

SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
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*** * * FORWARD PROGRAM * * ***

JULY:

Wednesday, 19th;
8.00pm (Shippies)

**IDA BAY KARST MANAGEMENT
FOLLOW UP MEETING ****

Sunday, 30th;

EXIT CAVE SURVEY TRIP
(contact Dean Morgan)

AUGUST:

Wednesday, 16th;
8.00pm (Shippies)

**DR. MICK'S SPECTACULAR
SPELUNKING SLIDE SHOW**

Sat/Sun 26th & 27th

TOUR D' CREEK OF MOLES
(Contact Dean/Garth)

** This is our chance to provide input into the future management of the Ida Bay Caves/Karst. Ian Household, together with a couple of other bods from PWS, is keen to get as much input as possible from cavers regarding this VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE. So PLEASE come along and ensure that our interests are represented. For further info/discussion topics, refer Spiel #286.

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

GENERAL HAPPENINGS:*Free Plug...*

If you're in the market for some second-hand bushwalking gear or you want to get rid of old or un-wanted stuff, then go see Karen at Goshawk Gear in Barrack Street (Ph: (002) 34 6200)...

She pays cash for almost any bushwalking/camping gear, or can sell stuff on consignment if you prefer. The reason I mention it here is that she sometimes gets in second hand climbing gear - krabs, nuts, shoes, etc, and sells them for very reasonable prices (I recently picked up some near new Black Diamond stoppers and RP hangers at a fraction of their retail price). Worth a try before you fork out hard earned dollars for new stuff - but remember, Caveat Emptor !

A Cure for Krabs...?

Petzel is no stranger to cavers, with most of us using at least some of their gear in descending/ascending/rigging systems...

It seems appropriate then that Petzel make a krab which, in my opinion, is simply brilliant !

"Learn as if you may live forever. Live as if you may die tomorrow"

1995 Aust Caver's Diary

The Attache is a strong (rated strength is 22kN gate closed, 6kN open), compact and lightweight screw-gate krab that is perfect for rigging.

It features tear-drop shape, a wide (35mm) mouth to make clips a breeze, and has an overall length of only 100mm;

Combine this with a key lock gate (with a hole in the female bit to extrude mud and shit) that eliminates rope snag, a very large non slip screw lock which can be engaged/dis-engaged very easily with gloved hands, and a gate action the smoothest I've come across, and you have the answer to a caver's prayers...

Only problem, surprise, surprise, is the price; \$27.00 may seem a bit rich for a piece of bent alloy, but the Attache's benefits seem to justify the \$\$\$. Like most Petzel gear, each krab is individually tested before leaving the factory.

Time Management for the Organisationally Challenged...

For all you dis-organised cavers out there, wail and gnash your teeth no more ! - the West Australian Speleological Group has solved all your problems with the introduction of the "Australian Cavers Diary"...

This soft cover SpeleoFax comes in a handy size (half an A4 page), has a week to an opening, contains an address book, a Club and other contact list, and is illustrated with quality B&W photos.

There are sections dealing with basic first aid, standard cave survey symbols and handy trog tips, plus witty quotes/poems begin each week. This gem is an example from the '95 edition :

" Oh his bones did fold, and his blood grew cold,
and his muscles turned to slime;
For such is the fate, when their years get too late,
of those who chase holes in lime. "

The only thing that's missing is a trip log book for keeping track of underground adventures (maybe in a future edition ?).

Orders are now being taken for the '96 diary, and at a meagre cost of around \$10.00, it represents great value. If anyone would like to order one for next year, please let me know (bulk orders attract a discount).

Snippets from Stu the Speaking Stal...

It seems SCS have been successfully ferreting away in the Junee Florentine and eroding our status as the longest-cave-in-the-Junee-Florentine record holder (and doing it in one of TCC's caves...). 'Sistema 341' (alias, the Threefortyone System) has been extended to nearly 9 kilometers, not far short of Sistema Growling.

Are we going to let that be, or get our (not very muddy) fingers out and find some more in Growling?? Much remains only cursorily looked at in GS and its surrounding drainage system - why aren't we in there looking at it...?

It's coming up to winter when, historically, all the Big Trips occur, so how about it ??

Is someone trying to tell us something? Recent TCC 'junk' mail included a brochure from a major Aust. supplier of flood lighting systems, as well as an invitation for all members to ball-room dancing classes (I thought the Ball-Room in Exit was out of bounds??).

Media Watch...

Spotted in a reprinted "adventure pursuit" type article contained in the latest issue of SUSS:-

"...Tasmania offers the most exciting caves in the country, with many caves which plummet to depths of more than 400 metres, such as Niggle Cave (sic) in the Junee-Florentine Valley, and the infamous Ice Tube Cave (sic), requiring some 345 metres of abseiling to navigate its depth..."

CLUB MATTERS:

Important Stuff...

- For anyone who doesn't yet know, we have changed our meeting venue to:

**The Shipwright Arms
29 Trumpeter Street
Battery Point**

Meetings will still be held the first and third Wednesdays of each month, with SCS starting around 8pm, and TCC around 9. Hopefully the trend of members attending each other's meetings will continue, as it's a great way to keep up with what's happening on the caving scene.

- **Annual Subs are now due** - cost is still \$25 for full membership and \$18 for the Spiel only.
- **We will be taking a razor to our mailing list very soon, so if you wish to continue receiving the Spiel, pay up or be deleted.** We will continue to send the Spiel to those clubs/organisations who respond in kind, but anyone else who has not paid after the next Spiel (#289) will cease to be.

AGM Report...

For those of you who weren't there, here is a brief rundown of what happened:

Office Bearers:

As per the cover page, plus -

Vice President - Dean Morgan; Public Officer - Stephen Bunton;
Librarian - Trevor Wailes/Rolan Eberhard; Archivist - Stuart Nicholas;
Cave Dive Convenor - Lapsed; Committe - everyone else at the meeting, basically

Treasury:

The club has currently \$6,000 + in its coffers. Not quite enough for a hostile bid for BHP, but we are solvent. All we have to do now is work out how best to spend some of it !! A full financial statement will appear in the next Spiel.

General Business:

Discussion centred around the Club re-joining the ASF as a full member to take advantage of it's new insurance scheme...

It was resolved that due to the costs involved, and the Club's decision to keep membership fees the same as last year, then it would be best if the Club remains an Associate Member of the ASF, and individuals could arrange full membership of the ASF and take advantage of the insurance scheme if they so wish (there is some confusion as to the Club's current status with the ASF, which Stu is clarifying).

The need to attract new members to the Club was also raised, but the feeling seemed to be that as the Club has a number of newer members who are very keen and active, and that anyone genuinely interested in becoming involved in caving would seek the Club out, there was no need for a membership push at this time.

Other matters raised included the change of venue from the Globe to Shippies (which has now happened), the possible gating of entrances to Exit Cave by PWS and the issue of keys to Clubs (see Spiel #286), and the recognition of contributions to caving and the TCC by Chris Davies and Rolan and Stefan Eberhard by making them Life Members.

All in all a very enjoyable and well attended meeting - thanks to all those present !!

Garth Cornelius, Editor.

*** * * BITS AND PIECES * * ***

NEW JUNEE-FLORENTINE CAVE NUMBERS...

The following new Junee-Florentine caves and streamsinks were numbered between April and December 1993. This brings the total number of numbered cave entrances in this karst area to 357, although at least 136 entrances where are not numbered have been documented. The numbers JF249, 250, 261, 262, 264-299 are yet to be allocated...

JF246: Pinhead Pot. Small hole in base of doline. Explore to a depth of 5m to constricted muddy continuation. Beware of loose rocks at entrance.
About 20m from JF259 (Junee Cave Area).

JF247: Un-named Cave. Body-sized hole in log-choked doline. Possible unexplored. About 30m from Junee Quarry Road in JF259 area.

JF248: Four Road Swallet. Sizeable streamsink in doline at about 530m asl on the north-western slopes of Wherretts Lookout. Appears to be humanly impenetrable. Possible hydrological connection to Junee Cave, but unproven as yet.

JF255: Un-named Cave. Narrow entrance to descending rift near a stream-sink in the JF126 area (between the Chairman and Threefortyone). Possibly unexplored, but does not look overly promising.

JF256: Un-named Streamsink. Minor streamsink into seemingly impenetrable boulders several hundred metres to the west of The Slip on Wherretts Lookout.

JF257: Un-named Cave. Sloping entrance associated with minor streamsink to the west of JF256 and The Slip, near JF135.

JF258: Un-named Sreamsink. Large stream sinks at base of cliff in sizeable doline with waterfall. Located near the limestone contact to the east of Chrisps Road in the Satans Lair area.

JF259: Un-named Cave. Narrow hole in doline about 10m from Junee Quarry Road. Acts as streamsink for storm runoff. Hydrological connection to Junee Cave established by water tracing with fluorescein. Humanly impenetrable at present.

JF263: Un-named Cave. Spacious rift entrance to descending passage with pitches of 8m, 7m, 12m and 5m. Total depth is about 35m. Several hundred metres to the east of The Slip in a line of potholes along the limestone contact.
Explored by D. Morgan and R. Eberhard on 19/4/93.

Rolan Eberahrd

T.C.C. LIFE MEMBERS - A quick History.

At the recent AGM 3 new additions were made to life membership of the TCC. Here is a quick rundown on who all the life members are and some of their biggest achievements that I know about. I have tried to get the facts right but there could be some mistakes, so I apologise if there are. Many thanks to Stefan and Rolan Eberhard and Chris Davies for all they have done for the TCC over the years to get them elected into the elite.

Dean Morgan

EDIE SMITH. (Dec.)

Edie was not only a life member but she was also a Foundation Member of the TCC, being around when it formed in 1946 (Edie left Tasmania around 1956, joining the Canberra Speleo Society).

She did a lot of work, primarily around Ida Bay, participating in the exploration of Exit Cave and Wolf Hole to name a few, and was the main person responsible for getting a track put into Exit Cave. Unfortunately she passed away before this was completed. Edies Treasure in Exit Cave is named after her and there is a plaque placed in the cave in memory of her.

The ASF even has the Edie Smith award, which is the highest award available for services to speleology.

FRANK BROWN. (Dec.)

Frank is another person who was a Foundation Member of the club. Unfortunately Frank passed away a couple of years ago and caving lost a big part of its history. If it wasn't for Frank the TCC probably would have folded in the 1950's when there was not much activity, but thankfully he kept it going through the lean years.

Frank played a fundamental role in the formation of the ASF along with Albert Goede in 1956 and apparently he was a keen cave photographer.

ALBERT GOEDE.

Albert joined the TCC in 1954 and was involved in some very significant discoveries at Ida Bay and Mole Creek...

As a young lad he made the long trudge through the Ida Bay forest into a cave that is now known as Exit Cave and explored through the rockpile. At Mole Creek he helped explore Kubla Khan and discovered the Pleasure Dome which I imagine would be the highlight of anyone's caving career.

Along with Frank Brown he was one of the players instrumental in the formation of the ASF in 1956, and has been awarded the Edie Smith Award. Albert is a lecturer in Geomorphology at the University of Tasmania and has done a lot of work with cave dating and has discovered new species of cave creatures that have subsequently been named after him.

Albert is still active and currently is President of the Tasmanian Cave and Karst Research Group. If there were any higher awards to caving in Tasmania (or Australia), then surely Albert should have received it by now.

BRIAN COLLIN.

Brian joined the club around 1967 and was one of the primary pushers into the further reaches of Exit Cave. He also helped explore Khazud Dum, Niagra Pot, and Cauldron Pot along with others.

If you look up any cave surveys in the early 70's you would be sure to find his name on it as he was on a lot of the surveying and exploration trips into some of the Tasmanian classics.

Brian was one of the first people up Mt Anne on the North East Ridge exploring caves up there and track cutting. Apparently he was the first person to get to Lake Timk as well. The Cracroft Valley was also the target of some of his explorations.

STUART NICHOLAS

I am sure that anyone reading this will know who Stuart Nicholas is...

Stu joined the TCC in 1970 and is still a big part of it. He was on the exploration trips into all of the classics like Khazud-Dum, Niagra Pot, and Cauldron Pot in the earlier days, as well as being in on the exploration of Ice Tube, Seredipity, Porcupine Pot, Growling Swallet and many others more recently.

He claims the highlight of his caving career was breaking through into Mainline in the Growling Swallet system.

Stu was the Editor of the Speleo Spiel for many, many years, until time commitments got too much for him. However, if there is anything to do with caving, then behind the scenes you will find Stuart; he is involved with the ASF, search and rescue, and was one of the main initiators in getting the Cave Leadership Accreditation Group up and running.

He has held many positions in the TCC over the years including President and his name appears on many survey's from the 70's until the present.

He is the main survey data keeper for the club, spending many hours caving via his computer, and is still a big part of the TCC today.

Unfortunately he seems to be getting senile over the last year as he has been getting confused with his priorities and spending too much time working and not caving. Hopefully this will change very soon.

CHRIS DAVIES.

About 1976 was when Chris hit the scene...

Chris has always been the "behind the scenes" man, and you don't realise what he has done on the caving scene until you start looking for his name.

Glance through any Speleo Spiel from '76 onwards and you will find Chris' name on plenty of surveys and the majority of trip reports up until recent years. He was in on the trips into all of the more recent Florentine classics like Ice Tube, Serendipity, Porcupine Pot, Growling Swallet etc, and has done a lot of surface exploration work in the Florentine finding lots of caves; JF341 (about 7.5 km and growing fast) and Old Ditch Road (Ida Bay) being amongst the most significant that I know of.

Chris has been, and still is, an active part of the TCC and has always been there encouraging newer members with trips and information on various things to do with caving. He is one person who should get more recognition for what he has done.

STEFAN AND ROLAN EBERHARD.

Both of the Eberhards crashed onto the caving scene in the late 70's and it has never been the same since. They were originally in the Southern Caving Society for the first 3 years before joining the TCC.

Their finds are too numerous to even mention as these boys have found and explored nearly everything worth finding and exploring and have not left a lot to do for anyone else. All of the biggest, longest, hardest and deepest caves were found and explored by them and they just keep on finding bigger, longer, harder and deeper caves today.

Stefan is the expert on the invertebrae cave fauna of Tasmania and is currently employed pillaging mainland caves studying the bugs over there as well. He has even found new species that have subsequently been named after him.

Rolan was the co-author with Stephen Bunton of 'Vertical Caves of Tasmania', an excellent guide to the deepest and longest caves in Tasmania at the time. More recently Rolan has been working for the Forestry Commission studying karst and caves in the Junee Florentine area and doing many experiments regarding the effects of logging on karst areas there and at Mole Creek.

They both have been awarded the ASF certificate of merit and have also found some very big finds through being a couple of the countries leading cave divers. They have probably covered more areas looking for caves in Tasmania than anyone else and they have even covered other parts of the globe in the pursuit of more.

Virtually every cave survey will have an Eberhard on it somewhere if published after 1978 and I just wish they would both piss off and retire and leave some things for others to find.

TREVOR WAILES.

Trevor came across from Pommyland in 1980 for a short stay and he hasn't left yet. He had done plenty of caving in England and once in Tassie he helped explore and survey numerous caves including Ice Tube, Porcupine Pot, Serendipity and all of the other big finds of the 80's and 90's. Trev is the man to talk to if you want information on Growling Swallet as he helped explore and survey a vast majority of it...

He is still active and his biggest claim to fame is that he was President of the TCC for a record 10 years.

Trev has been involved in a lot of "behind the scenes" caving things and has always been very helpfull to all newer members over the years. He has also been Quartermaster for the club most of his time in Tasmania and at the moment is still Secretary.

Last year he was also awarded the ASF certificate of merit quite deservedly.

A SILK PURSE OUT OF A SOW'S EAR...?

I don't know how many people use or are thinking of buying a Petzel "Kaboom" carbide lamp, but the one thing that pissed me off when I finally scraped up enough cash to buy one was the fact that the head-piece is designed to be screwed directly to the helmet...

Not wanting the expense of buying another helmet or changing the lamp bracket 's position on my existing helmet, I set about trying to modify the head-piece so that it could be fitted to, or removed from, a "normal" lamp bracket; aka Oldham.

After trying with various bent and twisted pieces of aluminium/steel/whatever (which tended to fail at un-comfortable moments, leaving a blazing carbide monster dangling in front of one's face) I hit upon the obvious solution:

The bit of metal on the back of Oldham head-pieces that slots into a helmet's lamp bracket is held on by a small nut and bolt (like the mounting bracket on the Petzel).

As luck would have it, the holes in the Oldham mounting bracket are the same size as the Petzel's. Simply unscrew the Oldham bracket and swap it for the Petzel...

You will have to use some spacers either side of the Olham bracket to keep it centred on the Petzel head-piece and stop it from moving from side to side (I used peices of a ball-point pen case).

With some bending you can also add the spring from the Petzel set-up, which will stop the carbide head-piece from moving up and down on your helmet.

The end result is a versatile carbide lamp that is easily added/removed to/from your helmet anywhere with minimal hassle; it makes it a great back-up light (apart from it's bulkiness) for those "Epics", as there is no need to carry an extra helmet.

Garth

P.S. If you ever have to replace the ignition unit on the "Kaboom", *make sure you keep the original spring* as the replacement supplied with the new ignition unit is way too big !

T.C.C. CONTACT LIST

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB
PO BOX 416, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005.

Following on from Dean's inspiration, here is an up-datedish contact list that you can stick on your fridge, toilet wall, whatever. If anyone has been missed, or if the contact details are wrong, then please contact the Editor ASAP. I will endeavour to publish this list at least every third Spiel, and if anyone wants single sheet copies (to avoid tearing apart this esteemed publication), ask and ye shall receiveth...

NAME	ADDRESS	HOME	WORK
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