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November 1977

### Speleo Spiel

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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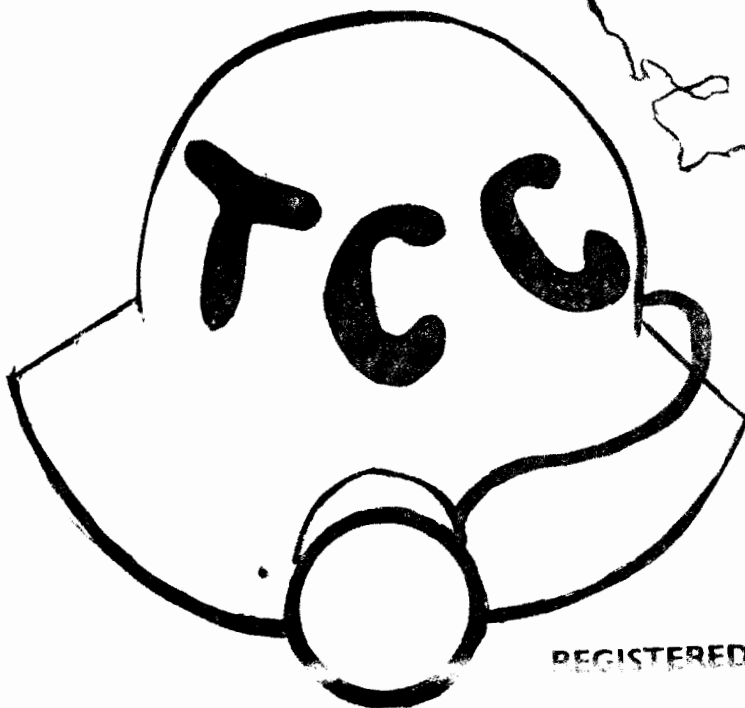
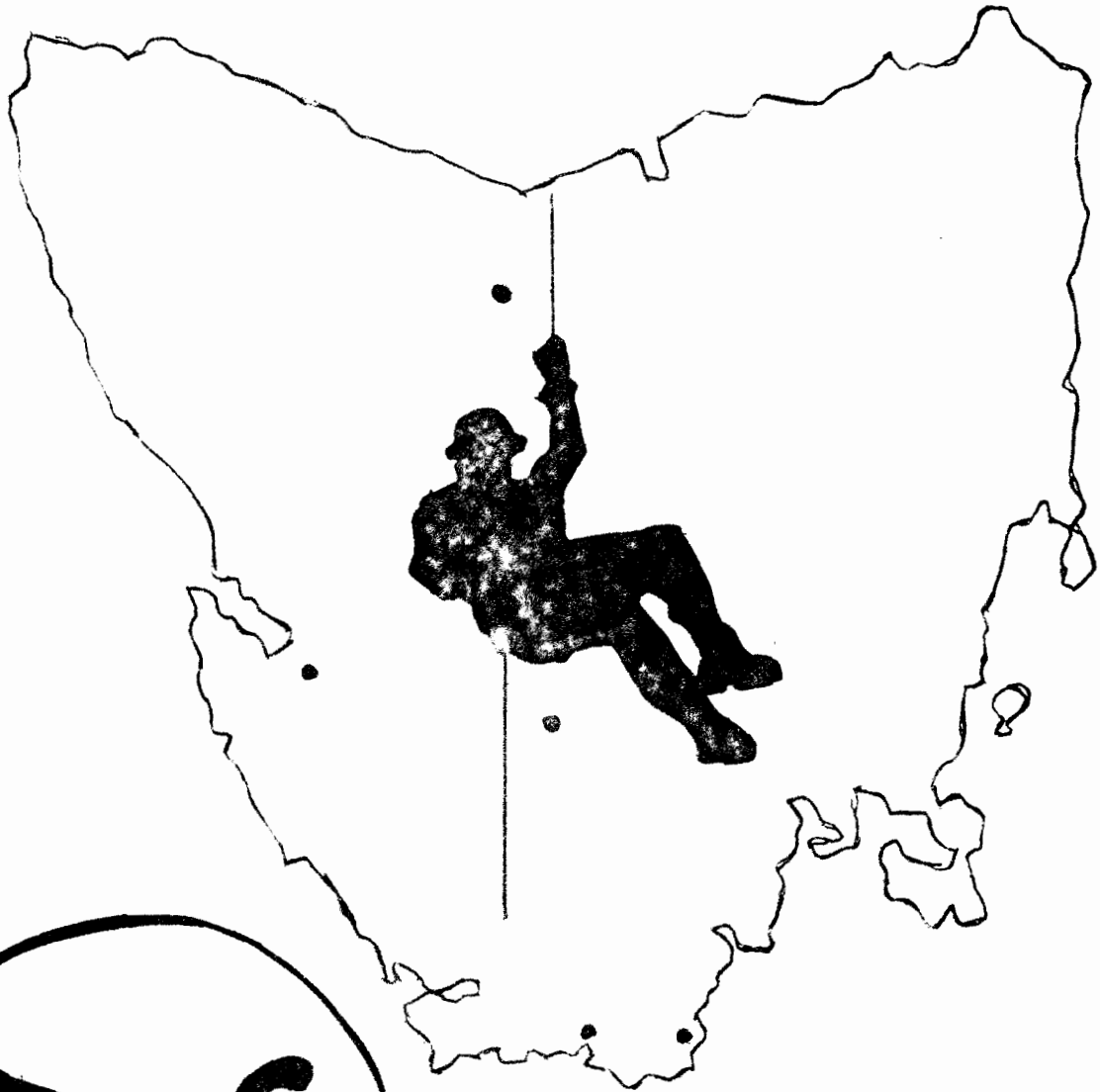
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# SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

*November* 1977 No. 129

T.C.C. Established 1946



T.C.C. P.O. Box 416  
Sandy Bay, Tasmania

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Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

Annual subscription \$4.00.

Single copies 10 cents.

\* \* \* \* \*

President: Stuart Nicholas, 7 Rupert Avenue, New Town, 7008. Ph. 28 3054.

Pres. (Maydena Bch.): Max Jeffries, 16 South Cres., Maydena, 7457. Ph. 88 2256.

Secretary: Tony Culberg, P.O. Box 36, Lindisfarne, 7015.

Editor: Albert Goede, Ph. 23 1929 (H), 23 0561 ext 415 (B). Typist: Therese Goede.

\* \* \* \* \*

Forward Programme.

- November 5,6 - Weekend. Exploration in Exit Cave using climbing pole in Devils Stovepipe. Camp underground. Leader: Bill Nicholson.
- November 6 - Sunday: Exit Cave. Leader: Tony Culberg.
- November 12 - SAURDAY: Day trip to Junce Florentine. Activities depending on weather. Leader: Laurie Moody.
- November 25-27 - WEEKEND: Cracroft. Leave on Friday night and camp at Farnhouse Creek. Exploration of new cave found last summer by Hobart Walking Club. Party limited to six. Bush and caving experience preferred. Leader: Albert Goede.
- December 3,4 - WEEKEND: Kubla Khan, Mole Creek. Names to Bill Tomalin as soon as possible, - Ph. 30 2761 or drop a note c/o Division of Recreation, Kirksway House. Party limit 2 at present - possible extension if numbers demand it. Leader: Bill Tomalin.
- December 4 - SUNDAY: Exit Cave. Leader: Tony Culberg.
- December 7 - WEDNESDAY: Exit Cave. Leader: Tony Culberg.
- December 7 - WEDNESDAY: 8 p.m. General Meeting at meeting room of Wheat-sheaf Hotel, 314 Macquarie Street. Discussion of A.S.F. Agenda.
- December 10,11 - WEEKEND or part thereof, Maydena. Highlight will be sheep roast on Saturday organised by mine host Tony Culberg. Location: Junce Homestead. Caving optional and accidental.
- December 24-26 - Christmas Period. Exploration at Mount Anne. Leader: Bill Nicholson.
- January 21-29 - 1978 Precipitous Bluff Expedition is definitely on. Access by fishing boat to Prion Beach if weather is suitable. For those prepared to walk in and out - come when you can and go when you must. Aims of the expedition are further exploration and mapping, also scientific work. A wet suit is desirable for those wanting to see Quetzalcoatl Conduit. Interstate cavers are cordially invited to attend. Basic food and equipment can be landed in advance. Let us know as soon as possible if you intend to come. Leaders: Albert Goede and Bruce McIntosh.

\* \* \* \* \*

EDITORIAL.

Three trip reports have been received since the last Spiel. Bill Nicholson led a small party to Gornenghast in the Florentine Valley. The cave provided some good sport and the party spent five hours underground. John Parker has provided two reports on his continuing surface exploration of the Junce area. He keeps on finding new holes. His last find in the Chrisps Road area sounds the most exciting - large creek flowing into the base of a 20 metre high cliff. Entrance to the system is by means of a long rift in the cliff

leading into a deep cavern with the stream flowing through it. As John was on his own the new find has not yet been explored. Together with the two finds announced in the last Spicl this seems to provide plenty of scope for the exploration of new ground. We are looking forward to further news of all these discoveries.

Cave Conservation Rules proposed by A.S.F.

The proposed rules which were printed in the September Spicl (No.127) were further discussed at the November G.M. and club policy was decided on. The club decided to support the introduction of rules 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Strong opposition was voiced to rules 1, 2 and 4 as they stand.

- Rule 1 - 'They will not camp overnight in any cave.'  
This was opposed but members felt that the following proposal would be acceptable: "Camping underground for purely recreational purposes should be discouraged."
- Rule 2 - 'They will not smoke in caves.'  
This was also rejected by club members. Members would be prepared to accept: "Smoking in caves should be actively discouraged."
- Rule 4 - 'They will not use any tools other than their bare hands in any dig.'  
This was strongly opposed by the membership. An alternative proposal that would be acceptable to members would be "No power tools should be used in any dig."

Maydena Group Comments.

The Maydena Branch comments on the cave conservation rules were provided by John Parker and are reprinted here:

"As to the proposed caving rules - in the main the Maydena Branch find most quite acceptable but we find the prospect of digging with bare hands not very inviting. Those that wish to shorten their arms please go ahead and dig with bare hands, maybe they can get hold of cheap clothing with abnormally short sleeves. Digging of course should be done with care so as not to disturb the cave to any extent and digging should have some definite purpose, be it good prospects to extend the cave or for studies of cave deposits etc. for scientific purposes."

Yours faithfully,  
John Parker.

\* \* \* \* \*

HYPOOTHERMIA:

PART ONE.

OCCURRENCE.

The first point which must be emphasized is that although hypothermia, and the resulting death from exposure, is far more likely in snow or at below-zero temperatures, it may also occur under other circumstances. Wet and windy conditions can chill a person with surprising rapidity. Not only will wind have a much greater cooling effect than still air, but wet clothing will conduct heat away from the body much more rapidly than dry clothing.

The onset of hypothermia is insidious and cannot be recognised by the victim. It may be associated with exhaustion or fatigue, the signs of which will generally include stumbling, the need for frequent rest stops, and a careless attitude with decreasing attention span. Thus, fatigue is particularly dangerous in conditions where hypothermia may also occur. The onset of hypothermia itself is marked by shivering, drowsiness, confusion and weakness. However, we must also emphasize that hypothermia may equally well arise without the previous onset of fatigue. Lloyd (1964) describes two cases in which rapid onset of hypothermia and subsequent death occurred without any significant evidence of fatigue. In both cases, the victims had been forced to remain relatively stationary for some time under conditions of extreme cold. The victims died within 1½ hours and 1 hour respectively of

the first visible signs.

Death from exposure is normally associated with wet-cold-windy conditions but as has been shown by Dr. Marlin B. Krcider, an American research physiologist, wind is not an essential factor. He has reported the cases of three cave explorers who died in caves in England and the U.S.A. In all cases the clothing had been wet, and was described as inadequate, lightweight and of non-woollen material. All three deaths occurred within 1½ hours after the first signs of hypothermia were detected.

Next Spicl - Part Two.

\* Taken from "Survival in the Cold", by Elery Hamilton-Smith and Roger Trowbridge, published by the National Fitness Council of Victoria, May 1973.

Bill Nicholson.

\* \* \* \* \*

Junce Florentine - Report by John Parker.

Saturday, 8th October, 1977 - Investigated small pot near JF 123, in the vicinity of the "Chairman" (JF 99). A 30 foot vertical pitch into a small chamber - no further prospects except for narrow squeeze at the end of chamber - a few mouldy formations.

On way back looked at a doline adjacent to JF 121, mentioned in Spelco Spicl No.127. In side of the doline a narrow hole leads off - rocks dropped into the hole fell for over 6 seconds before sound ceased. A considerable draught present - though the entrance is narrow it should be possible to get into the cave.

Sunday, 9th - Walked up a dry valley in the Chrisps Hut area on the side of Wherrets - number of small holes located, but not explored - eventually came onto the line of holes that leads off from the landslip - certainly some impressive caves here. Numbered the last hole in the line - No.118. - will return later and number the rest.

Later in the afternoon with Max and Steve - drove out to road eleven to look at caves mentioned by Johnny Miller. The first cave turned out to be No.57 - the other cave was a small outflow cave - near the Florentine River - but access was not possible. Though this trip did not achieve any real results the area on the west of the Florentine River that is being opened up by the extension of road eleven looks very promising with limestone extending back from the river for a considerable distance and along the river with a few breaks up to the Pagoda. On the way back we numbered a cave Max found just above road eleven - No. 119 - cave half mile on from road Eleven Bridge, on the left - 100 yards of passage, well decorated.

Florentine Valley - Saturday, 22nd October, 1977.

(L). Bill Nicholson, plus Steve Smillie and Jon Walton.

Early Saturday morning saw members of the vertical branch of T.C.C. converging at Max's place in Haydena. The result was JF 35 - Gornonghast was trogged and nearly bottomed. This is a sporting cave in every sense. The talus is really something to experience as well as the short waterfall ladder pitch.

Three wet troggers reached daylight after 5 hours of very enjoyable hard caving. The FC Transport Service was reached after 835 paces along the main track and 15 cups of coffee were consumed by the party on the drive home. For those members interested in silly things, the weekend after, the coffee record was broken when Steve, Ian and Bill drunk 42 cups of coffee and tea between them on one day. Needless to say their stomachs felt like hot water bottles.

To give the novice some idea what Gornonghast is like, I finish this silly report with this:

JF 35 is a typical Nicholas hole - deep, wet and very sporting.

Bill Nicholson.

Junce Florentine - Sunday, 30th October, 1977.

A typical nasty day - followed ridge up above JF 114, JF 115 in the Chrisps Hut area. Heavy horizontal scrub along the ridge - two deep slot caves located high on the ridge. From there walked S.E. towards Chrisps Creek - in a steep valley. Followed a small creek down until it disappeared by going under a limestone face - not possible to enter. In the next valley came to a large creek, completely covered in horizontal - battled down the creek for half a mile till the creek suddenly turned at right angles to flow under a limestone cliff at least 30 ft. high - very impressive! Could not enter where the creek flowed in, but a long rift in the cliff itself appears to lead into a deep cavern that the creek flows through. Having no equipment I could not explore the cave, will return when the weather is better and look this cave over.

The whole of the area on the Maydena side of Wherrets Lookout looks very promising but the scrub in the area certainly makes the place difficult to explore.

John Parker.

Florentine Valley - 22/10/77.

Party: Max Jeffries, Laurie Moody (ECCMB), Tim Douglas, Tim Lovcless, Chris Davics, Geoff Fisher, Sue Feency (prospectives).

The object of this trip was to show some prospectives Cashion Creek Cave (JF 6) and Frankcombe Cave (JF 7), both in the Florentine Valley. After the usual cuppa at Max's, we left around 10 a.m. and proceeded to JF 6 which was duly explored by the party with particular attention being paid to the cave fauna. We then travelled out to the "Pagoda" at the far end of the Valley intending to have lunch at this spot. However, we arrived to find that the place was in the process of being occupied by members of the ANM hierarchy.

We then adjourned to inspect the ANM "Madrill" which was operating in the nearby vicinity. For the uninitiated, a "Madrill" is the machine which drags logs through the scrub to the nearest road so that they can be loaded onto the trucks. This particular machine is mounted on a Sherman tank chassis and is rather an awesome sight to behold.

Eventually, we reached the parking spot near Frankcombes Cave on the Florentine "Highway" and after a brief piece of "scrub-bashing", Max located the entrance. On entering the cave I found that the water level was a bit higher than on my last visit in 1974 and consequently all of us got slightly wet! I busied myself taking a few photos while the others, led by Max ventured some distance down the low stream passage. After spending about 90 minutes in the cave, we finally emerged returning to the vehicles for a welcome change of clothes. All in all, our visitors seemed very impressed with what they had seen and I should think that they will partake in further caving trips.

Laurie Moody.

\* \* \* \* \*

\*\* Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Mike March who is at present confined to a hospital bed following an operation. Mike is well known to some cavers for attempting to push the 'impossible' squeeze in Victory '75 in his underwear, to find out whether this particularly promising cave did 'go'. Although he won't be caving for a while we hope to see him at some of the cave meetings.