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Speleo Spiel

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August 1986

### Speleo Spiel

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Newsletter Annual Subscription \$15.00, Single copies \$1, Non-members \$2.00

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EDITORIAL

Are you bogged down in the usual winter boredom? Snowed under with those little domestic chores that never get done when daylight is at a premium? Do you just fester at home at weekends pretending that you're still an active caver? Well I guess this year you have an excuse... Of course you're keen but the other members of the club are a bit lethargic and won't come on your trips. Not surprising then they use the snow as an excuse - I would! This winter has seen the heaviest snowfalls in 65 years. This hasn't deterred some TCC members though and there is still an insurgence of trip reports into my file. So if winter has turned you into an armchair-in-front-of-the-fire caver, then have we got a Spiel for you!

Stephen Bunton

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SPIEL BITZ

By now you will notice that Speleo Spiel is sporting a new cover. The cover photo of the entrance pitch of Holocaust was taken by Andrew Briggs on the day the cave was surveyed. A map of Holocaust appears in this bumper Ida Bay issue.

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Do you look like an old man after any caving trip? Mud in your hair turns it grey with a complexion to match. John Salt has long had the answer to looking old and boring with his multi-coloured hairdo. Now Phill Hill has followed suit or trumped with a suit of a different colour. He's sporting red racing stripes this winter. No TCC isn't a punk caving club but we do have five flavour hairstyles, or at least we did have until John Salt yet again set a trend by shaving most of it off, except a bit fore and aft. John's lucky to have the option of hair or not, some of us don't have that choice!

\*\*\*\*

AUGUST, 1986

40th ANNIVERSARY DINNER - 26 SEPTEMBER, 1986

The latest Australian Caver has an article on Bolting in Caves by Alan Warild which has a few pointers for the technically and mechanically inept. There is also a list of new bolts which appeared in the walls of our Tasmanian caves as a result of his recent visit to the Holiday Isle. The trend throughout the rest of the world is to remove hangers from the bolt casings during derigging but in Tasmania this is not the case. Each bolt anchor remains decorated with an ugly rusting hanger the longevity of which is subject to doubt, as is its safety during the interim. The problem with Tasmanian caves with their not too pure limestone and the mud forming from the interbedded crudrock is the main reason for leaving something in the casings to keep the filth out, namely a hanger though this is not necessarily the best solution. Al suggests removing the hanger and on subsequent visits taking along a spark plug cleaner to get the gunge out. He suggests that if people knew where to put bolts, they would also know where to find them again!

\*\*\*\*

The "Beautiful" cartoon in the last Spiel was the product of a Pommy friend of mine Chris Senior of Lancaster University Speleological Society. It is one of twelve hilarious cartoons which grace the 1986 calender he produced for LUSS. I met Chris in Spain last year and if you're interested in what four Aussies got up to last year during that trip, there is an expedition report for Tresviso 85 in a recent BCRA Caves and Caving. The latest issue received by the Librarian acknowledges their receipt of Speleo Spiel. So if your interested in what the Poms think of us read Caves and Caving. There are also reports of the Australian finds in Mexico but if you're interested in finding out what Nick Hume and I got up to, or down to, more specifically I've brought my slides down with me from Sydney. So with a little pressure I could perhaps be persuaded to give a slideshow.

\*\*\*\*

For those of you not familiar with Martyn Carnes' colourful and somewhat decadent private life a little insight was gained recently when he and his band featured on 92 FM in an amateurs' special evening, recorded live from Winston's. For those who still can't imagine Martyn as the arty or muso type I assure you they were very good - and we have the tape to prove it....

\*\*\*\*

The same trusty computer that cranks out this illustrious publication has recently been doing overtime! Not only has the screen been aglow with verbage of this nature but Stuart Nicholas has systematically been imputting survey data into the SMAPS programme. So far he has entered all the data for Nine Rd, Growling Swallet and Serendipity surface and underground surveys. It is now possible to print out maps of useful scale that show not only these caves but their relationship to one another.

\*\*\*\*

The EAT-A-THON to celebrate 40 years of TCC and Caving Clubs in Australia happens at The Cellar, 13 Cromwell St, Battery Point on 26th September 1986 starting at 7.30. Please let Trevor Wailes (344-862) know if you intend to attend and he'll attend to the matter.

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Stuart Nicholas (283-054) still has two copies of the Australian Karst Index 1985 for sale at \$25.50 each.

AUGUST, 1986

40th ANNIVERSARY DINNER - 26 SEPTEMBER, 1986

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A RECENT TRIP TO IDA BAY PRODUCED TWO PREVIOUSLY UNDISCOVERED CAVES OF VERTICAL NATURE, THAT WERE EXPLORED AND NUMBERED.

DATE: Sometime in February? Ed.

PRESENT: Martyn Carnes, Chris Davies, Petrina Quinn, John Salt and Trevor Wailes.

IB 98 : COMET POT

Follow the new Exit Track (Skinner's Track) from the quarry until a blue, yellow, blue taped tree is encountered, perhaps 400m. The track on the right leads down Little Grunt valley and IB 98 is the second significant doline. The tag is above a blind drop of about 13m. Several other entrances below an illdefined cliff face all lead to a 7m climb into a chamber with several leads. One is yet another entrance and one is a vertical squeeze that joins with the obvious route. A steeply descending walking size passage spirals down to a 3m climb into a chamber. The way on was excavated and still remains tight and awkward. The squeeze leads through to a rift with a 5m greasy drop to a base just big enough for two people. From here the cave becomes narrower as a phreatic tube with a narrow vadose trench running 2m to a constriction. This was hammered at in the hope of breaking through into the drafting rift with an estimated 20m drop. This squeeze would have to be entered feet first with potentially no footholds and a lot of air below. With no rope we left this section to another onslaught.

(The cave has since been surveyed and the pitch is approximately 50m. Ed)

IB 99

Forty metres down valley out the doline of IB 98 is IB 99. This area is classic Karst doline after doline in most directions. IB 99 had been entered before. An obvious entrance leads to a chamber with a climb down to a larger chamber with many leads. One leads downwards in a spiralling rift to a pitch of 18m. The pitch opens into a large chamber before dropping down a classic "pot". A short passage enters the chamber. Breakdown litters the floor and only one continuation appears feasible, if not lunacy. The hole is body size vertically through breakdown and drops 5m to an unseen floor. This hole looks very inviting to the inquisitive. From the other side it looks like the most stupid situation you'd ever put yourself into, however it does lead to to a large chamber 10m by 20m. Most ongoing leads are choked with talus but a 5m awkward drop looked to be the lowest point in the cave. Lack of available rope prevented us from descending this drop.

This "hole-thing" is quite nasty upon return. A metre and a half of nothing for footholds but loose rock, which if it moved, would bring the place down. With both hands above the head to squeeze through and the intermittent rock rolling in to embrace you, feet kicking desperately at nothing and a high probability of free-flight, you must proceed inch by inch. With help I got out. The remaining lead below could be worth another visit but not by me!

Trevor Wailes

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IDA BAY BASH

7th June - Martyn Carnes and Nick Hume

A day of exploring south of Comet Pot, off the blue taped track, revealed plenty of dolines, bluffs and just plain shafts. We red-taped the extent of our wanderings checking above and below the general contour level of Comet Pot. Despite a good look at the numerous features, none of them went anywhere, nor was there any draft in them to indicate that they were part of a master cave which may (or may not) drain the valley.

Arthur reports a large doline in the base of the valley some 20 minutes walk below Comet Pot. This would be below the area that Martyn and I looked at. It would probably be worth looking at this and then continuing down to the "Exit plains" to check for the resurgence caves purported to exist there. Or rather it might be something worth doing if you are desperate!

Nick Hume

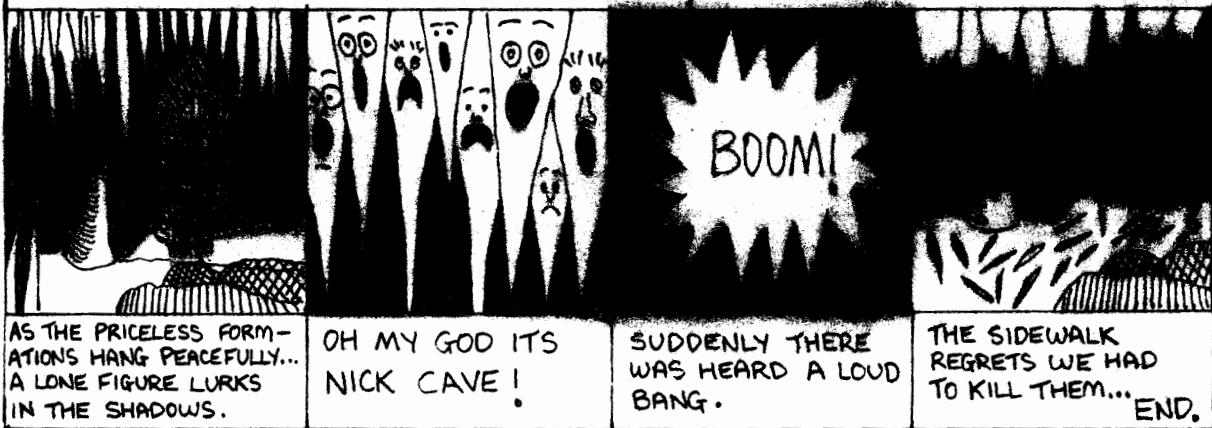
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COME TO THE 40th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

COME TO THE 40th Anniversary Dinner

26th September 7.00pm THE CELLAR Battery Point

THE ADVENTURES OF NICK CAVE



T.C.C. 40th Anniversary Dinner

7.00pm 26th Sept.

THE CELLAR 13 Cromwell St BATTERY POINT \$ 12 per person

THE FOLLOWING MONUMENTAL CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN MADE BY ARTHUR CLARKE.

Ida Bay Correspondent

AVING IN AUSTRALIA IS 40 YEARS



overleaf

CAVE NUMBERING "POLICY" AT IDA BAY

In the late 1960's early 1970's, cave numbering in Tasmania was undertaken by the three major caverneering groups. Numbers were issued in consecutive groups of 100, and allocated as follows: Tasmanian Caverneering Club 1-100, T.C.C. (Northern Branch) 101 - 200, and Southern Caving Society 201 - 300. This accounts for what has seemed to be an apparent anomaly in the numbering at Ida Bay (or Marble Hill), where to date in the current "Australian Karst Index" the numbered sites run from 1 to 21, then from 201 onwards. In early 1984, the author took over cave numbering at Marble Hill in earnest, following on from number "21" with IB 22 ("Con Cave") then continuing in numerical sequence and attempting to locate other previously numbered locations.

Some of the S.C.S. discoveries in their IB 201 - 300 number allocation either had no number tag physically affixed at an entrance or were unrecorded. Such caves that were found have been renumbered in the current series and where known, reference is made to their former number. Those caves with published surveys retain their original "200" series number (Some of these including nos. 201 - 205 have not been found (Quarry dust??), though IB 202 (ASF Pot) is still visible, exposed in the lower face of the present (Benders') quarry.)

To date, number-tagged sites are those of cave entrances. The first attached (lower number) tags were often not physically prefixed with an engraved "IB". In general, numbering has adhered to the principles outlined by Peter Mathews in the "Australian Karst Index - 1985" following Australian Speleological Federation standards. Tagged sites in the Marble Hill region have been numbered according to the following guidelines:

- (a) an explored entrance or feature, regardless of size, deemed as having speleological or related interest;
- (b) an unexplored entrance or feature with speleological interest;
- (c) a cave or karst site, at which speleologists or bushwalkers etc. could encounter difficulties either by an accidental slip or fall at or into the site, and/or conceivably a site not being free-climbable from without some mechanical aid (ladder or SRT etc.);
- (d) generally where several entrances exist close to each other or in the same doline, uvala or collapse feature, only one entrance has been numbered either being that first seen or explored or the most obvious from first approach, e.g., if accessed from uphill - would be the upper entrance.

In this Marble Hill/ Lune Sugarloaf region, there are numerous caves and entrances without numbers, some were found in the late 1960's/ early 1970's and others more recently. In general, where they have either been re-visited or reported in some way and/or rated as having speleological interest, such sites have been given an IB-X "number", though not actually physically numbered or necessarily tagged with flagging tape or a blaze on a nearby tree etc. Some cave locations are only now just coming to light through conversation with ex-cavers, bushwalkers, loggers, quarrymen and even S & R personnel that have been in the area in the past. Local and interstate cavers visiting the area are encouraged to physically number tag new discoveries, or if not, then to mark entrances with flagging tape etc. and report finds, their location and access details. This also applies for karst sites as well.

Other than cave entrances, the only karst features numbered at Ida Bay are dolines, usually where a cave has also been seen or investigated. There are numerous other karst features in the Marble Hill region including karst bridges or arches, trenches and miniature "towers" in areas of severe karst erosion and strong jointing. There are also some small localised areas featuring development of rock pendants in overhangs and fluted karst "spires", plus surface solution features such as flutes, runnels and "rillen-karren". There are some hydrological features not numbered yet including an impressive swallet in a dolerite choke beside the contact along the Hobbit Hole track, west from (the old) Blayneys Quarry.

To date (14/7/'86), the list of numbered caves at Ida Bay extends from IB 1 (Revelation Cave) to IB 104 (Giotto Pot), plus numbers IB 202 (??) 211, 212, 213, and 224. There are also at least five known reported caves with IB-X "numbers". Several previously listed IB-X numbered sites have now been physically tagged and in such instances their former assignation is included in updated checklists that follow. All known and numbered caves will be listed and described in forth-coming "Speleo-Spiels" in groups of twenty or more as space or editor permits, as well as an accompanying article on access tracks etc.

#### AN UPDATED LIST OF THE IDA BAY CAVES

IB-1... (Revelation Cave): Two entrances; lower (first explored) one has tag on LHS wall; tagged entrance becomes a swallet after heavy rain. Cave descends steeply with two short drops and one 18m pitch; upper (collapse) entrance enters cave onto rubbled slope leading up from LHS of one of the short drops. Depth surveyed to 125 metres. Approx. 25 minutes walk WSW of Mystery Creek Cave and accessed off Hobbit Hole track from Blaney's Quarry.

IB-2,3... (Loons Cave): Outflow cave with small stream; approx. 1.2 km. of muddy passage; some formation, including large column estimated at 15 to 18 metres high in one of several large wet shafts; appears to have an upper level (??); some plant life; two entrances, lower efflux (IB-2) often flooded, upper vertical (IB-3) - 27m pitch. Accessed off South Lune Road... two minutes walk to IB-2.

IB-4,5, & 6... (Bradley-Chesterman Cave [Avenue Junction Cave]): Outflow cave with small stream; three entrances numbered in upstream direction. Reportedly polluted in late 1960's. Located 150 metres south of Loons Cave and downhill from present quarry. Accessed off South Lune Road 20 to 30 metres before quarry road turn off near old mines dept. bore hole site. BEWARE - obvious car parking site has a sump ripping drill hole casing protruding.

IB-7... (Log Rift) [Formerly IB-X8]: Spectacular twin entrances below cliff line (contact) 150 metres east of Mini Martin, under large log running full length of rift; a streamsink taking considerable water; issues strong draught and some fog. Entrances downhill in rift below number tag which is at base of cliff. RHS entrance is mud and mulch ramp to 6m ladder pitch to pool under water trickle 30m below number tag, stream sinks into gravel floor, drops steeply into other shaft from left; LHS entrance steep over boulders etc. into choked shaft with mist and fog, dangerously loose but could be excavated. Still has potential. Estimated depth 60 metres. Accessed east off Kokoda Trail, north up gully from Big Tree Pot track or 30 to 40 metres west of Milk Run (IB 38).

IB-8... (Mini Martin): Lies in 3.5m x 15m long fissure below contact; shaft connection to Exit Cave (IB-14); three pitches of 110m, 30m and 30m with steep descent into Exit Cave upstream from rockfall section; total depth 220 metres. Skyhook Pot (IB-34) connects into western end of Mini-Martin fissure system. Mini-Martin is accessed from the west via Kokoda Trail (2 hours plus or from the east via Big Tree Pot track (45 - 50 minutes from Benders Quarry then 5 minutes west and uphill past tree with four blue tapes.)

IB-9... (Big Tree Pot): Two entrances, relatively obscure at base of short bluff near contact, approx. 80 to 100 metres east of Mini Martin and 50 to 70 metres west of IB-7; whole cave essentially vertical with seven pitches stacked on top of each other - 26m, 14m, 15m, 14m, 4m, 90m, and 9m; approx. 50 metres of horizontal passage at bottom with small stream. Some prospects for a dig; reports of draught at base. Total depth 190 metres. Access via red taped Porritt-Clarke track from mid way along the Exit (Skinner) track, 45 minutes walking time with gear from Benders Quarry.

IB-10... (Mystery Creek Cave [Entrance Cave]): Large inflow cave subject to flooding; extends 400 metres plus into Marble Hill; three levels of cave with numerous side passages - upper level has connection to surface with vertical system via Midnight Hole, main streamway level has excellent glow-worm display, lower level with stream dye traced into Exit Cave via impenetrable (??) sump; good formation including large broken column and rarely visited chamber with straws, most flowstone displays incorporate decades of visitors' mud; good educational cave whose morphology includes, waterfalls, vadose canyon passages, phreatic tubes, numerous avens, rock pendants etc. Accessed from present quarry road via old tramway (now a muddied pipeline route), past the N.P.W.S. Bushwalkers registration booth, into (old) Blayne's Quarry, then east into forest and down to streamsink. [30 minutes from car park at road]

IB-11... (Midnight Hole): Vertical connection to Mystery Creek Cave via Matchbox Squeeze; six pitches - 21m, 12m, 37m, 9m, 34m and 49m; total depth to stream level in IB-10 is 203 metres; most eyebolts above pitches date from original exploration with ladders, some pitches require rope protection for SRT, extra bolt recently placed into LHS wall of fissure above third pitch. Access east of Blayne's Quarry, then uphill past survey peg, through log jam and steep climb up Marble Hill following old cabled log haulage run.

IB-12... (Un-named Hole): Located a short distance south-west of Midnight Hole; entrance at contact under overhang of Permian mudstone; three pitches - 5m, 25m and 5m, with total depth of 37 metres; referred to as being "a wet and scungy...vertical sewer". Access as for IB-11.

IB-13... (Chockstone Pot): Located west from Blayne's Quarry and south west from IB-15 (??). Pothole with an impressive entrance, situated on the contact; steep slope with loose talus and muddy scree; blocked at base of slope at depth of 24 metres. Not re-located since original exploration and digs of late 1960's. Original access from Moonlight Ridge - Mt. La Perouse walking track; assumed to be accessible from either Hobbit Hole (IB-15) or Revelation Cave tracks west from Blayne's Quarry.

IB-14... (Exit Cave): Large outflow cave subject to flooding due largely to backwater from D'entrecasteaux River, which flows through lower reaches of cave; approx. 17 km. of passage, though no survey update since 1972, (seven more known passages totalling approx. 1.5 km., not shown on current map); large chambers and stream passage; glow-worm display rated best in Australia



Exit Cave has five known numbered and surveyed entrances: three vertical - IB-8 (220m), IB-34 (203m), and IB-87 (8m); two horizontal - IB-14 and IB-86; highly decorated cave particularly in upper levels and some side passages - abundant displays of gypsum as "flowers", needles, hairs and "cotton-wool" balls; bacteriological formations such as moonmilk in varying colours from white through ochre to pink; aragonite formation and helictite growth; several large areas of calcified mud; renown for speleothems such as pendulums and large stalactites; a variety of cave fauna including anaspides shrimps, flat worms, millipedes and material washed in, including frogs, rodents and the remains of an extinct macropod - the latter three in passages beyond the Grand Fissure; one isotopic date has put age of cave formation at greater than 400,000 years. Restricted Access Cave. Permits and key for gated entrance obtainable through N.P.W.S. Accessed either from Catamaran Road across the plains or from Benders Quarry via the Skinner track, (both routes taking approx. 1 hour from cars).

IB-15... (Hobbit Hole): Located WSW of Blaneys Quarry as a log-choked streamsink at base of steep sided gully near contact; number tag not visible from outside - located on LHS wall in entrance chamber below log choke; 5m free climb and 5m handline to series of five very wet pitches (requiring rebelay for SRT) - 40m, then tight jagged oversuit ripping fissure into 5m spiralling pitch, then 20m, 30m and 6m to serpentine sandy floored stream passage; streamway narrows after 10 - 12 metres with no discernable draught; one unexplored lead in NW direction off Hobbit Hall above 6m pitch - appears to descend to another streamway, with draught; total explored depth surveyed to 118 metres. Access along taped track to west from Blaneys Quarry near start of Moonlight Ridge track - up dolined gully to valley head; 15 minutes from the quarry.

IB-16... (Un-named hole): Located 5 minutes west from Blaneys Quarry, 40 metres south and uphill from Con Cave (IB-22); adjacent to interesting karst area - thought to be above Conference Concourse; 5m entrance pitch in soil and tree roots on sloping side of doline, leads to small muddy streamway with no prospects; number tag on wall of rift 2 to 3 metres south of cave entrance. Access as above.

IB-17... (Un-named hole): Located in Western Creek area; small dry horizontal cave with a reported passage length of 60 metres. Not relocated since initial exploration of early 1970's. Access via Moonlight Ridge track from Blaney's Quarry, heading south down taped track towards Western Creek from two blazed trees on top of ridge.

IB-18... (Western Creek Swallet): Located in prominent gully to west of Marble Hill on southern side of connecting ridge leading to Moonlight Flats. As a streamsink near head of gully; explored in late 1960's to choked soak some 15 metres in from streamsink; narrow upper level dry bypass on LHS discovered in 1983; draughting passage leads to 30 metres of stream passage below the choked soak then a wet 10m pitch, followed by a wetter 20m pitch below a slippery chute; terminates in a large breakdown chamber with talus pile 20 to 25m high up to roof, stream appears to drain through near base of talus pile into a narrow fissure. Dye placed into the soak during original exploration was traced into Exit Cave, where minute droplets of fluorescein were observed on the cave roof in the Labyrinth area. Accessed via Moonlight Ridge/ Mt. La Perouse track from Blaney's Quarry, then south downhill along taped track from two blazed trees on flat of ridge 30 minutes up from quarry; total walking time from quarry 45 - 50 minutes, from cars another 20 minutes - very steep walk from quarry with gear pack!!

IB-19... (Un-named pothole): Reportedly east from Western Creek Swallet; not seen since original exploration in late 1960's; a pothole with two entrances and a 10m pitch leading to several small passages. Access as for IB-18.

IB-20... (Thun Junction Cave): Located uphill and north-east of IB-18 (Western Creek Swallet); originally explored using SRT in mid 1970's; a streamsink in wet weather; funnel shaped entrance drops steeply down narrow passage on muddy slope to easy 2m climb; into wider 10 - 12 metre high steep inclined stream passage over boulders to further 2m climb down and 7m pitch, into 200m plus gently inclined benched passage averaging 1 to 2m high (often only crawlable), then into rift and 3m drop to a floor; "careful chimneying brings one down to the head of the big pitch,.....limestone in the region is very interbedded and rotten."; two pitches 40m and 24m; large 15m high chamber between pitches with flowstone choking head of the 24m p.; narrow passage for further 100 metres, becomes too tight ".....except for small determined cavers"; estimated depth 120 metres, length 400 metres plus. Access as for IB-18, 80 to 90 minutes walk from cars.

IB-21... (Un-named cave): Located close to and east of IB-20; short cave with 12m entrance pitch to sloping dirt floor and several short inclined passages; not seen since 1970's, though a cave of similar description was located in the region with flagging tape at entrance. Access as for IB-18 and IB-20.

IB-22... (Con Cave - [Formerly IB-X7]): Located 4 to 5 minutes west of Blaney's Quarry at base of large log-filled doline; drains doline gully to west which runs beside dolerite contact; water assumed to drain into Exit Cave in region of Conference Concourse; entrances under large blocks of limestone below short cliffs in doline; free climb through talus and 2m drop to stream bed; duck-under through cascades to climbable rift to 9m pitch; large chamber with gently inclined streambed for approx. 50 metres and several side passages; further 8m pitch to sandy floored chamber with further side passages; little prospect except for Alfred Nobel, further small chamber can be seen 2 metres below. Access from Blaney's Quarry and along Hobbit Hole track.

IB-23... (Little Grunt): Located 10 minutes downhill from Exit track below IB-211; entrance at base of short cliff at bottom of steep sided doline; essentially a dry vertical cave with nine pitches stacked on top of each other - 10m, 22m, 30m, 10m, 5m, 12m, 8m, 4m and 15m; total depth approx. 120 metres; entry to lower pitches very tight; much old fossil formation - with abrasive coralline growth, knee pads an advantage; a cave for thin persons. Access from Benders Quarry, five minutes along Skinner track to Exit, then just past IB-211 and downhill following red taped track.

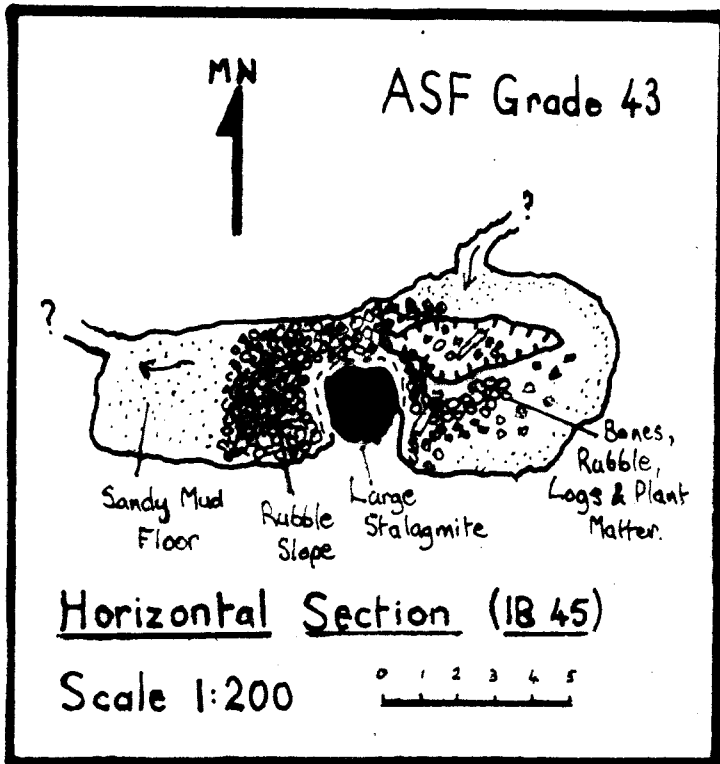
IB-24... (Hang-about Hole): Located 20 to 25 metres downhill from IB-27 (Chicken Bone Pot), 40 metres below contact cliff; twin entrances to steep sloping dirt floor, needs handline or ladder for entry - leads to steeper loose floored passage; then three pitches - 23m, 20m and 30m; water enters into lower pitch; into cobbled streamway passage with large aven; terminates after approx. 40 metres with streamway narrowing; possible bypass passage above streamway in final chamber not explored; total depth 93 metres. Access uphill for 10 minutes from Skinner track near obvious limestone knoll - 25 minutes in from quarry or along to end of yellow taped "National Gallery" track following contact cliff - 25 to 30 minutes from Benders Quarry.

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# HOLOCAUST (IB 45)

## IDA BAY

ASF Map No. 7 IB45-TCC 196

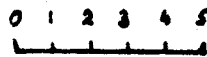


Pitch  
42.3m

### Developed Longitudinal Section

ASF Grade 43

Scale 1:200 (On A4)



Surveyed 25/5/1985

(A. Clarke, C. Davies, A. Briggs)

[Suunto Compass & Clinometer;

Fibreglass Tape]

Drawn A. Clarke

Flowstone

Tight ?  
but possibly  
worth a dig

Depth of Cave -  
- - 46 metres

