

JULY, 1985

TCC ANNUAL DINNER - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - BE THERE!!

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Newsletter Annual Subscription \$10.00, Single copies \$1, Non-members \$2.00

PRESIDENT / QUARTERMASTER:

Trevor Wailes - 47 Waterworks Road, Dynnyrne, Tas 7005.

Ph 344862

SECRETARY:

Martyn Carnes - 8A Lambert Avenue, Sandy Bay 7005.

Ph 252659

TREASURER:

Mike Edwards - 334 Davey Street, Hobart, Tas 7000.

Ph 232520

EDITOR / TYPIST:

Stuart Nicholas - 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, Tas 7008

Ph 283054

~~~~~

MISCELLANIA AND OTHER SILLY BITS

The cave divers within our ranks have been blessed with luck recently, and not when underwater either! Frank Salt (ex everywhere!) has donated two tanks to the club or the divers or whatever, for the purpose of assisting with the exploration of the Junee and Mole Creek drainage systems. One could say "Tanks, Frank....".

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL DINNER - SEPTEMBER 27 - PHONE TREV 344862

Has anarchy struck TCC? Are we out of our own control? Or has Trev lost control of his own club?? A number of recent trips have left (and I mean LEFT) at the previously unheard of hour of 6 am!!! Even 7 am is becoming quite common as a starting time - horror, shock and other similar words.....

BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO THE TCC ANNUAL DINNER - SEPTEMBER 27

As most of you know by now, Trev has taken over as quartermaster, adding to his "burden" (?) as President, and despite the lack of keys to his underhouse gear store, all seems to be working, and working out, well. Most trips seem to leave from his place too, so keep that in mind before you pound on the editor's window at strange hours of the night asking for cups of coffee..... Phone him (344862 ah) for gear enquiries, lamps, trip info and so on.

TCC GOES SOCIAL ON SEPTEMBER 27 - BE AT THIS RARE EVENT

Speaking of Trev (and Sue.....!!), congratulations are in order on the birth of their second child, a boy named Travers. The years to come will be good value with the names in that household - Trev, Trav and Gav. Could get a trifle confusing.

GOOD WOMAN INN - SEPTEMBER 27 - TCC'S ANNUAL EXTRAVAGANCE

A few quotes heard around the stals:

"What have you put me onto, ever???"

JULY, 1985

TCC ANNUAL DINNER - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - BE THERE!!

"Your mind makes contracts that your body can't keep!!"

NO NEED TO SAY ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THE ANNUAL DINNER...

After a year or two as treasurer, Mike Edwards has stepped down from the position. At a recent meeting, Chris Davies kindly volunteered to take on the task of bean counting for TCC. Thanks to both Mike for a job well done, and Chris for taking on what can be a rather onerous job, particularly at book balancing time. We actually have a balance sheet (c/- of Mike) for the financial year ending March 31 1985, but owing to space constraints, it has yet to be included in the Spiel - never fear it will be...

Don't stop reading yet - there's more news of moves, happenings and so on.

Andrew and Jeanine Briggs have sold their Lenah Valley home in preparation for an overseas trip and then establishment of a rural (agricultural??) type settlement at Collinsvale. Presently they are living with Jeanine's folks on the eastern shore.

Some years ago Chris Davies and Stu the editor went halves in a printing machine for the production of this esteemed magazine. Since that time the machine has been stored and operated in a large shed at the home of Rik and Janine Tunney. Andrew's furniture took precedence over the press and it was recently moved to Stu's garage as a temporary location. Thanks to Rik and Janine for putting up with the machine and the operators of it for such a time, and helping out with the supply of tables, extra lights and so on. Ultimately it will live either under Stu's place or Trev's place.

????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????

#### OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death earlier this year of Ted Nicholas. We will all remember him with great affection.

For many years he acted as an Honorary Member of the club. His interest began about 1970 when his only son, Stuart, joined TCC. In time Ted's house became a meeting place for cavers. When the club was looking around for a new venue for general and committee meetings, he freely made his house available for this purpose. Many a great caving trip has been planned in front of the old wood heater in the living room.

When Stuart became quartermaster, a job he was to hold for many years, Ted's technical interests were aroused. After his retirement he spent many hours looking after club equipment and ensuring that lights were properly charged. His interests even extended to club members' cars. Many of us have been saved costly repair bills as a result of Ted's expertise with internal combustion engines and his great generosity - giving freely of his time to help others.

During the last few years of his life his health declined. All of us were truly delighted when, after a long time as a widower, he decided last year to marry Dorothy, the girl across the road. Many club members were present when the knot was tied to wish them both a long and happy life.

We were delighted to see them both at the 1984 TCC Annual Dinner last September where they were invited in recognition of Ted's long period of service to TCC. We enjoyed their company and the opportunity to show our appreciation. When the ASF Convention was held at the Lea Scout Camp in January, Ted again came to the rescue by providing a large quantity of second hand tyres for the Speleo Sports.

Unfortunately, he died quite suddenly on the 20th of January while watching Dorothy play a game of croquet.

His cheerful presence among us will be sadly missed and we extend our deepest sympathies to Dorothy and Stuart.

Albert Goede

---

FOR SALE

The Nick Hume end-of-winter clearout.....

Item 1: Two right-hand size ten (10) Bata "Glug" boots, perfect for caving or Welsh folk dancing for that matter. Suit caver or Welsh folk dancer with size 10-11 feet including plenty of room for wet-suit sox. Left boot is supplied free of charge with every right boot sold!! A Nick Hume spare, spare pair, these boots are virginal (although well travelled!!), absolutely never used. Impossible to obtain this size in Tasmania (honest!). Hurry and avoid the inevitable rush by buying now. (Just ask the Eberhards - they have inevitable rushes all the time!) Price: \$16 per pair or special discount for quantity - \$32 for the lot.

Item 2: One Canoe Polo "Batt" complete and ready to go, also never used. Hot yellow and fitted with the illegal polystyrene floatation cells! Ideal for the owners of large swimming pools to get to remote floating caves, drowned dogs, etc. Also useful for Canoe Polo matches I imagine. Alloy paddle shafts (no blades) also supplied. Price: \$100 the lot.

Item 3: Several used CMI ascenders and chest ascenders. These are in varying states of condition (decay?), some possibly requiring new cams (cams are obtainable from Caving Equipment in Sydney). Price negotiable, but willing to let them go cheaply. Contact Nick for a private viewing of this extensive range of preloved ascenders (and other caving oddities for that matter.....).

Phone Nick Hume for these amazing bargains on 251934 (home) or 204839 ("work").

[illegible]

ANOTHER CLASSIFIED ADVERT. - STU's "extend the workshop and stay alive" CLEARANCE SALE

Contemplating taking up diving? Its a great sport and really everyone should have a go at it. Should you be suddenly in need of some dive gear - maybe the laundry's flooded again, or your recently acquired water bed has burst - phone STU for a private viewing of his entire collection of SCUBA gear, all carefully maintained with much TLC. Most of this gear has been the subject of many adventures, jobs and other submerged happenings over the last fifteen years or so but is all in excellent condition.....

Included are various bac-pacs, several fins, a British style cave diving helmet with fittings for torches, a US DIVERS "horse-collar" buoyancy compensator, a US DIVERS Conshelf 14 regulator with extended main hose, swivel elbow fitting (CDAA style), octopus second stage, neck straps, combo gauge and hose protectors, and a couple of steel 72 cu foot tanks with K valves. There's probably a lot of other stuff there too, so wander along to this once only sale. Prices are negotiable, but not much!! Phone STU on 283054 (ah), or 284691 (bh).

[illegible]

## CAVE NUMBERING - FLORENTINE VALLEY

The caves listed below were numbered as part of a project to tag all known caves, many only recently discovered, in the vicinity of Serendipity. The entrances were tagged with small aluminium plates stamped with the appropriate number, fixed in place with 5 x 25 mm bolts. In some cases it was not feasible to place the tag on a rock face, in such cases a nearby tree was used. The use of Albert's rechargeable electric drill was appreciated while drilling the holes. A sketch map is provided, showing relative cave positions. A map of the area was previously published in Speleo Spiel 185, although this does not show many of the new entrances. For a record of previous tagging in the area refer to SS 186, 195 and 206.

JF-376: VARMIN'T POT. A sloping entrance leads to a total depth of around 60 metres, with two pitches of 25 and 10 metres (see survey in this issue). Numerous bones found in this cave included remains of a Tasmanian Tiger (see SS 205).

JF-377: Unnamed cave. A small cave with an entrance 1 metre in diameter and a total depth of 4 metres. Previously given temporary identification with red tape numbered HH-03. It is located roughly 10 metres north of Gunge Pot (JF-356). Two other entrances very close by (HH-02 and HH-04) were not considered worth tagging.

JF-378: MENAGE-A-TROIS. Three tiny entrances very close together, only 3 metres away from JF-358. Total depth is 12 metres (see survey SS 185). The tag was placed on a rock surface beside one of the entrances.

JF-379: GASH POT. A long rift entrance a couple of metres from JF-358. The tag was placed on a vertical wall near a rock arete separating Gash Pot and a small shaft that joins JF-380, although the connection is not humanly negotiable.

JF-380: Unnamed cave. Two adjacent entrances 10 metres from Gash Pot. The uphill entrance takes a trickle of water, the lower entrance was tagged. Total depth - 45 metres.

JF-381: Unnamed cave. The tag was placed on a rock wall on the left just inside the entrance. Marked previously with temporary identification HH-06. Approximately 15 metres deep.

JF-382: Unnamed cave. Thirty metres downhill of JF-381. Entrance size about 5 x 1.5 metres, total depth roughly 15 metres to a draughting constriction. The tag was placed on the right just inside the entrance.

Rolan Eberhard

[illegible]

## TASMANIAN TIGER BONES

There has been a lot of publicity lately concerning the recent discovery of the bones of three Tasmanian Tigers in a cave at Ida Bay. A front page article in The Mercury (13-07-85) reported that "Tasmania's first complete tiger skeleton" had been found. The somewhat over-enthusiastic report was put in proper perspective by a follow-up article which revealed the Tasmanian Museum did in fact possess three complete skeletons, one from Zulu Pot in the Florentine Valley. Although the discovery is not quite "the most significant mammalian palaeontological find yet in Tasmania" as described by the newspaper, it is nevertheless very interesting. Tigers had not previously been recorded from the area and the presence of three

JULY, 1985

TCC ANNUAL DINNER - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - BE THERE!!

animals in the one cave is certainly unusual. Perhaps more important is a skull and bones in the same cave that may belong to a large extinct wombat, although this awaits scientific confirmation. Hopefully in the future cavers will take more of an interest in these seemingly uninteresting collections of bones that usually get crushed underfoot when a shaft is descended for the first time. The identification of a broken Tiger skull from Varmint Pot has been confirmed by Phil Andrews at the museum. The skull was donated to the museum's collection (TM No. A1401).

Rolan Eberhard

+++++

REMEMBRANCE DAY DIG - GOLLUM'S GROVEL (IB 28) 11 NOV., 1984

PARTY: Trevor Cook, Mick Flint and Arthur Clarke

A day of quoteable quotes revisiting doline at head of the dry gully, approx. 150 metres south from the eastern (Mystery Creek Cave) side of the old quarry. As reported in Spiel 203 (Nov '84), the doline takes a small stream and has a cave with two entrances - one ..... a smallish draughting entrance (0.7 by 0.5m) in a buttress face on the western side (which bears the number tag); the other a crawly type dig through mud and rotten log "squelch" about 4 metres east of the former.

"Any hole you have to dig, especially under logs, won't go!" "You'll get at least 8 hours from this cap lamp.....its just been charged...!" ".....its as if a coal seam was burning underground." (then a moment later) "Isn't it a shame, his matches are wet." "I aim to keep my gear clean today." "You found the THING, you do it....tell me if there's any pitches."

So A.C. went grovelling. After removing a considerable volume of decayed and rotten log and booting through "tree-mud" I slithered into a dry chamber about 6 metres wide and choked with large dolerite boulders. Clambering on down through the choke with its "balancing boulders" and loose slabs, past glowworms and wetas and a small stream, it was indeed a cave!! Following the 15 metres of vertical scrambling there was indeed a pitch. Enter Mick! In all, four small pitches totalling about 35 metres, needing 6 protectors... the bottom pitch rope hung free into a large chamber, with two leads. One side drops down a steep sloped muddy bank to a squeeze with little prospect. The other more promising lead continued down another 10 metres through talus and flowstone to a straw decorated chamber with a small creek bed that eventually narrowed down to about 20 cm. Though draughting, dimming lights and wet muddied gear lower one's exploration morale; the grovel was left behind. A.C., exiting without light found the upper entrance chamber somewhat disconcerting....balance-wise on wobbly boulders.

"Not as bad as Sesame, but not far from it." "Some caves at Ida Bay are good ones, this was not one of them."

Top two pitches are virtually free-climbable. Lack of belay points gave rise to need for extra number of protectors. Distances quoted are estiamtes only based on known rope lengths.

Arthur Clarke

+++++

IDA BAY - WESTERN CREEK AREA: CHECKING OUT THE ODOUR 24 JAN., 1985

PARTY: Mick Flint, Alec Marr and Arthur Clarke (TCC), Tom Porritt (VSA and Chillagoe CC), Stuart Scott and Phill Ling (Tasmania Police S & R).

JULY, 1985

TCC ANNUAL DINNER - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - BE THERE!!

Scrub bashing in the Western Creek area looking for Thun Junction (IB 20), Mick and Alec had found a new shaft. Attempting a descent, they were driven back by the putrid stench and unnerving inrush of "blowies". Following the disappearance of a Youth Hosteller in the Ida Bay area last year, we had been advised to report and strange or unusual smells, per-chance they emanated from a "dead body".

The hole lies about 50 metres west of Thun Junction on the same contour. It is well disguised by thick bush and dead branches, so could easily be stumbled into. While I operated the old hand drill to tag the hole (IB 29), Mick and Stu organised the gear and rigged the entrance pitch, and Alec sorted out his bolting gear. Our "smelly cave" was breathing in and out. With each "out-waft" there was a somewhat unpleasant smell and the odd fly or two. Stu suggested that only a few should go down to check it out, since Mick and Alec had reported that there was a lot of loose rubble down the first pitch.

Tom and I went over to a large cliff-lined doline about 20 metres west. A short at the base revealed a weta colony but no prospect other than voice connection through a tight fissure leading back east to Smelly Cave. Trundling off again we scoured the hillside, saw IB-17 and located a shaft near a cliff lined gully east of Smelly Cave. Yellow-orange tape revealed that we were not the first to see it, though no number tag was seen. Tom descended a 12 metre pitch to a sloping dirt floor which lead to several short passages (possibly IB-21). Yells from Alec sent us scurrying back to be told they had found a very rotten wallaby carcass.

Smelly Cave (IB-29) has an 8 to 10 metre entrance pitch to a sloping greasy mud floor which leads to a rubbly infill with loose edge above a 12 metre pitch. A re-belay bolt on the wall above this pitch enables a safe descent. Carcass at base of pitch. Lead from pitch into muddy stream passage from sloping floor, no further prospect.

Arthur Clarke

+++++

HOOKS HOLE - IB-28

.....LATE JANUARY 1985

PARTY: Charles Wessing, Jeff Watson and Arthur Clarke

An impressive 4 by 1 metre entrance shaft, Hooks Hole was originally located by A.C. during a scrub-bash in the Revelation/Yodellers Pot area. Mick Flint and I scoured the hills for several days looking for another "go-er".... there has to be a back door to Exit somewhere! Taking a circuitous route south from Revelation (IB-1), I was hoping to find Chokestone Pot (IB-13). Following down a ridge of karst features with interconnected and cross jointed fissures the ground dropped steeply into an east/west bearing gully. Hooks Hole sits at the base of a small cliff halfway up the northern side of this dry gully, being a 3/4 hour walk from the old quarry via Hobbit Hole, Revelation etc.

Rigging a 30 foot ladder left us about 2 metres short of the floor of the entrance chamber, but was then easily scrambled down to. The chamber floor like the rest of the cave is littered with numerous skeletons, from which some wombat skulls were collected. The cave takes on the appearance of an enlarged fissure in which a small stream has flowed. On the northern side it leads off uphill to a small aven with coralline walls abounding with wetas. The southern side of the chamber has "fossil" stream bed with passage uphill (westwards) as well as steeply down. Jeff Watson (a caving crony of Phill Hill's) followed the passage up through a squeeze then into a well decorated but narrow flowstone floored fissure up to 4 metres high, which after

JULY, 1985

TCC ANNUAL DINNER - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - BE THERE!!

about 20 metres reduced to 1.5 metre height, "lit" by glowworms.

Charles free-climbed down the ancient stream bed while Jeff and I rigged a rope and abseiled down from back in the main chamber. This short 8 metre pitch landed us in a small pebbly-bottomed pool with numerous startled frogs! Heading east in a 4 - 5m high wide fissure we trundled on about 10 - 12m to a small shaft and "bridge", which provided an excellent belay point for the next pitch into coral-like walled aven....very abrasive on the knuckles. Our next ladder left us nearly 3m short of the floor so a rope was thrown over as well for a handline while we scraped our knees chimneying the last few metres.

The floor of this aven abounded in numerous skeletons, chiefly wombats. There appeared to be at least two other shafts entering the aven and at floor level a small stream wound its way on into serpentine passage in several directions....all littered with bones. Several leads were followed. With floors varying from gravelly sand to the sharp coralline formation we had the choice of either muddy overalls or grazed knees! The only draughting lead was followed for 30 - 40 metres 'till it reached the impenetrable department.....or "Where the shovel Hooks?" An interesting well decorated cave with more unexplored leads, worth a survey but not a turn-on for the SRT club.

Arthur Clarke

+++++

#### NEW FEELINGS IN GROWLING SWALLET

23 February, 1985

PARTY: Stefan and Rolan Eberhard

Some people were suffering from acute inertia but subsequently a coherent state of mind being achieved, we found ourselves in "New Feeling", the chamber forming the nucleus of the (now not so) recent discoveries. A 14 metre climb up one side of the chamber produced respectable passage decorated with flowstone and crystal pools. Surveying along, we admired a large "pendulum" suspended by a long straw in a crystal pool. A curtain of straws guarded a passage that choked off after 25 metres. An alternative was a 22 metre pitch which dropped us back into an already known lower level. Whilst in this vicinity a few side passages were investigated, including one which appears to be the main trunk passage leading on.

Further exploration back in the main chamber produced a series of interconnecting tubes, made memorable by some snow-white flowstone and a chamber of helictites. More grovelling turned up some more of this, and a bit of that. The total surveyed and explored length of this new series is currently more than a kilometre. Thankfully, "New Feeling" is only half an hour from the entrance.

Stefan Eberhard

+++++

#### CAULDRON POT

26 FEBRUARY, 1985

PARTY: Martyn Carnes and Stefan Eberhard

This trip is hardly worth reporting, but just for the record, Cauldron Pot had to be derigged. Although executed in a leisurely manner, minimal stuffing around ensured that the whole business only took 3 hours. The most eventful occurrence was Martyn forgetting his Enduro suit, whereupon he mutilated the nearest bush in an unprecedented display of psychotic behaviour.

Stefan Eberhard

JULY, 1985

TCC ANNUAL DINNER - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - BE THERE!!

+++++

IDA BAY

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1985

Varying trips with various bods mainly scrub-bashing in Hooks Hole area west of Blaney's Quarry (old limestone quarry). With many thanks to Albert Goede, who also brought down some more number tags, I started some ground survey traverses establishing a benchmark in the old quarry and one at the base of the La Perouse track near where the westerly trending Hobbit Hole track starts. Any volunteers to help mark out some survey traverses?? Using a 1:5000 enlargement off the "Mark 1" Leprena sheet I would like to plot as many numbered caves as my current enthusiasm can muster, with thanks again to Stuart for doing co-ord. figures on computer and hence filed for future reference. Tom Porritt appeared and reappeared at varying intervals and assisted in surveying, with gear including Suunto compass and clino, and Miner's Dial. More recently theodolite and staff have wandered the surrounds of Bender's Quarry courtesy of Phill Jackson (SCS). Hooks Hole (IB-26) and that area are in fact only 10 to 15 minutes walk in a direct line from Blaney's Quarry. The aforementioned dry gully is just over the ridge from Bottleneck (IB-X2) and has yielded at least four more promising holes.... all tagged thanks to the technology of a cordless electric drill.

Arthur Clarke

+++++

ROTTEN LOG HOLE (IB-43)

24 MARCH, 1985

PARTY: Martyn Carnes and Arthur Clarke

Into the hollow hills of the south again and west of Blaney's Quarry and the La Perouse track. Martyn was keen to look at the area south of Hobbit Hole etc. which would appear to be above (??) the Conference Concourse region of Exit Cave. I wanted to look into some of the many unexplored holes near the Hooks Hole (IB-26) track. The first hole we looked at involved a 2 metre climb down to a mud ramp which descends north into a tight fissure from which several boulders were removed. A probable goer but not today! (Since tagged IB-42.) Onto another similar hole to the south west with a 1 - 1.5 metre entrance in a low cliff. While I was extricating boulders and contorting at right angles, Martyn was suffering a slight attack of leeches. From an entrance series of tight fissures the cave descends a winding "solution tube" for about 4m to a pitch taking a little water. The leeches had got the better of Martyn so he suggested a retreat for the time being. "Leech Pot" has since been numbered IB-41.

Heading downhill about 15 - 20 metres to the bottom of the doline gully, we re-located a 2 by 1 metre shaft largely obscured by rotten logs. After the appropriate gardening session, we anchored a wire trace around an obvious Karst feature and descended a 10m pitch. This emptied into a small decorated cavern one end of which was a boulder choke, under which is a loose scree slope made up of fist sized dolerite boulders coated with limonite and very slippery. Further progress was halted by more of the same talus and collapse material. Total depth about 25 metres.

Walking east we looked around the Karst ara of IB-16 and wondered how close we might be to a back door to Exit!!

Arthur Clarke



JULY, 1985

TCC ANNUAL DINNER - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - BE THERE!!

+++++

GROWLING SWALLET

2 JUNE, 1985

PARTY: Martyn Carnes, Mike Martyn, Stefan and Rolan Eberhard

This trip was memorable for the level of independance exhibited by the participants - everyone had different ideas on what they intended to do. Arriving at the end of the Eight Road, Rolan decided to go and do Bone Pit. After bottoming the cave I understand he discovered and excavated a new upper entrance. This new entrance is located on top of the bluff above the main entrance and would make a circa 30 metre abseil into Bone Pit proper.

Meanwhile, the remainder of the party proceeded into GS and thence in to New Feeling. However at some stage of the proceedings Martyn became displaced from the other two party members although his voice was heard mysteriously through rock walls on a number of occasions.

Martyn was not seen for the rest of the trip although I believe he also had a similar experience of simultaneous encounter and non-encounter.

Despite the confusion and uncertainty generated by the apparent appearance and subsequent non-appearance of various people, Mike and Stefan managed some exploration in various small, wet tubes which did strange things. More surveying was completed in a region of cave which is characterised by a profusion of complex and interconnecting passages, some of which were nice but most of which could be described as nasty. The investigation of this rather indescribable portion of cave is not complete.

Stefan Eberhard

+++++

SERENDIPITY

27 JULY, 1985

PARTY: Trevor Wailes, Stefan Eberhard and Nick Hume

A perfect day with some good snow cover on neighbouring Mt Field, along with a pleasant chat to the gatekeeper were almost sufficient excuses not to go caving. Almost, but not quite. The long dreaded, long overdue survey/push trip into Serendipity was actually going to take place.

We entered the wetter than usual system at a fairly leisurely pace. Stefan's rigging of the final pitch even allowed Trev and I the luxury of a smoke and some idle reflection. I went ahead along the upstream passage (Trev's so called "Headbanger Passage") to get a brew going at the brew chamber (Ed's note: Reminiscent of early 70's trips.....). A sizable absence by the other two indicated something or other. They eventually turned up to consume numerous coffees while relating a tale of 100 metres of new passage above the wet aven at "French Connection".

Trev placed some old club rope down "Pernickety Drop" for use as a handline and we shuffled off towards the new section. Numerous side leads are present here. One of these Martyn and I explored about a year ago, to an airy downclimb that choked off. After the conference Don Fraser and Stefan pushed this same lead to an interesting area of high avens and large chambers. We began the survey of these explorations in

JULY, 1985

TCC ANNUAL DINNER - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - BE THERE!!

a particularly nasty, tight, serpentine passage. Stations typically were between one and five metres apart.

At a bifurcation we surveyed into a very impressive chamber, roughly 50 metres by 30 metres, and a refreshing change from the previous section. A further large chamber above this one yielded some of the most impressive pristine formation I have seen for a long while. Chocolate flowstone flooring, with large connected floor to roof formations, together with a myriad straws, was breathtaking.

We returned to the bifurcation and surveyed up to a 50 metre-plus wet aven. A side lead connected back, immediately, via a short drop to the previous large chambers. Here we thankfully finished the survey. A total of some 450 metres surveyed in 85 stations was a very good effort here, being at the end of a fairly difficult system, that must now be 3 1/2 kilometres long. It will be very interesting to see it drawn up, hopefully giving hints towards an eventual connection to Growling Swallet, with all that that implies.

Stefan made a do or die effort at climbing the aven, while Trev and I pondered the return trip to the surface. Stef made little headway unfortunately, nor did he expire! This is a curious area with varmint bones littering the floor of the aven, hinting at a nearby entrance. Also, scattered gravel and apparently, flood detritus adds to that conclusion. Extrapolating from our survey it may be possible to locate a surface entrance, allowing yet another mind boggling through-trip.

Returning to the brew chamber my new electric decided to die on me. After coffee and macaroni cheese, I stumbled back to the pitch series on borrowed light which was no easy task. I borrowed Trev's spare electric for the prusik/derig trip out.

Back on the surface, Trev stretched out alongside the entrance hole, looking for all the world like the death scene from "Swan Lake". He vowed never to return to this cave again.....!

A great trip, we were back on the surface at 1 am, having been underground for over 13 hours. A planned skiing trip to Mt Field by Stef and myself the following day (or later that same day in fact), did not eventuate due to apathy.

Nick Hume

\*\*\*\*\*

#### A FEW NOTES ON THE ANNUAL DINNER

VENUE: THE GOOD WOMAN INN, ARGYLE STREET, NORTH HOBART

DATE: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 1985

ORGANISATION: YOU MUST BE THERE AND SEATED BEFORE 7.30 pm.

**THE DINNER** IS UPSTAIRS IN ONE OF THE SEVERAL ROOMS UP THERE

MORE INFORMATION: PHONE TREVOR WAILES 344862 ah

RESERVATIONS: PHONE TREV (as above) - THIS IS MOST IMPORTANT

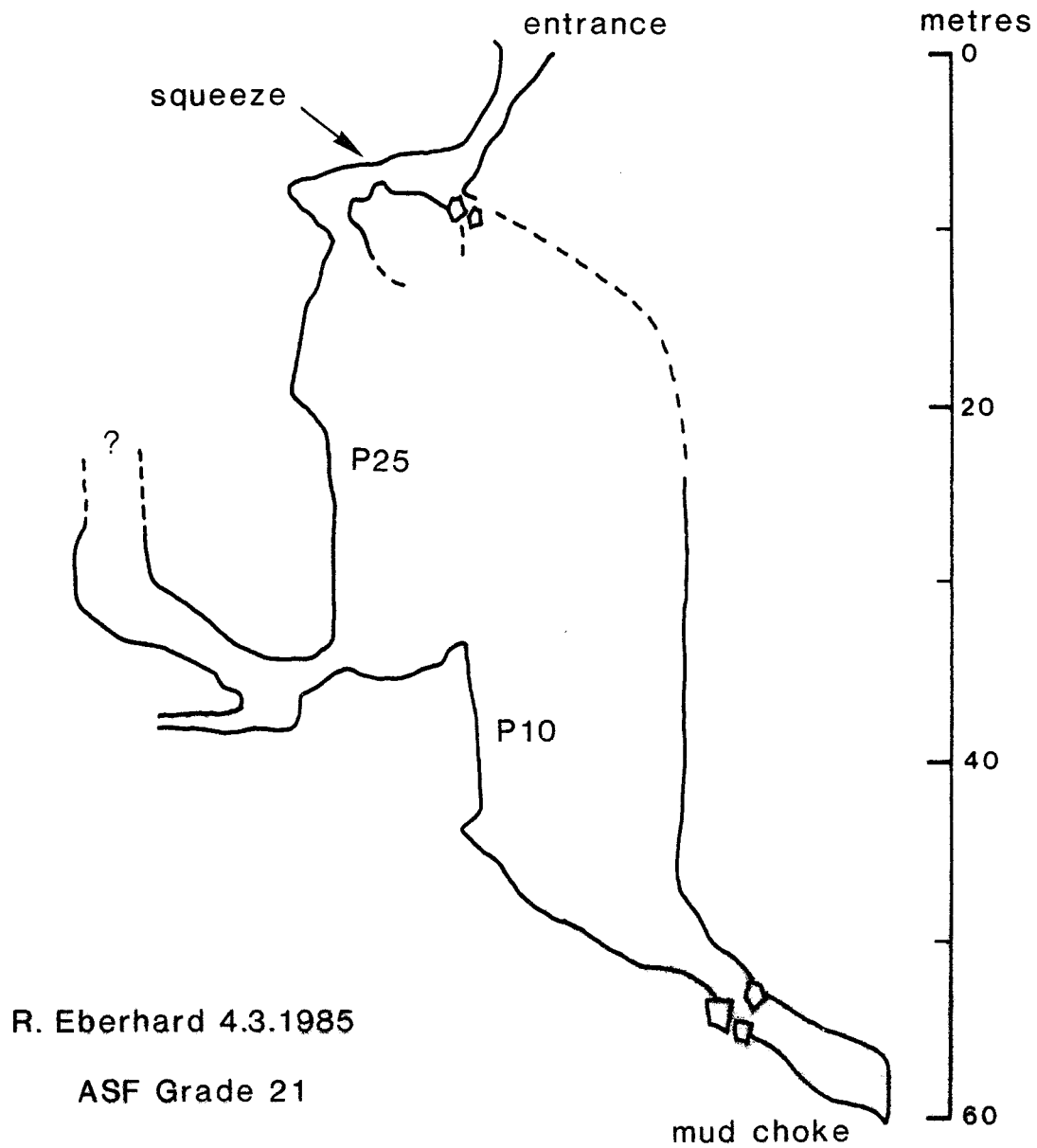
NO RESERVATION - NO SEAT - NO MEAL!!!!

OTHER INFORMATION: BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO MAKE THIS DINNER THE BEST YET.....

# VARMINT POT

FLORENTINE VALLEY

Extended section



1. JF366 ASTEROID POT
2. JF367 THE DUNGEON
3. JF368 ARMADILLO POT
4. JF347 FROST POT
5. JF346
6. JF375 SERENDIPITY
7. JF344 SERENDIPITY
8. JF369
9. JF338 LOST POT
10. JF370 MONGREL POT
11. JF371 FLORENTINE POT
12. JF372 SLIMY SLOT
13. JF348 BENSON POT
14. JF349
15. Un-numbered swallet
16. JF350
17. JF351 HEDGES POT
18. JF352
19. JF353 PITTA PATTA POT
20. JF354
21. JF355 POX POT
22. JF377
23. JF356 GUNGE POT
24. JF357
25. JF378 MENAGE-A-TROIS
26. JF358
27. JF379 GASH POT
28. JF380
29. JF373 PUNISHMENT POT
30. JF374
31. JF381
32. JF382

# SERENDIPITY AREA

Sketch of entrance locations

Not to scale

