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Trips which will probably occur during the next month or so include Growling Swallet, Khazad-dum-Dwarrowdelf through trip, Serendipity (again) and JF341 as well as some bush bashing looking for new pots. If you have an idea for a trip, say something.

- * A recent short visit by French caver, Jean-Paul Sounier, may help to put us on the world caving map. Jean-Paul, who has done such notables as Jean-Bernard (the world's deepest known) and PSM, was very impressed by our scene here which, although comparatively small-time, certainly provided him with plenty of sport.
- * Ex-caver turned climber/mountaineer and ultra marathon canoeist Paul Caffyn will shortly finish his solo circumnavigation of the

Australian mainland by canoe. The trip will have taken almost exactly a year and follows similar trips around New Zealand and last year Great Britain.

- * For those interested in going up instead of down, Geoff Wayatt has sent a catalogue and price list of alpine climbing equipment, clothing and other bits and pieces. Geoff runs a mountaineering school from Wanaka in New Zealand, but is originally from Hobart. A lot of the gear he sells is made by him, field tested on his courses and expeditions and hence is proven both in durability and usefulness. See Stuart if you are interested in this sort of gear.
- * Nick Hume, Rolan Eberhard and Stefan Eberhard are off to NZ at Christmas to participate in the Nettlebed expedition, do Greenlink, Harwood's Hole and a few other classics, spend some time climbing and generally bum around. Rolan even plans to visit Fiji!
- * The large number of hard trips this year is taking its toll on gear, especially ropes. More will have to be acquired from somewhere if not from the American PNG expedition as originally thought. Should the club encourage private ownership with, for instance, a 25% subsidy or perhaps private ownership with no subsidy or total club ownership? What do you think? If you do think, say something! Another variable is the brand (type of rope - think again)! Still on ropes, we have a catalogue of French BEAL rope and tape including their caving range.
- * Our survey gear has suffered somewhat too during the year and needs replacing. Any ideas on a cheap source and/or sales tax exemption?

THE SAGA OF THE "BONE PIT"

It all began one slack photographic trip when Jeanine Davies squeezed through a seemingly impossible hole at the base of the bottom pitch in the cave. After pushing, climbing and squeezing through more talus she eventually arrived at a small hole in the side of an aven with a small stream trickling down it. Unable to get any further it was left amid great excitement, for there was a possibility of extending the Bone Pit and with a depth potential of 300-350 metres it looked promising.

Return trips were planned and the first of these took place several weeks later. This time Jeanine and I both squeezed through and arrived in the aven with the stream shortly after. We descended about 10 metres to where the trickle of water disappeared through talus. Several boulders were moved to reveal a narrow slot along which the water flowed and out of which a promising draught issued.

The next two months saw several trips to the Bone Pit each one with the purpose of clearing the talus so that a body could be forced along it. John Salt and Chris Davies both assisted me doing this menial task. However, to no avail as the rift proved to be too small and we have again left the cave in peace. However, the discovery is significant because the cave has much depth potential and it has been known for so long. Although it has not been surveyed as yet, I guess we have deepened the Bone Pit by at least 15-20 metres.

ANDREW BIRGGS

GROWLING SWALLET - 23 October 1982

Party: Nick Hume, Trevor Wailes, Rolan & Stefan Eberhard

This trip was a follow-up to the small epic of the week before, mainly to pull out the ladders left behind and to look at some more leads in the Black River Series.

Numerous other bods were present at various stages, namely Stuart Nicholas, Rick Koch, Mike & Chris Edwards, Andrew Briggs, Jeanine Davies, Rik Tunney and Janine McKinnon.

Initially we verified the connection between Tangerine Corner and an aven extending to a known level above (Destiny). Before continuing on into the Black River Series, Nick and I checked out a high level lead which went for 140 metres through pleasant walking passage to a very tight slot. Some work with a hammer may make this hole, and the promising draught it contains, accessible. Near the junction with the main streamway we surveyed up a small tributary but were soon stopped by an upstream sump. After more grovelling around we finally started up the main streamway. Part-way up, Nick dived into a small side passage issuing a stream. Finally returning he reported at least 300 metres of new passage terminating in a large, impressive aven.

Rolan and Trevor started back but Nick and I continued up the main stream and entered new territory. We climbed steeply up through talus to where the stream began bifurcating into several separate feeders.

We explored a few of them, grovelling up through more loose dolomite boulders and talus collapse. There was some nice decoration in one section. One passage was much more extensive than the others and we left with more leads than we started with. This extreme end of the cave is a promising area, not only in terms of producing a lot more passage but also in view of linking to the potholes above. It is only a matter of time before Growling Swallet exceeds Herberts Pot (5730 metres) in length.

STEFAN EBERHARD

CAULDRON POT - 20 November 1982

Party: Andrew Briggs, Chris Davies, Stuart Nicholas, Rik Tunney, Janine McKinnon

This was intended to be a purely sporting trip and so we were quite pleased to see that the water level in the stream was much higher than usual on our arrival at the entrance.

Stuart was the only member of the party who had done the cave before, so he started down the pitch first at about 11.00 am.

I thought it was a beautiful entrance doline, but Bill's Bypass came as a bit of an anti-climax, following straight on.

We all made our way down individually, and arriving again at the streamway I found the next pitch/handline already rigged with Stuart down and Chris descending.

The stream was flowing quite enthusiastically, (which I always feel gives it a sense of life and vibrancy) without being so high as to

make the trip at all difficult, just wet!

The next couple of pitches Stuart and Chris rigged ahead (with Rik protecting at the back) so we all moved through easily, with little delay at the top of the pitches, and regrouped at the top of the last pitch in the small "brew chamber".

As the stream was quite high, it was decided to rig this 35 metre pitch using the bolt traverse, rather than run straight down from the belay point through the waterfall. This took quite a while to rig and descend, but was certainly worth the trouble on the way up.

It also gave me an opportunity to learn how to do a traverse as I'd never done one before. (If I'd known there was one in there I would have practiced a bit first so as not to have taken so long about it!).

After lunch, and some poking around, Stuart and Andrew started out first, and Chris and I derigged the bottom couple of pitches before catching up with Rik. Unfortunately Chris's light gave out up the bottom pitch, so his trip out was not very illuminating.

Andrew and Stuart made their way up the Bypass together, and Rik, Chris and I followed, helped each other with packs, giving poor Chris some light, and generally keeping morale up through the long struggle.

Stuart and Andrew had waited for us at the bottom of the entrance pitch, so some time was taken in getting us all up, and derigging.

We were back at the car sometime around 7.00 pm after a very enjoyable day.

We'd been in no great hurry and had just wanted some enjoyable caving, and so a party that wanted to hurry could easily cut a couple of hours off the trip.

JANINE McKINNON

A NOTE FROM THE TRAVERSE PITCH RIGGER

Some kindly person from another trip had left a small red sling in the hanger on the second bolt to enable it to be seen easily. The first bolt and hanger was cleverly disguised by rust which made locating it on the brown mottled rock somewhat difficult, to say the least. Hence the time involved rigging the bottom pitch. The first bolt is now marked with a small white cord through the hanger.

CAULDRON POT - GEAR LIST

Following the recent trip to this esteemed pothole, an update on the gear list originally produced by Peter Shaw in April 1973 is given below.

1) ENTRANCE PITCH (41 metres)

Belay on tree on eastern side of hole near number, or more usually, belay to long log on eastern side of entrance; 50 metre main rope with 18 metre short rope for tail. Two protectors 8 metres down and one more just below that. The rest is free.

- 2) DROP FROM BILL'S BYPASS (8 metres + 2 metres + 4 metres)
Belay from eyebolt at top of drop on left side; 20 metre rope (minimum but adequate) with a possible protector on top edge.
- 3) CHUTE PITCH (15 metres)
Belay from eyebolt at top of drop; 20 metre rope with two protectors, one on initial edge and the other five metres down at the end of the chute. Wet pitch against smooth slippery rock.
- 4) ELEVEN METRE PITCH (11 metres)
Belay from rock bolt and hanger (in place) on right side one metre out from edge of head-height. Bolt and hanger was installed by Dave Barlow (SSS) in December 1980; 15 metre rope, no protectors. Wet pitch against the wall.
- 5) DIAGONAL PITCH (14 metres)
Belay from eyebolt two metres back from edge low down on left side; 20 metre rope with two protectors. Hang rope over knob on left side (looking out) and follow ledges down to avoid the water. Protector at top (not essential) and one 9 metres down where rope free hangs.
- 6) FOUR METRE CASCADE
Belay to dubious boulder at the top on left side; 8 metre rope mainly as a handline. Refuge from the water in this area may be found by climbing two metres to the right of the Diagonal Pitch into a 3 metre diameter cylindrical chamber.
- 7) BOLT TRAVERSE PITCH (35 metres)
A superb spectacular pitch next to the waterfall into the final chamber. Thirty eight metre rope. Belay from eyebolt on right side of head of pitch. Abseil or down-prusik a few metres on the same side and tie off to rock bolt and hanger (installed) a couple of metres across the wall and at about the same height as the main pitch lip. Repeat procedure for second bolt lower down and almost in the corner. This one has a small red tape through the hanger for ease of identification. Once again the hanger was placed by Dave Barlow in 1980. Good protection (3 protectors) is required a few metres down of overhang lip, remaining 30 metres is free and next to the waterfall.
- 8) AU CHEVAL PITCH (up 5 metres, down 15 metres)
This is described by Peter Shaw (Speleo Spiel #78:5) as follows:

"Locating the passage is difficult if you don't know where it is - about halfway down the chamber in the left hand wall. The passage is a narrow slit five metres up from the floor. Coil half of a twenty metre rope and toss the coils into the passage to jam it in the side of the passage. Prusik up carefully!! Belay a 30 metre rope to a block of talus in the main chamber and pass it up over the lip and down the other side. A tackle bag is necessary on the lip. The lip of the passage is a knife edge with the five metre drop into the main chamber on one side and the fifteen metre drop on the other. All the rock in the vicinity is friable, no bolts could be placed."

STUART NICHOLAS

Seen in a not so recent cave mag:-

Further upstream, along the main streamway, and on the same side as the upstream sidestream, is a dry abandoned sidestream passage of similar dimensions!!!

GROWLING SWALLET - 20 November 1982

Party: Rolan Eberhard, Trevor Wailes, Duncan Holland, Jean-Paul Sounier, Derek Sheilds, Mary.

The initial intention was to continue surveying upstream in the Black River Series, however, as is known to happen, various factors caused a change of plan. In this case Growling was pumping furiously and most people were more or less soaked before even out of sight of daylight in the entrance. It became obvious that there was little point in trying to do anything serious in the cave so Trevor, Derek and Mary opted to resurvey between the Growling Swallet entrance Slaughterhouse Pot and Trapdoor Swallet in order to clear up some question marks as to their relationship in the system.

Jean-Paul, Duncan and myself continued down, rigging the 3 metre drop in the not so dry bypass from a large hexagonal chock placed in the obvious corner above the drop. This involves a short tricky traverse on rotten rock but is clear of the torrent of water. We had a very sporty trip to the sump, which had risen and was now situated at the base of the final 5 metre waterfall, at a depth of around -140 metres (in normal conditions the cave sumps at -155 metres). Foam levels on the ceiling indicated that the water had very recently backed up to well above the key-hole climb and the last waterfall. On the way back to the surface Jean-Paul took a number of photographs and I looked at some leads near the Gloworm chamber, which revealed a small maze of passages at a level above but also connected in various places with the main stream passage.

The last few metres up the talus in the entrance confirmed our suspicions that the water had risen even more. The usual route up over some large blocks was insurmountable due to the sheer force of water thundering into the entrance. Jean-Paul climbed up the side with aid from a pair of shoulders and hung a ladder down. Thus we made our exit and for once none of us showed even the slightest hint of mud.

ROLAN EBERHARD

SERENDIPITY REVISITED - 27 November 1982

Serendipity is one of those trips which seems to play on the mind. Thoughts return of a long hard wet trip in which a party of five finally attained the "bottom" (see SS 171 Oct 81). It's over a year ago now and with the advent of Ice Tube and the apparent importance of Growling Swallet, underground surveys have been tied in with surface surveys and a picture of the area is revealing itself. The missing link of this area is, or was, Serendipity although the entrance had been tied in along with the higher and more distant Benson-Hedges Pots, Pitta Patta Pot and the closer Frost Pot. Lots of talk in the past few months had suggested the importance of the underground survey to provide more information as to the lie of the "underland".

As reported by SE the system was not 'finished' as the main stream passage below the last pitch "Phobos", which only he had visited, was still going but damp.

These were our objectives then to survey and push the system in this second bottoming trip. Of the original ten to twelve strong party, five turned into well wishers and left us with a still competent party of seven! The McTunnies and Chris Davies were to survey from the entrance as far as possible and either meet up with us or leave a marker at their furthest station. Our group of John Salt, Jean-Paul Sournier (a visiting French caver), Rolan Eberhard and myself Trevor Wailes, were to rig the system to the bottom, explore and survey back until the two groups met or a marker was encountered.

The constricted entrance series had changed a little but a route through was negotiated and a wet climb down encountered - either I'd forgotten this or it was a new development. However to cut a lengthy story short read Speleo Spiel 171 October 1981 for a full, accurate, lengthy account. It was noted that Cathedral pitch sported a small stream and parts of Castigate Crawl now carried water where both on the previous trip were totally dry. Rigging went smoothly and Jean-Paul placed a bolt on the Deluge pitch to ensure a drier passage. Within about 3 hours we reached the base of Phobos and walked a short way down a dry fossil passage away from the spray of the waterfall. John Salt without waterproofs complained of the cold and decided to wait for us and have a brew up and dehyd. meal. Jean-Paul, Rolan and I went to have a look at Stef's going lead, the Conduit Crawl. It was wet with a five metre climb under atrocious conditions into Serpentine rift, narrow and in parts more accessible at stream level. The going lead was found and looked at but Rolan thought I was the man for the job and I thought maybe our visitor Jean-Paul would like some masochistic glory. The roof had lowered and all the signs of sump were there. The 25 cm high crawl in the stream looked decidedly uninviting and is still waiting for someone keen. After all the "if you go first I'll follow you" discussions were over we set to and commenced surveying. It took about 30 minutes to return to the wet climb up into Conduit Crawl. From this short section two leads were uncovered, one just back from the sump (!) which Rolan looked at (?) and the other was a continuation of the rift beneath and under the wet climb. This passage was upstream fossil passage that I did not follow to any conclusion (still going, unsurveyed).

Finally this section was completed and shouting above the noise of the waterfall we retreated back to where John was waiting. We found him still cold but well fed and wrapped in a space blanket. He agreed to remain there while we followed the original downstream fossil watercourse. Rolan and Nick Hume on the previous trip had looked at this and followed the passage past formations (limited but large) to a stream junction. To the right downstream large passage led on but here we turned upstream and soon passed the limit of Rolan and Nick's exploration. The passage here was narrower serpentine rift which extended over 300 metres to a short, stepped, calcited aven. Thinking (and hoping!) this was it, the end, Jean-Paul climbed a couple of steps and disappeared down a well concealed hole. Rolan and I followed to find a totally separate stream system!! All this was far too good to be true - nothing seemed to stop us. Rolan headed downstream after the short down climb, Jean-Paul upstream while I constructed a cairn to mark the climb out then quickly followed upstream. It seemed a long way in more aggressive serpentine rift until I got to the point



of deciding to wait for Jean-Paul's return. After about 10 minutes I went to look for Rolan whom I found coming upstream having missed the cairn; we returned to the climb and shared a cigarette waiting for Jean-Paul. He arrived at length and related how the passage had opened out into large fossil passage with a boulder pile he had climbed a little way up but thought better of it. Rolan had followed the stream down to a sump (?) very similar in appearance to the one we had surveyed from earlier.

Time was now pressing and we had much surveying to do and the decision was made to survey out from the point below the waterfall back at Phobos, to tie in with the other group. We would leave all we had found, perhaps one kilometre for another day. On the return to where John was we looked at the down stream sump and one or two other leads were noted but not pushed.



DIDN'T REALISE THERE WERE
SO MANY OF US DOWN THE
"CHAIRMAN" YESTERDAY!

Time had really flown by and in our excitement ignored, but now we were going to have to move very quickly. John Salt was given the extra rope and told to head for the surface, Jean-Paul refilled his carbide and then made a restart to surveying. Everything went wrong - our worn out tape refused to feed and the survey looked doomed but after the initial panic of being starving, cold and tired we regained some composure and methodically plotted our way to the first short pitch out. Here we caught up with John struggling with his prusik rig!!!! I thought Rolan

would start throwing rocks but we all knew we were on our way out and it was only a matter of time!!

Phobos was rigged with two ropes tied off in three places so the 65+ metre pitch usually had 3 people on it which saved a lot of time. John ascended and kept going and we continued to survey somewhat unwillingly. It was with great delight and gratitude that we found the last survey station of the other party only two stations from the top of Phobos. It was over, we packed away the instruments and chased after John. The derigging went smoothly and John was caught at Deimas. Here at the top he rested. Jean-Paul with gear went straight out, I assisted Rolan pulling up the tackle and John looked quite beat. He had pulled up a heavy tackle bag from the bottom and had done well, but fatigue and the cold had reduced both his strength and will. It was obvious he was not capable of dragging the heavy pack any further. Rolan's pack was full and mine only three quarters full but the Deimas pitch would fill another pack and the Cathedral pitch would also be extra. John was sent unencumbered for the surface while Rolan and I pulled up the rope. As Rolan and I could not and would not transport four heavy wet rope packs to the Cathedral pitch through Castigate Crawl, there they remained! Also, unfortunately, our survey notes and SCS's survey instruments (oops! sorry about that Jacko!).

My lamp was fading so to conserve light Rolan and I had a slow return to the base of Cathedral pitch with only his. John was encountered prostrate "resting" but exposure was taking hold of him and lethargy setting in. He was coaxed, cajoled and conned into going up the pitch first so he could give me light at the top. It took a while but he got there and as I ascended in the dark the flowstone curtains perhaps 20 metres high looked superb in the half light of Rolan's

lamp. This was virtually the final act of our disinternment, the only other expenditure of effort and discomfort being the wet climb into the talus breakdown of the entrance series. There was no ceremony or fanfare, not even a small fire as we emerged through the entrance squeeze into the cold night air after almost fourteen hours, and without heavy packs it was a relatively pleasant walk back to the cars and a welcome commandeered bottle of beer!!

1st survey group: Janine McKinnon, Rik Tunney, Chris Davies

2nd survey and John Salt, Jean-Paul Sournier, Rolan Eberhard,
rigging group: Trevor Wailes

TREVOR WAILES

This article is reproduced from the New Zealand Speleological Bulletin # 108 and although we do not have showers in our huts, nor many of us eat porridge, the character depicted is only too familiar!

HUT DISEASE

Hut Disease is a rather curious but little documented affliction. It manifests itself when a caver, out for a weekend with friends, goes to considerable lengths to avoid going caving. Unfortunately it is all too common - indeed it is often embarrassingly 'close to home' as it strikes most cavers at some time or another.

The onset of Hut Disease is rarely predictable as there are few early warning symptoms. Nevertheless, to the shrewd observer, one such may be observed prior to retiring for the night. A possible victim is indicated if the setting of an alarm clock causes him (or her) undue distress. This is because the affliction is generally characterised by lethargy. It becomes particularly evident when, after the victim is first awoken the following morning he is still seen to be prone after the rest of the party is up and about. If further attempts to rouse him are met with verbal violence and phrases like 'go away' (or words to that affect) then the diagnosis of Hut Disease is certain. By sleeping in, of course, the victim expects to be excused from caving for the day.

As an innovation it may be noticed that after a short time the victim gets up of his own accord. This is the insidiousness of Hut Disease as he may then be assumed to be 'cured' by the party leader who is therefore put off his guard. However, this is the stage at which the affliction may take on one of its rarer but nonetheless unmistakable forms. For instance the victim may be seen to be taking an inordinately long time over his breakfast. Now it is acknowledged that the cooking of porridge is a fairly specialised art requiring considerable attention to detail - especially if it is to be made to the right consistency and without lumps. However, the victim takes full advantage of this and whilst the rest of the party is ready to head off for their cave he is still assiduously preparing porridge 'as it should be prepared'.

There are many variations to the above theme but they all result in the victim eventually declaring in a tone of great personal sacrifice 'oh well, you chaps better go on without me'.

It is not known what induces the onset of Hut Disease but it is

generally agreed that the cause lies deep within the personality of the victim. It is suspected that a temporary over active instinct of self preservation may be involved. However, whatever the cause the disease is known to be highly contagious. The victim must be isolated from other members of the party lest they too fall prey to its debilitating affects. Instances are known where a whole party so affected has indulged in what is euphemistically called a 'rest day'.

Prevention is better than the cure and an astute party leader can in some cases pre-empt the onset of Hut Disease by handing out cups of tea first thing in the morning. In this way if bribery doesn't succeed, then Nature may well force the likely victim to get up.

If the above technique fails, every endeavour should still be made to revive the victim from his lethargy. This is for his sake as well as for the rest of the party. Should he be left to recuperate in his own time then he will suffer as an after affect both grief and remorse at having been confined to the hut, or worse still his bed for most of the morning if not for the whole day.

Gentle persuasion is rarely successful in rousing the stricken individual. Indeed he is likely to regard this as a sign of weakness and may even become more comatose. A firm approach is essential. With the mildly afflicted a few stern words of reproach will often suffice. In severe cases there is but one cure and although rather drastic is known to be 100% effective. Take the victim, by force if necessary and stand him under a cold shower. On no account should you be deterred from this course of action by his cries of anguish. After five minutes the cure is complete.

A word of caution. After the treatment the patient may be seen to be somewhat sullen and resentful. This is but a temporary condition and he will soon be ready to take his place with the party.

C D MOORE



"QUICK, THEY DIE IF THEY'RE NOT
PUT THE RIGHT WAY UP!"