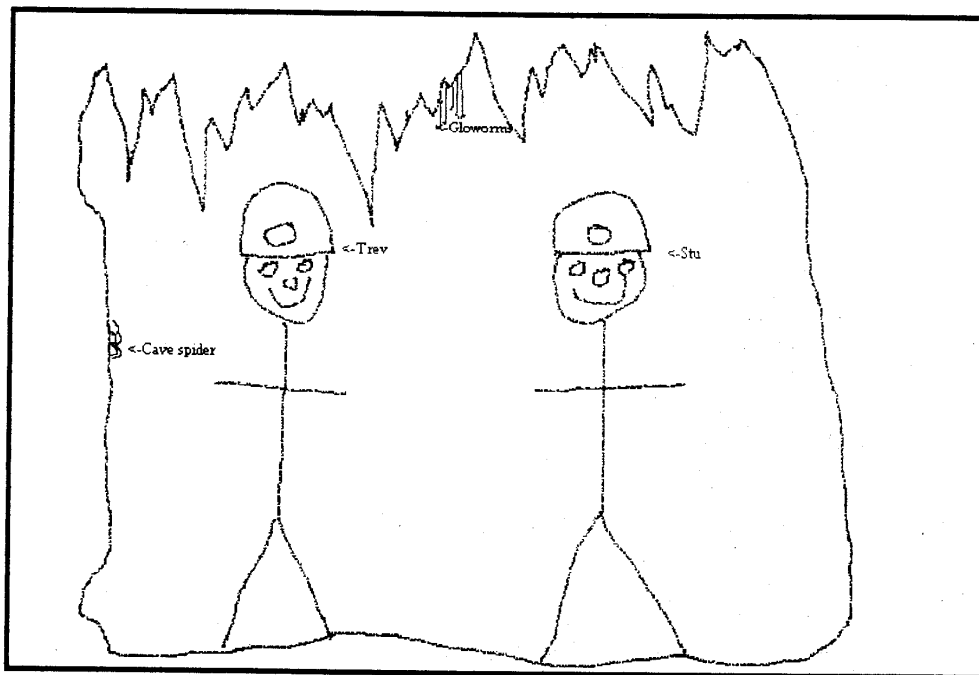


SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the
Tasmanian Caverneering Club Inc
Established in 1946

Not registered by Australia Post - Publication No. TBH 0201
(That's why we put a stamp on it instead!!!)



Cover Shot:- Trevor Wailes & Stuart Nicholas on an early Growling Swallet exploration trip.

Editor's apology!

*Sorry about the quality of the cover shot!
We ran out of Spiel covers and had to improvise until some new ones are made up...*

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MEETINGS -

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Full
Member.....\$25
Family.....\$30
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Spiel Subscription..\$18
Individual Issues.....\$3
Back issues.....\$2

Speleo Spiel No. 297

May 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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HAPPENINGS

Southern Caving Society Annual General Meeting:- You've probably missed it by now, but it was on for Wednesday 24th April at 22 Clutha Place, South Hobart. Buttman's house.

Sewer tour Pt 2:- 1st May. If you missed the first one (*See 'Hobart Downunda' in 'Trip Reports' to find out what it's all about*), then don't miss out on this second underworld trek! Meeting at 7pm at the Transit Bus Centre, Collins Street Hobart.

Khazud-Dum/Dwarrodel:- 25th April (Anzac Day) You've probably missed this one too! Members of SCS and Northern Caverneers will also be there. Contact Dean or Vaughan (H238401) if you want to get wet.

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

ASF-CLAG Annual General Meeting:- 11th & 12th of May. See '*ASF-CLAG News*' for the details.

SAREX '96:- The last weekend in May; 25-26th. Don't forget this one! See '*Club Matters*' for all the details. Although you should already have all the details well embedded in your skulls by now!

EDITORIAL

Happy month is here!

Hi everyone, It's happy month now! After my bitchin' and moaning in last months Editorial, I thought I had better liven up this months edition. Therefore, we'll start this Spiel with a joke! Let me see if I can think of (*a clean!*) one. Ummmmmm - hang on a moment...

Here we go:

"What did the elephant say when he saw the first naked white man?"

"Wow! How can you breathe through that thing???"

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha,!!! Oh well.....at least I laughed.

"If you are travelling at the speed of light and you turn your headlights on - what happens???"

Simple Ol' Thor

It's good to see that my whingeing in last issue has also brought about some results; hence we have contributions in this month's Spiel from various other authors, and not just me! Wow, we haven't had that for a while!

Unfortunately, this will be the last Spiel you will get for a short time, as Trevor is departing to sunny old England for a 2 month holiday. Probably wants to try and pick up some of that top quality English beef while it's going cheap and bring it back into Australia to sell!

For those that don't know, Trevor is the trusty TCC printer - the man who faithfully donates his spare time each and every month to printing the Spiel for us free of charge! Obviously, because Trev is our Spiel printer and won't be here, there will be no Spiel.

I offered to airmail the next one over to him so he could print it out for us in England and send it back to us, but he wouldn't be in that at all! So as a result of Trevor's total dereliction of duty, and complete lack of consideration towards all TCC members; you won't see the next Spiel until he gets back and prints it for us. Some people are only interested in themselves you know...

Have a good trip anyhow Trevor, even if you are letting the TCC down in a big way, and all of you readers had better read this one really, really slowly to make the most of it!

Oh yeah, you should all take special notice of Dave Nichol's report on the Remote Area First Aid Course too(see 'Trip Reports').

Dean Morgan
Serious Person/Editor

CLUB MATTERS

TCC Annual Subscriptions are now due!!!

Just a gentle reminder to everyone, that your Sub's are now due. Costs are:-

Full Member	\$25	Full TCC membership and all the 'perks' that go with it!
Family	\$30	Full TCC membership to all, <i>but only 1 Spiel subscription!</i>
Student	\$18	Reduced full membership rate for students.
Spiel Subscription	\$18	Non TCC membership, but you'll receive all the Spiels.

"It always surprises me that some things are so surprising that they even surprise people that nothing surprises any more."

Erik Dasque

Cheques can be made payable to:-

Tasmanian Caverneering Club Inc.
P.O. Box 416 Sandy Bay,
Tasmania
7005.

If we don't hear from you fairly soon, I'm sorry to say you will be taken off the Spiel mailing list!

You have been warned!!!

50 Years Underground - The Tasmanian Caverneering Clubs 50th Annual Dinner

[Eds Note:- It's great to see someone motivated enough to put all this together. Excellent job Bunty!!!]

The Tasmanian Caverneering Club is celebrating it's half century this year. Founded in 1946, it is Australia's oldest caving club and one of the oldest continuously functioning caving clubs in the world. Throughout its history the club has been at the forefront of exploration of a number of significant Australian caves; including Exit Cave (*formerly Australia's longest cave*), Growling Swallet, Khazad-dum, Ice Tube, Annakananda and Niggly Cave, (*each in turn the deepest cave in Australia, with Niggly Cave also having the longest single underground pitch in the Southern Hemisphere(?) at 190 metres*), and Kubla Khan, one of the countries most spectacular. TCC members have also been involved in a number of overseas expeditions, notably to Papua New Guinea and Mexico. In 1964, one TCC member - Frank Salt, was involved in the initial exploration of the Gouffre Berger in France and reached the -1122 sump.

Celebration of this event will involve a weekend get together of currently active *[Where's he going to find them I wonder? - Ed]* and older members at Tyenna Lodge at Maydena over the weekend of the 16-17th November. Activities are to include barbeques, socialising, talks, slideshows and the annual dinner. All set in a rather informal conference style. There may even be a caving trip or two for some of the keen types...

Hopefully we can also get a number of people to pose for an archival "club photo" in caving gear! Maybe in the entrance of Growling Swallet - a cave which has signified so much in the Club's history.

"If you are travelling at the speed of light and you turn your headlights on - what happens???"
Simple Ol' Thor

Tyenna Lodge can cater for about 40 people if we decide to go for the option of the main dinner meal. The menu and costs can be finalised later. They can also provide accommodation for 12 in a range of rooms at reasonable rates. There are cheaper overnight options available including camping on the flats beside the Junee River, or a large dosshouse with floorspace for sleeping bags and mats. This means that our more senior members can be accommodated in style, while the younger hardier types can rough it a bit and nobody need drive home under the influence.

Stephen Bunton (002 782 398) is handling all the details, so if you are coming then you need to let him know your preference for an 'Evening BBQ' or a more 'Formal Meal'. If numbers exceed 40 odd, then we will have to go for the BBQ option. You also need to book with him to reserve a room or floorspace, or you can just turn up with your tent.

Bring your Trogsuit for the archival photo, and bring your best, worst, or most incriminating photos too! Tyenna Lodge has a seminar conference room that we can use for the purpose of telling and retelling old tales and other forms of public humiliation...

Closer to the date we will let people know more details, with the precise nature of the informal activities and their schedule, also whether there will be a formal dinner, and the boring details like the cost and what time we have to evacuate the debris by on the Sunday etc.

At the moment we are just letting you know it is on, so keep the date free in your diary and make the required travel plans. We hope to get some interstate refugees back for the weekend.

If anyone is a stickler for ceremony and requires a formal invitation, then please let Steve know and he will arrange one through the club secretary. *[Eds note:- It's only people that don't receive the Spiel and who we think should be invited that will get an 'official' invitation in the mail. So if you are reading this - please don't expect an invitation by mail unless you ask for one! Also - if there is anyone you can think of who wouldn't receive an invitation via Spiel's and you think should get one, then let Steve know.]*

It would also be good if we got a distinguished after dinner speaker to officially launch TCC into the second half century. Anyone got any ideas?

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* * * * *

"It always surprises me that some things are so surprising that they even surprise people that nothing surprises any more."

Erik Dasque

**Tasmanian Caverneering Club Extraordinary General Meeting
for 29th May 1996**

The joint Extraordinary General Meeting between both caving clubs is still on for Wednesday 29th of May. We need to finalise the matter of *"whether or not to amalgamate with the Southern Caving Society"*. You have to be there to have your say unless you have put in a proxy vote to someone. It's no good whingeing about the outcome if you don't attend the meeting.

—SAREX '96. The Last Weekend In May—

As mentioned in the last 2 issues of the Spiel (*you can't say you didn't have prior warning this year!*), SAREX '96 is all set and 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. Please be there, or I'll be really, really cross and call you all nasty names in the next Spiel!!!

Rolan's new address

As also mentioned in the last Spiel, Rolan Eberhard is now living in Canberra. If you want to contact him, he should be available at:-

**PO Box 2563
Civic Square
ACT 2608**

Although by the time you read this, he'll probably be *"off overseas for a spot of climbing in California and Peru."*

Some people have all the fun!

"If you are travelling at the speed of light and you turn your headlights on - what happens???"
Simple Ol' Thor

OBITUARY

Peter Dombrovskis 1945 - 1996

Peter Dombrovskis:

Even if you are one of the few people involved in the Tasmanian wilderness who didn't know the name, I'm sure you would have come across his work at some stage over the years.

Although he was not a caver that I knew of, he was an exceptionally talented wilderness photographer who had won international acclaim with his photo's of Tasmania's wilderness. He was particularly well known for his annual wilderness calenders, diaries and postcards, as well as co-producing the book '*Wild Rivers*' with Dr Bob Brown in 1983.

Unfortunately, Peter's body was found near the top of Mt Hayes at the Western Arthur's ranges in Southern Tasmania at 4pm, Wednesday, April 3rd. A tragic loss of a very talented man who will be sorely missed.

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

What's coming up with ASF-CLAG?

Apart from what you saw in 'Happenings', nothing! Although I should mention that the ASF-CLAG Annual General Meeting is happening on 11th-12th of May in Launceston. Anyone is welcome to come along and attend, so contact Jeff Butt or Dean if you are interested. Free transport will be leaving from Hobart on Saturday morning, perhaps with a caving trip to Mole Creek on the Sunday? Come along and join in the festivities!

"It always surprises me that some things are so surprising that they even surprise people that nothing surprises any more."

Erik Dasque

TRIP REPORTS

Hobart Downunda

3rd April; Hobart Rivulet

Dean Morgan, Kelly Miller, Vaughan Andrews, Andrew McNeill, Greg Jordan, and others I can't remember but am bound to get into trouble for forgetting. *[Deans note:- Some of the others were:- Chris Macintosh, Wayne Partridge, Tess, Jolyon Desmarchlier & girlfriend and Dave Rasch.]*

With all the local interest in Wellington Bridge beneath the pavers of the Elizabeth Street Mall, some cavers eventually had to head for the Rivulet. And this seemed more popular than real caving, judging by the attendance list above! It's easy to get into the Rivulet either near the Redline bus depot in Collins st, or near the hospital. It's also easy not to get lost.

It is however, easy to lose people...

Our merry little group of enthusiasts trundled down the water-smoothed sandstone pavers and less inspiring concrete, examining each little lead with such fervour it's a shame no-one goes caving anymore! There were few large enough holes until beneath the fabled Wellington Bridge, where 3 tunnels headed vaguely up Elizabeth St. The first two are big concrete boreholes, and would be good fun with a lilo and a flood. The third is older and is lined with convict bricks which are definitely worth a gander.

Needless to say, everyone had a play in the tunnels. These went at least a couple of blocks up before boredom and cramped necks set in (apart from the convict tunnel, which was more interesting and joined up with the other two eventually). There was also lots of graffiti from some group from the mainland. "Cave Clan is Coming!" they stated. I think we missed that event.

Somehow in all of the fun and games, Kelly and Vaughan made it back to the Rivulet only to find everyone gone! So of course they headed downstream, past the hospital and into the next wetter section. Another large tunnel went off towards the Brooker Highway.

The last section is like a large rail-way tunnel. I guessed it was the last section because there was lots more water and there were waves breaking over my gumboots. It emerged somewhere between the Regatta grounds and Macquarie Wharf, leaving the alternative of going back up the Rivulet, or walking back past the Cenotaph and through the streets. *[What about swimming out into the Derwent River, you woosies!!! - Ed].*

"If you are travelling at the speed of light and you turn your headlights on - what happens???"
Simple Ol' Thor

The fear of being recognised wearing gumboots in town was too great, and we took to the rivulet again at the hospital.

Needless to say, everyone else had long gone home...

You too can go Urban Caving if you want to. The greatest danger is someone you know seeing you wearing gumboots in the city! A light is a good idea (*lights are there, but are probably only turned on for 'official tours'*). Gumboots are a good idea, particularly if you want to go right down to the river (*stick to the sides of the tunnel though*). And a lilo and a mild flood could make it REALLY interesting.

Kelly Miller

A "Trip Report" for,
The Tasmanian Outdoor Leadership Council's
Remote Area First Aid Course
By David Nichols

[It's good to see that someone else is as impressed with these TOLC course as I am! - Ed]

The TOLC Remote Area First Aid course is run to provide training in the necessary emergency response and management skills for patient skills in remote areas (*and if this sounds like an Ad it probably is!*). The course is designed to build on basic urban first aid knowledge, as denoted by a senior first aid certificate (*eg: St. Johns, Red Cross.*) and to extend patient care skills beyond the usual assumption that the Ambulance will arrive within the next 15 minutes. As such it is very good training for anyone that leaves the metropolitan area. Even if you think "nothing will ever happen to me", it may well do to someone near you!

The course consisted of three 2.5 hour theory sessions, followed by a weekend of practicals (*and assessment*) at the Waddamana Field Study centre.

The real benefits of the course, in my opinion, fall into three main points; Firstly, due to the presumption that medical help (*apart from you!*) will not arrive for a considerable period of time, that is from hours to days. Many of the treatment protocols suggested differ markedly from those contained within urban-oriented "normal" first aid courses. The protocols for many treatments are more involved, and extend much further than usually recommended in urban areas. Important aspects of this are shock management, patient secondary surveys and recording of patient information.

"It always surprises me that some things are so surprising that they even surprise people that nothing surprises any more."

Erik Dasque

Apart from immediate treatment, the course also covers other aspects of long-term patient care - when to give food and drink, exercise, sanitation, prevention of pressure sores or circulation problems and so on.

Secondly, the course introduces a comprehensive framework to deal with wilderness emergency situations and treatment - the Accident Management Plan (A.M.P.). Has bureaucracy come to the bush? No. Common sense is the keystone of the AMP, but it is able to set-out what should be done, and more importantly when, so that nothing is forgotten and nothing happens "by accident!". Who should "take charge" of the situation? What should everyone else do? What if there is more than one patient? What about shock? Should we evacuate, and how? Who gets all the chocolate? All these questions and more are answered with the assistance of the AMP - with complete insurance. Which funnily enough, is a further topic addressed for first aiders in the remote area - what are your legal responsibilities to yourself and others, within and outside your group? Should you really volunteer to help an injured American lawyer with a video camera who just fell out of his tourist coach in the Mt. Field carpark, or should you make a dash for the dunny?

Thirdly, the course is structured to include a large amount of hands-on practice (*literally!*) and emergency scenarios. Everyone gets to be "treater" and "treated". It is truly amazing how much you also learn by being a patient when you supposedly know what the "treater" is supposed to be doing. It also lets you know just how things really feel!

So, it is very true that you don't realise how wrong you were till you do it right. Do yourself, and everyone else you ever meet, a favour - take on the Remote Area First Aid Course.

TCC's Easter Expedition Report-

"Around the Weld in Five Days? Everybody wants to rule the Weld?

There's a kind of hush all over the Weld tonight? Cruel Weld?"

With trip report titles such as these, how could this Easter's club expedition to the Weld Arch have failed? We were going to find kilometres and kilometres of new cave, blow the Exit Cave length record right out of the water, *AND* have a great time.

However, due to the number of slackers who decided to stay home with their Easter eggs (can I be rude like that Mr Ed? *Mr Ed??? Why do I suddenly have this image of a talking horse???*). Yes, due to these people, when 40% of the party dropped out for unforeseen reasons, that left Dean, Sophie and myself to carry on the TCC tradition.

So we went to Pine Valley instead...

"If you are travelling at the speed of light and you turn your headlights on - what happens???"

Simple Ol' Thor

We climbed the Acropolis (*we have the photos of [inside] clouds to prove it*), walked up to the Labyrinth, fought off rabid one-eyed possums intent on destroying our slumber, and went fungus-watching (on the really slow days). And then we caught the ferry back down the lake and had some hot chips from the new super-duper visitor centre at Lake St Clair! Wonderful to see our park entry fees being put to such good use...

So that was the TCC Easter Expedition of 1996. Bit of a bummer really, although it was a relief not to have to carry caving gear as well as camping gear. Perhaps we can do it again sometime.

Kelly Miller

BIT'S AND PIECES

Review of an article titled

"Once in a Lifetime."

***Stefan Eberhard's personal account of the
1995 Cocklebiddy Cave Diving Expedition"***
from *Wild* magazine, Autumn 1996 (no 60)

'The first rule is, "Don't die";; the second rule is, "Have fun".'

Sound advice for anyone, especially anyone on the 1995 Cocklebiddy Cave Diving Expedition. This logistically epic push last year into Cocklebiddy Cave, beneath the Nullarbor Plain, broke the world cave diving record. Previously at 6090 m from the cave entrance, a further 20 m was added by Chris Brown before the passage became too narrow. All but some 350 metres and the odd air chamber are under water, and several days were required to ferry equipment through the two sumps before the final push from Toad Hall.

To get to this point: 18 months of preparations, 9 experienced divers, 60 air cylinders, 7 diver propulsion vehicles (scooters), and various tonnes of other equipment. Stefan seemed particularly enamoured of the scooters: "I hadn't had so much fun with a small machine since just before I crashed my brother's motor bike years before." The words "hoon", "thrill", "barrel roll" and "maximum velocity" were also mentioned there somewhere.

Methinks that breaking the record was merely an excuse for a very big jolly...

*"It always surprises me that some things are so surprising that they even
surprise people that nothing surprises any more."*

Erik Dasque

If you only buy one *Wild* magazine this year - buy this one. Or borrow someone's and rip out pages 40-47! It's a really interesting article. Impressive photos, and it gives an idea of the massive scale of this undertaking. And for the non-divers among us, it is an insight into what they do with all of that equipment.

John Steen/Kelly Miller

"Beyond the light"
*The Caves and karst of
Mt. Cripps. (NW Tasmania)*

That is the title of the new Limited Edition (100 copies only) book published by the Savage River Caving Club Inc. The book is 117 Pages; including colour photo's, surveys and cave descriptions.

Cost is \$35 + Postage and handling from the:-

Savage River Caving Club Inc.
P.O. Box 1114
Burnie, Tasmania
7320

Get in fast for your copy before it's too late!

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.

NSS News; December 1995, National Speleological Society (America).

An interesting article on how lighting has changed over the years in Mammoth Cave, and a trip into the downtown Boston 'Central Artery Tunnel'! (An 8-10 lane expressway being built under Boston!)

"If you are travelling at the speed of light and you turn your headlights on - what happens???"
Simple Ol' Thor