

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

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FORWARD PROGRAMME

Weekend Dec. 1,2: Track cutting, Serendip or what??

Wed 5 December: General / Social meeting - 7 Rupert Avenue

December ?: House-warming at George Albion's new digs!

December 10: Lecture - "Aussies On Top of the World" - by Tim Macartney-Snape and Lincoln Hall about the recent Oz Everest trip. See Paddy Pallin's for ticket(s).

Dec 22 to 26: Christmas Weekend - who's doing what, where and with whom???

Dec 29 to Jan 1: New Year Weekend - ditto above ????

Jan 7 to 11: SPELEOMANIA - the dreaded conference!!!

February 3: Mexico bod(s) depart from Hobart.

Other trips will no doubt occur - I just don't know what they are, when they are on or who's running them! Ideas are Khazad-dum, Dribble Spit Pot, Peanut Brittle Pot, Serendipity, Growling Swallet (for placement of emergency packs), Herbert's Pot (Mole Creek) and looking around the "Hollow Hills" near Serendip. DON'T FORGET, most Wednesday nights and the odd Thursday night, we're in the Doghouse!

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NON-EDITORIAL

The editor is too busy this month to even contemplate writing an editorial - so you'll have to go without. He is rapidly turning into a Speleo maniac, a condition which should go away after mid-January.

Stuart Nicholas  
Maniac Editor (or something)

UNDERGROUND BITZ

- Who's running the protection racket in TCC?? Someone must be..... Last year we had at least twenty protectors - the yellow agri-fab ones - now we're down to about three or four. Search your personal gear pile, the neighbour's laundry basket, anywhere, but please find and return those protectors. Should they not be returned, you may receive a late night visitor.....
- At last Andrew and Jeanine have made it legal and become man and wife. "Amazing...." "I know, I know". I am sure everyone in TCC joins with me in wishing them every happiness for the future. Pity about the house-warming but I guess a birthday party is an almost acceptable alternative!!
- Other people doing things now or soon are Phill Hill and Anne Wessing..... Carey Barlow is resigning from Caving Equipment in Sydney to go to Mexico and beyond, and guess who's going to Phill the vacancy? Shortly the female voice on the other end of the phone will be replaced by Phill's whiskers! I hope everything works out for you both - its certainly a brave move. Phill plans to run the shop for a couple of years and then both he and Anne will jet off to absorb some of the Euro-scene.
- This travelling thing seems to be reaching epidemic proportions in TCC. As well as Phill and Anne moving, Nick is disappearing off to the land of the Tequila Sunrise for a taste of the thrills of caving Mexican style early next year. Trev is planning a trip "back home" for family reasons, as well as caving, picking up some NEW (!!!) gear and seeing how "The Dales" rates against "The Valley". Martyn was considering going to NZ for a few weeks caving, and by the time you read this, Mike Edwards and wife Chris will actually be there - in fact they may even be home again! Even the editor is thinking of going on the Mexican trip if there's room.
- Ex-member Len Smith (another one of those Poms) recently became engaged to Linda, an employee of a well known record shop in town. I guess that's one way to get cheap records!
- The exchange rate between the UK pound and the Oz dollar is favourable at the moment - for Oz bods anyway. Enduro suits are about £30 which works out at about \$45. Two suits can be flown out for a total of \$121, except for local import duty. Order one or two by phone! I understand that Caving Supplies in England will also now take Visa card which is useful to know.
- The Lune River youth hostel has recently been taken over by Andrew Hogarth following its sale by Trevor Cook. He's interested in running "caving" trips like Trevor. That's about all I know really!
- Although long gone now (in more ways than one), the annual dinner this year was, in my opinion, a great success. The food was good, the venue "suitable", and well, a good night was had by

all. Thanks must again go to Trev for organising the show. An original idea from Phill for a venue unfortunately proved to be unsuitable, but the Good Women Inn was excellent for this year's annual social extravaganza. It was great to see a large contingent of "retired" cavers there - hopefully even more of the old guard will front up next year, and as for 1986, our 40th anniversary - the sump's the limit!

- On the subject of dinners and so on, are we going to have a counter meal / pub night / whatever / BBQ / thing this year?? TCC is not known as a very social organisation so maybe that image could use changing.....
- And now for a commercial break... This edition of the best Oz caving rag about, was for the first time I think, prepared using electronic wordprocessing. The text was typed on a Kaypro 2 computer using Perfect Writer/Speller software and the final result printed out on a Towa daisy wheel printer. So there you are - technology hits TCC.

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#### OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Joe Jennings. Joe died suddenly on August 25 while skiing in the Mt Kosciusko region with his daughter.

Joe arrived from his native Yorkshire some thirty years ago to take up a post as a physical geographer at the Australian National University. During these years he has been an active caver with a deep and lasting interest in Australian caves and karst areas. He has published many scientific papers on areas throughout Australia - including early studies at Mole Creek and on King Island. At the time of his death he was a trustee of the ASF and also served a term as its president. His cheerful presence, great enthusiasm and forceful views will be sadly missed at future ASF Conferences.

Joe is perhaps best known amongst the caving fraternity for his work on the Nullarbor and its caves. I first met him there in 1956 on a field trip following the first ASF Conference. Three years ago I had the pleasure of joining Joe on another field trip to this fascinating area. I was amazed at his fitness when we decided to have a day trip to the far end of Mulla-mullang. It was a struggle to keep up with him. Joe died as he would have wished - being physically active and doing the things he enjoyed doing. Australian caving will be the poorer for his passing and he will long be remembered.

Albert Goede

#### IMPORTANT NOTE

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PLEASE NOTE: On a recent Serendipity trip all the bolts and hangers were replaced and it is hoped that they will remain permanently in

position. Some people have a habit of removing hangers, presumably to bolster their own personal collections.

Removal of the bolt from an anchor leaves it to get full of grit and mud and probably corrode faster. It also makes them very difficult to relocate. Bolts are an essential part of rigging caves such as Ice Tube - leaving hangers in place ensures that other parties don't have to place even more bolts.

Please leave them in!!!

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### SPELEOMANIA FOR BEGINNERS

Most of you are aware that early next year, the fifteenth biennial conference of the ASF will happen in Hobart.

A few applications have been received from TCC members and other local cavers, but should you be interested in attending, you must apply officially (and pay the \$20 fee)! Forms are available at Stu's place, and once filled in will ensure that further information (if any!) is sent to you.

Perhaps of interest to quite a few local bods is the "Cave Person's Dinner" to be held on the night of Thursday January 10 at the conference venue, the Lea Scout Camp. The fee for this is a mere \$8 and "refreshments" will be available on site. Please let Stu know if wish to attend this gala feast.

The programme for the week of MANIA goes something like this:

SUNDAY JAN 6	Afternoon: Conference registration Evening: "Stal Breaker" BBQ
MONDAY JAN 7	Morning: Registration for late comers 11.00 am - Conference opening Afternoon: ASF Committee meeting Workshop/discussion on wilderness medicine and rescue
TUESDAY JAN 8	Morning: Papers Afternoon: Visit to "Lost World" on Mt Wellington perhaps with SRT Practice as well Evening: Films, Video tapes, etc
WEDNESDAY JAN 9	Morning: Papers Afternoon: Speleosports Evening: Photographic Competition
THURSDAY JAN 10	Morning: Papers Afternoon: Buffer time for papers : Field trip briefing Evening: CAVE PERSON'S DINNER
FRIDAY JAN 11	Morning: ASF Committee meeting

Morning : Field trip organisation  
Lunch: Last meal supplied by caterers  
Afternoon: End of SPELEOMANIA!!  
Depart for field trips

Various BBQ's, spit roasts and so on will be had for evening meals during the week. Some arrangement can no doubt be made to enable anyone from around here to attend those for a social happening or two - the meals are probably better than staying at home (certainly for the editor of this rag!!).

Please remember, if you wish to attend the conference proper, a registration form must be completed and given to Stu.

Stuart Nicholas  
Co-convenor Speleomania

### THE EMERGENCY KITS

Listed below are the contents of two emergency kits which will be placed in Growling Swallet shortly - before THE conference for sure. Stay tuned for the placement of these army boxes - they are marked with super reflective tape for ease of location.

The kits are not intended to be used as supply dumps but as an emergency pick-me-up for cavers needing a little help to exit the cave, or in the possible event of trapping due to floods or any other incident. Just because they are there does not mean you should be less thorough in your preparation for a trip into the GS system, or anywhere else for that matter.

Most of the contents were supplied by Mark Fowler of the Paddy Pallin shop in Criterion Street (near the Tourist Bureau), Hobart with a spontaneous and generous discount.

If you interstate cavers need any extra gear while visiting Tasmania, try the Paddy Pallin shop first. It is in everyone's interests to deal with people who support us - and also have the best knowledge of gear for caving and all other outdoor sports in Tassie.

### KIT CONTENTS

METHO STOVE ASSEMBLY: Burner, Tripod (I.Q. test),  
Windshield, Pannikin and Foil lid, and Metho (not for  
drinking!).

DRINKS: Coffee, Tea, Milk and Sugar, Beef Cubes

FOOD: Baked Beans, Sardines, Chocolate and Jelly Beans

MUG, SPOON, CAN OPENER, CANDLES(3) AND MATCHES

FIRST AID KIT (see separate list below)

SPACE BLANKET

GARBAGS - make a small hole for the face and pull over torso to retain body heat.

NOTE PAPER, PENCILS AND CYALUME STICK - if leaving a message use the Cyalume as a marker.

KARRIMAT - for sitting on, or as a temporary splint.

#### FIRST AID KIT CONTENTS

CREPE BANDAGE, HEAVY	1
CREPE BANDAGE, MEDIUM	1
PANADEINE	1 BOTTLE
ANTISEPTIC POWDER	1 BOTTLE
GAUZE BANDAGE	2
WOUND DRESSING	2
EYE DRESSING	1
LEUCOPLAST	1
TRIANGULAR BANDAGE	1
RAZOR BLADE	1

Chris Davies

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#### AMENDMENTS TO THE DEEPEST LIST

A few minor changes to the deepest caves list have occurred since Speleo Spiel 201 was published. Firstly, a survey of Revelation Cave showed its depth to be 120 metres, not 130 metres as estimated during the recent exploration. The depth of Udensala was wrongly quoted at 185 metres when in fact the correct figure is 181 metres. The change does not affect its position as fourteenth on the list. A recent trip to Serendipity located a higher entrance that will slightly increase the depth. An estimate of 6 to 8 metres has yet to accurately determined by survey. By the time this article actually appears in the Spiel other changes will no doubt have occurred, not that one can complain. An out of date deepest caves list is a good indication of how active or otherwise cavers have been!

Rolan Eberhard

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#### TRIP REPORTS

SESAME THROUGH TRIP

JF 210 & 211

18 August 1984

PARTY: Mick Flint, Paul Rivere, Trevor Wailes and  
Chris Davies

The aim of this trip was to explore an extension found in the "terminal rift" by Rolan Eberhard. Arriving at the cave we found that Nick, Martyn and George had entered through Sesame 1 and we decided to attempt a through trip.

An easy pull through was rigged off a log for the Sesame 2 first pitch, and off a high rock belay on the right of the second pitch. Tapes were left at the top of the third and fourth pitches to ensure an easy pull through.

The excess rope was left at the S 1 junction and we continued towards the bottom of the cave. As we descended the first of the short pitches in the lower streamway, a feeble light was seen to approach from below. George - the first member of the orange team - was exiting with a dud lamp. Continuing on we found the remainder of the orange pretzel team in the chamber above the "terminal rift".

Nick and Martyn joined us as we crossed the rift, moving carefully along the sandy false floor, down through a rockpile, and into a small streamway. The walls of the streamway were thick with sandy clay, indicating a constriction and flooding in times of high water. A spate of digging ensued in the chamber above the termination of the streamway. Nothing was found although water could be heard trickling in a tight clay passage which could not be entered without further digging.

In the interests of negotiating the ANM gate in good time we were forced to leave a small question mark at the bottom of Sesame. The exit through S 1 was a new and interesting experience. The tight climb/squeeze up into the chamber of S 1 proved all but impossible for Mick (and the rest of us) without help from below. Trevor jumped below to give the necessary push, and spent quite a time colouring the air a curious shade of blue before managing to negotiate the hole himself.

The next party in S 2 should find tapes on the third and fourth pitches. Please take them out and destroy them as they are at, or near, the end of their useful life!!

Cavers coming to Tasmania for the conference and not familiar with Tassie vertical caving may find Sesame a useful early trip to help sort out gear and techniques. Access is easy and the caving good value.

Chris Davies

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PEANUT BRITTLE POT - JF 147

26 AUGUST 1984

PARTY: Trevor Wailes, Rolan Eberhard, Martyn Carnes  
and Nick Hume.

The known part of the cave was in need of a decent survey, however our group, being perverse in nature, ended up pushing and surveying a new lead below "Junction Hall". The result of this little diversion

was that we ran out of time for a full survey, thus there is still the need for yet another return trip in the future.

Peanut Brittle's myriad short pitches seemed a lot easier this time, compared to the trips of three years ago. It was possibly due to our greater experience or perhaps the appearance of various manufactured belay points that weren't there before! "Junction Hall" was fairly wet and below this we descended a 17 metre sloping pitch to drier ground, and new ground for me as I hadn't been below JH before.

A lead here overlooked passage below, with various possibilities for rigging. I chose what appeared the driest and least scungy way, a 19 metre pitch beginning at the end of a bottomless rift, to gain access to which required some cautious bridging. A tieback to the bottom of the previous 17 metre pitch was required for safety. The pitch proper was a retie on a sloping bollard. This dropped us into a small chamber, (at a depth later proven to be 140 metres) where a tight rift led off, carrying the stream. The tightest section of the rift was under the full spate of a waterfall and revealed a stepped pitch of 6 metres to very wet ground indeed.

We were only left with Rolan's 15 metre 6mm rope at that stage and, you guessed it, we encountered a nasty little pitch of just that size, which the redoubtable Trevor volunteered to descend. Ignoring the various rub possibilities on the way, Trev landed on the floor of a small chamber, releasing his Jumars to find the stretchy 6mm rope contracting beyond his reach. Exploration revealed a choke in narrow rift that possibly returned to known passage below the "Window Pitch". The nasty nature of the area persuaded him that digging was out of the question and he decided to leave poste haste.

Building a pile of rocks to regain the end of the rope, Trev ascended, watched by me with some interest, waiting above. We rejoined Martyn and Rolan who began surveying out, Trev and I followed at a sedate pace, derigging as we went. Although my memory escapes me, no doubt we had a very entertaining night at the National Park pub, afterward. This was a pleasant day's caving (because I wasn't the one surveying!) and I almost look forward to the inevitable return trip, and the one after, and the one after.....

Nick Hume

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#### SHAFT BASHING IN THE HOLLOW HILLS

PARTY: Trevor Wales and Stefan Eberhard

2 September 1984

The purpose of this trip was to find a new very deep cave, the one in mind being a small swallet in the heart of the Hollow Hills.

On the walk up we passed Serendipity and found to our surprise that the streambed was bone dry. The stream is now busily carving itself a new entrance further up the valley. The entrance series of Serendipity will now be pleasantly dry but I suspect the stream now reappears in the chamber below the second pitch.

Tracing a circuitous route we arrived at the swallet concerned - a



waterfall bumbles over a 10 metre cliff and sinks into boulders. A small hole in the side of the partly enclosed depression issued a very strong draught. While Trevor worked on enlarging this I began removing boulders from a narrow rift behind the waterfall. Further work with a hammer and chisel will enable entry into this promising hole. Immediately adjacent is a large circular shaft but this is blocked with mud 15 metres down.

We made our way to the Benson and Hedges Series where a seemingly innocuous entrance gave way to a fine 30 metre pitch, followed by a narrow stream canyon which spiralled down to a depth of 45 metres. The healthy draught at the bottom cannot be ignored but it would require some work with a hammer to remove protruding flakes of rock.

The exploration of Gash Pot was completed; a 10 metre entrance pitch drops into a scungy environment where a narrow tube slopes downward and connects into the pothole just explored.

11 September 1984

I returned during the week to force the entrance of the new swallet. A couple of hours work with a hammer and chisel enlarged the draughting hole sufficiently to allow access into a narrow 5 metre shaft full of spiders. Some more digging revealed another 6 metres of passage through boulders ending in an intimidating vertical squeeze. I would suggest that anyone attempting this squeeze for the first time has some mates nearby with ropes and pulleys, if not concrete and a brass plaque!

The changing course of the Serendipity stream provided an opportunity to explore the stream passage in the upper series which was previously bypassed via Cathedral Pitch and Castigate Crawl. Unfortunately it will not provide an easier alternative route to the lower sections as it is all ridiculously tight serpentine.

Following a new passage which climbed steeply, I found myself in an antechamber with daylight filtering in through a small hole - a new upper entrance to Serendipity.

16 September 1984

The new swallet still deserved another look so I spent the morning standing under the waterfall in a wetsuit. Several tons of rocks were shifted but entry is still prevented by some large dangerous boulders.

After meeting up with the others at Mick Flint's new hole, Trev and I proceeded downhill to Serendipity. With me on the inside and Trev outside we managed to locate and excavate the new entrance. This will now increase the depth of Serendipity to 280+ metres but more importantly will still allow entry if the unstable talus in the old stream sink entrance ever collapses.

Stefan Eberhard

REVELATION CAVE - MARTYN'S RIPPING YARNS

PARTY: Martyn Carnes, Arthur Clarke, Rolan Eberhard, Mick Flint, Nick Hume and Alec Marr.

Abuse was hurled into several open windows (sorry Duncan!) at the "Plovers Barrow" health farm before rousing the appropriate Eberhard. From there we headed down "The Channel", the Florentine being unavailable to us because of snow.

We visited Arthur Clarke at Dover to learn that he, Mick and Alec also intended to do "Revelation Cave" that day, an interesting coincidence! Both groups combined to firstly find the thing, then survey it as it was purportedly 130 metres deep. Thanks to prior bushbashing and additional taping by Arthur et al, we reached "Hobbit Hole" from the old quarry in record time. "Revelation" was found about 400 metres south east of "Hobbit".

Martyn and Rolan taped back to voices they thought were coming from the entrance of Hobbit Hole, but were in fact coming from Arthur, Mick and Alec labouring up the track. Therefore future visitors can follow the left hand tapes, branching off just below H.H., to Revelation.

We descended the steep, muddy and nondescript entrance of the cave into pleasant sized, sloping passage. Passing over numerous loose downclimbs, Martyn suddenly started screaming some of the most vile obscenities I have yet heard. I looked around expecting him to have broken a leg or something, however found him contorting in an inspection of his own backside where a large piece of his new Petzl suit was missing. Martyn never recovered from that indignity!

We rigged the cave's only pitch, of 18 metres, from a bollard on the right hand side over the drop, backed up with a piton. The bottom half of the cave contained several impressive avens up to 30 metres in height. A left hand branch some 20 metres beyond the pitch led to a spray lashed aven that contained a small side passage leading to yet another wet aven. This was fed by navigable passage visible some 10 metres up a smooth wall. Immediately below the "left hand branch" a low crawl on the left wall led to a mud pile, which with a little digging yielded another aven, this time dry and with no prospects for continuation.

Scrambling down some nice open passageway led to the dig reported by Albert Goede from a trip back in 1969. The stream had apparently opened up a low crawlway to the left of the dig site, and Martyn lay full length in this stream belting at the constriction with a hammer. He got part way through before circumstances dulled his enthusiasm. I worked my way through this ridiculously small opening into very low passageway from where the stream flowed further left over cobbles, with a roof height of about 100mm, into more low passage, visible two metres away but with absolutely no draught.

From the wall above the dig, we started the survey out, a process that changed the mood from exhilaration to humdrum. Predictably the exit was slow, livened only by a rock flashing past me at the top of the pitch, and also by Martyn's demolition of a certain sharp piece of limestone. Arthur, Mick and Alec derigged. Fairly recent boot prints

and other evidence suggests that someone had been in the cave within the last couple of months, though none of us could think who. Perhaps it had something to do with the "Moonlight Flats" search?

A small hole just above "Revelation" contained a short pitch that probably provides a link to the avens mentioned and could be worth a trip. We were very, very disappointed to find that the Dover Hotel closes at 5.30pm these days...4....

Nick Hume

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HOLLOW HILLS

7 October 1984

Located the previous visit, this pothole was strategically placed 200m+ vertically above the large terminal chamber in Lost Pot. A connection was not to be, however, because it got too tight below the 15 metre pitch. It was given a temporary identification tag - red tape with the number HH 01.

Having convinced myself that Pitta Patta Pot could go, a glance at the slot below the 22 metre pitch was enough to make me wonder why I even bothered. In this area there are more holes than limestone and three new, small caves were marked (HH 02 - 04). HH 03 was not explored but it does carry a draught.

En-route to Serendipity I marked two more holes (HH 05 and HH 06). HH 06 is another of those famous draughting holes - exploration was not pursued beyond the entrance chamber. I met up with Chris and Robin before enlarging the new entrance to Serendipity. Spent a while poking about in the upper levels, collecting dinosaur bones and digging out a crawl which connects back into the main drag but will bypass the "old" wet and squalid route. [Ed Note: The new route is just plain squalid!]

Stefan Eberhard

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YODELLER'S POT - HAPPINESS IS A WET HOLE 7 October 1984

PARTY: Mick Flint and Alec Marr

A 9.00am start saw Mick and I plodding along the old quarry track with heavy packs and hearts only a gram or two lighter. It seemed we were destined to spend our lives blundering around the mulga, with packs full of gear, looking for caves which didn't exist.

Our arrival at the entrance was slightly delayed by a tiger snake we inadvertantly woke with our screams of "Runaway", "Runaway". No doubt he was lulled back to sleep by the receding sound of crashing bush and heavy breathing.

The entrance to this cave is a hole through some tree roots about 30 metres down hill from Revelation. The entrance slopes down into a roomy aven. We rigged the first pitch (5 metres) and I descended through the keyhole type start to the ledge below, and down-climbed

another 5 metres to the start of the shaft that had been swallowing all our boulders.

I gardened while Mick rigged the pitch with headers through an otherwise solid out-crop of rock. We were both impressed by the amount of time it took the rocks to reach the bottom, so we opted for our longest rope (50 metres). Below the 6 metre sloping start I was committed to what is destined to become an Ida Bay classic pitch - "Wings and a Prayer". The 50 metre pitch is clean, a bit damp and free hanging for all but 6 metres of its length. An aven comes in about 1/3 the way down and adds to the aesthetic quality. The overall feeling of this pitch is similar to that of the bottom pitch in Midnight Hole.

While Mick re-directed and protected, I followed the only lead down to a fairly tight rift with quite a strong draught. Going as close as I dared to the edge and throwing rocks down, the floor appeared to be about 12 metres below. The only anchor point was 8 metres back from the edge but I was confident our 25 metre rope would reach. Imagine my dismay as I slithered backwards through the rift and "popped out" at the top of the pitch only to find the end knot still 15 metres off the deck! I had an epic getting back through the rift by which time Mick had appeared with our 37 metre rope. We tied our 25 metre to the bottom of the 37 metre and Mick descended (Gravity's Revenge) 30 metres to a platform and then changed to the 25 metre rope for the last 10 metre drop. He then followed some small leads while I played in the rift protecting.

By the time I arrived, Mick had checked all the upstream leads so we checked downstream together. Climbing up into a tight rift I followed a draught to a constriction. I rammed myself through to the point where I could see into the streamway about 3 metres below and feel a draught, but without a couple of hours work with a hammer we could go no further. It took a great deal of effort on my part and quite a bit of heaving on Mick's part to extract me from the constriction.

On the way out we still couldn't decide on a name. As I waited at the top of the 30 metre pitch little did I know our name problem would soon be settled.

As Mick struggled back through the rift, his chest Jumar went wild and attacked his unprotected groin like a rabid pirana. My smug amusement changed to concern as Mick's screams of agony filled the chamber. As I struggled to help, Mick "Yodelled His Lungs Out" and did a brilliant impersonation of a stallion in the process of becoming a gelding!??? Having solved the name problem the rest of the ascent went smoothly!

PITCH DETAILS: Pitch 1: 5 metres - 1 ladder, 1 header  
Pitch 2: 50 metres - 4 headers (& a rope?!)  
Pitch 3: 40 metres - 2 protectors (ditto ?)

Overall depth estimated at 110+ metres.

Alec Marr