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F U S S I



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The Quarterly Newsletter of the

Flinders University Speleological Society Incorporated

WHO IS WHO IN FUSSI 2002

PRESIDENT
Kirsty Kitto

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Kevin Cocks

SECRETARY
Joe Sullivan

EQUIPMENT OFFICERS
Kirsty Kitto

ASF REP
Clare Buswell

Safety Officer
Clare Buswell

Librarian
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Front Cover Photo: Weebubbie Cave Doline. 1992.
Photographer: C. Buswell.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fussi has had a rather tumultuous year due primarily to the collapse of HIH (who had been the insurer for the ASF). This left the club in a very uncertain position, with respect to our insurance status. As a result of this we were unable to run trips for much of last year, the university insurer being unforthcoming about whether we were in fact actually covered by the standard student policy.

This position is still being clarified. The new ASF insurance policy costs considerably more, and does not have a student discount, so we are currently considering how we are going to pay for our membership to the ASF. One thing fortunately has been clarified – the student insurer has stated that it does cover all members of the club as long as they are members of Clubs and Societies, so all members are now able to run trips again. (Although the exact nature of the university insurance is still rather hazy – e.g. the status of landowners is unclear.)

In addition to these dramas, our secretary for 2001 disappeared somewhere during the year, which has left the ex-secretary rather busy, as she really wanted a relaxing year doing nothing as the president!

Despite these problems FUSSI has still managed to run activities such as:

- meetings generally involving a quick discussion of relevant business and planning for future trips.
- training days, where we learned and practiced skills required for competent caving, such as rigging, rope and ladder work. These days predominately involved “bridge days” where we would meet at the Flinders University footbridge and learn how to “jump off it” as safely as possible.
- caving trips to locations such as Corra Lynn caves (on Yorke Peninsula), the Lower Southeast, Gloop (in Swan Reach) and the Flinders ranges. We have attempted to hold at least one trip every two months, and the trips have ranged in duration from short daytrips to weeklong epics! (We hope to attract as many people, with as many different work/study commitments as possible, with this range of available trips.)

In addition to these predominately club activities, we have participated in Clubs and Society fair days, as well as external caving club organisational committies.

Kirsty Kitto

EQUIPMENT REPORT 2001

This year the club retired a few things, cut other things up and bought some nice shiny new things. Mavis was kept in a cupboard whilst all of this was going on and when she was finally let out it was discovered that she had been hoarding some gear of FUSSI's that had been deemed lost. The Mavis abatement Officer has been severely reprimanded by not being allowed any red wine at FUSSI meetings.

Purchases:

Petzel Zoom lights: 3

Screw gate karabiners: 3

Rope: 120 metre, Edelrid 11m super static.

Three prussik cords for the rescue pulley system renewed.

The 1991 Blue water II static rope was cut into two pieces. (Red tag)

A third Karabiner bag has been made up.

We need to get rid of stuff that we no longer use. So how about an auction on the plaza as a club promotion during the next fair day or as a fund raiser? Suggested purchases for the year: a sked stretcher if we win the Lotto.

Equipment Officer.

LIBRARY REPORT

Lots of club magazines came in and, due to our librarian not taking any action, we have a lot of data base updating and filing to do. A couple of new videos came in and it was noted that lots of topographic maps of the state managed to fall off the back of a truck. We are very glad of this and owe a vote of thanks to the person who just happened to be driving by at the time. Now if we could get hold of a map draw ...

The library is located in the Clubs and Societies store room in our section of the compactus. Let the librarian know that you want to borrow something. The length of borrowing time is usually one month, from meeting to meeting. If you want to plan a trip then the library is the first port of call as it has info on cave maps, permit forms, what gear is required to cave in certain caves or areas and information on past club trips.

Ghost Writer.

FOR SALE AUSTRALIAN KARST INDEX.

The book that has it all and doubles as a door stop! Not only does it have a fabo photo of a straw on the front cover but this is the place to go to find out about your favorite karst area. Did you know that Corra-Lynn Cave (Y1) is also known as Correll's Cave and Curramulka Cave. That it is 13kms long give or take 400 metres and is important in terms of our fossil record? (Some of Australia's oldest fossils have come from this cave.)

The book is a great read just for the cave names alone: Glad to be Gay, Gormenghast, Hairygoat hole, Anticlimax, Well it Wasn't There Last Year Cave, Devils Earhole, Devils Drainpipe also known as Atlantis Cave. Would you go into a cave known as Long drop cave or Dead Sheep Cave? Find out all about it and heaps more.

ON SALE NOW FOR \$10.00
See Clare Buswell at the next meeting.

SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

Clare Buswell

What happened this year? Basically not a lot due to issues relating to insurance problems. Despite this we did manage a couple of training days off the uni foot bridge and an SRT weekend in the Flinders Ranges. A few of us took ourselves out to Morialta to practice for the Tasmania trip in December and couple of members had fun in Mt Remarkable Blow Hole.

Two safety issues arose on the Tasmania trip. The first, in Kubla Khan cave, when, after ten or so hours of caving the group split into two with some members doing the Stalactite Shuffle and the rest opting for the swim in the freezing River Alph. On the previous FUSSI trip into Kubla Khan the entire group of six swam the river and were out of the water in ten or so minutes. On this trip the leader somewhere around the Leap of Faith section of the Stal Shuffle twisted his ankle. The three people in the river waited on the banks of the river just before the final swim and plunge pool, whilst the trip leader and company made their way to the area above the plunge pool. This resulted in about an hour being spent either in the water or wet from being in the water before being able to continue on. On the final ascent out of Kubla Khan the cold affected one member so much so that it took her forty minutes to ascend what, in 1995, had taken ten to twenty minutes to do. The person with the twisted ankle managed the exit under his own steam but in a good deal of pain.

The Stal shuffle is a testosterone grunt and I suggest the swim. You can get out of the water before the final plunge pool and climb up on the right hand side. We spent so much time at the river level due to waiting for the stal shuffle group to work their way through and after twisting an ankle waited again for the party to move on. Also communication between the two groups was hampered by the noise of the river. Most of the problems that occurred here were due to the fact that the group split into two, and lack of recent knowledge of the cave by the mainlanders. The river group could well have made their way up to the plunge pool and climbed up if they had asked the trip leader what to look for at the climb up. They could have then started out for the final exit rather than have the entire group wait around at the bottom of the ascent for such a long period of time. Be aware - cold and tiredness can, and in this case did, contribute to problems.

The second event occurred in Mini Martin in the Ida Bay area. Mini Martin consists of three abseils, 110m, 30m and a final 30m. The 110m is free hanging all the way and is one of the most spectacular abseils around. On this trip three FUSSI members rigged and continued on through Exit Cave's river passage, with the remaining three Tasi cavers following and de-rigging on their way back up Mini Martin. Near the bottom of the first pitch the plaited long hair of the last down FUSSI member came out from under the cord of her chest ascender with the end of it getting caught in the whaletail. The resulting cursing was heard throughout the cave. The hair was only saved by the fact that the caver could get one foot on the ground and managed to extract the hair. If this had occurred anywhere other than where it did then the only solution would have been to cut the hair. Solution: always wear a hair net when doing rope work. If you have a long beard then cut it short.

The only other event of the year occurred at the bottom of Mt Remarkable Blow Hole with a rock coming down the pitch and hitting a caver on the shoulder. Despite a fair amount of pain the caver was able to exit under his own steam. Don't stand at the bottom of pitches. If there is nowhere to go protect yourself with your gear bag. **Never** take your helmet off.

If you want to cave safely, attend every training day that the club offers and practice lots before attempting any vertical cave. Always carry with you and ensure that all your light sources work and that they are all backed up, that your first aid kit is complete and water proof, space blanket, thermal underwear, pocket knife on a lanyard and in cave food. Do a first aid course.

Cave safely. Clare Buswell.
Safety Officer. FUSSI 2001.

FUN IN THE WET IN TASI

Clare Buswell

Preamble:

Members on the trip: Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer, Ivan Riley and Robert Hunter. Joined during the course of action by David Wools-Cobb, Jeff Butt, Dave Rasch, a pommy guy sporting a plastic bag for a raincoat, Arthur Clarke and a group of Quaker kids on a camp.

Trip date: Dec 13/01 -Jan 13/02

The plan for this trip was to trundle down to Tasi for Easter of 2001. So cave permits were obtained, bookings on planes and boats organised, holidays and work escape plans hatched. The obligatory Tasi trip SRT practice got under way and general fitness slightly improved. It all fell to bits about three weeks before Easter when one member of the group decided to chase a little black ball around a squash court and broke the Achilles tendon in his left leg.

This little setback resulted in a number of momentous actions. Firstly the squash racquet of the said member was burnt. His leg was put in plaster for eight weeks and the rest of the group decided that over the requisite bottle of two of red wine, another planning meeting was needed. The whole trip was then moved to December and expanded to include some bush walking. Whether or not any of it went ahead was dependent on the bloke with the bung Achilles tendon. Time passed.

Kubla Khan MC:1

Permit required. Book a year in advance as there are only 12 trips per year into this cave. Six people to a trip and one of those has to be a designated leader from Tasi.

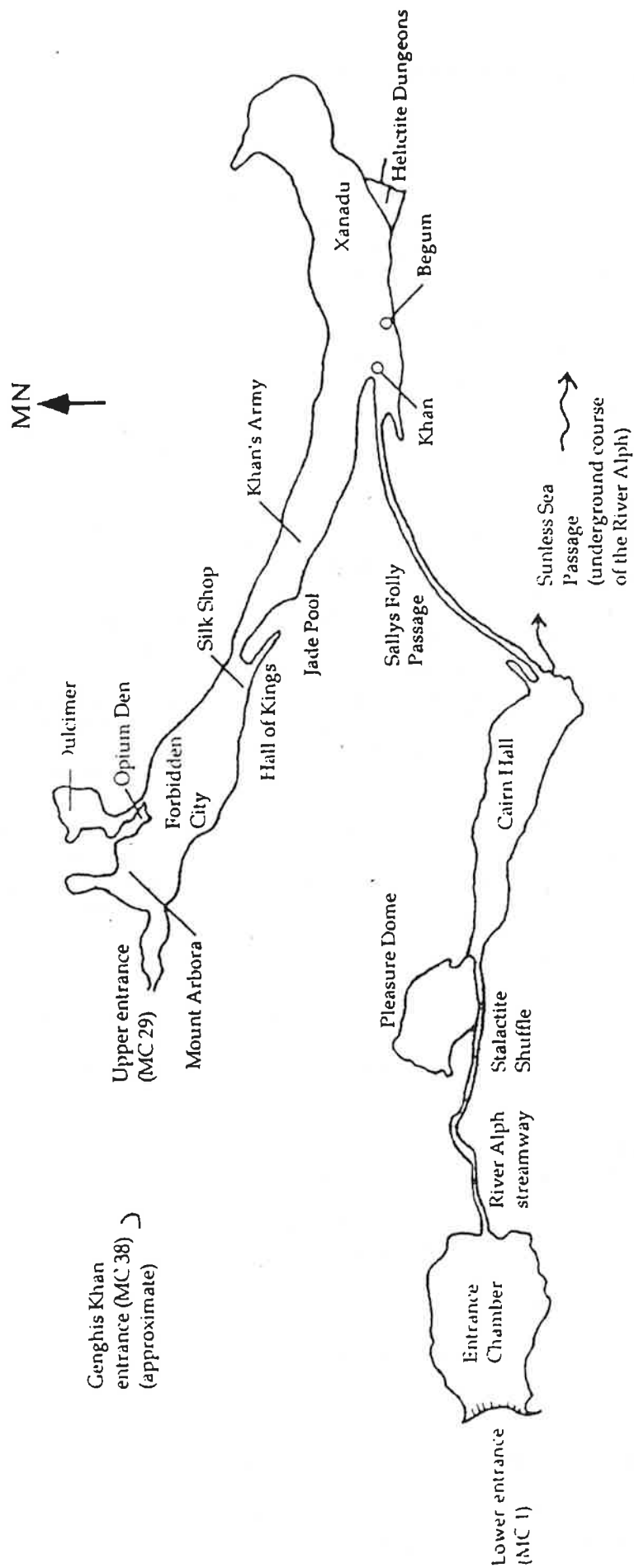
Kubla Khan is considered Australia's best decorated cave. There are many other caves which contain profuse formations, but nothing in the same class as Kubla Khan. It is an extensive system and the enormous calcite formations include Australia's largest stalagmite, the 17m high Khan. The Khan is the most well known feature of the cave but there are many other remarkable sights. The Begum, the Forbidden City, the Pleasure Dome, and the Opium Den are all places that every caver dreams of visiting. A trip through Kubla Khan is a highlight in any caver's career.

Bunton S. & Eberhard R., *Vertical Caves of Tasmania*.
Adventure Publications. Miranda NSW. 1984. p. 71.

December 15th saw the four of us at Mole Creek in the NCC Hilton preparing for the next day's caving trip into Kubla Khan. We were to be joined by David Wools-Cobb as the leader and he wanted an early start due to child care arrangements. To facilitate this we rigged the exit pitch and after hunting around for a while located both Genghis' and Kubla's entrances. The next day David duly arrived at 8 am and by 9 we were underground. The photographer's field day began in the Opium Den and ended at the River Alph. It was a typical Kubla trip, long, wet, full of photo opportunities, and the odd bit of rope work. via the Opium Den, Forbidden City, The Khan's Army, the Silk Shop, Xanadu and Sally's Folly and lots of photos. Ivan was in charge of the large cavern photos and the rest of us acted as slave unit holders. David had a digital camera along and spent time practicing with it, with some good results. Lunch was had by candle light and in the eternal shadow the the Kahn and The Begum. The final abseil down to the river caused problems with the pull down of the rope. Heiko being the last down had to make sure the rope would pull down freely, this it did not do, so some time was spent re-rigging and hauling. Heiko finally made it down and we pulled the rope down after him, with all of us hauling on it.

David belongs to a cave care group and they have been doing some clean up work in Kubla and I noted that the rock that you get changed on just before you go anywhere near the Pleasure Dome has been scrubbed spotless. Quite a change from our last trip through in 1995 when it was hard not to put those clean wet suit boots or slippers back down into the mud on the rock.

After the hour or so of taking photo's in the Pleasure Dome we moved off for the final section of the cave, the swim down the river or the Stalactite Shuffle above the river. David prefers the Stal Shuffle to the freezing cold water and I can't say that I blame him. David, Ivan and Robert started off on the shuffle which in the beginning involved hanging off stals about two of three feet above



MAP 2 KUBLA KHAN CAVE
(Redrawn from an unpublished map by Tomalin, 1974)

FUN IN THE WET IN TASI

the water with nowhere to put one's feet for any added support. This goes on for eight metres or so and then follows a lot of bridging and climbing high above the creek. I started into the shuffle and realised that I was not capable of maintaining the needed upper body strength for such an activity. I opted for the creek, (as I knew what I was in for having done it a few years previously) and Heiko came along as well. It is here that problems began. (See separate Safety Officers Report.) Half way through the Stalactite Shuffle Robert came down and joined the river group. He had, had enough of it. We waited for David and Ivan to move on, but at this stage David had leaped across from one side of the rift to the other and landed in a hole, twisting an ankle badly. Slowly both groups made their way to the area around the last plunge pool. The water rats climbed up and met up with David and Ivan and due to the coldness and inability to grasp anything I managed to not hang onto my bag as we were doing a bag shuffle up the climb. The result was that my bag, complete with camera, fell six metres or so back into the River Alph below. Heiko retrieved it with another short swim in the freezing water.

At the top of the climb out of the river Ivan gave me the keys to the car and told me to get out of the cave. I heartily agreed and made for the mud pile stairs and final ascent. The ascent is about 35 metres long and slopes so that the rope is pulled against the rock making prussicking just that bit more challenging when you are tired and cold. Added to this is the mud factor and yep it took me an aeon to get up the rope. When I finally called off rope there were rousing cheers and claps from the cold and tired blokes below. (This was followed no doubt by the very apt words "about Bloody time!") As David wanted to get back to Ulverstone he was the next up and made his way slowly and painfully back to the car. By this time he was already five hours late. He changed and drove off only to return a couple of minutes later to discover that the gate on the road had been locked and Ivan had not given me the key. (What is it with keys and cavers! They are like snake stories, everybody has one!)

By midnight everybody had exited and the cave was derigged. Total in cave time around fifteen hours. It was a very satisfying trip and all had a good time despite the last couple of hours. Our thanks go to our guide whose life over the Xmas period was made just that much harder due to a very sore ankle.

Rigging details: Ropes needed: 2 X 50 metres.

A couple of 5 to 8 metre hand lines:

Abseiling gear and SRT gear. We had two whaletails, and three racks. SRT frog system used.

Pitch details: On all pitches use double rope or cordelette for pull down. Or re-rig into double rope for the last person down.

Top Entrance pitch. 15 metres: Rig from gate.

Second pitch. 15 metres: On the left hand side wall or floor, can't remember.

Third Pitch. 10 metres: rig from large rock on the floor. Make sure you can pull down the rope before the last person abseils down. Be sure to follow the approved route through this section.

Sally's Folly: Abseil from chock stone into the rift.

Handline comes in handy for the descent into and out of the silk shop area and at the climb into the Cairn Hall.

Forth Pitch: The Flowstone wall abseil, anchor onto a stal in the floor. The rope likes to swing out to the left when on the abseil so make sure you stay to the right or you will end up landing in the freezing water.

Bottom Entrance. 30 metres. Rig before entering the cave if you are doing a through trip from the Top entrance. Rig from the tree near the entrance as this serves as a hand line down to the rock ledge where the rope is re-rigged for the ascent/decent.

MIDNIGHT HOLE TO MYSTERY CK

Clare Buswell

Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer, Ivan Riley and Robert Hunter
December 26 or 27/01

The last time I had been down Midnight hole was just after the 1993 Tas Trog Conference. This time just as much fun was had, if not even more so as we had a brand new rope to initiate. We had packed the car to the gunnels for the trip over on the boat, so Heiko and Robert who flew over from Adelaide, were given strict instructions to bring only hand luggage. Heiko's definition of hand luggage was 120 metres of new rope on a roll. I don't know how he got it on the plane, this being post planes into buildings time. So here we were at the top of Midnight Hole, all dressed up and playing out so much rope that Heiko almost reverted to his, "ah, ya don't need a rope, just jump!" type statements. This new rope by the way was white, by the time it had done the first two pitches it was showing the new terracotta look very well. The abseil on the last pitch is the most rewarding, a 50metre free hang down a cylindrical shaft with exposed bedding planes. Fabo double plus south aussies just don't have this sort of caving.

We all got down the last pitch and then pushed, pulled, hauled and hugged our way through the matchbox squeeze, with Heiko and Ivan cursing the bag of rope. After a bit of a rest and consumption of the cavers friend - a chocolate bar, it was time to find our way into the Mystery Ck section of the cave. The fun really began here, as none of the three people who had been in the cave before could really remember the way through. We climbed up and down and crawled around thoroughly exploring the ways of the area. After about half an hour of this we finally found what is known as the Laundry Chute and hit the stream.

Due to all this crawling around business, there was not an un-muddied surface on any of us, so it was with some surprise that on the way out we could smell the unmistakable scent of perfume. Now cavers are not usually into such things, as what we do involves getting grotty an the very least. Imagine our surprise when the source of the scent belonged to a French film crew filming glow worms. There was here either a serious hole in the ether, or we had crossed several parsecs in a space time continuum. Well, I guess that Mystery Creek Cave has one of the best displays of glow worms around, so filming them here did make sense. After a brief chat, we trundled on and passed a few more day trippers going into the cave. They stared at us with our mud covered appearance and we looked askance at their lack of equipment to go caving in.

Total time underground was about four hours. After a brief washing off of some of the worst of the mud we headed back to the caravan park. The next day the real scrubbing of that nice new rope began.

Midnight Hole. IB11. Rigging details:

No permit is required for Midnight Hole. However, at the car park at the beginning of the walk into the cave there is an intentions book for walkers and cavers. Fill it in.

The old eye bolts have been replaced with two stainless steel bolts on each pitch. The rope must be threaded through **both bolts**.

Pitch lengths:

Entrance pitch: 21metres

Second pitch: 39 metres.

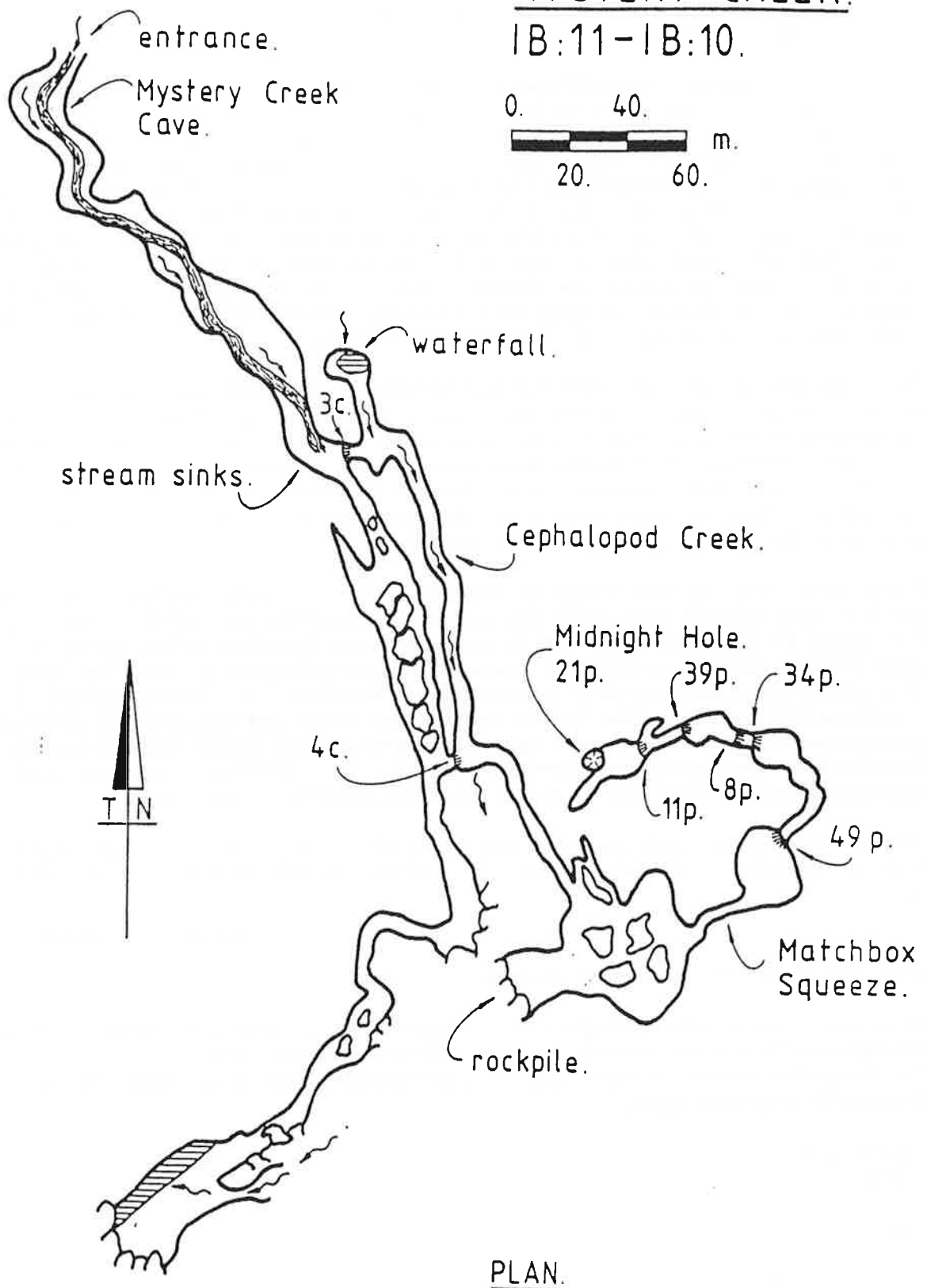
Third pitch: 8 metres.

Fourth pitch: 34 metres.

Fifth pitch is around 50 metres.

The bolts in Midnight Hole have been replaced so the rigging length details in Bunton. S. & Eberhard. R., *Vertical Caves of Tasmania*. are **not** correct, as the new bolts are positioned differently. This is pertinent for the last pitch which has various stated pitch lengths. Some say it is 50m and some say 60m. Contact Jeff Butt from STC for correct details. We did not measure out the new lengths.

MIDNIGHT HOLE - MYSTERY CREEK. IB:11-IB:10.



MINI MARTIN IB: 8 - EXIT CAVE IB;14

Clare Buswell

Members on the trip: Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer, Ivan Riley Jeff Butt, Dave Rasch, and a pommy guy sporting a plastic bag for a raincoat. Jan 4/02

Ivan's eyes light up at the mere mention of Mini Martin and it went on the list of things to do in Tasi very early on in the planning stages. Ivan had wanted to do it as a bounce trip with a side trip into parts of the main drag in Exit cave. However the bloke with the gammy leg put that little plan on hold till the next time.

Mini Martin is one of the classic abseils in Tasi of three pitches, the first being a clear hang of 110m followed by two 30 metre pitches. The shaft bottoms out into Exit cave proper and from here one can trundle up the wide expanse of the river to the Grand Fissure and Conference Concourse or take the route down stream through the rock pile and exit the cave at the deep entrance pool.

Our trip into Mini Martin began with talks with Jeff Butt over ropes, bolts, rebolting, glue mixtures, and the need for SRT practice for a forthcoming Junee Florentine trip by the mad pommy. In the course of this it was decided that FUSSI members would do the rigging and a through trip with Jeff and the gang doing a bounce trip and de rigging on the return. Jeff also wanted to do a bit of survey work on the surface around Mini Martin to help tie up some loose ends.

After a days delay we all met up in Dover at *the* Bakery and drove once again to the gate of the quarry. Then began the walk into Mini Martin which took the best part of an hour and a half carrying that not so shiney new 120 metres of rope plus another two ropes, one fifty metres and another 40 metres, anchors and the usual vertical trip hardware. Ivan was in charge of rigging and Heiko in charge of rope carrying. Jeff and co trundled off to do there survey work whilst we rigged and generally had a great time. The entrance to Mini Martin is exposed with mist coming out of it or as in our experience gentle rain going into it. Ivan started down the first pitch and a little time latter the call was heard, "rainbows, two of them". Heiko and I thought that he was experiencing some sort of caver delusions, until Heiko is half way down the first pitch and I heard the same call. It all sounded great and I couldn't wait to get down the rope and have a look back up the pitch for the same formation. Luck was not with me however and all I got was rain. I therefore decided that I wanted my money back as I had obviously been given the cheaper tour.

The abseil down the first pitch is spectacular. You leave the ferns and big trees around the entrance for the quietness of the long abseil. About half way down you can see into a shaft that runs parallel with Mini Martin. It is truly inspiring stuff. At the bottom you stand on a muddy slope and move onto the next abseil. The final abseil anchor leaves you wondering if hanging off a rusty roofing nail would be safer than the bolt that is here. (I hope by now that Jeff and his bolting fairies have remedied the situation.) After passing the final re-belay it is a short time till all this great descent is over and one is in Exit Cave's large river caverns. Exit Cave system is large and imposing. One meanders along the creek on its wide banks or crosses it to avoid its deeper sections. There are side passages to explore with great decorations to be seen. As this Mini Martin trip was our second into Exit Cave in week we did only a little exploration. Heiko and Ivan spent an hour or so going up to and returning from the Grand Fissure whilst I decided to rest and mentally go through the route through the rock pile that Jeff Butt took time familiarising us with.

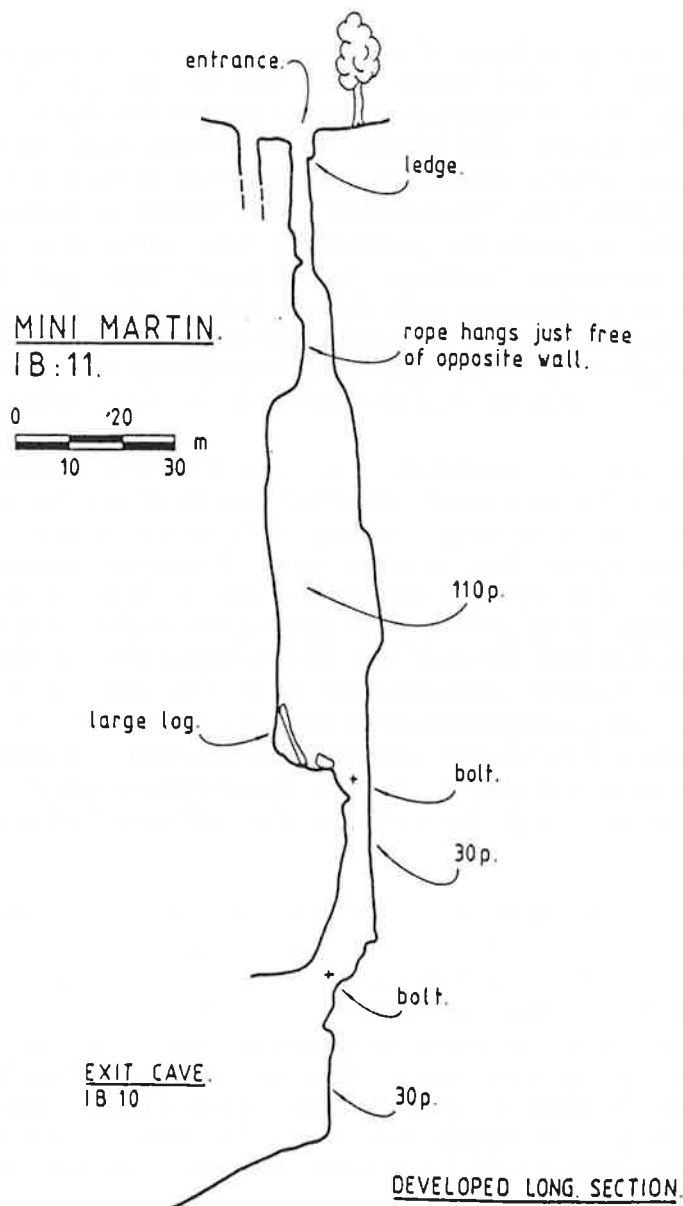
After about an hour the two explorers returned. Jeff and co had left and had de-rigged the cave. So we started on our way out, stopping only for lunch and energy food. The previous trip helped no end in route finding and placing us on the map. We were soon past the Ball Room and on the home stretch crossing the creek a few times. We noted that it was higher than a couple of days before and the final crossing resulted in a high tide water mark upon ones body. Yep it was cold! With the final couple of hundred metres to go some how or other we lost Ivan. I thought he was in front of Heiko and myself and when I reached the gate I discovered that he just wasn't there. Heiko went back to look for him and made voice contact with him at the creek. He had taken a higher route than we had before the final creek crossing so we had effectively overtaken him. Once through the

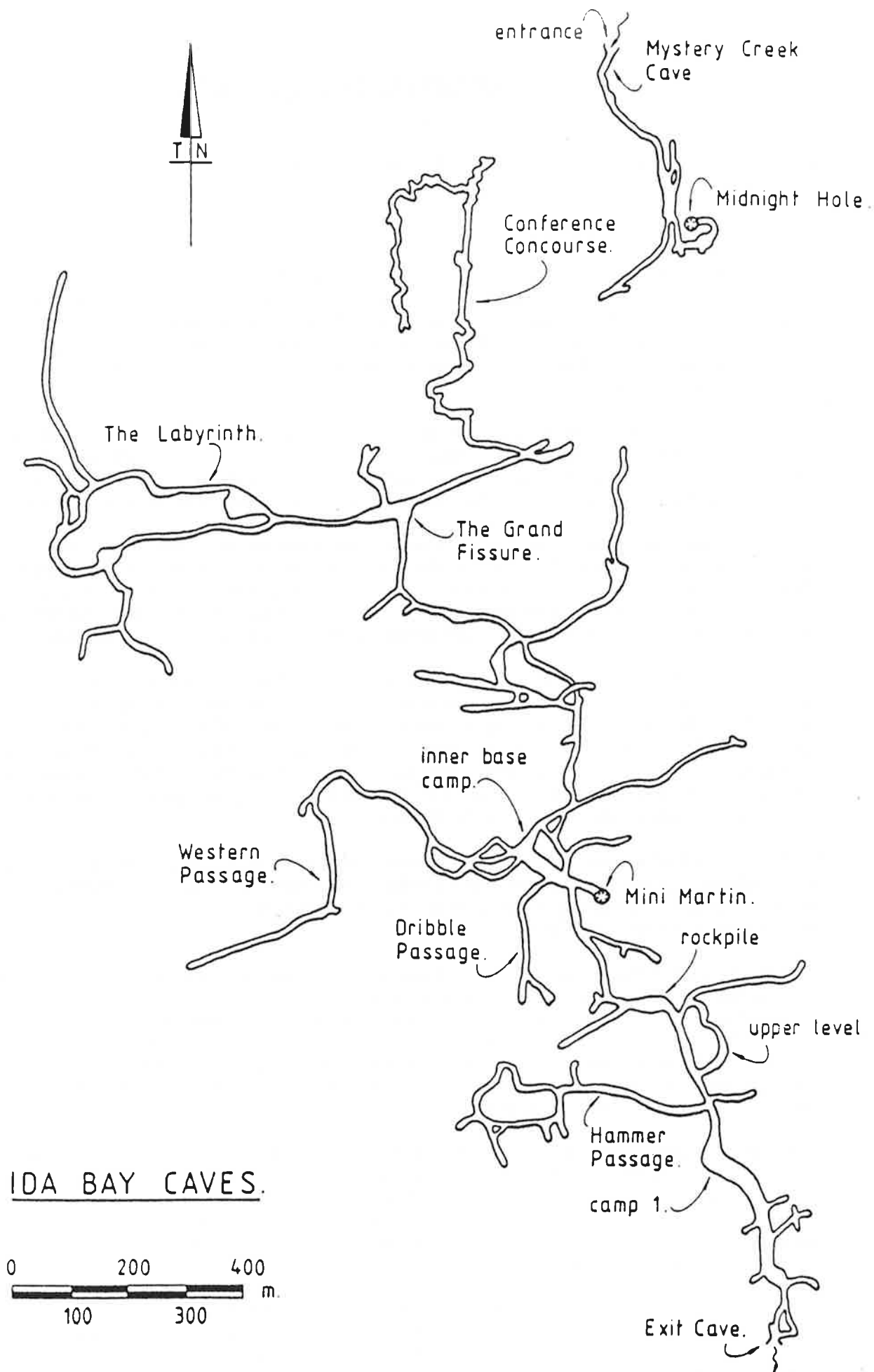
MINI MARTIN IB: 8 - EXIT CAVE IB: 14

gate and up the metal steps that allow you to bypass the water we exited the cave at 9pm to a mild but moist night. Fun for Heiko was really about to begin.

The walk back to the car involves about two hours of up hill trudge through some great forest, with ferns, big trees, creeks to cross, logs to walk on and mud. It is a typical Tasi bush walk in the daylight. After eight or so hours of caving behind you, walking this in the dark with your caving light on, it becomes a slightly different ball game. We changed out of our caving gear, repacked our back packs and started off. Ivan and Clare interchanged the lead with Heiko making up the rear. About a third of the way up the hill we noticed that we kept losing Heiko. Heiko's problem was his continually fogging up glasses so he effectively couldn't see where he was going, let alone where to place his feet. Stopping only exacerbated the fog. In the end we put him in the middle, and tried talking him up the track. Heiko being a tried, and by this time a very pissed off being did not make this an easy task. Time passed and we reached the quarry this making travelling a lot easier being open and less fog bound. We reached the car by 11pm and found it packed up with our ropes which Jeff and co had brought back from Mini Martin. At Hastings we rang Sturt Nicholas to let him know we were out and on our way back to Hobart. We duly arrived there at 1 am.

It had been a long but truly great day of caving. Many thanks to Jeff Butt for setting up the trip and for de-rigging. We will definitely be back! There is a glint in Ivan's eyes.





A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY

Clare Buswell

Members Present: Ivan Riley, Robert Hunter, Joseph Sullivan, Clare Buswell and Heiko Maurer.

November, sometime in the middle.

This was to be the final Tasi preparation trip. So all the SRT gear was packed and ready to be played with. Cameras and flashlights were organised as were the home made caving lights. Six volts were to be the order for the trip! It was decided that SRT practice would be gained by doing Maires Cave and then moving onto Mt Remarkable Blowhole for some re-belay fun. This was good plan except that Joe had not done anything like it in his life. He is a climber so that at least gave some rope experience.

Arrived at the hut late on the Friday night and found it very much to our liking. Lots of room for our small crew and a good size kitchen table for Heiko to finish marking some uni work on. We unpacked cars and crashed for some much needed sleep with Robert being told that he was to sleep in or at the very least make coffee for all if he got up at his usual time of sparrow fart.

After a leisurely breakfast it was off to Maires cave. Here we discovered that Mavis had come along as the uninvited guest. Yep, she had decided that the key to the main gate was to be bent and therefore the lock was not going to open. This put a bit of a hole in some of our plans. So we rigged the ladder pitch for abseiling and SRT practise. The issue here is that the fixed ladder gets in the way at bit and one finds oneself fending it off as you go up and down the pitch.

Ivan rigged the entrance up and off we all went. We belayed Joe down the pitch and noted that he was pretty efficient with ropes and that he would be fine on his own abseiling. It's just that we like to play safe all the time! Leaving the entrance, we trundled off for a look at the cave and to get the photo's going. Ivan practiced his contortion tricks, lining up bits of decoration to photograph, whilst the rest of us either held flash units or lit up said formation so that focusing could occur. Flashlights decided to work with little trouble. This was good, as cave photography is usually not without some monumental failures.

Much fun was had and we decided that it was time to get the SRT going. Heiko was the first to leave, followed by Joe being belayed up the ladder. Clare went next and had intimate contact with the ladder despite not wanting anything to do with it. Robert emerged with a grin as everything went to plan and Ivan exited last.

After lunch, all bar Heiko, trundled off to Clara St Dora Cave for more photographs and a bit of real caving via a short squeeze through a letter box. Nothing like a bit of a dusty grunt being rewarded with some fine decoration. Lots of poking around interspersed with occasional sloth in good FUSS style occurred. After a while this was too much, and Joe, being a new an highly impressionable young buck decided that it was exit time. So Clare showed Joe the way out, leaving Ivan and Robert to take more photo's and make sure all those camera bits worked properly. The evidence showed that they did.

Part of the evening was spent teaching Joe some SRT from a bloody big gum tree. This was to be a baptism of fire for him as the next day he was to work his way through three re-belays in the Mt Remarkable Blowhole. There is a perverted sort of fun to be had watching this exercise whilst one has a beer in one hand and is full of advice for the poor person learning how to down prussic for the first time. Joe did quite well and we decided that he could manage tomorrows effort without killing himself.

In the meantime Heiko had been in charge of the kitchen and dinner was waiting to be consumed on the verandah of the hut accompanied with a couple of good red wines. About ten in the evening strange lights were seen in the sky. Now wine is known to blur the vision and the crew asked each other if they could all see the pink rays in the sky. "Yep", they all replied. No, it was not sunset as that had occurred a couple of hours before. The pink lights could only be seen in one

A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY

Clare Buswell

section of the sky and continued for a good half an hour. It was not until we got back to Adelaide and read the papers that we discovered we had seen an Aurora Australis.

Around about 11 am the next day saw us rigging at the Blowhole. The first pitch is a bit of a challenge as anchor points around the hole on the surface are a tad on the scarce side. We rigged around a couple of rocks and a tree, quite some distance from the entrance. Lots of rope protection was then needed on the surface. Ivan went down first followed by Robert and then Joe. We had rigged a second rope down the pitch as a safety in case we needed to come to Joe's aid. Clare talked Joe through the first and second rebelay and then Ivan took over at the last rebelay. As the pitches are sort, voice contact is easy and instructions are easily heard. Joe had no problem so Clare followed him down. Heiko came down last and on the top of the first pitch dislodged a small rock that hit Rob on the shoulder. Much pain occurred and for a little while it looked as if Robert might not be able to jumar out.

After a bit of time spent resting it was exit time, with Ivan and Robert going first. Robert managed quite well despite a sore shoulder and Joe followed with little trouble. Clare came next and the job of de-rigging and rope hauling went to Heiko. About half way up it was obvious that all was not well. De-rigging can be a pain in the butt particularly if the rope becomes caught on the pitch. Eventually Heiko surfaced, not looking amused at all. He stumbled out of the entrance and turned around and yelled back down the hole words not fit to print. The problem was that his main light source had a loose connection and kept cutting in and out on him. It finally gave up the ghost just before he crossed the last re-belay. No wonder he was a might bit pissed off.

We packed up, headed for the cars and lunch/arvo tea as it was now about 4pm. After this much needed repast, we turned our cars around and headed for the main road. But Mavis had been tinkering with Ivan's Mazda and at the gateway out of the farmers paddock it stopped and wouldn't go. We poked our heads under the bonnet, (always a good threatening thing to do), but could find naught wrong. As it was a hot day, maybe the petrol had blocked and not made it through to the appropriate chamber. Who knows, as after a bit of time we decided to push it and bump start it. This worked and we were away.

It was a good weekend of caving and finding out if our gear was ready for Tasmania's cold wet caves. Heiko fixed his light and the final touches to camera gear made. The only remaining thing left to do was to find Mavis a home. We could only assume that as she liked Ivan's car she should go and stay around the corner from where they live and play with Kirsty's bike. It being bright and shinny and Mavis being fond of such things.

Rigging details: See ASF Quorn Conference Guide Book. 1997

Pitch length: 40metres.

Ropes needed: 1by 50 metre rope

8 metre tape or equivalent piece of rope for rigging to the entrance.

Rope protection on the surface.

6 metre tape

100mm tape

Pitch one: 6metres: Re anchor the rope on the large thread in the entrance, (6 metre tape). Tie in a 50 metre rope.

Pitch Two: 8m Rebelay on the bolt.

Pitch Three: 14m Re- direction on the bolt. (Short 100mm tape)

Pitch Four: 12m at the ledge rebelay using the two bolts on the left wall.

SRT DAY ON THE FOOTBRIDGE

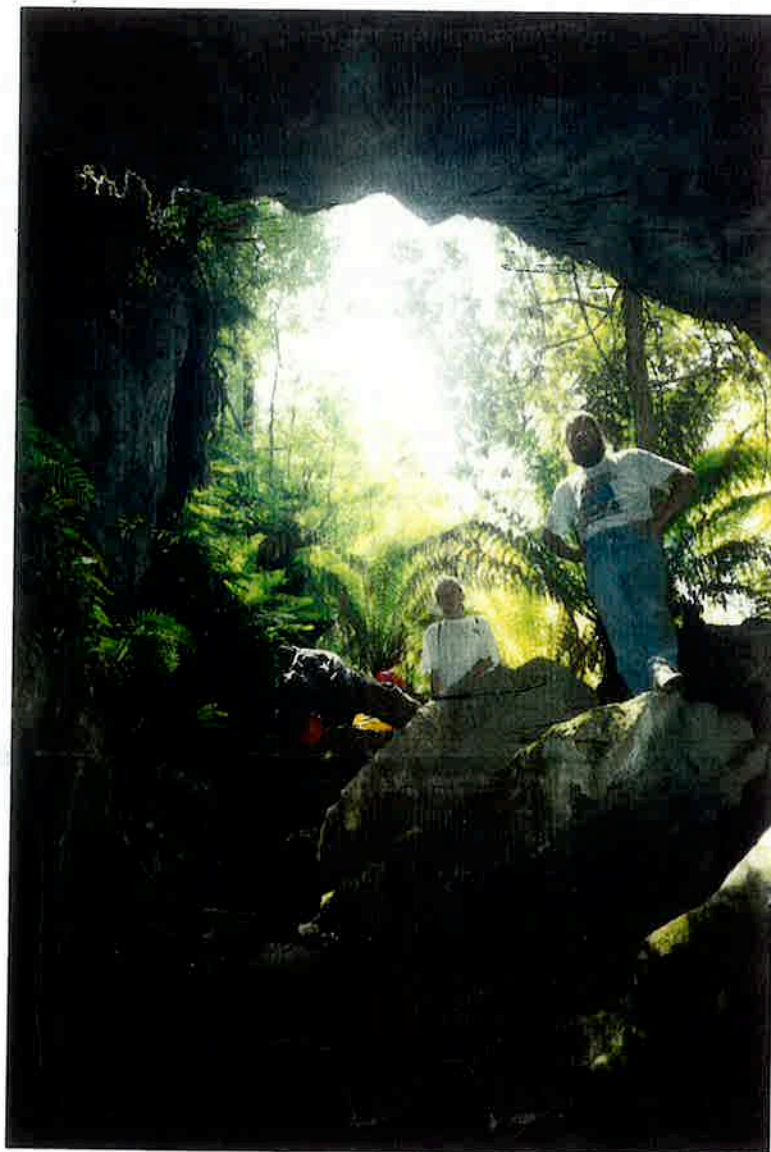
Verilee Brew

Members Present: Verilee Brew, Clare Buswell, Kirsty Kitto, Michael Martucci, Corey Tresize, Joseph Sullivan, and Anthony Hele.

On Anzac day, the 25th of April, 7 young and keen cavers ventured to the Flinders University campus to visit the footbridge and do some abseiling. It was a cool and cloud day, and we were lucky that rain did not stand in our way of some good fun.

After mucking around for a while helping Clare and Kirsty set up the anchor gear we began. Michael, Corey and myself (being the only first timers) practised on the little slope on the side of the bridge, getting a feel for being in a harness and the friction of whailetails. Joe went straight over the edge practising his abseiling and SRT techniques. Then Corey, Michael and myself went over the bridge a few times using the ladder and then without. Tony (Anthony) joined in on the action testing out his chest harness and some of his new gear.

Overall, it was lots of fun after the initial first go over the edge and once I trusted my gear to save me from plummeting to my death. I think everyone else felt the same, even Clare and Kirsty got to freshen up on some skills!!



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Photo page 16: Entrance to Mystery Ck.Cave. Ida Bay.

WHAT'S ON FOR FUSSI

26-28
Fri July 19-21

Kangaroo Is Trip. BYO tent, camping gear. You will be taking the ferry from Cape Jervis to K I.
Anthony Hele. Co ordinating. hele@nativecrops.com.au
0428 863 252

Tue July 30 1pm

General Meeting: **So you want to be a trip leader.** This is the first of a series of lunch time sessions and weekend practical sessions to enable members to become trip leaders.
Get some practical experience by helping with the organising of the next trip. New members particularly welcome. Clubs and Soc's Meeting Rm.

Tue Aug 6th 1pm

General meeting. **So you want to be a trip leader pt 2.** First Aid Intro and Search and Rescue techniques. Clubs and Societies Meeting Rm.

Sun 11th Aug

Kirsty has been kidnapped by Mavis. Help, what do we do? **So you want to be a Trip Leader pt 3.** Search and Rescue practical day. Corra Lynn.

Fri Eve 6-8 Sept

So you want to be a Trip Leader, pt 4. Flinders Ranges trip. **Caving skills weekend.** Learn: how to belay, set up ropes and ladders, lead a group under ground and party around the camp fire.
Joe Co-ordinating. 8322 6374

Sat 8 Sept to Tue 6 Oct Mid Semester Break

Tue Oct 8 6pm.

Film night. A couple of not to be missed films. Something to do with wide screens and how to make movies. Guaranteed to be a good night. Kelly Morris Meeting Room. Union building.

Sun Oct 13

Corra Lynn Cave, Dream World extension. Great one day of good fun sporting caving. BYO knee pads (and elbow pads if you have them.) Contact Kirsty Kitto by Wed evening the 3rd, so we can organise transport. BYO lunch and drink.
Kirsty.kitto@flinders.edu.au or hm Ph: 8132 0091

End of year trip.

Western Australia. ASF conference. 2nd - Jan 8. Cave on the Nullarbor on the way to and from or just one way. Cave in the Leeuwin Naturalist National Park, party with lots of cavers and generally have a great time.

See Cave conference web site at:

<http://people.mail2me.com.au/~wane/srgwa/conference/index.htm>