicholas.

Cave Numbering at Mole Creek.

Some years ago Andrew Skinner numbered quite a few of the caves in the Mole Creek area but the job was never completed. A list of both numbered and unnumbered caves appeared in the "Check List of Australian Caves and Krast" published by ASF in 1979.

Last year Bob Woolhouse of Northern Caverneers offered to continue the cave numbering programme at Mole Creek and I provided him with numbers from 121 onwards. He has also made use of the new large scale maps (1:25 000) to check the location of some of the numbered caves. As it is not the clubs' policy to publish grid references they can be obtained directly from me by anyone who is interested in locating and visiting a particular cave.

The following caves have now been numbered;

MC-121E Marakoopa I, upper entrance where stream from Marakoopa II enters the system.

MC-122E Marakoopa II, main lower entrance to this cave. MC-15, numbered by Andrew Skinner is the resurgence of the stream from this cave. It is not the entrance normally used by cavers.

MC-123 Pudenz Pot, located on north-eastern side of the Grunter (X49 in checklist).

MC-124 Pearl Pot, (X46 in checklist).

MC-125 Prohibition Cave. Swallet in lower slopes of Western Tiers about 500m east of Sassafras Creek (X48 in checklist).

MC-126 Depression Cave. New listing. Cave near Prohibition Cave. May be identified with X67 in checklist.

The following numbers have been assigned to the two major tourist caves in the area:

MC-120 Marakoopa Cave (I) (X39 in checklist)

MC-119 King Solomns Cave (X32 in checklist).

These numbers have not been physically placed at the tourist entrance since their location is obvious. Bob has also identified one of the "lost" SCS numbers in the Caveside area.

MC-203 Wet Cave. Downstream entrance (X65 in checklist)

Anybody interested in cave numbering and cave location in the Mole Creek area should get in touch with Bob Woolhouse. His address is Deviot P.O.7251, West Tamar. Phone: 003-947326 (Sidmouth).

The new 1:25 000 topographic maps available for the Mole Creek area are Mole Creek (4439) and Gog (4440) available from the Lands Department at \$2.50 each. The large scale map covers will be completed later this year with the publication of the Liena Sheet (4239).

Albert Goede
Keeper of Archives.

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Junee Resurgence - various dates

Divers: Rolan and Stefan Eberhard, Nick Hume.

A number of dives have been carried out so far this year, these usually occurring after regular caving trips before returning to Hobart. The explorations have mainly been to figure out a large chamber discovered late last year and find a way on.

The large cross sectional area presented to the current here has allowed fine silt to build up on floors and walls, which is easily disturbed and often makes orientation difficult. Siltation probably takes days to settle out compared to the main passageway where you can at least see your hand holding the fixed line (tightly) in front of your facemask!

150m of permanent line have been emplaced now, with the author going 10m beyond this up a narrowing rift off the main chamber to a frustrating reading of 5ft on the depth gauge! Groping upwards in a total "brown out". This rift and the rest of the chamber require linereel exploration as the next priority. Meanwhile transit times get longer, siltation is atrocious, moan, moan, moan, etc.

Nick Hume.

JF 202: 13th March

Party: Phil Jackson (SCS), Rolan and Stephan Eberhard, Nick Hume.

Mediaeval folklore spoke of a bewitching sump known to lure divers two pitches down below the dark forest, just half an hours scrub bash off Crisps Rd. So these four adrenalin junkies wrestled wet suits, lead weights, etc through the horizontal to get their fix.

A lovely 25m abseil off an obvious dead tree led to the entrance proper, where a further pitch of 10m was laddered to the sump. A short game of "find the sump" followed before we realised the sump had disappeared (anybody finding said sump are asked to contact the Maydeena Police Station). Only short blocked tubes remained, these presumably being holes left by the roots of the orininal sump.

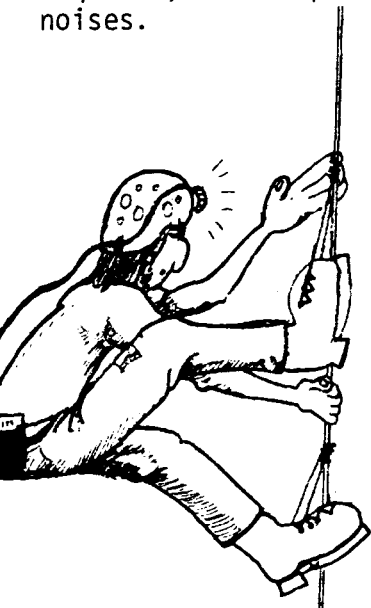
With little better to do, these four adrenalin starved trogs turned to surveying the place and posing for a few impressive looking photos.

Rescue Pot: 13th March

Party: Phil Jackson (SCS), Kolan and Stephan Eberhard, Nick Hume.

This cave had something of an aura about it after a caver sustained leg fractures while in the initial passageway back in 1969, calling for a full scale rescue. The accident occurred above a 30m, freehanging pitch, which had previously been negotiated with a homemade rope ladder!

We found the entrance passageway refreshingly easygoing, wide and lofty. Slumping of the floor abounded and a few blocks were loose, some still marked with red paint from the rescue. This ended abruptly with a thirty metre, freehanging pitch, complete with adjacent boulder for anchor and ultra sharp lip (three protectors required). This pitch was described as orgasmic by Kolan who led down making appropriate noises.



A rift led off the bottom of this large aven to a navigable boulder pile straight ahead and a sloping 20m pitch to the right. Both routes returned to the streamway which has been noticeably absent since the entrance. This streamway ultimately disappears, mysteriously under the floor before the furthest point reached.

We found a maze of passages here, some dry, some additional feeders, with Kolan penetrating furthest along the major passageway, where he found an arrow mark from the previous trip.

This is an interesting cave, worth a return to try relocating the disappearing stream and hence, new passage, and also to survey.

Nick Hume.

P.S. The new TCC rope has finally eliminated one objective danger in caving these days.

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Advertisement. WANTED TO BUY - Second hand Premier cap lamp for Muller 82.
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