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Speleo Spiel

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB
=====

Annual Subscription \$7.00, Single Copies 70¢, Non-Members \$1.50

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EDITOR: Stuart Nicholas, 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, Tas 7008 Ph 28 3054

FORWARD PROGRAMME

- Wed 15 February Committee meeting/slide night at McTunneys.
- Sat 18 February Ted's wedding.
Possible trip into Growling to check out the intracasies of an I.T. through trip.
- Sat 25 February Something is bound to happen regarding caving.
- Sat 3 March Ditto.
- Wed 7 March General meeting.

EDITORIAL

This edition of the Spiel contains reports from the more active group of the TCC at the Dover-Ilda Bay area. Without their actions this edition would be rather slim. Anyone wanting to join this active group should contact Mick Flint or Arthur Clarke for mid week or weekend trips.

The Hobart group seem to have gone into some sort of decline and activities don't seem to have picked up much from the winter recession. There are reasons for this of course; as the caving has slackened off the diving (Scuba-Sky) has thrived and fire restrictions in the Florentine over the hot summer months has curtailed activities in that area. Hopefully this unfortunate occurrence will soon be rectified by a healthy downpour, and we can all get cold, wet and miserable again.

Workers are needed to renovate the Junee Homestead. ANM have generously offered to make the building habitable. The renovation and plans for the area (Junee Flats) will make the Homestead more secure and less accessible to vandalism. Please bear in mind workers will be needed - maybe a BBQ and a weekend working bee could be organised.

1ST RESERVE EDITOR
TREVOR WAILES

CLUB NEWS AND TRIVIA

- Not much happening at all during the last month or so. No-one has been shot, arrested or dragged into the depths by the troll princess. Very few have been caving either!
- There is a map at the back of this mag which should have been in last month's, but, well, it got missed out! See one of Phil's articles in the November issue for the related words.
- The cost of this worthy publication

Despite what some of you may think, this magazine costs TCC a considerable amount of money and involves a few people in quite a lot of time and effort. It has even been suggested that it be scrapped or the number per year reduced. Anyway, here is a breakdown of all that is involved in its production and the costs incurred.

PRODUCTION

Collecting and editing the copy for one edition: collecting is a matter of hassling everyone, as I'm sure you all know, until trip reports appear on my table; editing and writing the blurb at the front and so on takes anything from 2 or 3 to 7 or 8 hours. The copy is then ready for typing.

Typing I am told takes about three hours of actual typing time, although the total is actually more like a day if our willing typist does it at work - company work interrupts the Spiel!

Printing involves making the plates for which we have the technology but unfortunately it won't work at the moment. This task is done at a print shop in town and takes about half an hour all up. The actual printing, if all goes well, takes a couple of hours or so including setting up the machine and cleaning after the job.

Collating and assembly of the printed product takes two people about an hour, or more usually one person over two hours. The covers have to be stamped with the date, address labels generated, the pages actually collated and stapled, and the finished product folded and taped up for posting. It then must be sorted and bundled into postcode groups in order to qualify for bulk mail rates, of which more anon.

Finally, the numbers are counted and the registered mail form filled out. The whole lot is then mailed and that is it until next month.

All the above work is normally done by a maximum of three people, and it's the same three each time. I'm not complaining or anything but why don't you help???

COSTS

Mailing Cost

As of March next year, the mailing costs will increase by about 20% and hence the figures given below will use the new rates.

Cost to mail one magazine	\$ 0.16
Number mailed per edition	80
Number of editions per year	11
Mail Registration fee	\$30.00

Therefore, the total mailing cost for one Spiel is 19.4 cents, or in other words, TCC will spend \$170.80 on mailing the Spiel next year!! This does not include the production cost, only the actual mailing costs.

Production Cost

The cost of production is not quite so easily figured out as the mail cost because there are a few imponderables. However, the following breakdown covers most things and will give you an idea of what you are paying for when sub time comes around again.

Paper, per sheet	\$0.01
Covers, each	\$0.09
Printing plates, each	\$0.43

Each magazine generally consists of about 10 sides, ie, five sheets. This requires ten plates, total cost \$4.30. About 115 magazines are produced each month requiring 690 sheets of paper (don't forget the wrapper), 115 covers plus staples, sticky tape and so on. This all works out to \$21.55 per edition, which is an absolute minimum. There is paper wasted during printing, perhaps a plate as well, and of course there may well be more pages. Most of the maps are produced for nothing thanks to one of our members with access to a good copier.

Therefore, the cost of production is about 19 cents per magazine. This does not take into account maintenance of the press or the eventual repair of the plate maker. The press is estimated to cost around \$35.00 per year to keep going, excluding power which is kindly provided by Rik Tunney, as is the shed to house all this high tech equipment!

The total cost of one magazine is then 19 cents plus 19.4 cents to mail - in round figures about 40 cents. Not all the magazines are paid for of course which makes the ones that are somewhat more costly. We have about 55 subscribers in various categories of membership. With eleven editions per year, and keeping it simple, your Speleo Spiel costs \$4.40 per year to produce and get to your door!

Out of the \$15.00 full membership, ASF get \$6.50 which leaves \$8.50 for the Spiel and buy and maintain gear - taking the magazine out of that leaves about \$4.00 for the gear per subscription.

STUART NICHOLAS

The following couple of reports were sent up from the deep south by our Dover representative Arthur Clarke. What is produced here is a part of that sent in, the rest will appear next issue. It's great that after at least 8 or 10 years, some work is again being done in the area around Exit and Entrance by these super keen bods - keep those cards and letters rolling in folks!

WOLFHOLE - 17 September 1983

Party: A Clarke, M Flint, Bruno (visitor)

A bright early start. Descended higher side of doline, followed by a quick walk to Lake Pluto. Photography stops everywhere. Uneventful ascent and home early.

KING GEORGE V - 24 September 1983

Party: T Cook, Chook, M Flint and 4 visitors

A short cave of many passages (all small) with very little formation. Visited and explored to its limits by very enthusiastic YHA members.

MIDNIGHT HOLE - Early October 1983

Party: Mick Flint, Chook

A quick (4½ hours) through trip and out Entrance Cave.

After a series of trips to various parts of Marble Hill, three descents into Midnight Hole, numerous other SRT excursions into shafts and dolines, several visits to the Hastings area, particularly to Wolf Hole then back to Ida Bay locating holes with number tags at last brings this southern extension of TCC to press at last. Inspired by phone calls and contact with past and present members, particularly Brian and Jeanette Collin, Peter Shaw, Roy Skinner, Albert Goede, Stuart Nicholas and The Trevor Wailes we continue to believe or delude ourselves that there is a back-door to the Exit System, as well as possibly another deep shaft connection from perhaps the Western Creek area. If nothing else, perhaps these reports may eliminate some of the guess work of cave location, and the confusion in nomenclature with twice numbered caves and "IB-X" numbers. We are numbering caves in collaboration with Albert Goede commencing at IB-22, with tags supplied by him. Question: Should we record all holes or caves found; if not, what constitutes a cave worth numbering/recording or, if yes, is it necessary to survey all numbered holes or merely record location and nature of entrance?????

At present we are a core group of four with increasing interest from a few other Huon-ites, and with particular support from the Ida Bay Roadhouse, alias the Lune River Youth Hostel. Borrowing cap lamps from the Hostel puts the facility of a two-lamp charger under considerable strain, since the Hostel lamps are primarily available for the numerous Hostellers who travel that way to see the increasingly publicised wonders of the Mystery Creek Cave with its glowworms etc. Since our activity has probably barely scratched the potential of this area, first visited by cavers in the 1940's and largely neglected since 1970, there is a need to have some Club gear and equipment on constant hand. None of us visit the city on any regular sort of basis, and our wild enthusiasm at times takes us out on mid-week trips. Apart from our own supply of traces ascenders/descenders, associated paraphernalia and caving/climbing/belay ropes, protectors, and the occasional loan of NPWS ladders, our only Club gear is 2 protectors, a short rope and 2 ladders.

At the time of writing this (27/11/83), we have had this Club gear barely 3 weeks and already subtle undertones are mentioned about it needing to be returned asap. So how do you "townies" feel about us having Club gear stationed down here on semi-permanent loan and the possibility of either some cap lamps or more re-charging equipment? Needless to say we would like to see more TCC members coming down our way three different locations for overnight stays if required, and hopefully when we tire of this lot we will front up your way for a trip or two. Because of our choice of life-style/abode, etc, our attendance at meetings will be somewhat infrequent, hence you can consider this "Spiel" report as a record of our presence and support for what TCC stands for.

IDA BAY - Saturday 22/10/83

Party: Mick Flint, Arthur Clarke, and two anonymous Hostel Sherpas (... oops, I mean tourist bushwalkers).

From the old quarry we climbed up the track to Midnight Hole (IB 11) then contoured north along the eastern side of Marble Hill. Crossing a steep sided dry gully, we climbed up then suddenly down into a massive doline. Despite the appearance of a nicely rounded solution tube on the southern wall of the doline, all prospects were blocked with the usual rubbish of talus, scree, rotten logs and fallen branches from this last winter's snow. Back south into the dry gully we continued downhill eastwards towards the old quarry. About 60-80 metres from the doline region we relocated a hole in the wall on the southern side of the gully, previously found by Chook and Mick.

Aptly named the "Chicken Hole", it was rigged, with ladders borrowed with thanks to Andrew Skinner, back to a substantial log lying across the side of gully cliff. The entrance is approx 1.5 m high and 0.6 m wide, and about a metre in descends vertically into a small chamber about 3-4 m down. From here, there are two small pitches about 6 and 8 metres respectively, down walls of flowstone and formation with a scattering of bones at the bottom. (Chicken bones perhaps!). There was a small amount of water in rim pools cementing in the bones.

From the Chicken Hole we continued uneventfully till seeing the flag markers going up to Midnight Hole. Climbing out of the gully we went north again, investigated another large doline and small hole beside it then soon reached the back wall (Mystery Creek Cave) side of the quarry. There were a number of shafts of no significance running in series behind the quarry.

IDA BAY - Sunday 6/11/83

Party: Mick Flint, Chook and Arthur Clarke

The destination for this trip was a toss up between up over the La Perouse track to the western side of Marble Hill, Western Creek area, or a search up "Doline Gully" from the old quarry. Due to a leisurely late start, the latter was chosen, so we went following the old Collin, Shaw and Geode tapes to locate Chockstone Pot (IB 13) and Revelation Cave (IB 1). We found neither. Instead we became quite bushed, saw a snake or two, then located the dolerite/limestone contact and followed it south-westwards to a steep sided gully that took us down into a swallet. Much jubilation till we discovered a rusty sardine can then down inside the entrance a metal tag bearing IB 15 (Hobbit Hole).

Not knowing any detail about this cave, we clambered over slippery rocks with a hand-line down the first drop of 3 metres, choked with branches and rubble then round a corner and down another free climbable pitch (4-5 metres) in a rugged edged solution pipe. A little further on descending a dangerously loose slope of dolerite boulders we met the bulk of the swallet water again and saw to our horror that we were on the edge of another 6-7 metre drop. The stone/boulder drop test went smash, "cluong", then as we turned away THUD. Some shaft! So thinks we, best find out some more information from TCC before going on and do some sort of clean up of the loose boulders. Our departure saw each of us being cascaded with falling debris/boulders, so Arthur had his hard hat knocked down to his nose and Chook discovered the entry hole to be a lot larger if not somewhat dampening now.

About the only bright part of the day was the discovery of some unusual trumpet shaped orange/pink plants with radiating fingers, exuding sticky black gluish material that attracted the blowflies and insects.

IDA BAY - Pre-Ymas rush! - Tuesday 20 December 1983

Party: Martyn Carnes, Rolan Eberhard, Phil Hill - TCC, Stephen Bunton - SUSS.

The Florentine was closed due to the fact it was midweek, work was still in progress and there was a high fire danger. TCC were at a loss for things to do when Rolan suggested that he had a few hot tips up on Marble Hill. Phil and Steve collected Rolan and a mountain of rope and drove to the "Exit carpark". We all changed and donned our gi-normous packs. We were prepared for the two hour slog to Big Tree Pot but not for the 40°C heat.

Last gulps of water were had at the entrance to Exit Cave before the miserable slog up the hill. We passed Mini-Martin and Big Tree Pot examining their entrances and sitting, enjoying the cool breezes which emanated from within. We then bashed around the hill on the same level as Big Tree Pot to the "Hot Tip". It didn't go, it didn't even look like going, it didn't even look as though there was a cave there. Rolan exclaimed 'what an abortion' before apologising for dragging us up there.

The Karst feature is a sand-silted depression, rift shaped, log choked and about 100 m beyond Big Tree Pot. On the way back we investigated another feature slightly higher on the hill but closer to Big Tree Pot. This looked more promising. A narrow, damp rift with almost a dark zone was descended, but again proved to be choked with sand.

Steve left his caving gear and rope on the hill to save a future slog up the hill when he got to do Mini-Martin. We returned to the car slowly. The round trip had taken 6 hours in exhausting heat. Rolan, who had walked all the way in wellies and thermal long johns, almost collapsed of heat-stroke - the Gods were punishing his optimism!

Thursday 22 December 1983

Martyn and Steve went to do Mini-Martin. Martyn had only to carry his caving gear up the hill. Steve carried the 100 m rope as the rest of his gear had been left up the hill previously. This strategy was almost doomed to failure when a fire was noticed on Marble Hill. After convincing ourselves that the wind was blowing the wrong way and wouldn't turn round, we ascended Marble Hill.

It took 4½ hours to do the cave round trip. The 100 m rope was not long enough for the pitch so Martyn tied on his 28 m rope and dropped to the floor. The rest of this rope was used as backtie for the second pitch. Using this and a 50 m rope Steve managed to get into Exit Cave with a few bad rub points. We found it difficult to locate the alleged Nick Hume Ingenuity Bolt. With heavy packs we descended to the car after a most worthwhile trip.

We arrived at the Dover Pub too late for the Crayfish Counter Teas, but not late enough to avoid the plastic cheese toasted sandwiches. With a few too many beers beneath our belts we "crashed" down a side road on the way towards Hastings Caves.

Friday 23 December 1983

After a miserable night donating blood to mosquitos we visited Hastings Cave but the tours didn't start until later. We both spent the interim visiting Entrance Cave to check Steve's access description before returning to Hastings Cave.

We spent a pleasant 3/4 hour in the tourist cave. I quite enjoy tourist caves because they do have bulk formation and it's all well lit. I don't like "look at that one, it reminds you of" . Thankfully, there isn't much of that on this tour. Newdegate Cave is worth visiting.

STEPHEN BUNTON (SUSS)

MT ANNE - "TREV'S EPIC" - 6 January 1984

Party: Trevor Wailes, Stuart Nicholas, Nick Hume

Trev didn't really want to go, but he might if we came round to his place and picked him up. Later that morning, Trev still didn't want to go, but he might if we waited while he got a bit of gear together and took him to the K Mart. What followed on from that was historical for two reasons; it was the first time I had ever taken Stuart to lunch and, secondly, it was the first time I have ever had lunch at the K Mart before a caving trip.

I had been up the Anne track too many times before and was lamely pushing fallen branches to one side, desperately pretending to be somewhere else. Stu had raced off up the track, surprised by his own fitness. Trev was more firmly entrenched in reality, by contrast, and was slaving over a hot saw, inside a particularly nasty treefall. I heard; "f... it" and looked up to see Trev sucking on a geyser of blood emanating from his right hand, an act which gave him the countenance of a demi-vampire. Needless to say there was no more track clearing done that day.

We joined Phil, Steve, Evelyn, Geoff, Stuart and Dale in the Anne-A-Kananda doline by 7.00 pm. The Tunneys and Jenny arriving just after dark. It seemed overcrowded with eleven people there; a foretaste of Speleomania!

Mt Anne, "Col-in-Cavern" - 7 January 1984

Party: Phil Hill, Trevor Wailes, Janine McKinnon, Nick Hume, with Jenny Hill assisting.

Very pleasant scenery of tower karst interspersed with sub alpine forest was encountered on the two hour walk from Anne-A-Kananda. We were finally confronted by a mega-impressive, hundred metre headwall, partially encircling a complex of canyons and dolines, the deepest of which is "Col-in-Cavern".

Phil tied some 100 metres of rope "bits" to an appropriate tree and abseiled/hand-lined a steep ramp that gave access to the col, being a narrow, exposed bridge of dolomite overlooking the extensive flat floor of the cave. He belayed me (with static line!) while I tentatively crawled about the col, initially choosing a directional belay spike, that unfortunately, led over unprotectable ground lower down (we were using 9 mm rope). I regained the col and traversed to its other side, which, with a 10 metre header, allowed the 40 metre pitch to hang free.

Abseiling this huge cavern, suffused with sunlight, was somewhat dramatic and much photography ensued. I entered an uphill lead and was considerably surprised to find large stream passage (shades of "Growling"), complete with stream. This was fed by two side passages that choked off almost immediately. The main passage continued past gour dams, but not for very long, unfortunately, terminating in a tight ascending rift. It was here that we began surveying.

We taped back past the pitch, checking a false lead, before descending into a big sloping chamber, some 50 metres high and 30 wide in places, that extended some considerable distance before terminating abruptly. Phil and Trevor noticed a pitch leading off the right hand side of the chamber. This I rigged from a piton, banged into the crack of a dubious boulder, that directly overlooked the drop. Some spare rope we had brought along was just sufficient to land me on a ledge within a rift, where I retied some 1" tape and descended to the floor of a sizable chamber. Abseiling on 1" tape works, but I can't really recommend it. This chamber did not extend very far, but did contain an aven estimated to be some 60-70 metres in height. It was with some relief that I stepped off the top of the pitch, on returning to the others.

Prusiking out, we encountered Steve, Geoff and Dale who had come over from "Keller's" for a look see. Being from the North Island they were content just to do the main pitch, before heading straight out. We gratefully left the task of derigging to them. Much and many thanks must go to Phil Hill, who did all the groundwork for this trip and to Steve, Geoff, Dale and Evelyn for dragging the rope up there.

NICK HUME

MT ANNE - KELLER'S CELLAR - 7 January 1984

Party: Steve Bunton, Ev and Geoff Innes, Dale (all from Sydney) and Stuart Nicholas (TCC!)

Following "Trev's Epic" the night before and a rotten rude awakening at 0700 by Steve's alarm (alpine start!) much stuffing around ensued in the A-A-K doline. Eventually "Steve and the Innocents" plus Dale and myself staggered up the doline into brilliant sunshine and down the other side in the gi-normous Keller's mega-doline.

Instructions were shouted by Phil and co from the North Wall on the rigging procedure while Stu discovered his "froot loops" were missing, presumed still at home. Bunty was wandering around the top of the descent hole hanging traces on nettles accompanied by a few stinging remarks from the trogged up bystanders.

Accompanied by whoops of delight and other uncouth noises, the descent was made into the pepper shaker. The shaft must be the best in Tasmania (ie, Australia!) - it is an absolute classic and well worth the grunt up the hill.

We left it rigged for the Col-in-Caverners after experiencing the biggest mind blow possible in this place.

STUART NICHOLAS

MT ANNE, "KELLER'S CELLAR" - 8 January 1984

Party: Janine McKinnon, Nick Hume

The only motive behind this, my third descent of "Keller's" was to "road test" my second generation, (Stuey would say, "... you beauty,") rope walking system on the magnificent 380 foot pitch. However, others speculated that I was after some sort of world record! Little additional effort was required to do the cave as it had been left rigged by Bunton and company from the previous day and needed derigging anyway.

I hung off the rebelay for something to do and watched Janine disappear into the mist below me, then waited for her to tie on an additional short rope to enable us to reach the chamber floor, proper. On descending, I found Janine sitting on a ledge, some 10 metres off the deck and abseiled past, thereby effectively stranding her, thanks to lack of foresight on both sides.

Without bothering to even glance about the cave, I reascended to the ledge and we headed out, marvelling at both our new rope walking systems and our general lack of fitness. We derigged the pitch just in time to greet Phil, Trev and Stuart, who were overland surveying from Ann-A-Kananda and who helped us carry the tackle back up the hill.

The retreat from Mt Anne was accomplished hastily as bad weather threatened. We "flew" past a walking party, descending the ridge, whereupon Trev was heard to mutter; "..... they must be nutters, those bastards, going bushwalking!"

NICK HUME

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AUSTRALIAN SPORTS MEDICINE FEDERATION - WILDERNESS MEDICINE WORKSHOP

The annual workshop is to be held on April 7 and 8 at the Waddamana village. Always value for money, this year's should be better than ever with a discussion on "Caving Injuries and Problems". Other topics for the weekend include "Water Related Problems in Wilderness", "Basic Physiotherapy in the Wilderness" and "Emergency Treatment of Burns".

These weekends are always good fun and are educational as well. There's plenty of room for the kids, the food is outstanding and the usual cost is around \$15.00 for the whole weekend!

More details will hopefully appear in the next Spiel, but if you are interested, tell someone like Stuart or ASMF Secretary Betty Parssey, phone 44 3151. Space is limited, so it's first in first served.

STUART NICHOLAS

"NEMESIS" ; MT. ANNE

DRAWN TO A.S.F. GRADE 2

P. HILL ~ N. HUME

20 · 11 · 83

