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Speleo Spiel

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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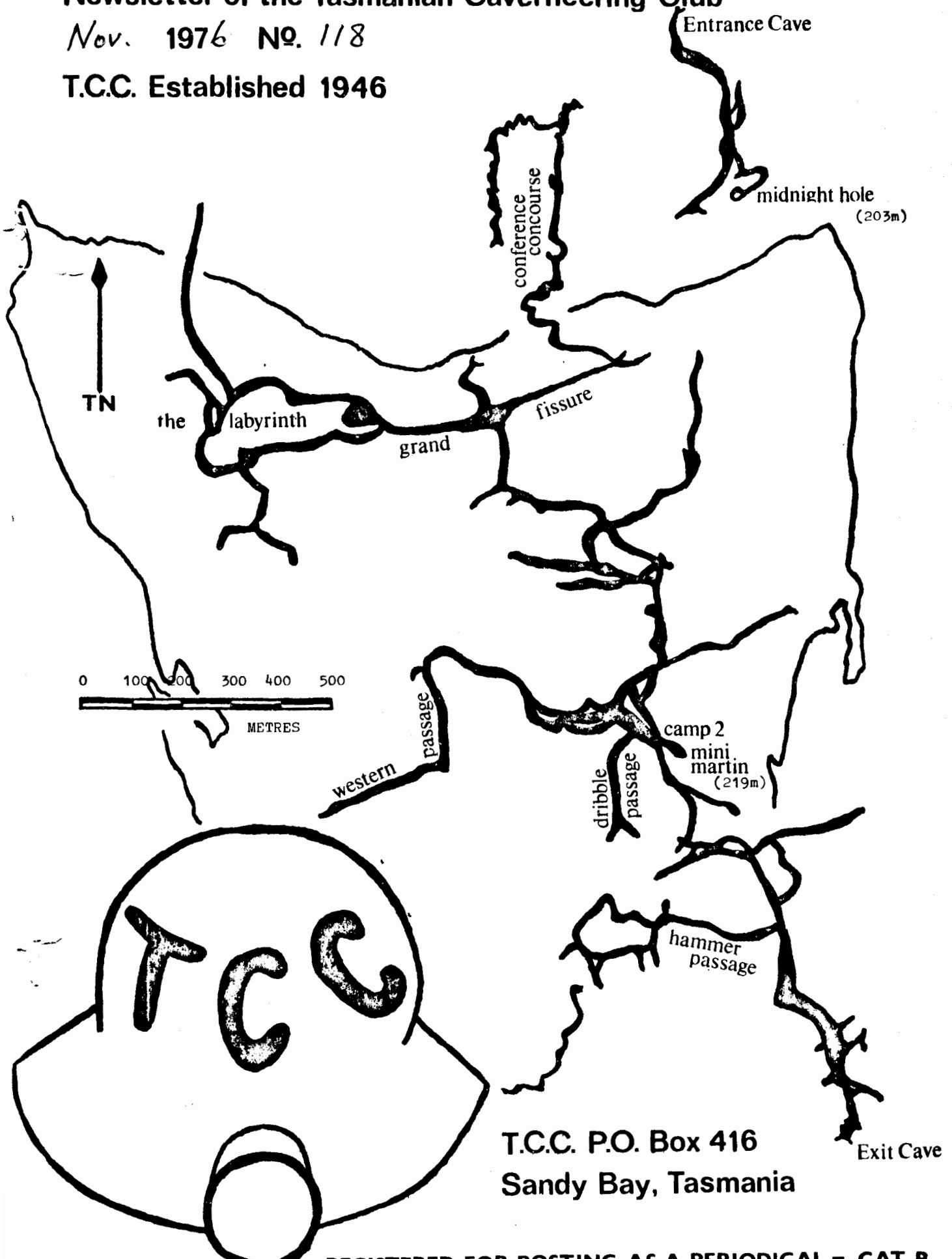
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SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

Nov. 1976 No. 118

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 copy 40 cents.

President(Acting): Albert Goede, 4/120 Strickland Avenue, South Hobart, 7000.

Secretary: Tony Culberg, P.O. Box 36, Lindisfanne, Tas. 7015.

President Maydena Branch: Max Jeffries, 66 South Avenue, Maydena, 7457.

Editor: Albert Goede, address as above.

Typist: Therese Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, 7000.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DECEMBER 1 - Laurie's Place, 13 Mason Street, Claremont.

at 8 p.m.

Since the last Spiel there has been considerable deterioration in the affairs of the club mainly as a result of the resignation of club president Andrew Skinner, both as president and as a club member. This resignation came in the form of an unsigned letter addressed to the secretary in which Andrew stated that he resigned for "personal" reasons and also because he felt himself at odds with the conservation policy adopted by the club. As vice-president I now find myself as Acting President until the position is clarified at a general meeting.

As the club has been far from prospering during the last year and since there are a number of major problems which threaten its continued existence I think it is very important that as many members as possible make a real effort to attend this meeting. During the year the club has been considerably hampered in its decision making by lack of a quorum at general meetings. A quorum at a general meeting consists of ten members entitled to vote. Members may vote by proxy appointed in writing provided that the proxy is himself a member entitled to vote.

Should the Special General Meeting called for December 1 fail to reach a quorum I intend fore-shadowing a motion for disbandment as it will then be obvious that there is not sufficient interest in the club's continued operation.

If the meeting does reach a quorum, and I sincerely hope it will, then the following business must be resolved at this meeting. Notice of motion is given relating to the following business:

- (1) Election of a new president.
- (2) Election of a new vice-president or committee member if a vacancy is caused by the election of a new president.
- (3) Final discussion and approval of the agreement reached with Southern Caving Society for a year of close co-operation between the two clubs. The conditions agreed to by S.C.S. differ in several ways from the proposals published in the September Spiel. Also two other matters have been discussed since to ensure that the proposals will work in practice.
- (4) Two items concerning constitutional amendments:
 - (a) Ineligibility of junior members to vote.
One possibility is to modify rule 4 of the constitution to abolish junior membership and grant full membership to all those who have attained the age of sixteen years and have met the requirements for membership.
 - (b) The possibility of changing rule 18 of the constitution to allow a smaller number of members to constitute a quorum. Six or eight members should be considered as possible alternatives.
- (5) Discussion of club policy for items to be discussed at A.S.F. Conference in Canberra next month.
- (6) Discussion of current problems facing the club and ways to solve or minimize them.
- (7) Editing of Speleo Spiel during first half of 1977.

/ Albert Goede,
/ Acting President.

FOSSIL BONES FROM MOLE CREEK - WHICH CAVE ? ?

In August Peter Murray and I made a visit to the Queen Victoria Museum in Launceston and went through the collection of fossil bones. There is quite a lot of material from caves at Mole Creek but nearly all of it is recent and belongs to species that are still around today. The exception are two pieces of strongly cemented bone breccia which are rather similar in character and probably come from the same deposit. One contains a bone of a large and obviously extinct marsupial but has no data concerning its origin. The other contains part of the lower jaw of a wombat and is labelled as having been donated by Mr. F. Sinfield. The material was donated earlier this century. It would be very interesting to know who Mr. Sinfield was and even more interesting to know where he obtained the material from. Can anyone help us with information? ? ?

Albert Goede

CONSERVATION OF BEGINNERS LUCK CAVE.

The importance of this cave as an archaeological site dating from the last Ice Age was mentioned in the Spiel earlier this year (May, 1976, No.112).

In July an official approach was made to head office of the Australian Newsprint Mills with a request that the site be protected from forestry operations. The following letter was received in reply.

" Dear Mr. Goede,

Thank you for your letter of 26th July concerning the cave site near Settlement Road in the Florentine Valley.

As you know the company has reserved several areas of unusual or outstanding flora within the Concession and we will be pleased to set aside a small reserve around this particular site.

If the boundaries that you propose marking are acceptable to Mr. Frankcombe, then the Company will not carry out harvesting or roading operations within the proposed reserve.

Yours sincerely,

B. F. Gibson, (signed)

Forests and Logging Manager. "

This was followed by a request from Don Frankcombe to Max Jeffries (President-Maydena Branch) for the boundaries to be marked out as soon as possible as forestry operations were rapidly approaching the area. Max acted with commendable speed and carried out the boundary marking despite the fact that he was just about to go off to hospital for an operation.

We are grateful for the willingness of the Australian Newsprint Mills to protect this area which is within their timber concessions and also for their prompt response to our request.

Albert Goede.

TASMANIAN CAVES - Historical Reprints - Part 2.

by Albert Goede.

In Speleo Spiel No.91 (June, 1974) I published Part 1 of a series of historical reprints. Somehow part 2 took a long time to materialize but here it is. The following account of the Flowery Gully Cave was published by R.M. Johnston, (1888) in a "Systematic Account of the Geology of Tasmania", (Strutt, Government Printer, Hobart), pp.40-41.

" ILFRACOMBE, WEST TAMAR. - At Ilfracombe, in the vicinity of the gold-field at Beaconsfield, there are also rocks of a Cambrian aspect associated

with a non-fossiliferous limestone, identical in character and relationship with those of Chudleigh and the Mersey. These limestones, like those at Chudleigh, are pierced by extensive channels and caverns.

At the extreme limit of the old wooden tramway there is a magnificent series of caves, which are approached by a hole in the hillside. I visited these caves in the year 1871, when they were in a perfect state of preservation, so far as the modern Vandal was concerned.

A steep tortuous passage leads us downwards to a shingly floor, evidently the bed of an ancient watercourse. It is remarkable that the general direction of this old subterranean stream seems to be at right angles to the Fern Tree Gully, through which the present stream runs, and, so far as I could judge, at a higher level. It would appear, therefore, that the rocks in this neighbourhood have been much dislocated, probably during the period when the recent tertiary basalts were everywhere disturbing the surface of Tasmania by their intrusions. Like the Chudleigh caves, the channels are very tortuous. Here we abruptly enter a vaulted chamber of great height, glittering with crystals of carbonate of lime, and adorned with stalagmites and stalactites of every possible size and description. From this chamber there are many smaller ones branching off in various directions, and the passage to still more extensive chambers is frequently obstructed so much by stalagmitic formations that it is necessary to crawl on hands and knees at times for a considerable distance. In one or two cases the entrance to large chambers resplendent with snowy white crystals opens out upon the floor of a similar chamber at a higher level. Some of the pillars formed by the union of stalactites and stalagmites are exceedingly beautiful. Many of them are several yards in circumference, and these are usually surrounded by myriad snow-white "icicles of lime", forming a wonderfully charming scene. The extinction of the candlelights, or their concealment under a ledge of the stalagmitic floor discloses the pale blue glow-worms in clusters along roof and walls, as at Chudleigh.

The extreme limit of one of the old water channels are now completely closed by the development of stalagmitic formations."

An interesting aspect of Johnston's account is the occurrence of glow-worms in the cave. No glow-worms are known to occur in the cave today, probably reflecting changes in the surface environment due to land clearing and quarrying.

.....

TASMANIA'S DEEPEST CAVES

by Albert Goede.

The last list of Tasmania's deepest caves to be published was by Ellis(1975) early last year. This reflects pretty accurately the situation at the time except that for some unknown reason both Khazad-dum and Cauldron Pot are shown as 1 metre deeper than the actual survey figures. The corrections have been made in this list. Although Ross Ellis lists Tasmanian caves with depths down to 30 metres this practice is not followed here where the list is restricted to caves 90 metres or more in depth. Shallower caves between 30 and 90 metres in depth are very common in Tasmania and have not been systematically recorded. A number in this category are missing from Ellis's list.

Since early last year two deep caves have been extended: Khazad-dum by 8 metres and Growling Swallet by 5 metres and both still offer prospects for further exploration under dry conditions.

Also a further two caves have been added to the list as a result of recent explorations. Thun Junction Cave at Ida Bay was bottomed early last year at approx. 120 metres, while this year The Chairman in the Junee area was descended to an estimated depth of 165 metres and further exploration is possible under dry conditions. Tasmania now has 27 caves with a depth of 90 metres or more although a number of them still require surveying before accurate figures can be given.

(remember - Cavers do it deeper , and deeper , and deeper , in Tassy!!)

	<u>CAVE</u>		<u>Depth in metres.</u>
(1)	Khazad-dum,	June Florentine	329
(2)	Cauldron Pot,	" "	263
(3)	Tassy Pot,	" "	231
(4)	Mini Martin - Exit Cave,	Ida Bay	220
(5)	Sesame II Cave,	June Florentine	219
(6)	Midnight Hole, Mystery Ck, Cave,	Ida Bay	203
(7)	Growling Swallet,	June Florentine	176
(8)	The Chairman,	" "	165
(9)	Kellar Cellar,	Mount Anne	155
(10)	Niagara Pot,	June Florentine	149
(11)	Satans Lair,	" "	143
(12)	Revelation Cave,	Ida Bay	137
(13)	Rift Cave,	June Florentine	131
(14)	Gormenghast,	" "	128
(15)	Thun Junction Cave,	Ida Bay	120
(16)	Col-in-Cavern,	Mount Anne	119
(17)	Herberts Pot,	Mole Creek	116
(18)	Rescue Pot,	June Florentine	107
(19)	Three Falls Cave,	" "	107
(20)	Devils Pot,	Mole Creek	105
(21)	Pillengers Ck. Cave,	June Florentine	99
(22)	Bone Pit,	" "	98
(23)	Splash Pot,	" "	98
(24)	Dribblespit Swallet	" "	91
(25)	Croesus Cave,	Mole Creek	91
(26)	Execution Pot,	" "	90
(27)	Kellys Pot,	" "	90

It is noteworthy that 13 out of the 15 deepest caves in Australia are located in Tasmania. Out of those thirteen not less than 9 are in the June Florentine area, 3 at Ida Bay and 1 at Mount Anne. Little vertical caving has been done in Tasmania during the last two years and considerable scope for further deep caves exists in all three areas. Deep caves may also be found in the Precipitous Bluff, Cracroft and Mt. Ronald Cross areas.

Information about JF-100.

The following details were received from John Parker. " This cave was discovered several weeks prior to JF 99(The Chairman) turning up. A group made up of Steve Annan, Philip Voss and myself went up to the cave and descended without ladders about 40 feet, down a steeply sloping wall to a flat floor. I had previously dug a hole through this floor but had not gone down. Phil volunteered to go down - the depth was about 30 ft., free hanging. No leads were found - the water seeping through a rubble floor.(Vossy summed the cave up as a wet swine of a cave - and we all vowed not to go near it again.)

Cave Numbering - Junee Florentine Area

done by Laurie Moody and Albert Goede on Saturday, 9/10/1976.

- JF 101: Small sloping entrance on western side of road branching off Cashion Creek Road at gravel quarries. Small tight horizontal cave with two branches - left hand one becomes too tight, right hand one terminates in small chamber. Length approx. 15 metres.
- JF 102: Located some 200 metres along from JF 101 on left hand side of left branch of road. A small horizontal entrance behind a pile of logs leads to a single small chamber. Small side passage is too tight to follow.
- JF 103: Small, normally dry cave with well decorated medium-size chamber. Entrance is narrow sloping rift and is on southern side of limestone outcrop between Tiger Road and Florentine River some distance north of junction with Stan Murray Road.
- JF 104: Steeply sloping muddy entrance leads down 4 metres to 10 metre long stream cave containing white Anaspides and blind, white amphipods. Upstream becomes too tight, down stream is a siphon. Cave is located near end of un-named branch road off Tiger Road north of Stan Murray Road.
- JF 105: Sloping entrance(45°) to large chamber about 16 metres down. Tight 6 metre ladder drop through hole in floor leads to small stream. Can be followed upstream for 20 metres where stream is lost. Downstream is about 25 metres of wet, muddy crawl leading to second entrance - a tight steeply sloping squeeze to the surface. Some bones found in streambed.
- (JF 106): Number assigned to second entrance of JF 105 but not yet attached.
- JF 107: Entrance is 45° slope and is located about 100 metres uphill and west of JF 105. It is slippery and requires a rope. At bottom of slope a small passage leads off to the left to a small chamber with some decoration, and 15 metres of passage. To the right a passage leads into a large chamber (est. dimensions 20 x 35 x 4 metres). It then continues past a 10 metre long crawl to another chamber, low-roofed(1-1.5 metres) but quite wide, and containing formations of moonmilk, straws and pendulum-like formations. Several side passages soon peter out. Largest and best decorated cave in western Florentine so far.
-

TRIP REPORTS.

Florentine Valley - Saturday, 9/10/76.

Party: Laurie Moody(leader), Albert Goede, Max Jeffries, Andrew Skinner, Heather Symes, Therese Goede plus Diana and Ben, Mike March(prospective) and visitor Anne Bevan.

Just for once the weather was reasonable and we passed through the barrier at 10.15 a.m. after gathering at Max's place. The first aim of the trip was to investigate a couple of holes along a new road which branches off Cashion Creek Rd. at the gravel quarries a short distance north of the Lawrence Creek Rising.

The first was a small sloping entrance on the left hand side of the road. After a preliminary examination by Max the hole was explored by Albert, Heather and Anne who negotiated some tight squeezes. They found a short tight horizontal cave with two branches - the left hand one becomes too tight while the right hand one terminates in a small chamber. The cave was numbered JF 101. A little further along the road after taking the left fork a small horizontal entrance behind a pile of logs on the left hand side of the road was explored. It was found to lead into a single chamber. A small passage leading off becomes too tight. This became JF 102.

We then crossed the Florentine River and after waiting for some time for road repairs to be affected we drove north to the end of the Tiger Road. After an early lunch Laurie and I went to the southern end of a limestone outcrop between the road and the river and numbered a previously explored small cave(JF 103). This cave is well worth a visit and contains a sizeable chamber with some very attractive formation. Laurie took some photographs while I unsuccessfully tried to push several low level passages. Outside the entrance we met some of the others who

under Max's guidance had explored a new hole on the opposite side of the hill which apparently became too tight to follow after a short distance.

We then followed up the un-named branch road to the north of Stan Murray Road. The first hole we came to was a sloping muddy entrance down which a stream could be heard. This was the place where Max had previously caught a white Anaspides. The entrance(JF 104) goes 4 metres down a steep muddy slope to a short stream passage which becomes too tight upstream and siphons downstream. To my delight the stream contained blind, white amphipods as well as white Anaspides. I headed back to the vehicles to get my collecting gear while the others went on to greater things. I eventually managed to collect two specimens of each species.

Meanwhile Max and co. went on to the next - a short stream cave with two entrances which had first been explored on the previous weekend. The higher entrance was numbered JF 105 while Max was given no.106 to fix to the lower entrance sometime. Everyone got really muddy and the girls decided to call it a day. Max, Laurie and Mike then continued to the last cave - a 45° sloping entrance about 100 metres uphill and to the west of JF 105. The cave was numbered JF 107. It requires a rope for entry and is reputed to be the best and largest formation cave in the Western Florentine with several chambers - one quite large. Straws with pendulum-type formations are reported. Unfortunately I did not see this cave. We returned to Hobart after a good day's caving.

Albert Goede.

Mole Creek - 16/17 October, 1976.

Party: Andrew Skinner, Peter Watts, Bill Nicholson, Jean Thomas, Mike March, Therese Goede, and Brendon ? (sorry I've forgotten the surname).

This group was supposed to be going to Exit but after a whole week of south-easterly weather it was felt that things might just be a bit damp in that direction of the state so we headed for Mole Creek instead. Andrew wanted to continue photographing in King Solomon and Maracoopa and Bill and Therese were also anxious to experiment with their movie cameras. Fortunately the rest of the party were happy to humour the shutter-buggers so around one o'clock on Sat. afternoon we entered King Solomon and cameras clicked and whirred. Upon exiting Andrew decided that Devils Gullet would be a fantastic place to visit as the weather was being kind so a fast trip up the Western Tiers ensued - much oohing and aahing at the view - and then we hurried down again to check the gate at Croesus, as it has become somewhat bent. The night was spent at the Mole Creek hut with much telling of tall tales and other activities. On Sunday, minus Andrew, the party filmed in Maracoopa and then 4 people entered Genghis and had a look at the spectacular formation in this cave. The Renault was heavily laden on the return trip due to an unexpected extra passenger and also we had to detour due to flooding near Longford. In all a rather enjoyable trip.

Therese Goede.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

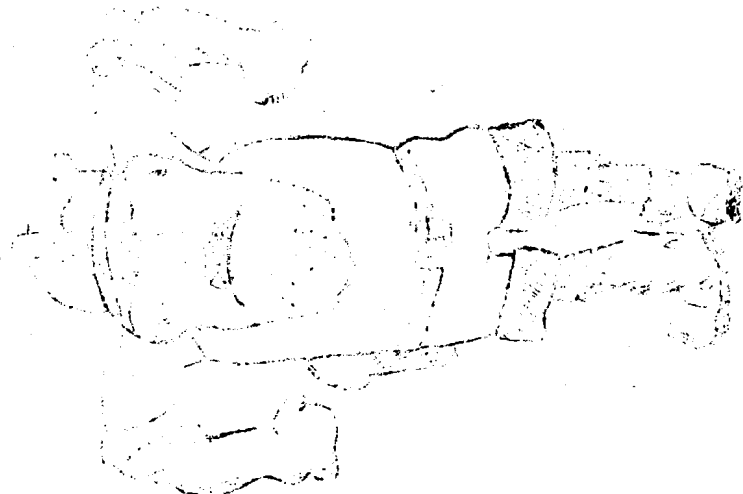
Nov.20 - Florentine,
Laurie Moody.

December 1 - SPECIAL

GENERAL MEETING at
13 Mason Street, Clare-
mont, 8 p.m. PLEASE

Make EVERY EFFORT To

ATTEND !



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