

***SPELEO SPIEL... Issue No. 294
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Newsletter of the
TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB Inc.

P.O. Box 416 Sandy Bay
Tasmania 7005

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MEETINGS

TCC meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at the Shipwright's Arms Hotel at 29
Trumpeter St. Battery Point. Meetings start from 8.45 * (see page 2)

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* (From Meetings page 1) I know I have stated that meetings start at 8:45, but sometimes they have been known to start as late as 9:15. I can't remember one ever starting earlier than 8:45, except maybe for our AGM's where they have been known to fire up from as early as 8:00pm. To be perfectly honest though, the majority of the time we don't have an 'official' meeting at all! We just stand around listening to Trevor whingeing about everything and waffling on about Yorkshire caves and the 'hard men' over there. If suppose if you really keen and wanted to make certain that you didn't miss a meeting, you could always turn up the night before and camp outside the pub. If any TCC members turn up at the pub and there is a tent pitched outside the door, we'll assume that you're a caver and wake you up so you don't miss out. I would say that your probably better off packing up the tent and going inside when the pub opens anyhow. Otherwise some drunk yobbo may rush out the door of the pub and vomit on you're tent ... Yuck!

Surely you haven't read all of this crap? Have you?

COMING EVENTS

SAREX '96:- This will be happening sometime between March and May 1996. Exact details haven't been finalised yet, but keep it in mind!

Hobbit Hole:- 4th February. Potential to connect into Exit Cave with this one, so lets get in before the winter rains do. Dean is the one keen to go.

Niagara Pot:- 18th February. Another excellent wet cave that needs to be looked at before the rains come. Contact Dean.

Rift Cave -341 Exchange Trip:- 25th February. Jeff Butt from the Southern Caving Society has graciously donated his day for some serious gloating by taking some TCC'ites on a tour of the new 341/Rift Cave extension/connections that have been found by the SCS. Thanks to work by SCS (and Jeff especially), this system has now expanded to up around 8km! Contact Jeff Butt at home on 238620 if you don't want to miss out on this one!

Capricorn

Dec 22 - Jan 20

Dreamy Neptune is in your sign, and now is the time to get in touch with your inner spirit. Start exploring areas like Dreamtime, New Feeling, Mainline or any other part of the Growling Swallet Cave system!

New Feeling/Growling Swallet:- 5th March. One of the best decorated sections of cave in Southern Tasmania. Maybe we can connect it into Serendipity? Trevor Wailes will take you along to try...

Easter '96:- is not far away. How about we go caving somewhere different this year? Could be a mini expedition to Mt Anne? The Cracroft Valley? Weld Valley? Precipitous Bluff? Even Mole Creek maybe? How about it peoples? Think it over.

EDITORIAL

Goals

As they say in America; "Howdy Folks!"

How was the break? I hope you all got some good caving in and had a mighty fine time! Well, 1996 is now upon us, and it's time to look ahead. '96 is also the TCC's 50th year of being. However, we can't really start popping those champagne corks yet, as technically speaking we have to wait until the AGM later in May-August or so for it to be 'official'.

"Climbers do it because it's there, cavers do it because it might be there"

What are we going to do for the annual dinner this year as well, as there could be around 70-100 people there? If you have any suggestions then please let us know! (Also see 'Club Matters' about this.)

Anyhow, now that the indulgences of the festive season have been excreted from various orifices and flushed down the Derwent River, it's time for us to get back into some serious caving and work off that extra Christmas pudding we ate! Especially if we want to have a crack at breaking the world's longest and deepest caves records! (see 'Bits & Pieces'.)

The way I see it, all we have to do get to the top of the list, is find a cave at the summit of Mount Ossa (1614m) and connect it into Quetzlcoatl Conduit at Precipitous Bluff which comes out close to sea level.

Of course, if we want the length record as well, we will have to do it via Gunn's Plains Cave, Kubla Khan, Croesus, Wet Cave, Herbert's Pot, Growling Swallet, Niggly Cave, Porcupine Pot, Serendipity, Anne-A-Kananda, Kellar's Cellar, Arrakis, Exit Cave, Little Grunt, Mystery Creek, Judd's Cavern, Bauhaus and Damper Cave as well! A splendid challenge for the TCC's 50th year! How hard could it be???

Aquarius

Jan 21 - Feb 19

Your ruling planet Uranus is back, and to make the most of this potentially uplifting experience, you need to be free to do things on a whim. So if Dean calls you and say's "Lets go caving this weekend." Make sure you say "Yes!"

Also in keeping up with the times, I have tried to make the Speleo Spiel a bit more of an 'upmarket' magazine like *New Idea*, *Women's Day* and all of those other top quality publications like that. Unfortunately, I couldn't scrape up any gossip on the royal family, and no-one has written to me with any juicy medical problems! So I'm afraid you'll all have to settle for some Astrological predictions from Dean 'Psycho Mystic Type Person' Morgan scattered throughout this edition. I hope you all take heed from them...

Oh Yeah. I've been wondering why no-one seems to take me seriously nowadays since I've been Spiel editor???

Dean Morgan
Serious person / Editor

CLUB MATTERS

SAREX '96

All the details haven't been finalised yet, but we're just making sure that you don't forget. Last year had a very poor caver turnout, and the police even asked "Is it worth us holding these Search & Rescue exercises if no cavers are going to turn up?"

"Climbers do it because it's there, cavers do it because it might be there"

Of course, the answer is yes, so try and make the effort this year. We will try and give you plenty of warning before it happens, but please try and make it your job to ensure that you know when it happens! Only one weekend sometime between March and May, surely that's not too much to ask?

TCC Turns 50!!! Win Huge Prizes!!!

As you all may know, 1996 is TCC's 50th year and we are in need of suggestions for our 50th annual dinner. Potentially there could be up to 100 people so what are we going to do and where?

The good news here is that we are offering *one years full TCC membership, and a copy of the TCC explorations journal* free to the person with the best suggestion for the dinner.

Pisces

Feb 20 - Mar 20

The intuitive heart of your astrological chart gets even stronger now. Maybe this means that you will know where new cave is to be found? If you do, then make sure you take Dean with you when you go explore it!

TCC dinners are traditionally held on the last week in September, and I expect this one will be the same, so come on people, put your heads together and come up with some ideas now and get them to Stuart Nicholas.

A.S.F.-C.L.A.G. NEWS

1996 Program

Following on from the successful 'Cave Safety Level 1' workshop held last year, ASF-CLAG will be offering 2 more of the same course in 1996. At the pilot course last year, it was felt that 1 day was too short to adequately cover all the topics, so this year it will be a 2 day affair.

Topics covered will be:- Assessing a suitable cave for the type of party, weather considerations, clothing requirements, gear checks, route finding, group safety, underground hazards, rigging ladders and belay lines, belaying techniques, emergency/safety equipment and practices, cleaning and inspecting equipment, managing critical incidents e.g. entrapment, flooding, lost person/party ect.. and also rescue techniques. There will be things to learn for novices and experienced cavers alike. The dates for the '96 courses are 20-21 April and 26 27 October.

Cost is \$105 and includes a comprehensive training manual. Transport, food and accommodation costs are not included.

Two weekends have also been set aside to assess trainees for Outdoor Leader 1 - Horizontal Caving Leader. The dates are 4-5 of May, and 2-3 November.

"Climbers do it because it's there, cavers do it because it might be there"

Trainees will be assessed on the competencies required to lead a group through a horizontal cave with a ladder pitch of no more than 10 metres. A logbook of caving experience is also required to be filled in previous to the weekend.

The Tasmanian Outdoor Leadership Council also have courses and certification in kayaking, rafting, rockclimbing, abseiling, ski touring and bushwalking, covering various skill levels and facets of those pursuits.

For more information on any of the above, contact the:-

TOLC Administrative officer.
GPO Box 399, Hobart 7001
(002) 308145

TRIP REPORTS

Juneec Scrub Bashing

Date: Sunday, 12th November 1995

Players: Nigel Williams, Leigh Douglas and Dean Morgan.

We set off on a brilliant clear sky sunny day, snagging a McDonald's on the way
[Note: 3 people entered the establishment, two easily identified as Dean and Nigel,

Aries

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Now's the time to focus on your dreams and aspirations. If you've ever dreamt of caving with Dean (and I imagine you all have at some stage!) Then make that dream come true this weekend!

the third in heavy disguise but obviously of light build, identity still to be determined], to Lady Binney's (LB) Corner. The plan was to explore in a N, N-E, E direction from LB corner covering ground east of the slip and north of Cave Hill.

After a short climb we struck limestone outcrops and found a few 3-4 m vertical entrances. Since we were still fresh and brimming with the prospect of yet bigger finds we debated what to do. With Dean's talk of "If we don't check 'em out now someone will have to come back...; could miss out on finding something big...; ect, ect, ect..." ringing in our ears we decided against descending these holes...

Climbing further around, we passed around the edge of another plateau heading east. This descended into a valley with a creek [thought to be the one bisecting grid reference DN6070]. At the time it was about 30cm deep and flowing strongly. A return trip should consider following this creek down to see if a swallet exists.

"Climbers do it because it's there, cavers do it because it might be there"

Heading N,NE we encountered significant scrub, after around 40 minutes bashing through this very slowly we decided to head south to get out of it. We descended into another valley which on the southern side had prominent limestone cliffs, 30m or so high. We believe this was the northern (N,NW) edge of Cave Hill.

We then headed west and encountered a logging track which eventually petered out and after another 30 minutes of medium to light scrub we broke through to the Florentine road right on Lady Binney corner where we had left from in the morning!

In summary, it was not a particularly exciting day of discovering. In hindsight, after leaving the creek we may have been at too low an altitude to pick up the limestone contact.

This area still needs to be explored but be prepared for medium to heavy scrub!

Nigel Williams

Scorpio

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Scorpios are individuals who truly desire to get the best out of their lives (and caving trips) it would probably be better though, if they took Dean with them.

Growling Swallet

December 17th.

Nigel Williams, Trevor Wailes, Dean Morgan and "Scoff" (Andrew Schofield?) from England.

This isn't so much of a trip report, as it's more to tell people that the ladder up out of Refuge Aven that had been washed away late last year has been found and replaced. Although after the major floods we had just after Christmas, I wouldn't be surprised if it has gone again!!

The trip was originally planned as a push trip into the Servalane/Third World area to try and find some big new stuff. "Scoff" was keen to get underground in Tassy so he could tell his mates back in England that he *did* in fact go caving on his holiday! Incidentally, a lot of his mates turned out to be mates of Trevors from the 'Home Land' as well!

We ended up taking the Slaughterhouse Pot option to get into the system, but

Gemini

May 22 Jun 21

Life's horizons widen, and maybe that squeeze in Thun Junction Cave has as well! Could you get through this year maybe?

unfortunately once we were into Rescue Aven there were rumours of a mutiny as "Scoff" was running out of steam. The last few years of his caving career have mainly been spent cave diving, and according to "Scoff", diving is much easier as you just float along and don't need much manual labour! Personally, I think that 'desire-to-live' is another thing that cave divers don't need much of, especially after reading some of "Scoff's" trip reports from diving trips in England!

"Climbers do it because it's there, cavers do it because it might be there"

Those lunatics even go as far as blasting and digging (including shoring up tunnels in rockpile) whilst underwater!!! If you want proof of how weird these people are, then have a read of **Bradford Pothole Club Bulletin; Volume 6, No. 7. (England)** that "Scoff" graciously left for us to peruse over. (see 'In Our Mailbox'.) It's enough to keep me rockclimbing and never go underground again!

Anyhow, back to the trip...

I was losing enthusiasm fast because of the slower pace of the trip, and unfortunately for Trevor and Nigel, "Scoff" and I got our way and we just had a quick squizz around Destiny, Herpes and Avon's Aven. We also threw rocks down the Black River pitch and then headed out for the day.

Leo
Jul 24 - Aug 2
For several years now, Leo's have been attracting special attention from the star patterns. I've no idea why. Maybe they should have been caving instead?

"Scoff" seemed pretty impressed with Growling Swallet, but I think I was more impressed with the slides that he showed us at the next TCC meeting of caving in Yorkshire and a few other assorted places, including some cave diving shots. Thanks go to "Scoff" for the slide show as well.

Dean Morgan

In Search Of Peanut Brittle, JF 128, 142, 148 and more...

21/1/96

Jeff Butt (SCS) and Dean Morgan

In the new 341/Rift Cave extensions that SCS have pushed, there is what is thought to be the streamway from Peanut Brittle Pot coming in at one spot. Peanut Brittle is a straight down series of pitches (in rotten rock) that finally finishes at -189 metres deep at a small streamway. As far as I know, there has only been 2 or less trips to the bottom of the cave, so Jeff and I were going to have a look at connecting it into 341/Rift.

Neither of us had been there before, but we both knew where the track starts, and we both knew that it was very close to the track, so we also thought we both 'knew' we wouldn't have trouble finding it. Huh!!!!

We found the track alright and followed it up the hill for 50 metres until we came across our first cave, JF 128. We had Peanut Brittle's cave number back in the car and had forgotten to bring it, but we thought that it was JF 146. We knew this one wasn't

Taurus
Apr 21 - May 21
For the first time in 75 years, the planet of brilliant ideas is settling into your ambitions chart. You know what this means - A surveying trip into Exit Cave is due!

the right cave, so we continued further up the hill past another untagged cave next to JF 128 in pursuit of the elusive blue trackmarking tapes...

Just up above this area, there was a huge mass of treefall covering dolines and gullies, and after having a poke around this we had found JF 142 and 148, but not 146. Time was wasting a bit by this stage, and the survey for 146 has the entrance as a 7m handline.

"Climbers do it because it's there, cavers do it because it might be there"

The first cave we had passed, 128 looked a bit like the survey stated, so we headed back there assuming that we had mixed our numbers up and Peanut Brittle wasn't 146 after all.

Jeff rigged up for JF 128 and headed down a pitch that turned out to be around 25 metres, followed by a descending mud crawl that looked like it got too tight, so we knew that wasn't the one we were looking for, but it was still an interesting cave.

Only 10 metres up from 128 was another large untagged entrance with a 7m entrance pitch, so I kitted up and went down this one while Jeff came out 128. This next cave turned out to be a fizzer as well, as it finished at the bottom of the 7m pitch in a chamber with no prospects.

It was too late in the day to worry about Peanut Brittle now, so we resigned ourselves to exploring holes around the area instead.

Next on the list was JF 142 that was spotted earlier in the day. This was a very scungy looking entrance that descended steeply in narrow passage through some treefall. This one went down 10 metres through a bit of rockfall until I arrived at the top of a 4 metre pitch. This pitch could be bypassed via a tricky climb and at the bottom it continued steeply down a rift with a bit of a draught until it narrowed down and a small stream came in from the side. You could squeeze down this narrow stream passage for a further 10m, followed by another 4 metre downclimb, a short section of passage, and finally it finished in a thigh deep sump. Behind the sump there was a short climb up, and you could just see through a very narrow rift with a slight draught, but that was as far as humans could get.

The final cave for the day was JF148. This one was a tiny waterfall running into a small horizontal passage. Jeff looked in this one, and came out to report that there was a 10 m pitch a short way in. I helped him with ropes, and Jeff kitted up and descended this pitch to where another 10m pitch followed straight afterwards. After descending this one, there was another 10m pitch again which he also descended, but ran out of rope before he got to the bottom of this one. This cave seemed like the description we had of Peanut Brittle, so we assumed it was. Because Jeff had run out of rope here, it was late in the day, and the rest of the rope was outside the cave. We headed out and went home for the day, leaving a full descent of Peanut Brittle for another time.

But...

After getting home and looking up the ASF karst index, it seems that the last cave we had visited, JF 148 was not Peanut Brittle, as Peanut Brittle was JF 147. According to the karst index, 148 is a series of pitches finishing at -50m. Jeff must have only been about 5m away from the bottom when we turned around. Still, if we are up that way again, we should have another look in the bottom of JF148 and see if there is potential to connect it into the 341/Rift Cave system. A good day out anyhow.

Dean Morgan

<p>Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21 Sagittarius are generally too boring to mention, so I won't...</p>
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BIT'S AND PIECES

The World's Top 20 Deepest and Longest Caves

DEEPEST CAVES

(all measurements in metres)

#	Cave Name	Country	Depth	Length	Source and Date
1.	resseau Jean Bernard	France	1602.0	20000	Caves and Caving 1990
2.	Lamprechtsofen-Vogelshacht	Austria	1532.0	37000	Taternik 2/95
3.	gouffre Mirola / Lucien Bouclier	France	1520.0	9000	International Caver 1993
4.	Shakta Vjacheslav Pantjukhina	Georgia	1508.0		Caves & Caving 1989
5.	Sistema Huautla	Mexico	1475.0	55953	Mark Minton 12/95
6.	Sistema del Trave (La Laureola)	Spain	1441.0	9167	Laurent Andrey 01/92
7.	Boj-Bulok	C.I.S.	1415.0	5000	Caves and Caving 1992
8.	(Il)laminako Aterneko Leizea (BU56)	Spain	1408.0	14500	Caves and Caving 1988
9.	Lukina Jama - Manual II	Croatia	1393.0		Spelunca 1995
10.	Sistema Cheve (Cuicateco)	Mexico	1386.1	23500	NSS News 10/95
11.	Snježnaja-Mezhonnogo	Georgia	1370.0	19000	Atlas Des Grands Gouffres Du Monde 1986
12.	Ceki 2 (Cehi)	Slovenia	1370.0		International Caver 8/92
13.	resseau de la Pierre Saint Martin	France	1342.0	53800	Atlas Des Grandes Cavites Mondia. 1989
14.	Siebenhengste-hohgant Hohlsystem	Switz.	1324.0	135000	Spelunca 1994
15.	gouffre Berger - Gouffre de la Fromagere	France	1278.0	26467	E.Elguero 5/94
16.	Cosanostraloeh - Berger - Platteneck Hohle	Austria	1265.0	30000	E.Elguero 5/94
17.	Torca dos los Rebecos	Spain	1255.0	2228	E.Elguero 5/94
18.	Pozo del Madejuno	Spain	1254.0	2852	Sherry Mayo(?) 1995
19.	Abisso Paolo Roversi	Italy	1249.0	4000	Sherry Mayo 1995
20.	Vladimir V. Iljukhina System	Georgia	1240.0	5870	International Caver 1994

Cancer

Jun 22 - Jul 23

No room here, so keep reading!

LONGEST CAVES

#	Cave Name	Country	Length	Depth	Source and Date
1.	Mammoth Cave System	U.S.A.	563270	115.5	CRF/CKKC 1/95
2.	Optimisticeskaja	C.I.S.	183000	20.0	International Caver 8/92
3.	Holloch	Switz.	165500	872.0	MJR, IntCav 2/94
4.	Jewel Cave	U.S.A.	160934	212.1	Paha Sapa Grotto 6/94
5.	Lechuguilla Cave	U.S.A.	141680	477.9	Garry Petrie 12/95
6.	Siebenhengste-hohgant Hohlsystem	Switz.	135000	1324.0	Spelunca 1994
7.	Fisher Ridge Cave System	U.S.A.	125529	88.4	Dug Scoops 11/95
8.	Wind Cave	U.S.A.	121184	172.2	Papa Sapa Grotto 1/95
9.	Ozernaja	Ukraine	111000		The International Caver 1993
10.	Gua Air jernih - Lubang Batau Padeng	Malaysia	109000	355.1	International Caver 2/92
11.	Sistema de Ojo Guarena	Spain	97400		International Caver 3/93
12.	resseau de la Coumo d'Hyuernedo(e)	France	94843	1018.0	E.Elguero 9/94
13.	Zolushka	Moldavia	85500	30.0	Caves & Caving 1988
14.	Sistema Purificacion	Mexico	81959	955.0	Mark Minton 12/95
15.	Hirlatzhohle	Austria	79000	1041.0	VDHK 1/95
16.	Easegill System	U.K.	70500	211.0	Caves & Caving 1990
17.	Raucherkarhohle	Austria	70000	725.0	Caves & Caving 1989
18.	Friars Hole Cave System	U.S.A.	69997	188.4	Doug Medville 12/95
19.	Toca da Boa Vista	Brazil	64000		Pedro Nunes Baptista 9/95
20.	Organ (Greenbrier) Cave System	U.S.A.	63569	148.1	West Virginia Caver 2/92

"Climbers do it because it's there, cavers do it because it might be there"

I'm afraid to say that Australia doesn't even rate a mention on the Deepest 100 caves chart with Niggly Cave in Tasmania currently on -377 metres.

Australia fares a bit better on the length chart, with the first mention being Burkes Backyard Cave in Western Australia in position 51 with 37000 metres length. Next Australian mention is Old Homestead Cave also in West Oz (I think!) coming in 83rd position at 28000 metres.

Finally, Tasmania appears out of the gloom at around 178th position with Exit Cave at 16000 metres (surveyed). Time for us Tasmanians to do some serious exploring...

This list is maintained by:-

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So send any updates to him, and thanks to Bob for sending us the most up to date list as of 1 January 1996. No doubt Bob will be busy altering the list as a result of all the caving expeditions to various corners of the globe that seem to happen every year over the Christmas/New Year break. I wonder what has been found/extended this year?

IN OUR MAILBOX

Bradford Pothole Club Bulletin; Volume 6, No. 7. (England)

As mentioned in the Growling Swallet trip report in this issue. This one has quite a few reports on explorations and diving in a few Yorkshire caves, as well as overseas expeditions to Albania, France, Italy and a few others. There is a good report on bottoming the Gouffre Berger (-1278m) in France that is very amusing and informative complete with rigging details, and well worth casting an eyeball across. Also, there are some gung-ho cave diving trips that make for some *very* interesting reading!

Libra

Sep 24 - Oct 23

Dean is a Libran(?) and everybody knows that Librans are the bestest cavers of all, so nothing else needs to be said about them...

The End...

"Climbers do it because it's there, cavers do it because it might be there"

Virgo

Aug 24 - Sep 23

Catching up with unpaid bills is all important as the year gets underway, as some of your caving gear may need replacing and we don't want not to be able to afford that now, do we?