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MEETINGS-

Are held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of every month at Shipwright's Arms hotel, 29 Trumpeter St, Battery Point, Hobart

<u>ANNUAL</u> SUBSCRIPTION

<u>SUBSCRIPTION</u>	<u>vs</u>
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Speleo Spiel No. 296 April 1996

Newsletter of the

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB Inc.

P.O. Box 416 Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005

Foundation Member of Australian Speleological Federation First Caving Club in Australia – Founded 1946

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TCC CONTACT LIST

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HAPPENINGS

Easter trip to the Weld River:- 9th 'till the 13th of April. It's probably happening/happened by the time you read this. I bet we are having/had a great time and are finding/found oodles of new cave too!!!

Cave Safety Level 1:- 20th & 21st of April. See 'ASF-CLAG News' for more.

Southern Caving Society Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 24th April at 22 Clutha Place, South Hobart.

Khazud-Dum/Dwarrodelf:- 25th April (Anzac Day) Come along to this Tasmanian 'classic'. Members of SCS and Northern Caverneers will also be there. Contact Dean if you want to come and get wet.

Level 1 Caver assessment Weekend: 4th & 5th of May. See 'ASF-CLAG News'.

ASF-CLAG 2nd Annual General Meeting: 11th & 12th of May. Once again, see 'ASF-CLAG News' for the details.

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

Now - You can't complain about not having anything to do over April/May period, Can you???

EDITORIAL

TCC's past, present, and future?

Our 49th AGM has now been and gone (see 'Club Matters' for all the gory details) meaning that we are now going through our 50th year as a club. No doubt the club has had many ups and down's over those 50 years, but currently TCC is in a huge depression (no pun intended!!!)

At the AGM, I was voted back in as President and Spiel Editor. It would be nice to think I was re-elected because members are taking notice of the fact that I am a natural born leader oozing with raw talent, leadership skills, unsurpassed editorial expertise, and good looks! Unfortunately, not all members have realised this yet, and the real reason I was re-elected was that no-one else wanted to do it!

What has happened to the club? We are currently going through a *very* lean period, but the problem is - the lean period's been going on for 7 years or so and it's getting worse. The big problem with TCC today is not so much the fact that there is very little caving happening, but the fact that no-one is interested in participating in keeping the club going. Clubs and Organisations are usually held together by lots of people putting in a small amount, not 1 or 2 people putting in 100%. Jeff Butt puts 100% into the SCS, and I've no doubt that they would have gone under (figuratively speaking!) years ago without his input.

ASF-CLAG would have folded a couple of years ago too I expect, but Jeff and I got stuck into it in a big way, and now they have healthier membership and are running quite nicely. I'm sure that if you added up the hours Jeff and I spend devoted to caving administrative stuff every month, (not including actually going caving) it would nearly add up to full time employment anyhow! You only need to look at 'Happenings' in this issue. I have commitments doing something all weekend, every weekend until the end of May to do with caving. And that doesn't include numerous other meetings I have to go to at nightime as a caving rep, as well as trying to put together another Spiel before May because everyone else is too slack to write anything for it. Some of these commitments I want to do by choice - while others I feel I have to do because no-one else will. I'm not trying to blow my own trumpet here, it's just that Jeff and I shouldn't have to do all this stuff alone.

The Tasmanian Cave & Karst Research Group has the same problem, with their President Albert Goede (a TCC life member) stating in their last newsletter - "The group has remained inactive for another year, with no progress made towards publication of another journal. The longer this situation continues, the less likely it is that the group can be re-activated. I for one am not prepared to continue much longer as president of a group that is to all intents and purpose at a dead end. Remaining members should give serious consideration as to the best way the group might be wound up" Sound familiar to you? It certainly does to me, and it's the same way I feel about the TCC. I should make notable exeptions here of Nigel Williams and Trevor Wailes, who both have been putting in their bit when required, but other members need to realise that you need people to run and administer clubs as well as having members. They don't just run themselves.

Our AGM is a good example; at the AGM people had to be hassled into taking up positions - years ago I remember it being a *privilege* to be nominated for one. Look at the last few Spiels too - with the exeption of the ad in this issue from Lew Mitchelmore (selling caving gear anyhow!) and 1 trip report from Nigel, everything has been written by me with no input at all from other members! SAREX '95 held last year is another example - only about 4 cavers turned up! How about TCC meetings also - we didn't have any official meetings last year at all. On the occasions that there was something we needed to discuss, only 2-3 people were there anyhow, and that's not enough for a quorum.

I tried to liven up meetings with slide shows last year, and that partly worked until we ran out of slides to look at! Maybe we need a better venue for meetings? Shippie's is a nice enough pub, but it's not really conducive to holding meetings or slide shows as it has no meeting room we can use..

The subject of amalgamation with the Southern Caving Society has been bought up (once again!) this year. Could amalgamation be the solution for both of the clubs? I can't answer that one. All I know is that something has to be done soon, or all Southern Tasmanian caving clubs are in danger of becoming extinct...

Dean Morgan Serious Person/Editor

CLUB MATTERS

Notice of a Tasmanian Caverneering Club Extraordinary General Meeting for 29th May 1996

[Eds note:- I know some of you got this in the last Spiel, but I only printed out around 20 copies and attached it to some of the local addresses. Apologies to those who've already seen it.]

At the Southern Caving Society held on 14/3/96, Joel Desmarchlier put forward the motion that the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, and the Southern Society should amalgamate.

Therefore, notice is given of a combined Extraordinary General Meeting of both the Southern Caving Society and the Tasmanian Caverneering Club to discuss this motion. Joel is to put together a paper on the pro's and con's of amalgamating the clubs for distribution between all members before the above mentioned meeting. Any ideas, comments, suggestions - both for and against should be forwarded to Joel at:-

Joel Desmarchlier
29 Cromwell St
Battery Point
Hobart
(002) 235016
jol_d@geo.geol.utas.edu.au

The venue for the Extraordinary General Meeting has not been decided yet. We'll keep you informed.

"I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realise that what you heard is not what I meant."

Anon

Another blow for TCC...

I'm sorry to report that TCC has lost another member to mainland Australia. Life member and Tasmanian caving legend Rolan Eberhard and wife Adrienne have gone to live in Canberra for an extended period. Rolan scored a job with the Heritage Commission over there and has gone and left us. The bastard...

I suppose I should say 'all the best' to both of them, but I won't!!! I'm hoping that it won't work out and they'll come back again you see...

-- SAREX '96. The Last Weekend In May-

As mentioned last issue, SAREX '96 is all planned for the weekend of May 25-26th. It's on at Ida Bay this year and we are meeting at Police Search & Rescue headquarters, 19 Paternoster Row at 8:00am Saturday morning. Accommodation is at the Lune River Youth Hostel for those staying overnight. Should be a good weekend!

I know I've said it before, but please come along and participate this year...

49th TCC AGM Report

Our 49th AGM (50th year) was held on the 27th of March. A modest turnout came along and the following is a brief summary of what transpired on the night.

Treasurers Report:- Nigel Williams told us that we spent heaps of money last year (drill, rope, lights, batteries ect...) and currently have a total of \$3600 in the investment account, with around \$287 in the Cheque account.

Editors Report:- Dean Morgan reported that he had taken over the role of Editor from Garth in August after Garth went to South Oz. Spiels have been coming out monthly but, input from members has been very, very, very, very, very, very poor.

Public Officer:- Stephen Bunton had nothing to report as nothing of interest had happened!

President/Vice President:- Dean had taken over the role of President from Garth as well, and reported that club activity had been virtually non-existent, with Dean and Nigel about the only people going caving!

Overall, things are not looking good for the TCC in the long term...

The newly elected are (also see Spiel header page):-

President - Dean Morgan, Vice President - John Steen, Secretary - Leigh Douglas, Treasurer - Nigel Williams, Quartermaster - Trevor Wailes, Public Officer - Stephen Bunton, Editor - Dean Morgan, Librarian/Archivist - Trevor Wailes, ASF-CLAG Reps are Dean Morgan and Tim Sprod.

Special business for the AGM:-

Subscription costs to stay the same, but the subject of student and family membership was also discussed as no-one was sure if they still existed (see Spiel header page for costs). Students are \$18, and Family is \$30. Family membership means only one Spiel subscription.

Stephen Bunton talked about what he is organising for the TCC's 50 year, and it sounds *HUGE!!!* A weekend late in the year(?) with accommodation, food, competitions, posterity stuff, slides ect... Consequently, Bunty has won the offered prize (see Spiel No. 294) of 1 year TCC membership and a copy of the TCC Explorations journal for his efforts. Top marks to Bunty for putting this all together too!

Amalgamation with the Southern Caving Society is back on the agenda in a big way (see "Club Matters"), and this was briefly discussed, then deferred until the General Meeting afterwards.

Thanks to all that came along and participated.

Sensible Leader Forms!

Those of you who have kept up with modern leadership standards will be pleased to know that we now have some TCC Medical Information & Disclaimer forms. All sensible leaders should be getting participants to fill in these forms before taking people caving. Contact Dean if you would like copies of them.

Just remember - your the only one who can lose out if you can't be bothered with paperwork!

Exit Cave gated

All the rumours have finally come true! Exit cave has now got gates on all of the horizontal entrances. Valley entrance is the only one without - but that one's coming soon too!

I've been told that all the gates are openable from inside the cave without the use of a key (in case you were silly enough to lose the key in the cave, although I can't imagine anyone doing something that stupid...) and also in case you did a pull through trip and didn't know that there were gates barring your exit from Exit!

I have been informed to tell people that if this method gets abused, Parks & Wildlife will change them so you do need a key to get in or out.

Of course, permits are required to gain access to the cave and the key anyhow.

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

The Annual General Meeting of ASF-CLAG is to be held on the weekend of 12th of May. The meeting will be in Launceston on the Saturday, with a caving trip to Mole Creek on the Sunday.

Anyone is welcome to come along and join in, and there will be free transport leaving from Hobart on the Saturday morning. If you are interested, then contact Dean or Jeff Butt.

Cave Safety Level 1 Weekend & Level 1 Caver assessments

Cave Safety Level 1 is a weekend workshop catering for every aspect of being a safe caver. The aim of the workshop is to impart knowledge of safe caving practices to all participants and try to cover all the topics required to be assessed as a Level 1 Caver. There will be a strong emphasis on giving participants as much hands-on experience as possible (excluding SRT). All aspects of pre-cave, in-cave, and post-cave considerations will be dealt with, including:-

- assessing a cave for age/experience of party
- · weather conditions and prediction
- clothing requirements
- make-up of party
- group safety
- underground hazards
- rigging ladders and belay lines (continued over page)

"I saw of course, the cliff, I saw the turbulent ocean blue; But everyone else was going that way, so I thought that I would too!" Larry the Lemming

- · emergency/safety gear requirements
- · cleaning and examining gear
- first aid considerations
- gear checks
- trip intentions
- pre-trip briefings
- navigation
- belaying

Dates are 20th and 21st of April.

The Level 1 caver assessment weekend is on for 4th & 5th of May as well. Candidates will be assessed in all the competencies covered in Cave Safety Level 1. A logbook is required to be filled in before the assessment weekend also.

If you are interested in either of the above, then please contact the-

Administrative Officer. Tasmanian Outdoor Leadership Council GPO Box 399 Hobart 7001 (002) 308145

TRIP REPORTS

Not much chance of trip reports happening with no-one going caving!!!

BIT'S AND PIECES

Suunto Cave Surveying Gear

On a recent shopping spree in J. Walsh & Sons, I thought I would have a quick look upstairs where they keep all the surveying gear, to see what Suunto's are worth nowadays purchased locally. The all alloy bodied compass and clinometer (like the ones TCC use) were selling for \$190 and \$175 respectively. The good news for more budget conscious cavers (and who isn't nowadays!) is that they are also now selling the plastic bodied versions. These models are exactly the same as the alloy bodied ones, but have a fully plastic case. I've no idea how robust they are, but I would expect them to be fine. The plastic versions of compass and clinometer were on special for \$75 and \$80 respectively. Quite a saving on the alloy ones!

They also have the compass and clinometer both mounted in a single alloy block as one unit. This complete unit sells for \$245. I've never used one of these ones, so I can't comment on how well they work, but it's certainly a lot cheaper than purchasing the individual units.

If anyone is interested, the address for Walsh's is:-

J. Walsh & Sons Pty Ltd Office Supplies and Equipment 130 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania (002) 233444

The sixth Australian trip to Mexico

Report from Alan Warild

The sixth Australian trip to Zongolica-Chilchotla, is back after two months in the field. Zongolica is over the hill from Sistema Huautla in the Sierra Mazateca, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Things went remarkably well and we managed to achieve 2 out of 3 of our objectives.

• We did a dive at - 946 m in Sonconga. Greg Tunnock did the explore dive and then the two of us went through the 14 m sump (Incidentally, Stefan Eberhard was on the "bottoming" trip in 1987/8 when we hit the first sump). We got an extra 68 m depth before a more definitive end in a broad muddy sump.

We did get to -1014 m which makes it the first time an Australian expedition has got -1000+ m on explore.

• Top Dog (its real Mazatec name will be on the map) is a new entrance to Nia Quien Nita (Dead Dog Cave). It went to almost 600 m in really nice cave with some great big pitches and no squeezes until it hit Dead Dog. An extra bit on the bottom of Dead Dog Cave (Que perro tan feo) gave some more depth to make the "Dog system" 7.1 km long and 906 m deep.

We didn't find the, or any, resurgence, but the Rio Peltlalpa is a great canyon trip for people without too much fear of drowning.

Alan Warild alanw@jna.com.au

"I saw of course, the cliff, I saw the turbulent ocean blue; But everyone else was going that way, so I thought that I would too!" Larry the Lemming

ACKMA Journal No. 22

The Australian Cave & Karst Management Association (ACKMA) Journal No.22 (March,1996) has just hit the streets. This quarterly quality Journal (usually 36 pages) is available on subscription at \$40 per annum for anyone interested.

Subscriptions should be sent to:-

Dennis Rebecchi P.O.Box 1450 Southport. Qld. 4216.

OR

e-mail KENT HENDERSON - kent@swanreach.com.au

An invoice will be sent with your first Journal.

Caving Gear for sale

Lew Mitchelmore has asked to advertise his complete caving outfit due to (and I quote!) - "Well - a lack of caving, or the likelihood of caving in the near future." (Sounds only too common these days!!!).

- CS Trog Suit size large
- Spelean cave pack
- Troll cave pack
- Petzl Avanti caving harness
- Home-made caving harness
- 2 x wire traces
- 8 x screw gate carabiners
- 2 x snap lock carabiners
- Petzl rack descender
- Fig.8 descender
- Ascending harness
- 1 x Jumar
- 1 x Petzl ascender
- Space blanket.

ALL ITEMS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION AT \$550 - job lot (ono) Phone Lew Mitchelmore on (002) 486856.

"I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realise that what you heard is not what I meant." Anon

IN OUR MAILBOX

Sydney University Speleological Society; Volume 35, No 2-3.

Another New Zealand Expedition! A swiss army caving knife (brilliant!), And other local (NSW) trip reports.

CEGSA; Volume 40, No 4. (South Australia) Lots of trip reports.

Griff; No 361 and 362. (Hamilton Tomo Group NZ)

A couple of trip reports and all about their November Raft Race! Sounded like a good thing too...

New Zealand Speleological Bulletin; Volume 9, No 172.

Report on 1992 International Cave Rescue Congress in Wales. Trip reports and an article on Medical considerations in a cave rescue that you all should read.

Hills Speleology Club; Volume 11 No 2. (NSW)

Article on karst terms and formation complete with pictures. Good for those with limited knowledge on how caves and karst features are created.

FUSSI; Vol 7 No 3. (Flinders Uni Speleo's, NSW)

Trip reports. A report on the S&R seminar at Corra Lynn, and their minimal impact caving code.

Georgia Underground; Vol 32 No 1&2. (Dogwood City Grotto, America) Lots of good trip reports and surveys, caving in Mexico, planning for your cave accident part 3, and a lovely song about caving!

MUCG Raker; (Macquarie Uni Caving Group NSW)

Heaps of trip reports (although half of them are walking and canyoning trips!) and some good cartoons...

Desnivel; Volume 1 No 4. (Brazil)

Uma pausa para fazor o croquis no Salao Talameira. If the last sentence made sense to you, then you may make some sense of this one. But for the rest of us there are only some photo's and a survey to look at.

Langana; Dec 95. (Launceston Walking Club).

Snake and spider bites, Quoll's and Native Cats, eating tips and meals, and lots of Tasmanian bushwalking reviews.

"I saw of course, the cliff, I saw the turbulent ocean blue; But everyone else was going that way, so I thought that I would too!" Larry the Lemming

TCC Contact list (as of 28/3/96)

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"I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realise that what you heard is not what I meant." Anon