

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

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FORWARD PROGRAMME

Meeting dates are as follows:

Social/general meetings	Wednesday April 6
	Wednesday May 4
	Wednesday June 1
	Wednesday July 6
Committee meetings	Wednesday April 20
	Wednesday May 18
	Wednesday June 15
	Wednesday July 20

All these meetings are at 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, and theoretically start at around 8.00 pm.

Most Thursday nights from about 8.30 pm there is a very informal gathering at Winston Churchills Bar and Bistro in Liverpool Street (in the Bistro Bar around the corner). Trips for the weekend are usually planned over a couple of orange juices at this venue.

Growling Swallet is the centre of activity at the moment and many more trips can be expected into this rapidly growing system.

On April 30 there is a Search and Rescue Exercise to be held in Cauldron Pot and/or KD. See Stuart for details.

During May, Julia James et al will be down here from Sydney to do "all the deepies and some of the pretties".

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EDITORIAL

By the time this edition is in your hot little hands, the result of the Mt Anne trip will be known. If the Australian Cave Depth Record is broken it will cap off one of the most active and productive periods the Club has known.

Unfortunately this particular cave, Anne-a-Kananda, was the subject of a pirating attempt by another club. It is both unethical and

"SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE"

downright rude to sneak in and attempt to beat a club to a record they are working on. Obviously, potential records provide great incentive but when one club is working in a particular cave, it is not usual to attempt exploration in that cave without permission from the original club.

STUART NICHOLAS

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TCC SUBSCRIPTION FEES - NOW DUE!

Inflation being an all pervading monster, it has become necessary to raise our fees for 1982-83. ASF have increased their capitation fee from \$3.50 to \$5.50 (the first increase in 6 years and of 60% barely in line with inflation), and for this year only an extra \$1.00 levy to pay for the Franklin River campaign.

Hence, our direct costs have increased by \$3.00 and after indirect costs (mainly Speleo Spiel) have forced the Committee to raise our full membership by 50%.

The following fee structure will apply for the next financial year (April 1 1982 to March 31 1983):

Full member	\$15.00)	Includes ASF subscription
Family member	20.00)	" " "
Junior member (under 18)	7.00)	Does not include ASF
Speleo Spiel sub	7.00)	subscription
Students, pensioners	7.00)	

ASF INFORMATION

. Incorporation

The ASF is currently in the process of becoming incorporated and it should be finalised by August this year if all goes well. In order to facilitate this it is necessary that all member societies amend their constitution to provide for the election of a "Councillor of the Australian Speleological Federation". This is most simply achieved by including that officer in those elected at the AGM. It is NOT necessary that the Councillor be a separate person from any other elected officers, but it should be someone who is prepared to make an effort to attend ASF Council Meetings to represent the Society's interests.

. Speleo Handbook II

Peter Matthews' mind boggling task is apparently nearing its end and the compendium of Australian caves and caving should be available at the end of this year.

. ASF Council Meetings

It has become necessary for the ASF to include in its constitution a section providing for the suspension of membership of any club not represented by either its Councillor or a proxy for two successive meetings. This provision became necessary because of the increasing problem of a quorum, especially in non-Conference years.

"SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE"

### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- . Congratulations to Peter and Yvonne Shaw on the birth of their second child, a boy, named Michael, who first saw the light of day during mid March. He is a brother for their first child Kate.
  - . By the time you read this, the AGM will have come and gone and no doubt the results of the elections will be well known. However, a list of who's who will appear next month (later this month!).
- Don't forget, all subscriptions are now due and should be payed promptly if your membership of this prestigious organisation is to continue.
- . Unfortunately (again) last month's Spiel was late and hence no-one knew of the ASMF Wilderness Medicine Workshop at Waddamana. Once again, it was a great (and cheap!) weekend enjoyed by all. It has become an annual event and so make sure you keep it in mind for next March.

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### VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SPELEOLOGY

During April, Mr Russell Gurnee and his wife Jeanne will be visiting Australia specifically for the ASF 5th Cave Management Conference at Lakes Entrance. They are authorities on tourist caves, having developed two in Barbados and Puerto Rico, and having written several books about American tourist caves. Russell is also Chairman of the IUS Commission on Tourist Caves, as well as Vice President of the IUS.

Prior to and following the Conference they will be visiting various caves and caving areas in NSW, Victoria, SA and Tasmania, with particular emphasis on those involving tourism development. While in Tasmania, Exit, Kubla Khan and possibly a flight over the Franklin is on their itinerary. As well as this, the Gurnees will be able to give a very worthwhile slide talk which will be arranged to coincide with one of our meetings if possible. Stay tuned for dates, time and venue.

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### CAVE NUMBERING - JUNE FLORENTINE

The following caves were numbered on Saturday 19 March 1983:

- JF-345: ICE TUBE. This cave appears to have three entrances. The number was fixed at the side of the entrance at the base of the cliff where the stream sinks. The other two entrances were not numbered.
- JF-343: SLAUGHTERHOUSE POT. Two entrances were found in a 6 metre high cliff on the edge of an elongated doline. The one numbered was the larger and lower one of the two - approx 1.5 metre wide and up to 1 metre high. The number was placed on the right wall just inside the entrance. The smaller entrance was left un-numbered. It is approx  $\frac{1}{2}$  metre in diameter and is 3 metres to the left of the larger entrance. It is about 1.5 metres higher up in the cliff.

JF-344: SERENDIPITY. The number was placed on the right wall of the small stream entrance.

JF-346: Un-named dry cave a short distance down valley from Serendipity. It is a steeply sloping rift - clearly an old stream sink of the Serendipity stream. At the roofline the entrance is approximately 3 metres wide and 5 metres high but narrows rapidly downwards. The number was placed low on the right hand wall.

ALBERT GOEDE

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#### GROWLING: THE NEW BIT BEYOND THE OLD BIT

In November 1981 the section of Growling Swallet now presumed to be the Trapdoor Swallet stream was first explored. Excited cavers descended a short ladder pitch into a new stream passage totally separate from the single main passage known previously in the system.

One of the avens found appeared climbable and considering the fact that the series contained a strong draught, it was obviously a very promising lead. As things happened, a lot was still to be found in other areas and Destiny, a dry upper level, eventually gave access to a third separate stream in the cave, the Black River. Thus, it was not until the 20 February this year that Trevor Wailes, Stuart Nicholas and I returned to find the new bit beyond the old bit that used to be the new bit.

On arriving at the base of the aven our suspicions that a climb was feasible were confirmed. The aven itself soars vertically up into the misty obscure, but on one side a crack and a flawstone wall appear to originate in a rift entering the side of the shaft. The first 7 metres were free-climbable to a muddy ledge where the true climb begins. Hence, I placed a bolt as a secure anchor point for Trevor to belay from. The climb itself was not difficult but muddy and exposed with poor protection. Trevor and Stuart had started to complain of cold and boredom, and it was a relief when only some 10 metres above the belay point I reached a comfortable ledge with a high walk-in passage leading off.

After a short rest I went to check out what was to be found. The passage was in good solid rock and led immediately to the base of a large aven from where several passages led off. I took the largest which appeared to be a dry stream passage, although pools of water and pieces of dead wood indicated it carried a reasonable stream at times. Without reaching the end I returned to the top of the climb and rigged a rope for the others to prusik up. We spent the next hour wandering around the maze of horizontal tunnels which seem to originate from a couple of large avens. Numerous side passages led off and in places route finding on the way back was confusing. The lowest point we reached was choked with sand, and our hopes of finding a way back down to the main stream passage were not realised. We left after exploring perhaps a kilometre of new cave, and confident that more is yet to be found with the draught still present in a number of places.

ROLAND EBERHARD

(Eds. Note: Two weeks after this trip, Stefan Eberhard, John McCormack (a visitor from Adelaide) and Stuart Nicholas, found more significant passage beyond the series described above! More about that later.)

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NOTES ON SERENDIPITY

Serendipity was first bottomed in September 1981 at an estimated depth of -250 metres. This has proved to be a conservative estimate with a survey in November 1982 revealing a figure of -275.5 metres, making it currently the third deepest cave in Australia and second deepest at the time it was descended. It is well behind Ice Tube at -345 metres and Khazad-dum at -323 metres, but comfortably ahead of Cauldron Pot at -263 metres. The surveyed length is 850 metres, although approximately 1 kilometre of new horizontal passage was explored on the last trip, and is yet to be surveyed. The survey will be published in a future issue of this magazine.

Below is given the surveyed pitch lengths (extra rope should be allowed for rigging), and a few notes on how the cave has been rigged on past trips. For a full description of the cave and its exploration, see Speleo Spiel Nos 171 and 182, and ASF Newsletter No 95.

PITCH 1 CATHEDRAL 31 m

Either belay with short tapes from a couple of stalactites above the pitch (1 protector), or use a large boulder several metres before the pitch (2 protectors).

PITCH 2 DEIMOS 36 m

To rig this pitch free of the main force of water, a 7 m traverse out to a small ledge is necessary. Here the main rope can be belayed from a large block, with one very important protector needed at the lip. A handline is advisable on the traverse.

PITCH 3 4 M CASCADE

About 10 metres of rope is necessary, rigged from a chock-stone or jughandle above the cascade. No protectors.

PITCH 4 DELUGE 20 m

Belay to bolt (hanger and 8 mm bolt required?) reached by traversing out above the drop. Abseil to ledge where a protector is needed, although a rebelay would be preferable. Another bolt at the top of the pitch would be desirable.

PITCH 5 PHOBOS 44 m

(1) From a small talus chamber overlooking the pitch belay from one or more large blocks. The rope is hung through a small window and a 23 metre abseil to a ledge follows. 3/4 protectors.

(2) Rebelay around a large rock and a 17 metre abseil lands one in a talus floored chamber. Continue abseiling a further 4 metres into a tributary stream, 1 protector.

PITCH 6 7 m

A short drop requiring one protector and a short trace or sling.

ROLAN EBERHARD

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"SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE"

The following article/dissertation/exposition may be taken as an autobiographical comment on the author, or Pink Floyd's "The Wall" (as pertaining to underground activities), or just a "rewarding exercise for the author during this period of nicotine withdrawal"!

Read on ..... normal programmes will resume after this break .....

"NAMES CAVERS PROCRASTINATE ABOUT" - a caving profile (?!)

Over the last year or so there has been a big upsurge in local caving activity, you know the sort of thing, diving, international expeditions, mysterious disappearances into the "horizontal", even a bit of surveying. Well the author feels that now is the time to attempt a rationale of the caving psyche and method, this should be valuable to the more experienced "potholer" as well as the rank novice, and will certainly be a rewarding exercise for the author during this period of nicotine withdrawal and bad weather at Mt Cook Village.

Contrary to precedent, being a "nurd" is not an essential personal quality of cavers, but experience has shown it enhances the likelihood of their continuing interest in the sport/photographic trip. The entrance exam for membership to TCC has traditionally consisted of the highly selective rockfall initiation test, due to be revised shortly! It's very rare to catch anybody not smoking while caving, I recommend OP's, and while many people would question the ethics of the whole issue, chainsmoking has been fundamental to several modern epics. Rolling "a number" has become fashionable on recent expeditions, however, I don't subscribe to any form of gambling myself.

Equipment requirements - an SRT rig must be at least 90% inefficient and preferably untested prior to use; linking of the major components of this rig should be made with ancient materials prone to failure (see the President, Trevor Wailes, for more details), also he may be able to lend you a pair of bootlaces. Other equipment details have been well documented elsewhere, refer particularly to Mammeries, "Vertical Caving Minus The Rope". The "Spiel" editor swears by this text.

The most important single thing to remember on caving trips is to never actually say anything. Verbal communication mirrors the inner mind and a couple of recent exceptions to the above rule have only served to emphasise the unflattering nature of this habit. Standing around for indeterminate periods, arms folded, not suggesting anything is "de rigueur". Dramatic pouting and distributing weight to each foot alternately, are permitted gestures, while "ayees" and the humming of "Telstar" have been described on deep penetrations.

Now to the actual process of exploratory caving, if anything "goes", immediately render your companion unconscious with a handy rock, and charge off exploring all the new passage yourself. However, leave any grotty, impossible looking leads for your mate when he catches up and assist him in locating these by building "cairns" of cigarette butts. In the unlucky event of your being rendered unconscious by your mate on a caving trip, lie to everyone later by saying that you were the one that really did all the exploration. In cases where you are totally absent from a trip (typically due to the selective dissemination of trip details through the TCC hierarchy!), lie to everyone later that you had already been up that lead on a previous trip and/or checking that lead was originally your idea anyway.

"SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE"

Surveying has always been regarded as one of the most dangerous facets of caving, bringing on anxiety and dread in even the most hardened individual. Yet, in fact it is a fairly straight forward process, the local method being described in just three words, simply "never do any". However, in the extremely rare event of a "mainlander" being on the same trip, who is apparently oblivious to the risks involved, I suggest humouring him by offering to build survey stations out of piles of cigarette butts.

"Psyching Out" still remains the greatest problem area in modern cave exploration, with otherwise consistent personalities deferring to signs of the zodiac, writing off cars, even one example of attempting a fractured skull at a cave entrance. I say yield not to this apathy and rally behind your Club President in his single minded descent to even greater depths (unless you don't drink, in which case stay well out of his road).

Finally, my earnest advice to any "spelunker" who stumbles on a new shaft which has obvious technical difficulties inherent in its exploration, is - go to it and good luck!

NICK HUME

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FLORENTINE VALLEY 23/24-2-83

Party: Richard Hortle, Stefan Eberhard, Rolan Eberhard

This trip started really well by wasting 2½ hours driving into Hobart, then down to Kingston and Blackmans Bay, and back again, trying to locate some essential pieces of diving equipment. At length we arrived at the F8 road, enthusiasm for an exploratory push into Growling diminishing the longer we sat around moaning and groaning. By 2.00 pm we forced ourselves to do something productive and spent a while trying to relocate a very promising hole somewhere between Serendipity and Ice Tube. The entrance was originally discovered by S Eberhard in 1980; a walk-in entrance was followed down a steep slope to the top of a pitch. This cave has now been officially declared "lost". We did stumble across another shaft though, slightly west of the Benson and Hedges Series. A handline down a slimy slot led to a 19 m pitch and a rubble choke at the bottom. The entrance was marked with a piece of orange tape. We spent the rest of the day exploring and surveying the remaining shafts at the head of the Serendipity valley. Descriptions and surveys follow.

Meanwhile, Richard had gone off to do a solo epic into Welcome Stranger, but then he remembered what happened to Floyd Collins so he amused himself, instead, by kicking the shit out of a jackjumpers nest and trying to talk to a snake which hissed back at him.

The following day was even more of an apathetic abortion. Rolan and I planned to do a push dive into Junee. However, after considering the depth of Sump II (70' plus) and the problems associated with repetitive dives, we calculated that we would be into very long decompression times. This is a serious problem with diving in Junee due to the extreme cold (not only in terms of hanging around for a long time on a deco line, but, cold water increases susceptibility to the "bends"). Furthermore, diving at 300 m altitude compounds the problems. It is necessary to add 25% to the depth of the dive when calculating a deco schedule in order to compensate for the reduced atmospheric pressure. Regrettably it seems we are getting close to our physical limit without the use of drysuits.

Indeed, according to the US Navy tables, we should have spent 17 mins decompressing on our last dive!

The Benson and Hedges Series, although typically scungy, have considerable depth potential. They are some 100 m vertically above Serendipity and more than 200 m above the entrance to Growling Swallet. This implies that the depth potential for this area is nearly 500 m! All the entrances have been tied in to a surface survey (ASF 54) with respect to the Growling number tag as datum. Two orange tapes on a tree between Pots 10 and 12 represent the last station for our survey on 23/2/83.

Several of the caves are still going and the surveys should be self-explanatory. Pots 1 to 7 have been described in SS 181.

STEFAN EBERHARD

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GROWLING SWALLET 26/2/83

Party: S Nicholas, N Hume, S Eberhard, R Eberhard

The purpose of this trip was to survey the large but complex passages explored two weeks previously after a climb in an aven. To reach the fixed rope up the climb it is necessary to grovel through a most squalid and unpleasant crawl, before emerging in what Trevor has insisted be called AVON'S AVEN. It was therefore four bedraggled cavers who prusiked up the rope and started surveying in earnest what is now known as NECROSIS. We ran a traverse down the main drag, systematically checking out side leads and marking survey stations at regular intervals using orange tape with the station number written on it. This will greatly simplify future surveying of side passages and new discoveries, and should become general practise in such an intricate and expanding system as Growling Swallet. Station 51 brought us back to a marked station, having completed a large loop taking in most of the known passages. Here we decided to call it a day and headed out with some 400 metres of cave on the books.

Growling is growing at an impressive rate and as Necrosis is far from finished it seems only a matter of time before it surpasses Herbert's Pot (circa 5700 m) in length to make it the second longest in Tasmania.

ROLAN EBERHARD

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LATE NEWS.

New Australian depth record Anne-A-Karanda = -372 m.

A video tape sent by Norm Boulter on the caves of the Nullabor and Western Australia will be shown at Stuarts at the General meeting 4th of May.

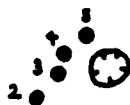
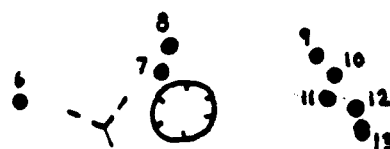


BENSON AND HEDGES SERIES  
LOCATION MAP  
FLORENTINE VALLEY

PLAN

ASF GRADE 54  
SCALE 1:2000

0 10 20 30 40 50  
m



SWALLET

1

SLIMY SLOT  
(POSITION APPROX)



SURVEYED 9-10-82  
T. WAILES  
R. EBERHARD  
S. EBERHARD

23-2-83  
R. EBERHARD  
S. EBERHARD

FROST POT

CAVE JF 346  
DEPTH 15m

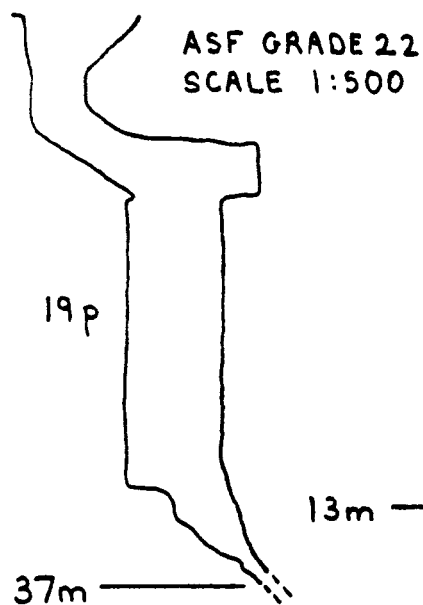
SERENDIPITY JF 344

TO GROWLING SWALLET [GRID DATUM (0,0)]

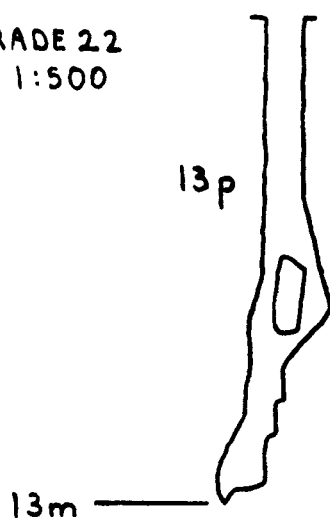
SME

# BENSON AND HEDGES SERIES

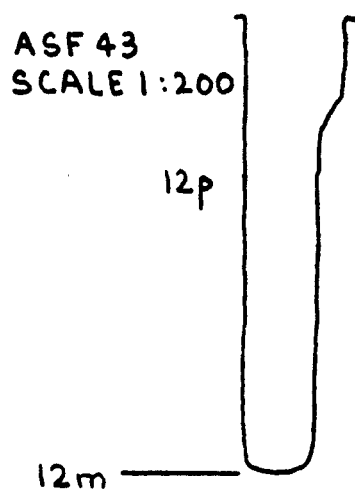
SLIMY SLOT



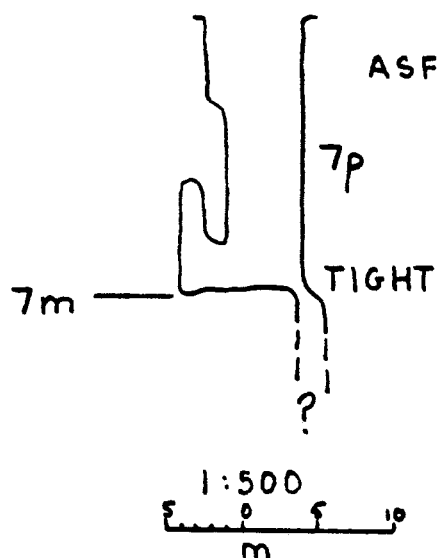
BENSON POT (1)



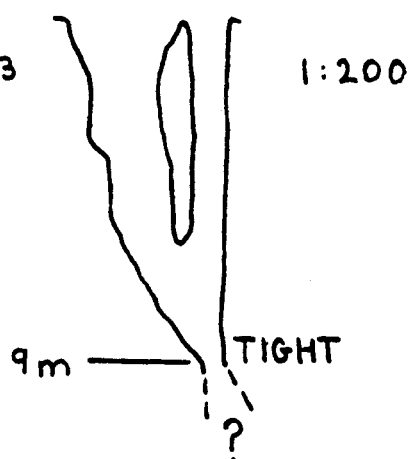
POT 2



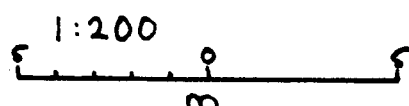
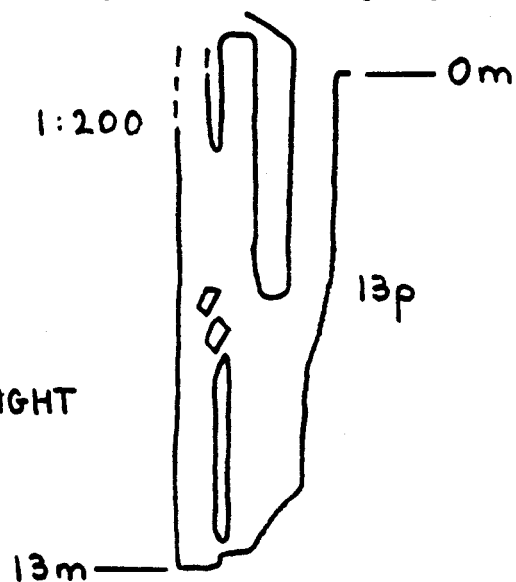
POT 3



HEDGES POT (4)



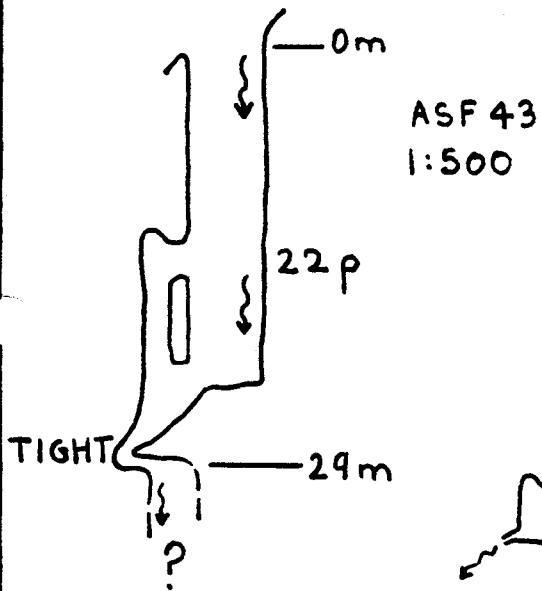
POT 5



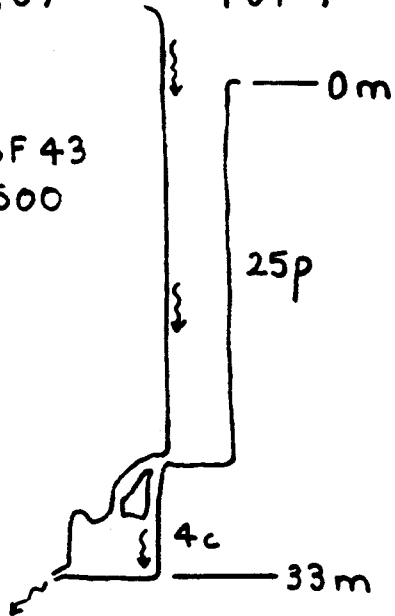
SURVEYED 9-10-82  
23-2-83  
S. EBERHARD

# BENSON AND HEDGES SERIES

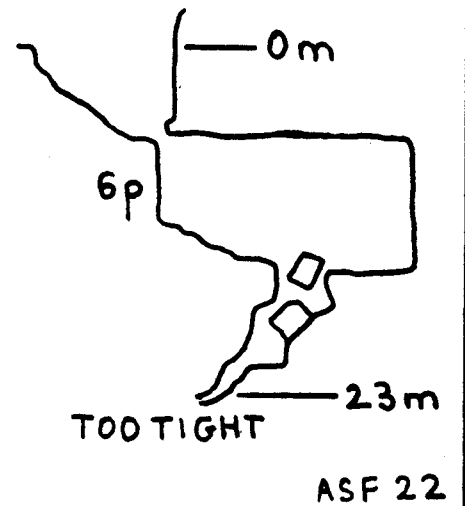
PITTA PATTA POT (6)



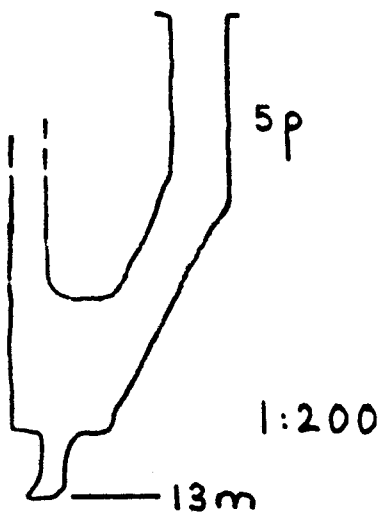
POT 7



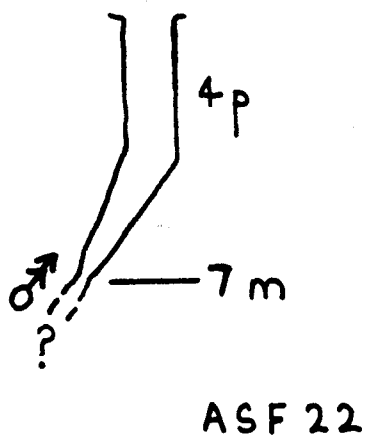
POX POT (8)



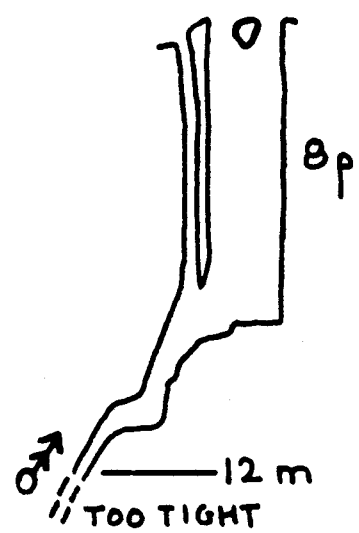
GUNGE POT (9)      POT 10



POT 10



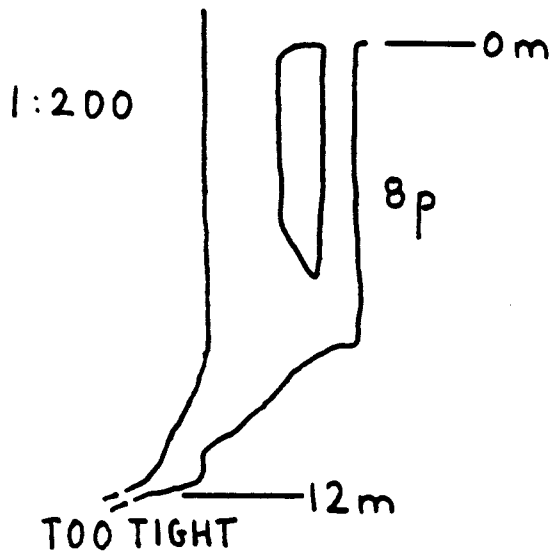
## MÉNAGE-À-TROIS (II)



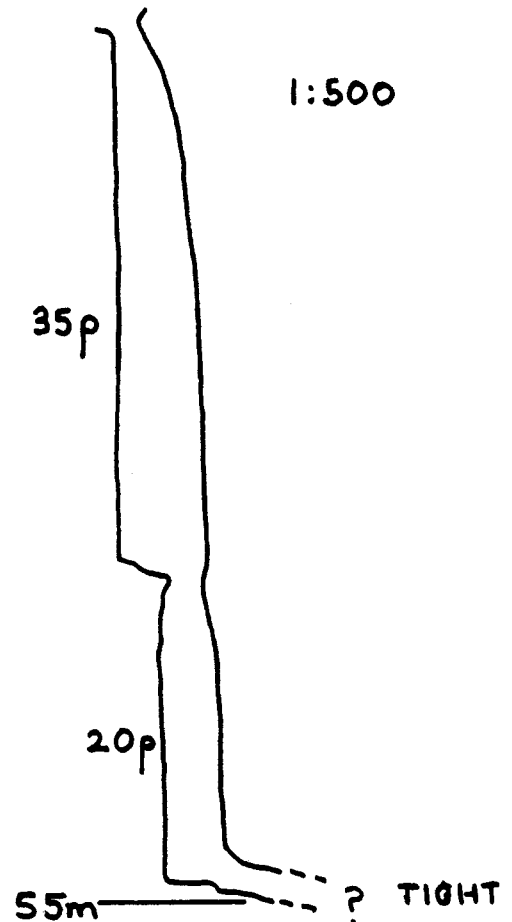
**SME**

# BENSON AND HEDGES SERIES

POT 12

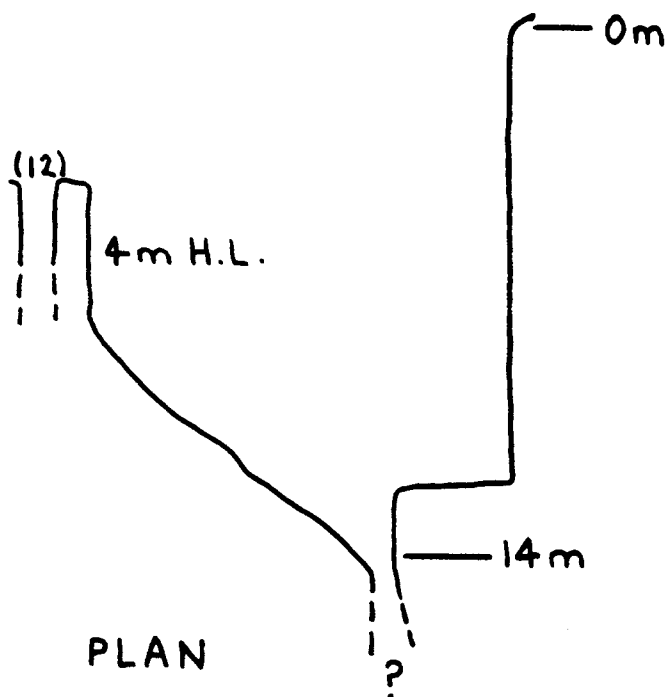


FROST POT



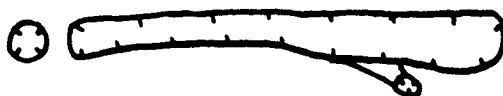
ASF 22

GASH POT (13)



EXPLORED 9-5-01

A. BRIGGS  
R. EBERHARD  
S. EBERHARD



SME