

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

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FORWARD PROGRAMME

Agh! Everyone is passing the "buck"! There is so much to do, surface surveys, underground surveys and corrective (!!) surveys as well as exploration in major systems. Who wants to do what? Newcomers need training up to Tasmanian cave standards; SRT training above and below ground is essential for these people if we want the TCC to remain an active exciting venture (this is beginning to sound like an editorial). However, novice trips are essential; Andrew Briggs has spoken on the importance of this and is willing to spend time (weekend caving time) running trips that will not insult the more adventurous novice. Growling Swallet will of course be visited frequently by both training groups and major push and survey trips.

Ice Tube is due for another "look see" as is Serendipity which may run into several push and survey trips until finally giving us what we want! Trips are being run frequently in the Ida Bay area by Mick Flint and Arthur Clarke. Members visiting the area should contact this small TCC cell and experience the revelations about to unravel. Both Mick and Arthur are planning a trip down and up Mini Martin; any takers should contact them on 981 107.

Anyone with any special requests (cave wise) should let the Editor know as it seems we are being taken over by secrecy and cliques!!

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EDITORIAL

Another year, another record - this is becoming monotonous! As "STOP PRESSED" last month, through sheer hard work, planning and determination, a TCC team has broken the Australian depth record in Anne-a-Kananda on Mt Anne, and must be congratulated for their efforts. How long will the record remain - next week, next month, next year? Developments in the Florentine could change the whole scene completely, which leads to ..... STOP PRESS (again): Ice Tube linked to Growling Swallet!! Yes folks that's right! Sunday May 8 saw Stefan Eberhard, Al Warild and Trevor Wailes push a very nasty rift in Growling Swallet which led through to the bottom of IT. The other end of the rift was shown last year on the IT survey with a question mark - but no longer! Could this be the ultimate through trip? Congratulations on a great effort.

STUART NICHOLAS

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### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Controversy and drama! The 1983 AGM actually was well attended and everyone even stayed awake! Much discussion took place on several touchy topics which made for quite an inspiring and entertaining AGM which in itself was quite a change!

The "new" committee was elected (some positions actually ran to an election!) and is as follows:

President: Trevor Wailes Phone 34 4862 (Home)

Secretary: Richard Hortle Phone 25 2124 (Home)

Treasurer: Rik Tunney Phone 49 3222 (Home)

Quartermaster )  
Editor )  
ASF rep )  
S & R Coordinator) Stuart Nicholas Phone 28 3054 (Home)

Vice President: Rolan Eberhard Phone 39 6448 (Home)

Committee: Albert Goede Phone 39 9265 (Home)  
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### CAVE NUMBERING - JUNEE FLORENTINE

The following caves were numbered by Albert Goede and Chris Davies on Sunday 10th April 1983:

JF-347 FROST POT: Vertical entrance in small doline with 60 cm diameter fallen log across one side. Entrance diameter 1.5 x 2 metres. Number placed on small limestone outcrop on left when facing entrance.

JF-348 BENSON POT: Pot 1 of Benson and Hedges Series. Vertical, rectangular entrance with diameter 1 x 0.5 metres. Number placed on edge of pothole. 1• marked on nearby tree. Yellow tape on branch above entrance.

JF-349 Un-named pot. Pot 2 of Benson and Hedges Series. Vertical shaft 1 metre in diameter with fluted sides. Two 40 cm diameter logs across entrance. Number placed on rock base in central part of entrance.

JF-350 Un-named pot. Pot 3 of Benson and Hedges Series. Vertical entrance with diameter 2 x 5 metres with rock bridge in the middle. Number placed on bridge.

JF-351 HEDGES POT: Pot 4 of Benson and Hedges Series. Horseshoe shaped vertical entrance 2 x 4 metres in diameter. Number placed on rock face on right hand side when facing uphill.

JF-352 Un-named pot. Small vertical triangular entrance 0.5 metres in diameter. Number placed on rock face immediately above entrance.

A location map and cross-sections of these six potholes were published in Speleo Spiel No 185 (March 1983).

ALBERT GOEDE

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TREASURER'S REPORT 1982/83

Diana Davies was the Treasurer for 1982/83. However, she left for a canoe trip around the Greek Islands and was unable to write a report. As I am the new Treasurer, I have written this report on her behalf.

To the best of my knowledge, the statements represent a true record of the club's finances.

The following comments may be of interest:

1) Speleo Spiel

Total expenditure on the Spiel was \$547.41. The Spiel subscription fee for the year was set at \$5.00. The total value of Spiel receipts (\$5.00 from each membership fee + subscriptions + sales) was about \$177.00. There is, however, a large carry-over of printing supplies (paper, ink, etc) to 1983/84, and this caused the Spiel to run at an enormous loss. This meant that other expenditure was, necessarily, curtailed. The Spiel has an enviable reputation for content and production quality (if not for punctuality!), and while I would not like this to suffer, I feel that some thought should be given to cutting these costs or increasing Spiel revenue. However, it is estimated that expenditure for 1983/84 will only be about \$100.00.

2) Equipment

The Club received \$71.40 from the sale of old equipment, \$94.50 from the cap lamp fund and a very generous \$250.00 from ANM to assist Mt Anne exploration. Against this total of \$415.90, \$107.16 was spent on new gear. During the year a lot of gear was demolished, worn out or lost. This will need to be replaced and the cost will hit the 1983/84 finances unless we can raise some more funds.

Members seem willing to pay to hire the cap lamps. Perhaps we should pay also to use ropes, etc. I suggest \$1.00 for ropes up to 40 m, \$2.00 for ropes over 40 m and 50¢ for ladders. The cost involved would be trivial when spread over a party of 5, but the money could then be used to replace gear as it wears out. In this I would also include gear deliberately left in situ in caves. (ie, a party going into the new part of Growling Swallet would pay \$2.00 - 2 ladders and 1 rope. KD would cost about \$6.00). I would not suggest fees for survey gear.

3) Savings Account

The Club is fortunate to have "inherited" a wealthy savings account from previous years. Nothing has been withdrawn from this since 1979. It is earning over \$100.00 a year interest, however, we must be wary of using this account for short-term purposes.

R TUNNEY - TREASURER

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T.C.C. SUBS ARE NOW  
DUE. PLEASE BE PROMT.  
SPIELS WILL CEASE FORTHWITH.

RECEIPTS

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Membership Fees:	ASF Levy	\$ 91.00	
	Full & Family	184.00	
	Associate	10.00	\$285.00
Other:	Sale of used rope	56.40	
	Donation - A Goede	6.50	
	Donation - ANM	250.00	
	Donation - M Jeffries	11.50	
	Sale of used ladder	15.00	
	Cap lamp rental	94.50	
	Sale of Spiels	27.00	
	Spiel Subs	25.00	485.90
Interest:	Cheque account	12.57	
	Savings account	110.58	123.15
	TOTAL		\$894.05
			=====

EXPENDITURE

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Spiel - Postage	96.72	
- Cat B Registration	20.00	
- Printing	430.69	547.41
ASF Capitation Fees		98.00
P O Box		18.00
Funeral Wreath		15.00
Equipment		107.16
Bank Fees		4.00
ANM Xmas Fund		26.00
	TOTAL	\$815.57
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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Cheque Account B/F	\$ 270.41	Expenditure	\$ 815.57
Savings Account B/F	879.16	Cash on hand	6.40
Receipts	894.05	Cheque Account C/F	231.81
		Savings Account C/F	989.74
	\$2043.52		\$2043.52
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R TUNNEY - TREASURER  
(on behalf of D Davies)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1982/83

Regular active members will be aware of the happenings of what was the thirty sixth year of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club. Most of our effort has been spent in the Florentine Valley concentrating around that old favourite Growling Swallet. The revelations of this area have not really sunk in as to the enormity of this diverse varied cave

system. The significance of Ice Tube, now Australia's second deepest cave (but perhaps the most demanding), tends to pale when one understands that one day soon it will be just another entrance into the Junee Florentine Master System.

Ice Tube itself had such a short lived reign. The effort that was put into it by Club members served to improve competence, technique and trust - later proven on foreign and local expeditions to PNG, New Zealand and the closer Mt Anne.

The discovery of the Junee Florentine Master Cave has been, and still is, the most sought after goal in Australia. Its potential length is enormous within the bounds of the area's Karst, and presently stands at about 6.5 kilometres. If several of the cave systems can be linked sometime in the future, a major portion of the System will have been "assembled". There would still, however, be much more to discover and explore.

The final achievement of the year came after the last AGM, but I feel it is worthy of being included in the 1982/83 year because of its planning and the notorious events leading up to it. Not wanting to dwell on what could have been gross disappointment and ill feeling, the TCC succeeded where others failed, and for the second time in twelve months a new Australian depth record was set at -372 m in a well planned and executed mini-expedition to Anne-a-Kananda - that distant cave on the north east ridge of Mt Anne. Thanks must go to members and sponsors - the ANM for a donation of \$250.00 and to J Walch & Sons for their support on the purchase of desperately needed survey equipment.

Over the year many hours were spent by the divers of TCC who discovered a large Master Cave beyond the first 220 m sump in the Junee Resurgence. This passage, apparently short lived, submerged to a second sump which is proving technically difficult due to the need for decompression in the very cold water.

In the past twelve months approximately 7 km of cave has been surveyed as well as slightly less overland. The Speleo Spiel has settled down into quite a readable magazine and subscriptions from non-members have risen. The setting up of equipment to enable us to be self-contained to print the Spiel ourselves has been a drain on both Club funds and members pockets alike, but we hope it has been worth it. We would like to see more subscriptions from non-members, not only to keep in touch with the most exciting caving in Australia, but also to help pay for this magazine!

We are apparently attracting the best possible new blood into the Club although our new member listings in the Spiel seem somewhat out of date. "Can't remember everything" the Editor, quartermaster, ASF Vice President and rep, Search and Rescue Co-ordinator and new life member says! I suppose he does have a point (several)!!

To bring this, the 36th President's Report, to a close, the Club as a whole would like to thank:

The Management, staff and workers of the ANM for their continued support and helpfulness (the smiling faces of the gatekeepers in their sentry box on cold, wet and miserable mornings) - maybe they are laughing at us!! Roy, for excellent coffee and fish and chips at the Maydena eatery. Ken Britton and his staff of the National Park Hostelry. The Winston Churchill pub for not having decided how much to charge for a beer after 11.30 pm??! To the old committee

and Secretary for keeping the club together over the year. To the new committee for caring enough (too much), and Stuart Nicholas, new life member, for putting in several lifetimes over the past years.

TREVOR WAILES - PRESIDENT 1982/83

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THE CLUB SCENE

- \* Congratulations to Andrew Briggs and Jeanine Davies on their recent engagement. Is this the end or just the beginning for the famed Andy (education never done me no good!) Briggs??! Enough of the stirring; all in TCC wish both of you many happy and prosperous years together in that recently acquired and as yet unwarmed house. For those who don't know, AB and JD's new address is: 22 Athleen Avenue, Lenah Valley, and phone 283 996.
- \* Sometime in December 1982 Rick Koch, Nick Hume and Stefan Eberhard dragged a tank and associated diving gear into Entrance Cave (legend has it there's two dozen bottles for whoever can make the connection with Exit Cave). Several futile hours of grovelling around failed to reveal any kind of subterranean interface between rock and water which might resemble a sump. Where is it?
- \* South Australian caver/cave diver John McCormack visited Tasmania during Jan/Feb this year. He accompanied TCC on a trip to Satan's Lair as well as Growling Swallet where some new cave was found. He also did a dive in both sumps of Junee, seemed fairly impressed, and was promptly awarded category 4 qualifications.
- \* Another one of those Pommy Persons has appeared in our midst. Welcome to Phil Hill and his wife Jenny who arrived recently from an extended stay in Sydney. Phil has had wide caving experience, and both he and Jenny are keen bushwalkers. Unfortunately, Phil has a back injury at the moment, but he hopes to get into some of the action fairly soon. Of interest to everyone is his obvious skill in the manufacture of "Enduro" style caving suits. The price of the real thing is becoming prohibitive, so Phil you may find yourself slaving over a hot sewing machine in the near future! By the way, Phil has bought a house at 44 Summerleas Road, Ferntree. Being a fairly cold suburb, the house will of course need to be warmed and .... well .... that's a reasonable excuse for another one of those dreaded house warming parties!
- \* Other recent additions to TCC are Arthur Clarke (an ex VSA member years ago), Mick Flint (an ex hard climber) and Trevor Cook; all living in or around Dover. Anyone going south any time should contact these guys as all are super keen and are already very active in the Ida Bay area. Arthur's phone number is 981 107.
- \* Another 200 m roll of 11 mm Bluewater II rope is on the way from Caving Equipment in Sydney. The price will I'm sure turn our Treasurer's hair grey, but with any luck some fund raising in the next few months may help pay for it. When it arrives it will need to be cut into as yet undetermined lengths. Think about this over the next couple of weeks and let Stuart have your thoughts on this important matter. (The rope is here - Ed).

- \* Our Quartermaster, Editor, etc, has finally sold the rally prepared Lancer that has spent 98% of the last year or so sitting in the shed. So much for the high speed drags up to Maydena.
- \* By the time you read this it will have been shown, but three days were spent by various members recently helping ABC Nationwide do a ten minute film epic with a theme of "The Search for the Longest Cave". If you were deliberately away from your TV during the presentation, you may have to view this masterpiece at Stuart's as it will be taped for that very purpose. Perhaps this is the pinnacle of the hard men's careers. Will a trilogy appear - "I, Rolan Eberhard", "Marshmallow Hume and the Tin Hats", "Caving for Bionic Smokers"?!
- \* This issue contains a report by Phil Cole of the SUSS trip here last December. It's great to receive reports from visiting groups and a pity more don't send something for the Spiel. Actually, the same could be said about some of our trips here! Next month there'll be a VSA report on their Easter trip.
- \* Rick Koch, that on again, off again caver and climber of some repute has headed off to the States for six months climbing and culture absorption. It seems TCC has yet another jet-setting international.

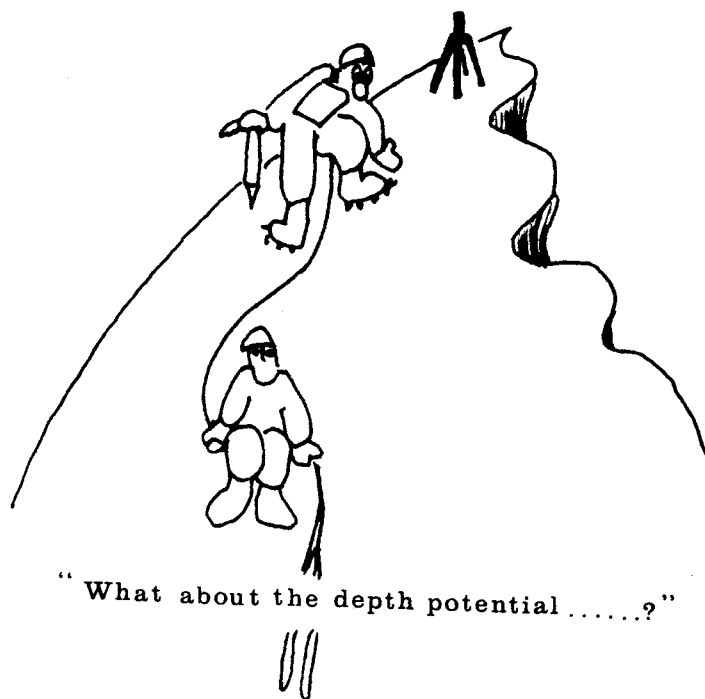
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NOTE: The following article was submitted by Stefan Eberhard and is his personal comment on the subject. As far as this magazine is concerned, this is the final word on the subject and it is to be hoped that relations between TCC and NC can return to normal and perhaps some joint trips conducted.

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Early in March 1983 a group from the Northern Caverneers visited the north-east ridge of Mt Anne. Their interest in the area was obviously initiated by some trip reports printed in Speleo Spiel. Prior to their trip, NC contacted us to obtain the location of Kellars Cellar, in which they intended to do a tourist trip. They were also given the location of Anne-a-Kananda as the entrance chamber is an ideal campsite.

A fortnight later we finally managed to contact NC and were informed that they had, "just had a look", in Anne-a-Kananda and had just happened to bottom it at -300 m. It seems they had been into Dessicator, one of the most promising leads in the cave. Having run out of rope on the first trip they promptly returned the next weekend with enough rope to bottom it. Three hundred metres of rope was left in the cave following the second trip.



This blatant incident of piracy shocked and upset everyone in TCC, especially those members who had put a great deal of time and effort into the initial discovery exploration and mapping of Anne-a-Kananda. At the time of the incident plans were well advanced for a small-scale expedition to the cave over Easter. Sponsorship had been obtained and essential equipment and supplies purchased.

Surely it is fair enough to say that any group actively exploring a certain cave or area be left to it?

NC's action was unethical and totally inexcusable; they were well aware that Anne-a-Kananda was a TCC project, and was still being explored. I am not suggesting that inter-club competition is a bad thing, but to pirate this cave in such an underhand and secretive manner is sickening. Such an act is not warranted in Tasmania which has an overdose of uninvestigated karst regions. Even a Neanderthal could appreciate this vast potential and the number of deep systems still waiting to be found.

The incentive of a depth record undoubtedly obliterated any sense of ethics or inter-club cooperation NC might possess. Their estimated depth of 300 m was based on a marked survey station left by TCC on the last trip to the cave, but NC were too slack to bother surveying what they explored! If they had contacted our Club following their initial "poke around" then a joint expedition could have been arranged. Instead, they "sneaked" back up the next weekend and it was this that really provoked the ill-feeling from TCC.

It could be claimed that TCC was asking for it by publishing trip reports in Speleo Spiel. We published the Mt Anne trips on the basis that it would be better to let people know that TCC was currently working in the area. Anyone wishing to visit the area or assist in exploration would presumably contact the club and arrange a joint trip. The risk of not publishing information is that some other group may "stumble" on the same area or even the same cave and claim it as "theirs". The long term consequences of secrecy do not benefit anyone, and as NC do not have a magazine of their own, they know they are welcome to send material for publication in the Spiel.

In future, NC can find their own bloody caves!

STEFAN EBERHARD

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#### TASSIE WANDERINGS

In December last year six SUSS cavers visited Tasmania for their first time, to sample the delights of Tassie caving, including a visit to the Junee-Florentine. Our first stop was at Mole Creek where we were met by some Northern Caverneers who showed us through Kubla Khan (upper to lower entrance) and, as well, led us to the remote Devil's Pot-Anastomosis system and the rarely done Execution Pot (thanks to Kendall, Compton and Bob for giving us your time). We also ventured into the fabled Croesus Cave and spent some time photographing in Genghis and Kubla Khan.

We then moved to Junee Homestead, but only after meeting TCC at a pub in Hobart to arrange some caving for the weekend. Our first day saw us inundated by water in Growling Swallet (low flow we were later told) and crawling through Serendipity with Rik and Janine to retrieve gear packs which were left from the surveying trip two weeks before. We welcomed the opportunity to see some of this new difficult system



which wasn't on our itinerary, and were impressed by the first two pitches, though the Serpentine passageway made the going hard. A "tourist" trip down Cauldron the next day with Nick, Rolan and Trevor was enjoyable until the derigging, which was exhausting in itself (especially Bill's Bypass), but coupled with the gear hauling in Serendipity the night before, really made our bodies know we'd been caving at Maydena. On the Sunday we helped Nick, Rolan and Richard dive in the Junee Resurgence, and the sight in the sump of Nick's underwater flash firing was an eerie and amazing spectacle that was impressed on our memories long after. During the next week we had car troubles but managed to bottom K-D ourselves in (dare I say it) an "epic" 16 hour trip which saw us back at the surface at 4.00 am the next morning and driving back to the hut at dawn. Later, a walk in Mt Field National Park laid the whole of the South West Wilderness before us - after we climbed one of the peaks, we sat there breathing in the beauty and feeling contented with our week at Maydena.

The next week was spent at Ida Bay in Exit, surveying Big Tree Pot ("is this good enough, Stefan?" - "it'll do") and enjoying the main pitch of Mini Martin, which really capped off a fine month's caving.

We were thoroughly impressed by the caving we did during our stay and (moan, groan, do I hear?) we vow to return in the future. Thanks to TCC - Rolan, Stefan, Nick, Trevor, and especially Rik and Janine for putting us up (and putting up with us) for several nights, and a special thanks to Max Jeffries for arranging permits etc and seeing that our stay at Maydena was hospitable and enjoyable.

PHILLIP COLE - on behalf of Richard McNeall, Judy Clarke, Mark Hunter, Kristin Young and Mike Lake.

P.S. For a full account of our trip, stay tuned for it in the SUSS Bulletin - the other best caving newsletter around.

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#### BIG TREE POT (IB9) - 22-12-82

Party: N Hume, S & R Eberhard; Phil Cole, Judy Clarke, Mark Hunter (SUSS)

The SUSS people were keen to have a look at this classic vertical pot on Marble Hill, Ida Bay. Nick and Rolan wanted to try and con them into derigging again and we thought we might survey it as well.

There were even more fallen logs across the track which made the walk up more of a grunt than usual. Some of the other SUSS bods went off to Mini Martin as Nick, Rolan and Mark proceeded with the rigging. Judy and Phil volunteered to help me with the surveying. The cave spiraled rapidly down pitches of 26 m, 14 m, 15 m, 14 m, and 4 m before we caught up with the others at the top of the big pitch. The rope was rigged conveniently from a spike on the right hand side producing an ideal free-hanging pitch less than a metre from the wall. The narrow slot at the top bells out into a superb circular shaft carrying a trickle of water. The abseil is interrupted by a broad ledge 90 m down before the final pitch of 9 m. From here it is possible to squirm your way down through talus and mud for 70 m to a gravel choked slot. The small stream undoubtedly flows into Exit Cave but it would require a concerted digging effort to push the connection.

The big pitch was taped at 90 m, although originally estimated at 100 m it is still the longest underground pitch in Australia. Many thanks to Phil and Judy for assisting with the survey. Big Tree Pot is an easy but nonetheless enjoyable trip, on a par with Mini Martin.

Total depth is 189.7 m.

STEFAN EBERARD

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#### CAVE DIVING - JUNEE RESURGENCE

Last year an airspace was discovered, roughly 300 metres beyond the first sump. This was in the form of major steam passage, named (tongue in cheek) "For Your Eyes Only" and was surveyed and photographed to a second sump, which was explored over successive dives to a depth of 70 feet and seemed to be heading deeper still. This depth introduced the problem of decompression because of the three repetitive dives (dive to airspace, dive beyond second sump, dive out of airspace) and became an immediate barrier to further exploration. The continuing saga was further interrupted by bods going off on summer holidays, however, we have returned, so read on .....

26TH FEBRUARY 1983

Divers: Nick Hume, Stefan Eberhard

The usual struggle with gear to the first sump was accomplished in sweltering heat, this being perhaps our twentieth repeat or so of this cave. Stefan wrote down some decompression parameters on a slate, the were calculated from US Navy repetitive dive tables and were so complex I still can't work them out for myself, although I did notice one error Stefan had made.

After surfacing in the airspace in obviously an all time low water level, we transferred full air tanks from double backpacks to single backpacks for the 200 metre walk to the second sump. We then dived and followed our old fixed line to the previous limit of exploration, roughly 120 metres beyond the second sump at a depth of 70 feet. From here we ascended to a down sloping roof at 30 feet depth, confirming that the way on through the system involved going deeper than seventy feet. We noticed a couple of tubes leading off the left side of the passage (entering) before reaching the time limits determined by the dive tables.

A decompression stop of seven minutes at 3 metres was accomplished before leaving the second sump. We then sat around the airspace for an hour (dreaming of cigarettes) thus allowing ourselves a lesser decompression time after our third dive, according to the tables (somehow!). A "deco" stop of ten minutes at 3 metres (slightly shivery) opened the way to the Maydena RSL.

7TH MARCH 1983

Divers: Stefan Eberhard, John McCormack

After a heavy weekend including "Growling Swallet" and "Satan's Lair", Rick Hortle and myself summoned just sufficient enthusiasm to help carry diving gear for John (a visiting Mt Gambier caver/diver) and Stefan (survey freak!). Using single tanks only, John had an apparently enjoyable tourist trip, while stefan managed some surveying in the second sump, staying above fifty feet depth to avoid "deco" times

Midweek discussions with Drs Peter and Penny McCartney on decompression, formulated two approaches to the continued exploration of the system.

- 1) Camping in the airspace; a minimum of 12 hours delay after and perhaps even prior to the second dive would enable us to become "degassed" thus beginning the dives afresh. This seems to be the simplest solution to protracted exploration of the second sump. Camping gear could be carried into the airspace in a sealed steel tube of airtank dimensions held in a double backpack. The biggest problem here would be to talk Stuey into manufacturing said tube, "Christ"!
- 2) Decompression using pure oxygen; this flushes nitrogen from the body very quickly, considerably reducing "deco" times. It may even be possible to "decompress" out of the water on oxygen, very useful with the low water temperatures. Peter kindly referred us to sources of information on this rare technique, thanks again Peter.

A combination of (1) and (2) may be required if the cave goes really deep, whatever the likely outcome, enthusiasm is still high.

NICK HUME

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#### GROWLING SWALLET CONTINUES

As the latest trips into Growling Swallet have proved so successful to the point of paranoid hysteria, here is a brief outline of the latest success. On 8/5/83 (Mother's Day), Al Warild, S Eberhard and T Wailes entered Growling Swallet and proceeded through Necrosis and Mainline to an inlet stream which had all the qualifications of being the IT stream. These qualifications include the stream being the correct flow from the right direction and that overland surveys had shown the plan proximity from IT entrance to be about 300 m distant.

An initial sandbank on the left hand side of Mainline hid the flow of water issuing from a rift type passage. The mud coated rift was followed for 150 m at various levels as the passage varied between a few centimetres to half a metre wide. Rarely was it more than one metre across. At stream level the passage tended to sump and meander away from the main obvious route. At length we trended back to stream level where overflow tubes (enlargements of the rift) allowed fairly easy crawling to the point where the stream was regained only to find it running from under a blank wall; the serpentine rift became impossibly narrow and the only possible extension was up. At this point a waterfall(?) could be heard and a cool breeze was blowing in the direction we were going. Stefan climbed up into the narrow rift while Al tried to force the squeeze at stream level. The rift here is smooth walled with a liberal coating of semi dried mud. Stefan eventually found an enlargement of the rift and followed it in the direction of the falling water. Al thwarted by the narrow rift, followed Stefan but climbed higher to a wider section and continued towards the falling water to the point where the rift closed down to about 10 inches.

The sideways squeeze continued for about 15 metres until it enlarged somewhat and emerged about half way up the final pitch in IT, (Never Forever). Stefan, finding his lead closing down, climbed higher and forced the same tight section as Al. I patiently waited at Shouters Corner in the cool draught. With the connection finally proven and recognised by Stefan, the survey was commenced back towards Mainline. It took a while for

for the survey to work back to me and I was glad to be moving again in the cold air. We progressed steadily back to Mainline noting few side passages but one 4 m wide dry aven with what looked like good leads running off 15 m above us. The passage proved to be about 150 m from Never Forever to Mainline where the survey was tied into Station 108.

From here we moved on to the rockfall at the end of Dreamtime. Al's new "wellies" proved successful in climbing the left hand wall, and he followed a slight breeze over boulders to a short tight pitch which carried a small flow of water. This pitch would be uncomfortable in the water, but as water levels were relatively high at this time, there is a good chance of it drying up somewhat. This pitch was left undescended as we were not equipped with vertical climbing gear. After looking at a couple more of Stefan's pet leads, we began our exit and reached the surface after a 12 hour absence. The Growling Swallet stream was well up and it was strongarm tactics climbing into the dry bypass near the entrance.

#### Relative Notes

Because one can now grovel out of the bottom of IT into GS it does not mean it is an easier trip, on the contrary. The only known connecting passage is as stated, only 10 inches wide and 15 m in length. Finding this slot from the base of Never Forever is complex. Mainline and Necrosis are even more complex if somewhat roomier. Would-be parties planning a through trip would do well to know GS intimately, and possibly take an extra 10 m rope as the drop down to Shouters Corner is narrow enough to friction climb but also quite sheer. An injury here could prove catastrophic especially for a rescue team.

This connection has given us the long sought after second entrance to GS. It is not exactly what we were looking for, but it does now exist and under extreme flood conditions in GS could prove to be a vital back door to be rescued through. The length of GS has obviously been extended by just under 1 km. The true depth of GS has not as yet been estimated as the 300-400 m from Dreamtime Corner down to the "sump" has not been surveyed. There is a possible drop of 5 m.

IT is now obviously deeper!! By how much is still being calculated, but a rough educated guess would put IT at 354 m - still as yet the second deepest cave in Australia.

Growling Swallet will continue.

TREVOR WAILES

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T.C.C. and SPIEL SUBSCRIPTIONS  
ARE NOW DUE FOR  
83 - 84.

# MOTHER'S PASSAGE

ICE TUBE INLET

ASF. GRADE 4.3

Surveyed 8.5.83

A. Warild.  
S. Eberhard  
T. Wailes

Drawn. T. Wailes

Ice Tube

Maelstrom

Never Forever

Fallopian Rift

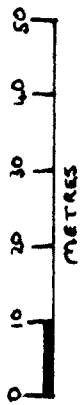
Shouters Corner

Aven

Main Line (Growing Swallet)



MN.



Scale 1:1000

