SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

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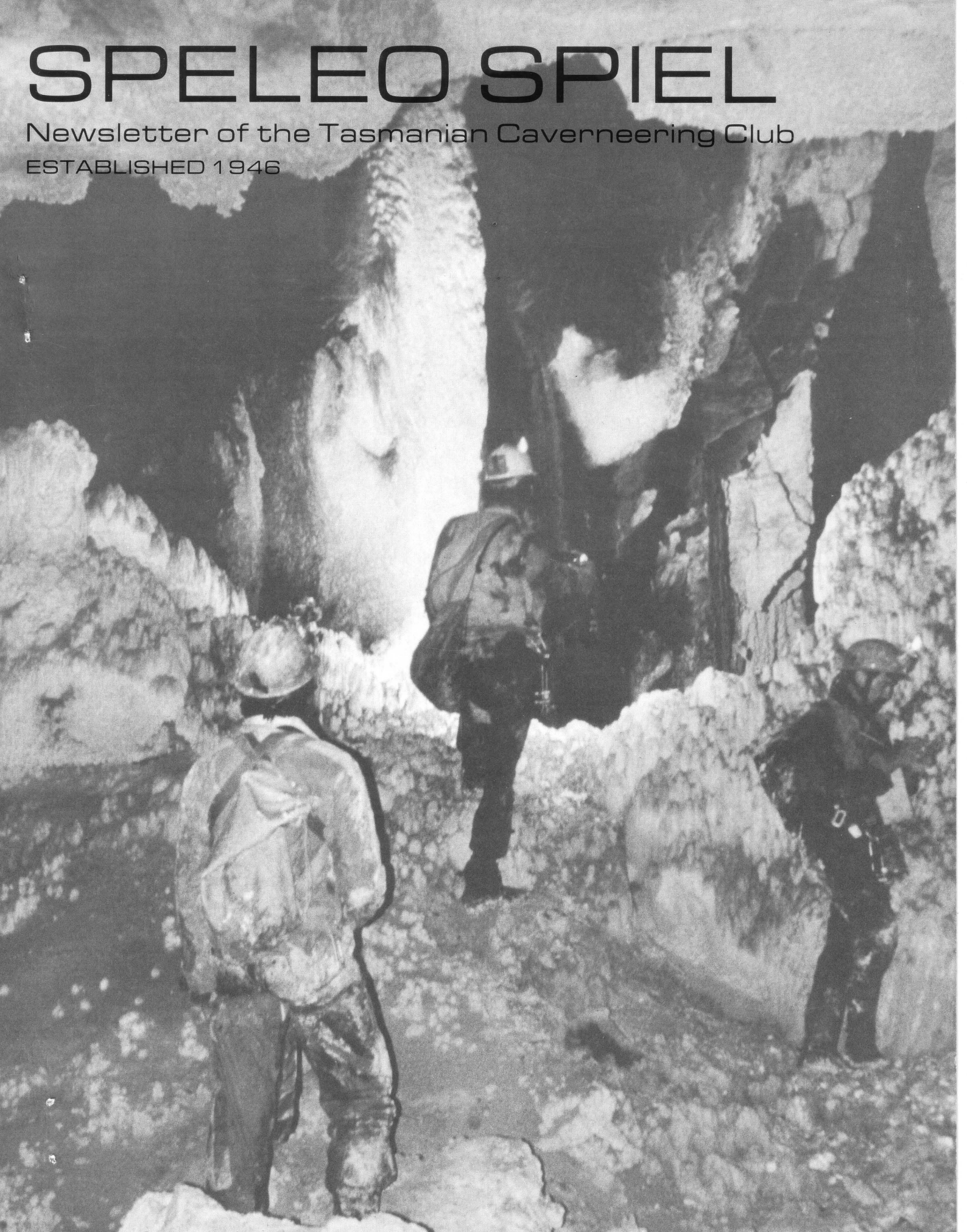

Sept * Spiel 25

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NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

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FORWARD PROGRAMME...!

September 7: Trev, Sue and the Wailettes zoom off in the general direction of England for a couple of months R&R. All the best and so on. Hopefully there won't be too many floods in those Yorkshire pots.... to say nothing of pots in those Yorkshire pubs!!

September 29: the TCC ANNUAL DINNER. The venue is the BLACK BUFFALO HOTEL, Letitia Street, North Hobart. Steve Bunton is the organiser - **NOTE** the change of day (and date) from the Friday to the Saturday night. Be there - 7pm for 7.30pm.

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EDITORIAL: Comment re the National Gallery / Exit Cave Water Trace

Water tracing experiments at Ida Bay have confirmed the existence of a hydrological connection between National Gallery (IB47) and Exit Cave. Fluorescein dye was placed in the National Gallery stream and a charcoal detector bag from the Eastern Extension in Exit Cave gave a strong positive result when tested a week later.

National Gallery is located at the upper limit of the limestone on the eastern side of Marble Hill, though it is not within the boundary of the proposed extension to Bender's Quarry. However, its proximity is a good indication that drainage from the area within the proposed quarry extension also makes it way to Exit Cave. Thus the National Gallery trace strengthens the case against quarrying beyond the Marble Hill - Lune Sugarloaf divide.

The effects of quarrying within the catchment of Exit Cave are likely to be damaging. Changes in water regime, heavy siltation loads and the entry of pollutants into the system are to be expected. These changes will adversely affect the cave ecosystem, as well as seriously detracting from the enjoyment of human visitors to the cave. The risk to the integrity of Exit Cave by continued quarrying clearly outweighs the potential gains.

Rolan Eberhard

JUDDS CAVERN UPDATE

On March 4, 1990 Nick Hume and I returned to the upstream reaches of Judds Cavern in the Cracroft Valley. The section of cave beyond the 30 metre siphon had remained undisturbed since its discovery in April 1988. The principal aim of our trip was to push a rockfall obstruction in Central Passage. Previously this passage had only been cursorily investigated and it appeared likely to yield much more.

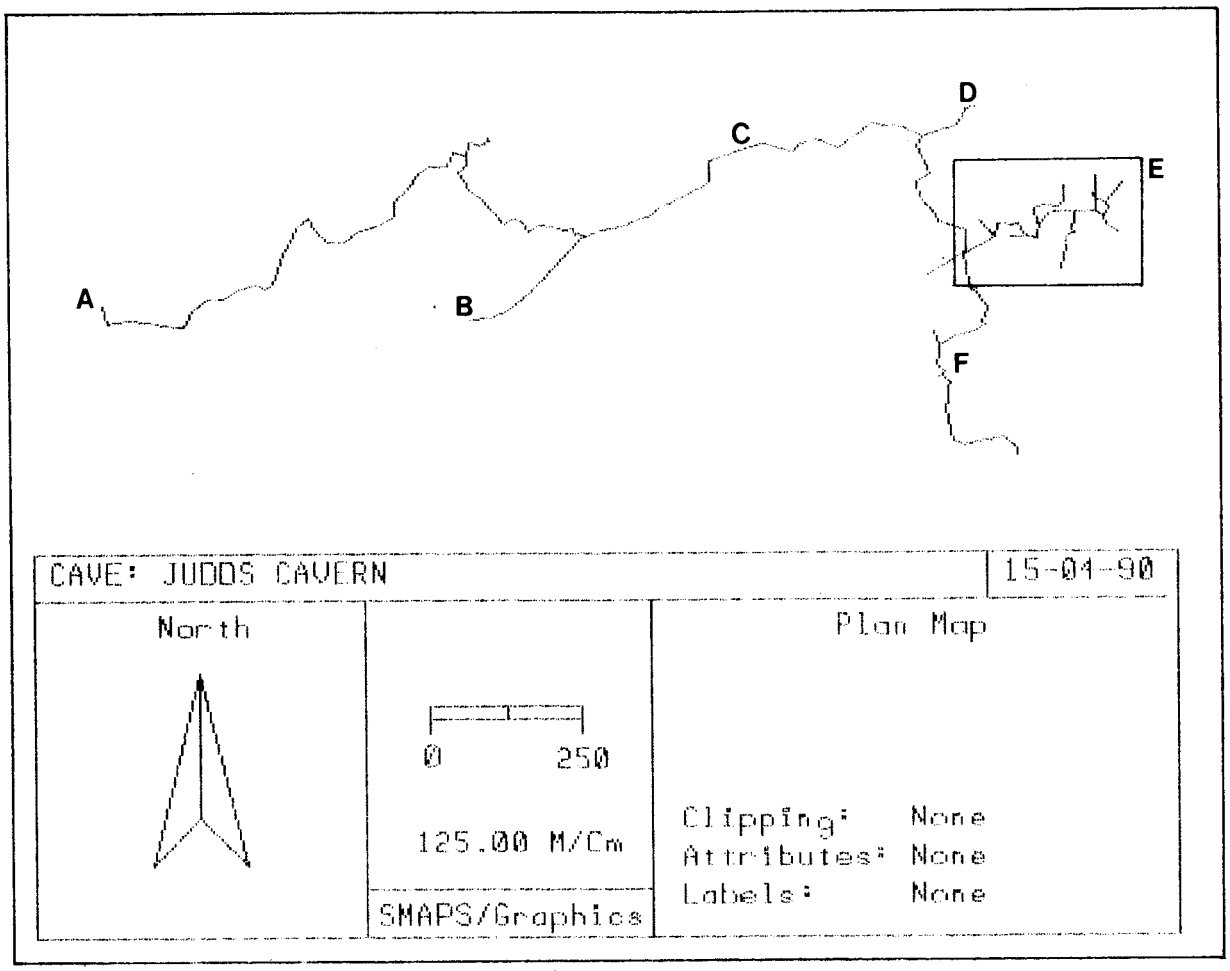

Figure 1. Plan of Judds Cavern at 1:12500 scale. A: Main entrance (C1), B: King Billy Hole entrance (C8), C: 30m siphon, D: Left Passage, E: Central Passage (see Figure 2), F: Right Passage.

However our attempts to find a major continuation beyond the rockfall at the upstream end of Central Passage were unsuccessful. On the left side of the rockfall a route through into open passage was discovered. Unfortunately it terminated with a slope down to a small sump after only some 20 metres. An additional 20 meters was gained in a stream-level continuation on the eastern side of the rockfall. Here it was possible to squeeze and wallow between talus blocks for some distance until further progress was discouraged by a tighter squeeze.

Back at the start of the rockfall our attempts to locate open passage at an upper level were also unrewarded. It may be that the rockfall obstruction is the confluence point of two stream that coalesce to form the Central Passage tributary.

The draught that is prominent further downstream in Central Passage seems diffuse or absent in the rockfall. It is probable that a complex of passages on the eastern

side of Central Passage is the origin of this air movement. This area constituted the principal discovery of the trip.

The start of the new section is concealed by a high bank of silt and sand, and thus its existence had passed unnoticed during the original exploration. A small tributary stream flows along the new passage, which heads due east for the first 100 metres. A complex area is then entered, consisting of more open galleries and chambers radiating to the north, north east and south east. Generally, these were found to terminate at the bases of avens. Back in the initial easterly section, a further passage heading on a southerly tangent was explored for about 100 metres.

Further downstream in Central Passage other leads were also investigated. Two ascending passages on the southern side of the main passage joined at the base of an aven. A steep upward slope on the opposite side of Central Passage and back towards its confluence with Right Passage, also revealed an aven. Not far from this point a narrow passage heading west was explored for 66 metres with no definite end reached. The passage is heavily silted and carries a minor tributary stream. Various other leads were also investigated, though nothing exciting was disclosed.

Pace and compass surveying revealed that a total of 550 metres of new passage was explored on this trip. Thus the length of Judds Cavern now stands at 4283 metres. A line plot of the cave as a whole (Figure 1) and a more detailed plan of Central Passage (Figure 2) serves to update an earlier map of the system (Eberhard, 1989). The starting pint of the eastern tributary in Central Passage cold not be plotted with ideal precision as its existence had been overlooked during the initial survey and no survey stations were marked nearby. However, a close approximation of its probable position was gleaned from the trend of the main passage and an estimation of the distance to known features downstream.

The new passages represent the most easterly extent of Judds Cavern explored to date. The known limits of the cave are now creeping tantalisingly close to the Burgess-Bobs Saddle. That at least one stream sinking on the Farmhouse side of the saddle finds its way into Judds Cavern has been demonstrated by Goede (1977) using fluorescein. Significant stream join the system via Left Passage and Central Passage (excluding the recent additions) and one of these is likely to include water from the traced sink.

Avens and minor tributary streams in the easterly extension of Central Passage appear to be associated with sinks and water seeping underground in the vicinity of the Burgess-Bobs Saddle, though probably erring on the Cracroft Valley side. Such development may have been influenced by glacial meltwater as Kiernan (1989) suggests. In Right Passage, where dolerite and small marsupial bones are evident at the base of at least one aven, surface connections may be anticipated.

References

S. Eberhard, (1989), "Judds Cavern Survey", Speleo Spiel 225: 11-12.

A. Goede, (1977), ""Cracroft Expeditions - Survey Result, Scientific Observations and Speculation", Journal of the Sydney Speleological Society, 21(3): 55-63.

K.Kiernan, (1989), "Drainage Evaluation in a Tasmanian Glaciokarst", Helictite 27(1): 2-12.

Rolan Eberhard

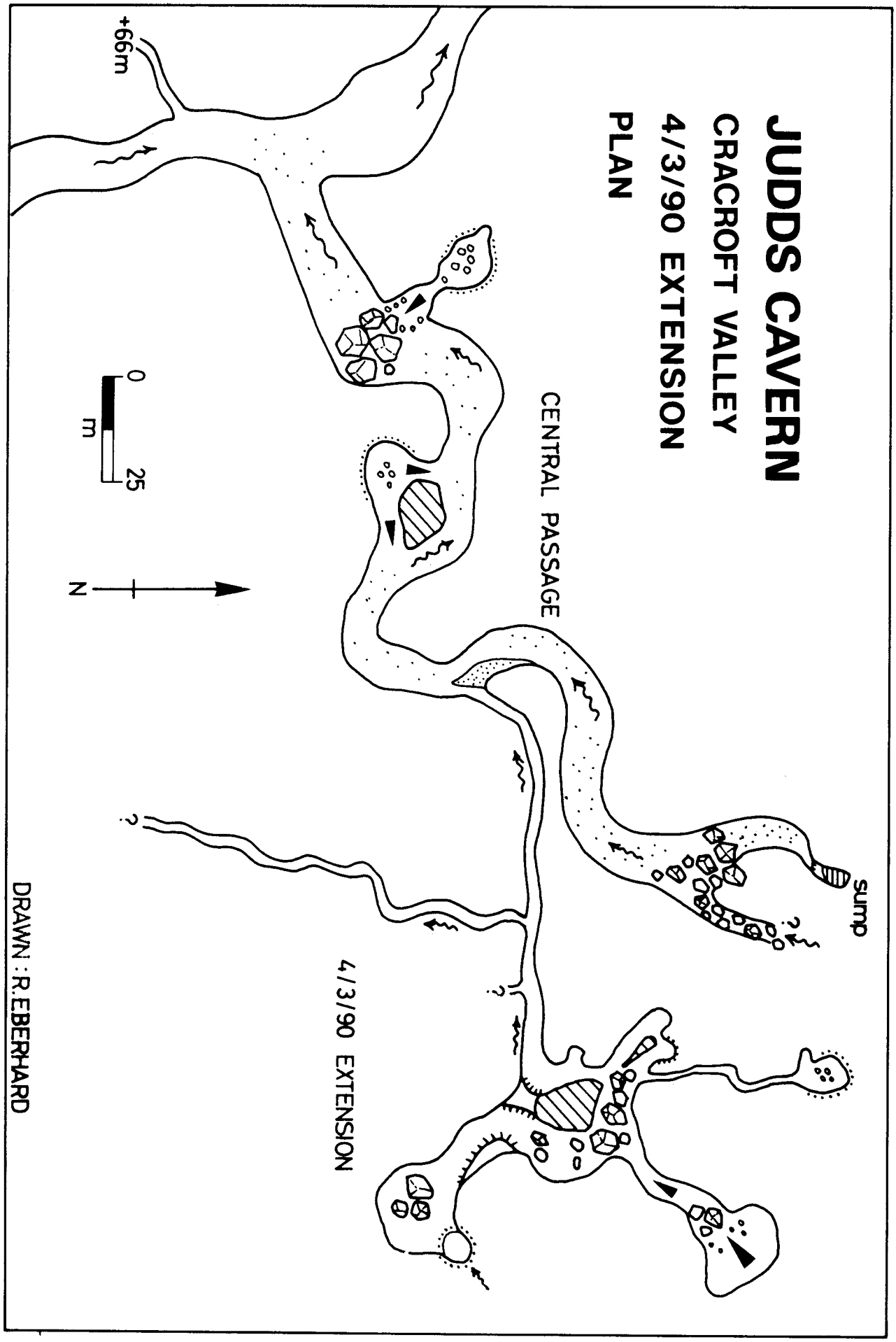

Figure 2. Central Passage and 4/3/90 Extension. Pace and compass surveys by S.Eberhard, R.Eberhard and N.Hume (4/4/88) and N.Hume and R.Eberhard (4/3/90). Data computation by S.Nicholas.

GROWLING SWALLET: SERVALANE - THE THIRD WORLD

Party: Dean Morgan and Trevor Wailes

Three years ago, Martyn Carnes and Trevor Wailes pushed Servalane through narrow immature vadose canyon with the hope of being able to cross the "Third Divide". This area is the continuance of Black River and Coelacanth which would be expected to join an older master system carrying the water found in Porcupine Pot. This may seem ridiculous but the waters in Coelacanth, an antiquated fossil aquifer, flow away from the main drainage pattern created by the more recent Growling Swallet main entrance and Trapdoor Swallet streamways. All three of these subterranean streamways are connected by flood bypasses the first of which (Windy Rift) is periodically active. Armed with this knowledge and rabid desire to find something new and colossal, Martyn and I had pushed on until running out of ANM access time.

Time heals all wounds and absence makes the heart grow fonder, but the many attempts to go and push Servalane further had floundered miserably. So with more time, more absence, Dean Morgan and myself went to see if Servalane could be coaxed a little further. Dean had wandered around GS in the past looking for the way to Servalane but had missed the connecting passage in the form of "Hyperspace Bypass" which circumvents the Destiny Pitch and leads via the "Ear Shearer" to "Federation Free Space".

This was the point we found ourselves at with a choice of bypassing the first part of Servalane using "Space Rat Alley" or just slowly taking the squeezes as they came by direct assault. The latter course was chosen and before long the memories came flooding back. The coral-like calcite growths snag and tear old caving suits to shreds. The passage isn't tight but in parts awkward and with the rest of the passage into the "Third World", demanding of arm strength.

The trip through to the connection with 'SRA' is straightforward but beyond becomes more complex. At the junction which is high in a rift type trench, the route onwards remains in the ceiling of the vadose trench and continues at the only passable width of the rift, sometimes up, sometimes lower. An apparent closing of the rift necessitates a vertical climb over a rib of rock into a parallel identical rift. The climb down the other side drops into a mud floored "pot" where a short climb up again gives access to the wider section of rift which continues for maybe 15 metres to a climb down into more accessible passage. The route onward is less involved: narrow immature abandoned serpentine canyon leads on in constricted style past several small inlets and over banks of mud to larger passage.

The wider passage coincides with the "Third World" chamber above, a climb of 8 metres up into this alleviates a grovel through a mud tube. The 'TWC' links with the continuing passage some 50 metres further on. The right hand passage of 'TWC' has not been pushed to a positive conclusion, it too drops into vadose stream passage (barely active) but continues for some distance upstream. The water from this passage is again seen downstream of the main junction with 'TWC'. This large chamber (for this section of cave) rivals "Space Rat Alley" in dimension but is liberally coated with thick mud.

Downstream from here splits into three right trending leads. The first dry lead chokes with mud. The third carries the water but becomes too low. The second starts as a climb out of the streamway over a mud ramp and descends into smaller dimension passage. Two short climbs down into a short section of serpentine breaks out into a significant rift chamber 3 metres wide and 20 high. At one end there is rockpile and at the other the small flow of water disappears into impenetrable low crawl. This is essentially what the Third World series consists of. It was named because its dirty and squalid, makes you work hard for no reward. It's going nowhere at this level.

The return from the Third World was somewhat embarrassing. Dean hadn't been into Space Rat Alley before and this was a good chance for him to see it, however the route through the rockpile into the upper level and subsequent handline could not be located. Half an hour was squandered here to no avail so a rather red faced Trev and smirking Dean left the area the way we entered it and gained the surface in good time.

A rough memory sketch is shown mainly to put the area in perspective. No instruments were used but the survey is definitely not a figment of my imagination! Somewhere here is some more!

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IRON MONARCH CAVE - COASTAL KARST OF KING ISLAND **APRIL 18, 1990**
PARTY: Leigh Douglas and Nick Hume

The Auster sitting in the paddock was truly a machine from another age. Internally steel-framed, the aircraft seemed to be predominantly stretched canvas and bits of wire. The dashboard was spartan to the extent of having virtually none of the dials and gizmos that one normally associates with things aeronautical. Dave flipped one of the magneto switches to "on" and then hand cranked the propeller a few times to pressurise the cylinders. With both switches on and a final flick of the prop, the engine coughed into life.

The King Island Aero Club airstrip at Reekara receded behind us as Leigh and I tried to come to terms with the awesome racket emanating from the motor. They might have been magnificent persons in their flying machines, long ago, but acute deafness must have been among their noticeable traits. A couple of hulks were flown over on the way down the rugged west coast. Cataraqui Point was named after one particularly horrific shipwreck and was to be our landing place, after an obligatory few overpasses undertaken to scare off idly grazing sheep.

Alive! We rumbled to a halt near the end of a gravel airstrip, surrounded by the typically dense thicket adhering to exposed tops of west coast sea cliffs. Dave led us down the ridge line from the strip to a deep gulch near sea level, which marked the entrance of Iron Monarch Cave. The cliff consists of steeply dipping metamorphic rock (Goede et al, 1979), with an apparently high quartz content suggested by the presence of nodules of chalcedony. Whatever, it is not a rock cavers usually associate with speleogenesis, and we were to be quite surprised with what followed.

Structural weakness in the bedrock provided a line of attack for wave action to excavate quite a lengthy sea cave. A talus slope led 50 metres from the shoreline to a distinctive 5 metre high wall truncating a bed of sediments. A handline had been left on the wall from previous explorations, but was fairly easily free-climbable to a cave passage floor-level approximately 15 metres above sea level. The development beyond extended for about 80 metres through a series of three chambers. Apparently, the archaeologist Robin Simms had unearthed an aboriginal skeleton (dated at 14000 years BP) in a nearby cave (Albert Goede pers. comm.). Aboriginal occupation of King Island reveals a land bridge connection between the island and Tasmanian mainland at around that time.

What is interesting about the site is that despite development in non-carbonate rock, the cave is quite well decorated with such regular calcitic speleothems as stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone and rimstone pools. The origin of these is muted to be from the chemical eluviation of the overlying calcareous aeoleonites (Jennings, 1956, cited in Goede et al, 1979), calcium carbonate seeping into the cave to be deposited in the way more normal to carbonate karst.

The first of the three passages contains a reasonable sized column on it southern wall. The speleothem seems to have been altered chemically, possibly by re-solution due to transgressions of the sea subsequent to initial formation. Flowstone on the nearby wall was of a bright green hue, presumably tinted by salts of copper. A narrow decorated "alley" connects the daylight chamber through to a second chamber. The latter contains another leached column, and is distinguished by considerable dark-coloured flowstone covering either wall. At the further end is a several metre high aven, below which a handline leads through a low muddy section to a third chamber. The deepest sanctum is totally dark and contains the best decoration of the whole cave. Here, there is a series of small rimstone pools and both decayed and solid stalagmite columns abound. Most noticeable are dense clusters of red/-black straws growing across much of the ceiling area.

The usual bout of photographing this decoration and each other endued during a slow withdrawal from the cave. A number of similar sea cave sites are known to exist south of this particular one. Local rumour has it that one of these remains unexplored due to access difficulties presented by the prevailing sea conditions. Canoeing, or perhaps diving, may provide possible methods of entry.

Eventually relocating the plane among the thickets, we headed off for some more aerial touristing, this time via the equally scenic east coast of the island and eventually a return to earth at Reekara. Dave Brewster is manager of King Island Dairy, the makers of some fabulous Brie and camembert among other things, and he is also a crash hot pilot (no sleight intended). His hospitality in inviting Leigh and myself on this fly-cave trip was outstanding, for which he deserves our utmost thanks.

Nick Hume

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The following report relates the trip described in the article by Rolan Eberhard above ("Judds Cavern Update"). A different emphasis is given here, hence its inclusion!

WARGATA MINA (Judds Cavern - C1) **MARCH 1990**
PARTICIPANTS: Rolan Eberhard, Leigh Douglas and Nick Hume.

Snakes alive! A long black ribbon raced out of the button grass heading straight for Rolan. Disappointed with his distinctly unsociable response, the thing took a brief fancy to me before slithering under Leigh's unoccupied pack. Our previous unconcern for their basking habits now turned to paranoia, a larger specimen challenging us further along the track until reluctantly moving out of the way. So much for the myth that snakes retreat on the approaching ground vibrations of bushwalkers.

Thereafter watchful, the three of us left the track near its emergence onto the button grass plain in the Cracroft Valley, to look at a nearby cave previously described by Stefan Eberhard. This is located at a small bluff, marked by a sole pink tape at the junction of the southern slopes of the hill (harbouring Wargata Mina) with the plain. Cutting grass and ti-tree / bauera scrub within the dry river glade of the junction make for difficulty of access. Rolan crawled along wide, low (phreatic form) streamway for a couple of hundred metres. The cave draughted quite strongly and would be worth fuller exploration and survey to reveal its drainage relationship to the larger Wargata Mina System.

The following day, Rolan and myself carried diving gear through Wargata Mina to the 30 metre siphon leading into the *Burning From The Inside* extensions. Some unexplored leads still exist here from the initial discovery trip made over Easter 1988

(see report in Speleo Spiel 236, plus survey in Speleo Spiel 255). The dive is through a wide, in places low, connective tube running along strike. This is in severe contrast to streamway dimensions predominating in the rest of the cave.

Our major subject of interest was a draughting boulder pile at the end of *Central Passage*, looked at only briefly on the single previous visit. The streamway appears to carry the more major quantity of water of the several bifurcating feeders in this extension of the cave. Rolan squirmed through the boulders, at stream level and for about twenty metres until stopped by a persistently tight blockage in almost fully immersed conditions. A very unpromising lead! To the left of the entry point into the rockpile is a wall of fresh breakdown from which emanates a diffuse draught. No leads exist through or above this wall, though further left is a passage connecting to a high chamber, again carrying a diffuse airflow but without any attainable leads. A dry chamber off to the northern side of the stream passage terminus was found to contain a mud squeeze halfway up its leftmost wall. This led into a decent sized, but shortlived section of dry passage, finishing with a slippery slide into a static sump pool that squeezed off into a tight tube below the waterline.

Returning along Central Passage, Rolan discovered a new section of streamway entering from amongst a disguise of high mudbanks on the (true) left hand side. This carried both a reasonable draught and a small quantity of water and was followed for a couple of hundred metres to where the sound of a waterfall could be heard. The latter I found to be attainable via a narrow canyon leading off nearby. Beyond was a set of three (30 metre high) avens, floored with small clean dolerite boulders. Returning through the narrow connecting canyon, I climbed up a left wall into a nest of chambers in search of the mystery water noise. This led eventually down a rubble slope to a massive aven. the site of the water entry from part way up its 50 metre height.

The scale of these avens is interesting by virtue of what they imply for the hydrology of the Wargata Mina System. A more or less direct surface entry of waters (down the aven series) to the complex of feeders in the area of the cave, suggest that much of the cave drainage originates from the western side of the Cracroft Valley - Farmhouse Creek watershed divide. Other than *Left Passage*, Central Passage would seem to be the most promising route for drainage of various stream-sinks located on the east of that divide. Yet the aven-enlargement along this contender may indicate more direct vertical entry than would be required to broach a normal hydrological trend for both watersheds. This is at least consistent with recent negative results in an attempt at dye tracing between Lake Sydney and the outflow of Wargata Mina (Kiernan, 1989), though doesn't eliminate a number of other possibilities.

From the glutinous mudpile of the terminating aven, we began surveying back to a known station in the main passage. Radians were taken up into two previously unexplored aven-type leads on both sides of Central Passage near its junction with *Right Passage*. The latter was pursued to two leads above fresh rubble slopes about halfway along its known upstream course. From overland survey tie-ins, this particular part of the cave was discovered to pass very close to *Icebox*, the entrance of which is located beside the walking track not far above the Cracroft Valley plain. Where these leads enter the main streamway, complete *antechinus* (and other small species) skeletons are to be found, along with fairly intact vegetal matter. No way on was found, but a number of small avens above the debris slopes and strong airflow in the prior streamway passage, hint at entry possibilities from above.

Possibilities for further exploration were at a standstill, so the retreat began. By now reasonably efficient at traversing the considerable extent of Wargata Mina streamway, we returned to daylight in some one and a half hours, meeting up with (non-diving) Leigh along the way. Many thanks to her for supporting Rolan and

myself in this venture. On this trip, about 550 metres of "bits and pieces" were added to the existing survey data, revealing more of this highly significant system, of karst hydrology and taking its surveyed extent to a total of 4.3 kilometres. Hopefully, with the squalor of the 4 hour walk having receded from our memories, we shall return for some surface exploration and yet more caving in the Cracroft area in the not too distant future.

Nick Hume

Reference:

Kiernan, K. (1989) Drainage Evolution in a Tasmanian Glaciokarst. Helictite. 27(1):3.

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BUSH BASHING ON MARBLE HILL **22 APRIL, 1990**
BASHERS: Dave Rasch (SCS) and Dean Morgan

I hadn't time during the week to plan any caving so headed down to Arthur's house to see what the visiting Mainlanders were up to. They were all heading into Valley Entrance which I have done too many times before but Dave was keen to do something as long as it didn't have too much vertical work - he had just returned from 6 months in Antarctica and was a bit out of shape for caving. He had also done Big Tree Pot the day before! I suggested Baader-Meinhof (IB 113) as neither of us had been there and it was reputed to have a bit of potential. Jeff Butt provided directions and pitch lengths, then we were off.

The directions for Baader-Meinhof were to go up the ridge next to Mini Martin and then contour around to the left following a couple of tapes on the way. Just previously we checked an entrance found by Dave the night before near Big Tree Pot, but it was a no-goer. After climbing the ridge, some blue tapes were sighted and followed, passing numerous large choked entrances. By this time we hadn't found Baader-Meinhof and were a fair way around towards the back of Marble Hill so I suggested that we continue around the back of the hill, on the contact, to Western Creek Swallet area as a bush-bash / surface trog exercise.

Dave went along the contact and I followed along 50 metres below, finding numerous small entrances but nothing that went anywhere. After some time, a large dry gully with a large limestone outcrop in it, appeared. Dave found a large descending rift entrance, marked by a tape on a tree. Dave took a look but found it too tight after only about 30 metres. Many entrances were found further on but none that went anywhere. Finally Western Creek Swallet gully came into view and we decided to walk straight over Marble Hill rather than follow the normal track. Going down the other side was made difficult by low visibility from the continuous drizzle. An old tramway, a log pile, thick undergrowth and eventually the limestone contact was found. A couple of entrances which sounded interesting were found, but enthusiasm was somewhat short at that stage. The Mystery Creek tramway eventually came into view, enabling us to locate ourselves and the location of the entrances just mentioned, for future reference.

The gear was dumped at the road and I walked up Benders Quarry to retrieve the car. The quarry seemed a lot bigger after 8 hours of walking, reaffirming my theory as to why the car was invented!

Dean Morgan

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ARTHURS FOLLY (IB 110) **25 APRIL, 1990**
PARTICIPANTS: Paul Tabart and Dean Morgan

Arthur had asked me to survey the end of Arthurs Folly and since I was keen to go there (as I had heard that the end had not really been pushed), I agreed. Arthur's compass had sprung a leak so we had to use a new style Silva model that one of the mainlanders graciously loaned us.

Recent rain meant the water was up enough to ensure that we were soaked by the time the first "standable" chamber was reached. We continued through the cave to the spot where the passage branches - the point to start the survey. Surveying upstream in the left branch until the compass started giving obviously erroneous readings, whereupon we decided to abort the survey until another time and go in search of the end of the cave.

About 100 metres later, we were crawling through thick mud in the stream. The passage is only half a metre high, but five metres wide and somewhat unrelenting. After what seemed like 200 metres, a small aven was reached in which we could stand. A bit of space on the right hand side of the passage enabled me to squeeze through and regain the stream. Moving through this section was not easy as I was floating on top of the mud with my body underwater. I could put my hands right down through the mud and not feel anything except more mud. The passage was still only about half a metre high and 4 wide. About 15 metres later the passage was almost blocked with some flowstone extending across the whole width, although there was an 80 mm airspace. Looking through, I could see it only went for a couple of metres in that form. But since there was a good draught coming through, I removed my helmet, took a deep breath and went through... Coming up on the other side there was still more of the same sort of passage as before, so I crawled onwards. Only 20 metres further on, the roof came down to within about 120 mm of the floor and there was no way through this without an awful lot digging, so I headed back to where Paul was waiting at the small aven.

The low passage seemed to take twice as long on the way back but finally we came to the end of it where we were thankful to be able to stand. Mud and grit in all my gear was rubbing my skin off and was a tad uncomfortable to move at all. Thankfully we out in an hour and preparing for the massive 5 metre bushwalk back to the car. The rain while we were changing washed some of the grit off my body as the towel was scraping it around!

If anybody wants surveying practice I know of a wonderful section of cave that needs doing... PLEASE??

Dean Morgan

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Icetube to Niggly Cave overland survey **May 6, 1990**
"Mugs": Trevor Wailes and Nick Hume

Plans were to survey the new-found depths of Niggly Cave over this particular weekend, but the idea soured due to the all too visible signs of wet weather. A less daunting, but equally necessary task, seemed to be the connecting of the entrance of Niggly Cave to some known nearby entry point to the survey datum for the area. Surveying over the Wherrett's Lookout saddle from Icetube was a radical concept, but in fact was the shortest straight line distance to achieving this aim. Just as well Trev and I needed the exercise because various offers of assistance wimped out at the final crunch (such chores being too mundane?).

Without heavy packs, and so on, we were able to race up to Icetube in little over half an hour. From the upper entrance tag (JF360), surveying began, It was slow going from then on, though at least the weather turned out to be not too insufferable (ie the hail just bounced off instead of going right through!). Navigational dyslexia caused a plus rather than a minus input to the compass bearing. Hence, much to our surprise, we stumbled across one of the B&H Series shafts at the head of the Serendipity valley. The error corrected, it was back into the pandanni forest... fun, fun, fun!

Eventually the limestone contact was encountered on our descent of the south eastern slopes of Wherretts. By rights we should have contoured east from here to the area of Niggly Cave, but slackness (exposure?) made us perversely follow the clearer down hill line. Movement could be heard up ahead and by sheer coincidence we surveyed into the midst of Chris Davies and Peter Ackroyd, who were attempting to gain entry to JF396 at the time. A reasonable amount of water was entering this swallet and it looked promising. Chris and Peter were thus literally immersed in their object of interest and watching their mud wallowing was almost enough to put anyone off caving!

When Trev and I tired of playing "audience" to this spectacle, we continued surveying around the slope to an intersection of the gully leading up to Niggly Cave. While not achieving the aim of going right up to entrance itself, out final survey station was marked with tape, enabling a completion of the exercise at some later date. Ironically, earlier in the day and unbeknownst to Trev and I, the Morgan clan had surveyed up to Niggly Cave from the road at Lady Binney Corner. Dean was keen to use his newly acquired survey instruments for something, and now there were two overland traverses for the "Surveymaster" to choose from! Well done lads> should be interesting to see the relationship between Niggly Cave and the Growling Swallet System when this day's data gets processed.

Nick Hume

[A note from the "Surveymaster": the traverse done by Nick and Trev was completed a month or so later (see report below) and when processed, both traverses (Nick's and Dean's) gave a location for Niggly Cave in close agreement with each other, albeit somewhat different to where it was considered to be! Still, its **interesting**.....]

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Overland Surveying and Tagging of JF's 236-240 on Wherretts Lookout. June 3, 1990
Mountain Goats: Trevor Wailes, Leigh Douglas and Nick Hume.

Stuart's concern with the "status of the existing database" led the trio to complete a traverse line (begun on a previous weekend - see report above) between Icetube (JF345) and Niggly Cave (JF237). Dean, Simon and Scott Morgan had already surveyed to Niggly from the Florentine Road at Lady Binney Corner and our effort would hopefully confirm their findings via a more direct linkage to the Growling Swallet datum. The relationship of this new-found cave to Growling and hence the prospects for a connection between the two was at stake.

Trev forgot his furry undersuit. He was bound to have forgotten something, so it may as well have been his suit! It was a cold enough day to warrant wearing one of the things, even though we were to remain above ground. Anyway, failing in his keen efforts to borrow someone else's, Trev just had to "cool it" over the hours ahead.

It took a reasonable time just to reach the end of the (Trev and Nick's) survey station. From there it was an hour or so of tedious repetition to enable the eventual link up with Niggly Cave. Having a third person (Leigh) on tape hastened the process quite a bit though. *En route* we surveyed to (and placed) the number tag

JF238 on Casamassima - the large doline/entrance some hundred metres downslope from Niggly. It will be interesting to see the position of this feature with respect to the upstream trunk passage in the latter cave.

Braving the cold, we continued our survey line over to the swallet of Bunyip's Lair (JF236) in the next active gully, tying in with that number tag. Some hundred metres down the gully from Bunyip's is a hole found by Mark Bryce and explored by Bob Reid and Mark some months ago. We tagged this JF239, a point marking the end of this day's surveying. Hopefully someone (probably us) will continue the traverse line over to Florentine Cave and similar features in the future. A traverse through to JF202 and Rescue Pot would also be useful at some stage.

Opting for a return to warmer climes, the group hastily bashed down slope. Some tow or three hundred metres below JF239, a prominent entrance is located near the confluence of a dry gully with the heavily incised canyon of Chrisp Creek (I had explored this previously). This was tagged JF240. We located the Slip and exited at the respectable time of 3.30pm. As far as I know at this time our surveying helped reveal the fact that the known extent of Niggly Cave is still half a kilometre from "a closest approach" to the River Lethe area of the Growling Swallet System. A stream found by Dean in Niggly appears likely to be a re-emergence of the main Growling waters beyond the terminating (Mainline/Dreamtime) sumps of the latter cave. Prospects for a diving connection over the intervening 500 metres that still separate the two caves are, I feel, rather fanciful....

Nick Hume

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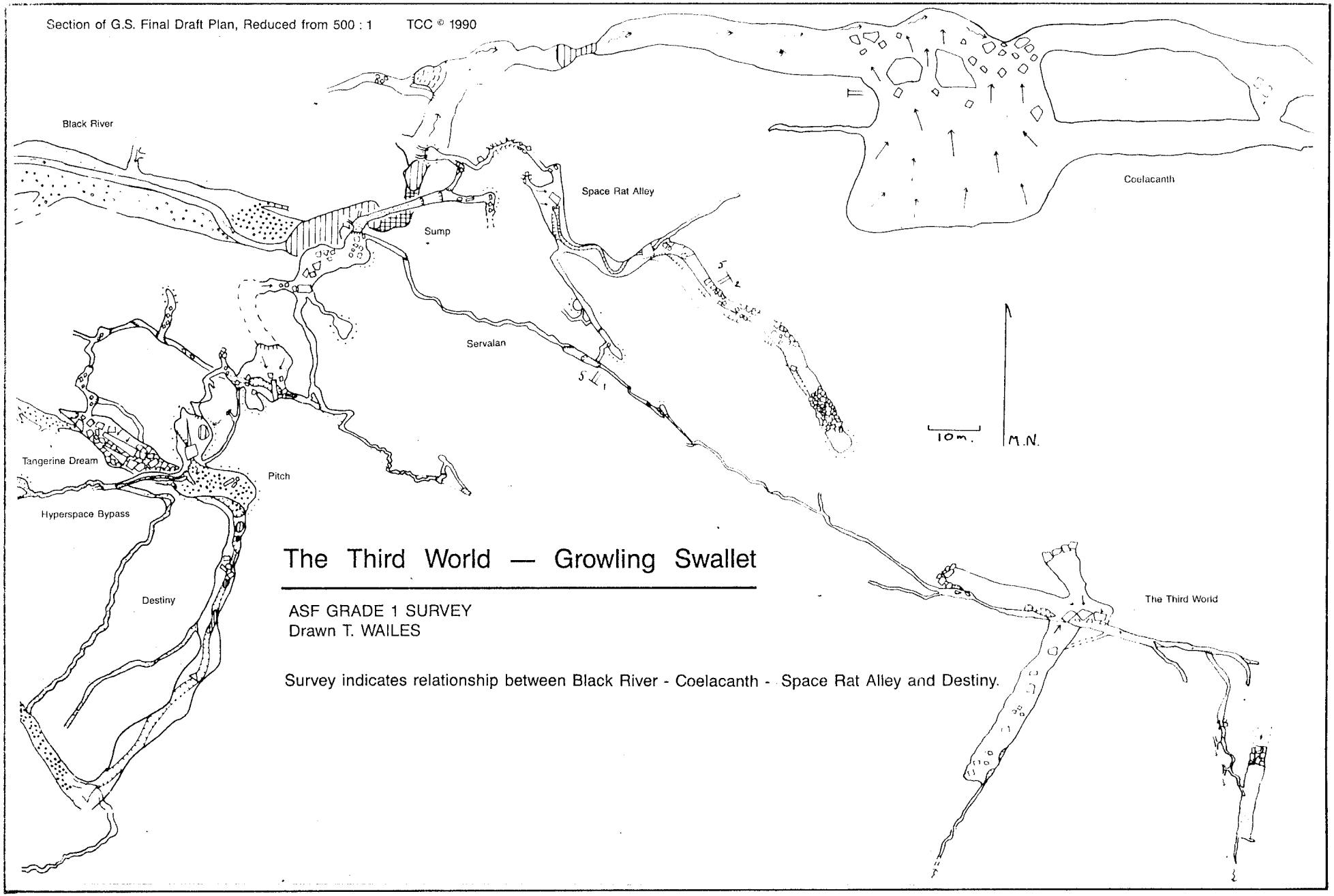
FOR SALE: the very machine this epistle is produced on every month! Yes, the Stuey Nick computer (his brain??) is up for purchase by some eager person.

Info: Machine - IBM brand PS/2 30 computer running an 8086 processor at 8 MHz.
Hard disk drive - 20 Mbyte; Floppy disk drive - 3.5 inch 720 kbyte
Monitor (screen) - IBM model 8503 analog MCGA (high resolution) mono display
I/O ports - 1 only RS232C serial port (25 pin D connector)
1 only bi-directional Centronics parallel port
1 only uni-directional Centronics parallel port.

Expansion slots - 3 total, 2 available (8 bit)
Operating system - DOS 3.30
Mouse - Genius GM 6000 mouse with drivers & menu construction software

SOFTWARE - the machine will be sold as an operational system, with a great deal of software, including a word-processing package, a comprehensive database management system, various disk and software maintenance utilities, communications packages and file/hard disk management systems, a few games (!) plus many other "public domain" utilities that will do almost anything (and MORE!). Manuals (mostly genuine!) for all software supplied. (Almost) unlimited advice/support available to the buyer....

Many of you will be familiar with this setup and can vouch for its functionality, so why not buy it yourself?? Contact Stuart Nicholas for further information and a demonstration of this wonderful implement. Phone 283054 (h) and / or 284691 (w).


Section of G.S. Final Draft Plan, Reduced from 500 : 1
TCC © 1990
Black River
Space Rat Alley
Coelacanth
Sump
Servalan
10m.
M.N.
Tangerine Dream
Pitch
Hyperspace Bypass
Destiny
The Third World
The Third World — Growling Swallet
ASF GRADE 1 SURVEY
Drawn T. WAILES
Survey indicates relationship between Black River - Coelacanth - Space Rat Alley and Destiny.