

***SPELEO SPIEL... Issue No. 295***  
***MARCH 1996***

Newsletter of the  
**TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB Inc.**

P.O. Box 416 Sandy Bay  
Tasmania 7005

Newsletter Annual Subscription: \$18.00. Each: \$2.00. Non-Members: \$3.00  
Full club membership: \$25.00.

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***MEETINGS***

TCC meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at the Shipwright's Arms  
Hotel, 29 Trumpeter St. Battery Point. Meetings start from 8.45.

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*The 49th Annual General Meeting  
Reminder Issue!!!*

**COMING EVENTS**

**49th Annual General Meeting:-** Wednesday 27 March. See 'Club Matters' for full details on this event.

**SAREX '96:-** The last weekend in May - 25-26th. See 'Club Matters' for the details.

**Easter '96 Caving Expedition:-** A trip is definitely on this year. 'Club Matters' will fill you in if your interested.

**Khazad-dum:-** 25th April (Anzac Day) Come along to this Tasmanian 'classic'. Contact Dean if you want to come and get wet.

**EDITORIAL**

**Eat Carpet...**

Michele and I have just had new carpet put throughout our house last week, so this month's editorial theme is - *Carpet!* Only problem is, how can I relate carpet to caving??? Umm...errr...gosh.

Anyhow, that's the editorial for this month, I hope you enjoyed it...

'till next month, don't forget the AGM on the last Wednesday in March, and also SAREX '96 on the last weekend in May. Bye for now!

Dean Morgan  
Serious Person/Editor

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*"Don't forget the 49th AGM, Wednesday 27th March at 8pm"*

## CLUB MATTERS

### 49th Annual General Meeting.

Our AGM for 1996 is to be held on Wednesday 27th of March, traditionally being the last Wednesday in March. This is quite a significant event for us, as it means that all the elected executive will be in power during TCC's 50th year! Please make sure that you attend and put in your bit towards our 50th year.

According to our constitution the ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:-

- To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting;*
- To receive from the Committee, the Auditor, and servants of the Association, reports on the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year;*
- To elect the officers of the Association and the ordinary Committeeman;*
- To appoint the Auditor and determine his remuneration; and*
- To determine the remuneration of the servants of the Association.*

Positions up for grabs will be:-

- President (el presidente'/mein fuhrer)*
- Vice President (wanna-bee)*
- Secretary (club 'Bimbo'???)*
- Treasurer (one with the biggest calculator)*
- Quartermaster (person with the biggest garage and best house insurance)*
- Public Officer (person with the best ability to smile in a crisis)*
- Spiel Editor (person with the most spare time)*
- Committee members (anyone else not covered by any of the above)*
- and any other positions we can think up on the night!*

*"We're not lost. We're locationally challenged."*

*- John M. Ford. (or was it Garth Cornelius???)*

So if you don't want to become one of the above office bearers, then you'd better come along to the meeting or we'll vote you in anyhow. (*tee, hee, hee...*)

The AGM will be followed afterwards with a General Meeting as well. If you all behave, then we may even supply some food! **Wednesday 27th March at 8pm sharp.** Venue is the Shipwright Arms Hotel, 29 Trumpeter Street, Battery Point. See you all there. Alternatively, if you can't be there, then pass on your proxy vote to one of the current executive.

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### —SAREX '96. The Last Weekend In May—

May 25-26th. Make sure you all put that one down in your diaries, as that is the date of SAREX '96. It's going to happen come rain, hail or shine, so make sure you are there as well. We had a pathetic turnout of cavers last year, so make sure you all put in the effort this year, as it's for your own benefit, and they are good fun! You don't have to come for the whole weekend, as all the hard work *should* be over by late Saturday (*we hope!*). The rest of the weekend is usually just socialising or caving if you want to go on Sunday. Just come along for however long you can make it, even if it's for a few hours.

I am going to print the names in the Spiel of the people who do come along and participate this year, so unless you have a good excuse for me, everyone will know who the slacker's are that don't turn up!

It's all going to happen down at Ida Bay this year. We are meeting at Police Search & Rescue headquarters, 19 Paternoster Row at 8:00am Saturday morning - they will even supply the transport for us! Accommodation will almost certainly be in the Lune River Youth Hostel for those staying overnight, but it may be an idea to bring a tent just in case...

I don't see how you can all turn down an offer like this. Caving, *free transport*, and more importantly - ***no ropes to wash afterwards!!! Whoopee!!!***

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### Easter '96 Caving Expedition

It was suggested in the last Spiel, and now its official - An expedition to a more remote caving area is going to start on Easter Tuesday, with the plan to be away for 4-5 days or so and get back on the weekend. The exact venue hasn't been chosen yet, but we are definitely going somewhere!

*"Don't forget the 49th AGM, Wednesday 27th March at 8pm"*

Trip options at this stage are:-

**Jubilee Range-** There are reports of karst with swallets and entrances made by a geologist called Clive Calvert. Clive has done a bit of caving, so he should have a fair idea as to what swallets and entrances are, not like some bushwalkers we know of...

**Snowy Range-** I can't remember whether Clive has *found* karst there, or whether he thinks there *should* be karst there. But karst appears at the Cracroft Valley, Weld Valley, and NE ridge of Mt Anne and the Snowy Range is in between all these. *(Although I have spoken to some cavers that have done a lot of walking up there though, and they have never seen anything yet - But, it's still an option.)*

**NE ridge of Mt Anne-** Spend some time in the impressive dolomite karst up there. Maybe Keller's Cellar or Anne-A-Kananda?

**Lake Timk/Snake Plains area-** There is definitely karst out there, it just needs a good looking over by cavers.

**Cracroft or Weld Valley's-** Both of these areas have documented caves, it's just a matter of finding more.

**Donaldson River-** Ian Household is down there at the moment checking it out. Depending on what he finds as to whether it's worth a trip.

**Lodden Range-** Bruce Morley has suggested the Loddon Range where many holes have been spotted. Given the elevation of this area there is huge potential for another NE Ridge type area. Access can be over Mt Ronald Cross from Lyell HWY or from the Jane River Track via Everlasting Hills *(themselves full of sink holes)*.

Personally, I'm keener to go to one of the more remote areas to take full advantage of the time off work, but I'm not really fussed as to where we go. Final decisions will be made closer to the date. It's mainly a decision of whether we want to cover a new karst area, or find some new stuff in a known area. If you are interested in coming as well, then give Dean a call H(002) 279318 and let him know.

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### Garth Cornelius - remember him???

All of you that have asked me "Have you heard from Garth at all?" Can finally rest in peace. I was talking to him on the phone the other night and I can now announce - "Tanya and Garth are the proud parents of a little girl called Rebekah Kate."

He say's that the lifestyle is *very* different over in Mildura, mainly involving water skiing and swimming in the river. To quote Garth; "The place is FLAT, and I mean F\*\*\*\*\*G FLAT!!! And the heat..."

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*- John M. Ford. (or was it Garth Cornelius???)*

He did say that really misses caving, and Tasmania, and has been really, really busy with work, but enjoys the new job. And he said to say hello to everyone - so "Hello!" from Garth and Tanya.

On behalf of everyone from TCC , all the best to both (*or all 3!*) of you, and hopefully we'll see you both again some time?

\* \* \* \* \*

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

#### **NORLD/ORCA update**

Those of you who take an interest in all of the accreditation/qualification/standards stuff may remember hearing the name NORLD being passed around at some stage over the last few years. NORLD stands for '*National Outdoor Recreation Leadership Development*' and was originally formed around 4 years ago, being an amalgamation of people from all types of outdoor pursuits Australia wide.

The purpose of NORLD was to try and keep standards of Outdoor Recreation Leadership as uniform as possible throughout Australia. Stuart Nicholas from TCC was our Tasmanian caving representative in the earlier days.

NORLD is the Australia wide parent group of The Tasmanian Outdoor Leadership Council (TOLC), and TOLC has sub-groups in caving (*ASF-Caving Leadership Accreditation Group*), climbing (*Tasmanian Climbing Instructors Association*), skiing (*Cross Country Training Committee - Ski Tasmania*), canoeing (*Tasmanian Board of Canoe Education*), and bushwalking (*Tasmanian Bushwalking Leadership Association*).

Since NORLD was originally formed, they have been involved in mainly the Standards & Training area. Over the years there has been pressure on them to also represent the Outdoor Recreation area in general. Therefore, as of this year, NORLD has evolved to become the '*Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia*' (ORCA) and has been set up with 3 divisions.

*"Don't forget the 49th AGM, Wednesday 27th March at 8pm"*

These 3 divisions of ORCA are:-

**Advocacy** - Mainly involved in lobbying for funding, industry development, liaison with unions and things like that. Stuart Lennox (*ex NORLD executive assistant*) from Dept. of Tourism, Sport & Recreation in Hobart is the Executive Director of this branch.

**Services** - Financial management, policy, marketing, publicity, sponsorship and that sort of stuff.

**Standards & Training** - Just like the name says - Standards & training. Because NORLD was mainly involved in this area, and a lot of people know the NORLD name. They have decided to keep this arm of ORCA called NORLD, with the only difference being that where the 'D' used to mean *Development*, it now means *Division*! Are you confused yet???

**And now for the good news...**

The good news with the NORLD branch of ORCA is that the Executive Director is a South Australian caver called Alan Jevons. Alan is also a member of the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) and is their cave leadership standards convener. Of course, what this means to us cavers is that hopefully soon, ORCA will be totally biased towards caving and they will forget about all those other boring outdoor activities! We can only hope...

So now we have got:-

**Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia (ORCA)** Representing Outdoor Recreation in general Australia wide.

**National Outdoor Recreation Leadership Division (NORLD)** A branch of ORCA only involved in outdoor recreation 'leadership and standards' in Australia

**Tasmanian Outdoor Leadership Council (TOLC)** Representing Outdoor Leadership in general in Tasmania.

**ASF-Caving Leadership Accreditation Group (ASF-CLAG)** Representing the caving specific leadership accreditation in Tasmania under TOLC.

Anyhow, I'm sorry if it all sounds a bit too confusing! But that is the way it is getting nowadays - Confusing!!!

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## TRIP REPORTS

### Threefortyone/Rift Cave exchange trip February 25th.

Participants:- Jeff Butt & Dave Rasch (Southern Caving Society),  
Trevor Wailes (TCC), Dean Morgan (TCC/SCS)

**Forward to trip:-** Jeff and Dave had offered to take TCC members into the new 341/Rift Cave extensions that SCS had found in the last 2 years. Was it generosity on their part? Or did they just want to show us what smug bastards they are??? I think it was generosity, although they certainly had good reason to gloat, as they have done an excellent job of exploring, pushing and surveying the system to where it is currently around 9km surveyed.

Dave had found the initial extension from the 341 side, and most of the work had been done by Dave and Jeff - along with other SCS members, in exploring the system and making the connection into Rift Cave. This was my second trip in, as I had been on one previous trip via Rift Cave with Dave a year back (*probably the only trip into the system in the last couple of years that heaps of new stuff wasn't found!!!*) For Trevor, it was his first time in the new bit's. As for all the other TCC members who were coming but piked out in the last minutes - **Sucked In!!!**, as you all missed out on seeing some of Tasmania's prime quality cave...

### And so it began...

It was thought that to save time and to make it more interesting, we would make it an exchange trip via the 2 entrances. Therefore Dave and I set out to go into Rift Cave, and Jeff and Trevor went in the 341 way with the plan to meet in the middle a couple of hours later near a chamber dubbed 'Theatre Royal'.

Looking down into the entrance of Rift Cave I was glad to see that the stream was quite low - meaning that we wouldn't get soaked at the start of the trip! We were soon down the main entrance passage and through the crawls and looking down the small waterfall flowing over the 15 metre pitch (*that Dave had also discovered back in 1989 or so*). We soon descended this and continued down the main chamber towards the bottom.

Once down near the lowest point of this area there is a quite tricky 4 metre upclimb followed by an interesting maze of tubes heading in every direction! The correct way through these involves a rope traverse across the tope of a couple of them, a 10 metre pitch, another traverse and a 10 metre prussik up a pre-rigged pitch, followed by another short pitch. Once past all this there is a short horizontal section and you break out into the big stuff!



The first junction you get to has a passage that gets very close to Niagra Pot at the upstream end, and this was where Dave had taken me last year. We didn't go that way today, instead we continued up the main passage through easy walk through cave for a short while. This was broken up with a couple of rockfalls that you can climb over and we soon arrived at the huge impressive chamber dubbed 'Theatre Royal'.

Those of you who know the bushwalk in to the Chairman track will know about the small swallet you pass on the track called 'Washout Cave'. This cave only goes down around 15 metres and then gets too tight, with the water continuing down the narrow rift. In Theatre Royal there is a 25 metre high waterfall coming out of the roof and this is known to be the water from Washout Cave. The interesting part is that it is only about 10 metres from the lowest part of Washout Cave, to the top of the waterfall in Theatre Royal! It would certainly be an easy way into the system if you could get through! There is also another spot further back towards Rift Cave that you can climb up that apparently comes to within 15 metres of a (diggable) passage still within the daylight zone of the entrance to Rift Cave. Another spot too worth mentioning - is the section closest to Peanut Brittle Cave where you are only 50 metres below the surface as well. Surely it's only a matter of time until more ways into the system are found...

Dave and I continued on from Theatre Royal and soon found Jeff and Trevor waiting for us. They had been there about 15 minutes and were getting a bit cool, so Jeff took Trevor down towards Theatre Royal for a look, while Dave and I had something to eat and then headed into some newer passage that goes towards Peanut Brittle Cave. This passage is walk through meandering up a small stream that has been dye traced from a small swallet that sinks near Peanut Brittle. There are a few high level leads that all seemed to continue upwards. One lead I looked at continued up until I was looking down a 20 metre aven to where Dave was still in the streamway. There were climbs continuing up from here, but you would need some protection to try them. You're not far below the surface though...

Once I got back to the stream, Jeff and Trevor had joined up again so we continued up the passage until we came to the 'final' chamber. Everyone went their own way here as this chamber had on been cursorously explored on the one trip when it was found. Unfortunately no promising leads were found, except for a small vertical squeeze through rocks held together with silt looking decidedly loose and dangerous! Dave and I both went in part way, looked at it and said "*Maybe another time!*" There was a reasonable draught coming out of it.

After finishing up in that area, Jeff and Dave then took us back to Theatre Royal to have a look at the streamway down in the bottom of the chamber. This streamway came in from an upstream duck that hadn't been pushed yet, and Dave was stripping some of his dry clothing off in preparation for wallowing through the duck, claiming the glory and coming back out of it wet and cold. Luckily(?) for Dave, I found a way to bypass the duck and get back into the stream where it continued upstream through some nice clean canyon passage for 35 metres until it finished in a small undiveable sump. No doubt if Dave had got through first, it would have continued on for a couple of km, but because I found it, it only went 35 metres. What have I done to upset God so much that he won't let *me* find new stuff???

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We had all had enough by this stage so we went back to the packs, said our farewells and headed out in our respective directions. The way back to the old sections of 341 from here was nearly all walk through passage. Dave took me on one short detour so he could show me a beautifully decorated chamber called the 'Dinosaurs Jaw'. Yes, I was impressed!

After another half an hour of mainly canyon passage we finally came to the downclimb into the older section of 341. This downclimb is in a maze of passages that descend down to the old 341 streamway. What really annoyed me was the fact that I had looked up here around 5 years ago but hadn't found the right one! So close, but so far! I suppose I'll just have to accept that I'm a second rate caver...

Once down the climb I was back into familiar territory, and we continued on and out to the pitch series that the others had left rigged for us in the morning.

After some more grunting, prusiking, panting and crawling we finally arrived back on the surface at around 6:30pm, and 20 minutes later we were back at the car, with Jeff and Trevor arriving 1/2 hour later.

It really was a great trip, I'm just sorry for the others that they had to take me along, thus ensuring that no new passage would be found on the day...

Dean Morgan

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### Where are all the other trip reports???

That's what I want to know!!! I know that trips have been happening, because I've been on a lot of them! It's just that it makes for a pretty boring newsletter if I write *all* the trip reports...

Like blood from a stone it is...

## **BIT'S AND PIECES**

### A Reminder...

Don't forget about our AGM on 27th of March, and SAREX '96 on 25 - 26th of May. If you've forgotten about these events already, then shame on you and go back to 'Club Matters' for all the details!

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### The Saga Of Rauleighs Gnome!

*[Passed on from Rauleigh Webb from the West Australian Speleological Group]*  
 The gnome saga continues.... For those that don't know, my gnome VicTim was kidnapped some 10 years ago and has been travelling the world sending me cards, letters and photos throughout this time. Of late he has been very quiet, but now I received this from would you believe Antarctica!!!!

Dear Rauleigh,

Your gnome over-wintered at Casey station. I met him on his way back to Oz whilst I was on my way down on the ship. It was a tough winter that one, all the expeditioners were pretty burnt-out, but VicTim looked OK apart from some minor frostbite on the nose.

His companion was a dieso chap, who'd gotten him from Fiona Coates. This chap wanted to send the gnome back down again with me for another winter, but VicTim told me he was sick of mating with penguins, and longed for a quiet retirement in his Masters garden in suburban Perth. All Antarctic winterers receive an Antarctic service medal, so I hope the gnome got his.

Regards Stefan Eberhard

Now I've heard it all!

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### For Sale

Are you sick of looking at other peoples slides and thinking "Wow! I wish I had some slides like that!" Well now is your chance if you purchase this Nikonos Underwater Camera. Ideal for:- Caving, Canoeing, Sailing, Scuba Diving and Surfing

Has a 35mm wide angle f2.5 lens, and includes sports finder, spare 'O' rings, grease, case and lens hood.

Selling for \$250.00 - phone 002-491579 evenings if you are interested.

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### Where have all the missing Spiels gone???

Our Secretary Trev has asked; "Has anyone got any of the black bound Speleo Spiel Yearbooks???" At the end of the year all the Spiels from that year get bound in volumes and kept in the TCC library. The years '72, '75, '76, '82, '84, '85 and '86 are all missing from the collection. Please have a squizz in all the dark corners of you house for them, and let Trevor know if you locate any. We don't need them back yet, we just want to know where they are!

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### IN OUR MAILBOX

*Nargun; Volume 28, No 6 & 7. (Victorian Speleological Association.)*

Peter Ackroyd's report on the VSA trip to Tassy 94-95. Including Growling Swallet, Cauldron Pot, Tassy Pot, Dwarrodel and Midnight Hole ect - No offence to VSA members, but how come caves can be rigged by numerous parties safely, but VSA can't seem to rig them without placing new bolts in? Don't they use chock, slings, bollards ect in Victoria??? A technical report on helmets. Report on a Hades Cave rescue, and a trip to South Oz.

*Il Carso No 9 (Italian), Progressione 32 (Spanish?), Stalactite 1-94 & 2-94(Swiss)*

Plenty of good photo's, but not much else unless you can read Spanish, Italian, or Swiss.

*NSS; Oct 95 (America)*

The 'incredible cave hoax of 1927' (?) and exploration of Los Juanitos in Mexico.

*Cavers Chronicle; Vol 22, No's 1 & 2. (Speleological Research Group of West Oz)*

Basically trip reports, Mill Cave accident and Public Liability insurance notes.

*Sydney Speleo Society; Volume 39, No 11-12.*

New Zealand Expedition, and running Petzl Duo lights.

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