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Speleo Spiel

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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

Secretary: Noel White, Geology Dept., Uni. of Tas., Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- June 12-14 - Long weekend. Mole Creek. Combined trip with Northern Branch. Visit to Kubla Khan. Leader: Peter Shaw.
- June 15 - Tuesday: 8 p.m. a COMMITTEE MEETING at 8 Bath St. Battery Point.
- June 19 - Saturday: Track cutting to Khazad-dum and salvage of gear from JF 5. Leader: Brian Collin.
- June 27 - Sunday: Day trip to Exit Cave. Acting leader: B. Lehmann.
- July 4 - Sunday: Photographic trip to Welcome Stranger, Florentine Valley. Leader: N. White.
- July 7 - Wednesday: General meeting. 8 p.m. 8 Bath St., Battery Point. Bring slides and refreshments please.
- July 11 - Sunday: Day trip to Mystery Creek Cave. Use of climbing pole to try and link with Exit Cave. Leader: A. Goede.

EDITORIAL.

Many months of hard caving had to catch up with us some time. The Weld River trip came to grief when Albert's car had an unexpected and destructive encounter with a taxi in North Hobart. Fortunately nobody was hurt but the damage was considerable and the trip had to be cancelled. The Exit trip to be led by Peter was cancelled due to lack of support. The weekend trip to Bubs Hill fared better. Tinys Watch Hole was visited and proved to be much less promising and extensive than we had been led to believe - 800 ft. of passage is a generous estimate although it does contain some reasonable formation and is still the most significant discovery in the area. Another day was spent visiting the Nelson River area and although very small we were all very impressed with the scenery. There are numerous small caves and further trogging is indicated but requires a two hour hike through very mountainous terrain which has little vegetation.

A day trip to Junee ended as a visit to another major swallet east of Cauldron Pot. Initial exploration suggests a promising prospect.

CLUB NEWS.

+ New members. Welcome to Michael and Shirley Tarburton who were elected as full members at the last meeting. Their address: 4 Barossa Road, Glenorchy. Michael's slides shown at the meeting gave us a taste of W.A. caving and should stop us from boasting too much about our helictites.

+ New name. accepted at the June general meeting.

Settlement Cave - Junee Florentine area. Located near the old Dawson Settlement. Three entrances one on the bank of the Florentine River. Length estimated at 600 to 700 ft. See also Spiel No. 57, page 4.

+ A letter has been received from Robin and Judi Booth who are now in the Madang district of New Guinea and are keeping in touch. The following is taken from their letter:

" We have been following with interest club activities since we left Tasmania and there certainly appear to be plenty of things happening. The thing we would like to know is why they all have to happen after we leave Tasmania! One can only hope that there will be plenty of activity when we return home for three months leave.

As you probably know by now, Madang District in New Guinea is my first posting as a patrol officer. Quite an attractive place too." - "Madang is on the N.G. coast so most of my patrolling is done by boat and as this saves the feet it suits me quite admirably. I'm looking for a nice deep cave to live in so that I can get away from the heat!

We have found a cave quite close to Madang in an extensive limestone area and I am endeavouring to get a party together to have a look at it. The only trouble is that the jungle is so thick that the hole in the hill is accessible only by walking up a creek which flows from the cave mouth and, if the smell means anything, the creek is pure liquid sulphur! One could be asphyxiated before arriving at the

cave. The natives are scared stiff of "demons" which are supposed to be hiding in there. Anyway we will let you know about further developments if any."

Their address: P.O. Box 339, Madang, T.P.N.G.

+ Ladder making. The wire and copper ferrules for the new ladders have been bought and the material for the rungs is on order from Melbourne and should be here any day so we should be able to make a start soon.

+ LOST. by Bill Lehmann a 20 ft. length of nylon webbing(?) on Adventure training trip to Exit Cave on Saturday 24 April. Would new owner please return to Bill.

+ Your typist is taking a break for a while and would like to thank Dot Boulter for offering to take over the job. All you budding authors come up with some good articles and let's see if we can break the six pages record for the Spiel.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

A considerable number of club members are still unfinancial. A list of names of offenders follows in order to jog their memories.

Carl Bjorklund.	Frank Brown.	Judy Chambers.
Graham Brown.	Sib Corbett.	Bernard Howe.
Col Hocking.	John Plaister.	Tim Walkden-Brown.
Kevin Kiernan.	Edward Todd.	

A list of financial members will be published in the July Spiel. Unless YOU pay your sub. this month this is definitely the last copy of the Spiel you will receive. If your name has been wrongly included please contact the secretary of president. Subscriptions can be sent to Box 641 G, G.P.O., Hobart or to the treasurer Ian Farley, 49 Wells Parade, Blackmans Bay, 7152 or can be handed personall either to Ian or Albert.

TRIP REPORTS.

Florentine area - May 1st, 1971.

Party: Noel White(leader), Therese and Diana Goede, Stuart Nicholas, David Cripps, Richard Bloomfield, Ron Akhurst.

This trip took the form of an easy alternative to the Khazad-dum trip of the same day. The first object was to examine another of the holes at the Lawrence Creek Swallet, however as the water had risen and none of us were equipped with gills, this proved impossible. The nearest hole to the swallet was filled to within about ten feet of the surface with swirling water. This was numbered JF 23 on the rock-face above the hole. The other previously entered hole about 100 yards away was numbered JF 24, also on a conspicuous rock face.

It was apparent that little could be achieved in this area until the water had dropped considerably, so it was decided to withdraw to the area just south of Welcome Stranger. This area had been first visited a week before. The small cave explored then was numbered JF 25 down beside the hole, so the number can not be seen from any distance away.

We surfaced trogged the area around, and made our way towards to east. The small narrow gully south of JF 25 opened out upstream into a huge depressed area of sinks. Two small promising looking holes were found but proved to be choked. These were numbered JF 26 and 27. The depressed area while it looked promising for a good cave did not look promising for an entrance, so we pressed on to the east in the hope of finding a major swallet. Eventually a small swallet was found with several holes leading down. One of these near where the stream enters the swallet was entered. Three possible ways were found, only one of which was examined. It led down about sixty feet until it became too wet and narrow to proceed without a wet suit. The hole was entirely within rockfall and rather unstable. We withdrew to the surface and attached the number JF 28 to a large block of limestone beside the hole examined. It is in about the lowest part of the swallet, about fifteen feet from where the water enters. About ten entrances were found in the immediate vicinity ranging from very small to quite large, but all were in rockfall. Probably some of the large clefts near the edges of the doline may give access to the stream. This area clearly needs more attention.

We pressed on surface trogging in the general direction of the cars, but only found a small blocked swallet not far from Welcome Stranger.

Noel White.

Mole Creek - 21-24 May, 1971.

Party: Noel White (leader), Bill Lehmann and northern guides Bill Tomalin and Des Robinson.

As I was on recreation leave Noel came from Hobart to my parent's place at Carrick on Friday night getting lost about three times in the fog.

On Saturday morning we drove up to Devonport to see Bill Tomalin and then on to see Des Robinson, getting both of them out of bed. After coffee and a talk we were given directions to the club hut and the Black Shawl and Honeycomb Caves. We then headed to Mole Creek with the map in one hand and written directions in the other.

The hut was easy to find but the caves were another matter. They were not where we were told they were. Asking one of the locals gained us directions to Honeycomb and Wet Caves which were explored in lieu of the others, with Noel waxing profusely on various geological phenomena.

When Bill and Des arrived on Sunday morning we found that we had missed a turn in the road and so ended up at the other caves. We then proceeded to Kubla Khan setting up ropes and pulley at the old entrance and then working up the valley to the new entrance. Using the ropes we brought along we abseiled down a short drop and then a 70 footer into a fair sized chamber full of formation.

With cameras clicking we journeyed on to various sections of the cave stopping in the Forbidden City for lunch. After lunch we did a hairy climb into the Dulcimer where there are some of the prettiest formations in the cave.

The next stop was Khan Hall where Noel discovered a hole in the floor and dived in but it came to nothing. Des in the mean time chased up another possible lead but had to leave off due to shortage of time. We hurried on and after traversing the "dreaded" Stalictite Shuffle and the high level river passage successfully arrived at the bottom of the pitch to the surface.

I had an urgent desire to reach the top first so tied on to the pulley rope and holding the static line advanced to the wall. After the customary cal "climbing" I had to yell "stop" as I was about 70' up and looked like heading for the moon. That certainly is the quickest way out of a cave. The others soon followed and after collecting the gear Bill and Des headed for Devonport and Noel and myself back to the hut. We returned home on the Monday.

Our sincere thanks to Bill and Des for taking the trouble to show us through the cave which we thoroughly enjoyed and we will be back soon to spend another eight hours in this fantastic cave.

Bill Lehmann.

Bubs Hill and Nelson River - May 28-30.

Party: Albert Goede (leader), Phil Robinson, Bill Lehmann, Norm Poulter, Kevin Kiernan, Denis Seymour, Delia Maloney, Stuart Nicholas and (Sunday only) Michael Tarburton.

The party left Hobart in pouring rain on Friday night in two vehicles: Denis's utility and Norm's "silent" rover. On the way up the rover broke its silence and an investigation by Bill and Norm showed the steering box was about to part company with the vehicle, - an ailment quickly cured by tightening up a number of vital nuts and bolts. Kevin and Delia found travelling in the rover in the back over Mt. Arrowsmith a little much and an unscheduled stop had to be made. We arrived at the campsite at 2 a.m. The following morning saw a keen party set out for Tinys Watch Hole despite the threatening weather. The 90 ft. ladder pitch proved to be rather awkward and it took some time to get everybody down. The cave was a disappointment and probably contains no more than 800 ft. of passage with a single large chamber at the base of the ladder drop. The underground stream could not be followed far in either direction. It was found to contain one Anaspides duly collected by myself. The cave contains some reasonable formation and the photographers had a busy time. Although the cave is not as large as we had been led to believe it is still the most significant find made so far in the area. When we emerged after a couple of hours underground it had started to rain. Kevin, Delia and myself made a quick visit to Thylacine Lair while the others detackled the pitch.

The following day, having been joined by Michael six of us decided to walk into the Nelson River area - visited only once before by club members. Getting there involved an arduous two hour trek through mountainous but quite open terrain - the vegetation being mostly bracken. Everybody was captivated by the area although it is

probably not much more than 30 acres in extent with an even smaller area of limestone outcropping further downstream. The limestone is covered with dolines and has beautifully developed solution features. It is laminated and dips westerly at about 30°. It is quite unfossiliferous, also unlike any Gordon Limestone I have seen and may be Devonian in age. The river Nelson goes underground for about 100 yards but despite an impressive entrance the system cannot be entered here. The outflow point could be entered but a wet suit would be desirable. The most promising entrance in the centre of the area could not be explored as it required a 30' ladder. A number of small caves were investigated by two separate parties and some cave crickets collected. The area is a fascinating one and is well worth another visit even if the cave potential is rather limited. By skirting some of the higher hills we were back at the road in one and a half hours. Returning to Bubs Hill we found the three who had stayed behind huddled around the fire - quite a fire this as it had consumed most of one of Norm's boots. We had an uneventful trip back to Hobart arriving at 10 p.m.

Albert Goede.

Junee area - Sat. June 5th.

Party: Peter Shaw, Laurel Norbury and Philip Robinson.

We followed the old Khazad-dum track as far as the dry valley where we left the track and headed east for a hundred yards into the valley containing Cauldron Pot. Five minutes later we reached the pot and paused for a photo. From here we headed east through patchy horizontal into the next dry valley in which was the swallet presumably found by Tim Walkden-Brown and Jeanette Collin. The stream falls over a twenty foot cliff as a curtain of water into a pile of talus. With two dim torches we climbed down through the talus for fifteen feet where we were stopped by a dry thirty foot plus drop down a sloping rift. The stream is visible at the bottom of the rift. Suggested name for the cave is "Niagara Pot". From here we intended to head east into the prominent valley above Junee Cave. Our plans were speedily altered when we encountered dense horizontal and we dropped downwards attempting to bypass the heavy scrub, eventually crossing a valley and coming out onto the new section of the Khazad-dum road half way up. It might be worthwhile in the future following a small stream near the new cave as we did not follow it until it sank.

Peter Shaw.

A report on this trip was also received from Philip Robinson. However Peter's being the shorter it was favoured.

THE "SAVE COLONG CAVES" CAMPAIGN.

Noel White.

How many Tasmanians realise that the largest conservation battle going on in Australia today is over a caves reserve? Over 70 years ago the Colong Caves Reserve in N.S.W. was set aside for the preservation of the caves. Today part of the area is held under mining lease by a British firm Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers(Aus) Ltd., who propose to mine the limestone at Church creek and Mt. Armour. This proposal is opposed by the Colong Committee, which was set up in 1968 by 50 supporting societies and is fighting vigorously with both A.P.C.M. and the N.S.W. Government to have the mining lease revoked.

How does the Colong Committee conduct the fight? This conservation campaign is undoubtedly the best yet conducted in Australia. The N.S.W. Government is continually bombarded with petitions and letters to ministers and members which require much secretarial time to reply to. They are harassed with questions at public meetings, letters to newspapers, and even open opposition at elections. A.P.C.M. is publicly attacked for its actions, its products have been boycotted by supporting organizations, and it is under continual pressure at shareholders meetings. Many supporters of the Colong Committee - currently about 900, have bought shares in A.P.C.M. which allows them or their proxy to question the board and move motions at the shareholders meetings. These must be a nightmare for the board, especially the chairman, but are a delight to read about in the newspapers or the "Colong Bulletin". This annual circus now gets wide spread coverage in newspapers and on television.

How is the fight financed? To February 17, 1971, the Colong Committee had spent \$ 7,057 and had a balance of \$581. This money had been raised in two ways; (i) donations from supporting individ-

uals and organizations and (ii) sale of shares in A.P.C.M. and subscriptions to the "Colong Bulletin". The committee sells single shares in A.P.C.M. for \$3.00, which also includes a subscription to the "Colong Bulletin" and entitles the shareholder to attend or be represented by proxy at shareholders meetings.

What does all this mean to Tasmanians? This is the major conservation battle in Australia today. Major gains have already been made and full victory is in sight. If we win this fight, the whole conservation movement will be strengthened. This will clearly benefit Tasmania. We are all Australians, a loss to one part of Australia is a loss to us all. In matters as important as conservation we cannot afford to be provincial. Also, it may not be long before Tasmanians have a similar fight on their hands. For this reason alone we should be prepared. We should learn as much as possible from the N.S.W. fight, so we will be better fitted when we have to fight on our home ground. The best way to do this is to buy a share in A.P.C.M. and become a subscriber to the "Colong Bulletin". This helps the Colong Committee as well as keeping you informed of developments. Believe me, if only for the amusement of hearing about A.P.C.M.'s Chairmans gyrations, it is money well spent.

How do you join the "Colong Shareholders Club"? Just fill in the form below.

For a three dollar(\$3.00) donation to the Colong Committee I will receive in return ONE free share in ASSOCIATED PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURERS (AUST.) LTD. plus a free subscription to the Colong Bulletin.

FULL SURNAME
(for registration purposes)

FULL CHRISTIAN NAMES

PERMANENT ADDRESS

.....

I have enclosed cheque for dollars in order to obtain share(s) in Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers(Aust.) Ltd.

Please make cheques payable to the COLONG COMMITTEE.

send to: The Treasurer,
The Colong Committee,
18 Argyle Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W., 2000.