

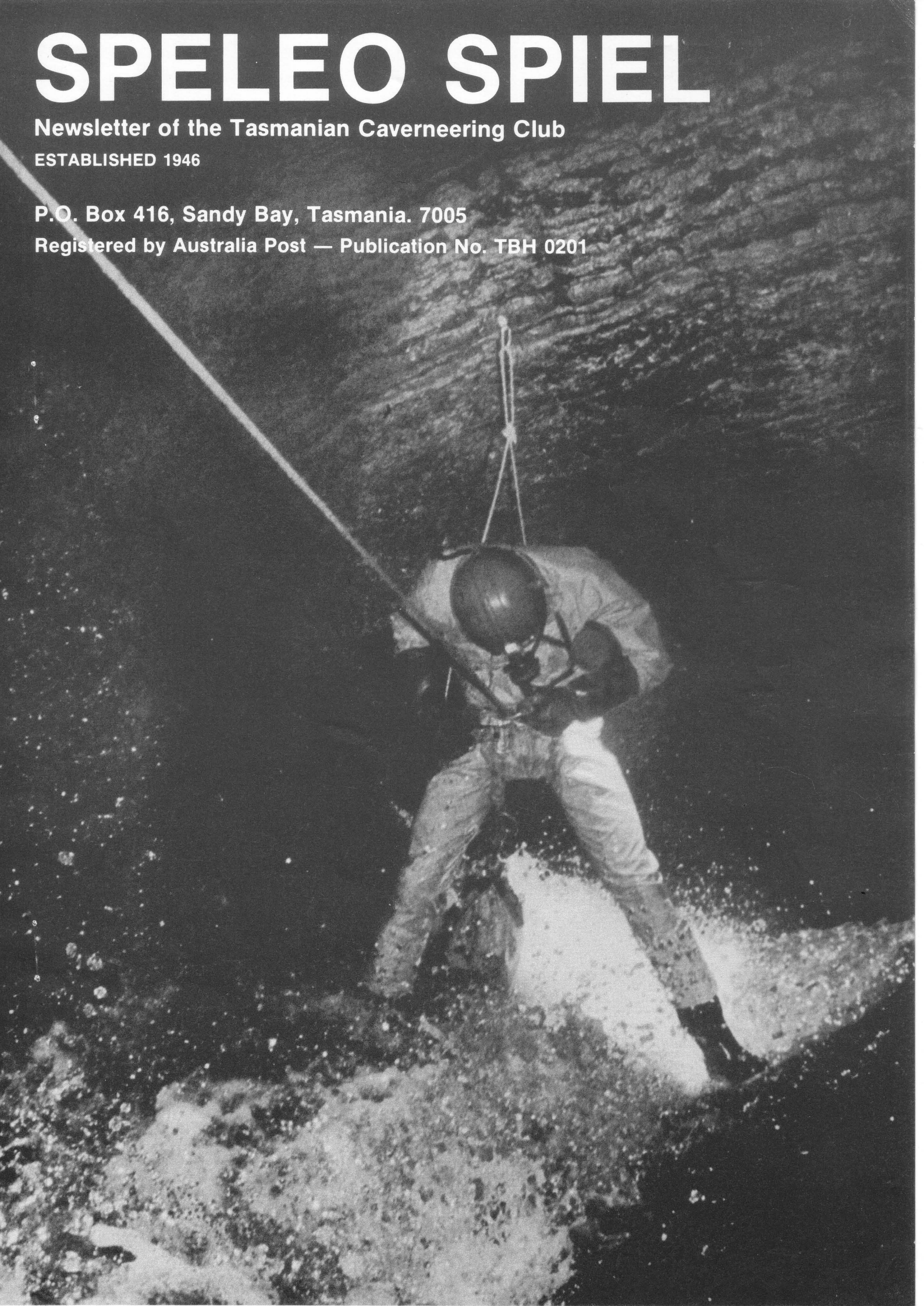
SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

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SPELEO SPIEL... ISSUE # 282

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVENEERING CLUB INC

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*** * * FORWARD PROGRAM * * ******Gunns Plains Trip -***

A week-end trip to Gunns Plains is planned to look at some caves reported by an old land-owner, hopefully in the next few weeks...

The majority of these caves (five reported: two vertical, three horizontal) apparently have not been looked at before, so the trip could be potentially very rewarding (!!).

Anyone interested in coming, please contact Garth.

*** * * FROM THE EDITORS DESK... * * ***

I apologise for neglecting my literary duties in the last issue, but my priorities were screwed up due to work and other commitments. Many thanks to Stuart for yet again tapping out the Spiel. Be advised that I have now got things firmly in order and that this momentary lapse of reason should not occur again !

For those of you who haven't heard, I spent an uncomfortable night in the Ida Bay bush over Easter after losing my way back from a trip into Psuedocheirus (IB97). I won't go into details except to say that I was totally stupid to go into an area I was unfamiliar with without the necessary gear (ie: map and compass at least), and was very lucky to eventually find my way out...

I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to Stu Nicholas (for setting the S & R wheels in motion and monitoring progress), Dean Morgan, Roland Eberhard, Jason Hamill, Deane Hicks from the TCC; Andrew McNiell, Therese Fumo, and the other guy whose name I can't recall from the SCS; Julie and friends from the Lune River Youth Hostel; Sgt Phil Hobbs from the Huonville Police; 1st Class Const. Peter Brockelhurst and team from the Police Search and Rescue and anyone else I have inadvertently missed for giving up Easter Monday (in some cases extremely late Easter Sunday night) to look for me. Words cannot express how grateful I am for their efforts.

General Happenings:**Kubla Khan Cave State Reserve - Management Plan 1994:**

The Kubla Khan Cave State Reserve management plan produced by the Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment and Land Management was approved by His Excellency the Governor-in-Council on 14th February, 1994 and took effect on March 2nd, 1994.

Copies of the Plan may be obtained at a cost of \$5 plus \$2 postage from Parks and Wildlife Service, GPO Box 44A, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001.

ANNUAL SUBS ARE NOW DUE !!

The Management Plan covers many topics and is well worth purchasing for interest alone.

Access to the cave is now possible for cavers through a permit system described in the Plan in Appendix V...

Briefly, the access requirements appendix covers the following points:

1. Eligibility for permits
2. Permit applications
3. User numbers and procedures
4. Reporting
5. Responsibilities
6. Minimal impact behaviour
7. Routes

All Tasmanian Clubs and any interested individuals (eg: Club trip leaders, etc) ought to purchase the Plan as well as any "Mainland" Clubs considering a visit to Kubla Khan on their next Tasmanian jaunt.

Cavex 1994:

The Search and Rescue exercise finally came together (21/05/94), although the original plan of holding it in Growling Swallet was abandoned due to the amount of water in the cave.

In the absence of a Plan B, three separate trips were undertaken: Owl Pot, Rift Cave and Burning Down the House, and from most accounts an enjoyable day was had by all. There was no actual cave rescue exercise per se, but the Police were given valuable exposure (no pun intended) to all aspects of caving - wet and dry pitches, narrow rifts, climbs, muddy crawls, etc which can only be positive for any future exercises and/or call outs.

Hopefully next year the exercise will happen earlier (before water becomes a problem), and a full-blown underground search and rescue scenario can be attempted.

P.S. For the next trip into Owl Pot the track in from the road needs to be re-taped as the scrub is fairly thick. Dean indicates the same problem for Burning Down the House.

20th A.S.F. Conference, 1st - 6th January 1995:

This will be held at Hamilton in the heart of Victoria's Western Volcanics area, with volcanic caves and caving featuring strongly in the conference programme (pre and post- conference limestone caving will also be offered, apparently)...

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Monivae Boarding College is where the conference will convene, with all meals and accommodation available within the College's grounds (alternatives can be arranged).

The full conference package, including all papers and materials; accommodation for 4 nights, and all meals (except the conference dinner), has an approximate cost of \$200.

\$85 (approximately) will secure you a place at the conference and all papers/materials, but not much else.

The cost of the conference dinner (the Caveman's Dinner) is yet to be finalised.

Watch this space for more information on this exciting speleo event, or contact the Victorian Speleological Association, GPO Box 5425 CC, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001.

Closer to home, there has been lots of underground activity recently, as the flood of trip reports suggests. Most of the trips have centred around the Florentine Valley, which seems to offer the most potential for new caves, extensions and/or connections (for example: Trev's report on Asteroid Pot; Southern Caving Society's discoveries in JF341). With the skill level of newer members continuing to improve, along with surging enthusiasm amongst the Club as a whole, the next 12 months will hopefully bring some exciting finds !

Club Matters:

The AGM was held on the 30th March with a good turnout of members (thanks to all who attended). A number of issues were discussed together with the election of office bearers (see contact list above). A full report is included later...

A natural follow on from the AGM is that MEMBERSHIP/SPIEL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. Fees have remained at a measly \$25.00 for Individual membership (\$18.00 Concession) or \$18.00 for the Spiel only, so please forward your cash/cheque/money order to the Treasurer as soon as possible...

Financial 1994/95 Members thus far (excluding Life Members) are as follows:

ANDREW BRIGGS	KELLY MILLER	JOHN STEEN
GARTH CORNELIUS	DEAN MORGAN	ANDREW THOMAS
CHRIS DAVIES	DAVID NICHOLS	TREVOR WAILES

All those not on this list, and we know who you are - may your dreams be permeated by cascading snow-melt pitches that never end...

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LAST CHANCE... LAST CHANCE... LAST CHANCE... LAST CHANCE...

Copies of the first (and only) edition of the TCC's Exploration Journal Vol One have been disappearing fast... there are only a few copies left of this essential caver's reference, so secure yours NOW - \$15.00 plus postage (\$6.00 to virtually anywhere in OZ). Send your cheque/money order to the Treasurer (Order Forms in Spiel #279), or contact Stuart Nicholas/Trevor Wailes.

Also available are Club T-Shirts in a range of styles and sizes, priced from a low \$15.00. Guaranteed to have at least two arm holes and one head hole, these absolutely fabulous fashion statements are a must. Contact Stuart or Trevor for more details/orders.

On a final note, good quality colour slides/negatives are required for high tech Spiel covers... according to our technical whizz, David Nichols, these can be put on CD-Rom and printed off via a colour laser printer. So please, anyone with who would like to see their photographic expertise in print please contact the Editor/Co-Editor, or talk to David at our meetings (if you can prise the Guinness from his lips).

Garth Cornelius, Editor.

<p>* * * 1994 A. G. M. * * *</p>

SUMMARY OF MINUTES...

Present: D. Morgan, S. Morgan, A. Thomas, C. Davies, K. Miller, G. Cornelius,
P. Verwey, J. Steen, D. Nichols, T. Wailes, S. Nicholas.

Apologies: B. Reid, T. March.

The only business arising from the 1993 AGM was the mid-year change of Quartermaster from Simon Morgan to Trevor Wailes...

Reports were brief:

El Presidente (Dean) commented that the last year had been slow on the caving scene, but that with the infusion of new blood things should start to happen. The Club's Scribe (Trevor) revealed that there were few external pressures since the Benders Quarry issue had finally been resolved; usual newsletters and magazines from other Clubs continued to flood in, although written correspondence with other Clubs was minimal.

The Guardian of the Gear (also Trevor) recommended that Fig 8 descenders should be banned from use on Club rope, as they had a nasty tendency to twist the core...

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A commercial rack will be purchased with a view to constructing 3 more Club SRT kits.

Club lights were dim, as a few had expired over the year - but the Police S & R Squad is to donate up to 5 lamps to the Club. The chargeboard also needs a service as lamp cells are charging at different rates (!).

At the time of the meeting, the Club's Gear List stands at:

Assorted Helmets	12
Lamps	4
Ladders	6
Survey Gear	2 sets
Rope 11mm	500m (approx)
9mm	500m (200m unused)

A final report came from our Cooker of the Books (Chris), who reported that the Club is in healthy financial shape (see UNAUDITED financial statement later). Expenditure was slightly lower than 1993 with the major purchase being rope, whilst income (also lower) primarily came from sales of the Journal. Encouragingly, membership rose during the year.

All executive positions were declared open, and were filled as per the contact sheet at the start of the Spiel with the following additions...

Vice President:	Chris Davies	Public Officer:	Steve Bunton
S & R Co-ord:	Stuart Nicholas	Librarian:	Trevor Wailes
Archivist:	Stuart Nicholas	Cave Diving:	Rolan Eberhard

General Business: Membership costs were voted to remain as per last year...

The AGM closed 10.00pm.

MEMBERSHIP LIST 1993 - 1994...

FINANCIAL MEMBERS

1.	31/03/94	Therese March	11.	21/07/94	Trevor Wailes
2.	31/03/94	Paul Merhulik	12.	26/07/94	Stephen Bunton
3.	20/04/94	Chris Davies	13.	23/08/94	Peter Verwey
4.	21/04/94	Jason Hamill	14.	23/08/94	Paul Tabart
5.	21/04/94	Bruce McIntosh	15.	01/09/94	David Nichols
6.	26/05/94	Dean Morgan	16.	01/09/94	Kelly Miller
7.	26/05/94	Glen Roberts	17.	01/09/94	Dean Hicks
8.	06/06/94	Diane Shea	18.	01/09/94	Rolan Eberhard
9.	07/07/94	Craig Large	19.	15/12/94	John Steen
10.	07/07/94	Garth Cornelius			

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TCC UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR TO 31 MARCH, 1994...

RECEIPTS:

	\$
Membership	456.00
Spiel Subscriptions	49.00
Lamp and Gear Hire	416.00
Journal Sales	1,196.86
Wheatsheaf Donations	86.87
Bank Interest	108.75

TOTAL 2,313.48

EXPENDITURE:

	\$
Spiel Postage	132.95
Equipment	1,486.43
Secretarial Expenses	130.00
Bank Charges	25.83
Journal Prep and Postage	321.35
Other	41.10

TOTAL 2,137.66

SURPLUS FOR YEAR: \$175.82
 (Income less Expenditure)

ADD 1993 BALANCE: \$5,223.42
 (Brought Forward)

TOTAL: \$5,399.24

BANK BALANCES: \$1,785.70
 (31st March, 1994) \$3,625.45

TOTAL: \$5,411.15

Trust Bank Cheque Acc
 Trust Bank Investmnt Acc

(Discrepancy of \$11.91)

*** * * C. L. A. G. NEWS * * ***

The latest meeting of the Cave Leadership Accreditation Group (C.L.A.G.) was held on the 5th June at Arthur Clarke's place at Dover.

As the name suggests, the group's responsibility is to develop assessment guide-lines and course criteria for those people wishing to become accredited cave leaders under the TOLC (Tasmanian Outdoor Leadership Council) programme - refer to Stuart's NORLD article, Spiel # 280.

Without going into the nuts and bolts of the meeting, several issues were resolved, including:

- a) Finalising the Level One (of two levels) assessment criteria and learning outcomes for those seeking cave leadership accreditation. This has been forwarded to TOLC for typing and comment, and will be revised (if necessary) by the group in August. The aim is to have the first Level One assessment and accreditation "course" ready for implementation by early 1995.

ANNUAL SUBS ARE NOW DUE !!

- b) The setting and submission of a budget for the group to December 1994. Funding for this will be initially via the Department of Sport and Rec, but the group's aim under the TOLC guide-lines is to become self-funding within two years (1996).
- c) Development of the group's forward programme to December 1994... meetings are scheduled for the first week in August (Marapooka), October and December (venues to be decided). Objectives include - revising and adoption of the Level One guide-lines, structure of a skills course/s for those wishing to become Level One accredited but who lack the necessary technical skills, and accreditation of CLAG assessors.

Finally, the meeting also discussed the reports of various group members on the suitability of the TOLC's "Core Skills" courses as part of the Cave Leadership assessment criteria. The feedback from within the group indicated that most aspects of the courses attended were not all that relevant to caving specifically, although from an outdoor enthusiast's perspective they were all valuable.

There was one exception... Dean Morgan's discussion on the Search and Rescue Course is included below.

Garth Cornelius

TOLC Search and Rescue Course (9th - 10th April, 1994):

The course was run at Waddamana Village (Tas Central Highlands) by Stuart Scott of the Police Search and Rescue, assisted by Bruce Morley and Janine Hopkins of the Department of Sport and Rec.

The weekend dealt with the course of action you would take when confronted by a search and rescue situation (8 scenarios were presented) - both in the form of self rescue and assisted rescue. The advantages and disadvantages of each form were discussed.

Self rescue was discussed in the form of the *I.C.E.* principle, namely:

Isolate - isolate the situation. Do not let the situation get worse by allowing other members of the party to get injured or lost.

Contain - contain the situation by not letting the victim/s deteriorate further; eg: putting a tent up and keeping the patient warm or administering first-aid to the patient.

Evacuate - evacuate the injured or missing party and resolve the situation.

Other Points covered were:

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T.F.F.S. - Time Frame For Survival...

This being the minimum and maximum time the party can be expected to survive. TFFS can have a major effect on resultant decisions as urgent action may be needed (if TFFS is small) or it may be possible to delay action until safer conditions occur.

Rationalisation of Risk...

This being the balance of the risks involved to rescue party members. For example: the risk of sending a person back to camp in dangerous conditions for a tent and sleeping bags against the risk of staying put for the night without these.

Assisted rescue was covered by discussing the expectations of a search and rescue volunteer, the use of resources and equipment such as helicopters and hand-held radios, communication procedures and the method of strapping a patient into a Sked stretcher (this being the most commonly used stretcher in Tasmanian S & R).

All of these principles were applied to the 8 scenarios presented during the course to formulate and evaluate plans of action (which were then discussed/ re-hashed by the class to come up with an optimum solution).

Although only one of these scenarios was a caving incident, all directly related to caving in that they made you consistently use all of the rescue principles learnt from the course to form your action plan (if any)...

I would consider the course essential to any person considering becoming accredited under the Cave Leadership programme (Ed's Note: This course looks as though it will become a pre-requisite to anyone seeking accreditation) and would even thoroughly recommend it to anyone involved in any outdoor activities.

Full marks to all that organised and presented the course.

Dean Morgan

*** * * TRIP REPORTS * * ***

SLAUGHTERHOUSE POT (JF337) - Learning the ropes

Participants: Stuart Nicholas, Trevor Wailes, Kelly Miller, Peter Verwey, Michael Blake, John Steen and David Nichols.

It was with some relief that we levered Stuart and Trevor away from the Wheatsheaf bar, and after only three sticks of bamboo under the fingernails, convinced them to ride shotgun over our first "serious" vertical trip into a Florentine cave. It was bright and early (as usual) when we all assembled at the Nicholas residence prior to departure;

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but hang-on a minute - where was Trev? More minutes (lots more) went by as we awaited the Wailes arrival. Then, staggering through the front door, a ghastly apparition appeared, grunted several times in our direction, and headed for the toilet. In the silence that followed, Stuart commented "Gee, Trev looks pretty good for this early!".

A close inspection found no hint of sarcasm.

After an uneventful trip and organising of gear, we arrived before an impressive limestone outcrop. The more eager members of the party immediately queried the leaders: "So is that the entrance, then?" waving vaguely in the direction of a medium-sized hole near the base of the outcrop. "Nope," came the answer in a healthier-sounding Yorkshire accent "It's that little hole there". Debate then continued for some time as to the exact difference between "little" and "minute". Eventually, proceeding on the agreed assumption that Pete's Guinness-gut couldn't possibly fit through anything that could be described as minute, the party approached the hole.

Thus, the "almost minute" first squeeze section was traversed, and the party arrived at the top (thankfully) of the first pitch. Following Trev's careful rigging, muttered comments of "Yep, I think that'll hold" and several minor scuffles concerning descent order, it became apparent that just like a martial arts convention, the party members all practiced slightly different styles of *Le Rope Technique*. From the stately Grand-Master techniques of Stuart and Trevor, to the Bezerker-Freefall and I-Don't-Give-a-F-What-side-of-the-rope-I'm-On! styles of Peter and Kelly respectively, all forms were exhibited. Indeed, it was a relief to reach the "safety" of the rock pile in Final Chamber.

From there, the more serious job of extending the phone cable from the base of the second pitch through the rock pile, and ultimately down the last pitch to the base of Refuge Aven, was undertaken by Stuart. Future trippers should also note the placement of emergency packs in Refuge Aven, and the decommissioning (with full caving honours) of the ladder leading down to the Trapdoor streamway due to severe fraying. (Ed's Note: Part of the original S & R Exercise was to transfer one of these emergency packs to Avons Aven, beyond Herpes III - in severe flooding it has been found impossible to get back to Refuge Aven once past Herpes III. Perhaps the next party through this area would be so kind.. ?)

After negotiating the remaining ladders leading from Refuge Aven toward Growling Swallet entrance (also in need of urgent repair - did someone just say "Twang!")(?) the group proceeded back to the main entrance, with only minor injuries from witty comments along the way. Splitting to traverse both the Dry Bypass and continue up the main streamway, members were reunited in the basking twilight of late afternoon, where Medals for Bravery were awarded all-round before retiring to the carpark.

Unfortunately, as seems so often the case, the Cave God had conspired to inform the

Rain God of our return to above ground, and by the time the carpark was reached, the heavens had opened. To the horror of other expeditioners, and claiming seniority, Trevor and Stuart retreated to the disgustingly dry (and dim) interior of Trev's van, leaving the rest of us to cope as best we could with the cantankerous elements. However, those of us remaining were not daunted! No Sir! Indeed, all expeditioners bar one turned up the following week for a repeat trip of the route blazed by Stuart and Trevor. The only absence was one M. Blake, who had unfortunately contracted a severe case of common sense during the week. As all cavers know, this condition can often be fatal underground. We hope he has a speedy recovery.

David Nichols

LOONS CAVE (IB2) - Murphys Law in Action

On Sunday May 29th, a group of 8 visited Loons Cave at Ida Bay. The party comprised of three beginners with some abseiling experience, two Club members who were not familiar with the cave (Kelly Miller TCC, Sue Brown SCS) and three members who had visited the cave before (Peter Verwey, David Nichols and John Steen) and were leading the trip.

At about 1.00pm the party arrived at the cave and the lowest entrance (a small sump) was checked by John (Ed's Note: This is the usual exit from the cave; entry is gained via a 27M pitch about 5 mins further up the hill). At this point the lowest part of the ceiling was mistaken and it was assumed that the passage through the sump was possible, albeit very wet...

The trip through the cave proved muddy (as is usual) but uneventful, and the group returned to the sump by about 3.30pm only to find it impassable.

After 2 members had ascended to the surface, one of the beginners began to show signs of hypothermia and it was decided that she should be lifted out rather than attempt the prussik. After experimenting with some lifting methods a longer rope was obtained from Deane Hicks at the Lune River YHA (Ed's Note: it seems that these guys have had a busy few months !), whilst in the meantime 2 other people ascended the rope. From this point it was possible for the beginners to be lifted out by the 4 above. The last person prussiked out at about 6.30pm.

Whilst the situation was not life threatening, it was nonetheless an embarrassing and totally avoidable scenario which proved quite traumatic for the first time cavers. Undoubtedly the cave was a bad choice, considering the amount of rain that had fallen in the week before the trip. Furthermore, the sump should have been checked thoroughly, rather than given a cursory inspection... The blame for the discomfort and trauma experienced by the beginners therefore lies firmly with the party leaders.

A definite moot point arising from this is the question of beginner cavers. Even the

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"safest" caves are potentially very dangerous (eg: Mystery Creek). Should a certain level of experience be required (and enforced) for those considering leading a first time caving trip ? Secondly, considering the nature of caving, should experience with rope work and vertical techniques be a pre-requisite for anyone contemplating an introduction to the sport ?

John Steen

ASTERIOD POT (JF366) - March 1994

Participants: Martin Carnes, Stuart Nicholas, Trevor Wailes, Chris Davies, Annette Broom (W.A. visiting), Roger (where's the pussy) Dog.

Much has been written on this insignificant, non-descript site - the draughting hole belies what exists below...

Ours was a follow-up trip to the one where progress was made re-opening the tube at the foot of the surface shaft. Two chainsaws, axes and a garden spade were used to improve the access track to the Serendipity Valley. The valley up to serendipity from the pack track still needs much more work however several large trees were carved up and now access is much easier.

Martin, Trevor and Annette left Chris and Stuart shattering the forest silence and started work re-clearing the entrance shaft. A dozen buckets and the tube was open yet again. Trevor descended the tube and started digging at the "front" - this is the lowest point in the cave, and had seen some excavation before. Whilst in the hole, at the base of a gravel bank, a noise like a large stream could be heard; this was assumed to be the sound of the cold draught rushing out of the rift at the furthest point in Serendipity's "Far North" series. This is a very cold site and draughts appear to come from many different directions, so after digging alone for some time, assistance was sought with a return to the entrance.

Chris was sucked into surveying, and as it was raining outside, this appeared the better option. We made our way back into the cave with trowel bucket and survey gear (the "tube" is just large enough to get a bucket through). Back at the inner dig Chris set to work, him filling the bucket and me emptying it (filling up the rest of the cave !). After several buckets Chris excavated a narrow crack in what appeared to be bed-rock, and was rewarded with a steady, strong, cold draught. This was very promising, but with a trowel and bucket little more could be done. We surveyed the cave and exited to sunshine.

Meanwhile... Martin, Stuart and Roger Dog had been recc'ying the immediate area, re-locating JF384 about 100m away. This cave issues a huge draught but during

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exploration some 10 years ago, no continuance could be found through the lower sections of breakdown. A survey was completed from Asteroid to JF384 and then linked to the taped tree at the packtrack (McCallums) junction before heading home.

Conclusion:

Asteroid needs more work enlarging the digging hole to give more room to pursue the draught. Something with more clout will be needed to push this potential lower entrance into serendipity. The draught from JF384 is a puzzle as it lies between Serendipity and the "New Feeling" area of Growling Swallet - work here could be very rewarding.

Trevor Wailes

JF 366 ASTEROID POT

Surveyed 11-02-94, Chris Davies, Trevor Wailes,
Drawn T. Wailes

© TCC

