

NEWS LETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

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President: Trevor Wailes, 47 Waterworks Rd, Dynnyrne, 7005 Ph. 34 4862

Secretary: Andrew Briggs, 1/4 Vantona Rd, Sandy Bay, 7005 Ph. 25 1801

Treasurer: Diana Davies, 391A Nelson Rd, Mt. Nelson, 7009 Ph.
(Wk) 20 2669

Temporary Co-Editors: Trevor Wailes (as above) - Chris Davies, 8 Weston Pl,
Montrose Ph. 72 3617

Typist: Jeanine Davies, 1/4 Vantona Rd, Sandy Bay, 7005 Ph. 25 1801

USUAL BLURB

FORWARD PROGRAMME

Wed. May 26 PUB MEETING: Wheatsheaf Hotel mostly informal.
Sat. May 29 SATANS LAIR: if weather permits and if we can find it.
Wed. June 2 SOCIAL MEETING: 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, lets have some
new faces to scowl at B.Y.O. grog and slides.
Sat. June 5 OWL POT: and Ice Tube with any luck one will come off. See
Chris Davies for Owl and the Ice Tube group know whats happen-
ing. "I hope"!
Sat. June 12 JF 341: dig and survey see Trev Wailes. A good trip for up
and coming SRTeasers.
Wed. June 16 COMMITTEE MEETING: this is a must for all office bearers as
there is much to discuss, usual time and place.
Sat. June 19 ENTRANCE-MIDNIGHT: see A. Briggs, probably abseil through
trip.
Sat. June 26 SURVEY WORK: surface area around Growling Swallet.

EDITORIAL

As you see from the trip reports some members of the club are getting out and doing it
....regularly. There are, however many club members who seem to have gone a little quiet
recently. If you fall into the "quiet" category why not check out the club forward
programme and come along to a meeting or one of the NEW pub nights, the 4th Weds. of the
month. All you have to do is talk about caving, about places you would like to go and
it will happen, and, you can write a trip report for The Spiel!

I am sure you have read it all before, but this is your Spiel so why not contribute an
article or maybe two. It does not even have to be about caving, just interesting. With
this in mind we have decided to start a new section----a sort of Quotable quotes section.
It has been discussed before and it starts in this issue, and we will need more contribu-
tions for future issues, so keep your memory banks open.

Incidentally one project for this winter will be track clearing and cutting in the
Growling Swallet Ice Tube area. Another project should be attention to maintenance of
the Junee Homestead.

Chris Davies

CLUB NEWS AND TRIVIA

Janine McKinnon and the ever verbal Rick Tunny now reside at 11 Connemare Cres.
Berriedale, good luck with their purchase and hope the newly acquired property doesn't
stop them from caving.

Andrew Briggs and Jeanine Davies have moved into my old luxury flat at 1/4 Vantona Rd.
Sandy Bay. This, or something else does seem to have put the brakes on some of Andrews
caving activities.

As for myself, I have been thrown into debt for the rest of my life and have bought the building which leans on the hill at 47 Waterworks Rd. Dynnyrne.

So we hope there are a few house warmings in the near future!!!

Club members habitats seem to be getting a shake up. The last pub meeting was a relative success considering no-one knew about it. The bar hours were immediately extended to 12.00 and some of the club management were heard to be incomprehensible at throw out time. This could become a permanent feature of our clubs activities (one of the few) and the Wheatsheaf Hotel is where its at for the time being! Chris (Ditto) Rathbone found us alright but left us none too well!!!

Malcome Handel, one of the more adventurous S.S.S. members has been working in Devonport Hosp? He called on the T.C.C. and has subsequently indulged in underground activities including one of which he was heard to gasp "best trip since New Guinea". Malcome made a lot of friends down here and we will be sad to see him leave at the end of May!

Problems still seem to be plaguing this news letter; so apologies for last months late double month issue. Strange as it seems we are not short of material just efficiency. Formality will be resumed as soon as possible ie. its hard editing from the pub. It works out that the editing needs editing.

In an effort to procure more Oldham lamp cells for the club and make it as financially viable as possible, Chris Davies would like to hear from anyone contemplating expenditure in this area so as to arrange a good deal.

Apologies to Albert Goede who was classed as "Unknown" in the previous S.S. because of course he isn't or is? The unknown was his address which still is!

Recent cartoons and drawn insults are compliments of the incredibly well spoken Nick Hume.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Scene: 3rd ascent 110' pitch Lost World one recent Sunday afternoon.

Enter Trevor, breathing heavily, festooned with rope, shockcord and metal work.

The quote: "I still think this ropewalking system has potential".

Post Script: If anyone, anywhere has a competitive rope working system please send detailed drawings to Speleo Spiel P.O. Box 416 Sandy Bay, and gain nationwide recognition by having it published. Please?

Scene: Early evening, top of Nine Rd. in Florentine Valley after Tassie Pot trip.

Four cavers, standing around in various states of undress.

Nick Hume states. "Must've been a pansy trip, didn't even get my knickers wet".

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we heard of the recent death of Joan Brabon after a long illness. She was well known amongst the older members of the club. Although never in the best of health she joined the ranks as Joan Halton in about 1960. She took an active part in running the club's affairs during a difficult period in our history and served continuously as club secretary from 1964 to 1970.

In February 1966 she married fellow club member Peter Brabon who as trip leader took an active part in exploration. He also served as treasurer from 1966 to 1969 and as president from 1969 to 1970. In 1970 he received a silver medal from the Royal Humane Society for his part in The Devils Den cave rescue on Mt. Faulkner of Timothy Walters in December 1968. Joan and Peter were a devoted couple and contributed a great deal to both caving and social activities during the period of their active membership.

We have seen little of them in recent years and most of us had not been aware of Joan's recent illness until after her death. We will fondly remember her. Our sincere sympathies to Peter in his bereavement.

Albert Goede

POLICE SEARCH AND RESCUE STORE:

You may or may not know, but most search and rescue operations start from the POLSAR store. Until recently this was located in a wharf shed on the wharf (where else?).

However, owing to a bureaucratic invasion this is no longer available. The new store location is the Russell roundabout and Hotel on the Brooker Highway.

Although the roof is not as high, some arrangement will be made to set up the Tyromont alpine winch together with prusik ropes and other miscellaneous bits of gear.

Stuart Nicholas
S & R Officer.

A.S.F. NEWS

During a recent weekend visit by A.S.F. president Ken Lance, a brief discussion was had with him concerning the current discontent with A.S.F.

He assures me that the problem is not only local but nationwide and that A.S.F. is undergoing a revamp and adopting a new direction for its policies and activities.

There is certainly a need for a national speleological body and it is to be hoped that Australia's caving clubs and individuals will give their support to the "new image" A.S.F. The Newsletter (out now or very shortly) contains more details of the changes.

The problem in the past has been one of communication - nobody let the A.S.F. know what their problems or their club's problems and ideas were. Only by having this feedback can A.S.F. act according to the needs of Australia's caving community. So, do not hesitate to write to the president or secretary outlining your thoughts and ideas (if you have any!).

Stuart Nicholas

TRIP REPORTS

Three Falls Cave: 6.3.82

Party: Chris Davies, Nick Hume, Andrew Briggs, Trevor Wailes, Stefan Eberhard, Phil Jackson (SCS)

The purpose of this trip was to continue the exploration of Three Falls Cave and hopefully make the connection with nearby Owl Pot, to produce a 249m deep system.

From the bottom of the second pitch a climb up through a slippery slot leads into a large collapse chamber. From the base of this chamber, 5m and 16m pitches (which hadn't been anticipated) led back down to the stream and the exploration front previously reached by R. Eberhard and R. Hurtle last year. A large black hole loomed beyond and rock dropping indicated a sizeable drop. Fortunately, the stream level was only a trickle and the 40-45m pitch was rigged dry and free-hanging.

At the bottom, Nick and I explored the narrow and jagged stream passage for a considerable distance before stopping at a squeeze which neither of us could get through. This could definitely be negotiated by a thin person, or with a bit of digging. It was possible to see onwards 6m to another constriction in the passage but it is impossible to say whether or not this would "go".

Although the hoped-for link with Owl Pot was not made on this trip, further pushing may turn something up. Needless to say, Three Falls Cave has now been extended from 84m depth to 150 ± 10m.

Stefan Eberhard

Kubla Khan Dive: 1.5.82

Party: Nick Hume, Rolan Eberhard

Kubla Khan resurgence was first physically linked to the main Kubla Khan cave by a team of South Australian cave divers in 1978. They negotiated 420m of submerged passage before surfacing in a chamber, and after 780m of dry passage came to a further sump. This proved to be 30m long and connected to the known downstream

sump in Kubla.

It was Nick's enthusiasm (suicidal tendencies?) that brought us to the same location, namely Kubla Khan resurgence, where the stream emerges from a dark hole in the base of a cliff. Here we kitted up in diving gear and swam the first 100m to where the airspace runs out but the passage continues submerged. Nick dived first using twin aluminium tanks mounted on his back and laying the all important line from a large reel. I followed with two side mounted steel tanks and a small 30cu.ft. tank on a back-pack. The passage basically continues in a straight line and is never more than 4m deep, although there are a number of airspaces along its length.

We surfaced in a couple of these and took turns laying the line. I experienced a short moment of consternation (i.e. fear) when in one airspace I found the line was no longer gripped firmly in my hand and, in fact, was nowhere to be seen. On previous dives, clipping onto a fixed line was unnecessary, however, it was apparent to me then that this practice does have its advantages. Fortunately, I was able to locate the line in the murky water and continue through to the dry chamber where Nick was waiting.

We left most of our gear here and continued with the baby tank along spacious stream passage for a short distance to where we were confronted by an unexpected sump. I dived and surfaced after 20m in a chamber which opened out into very impressive stream passage after several ducks. Passing patches of formation and high banks of mud on either side, I continued for many hundreds of metres. This passage eventually lowered down and after a few more ducks, sumped properly, presumably the final sump before the main Kubla Khan cave. Having used up the last of the line, I started back and was thankful to find Nick still waiting in the initial chamber. Here we donned numerous tanks again and reached daylight after some 3½ hours underground.

Although we didn't complete the full through trip as planned, I think neither of us was particularly disappointed. It is a classic sporting dive and, for myself, very valuable in terms of attaining confidence in oneself, gear and diving companion.

Rolan Eberhard

ICE TUBE: Is it really worth it!?

After many abortive attempts in good weather to return to and push this endless downward system, we made preparations once more. Six of us would supposedly be a good team to carry gear and make a traverse line survey to give an accurate depth in an area of good depth potential. The six, as usual, decreased in number and four of us - Nick Hume, Malcome Handel, Stefan Eberhard and myself, Trevor Wailes - talked each other into the trip in bad weather. The snow line was low and we thought we would see it in close up as Ice Tube is at quite a high elevation. The thought of surveying was eliminated and we put our efforts into carrying gear past Growling Swallet, Pendant, Slaughterhouse and Trapdoor, up the hill to where late patches of snow still remained in the understorey of a rain saturated "rain" forest. The weather was cold, the atmosphere chilling and prospects of caving in this out of the way area even bleaker. It seemed M.H. and N.H. were the driving force of enthusiasm as I was keen to follow the majority and Stefan tried to inform every one about some sort of animal.

My only other experience with Ice Tube was an abortive near fatal "tourist trip" which terminated at the foot of the second pitch (!) as has been reported in S.S. No. 173. One trip since that saw the placing of a bolt and the subsequent descent of a 50m pitch to a large ledge and a further pitch of an estimated 20m by S.E. The estimated depth at this point was 200+m in an active system with dry bypasses N.H. and M.H. were to rig, myself to tourist and S.E. to protect.

This is a brief account of what transpired, as a Trip planned in the near future will certainly break the Australian depth record of 323m (1061ft) and will be reported on in depth!

The entrance is a huge doline with a rock face at the foot of which sinks the active ingredient (water). A steep boulder floored roomy passage leads on to the first

pitch.

Avoiding the water a pendulum is made onto a knife edge wall of rock of 7m and after the tie off a further 16m to a chamber and start of the second wet pitch of 25m. The next waterfall could be rigged as a pitch but a dry bypass traverse leads into some serpentine passage with some awkward climbs especially on the return. A pitch of 9m preceeds a 16m pitch which gave hell on the return, as the rope refused to accept prusik device teeth. Some short climbs in the serpentine rift led to the supurb 25m dry shaft. (The most pleasant pitch in the system so far).

At the foot a large chamber with the stream cascading down from the heavens shrouded in mist and the perpetual darkness. A short climb down to the stream way and a duck under a large boulder leads into a serpentine traverse with the water falling 70m below. Here a small nest of a hollow in the wall was the crux of the previously terminated trips. The bolt had been well placed and Stefan stepped forward to hang this potentially dangerous pendulum rig from a rock flake 7m away out over the void. The change-over under the overhang gave way to a rather unnerving 45m freehanger at the foot of which was the previous limit of exploration.

A further 20m of rope was used to descend to more wet serpentine passage with an awkward climb. A hand line was used into a chamber with the stream running off down another pitch. With nowhere to safely belay to, a bolt was placed and our remaining rope of 50m lowered down into what turned out to be a series of waterfalls formed in a half spiral, a nightmare to protect but fortunately having few serious rub points. This pitch excepting the first 7m is excessively wet and terminates in spray lashed chamber leading to a short climb and a short section of serpentine opening onto an aven with a pitch of an estimated depth of 30 or 40m. This is as far as our limited stocks of gear with us would allow. A bolt will probably be needed to descend this pitch which will be very wet and almost certainly give Ice Tube a new depth record.

Retracing our steps outward went unbelievably smoothly apart from the slipping of jumars and petzels on the 4th pitch and the seemingly unending effort of hauling gear bags up pitch after pitch to the final effort of attaining the surface doline. In this 9 hour trip much was achieved. A strong efficient team prepared to go as far as possible was halted by gear that could not be practically carried by less than four people, over the 1½ hour walk in and back again, following a poor track with failing lights. Fourteen hours from cars back to cars is an achievement and so we won't end the report on a sore note by mentioning anything about a proposed rescue! Thanks anyway to all those who had kept our well being in mind!

Party: Malcome Handel, Stefan Eberhard, Nick Hume and Trevor Wailes.

Trevor Wailes

MOLE CREEK

Eater 1982 - DIVERS: Nick Hume and Stefan Eberhard.

WESTMORLAND CAVE

It was almost embarrassing, not finding treasure at the end of this sump. Particularly with a team of enthusiastic, non diving, helpers, cheering us on. I doubt if our exploratory efforts impressed anyone there, but it was a useful dive, that added to our list of goers for perhaps a more serious effort later.

Westmorland Cave is adjacent to the Westmorland Falls track and takes a large amount of overflow from that creek during periods of high runoff. Debris quite high in the entrance chamber and a massive tree trunk further in, attest to this, though it was quite dry during our visit. It has been linked to Herberts Pot by dye test, hence our interest in possibly connecting the two using scuba technique.

The initial chamber was big, but before long the ceiling tapered to a passageway of awkward height and it took us about half an hour to get tank, etc, to the end of the cave. (Rather like shoplifting a deep frozen pig really) Reaching the sump made up for this inconvenience, somewhat.

Negligible flow meant only the first diver was going to be able to see anything, so I generously volunteered. Taking just a single tank I broke through the surface krud and swam off feeding out the linereel, finding a tight tube that drained the left side of the sump pool. I followed this for thirty metres to the accompanying rattle of my airtank on the roof, before breaking out into a larger passage at a depth of 9 metres. Exploring the extent of this chamber disturbed floor silt similar in appearance to diatomaceous earth, I turned back when visibility eventually became nil having been submerged for several minutes. Compression sounds in the water were interesting, but reveal I don't know what. Lots more water probably!

Not being excessively bright under the conditions I forgot to leave some line, in situ, for Stefan to follow through my muck, later on. This tended to ruin his dive and allowed no further worthwhile exploration, unfortunately. This reinforces the lesson that serious exploratory diving in caves requires exhaustive dive planning and research to maximise results.

Helpers were; Trev (the incinerator) Wailes, Malcome (the mainlander) Handel, Christine Wider, Richard Hortle and Stuart Nicholas, this was an easy warmup for Herberts Pot the following day.

Nick Hume

"RESCUE POT" ----- er, rather "RING HOLE"

Trevor Wailes, Nick Hume

What better way to fill in the day than thrashing about the horizontal, in torrential rain, looking for a cave to survey. The day did not start well, Trevor surfacing with a complexion similar to that of an epileptic pastry cook and mouthing a phrase learnt from Andrew "----- I only had two hours sleep last night ----- two, mind you!"

Then things took a turn for the worse, when the author forgot which dragway to follow off Crisps Road, (doesn't sound like a T.C.C. trip, so far, does it?) this coincided with the onset of heavy rain. Trevor never looked really happy over the next hour, as he followed me through various types of vegetation, around boulders that looked suspiciously like dolorite. Only when hail arrived, did I concede defeat. This ironically set the stage for some quite productive caving.

Trev first suggested following the stream, we had seen previously, to the limestone contact. This led us to a log chock which was making hollow, gurgling noises and breathing heavily (like Trevor earlier) this we eventually cleared to reveal a "squeezy" entrance. I crawled into a low passageway with a boulder choke roof, that was obviously still settling(!) and with Trev's help to clear the more dangerous blocks broke through into a big chamber, that went! Trev quickly followed after my maniacal ravings and we set about exploring some virgin cave, great stuff!

The large initial chamber led to an easy downclimb into tributary passageway. At this point the water disappeared into floor breakdown and though we returned to the stream at a lower level, via a false floored passage, its further course was not navigable. After some pleasant looking about and the odd squeeze, we chanced upon some fossils embeded in the walls which suggested a name for the cave. We then withdrew to a piss up at Trev's mates place.

This, apparently is not the first time "Rescue Pot" has been lost on a T.C.C. trip. For anyone interested our "Ring Hole" is located, second doline on the right (uphill) past Sesame I, you can't miss it, though everyone else had!

Nick Hume

KUBLA KHAN RESURGENCE

Mainlanders had previously defiled this resurgence by diving the 1300 metres of mixed passageway into Kubla itself. Our interest was historical, tinged with idle curiosity and we were ultimately rewarded by the sporting aspects and straightforwardness of diving here.



Kind permission was granted by the owner for us to drive through his farm to within 100 metres of the entrance hole. Portage of gear was thus rendered refreshingly easy along a track cut by a group of local divers back in 1977, now largely overgrown by blackberries. The chore of squirming into wetsuits was hastened by clouds of mosquitoes enjoying us and the good weather.

From the entrance hole there is roughly a 100 metre swim before the first sump. This passageway resembles a cross between "drainage" and the "Adams Family", being uncannily straight with weblike tree roots hanging from the ceiling. A small raft would be the best method of getting gear through this section as I found I was spitting out gravel ingested from my regulator during the dive. None of which had soft centres!

Beyond the sump it was an easygoing dive, at quite shallow depth to nearly the 200 metre mark on my linereel. Here I saw a silvery roof and came up in an airspace, 1-2 metres high and 20 metres or so long, great stuff! Only when I tried to pass beyond this second sump did I find I had lost my weightbelt somewhere in the airspace, without noticing it (taskloading???) I never did relocate it in my own wake of siltation, therefore end of fun and another lesson learnt!!!!

Stefan came up with another quotable quote this day; while creeping into the unknown on the first dive, seeing no trace of ceiling or walls, he thought to himself. "----shit, what the ** am I doing here" before scurrying back to safety. Rich Hortle, couldn't be convinced to "get wet" but provided admirable help.

Group: Nick Hume, Stefan Eberhard, Richard Hortle (non diver)

Nick Hume

KOHINOOR

Though not dived Rich, Stefan and myself had a look at the sump in Kohinoor for future reference. This is worth a return visit, particularly since the entrance is only 200 metres from the road.

Kohinoor is not very long, the sump being found through breakdown on the floor of the second chamber. This sump has a 4" airspace beyond the first duck, then continues down as submerged passageway that looks quite navigable. The water was deliciously clear, but not for long thanks to our poking about.

A through trip was made to Mazes Puzzle before leaving.

Richard Hortle, Stefan Eberhard and Nick Hume

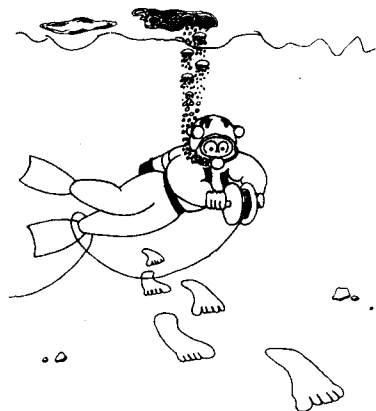
Nick Hume

SUMMARY

Despite the obligatory T.C.C. stuffing about over Easter, a lot of confidence was built up regarding diving, which augurs well for the future. The purchase of a more portable 30 cubic foot cylinder will open the possibilities of exploring even more remote sumps.

Very many thanks to Bob Woolhouse and Compton Allan of N.C.C. for familiarising me with the basic hydrology of the Mole Creek area and sumps that might be of interest. Further liaison regarding surveys and dye tests would be most valuable.

Nick Hume



AND NOW, A MOAN FROM THE QUARTERMASTER

Feel guilty? Not sleeping well at night? Maybe you have some of T.C.C.'s gear under the bed or hidden at the back of the garage, or worse still, floating around unwashed in your car.

I realise it is sometimes difficult to return gear promptly but please bear a thought for those who may wish to get active and go caving the following weekend. At this time there are two or three sub-groups operating initially independably within T.C.C. but all use the same gear - when it is there!!!

In particular the 9m header is missing together with a couple of short S.R.T. ropes.

Stuart Nicholas
QUARTERMASTER

LOST:

One canvas caving pack containing a rescue pulley, a red 7mm prusik loop, two purple tapes, a light green tape, black 2 inch tape and a stubai steel screwgate carabiner. Also missing are two canvas rope protectors (with tie-loops at both ends) and about half-a-dozen red fire-hose protectors (similar to club ones but without a continous length of velcro).

Would the finder or borrower of any or all of these items please contact Stefan Eberhard (Ph. 39 6448). Their return would be appreciated.

Tassie Pot: 15.5.82

Party: Trevor Wailes, Nick Hume, Mike Martyn, Stuart Nicholas

Following the Ice Tube trip of the week before, it was considered desirable to have a training trip prior to the expected record breaking epic planned for May 22. Tassie Pot was the obvious choice being close to the road, basically dry, and having a couple of long pitches in it.

Hence, the above party, with rope, assembled themselves in the Tassie Pot doline at the fairly late hour of 11 o'clock. With rope attached to a trusty fern and accompanied by various bits of wood and clods of mud, all descended the 42m and 27m entrance pitches, the 13m chimney and finally experienced the buzz of the 74m bottom pitch. A fruitless search for the bolt shown on the survey forced us to rig this pitch via a header from the jammed rocks above the "window".

The Morod Passage (?) was its usual loose wet self and the squeeze at the end was grotty enough to almost turn us back.

Originally a survey trip, that idea fell through due to general apathy and the totally uninspiring nature of the "new" section. Pushing downstream revealed mudbanks and small gortty crawls in an obviously once sumpy area with little potential except by a massive digging effort. Upstream was not looked at.

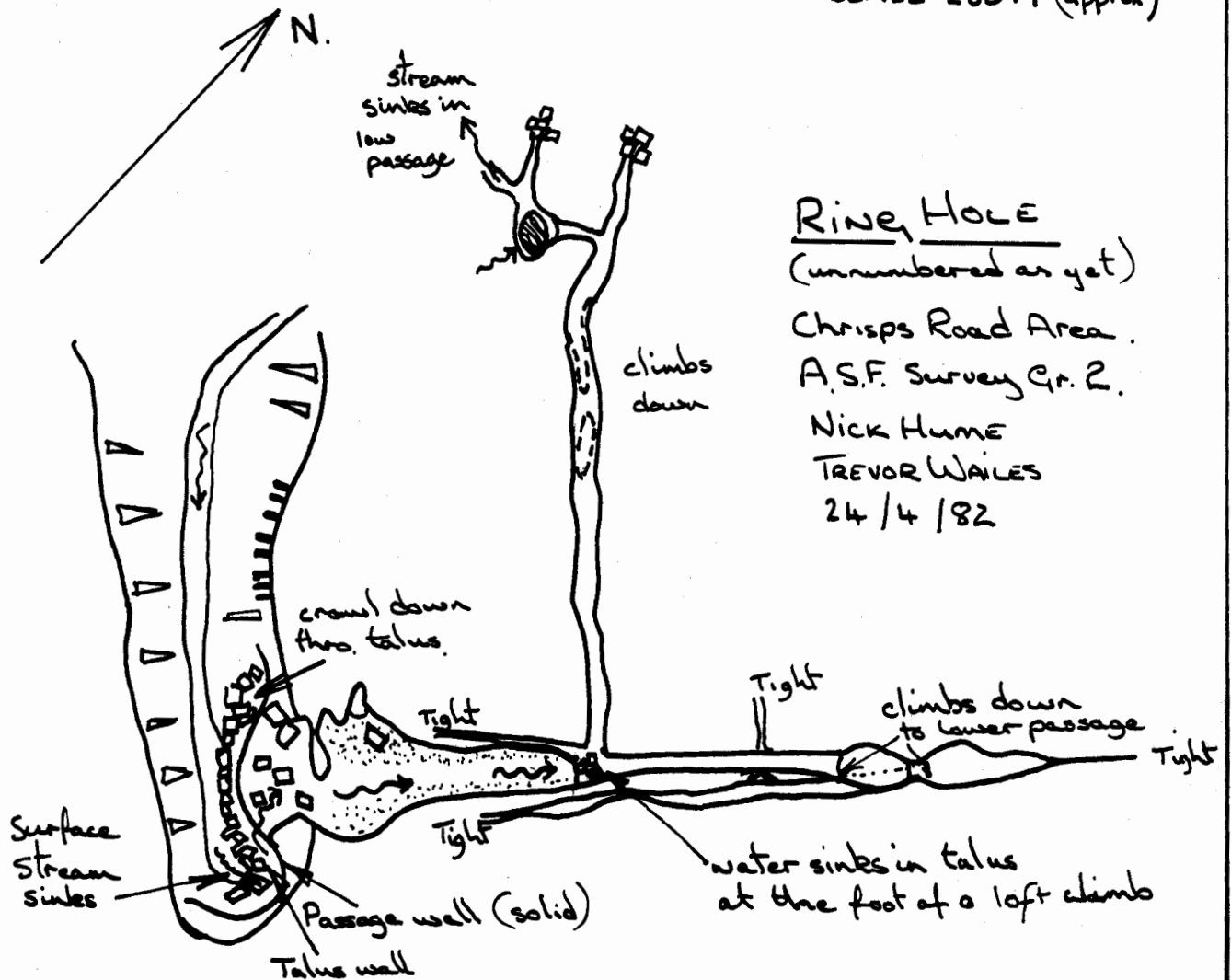
A slow exit was made with everyone out by dark and at the National Park pub for a couple of lemon squashes at a reasonable hour.

The cave certainly needs surveying completely but finding bodies keen to do it could be a problem.

Gear list: 49m rope, 1 protector
35m rope, 1 protector, 1 tape sling
20m rope, 1 protector, 1 header
78m rope, 3 protectors, 2 headers.

Stuart Nicholas.

SCALE 250:1 (approx)



STOP PRESS: Ice Tube has been bottomed at 345m.

***** SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE. *****

Are you a financial member of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club?
The following people are financial:

Chris Davies
Diana Davies
Therese Greenhill and Mike March
Stuart Nicholas
Andrew Briggs and Jeanine Davies
Peter Watts
Nick Hume
Ross Chapman
Trevor Wailes
Mike Martyn
Bill Nicholson
Peter Hutchinson
Paul McGlone
Albert Goede
Rik Tunney and Janine McKinnon
Richard Hortle

Spiel Subscribers

Lloyd Robinson
Dave Martin
Mark Mather (part payment)

You too can appear in this list by sending \$10.00 for full membership or \$15.00 for family membership to our mailing address which is:

P.O. Box 416,
SANDY BAY 7005

or bring your money along to a meeting!

GOOD NEWS FOR MAINLAND TROGS.

Been following the epic push of Ice Tube? Why not have your very own Speleo Spiel posted to you? Send us a cheque for just \$5.00 and you will be added to our mailing list.

A Reminder to Life Members

Life members of TCC are not automatically members of ASF. Life members requiring ASF membership (and newsletter) should pay the ASF capitation fee of \$3.50.

Changed your address?

Let us know. The addressing system is now computerized, all we need is the right data.