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SPELEO SPIEL



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Holocaust entrance pitch.

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

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PRESIDENT / QUARTERMASTER:

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

Ph 344862

SECRETARY:

Nick Hume - 9 Primrose Place, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005.

Ph 251934

TREASURER:

Chris Davies - 1 Fingerpost Road, South Hobart, Tas 7000.

Ph 391419

EDITOR / TYPIST:

Steve Bunton - 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, Tas 7008.

Ph 283054

EDITORIAL

Whilst safety is of the utmost importance in caving and is a commodity which cannot be compromised there is a consequence of our endeavours which needs to be considered and similarly it too, should not be compromised. Conservation of caves is just as important because it contributes to the quality of caving experiences in the immediate future and longterm.

Again, during recent times we have seen the spectre of bolting in caves rear its ugly head. Not the issue of bolts versus non-bolting, for in this issue I am in favour of the limited use of bolts but the current issue of proliferation and poor placement of bolts. The argument for safety in caves can justify the use of bolts but it cannot excuse the abuse of this practise. Many club members are openly critical of the attempts of others to rig caves, both using bolts or other belays and this has prompted me to attempt to place such discussion in perspective.

The phenomenon of criticism provides a clue to many a caver's motives. Some people do go ego-caving (most do at some stage) but the attitude that "we could have rigged the cave better" is moot if the rigging is not life-threatening. I would expect experienced cavers to be able to rig better than novices, similarly I accept that novices need to learn somewhere and in this regard to learning to place bolts, any old scrap of limestone is the place. A wall of the Junee Quarry is infinitely better than at the head of a pitch in a cave, where the likelihood of stuffing-up the best bolt placement, with a poorly set bolt, is quite high.

Using the best placement certainly makes caving easier and more efficient but not necessarily safer. The safety aspect of placing a bolt may be only an excuse for other motives such as convenience, speed and a desire to demonstrate our finesse. Sure it is easier and more fashionable to cave with 9mm rope, sure this requires more attention to detail in rigging and sure it increases the party's speed but these can all be aspects of ego-caving. Currently there seems to be an artificial need to cave quickly and efficiently with the restrictions on times of access to caving areas. The only real need for speed or fancy rigging in the name of safety is when it prevents hypothermia.

To use safety as an excuse for bolting and thereby justify the consequential degradation of caves, especially at the tops of pitches which have been safely rigged for years without these metal visual-pollutants is to ignore some very pertinent issues. When placing bolts we need to think about conservation, why we go caving and the quality of our future caving experience.

Stephen Bunton

UNDERGROUND NEWS AND VIEWS

A recent edition of NSS News had a comment by Jim Smith, American SRT guru of Europe and Mexico fame, that "...Australian rigging was the safest and most imaginative he had ever seen."

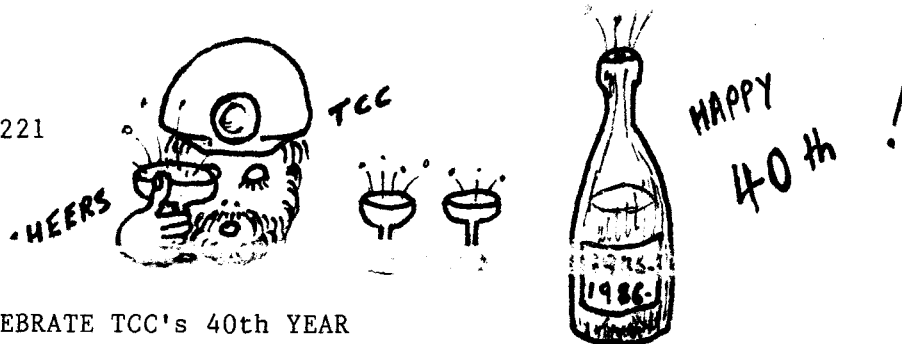
There's A Tavern In The Town and as of the first Wednesday of next month TCC meetings will be held there. Trevor has negotiated with the management of the Wheatsheaf Hotel for the use of their out the back meeting room for future club meetings. The first meeting will be the 5th of November at 8.00pm. Be There!

Mike and Chris Edwards hosted a BBQ to celebrate Show Day and a number of TCC members braved the elements to attend. Discussions were held as to what constituted appropriate dress for the occasion. Mike's known for his canoeing skills and a spray deck and bouyancy vest would have been in order. Most made do with umbrellas, some wore parkas though Himalayan windsuits would not have been out of order nor would a snorkel and flippers but again our President showed the way. Trevor's, Travers' Trog Suit Stole the show.

The summer loopy season is nigh upon us and preparations are being made for the influx of tourists, bushwalkers, greenies and cavers. Hopefully the influx won't literally mean people start falling down caves but just in case the Search and Rescue Squad are gearing up for that eventuation. There will be a S&R exercise at Mole Creek on the Weekend of the 6th and 7th of December and a S&R Liason Meeting on Thursday 11th Decémbér.

Nettlebed has yet again asserted itself as the deepest cave in New Zealand and the Southern Hemisphere. The recent discovery of an upper entrance on the slopes of Mt Arthur makes the cave approximately 867m deep. This also makes it the world's second deepest through-trip after Sistema Badalona in Spain. The first through-trip by Wellington Cavers took 24 hours and involved an underground camp.

Following the report which appeared in The Mercury about Machete Pot a Mr W.G.Valentine presented the club with a historic photograph which he inherited from the estate of his late father Mr William D. Valentine. The photo which features his father was taken about 1905-8 and shows a large group of men with walking canes and hand lanterns standing around in the forest. It seems most likely they were on a caving expedition to somewhere but further details are not available.



THE DINNER TO CELEBRATE TCC's 40th YEAR

Like most places that secure a bulk booking, The Cellar seemed to make a killing on such an occasion. TCC just happened to be the unfortunates that put up with inflated bar prices and consumed a main course of such meagre proportions that the area of clean plate exceeded that covered by a tasty meat morsel and a few very plain vegetables. The desserts on the other hand were quite excellent and some lucky nomads secured about three as the trolley made its rounds. Nick Hume with his enigmatic style managed the subtlest of insults by escaping for a pizza between courses but really it wasn't the food that prompted us to attend this auspicious occasion, nor can the two diligent organizers Trevor Wailes and Doug Turner be held responsible. In fact we should thank them sincerely for their organizational efforts.

The Dinner was just a great excuse for a get together of TCC members old and new. There were numerous original members and nearly a full contingent of currently active members who looked surprisingly well-groomed. John Salt stole the show with a spiky hairdo that set a few pacemakers fibrillating. Max Jeffries and Anne Annan represented the Maydena contingent. The only lobby group that appeared to be missing was the cavers of the early Seventies and their tales of epic exploration in Khazadum etc were a sad loss from the evenings entertainment. Frank Salt started proceedings with a tale of the stages a cavers development from "young puppy" through "tiger" to "cave diver" and eventually retirement. Frank Brown talked about early club trips, what it was like travelling to Hastings by public transport and second grade dirt roads, the first club discovery of Christmas Cave as an extension off Newdegate Cave (Hastings Tourist Cave). Arthur Clarke presented Frank Brown with his Machete Pot, machete and Frank Hassler who lost it added extra colour to the story. The Mercury was there to record the event and subsequently a story appeared in the popular press. Finally Steve Bunton talked about documentation of achievements and the changes that have occurred in recent times but despite these the adventure remains the same.

After these formal proceedings we were free to inspect the various collections of photographs neatly displayed in peoples personal albums. In particular that of Jessy Luckman wife of the late Leo Luckman documented thoroughly their involvement in the club. Pat Wessing told tales of how the first Hastings Trip was held up when an echidna burrowed into the road and how her eldest daughter celebrated her twelfth birthday in Christmas Cave.

Tasmania has long been at the forefront of cave discovery in Australia, it is still the only place where original exploration occurs with regularity. Due to the dedication of some contemporary members TCC is still at the forefront of this aspect of speleology. It may be merely a coincidence that the oldest club in Australia is still the most prolific in its output. The highlight of the dinner was the realisation that the current trend is just a continuation of a tradition and that the club is steeped in a history of achievement which spans not only several generations but also many changes in technology. The significance of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club took on a new dimension in terms of Australia's Caving Heritage. Hopefully it will continue as an active and vibrant entity in years to come.

Stephen Bunton

CHEYNE RANGE ; "So this is what retired cavers get up to!"

30th May 1986

Present: Stefan Eberhard, Leigh Douglas and Nick Hume

A large sinkhole-depression exists on the western slopes of the Cheyne Range somewhat north of the Mt Gell summit. It is very distinctive on aerial photos of the region since it is a clear area of possibly 1/2 square kilometre amidst dense semi-alpine forest. Kiernan and Brown reported some dolomite outcropping here during a brief visit in 1977. As the site is reasonably accessible and has some depth potential we were inspired to check it out for cave development.

A boggy access road from the Lyell Highway brought us to within a few kilometres of the feature. From the end of the road we reasonably easily followed a compass bearing, taping as we went. After an hours exertion we emerged at the southern end of the clear area thanks to Stefan's excellent navigation.

The depression was a refreshing change from the claustrophobia of the forest. A stream descending from the mountainside ran through a field of alpine grasses to sink in one of a series of collapses at the northern end of the depression. The series represents various generations of swallets for the local drainage, unfortunately none of them were enterable due to recent collapses.

Outcrops of dolomite looked hopeful so we decided to head downslope from the northern end of the depression to determine the vertical extent of the structure and look for a resurgence stream from the lower contact. We taped over the headwall then steeply downhill to some sizable bluffs covered in distinctive rillenkarrén. From this vantage point we could see some massive cliffs on the hills on the opposite side of the Alma River valley which with a bit of wishfull thinking looked karstlike, though they were probably only quartzite.

Lower still we encountered a stream at a point about 250 metres below the level of the depression. It was paved in fossiliferous (Fenestella) shale that constitutes the basal material south of the depression. The water coursed around a series of dolomite bluffs that indicated a definite contact at this spot at least. We followed upstream but found no resurgence which was not surprising since the south-north dip of the dolomite bedding, evidenced in the bluffs, tends to suggest that the resurgence would be further north than we were. Indeed most of the dolomite seems to be on the northern side of the depression, though to what extent, we never investigated.

This trip was interesting enough though it tends to make one suspicious of all minor outcropping areas of dolomite. It would probably be worth another attempt to trace the drainage of the depression as well as cover the area to further north. Rosebery cavers are turning up holes on a neighbouring hill, so anything is possible!

Nick Hume

Caving in the Wild West : Dubbil Barril and Bubs Hill

29th - 30th June 1986

Present: Stefan Eberhard and Nick Hume

An old-timer in Strahan: "...caves?...mmm, not seen any caves up in them parts. ...haarwk, spitooey...". Amused but not much edified by this, Stefan and I headed off along the King River road to Rinadena, Dubbil Barril and other peculiarly named parts hopefully to round up a few "karsts". The river road was wet and rutted creating bow waves from the car more reminiscent of a 4WD driving excursion but Stef's subaru handled the conditions extremely well.

Past a museum piece of a bridge on the King River, a signposted gate announced that "Greenies Will Be Shot". Stefan and I both drink Cascade Blue so we decided it was safe to continue. Up switchbacks, over makeshift bridges, outwashes and you name its to a place that can only be described as adjacent to the lower West Coast Range. Buttongrass plains and quartzite rock don't give off the sort of vibes you expect from caving areas, however, there was little option at that stage but to persist. We negotiated some 250 metres of vertical relief and precocious scrub to a riverbed totally devoid of limestone - the geo-maps were wrong! Even our own aerial photographs were misleading as we discovered that apparent karst feature were, in reality, gorges and outposted rock towers. Wherever the limestone may be hiding-out, it is certainly not as extensive nor accessible as various reports tend to indicate.

Writing the whole thing off as a farce, we retreated to the Bubs Hill quarry for a chilly overnight stay. So chilly in fact that the tents solidified under a centimetre of rime so that the next morning the flaps had to be opened up like a conventional door! A late start to the day's proceedings was predictable and I did my best to encourage general apathy but Stefan stormed off towards the hill anyway.

The lower slopes of Bubs Hill are accessible from various Mines Dept transects off the Queenstown powerline. Dolines and small shafts abound, many issuing the promising gurgles of a stream, though most of these flowed through fissures too narrow to follow very far. We downclimbed one entrance into some reasonably spacious passage at the end of which Stefan pushed some abrasive vadose canyon in pursuit of a draft. He emerged in a 3m x3m stream passage and explored various meanders to surface at another entrance some 100 metres away. The cave continues in a low passage with a promise of a good drenching. We found more blind shafts right up to the quartzite capping of the summit.

Generally the area has poor cave development, though there is a 30m - 40m shaft in one of the cave shouldering the Raglan Range. Some minor horizontal caves are known in the dry riverbed dissecting the hill from the range, again these are fairly minor. There is over 200 metres of relief in the limestone, so there is some potential for a deep system if a bit of work is put into exploration. Apart from the three hour drive from Hobart the area is readily accessible and is an interesting alternative to the Humdrum of Ida Bay and the Florentine.

Nick Hume

UPDATED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE IOA BAY CAVES - (PART 2)

IB-25 (Yodellers Pot): Located 15 metres downhill in gully from lower (numbered) entrance of Revelation Cave (IB-1), entrance to cave surrounded by manfern and tree roots, cave takes most of the usual water flow in gully - aptly reported as "... happiness is a wet hole"; entrance slope into aven then three pitches - 5m, 10m and 50m with short decorated horizontal section into tight rift and the Yodellers Pitch (30m), followed by a another 10m drop to a steep 10m climb down over talus to a streambed; downstream a draughting rift narrows above streamway 3 metres below but requires "... work with a hammer... to go further" Strong draught suggests prospects for thin persons or masonry effort. Depth of cave 110 metres plus estimated as with pitches (in sketch map) by known rope lengths. Accessed off Hobbit Hole track to left at survey peg "F", 20 - 25 minutes WSW from Blayneys Quarry.

IB-26 (Hooks Hole): Located 80 metres south west from IB-22 doline on nor-eastern of a gullied uvala on side of a ridge; entrance as impressive 4m - 1m rift at base of short cliff - an obvious animal trap; 12m entrance pitch to fissure chamber floored with numerous marsupial bones and forest debris, upstream passage along decorated fossil streambed, below is 8m hand-line down to fissure rift then 20 metres along to further 12m pitch against rough "coral-like" formation wall into large aven with connecting passages; (smooth-walled eastern side of this aven has small stream entering 15 metres above draining from IB-41 and IB-42); numerous mammalian remains in side passages including potential archaeological "dig" site at base of "Fossil" aven, small streamway in sand crawlable for 30 to 40 metres with slight draught at downstream end. Access via yellow taped branch track to left from Hobbit Hole track at survey peg "D", 10 minutes from (old) Blayneys Quarry.

IB-27 (Chicken Bone Pot): Located at western end of a 200 metre line of contact cliffs on southern side of Marble Hill west of present quarry and 15 minutes south from "National Gallery" (IB-47), just south of IB-64 and 20 to 25 metres uphill from "Hang-about Hole" (IB-24); entrance in jagged-edged fluted buttresses in contact cliff, 24m entrance pitch to loose slope, requiring handline for downclimb past phreatic tube to next pitch - 32m; then squeeze through rift into large aven with echidna remains down rubble slope to next pitch from a bolt (14m) and further rubbled sloped avens and 7m downclimb to mud floor; upclimb to further 8m pitch to mud floored avens and a sump following line of contact cliff. Depth approx. 125 metres from Grade 2 survey. Accessed either along yellow taped "National Gallery" track or uphill 5 to 10 minutes from obvious limestone knoll midway along Skinner track to "Exit Cave" - 30 minutes from Benders Quarry.

IB-28 (Gollum's Grovel): Located 120 to 150 metres east of "Holocaust" (IB-45) and 200 metres SSW uphill from eastern rim of Blayneys Quarry (i.e., Mystery Creek Cave side); two entrances in steep sided fern and log filled doline beside fault zone contact (???) and taking small stream soak, number tag on wall above western entrance - a muddy shute to 18m pitch and downclimb into large bell-shaped chamber with narrow rift connection to the other entrance series, second entrance under log jam through mulch into large mud-free chamber with massive dolerite boulders (some wobbly!!) and into small streamway, series of 4 dry pitches - longest being 15m - two of them being free-climbable with handline and two requiring protected ropes; lower chamber divides - one passage to streamway in tight fissure, other downclimbs a mud bank to gravelly soak. Total depth estimated from sketch is 70 to 80 metres. Accessed either uphill from eastern side of Blayneys Quarry or from red-taped route left off Moonlight Ridge track and east past IB-45.

IB-29... (Smelly Cave): (Found during search for missing bushwalker and explored with Tasmanian Police S. & R.) Located in Western Creek area 50 metres downhill from Western Creek Swallet track, east of W.C.S. (IB-18) and 100 to 150 metres south-west of Thun Junction (IB-20), 20m east of large cliff-lined doline with log bridge; 10m entrance pitch to sloping greasy mud floor requiring handline then bolt to next 12m pitch to chamber with rotting remains of wallaby carcass, sloping floor terminates in muddy soak. Access as above from Moonlight Ridge track (See IB-18 details) 1 hour ++ from road.

IB-30... (Un-named Cave): Located beside Moonlight Ridge walking track 7.5m north-east "South-West Wildlife Reserve" sign; narrow dry fissure cave 15 to 20 metres long and approx. 8m deep with several short connecting passages. Access as above and 5 to 10 minutes walk up from Blayneys Quarry.

IB-31... [Formerly tagged "X-1001"] - (Un-named Hole): Located 3 metres NE of "Kokoda Trail" on obvious saddle along K.T., 30 to 40 minutes uphill from Exit Cave (IB-14) and 100 to 150 metres south of Mini Martin (IB-8); 2m x 3m entrance to 6m shaft with 1m wide ledge on SW side 1.6m down from top, shaft is 2m x 1.5m wide below ledge. Accessed either via Kokoda Trail up from Exit Cave or along new red-taped (Porritt-Clarke) route to Big Tree Pot (IB-9) from Skinner's "Exit" track then west and south towards Mini-Martin following Kokoda Trail down to saddle.

IB-32... [Formerly tagged "X-1002"] - (Un-named Hole): Located on uphill side of Kokoda Trail, 1 metre from track and 15 metres south of tree with four blue tapes, approx. 12 metres downhill from IB-34; triangular entrance (1m x 0.6m) at base of low cliff opening into rift, drops 6m into fissure, then 3m into small chamber with numerous mammalian remains, notably echidnas and rodents. Access as above.

IB-33... [Formerly tagged "X-1003"] - (Not-Machette-Pot): Located at base of 2 - 6m high cliff beside Kokoda Trail, 12 metres north of tree with four blue tapes (IB-8 jcn.) and 15m around cliff line SW from Big Tree Pot (IB-9); two entrances - number tag on LHS cliff wall beside obvious 2m x 0.8m "figure-8" shaped shaft with 12m pitch to mud floor and fissure side passage narrowing up towards IB-9, down free-climbable fissure to stream passage and base of 2nd shaft entrance 18m deep (3m SW of obvious entrance, this 1m x 1m shaft is obscured by fallen logs and stinging nettles); from base of shafts into winding stream passage with decorative side chambers, & avens then several short drops where stream undercuts "fossil" gravel floor and a flattener leads into a crawling passage which narrows into a tight fissure; Access as above, 40 to 45 minutes from Benders Quarry via new track.

IB-34... [Formerly tagged "X-1004"] - (Sky Hook Pot): Located 15 metres west and uphill from tree with four blue tapes and 20 to 25 metres downhill from and 17 metres vertically below Mini Martin (IB-8); connects into Mini Martin and Exit Cave systems; draughting 1.5m x 1m entrance under a rock face at base of 8 metre diam. funnel shaped doline, five pitches - 14m, 28m, 20m, bolt & 47m and 11m - down to 4m climb, then steep rubble slope into Exit Cave; total depth 203 metres; spectacular views of Mini Martin shaft shown to be 30 to 35 metres wide from 2nd and 3rd pitches. Access as above.

IB-35... (Coffee Pot): Located 80 to 100 metres uphill from Skinner track above bluff after start of yellow taped Milk Run (IB-38) branch track 100 metres NE of IB-9, 40 to 50 metres below contact; dry cave with 2 pitches - 15m and 35m with "expresso" coffee coloured flowstone walls and 13m handline slope below. (Spiders and wetas abound) Depth 56 metres. Access via IB-9 trk.

IB-36... (Un-named Hole): Located east of Log Rift (IB-7) uphill from "Milk Run" area; relatively non-descript large collapse shaft 1.5m x 2.5m wide and 8m deep; has a few bones, land snails and decoration at base. Access as for IB-7 and IB-38.

IB-37... (Crud Pot): Located 25 metres north of IB-38, north-east from Log Rift (IB-7) and Mini Martin (IB-8), entrance located 15 metres downhill from contact cliffs in 3m wide rift trending E-W; walk-in ramped entrance in 1.5m wide fissure climbing over talus down to stream passage, with side passage to large aven taking water from contact, 35 metres of stream passage then becomes a crawl and climb over blocks to 27m pitch, very wet with loose "crud" on walls, leads to further wet pitch (8m) with tight entrance into chamber, horizontal "keyhole" shaped passage involves a "bridging-crawl" for 15 metres, short downclimb, more crawling ending at gravel sump. Accessed off yellow taped "Log Rift-Milk Run" track from red-tape Big Tree Pot track.

IB-38... (Milk Run): Located 25 to 30 metres north east of ramped entrance to Log Rift (IB-7) and 25 metres south of IB-37, 40 metres downhill from contact cliffs; breathing entrance 1m x 1m at base of short bluff, ideal SRT cave requiring v. few rope protectors and relatively dry with total of 10 pitches and over 100 metres stream passage at the bottom; pitch details - "Pint Bottle" 41m, "The Churns" 6m, bolt with 5m, & 5m floored by loose rubble slopes and manageable by handline, "Cheeses" 26m with traverse out to bolt, "The Separator" 48.5m from bolt - lyrebird remains on floor, choice of two routes - LHS (west) to "The Cream" 4m handline and bolted 32m pitch needing one protector near bottom, RHS (east) past aven to "The Curds" wet and requiring protection 9m and 35m with ledges; horizontal passage "The Whey" drains both sides, unexplored lead from aven above drainage stream; cave passage continues west from "The Cream" through talus in fissure, into cobbled phreatic passage with small stream to choke. Depth 208 metres, surveyed passage length 452 metres. Access from yellow taped track off red taped Big Tree Pot (IB-9) track leaving Skinner track midway to Exit Cave just past entrenched fault line gully. 40 mins. walk from Benders Quarry.

IB-39... (Skeleton Pot): Located 15 metres west of Moonlight Ridge track on flat lying moss covered dissected bluff uphill from turn off to Holocaust (IB-45) and Gollum's Grovel (IB-28); 0.7 x 0.8m wide entrance to single pitch (19m) and flowstone floor littered with bones. Access - 15 minutes up from Blayneys Quarry.

IB-40... (Un-named Hole): Located on dissected bluff 15 to 20 metres north of IB-39 and west of small doline with ramp entrance beside Moonlight Ridge track; cave entrance in tight rift at base of 4m cliff, drops into wider collapse feature with 2.5m downclimb and a further steep 10m drop requiring handline to a rubble choke; dry cave without draught. Access as for IB-39.

IB-41... (Leech Pot): Located on western side of dolined uvala approx. 25 metres north of Hooks Hole (IB-26) and 40 to 50 metres east and over the ridge from Bottleneck (IB-48) and 20 metres south of survey peg "H". Ramped entrance (1m x 1.5m) under low cliff down to squeeze, free climb into spiralling fissure with 3 short pitches - 4m, 6m & 13m connecting into lower aven of Hooks Hole; above 13m pitch is tight fissure connecting to IB-42 with numerous bones, mainly wombat. Access off Hobbit Hole trk as for IB-26.

IB-42... (Un-named Hole): Located 15 metres north of IB-41 and <5 metres south of survey peg "H"; 2m climb down mud ramp to narrow rift, free climb handline 14.5m pitch (0.4 to 0.6m wide!), connects to IB-41. Access as above

"There's a cave up here that we keep losing our hunting dogs in. Its over fifty foot deep with a lake in the bottom of it. My grandfather saw tigers up there in the early days!!!! You need a big 4WD to get up there!!"

So went the local story. Most of the locals had never seen it. Petrina and I were sceptical to say the least. Armed with ladders, rope and SRT gear and a little Subaru we followed the local 4WD club, armed with their stubbies and an "old timer" who reckoned he knew roughly where it was. Mountain River is about 8 to 10 miles NNW of Huonville, going in from Grove. We turned off the Mtn. River drag at Sawyers Creek Road - drove 1.5 km, then right thru' a chained access and uphill 20 minutes (4 to 5km.) along a steep, muddy and rocky track in dolerite country up to the "Moss Ridges" - a flat plateau area of dissected Triassic Sandstone.

The area was obviously a neglected and abandoned bracken farm, though the bracken was still doing pretty well - 2 metres high at that. After an hour or so when the sky was turning pink we found it, 100 metres downhill from a large charred stump on the access track. On the lower side of the entrances (stupid!!) was a rusted star picket with an old painted sign facing uphill which read "Beware - Holes in this vicinity". The two entrances (0.8 x 1m and 0.6 x 1.5m) are in a sandstone rift. Both are enterable and descend 8 metres each to a deceptively crystal clear "lake", with the rift continuing on well beneath the surface - some 4 to 5 metres; with our lights we could count another 14 to 15 rungs of the 60 foot ladder. At water surface the rift is about 0.8m wide and appears to taper slightly as it descends, with a rockfall observable at one end. We estimated the rift to be 18 to 20 metres in length. Moss growing on the walls changed from vibrant green near the entrance to red-brown near water level. The rift also houses a good collection of wetas. [On the Longley 1:25,000 sheet the approximate grid reference reads 5088E/ 4075N] (ARTHUR CLARKE)

ERRATUM: The cave listed "IB-16" and described in Speleo Spiel 219 is not the "IB-16" as described in the Karst Index. With Albert Goede's help I have already re-numbered three other holes twice numbered (7,8 and 9) to 30, 22 and 68. IB-16 is another. Those four were numbered in September 1973 a/c to Spiel No. 84 (Oct. '73). In the KI, the 7,8 & 9 were numbered in 1980, and 16 in 1974. Also in KI, IB-7 is additionally listed and recorded as IB-X8. Confused at all!!!!

The following ASF numbers have been issued to surveys/sketches of Ida Bay caves:

- 7IB38-TCC194 (Milk Run) [L] Awaiting publication
 - 7IB38-TCC195 (Milk Run) [P] Awaiting publication
 - 7IB45-TCC196 (Holocaust) [P/L] In Speleo Spiel 219
 - 7IB1-TCC197 (Revelation Cave) [P/L] In Speleo Spiel 212:9
 - 7IB12-TCC198 (Un-named) [L] In Speleo Spiel (S.S.) 188:8
 - 7IB13-TCC199 (Chockstone Pot) [L] In S.S. 31:4
 - 7IB15-TCC200 (Hobbit Hole) [P/L] In S.S. 196:13
 - 7IB22-TCC201 (Con Cave) [L] In S.S. 196:11
 - 7IB22-TCC202 (Con Cave) [P] In S.S. 196:12
 - 7IB23-TCC203 (Little Grunt) [L] In S.S. 197:8
 - 7IB24-TCC204 (Hang-About Hole) [L] In S.S. 200:10
 - 7IB25-TCC205 (Yodellers Pot) [L] In S.S. 203:13
 - 7IB27-TCC206 (Chicken Bone Pot) [L] In S.S. 199:11
 - 7IB34-TCC207 (Sky Hook Pot - Mini Martin) [L] In S.S. 208:9
 - 7IB35-SCS90 (Coffee Pot) [P/L] In Preparation
 - 7IB37-TCC208 (Crud Pot) [P/L] In Preparation
 - 7IB46-SCS91 (March Fly Pot) [P/L] In Preparation
 - 7IB47-SCS92 (National Gallery) [L] In "Exploration & Accident..." K.H.
 - 7IB57-TCC209 (Cyclops Pot) [P] In Speleo Spiel 214:11
 - 7IB57-TCC210 (Cyclops Pot) [L] In Speleo Spiel 214:11
 - 7IB86-TCC211 (Slip-In) [P] In Preparation
 - 7IB98-TCC212 (Comet Pot) [L] In Preparation
 - 7IB104-TCC213 (Giotto Pot) [L] In Preparation
 - 7IB107-SCS93 (Machette Pot - formerly IB-X4) [P/L] In Preparation
- (ARTHUR CLARKE)

NOTES ON JF 380 and JF370

JF 380

This is the southernmost pothole in the Benson and Hedges Series - a series of shafts situated on the limestone-Permian contact in the upper reaches of the Serendipity Valley. There are two entrances to JF 380; the lower one is about 1m in diameter and bearing the tag, the upper one carries a trickle of water. The cave was first explored by Stefan Eberhard in September 1984 to an estimated depth of 45m (see Speleo Spiel #202). A narrow passage at the bottom carries a strong draught but further progress would require enlargement techniques. The cave is located only a few metres away from Gash Pot (JF 379) and an audible connection has been made between the two.

MONGREL POT (JF 370)

This is situated approximately 200m southeast and uphill from Lost Pot (JF 338). The contact unconformity is clearly visible in one side of the entrance. The cave was located and first explored in October 1984 (see Speleo Spiel #202). Unfortunately the cave terminates in a rock and calcite blockage a short distance below the entrance pitch. Mongrel Pot may represent the source of the water entering through avens in the large bottom chamber in Lost Pot. Although Mongrel Pot seems to be strategically located 200+m vertically above the Lost Pot chamber a connection between the two caves is unlikely.

A map of the entrance locations of JF 380 and JF 370 et al. is published in Speleo Spiel #207.

Stefan Eberhard

Kiwi cavers set depth record

WELLINGTON, Wed. — Wellington cavers have proved that Nettlebed Cave in north-west Nelson at the northern end of the South Island is the deepest in the Southern Hemisphere.

Members of the Wellington Caving Group — Dave Chester, Mike Coburn, Jonathan Ravens and Trevor Worthy — said today they found a connection between the top of Mt Arthur and the Nettlebed Cave system.

The party was the first to go into a hole at the peak and come out at the Nettlebed entrance at the bottom.

It took about 25 hours to do the trip and the men slept overnight in a cave passage.

They descended 867 metres through the mountain, making the route the

second-deepest cave entrance-to-entrance trip in the world after the Sistoma Badalona Cave in Spain.

Climbing Mt Arthur from the inside is unlikely to become a tourist event.

The trip, at the weekend, included walking over steep slopes covered with loose boulders and dropping by rope for 10-30 metres in vertical passages and large chambers.

One of the chambers, the largest in New Zealand, is 150 metres long and 100 metres wide with a floor sloping about 45 degrees and covered with large boulders.

The explorers were unable to see the walls or roof as they descended, and when they talked the echo lasted for four seconds.

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