



University of South Florida

Digital Commons @ University of South Florida

Speleo Spiel

Newsletters and Periodicals

June 1975

Speleo Spiel

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/speleo_spiel

Recommended Citation

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers, "Speleo Spiel" (1975). *Speleo Spiel* . 213.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/speleo_spiel/213

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters and Periodicals at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Speleo Spiel by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.

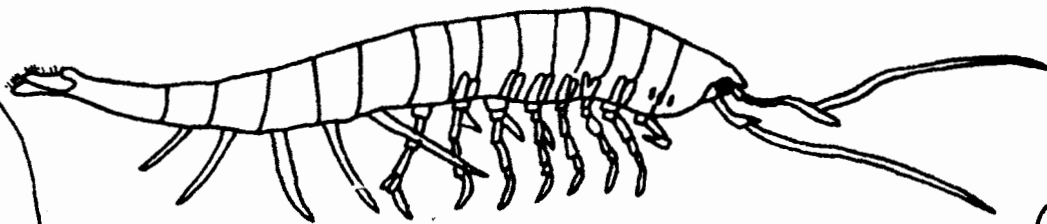
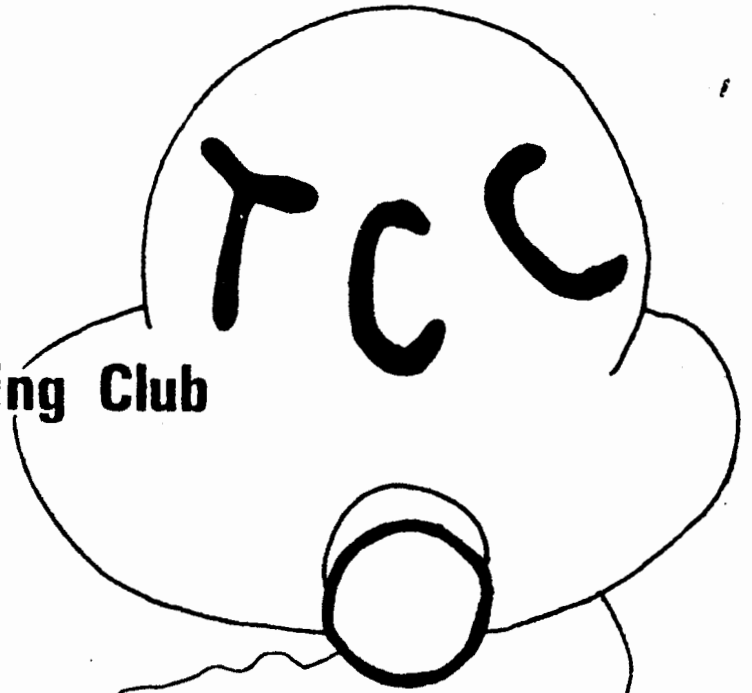
SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the

Tasmanian Caverneering Club

June 1975

No. 102



Tasmanian mountain shrimp
(Anaspides tasmaniae)

T.C.C. P.O. BOX 416,

SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005

Registered for posting as a periodical - category B

Annual Subscription \$3.00

Single copy 30 cents.

+++++

President: Albert Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, 7000.

Secretary: Tony Culberg, P.O. Box 47, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005.

+++++

Editor Speleo Spiel: Laurie Moody, 13 Mason Street, Claremont. 7011.

Phone 49 3316.

+++++

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

June 14 - Saturday: Day trip to Tiger Road area in the Florentine. Some new caves to be looked at and numbered. Leader: Laurie Moody.

June 14,15 & 16 - Long Weekend: Friday night booze-up with Launceston Speleo Club then caving at Mole Creek and Flowery Gully. Leader: Andrew Skinner.

July 5 - Saturday: Scrub-bashing in the Florentine Valley. Leader: Laurie Moody.

July 2 - General Meeting: To be held at Laurie Moody's place, 13 Mason Street, Claremont..

+++++

Editorial.

May has been a fairly quiet month as is usual for this time of the year. Some trips have taken place mainly to Gunn's Plains, Mole Creek and the Florentine areas. A trip was also held in the Montagu area but apparently proved to be a bit of a 'wash-out'. An attempt was also made to survey Beginners Luck Cave in the Florentine but no-one felt inclined to crawl along in several inches of water. A race between Andrew Skinner and myself has developed in regards to cave numbering in the Mole Creek and Junee-Florentine areas. One of us is determined to be the first to number 100 caves! The June general meeting was devoted mainly to discussion on the continuing saga of Precipitous Bluff and surrounding areas. It was also mentioned that some members are still unfinancial - cough up!

Laurie Moody.

+++++

Club News.

Club President, Albert Goede, will be going away for five weeks early in July. He will visit South Africa before going to Holland to visit relatives. Bon voyage!

Prospective Members: Welcome to Peter Watts, 22 Raymont Terrace, Mt. Stuart. and - Michael (Jeb) Butler, Ringarooma Road, Scottsdale.

+++++

SPECIAL THANKS:- Are extended to Ross Ellis for the great job on the cover of our 100th. edition of Spiel and to Andrew Skinner for providing the photographs. For the ill-informed, the front cover featured the "Khan" and "Begum" in Kubla Khan Cave at Mole Creek. The back cover featured a shot of the big cavern a short way from Camp One in Exit Cave at Ida Bay.

Congratulations are extended by all club members to Andrew and Ros Skinner who, I believe, are expecting an addition to their household around Christmas time.

SURVEYING (Continued from previous issue Speleo Spiel No. 101.)

A section view along the passage is drawn to show height and as passages are inclined to vary, a cross-section of the passage should be included to show the shape. The survey is then continued along the passage until a branch is reached. From this point on, stations should be noted with a letter behind the number: e.g. 6a, 6b, etc. This makes it much easier to plot a map and therefore pinpoint any deviation from the main passage.

On reaching a large chamber, several readings around a central point make it possible to find its correct position and size. A shaft is usually measured by tape and the only notes on the survey sheet should show "tape length" and "elevation"; the elevation will read -90 degrees. For good results, the tape should always be pulled tight and its ends kept at the same height above the floor level. When all the figures have been collected, the survey can be drawn. When the plan length has been worked out, the stations can then be plotted onto tracing paper.

The following scales can be used:

- 1.) 20 feet to 1 inch (1 : 240) for all general survey work.
- 2.) 50 feet to 1 inch (1 : 600) for large caves with no details or if the grade of survey does not warrant a larger scale.
- 3.) 100 feet to 1 inch (1 : 1200) for location maps or general survey maps where only the outline of a cave is wanted for correlation to other caves or surface features.

It may be noted that the above figures are still in feet and inches but as most maps are still of this type this system can still apply for the time being. (What's more the editor is still not fully conversant with the metric system - so there!)

The following points should also be included on the survey:- date of survey, surveyors names, instruments used, grade of survey, scale of the drawing, location of cave, points of interest and drawn by ---. Possibly one of the most important points to remember is direction e.g. true and magnetic north.

(The editor stands to be corrected if his reference is incorrect.)

+++++

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION - CODE OF ETHICS.

A motion was passed in January that the ASF Code of Ethics be published. It hereby appears below:-

- 1. (a) They will in reporting their work, avoid and discourage sensationalism, exaggeration and unwarranted statements.
- (b) They will in publishing their work take particular care to acknowledge other peoples' contributions to the work involved; either as clubs or individuals, published work, personal communication or whatever.
- (c) They will be discreet in disseminating information that might endanger caves. In particular they should not broadcast their knowledge of entrance locations or routes.
- 2. (a) They will treat guides and other officials of tourist caves courteously and respectfully.
- (b) They will endeavour to be courteous to the general public but will defend caves from the attentions of the un-instructed where this is deemed necessary for the protection of the cave.
- 3. (a) They will carefully observe the established rules of good camping. Conduct especially in the removal and proper disposal of rubbish.
- (b) They will bury their faeces when camping in bush conditions, but should avoid the catchment areas of caves.

- 4. (a) They will have specific or tacit approval from the owner or guardian before entering private property or caves reserves.
- (b) They will follow normal local practices regarding gates on properties or reserves.
- (c) They will not, except in cases of emergency, presume on the goodwill of owners in dry areas for supplies of water. Prior arrangements must be made.
- (d) They will take care to avoid interference with stock or crops.
- (e) They will, where a cave entrance has been blocked by the owner to prevent injury to livestock, reblock the entrance after use and liaise with the owner to erect some fence or other less offensive means to protect the integrity of the entrance.

- 5. (a) They will not leave rubbish in caves; their own or other peoples! Spent carbide, flash-bulbs, wrappings and other refuse must be brought out of the cave.
- (b) They will not disfigure caves by any un-necessary markings. Survey marks should be small and inconspicuous.
- (c) They will take care to avoid disfiguration or destruction of cave decoration or any other natural features of the cave. Disturbance should be confined to tracks. In areas of clean flowstone floor, muddy clothing or boots must be removed and only clean clothing worn. Tracks should be rigidly adhered to. Helmets should not be worn in the vicinity of stalactite clusters.
- (d) They will not under any circumstances leave faeces in caves, they will prepare themselves beforehand or, when underground, make provision for the removal of faeces.
- (e) They will take stringent precautions to isolate all artificially introduced organic wastes from the cave.

- 6. (a) They will, when visiting an area frequently visited by another club, do all in their power to co-operate with that club.
- (b) They will conduct disputes in a restrained and gentlemanly manner.

- 7. (a) They will behave responsibly in enviromental matters.
- (b) They will endeavour to protect the caves of Australia.

+++++

AMUSING CAVING ANECDOTES.

Some of you may have read E.T Emmett's book, "Tasmania by Road and Track" but for those that haven't, I would like to draw to your attention some of the narratives in Chapter Six of this book. The narratives in question refer to Tasmanian caves. The book itself was written in 1952 and further revised in 1953. The author has written a very interesting book which undoubtedly deserves a place on every Tasmanian bookshelf. However, it is interesting to reflect on what was known about our caves some twenty-three years ago.

For the benefit of those who have not read the book, I would like to quote the words of the author:-

"The name Mole Creek may seem rather repellent, but I for one would not have it changed, for it is as apt a title as any. The creek that gives the township its name definitely burrows like a mole, and while on its underground journey it performs feats that are not equalled by any stream even in this island of surprises. Having noticed the little river in its sober journey through the village preparatory to losing itself in the turbulent Mersey, you wonder at its modesty when you learn of the exploits of its infancy. It merely prattles when it is entitled to shout. Mole Creek and its tributaries have, like Coleridge's sacred river, literally run through "caverns measureless to man". Nobody except the creek itself knows where it has been nor what miracles it has been performing.

The explanation is, of course, that this is a limestone country, and many a stream plays hide and seek among the hills. Caves are numberless. Some of them

to have themselves extricated. Temporary methods, which usually result in the victim returning to caving sooner or later, are usually quite common. Broken legs, arms and damage to other parts of the anatomy have a habit of occurring from time to time. However, on the whole, caving is a sport which tends to get into your blood and resistance is utterly useless!

Laurie Moody.

+++++

HEARD ANY GOOD ONES?

Heard about two members of the cloth who were both keen cavers in their spare time. Seems that they were doing a spot of caving in Gaping Gill Cave in England and whilst negotiating a hairy ladder pitch, one kept missing the rungs. Each time he missed he'd mutter, "Bugger it!! Missed again!!"

His companion, astounded at his friend's remarks exclaimed, "You mustn't say things like that! A bolt of lightning might strike you down!"

Several rungs later the clergyman on the ladder again missed a rung and once again let forth his anger. "Bugger it!! Missed again!!"

At that moment, a brilliant flash of lightning lit the cave for an instant and struck the non-swearing minister.

An instant later a voice boomed through the cave - "Bugger it! Missed again!"

+++++

SPELEO LIMERICKS-

composed by Uncle Lem.

By popular demand (and by the fact that no-one has sued me yet) here are some more limericks!

A keen young caver called John,
Who is tall, lanky and strong,
Stripped off in the raw
Down by the sea-shore-
And the slide of his exploits lives on!

A caver called Andy by name,
Came to the Spiel to complain.
We had neglected to mention,
For our reader's attention-
Those cover photos we forget to
acclaim!

With women's lib all to the fore,
We'd better mention a female for sure.
Ros is her name
And caving's her game-
A caver's wife must know the score!

Albert Goede is our President,
He found bones near the old Settlement.
"It's a cow!" he did moan,
But he took them on home-
And discovered they had been heaven
sent!

A female we know as Therese,
Is famed for her bug-hunting sprints.
But I think I am game,
To mention her name-
Despite all her threats and her pleas!

A caver who works at the gaol,
May be run out of town on a rail.
He's been printing these rhymes
To add to his crimes-
And now half the club's on his trail!

+++++

TRIP REPORTS.

JUNEE-FLORENTINE - 10-11/5/75.

Party: Tony Culberg (L), Ruth Stephenson (TCC), Peter Watts, David Ziegler, Helen Montgomery and James Chapman (Visitors)

Sat. only: Therese and Diana Goede.

Sun. only: Tim Booth (from Queanbeyan, NSW).

This trip was another from Rose Bay High School but not very many attended - only Helen and James. On Saturday we met at the gate and drove to Beginner's

Luck. We entered via an un-numbered entrance and thrashed along Ruth's Crawl to the sump. On the way back, Ruth and James plus Peter explored a side passage, which eventually led past numerous wombat droppings to another as yet un-charted entrance. The suggested name for this one is WOMBANO.

Therese, who piked on a manoeuvre in the early part of the cave, located another bone deposit near the entrance. It will be examined in detail later this month.

Opposite the car park there are two deep holes (quarries for road fill). One has underground drainage about 30cm in diameter. Diana located this by throwing an apple at it. Later, we looked at Cashion Creek Cave to show the neophytes some 'pretties', such as they are.

On Sunday, we met Tim Booth an ex-England now NSW school teacher based at Queanbeyan, who wanted to take a look at Khazad-Dum. As he has been to Pierre Saint-Martin, it's only fair he should see Australia's Deepest. Due to the lack of experience (and tackle) in most of the party, we only went as far as the 27.4 metre pitch. This proved to be more than enough for some who did not like the vertical sections. We were underground for about 2½ hours.

We left early and on the Boyer road to Bridgewater we stopped and taught Helen, James and Peter to abseil. There is a superb syncline in one of the cuttings - does anyone know what it is?

Tony Culberg.

+++++

MOLE CREEK - 3/5/75.

Party: Andrew & Ros Skinner (TCC), Jed Butler (NC), Jeff Ibbotson & Gerda (UNSWSS).

On Saturday Jed and I went on the Florentine trip whilst the Mainland visitors visited Lynd's. Wet Cave and Honeycomb 1 were visited on Sunday morning. An 8mm colour movie was shot in Honeycomb 1. In the afternoon, we located and explored Jawbone Cave. About half a dozen dolines were scrub-bashed on the southern side of Dog's Head Hill, but with no result.

MOLE CREEK - 10/5/75.

Party: Andrew Skinner (TCC), Jed Butler, Hugh King, Peter Cables (NC).

On Saturday, Croesus Cave was surveyed. We abseiled in through Top Hole and surveyed to the masterlock to connect with the earlier traverse. 1,700 metres of passages have now been mapped. One further visit is required to survey:-

- (1) April Fool's entrance.
- (2) High level near April Fool's.
- (3) Side passages near the entrance.

The cave will almost certainly be more than two kilometres in length. On Sunday, a Wet Cave-Georgie's Hall through trip was held by Northern Caverneers. Contact was also made with an SCS party led by Steve Harris, who were about to survey Ho Hum. After hearing that it had already been mapped, they headed for Toboggan Cave. Jawbone Cave and an unknown swallet were numbered on the Sunday.

Andrew Skinner.

+++++

TASMANIA'S EARLIEST CAVE DWELLERS.

A woman archaeologist from the Australian National University excavating the Cave Bay Cave on Hunter Island off the North-West Coast of Tasmania, has found evidence of aboriginal occupation dating back 18,000 years ago. Charcoal from the lowest layer in an excavated trench was dated at 18,550 plus or minus 600 years B.P. and was associated with two pieces of flaked quartz and a bone print. The new date doubles the known length of aboriginal occupation in Tasmania.

The site was excavated by Sandra Bowdler, a Ph.D. student with the Dept.

Most of us have met the huge bearded cave guide from Jenolan Caves, Noel Rawlinson who paid us a visit in August 1973. "Spiel" has recently received an account of his visit and it will be published in part over the next few issues. Noel headed his report - "Tasmanian Trip to Explore and Photograph Creosus, Kubla Khan and Exit Caves". (I have taken the liberty of shortening this title. Ed.)

BIG NOEL'S TASSIE TROG.Part One.

The trip was well planned in advance. After my trip to Tasmania in May, I realized that I was unable to accomplish all that I wanted to do in detail, so with the help of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club and to a very great extent, the assistance of Andrew Skinner, which I am very grateful for and cannot thank enough, we started to arrange and compile my itinerary for my visit in July. This eventually had to be changed to August the 10th.

My first object was to obtain a camera that would enable me to take the photographs of a standard that I wanted after getting poor results on my May visit to Tasmania. I purchased a Pentax Spotmatic with Macro Lens and the 35mm wide angle lens which I found to be invaluable in the big caves. The wide angle lens was used extensively in Exit Cave and I would state that one would be wasting time in the cave without this type of lens. I also hunted all over Sydney looking for big flash globes of the pf5b type. I managed to get around 40 of them.

Catherine and myself left Jenolan Caves about 4.30pm. on the Tuesday afternoon and headed for Melbourne via the Olympic Way, stopping at Wangaratta that night and arriving in Melbourne about 10.30am. on Wednesday the 9th. We then went into the A.C.T.U. store and purchased all the film that I would be using on the trip. High speed ectracromé and some slower Agfa. We then had lunch and headed out towards Williamstown to the Ferry and found that we were in the wrong part of the City and had to go all the way back and out the other way. It was just as well that we had plenty of time up our sleeves.

The trip over was very calm after all that I had heard about Bass Strait. We duly arrived in Devonport and disembarked around 10.30am. We were met by Andrew and his new bride of six days, Roslyn. We then loaded up, purchased some food and headed for Mole Creek and Gary Melville's place at King Solomon Cave, where we stopped for the duration of our stay in the Mole Creek area. After un-packing the car, we had lunch and then decided to go and get some shots of the aragonite in the Ghengis Khan Cave. On this trip, Andrew and myself were accompanied by Ros and Catherine. This was Catherine's first attempt at caves without paths and steps and she was glad to get back outside! She did not fancy the rockpile in the cave! In this particular cave, there are some very good aragonite formations and after taking some of the shots with the Macro lens, I changed to the wide angle lens. I used only those lens for the rest of my tour of Tasmanian caves. Around two hours were spent in this cave and I hope to have some good photos.

Had some supper and then motored into Mole Creek for some liquid refreshments and to meet some of the caverneers from Hobart who were due to join us for the weekend but found that they were not due until Friday night.

On the Friday, we ventured into Creosus Cave, indeed a very beautiful cave with the river running through its entire length. I had been into this cave in May but was not very happy with the results that I got. This cave was one of the major objects of the trip and I was expecting good results this time. We went right to the end of the cave and photographed our way back, taking a lot of multi-flash shots. This is a very pretty cave and one of the possible tourist caves of the future. The rinstone formations in this cave are one of the attractions and a great lot of thought would have to be put into the development to prevent the tourists damaging them. The colour of the cave is as good as you will find anywhere and is all one level to my knowledge, so would not be a hard cave for the tourists. By the time we arrived at the entrance again, we had been in the cave for about 5 hours. On both my trips into Creosus, I have been told about the unscrupulous person or persons who have been taking calcite formations out of the cave and selling it to shops in Launceston who retail it to the public. I now believe that this has been stopped due to the efforts put in by members of the northern clubs who apparently approached the shopkeepers and told them the full facts behind the calcite and where it came from. They also have their suspicions as to who the culprits are and a justified pounding would be appreciated if it

