



University of South Florida

Digital Commons @ University of South Florida

Speleo Spiel

Newsletters and Periodicals

October 1976

Speleo Spiel

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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

Recommended Citation

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers, "Speleo Spiel" (1976). *Speleo Spiel* . 274.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/speleo_spiel/274

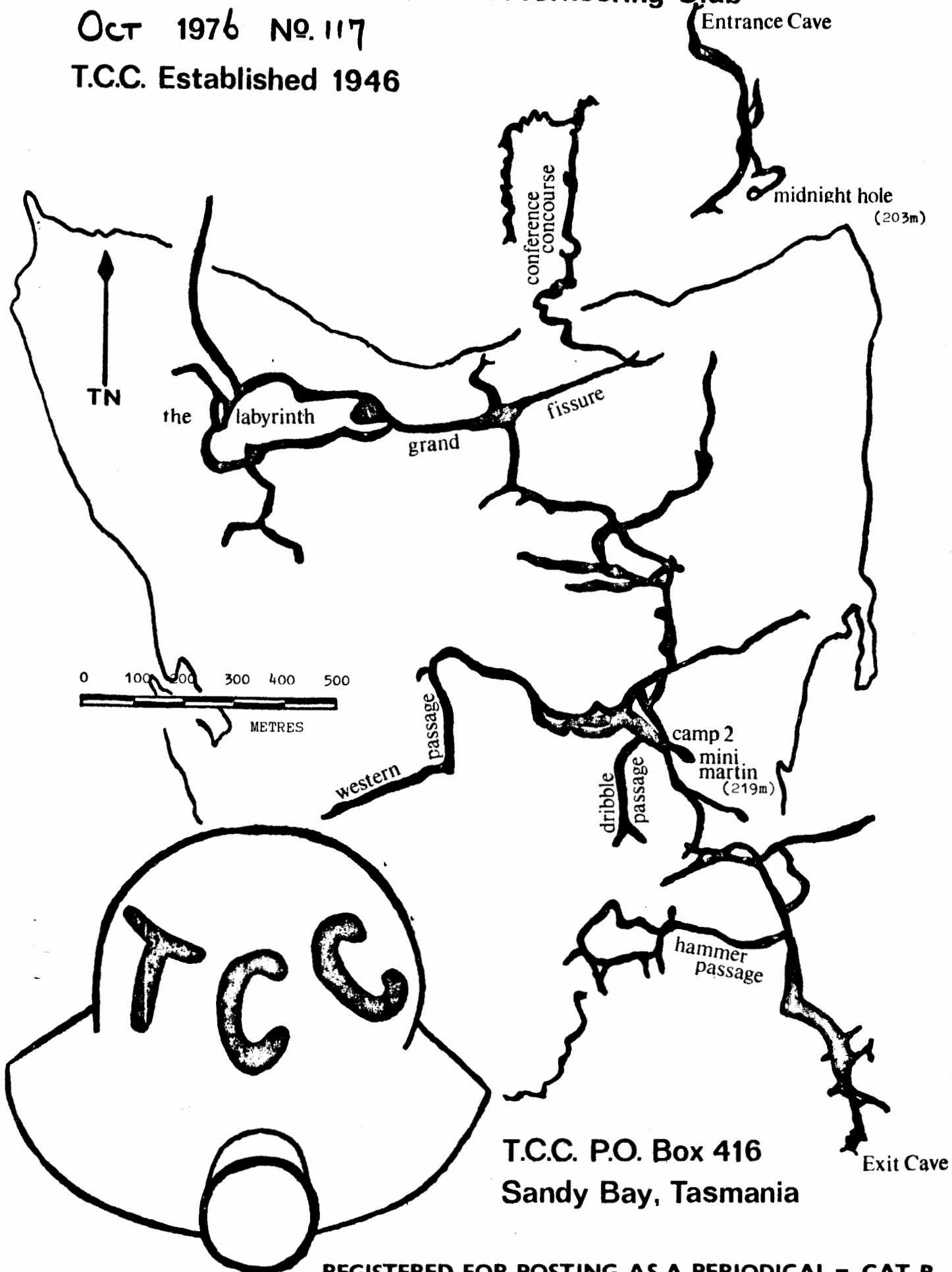
This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters and Periodicals at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Speleo Spiel by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact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

SPELEO SPIEL

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club

OCT 1976 NO. 117

T.C.C. Established 1946



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

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL - CAT. B

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$ 4.00.

SINGLE COPY 40 CENTS.

President: Andrew Skinner, 1 Randall Street, Sandy Bay, 7005.

Secretary: Tony Culberg, 16 Nelumie Street, Lindisfarne, 7015.

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

Editor "Speleo Spiel": Albert Goede, Unit 4, 120 Strickland Ave., Sth.Hobart, 7000.

FORWARD PROGRAMME

- October 9 - Maydena area, probably West Florentine. Leader: Laurie Moody.
- October 16,17 - Exit Cave. Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- October 30,31 - Mole Creek. Varied programme including photography.
Leader: Andrew Skinner.
- November 3 - GENERAL MEETING:- 8 p.m. Will probably be held at the S.C.S. clubrooms in Davey Street, up the first lane past the Aberfeldy Hotel. Phone Andrew Skinner for confirmation.
- November 6 or 7 - Ladderwork and SRT practice on Sphinx Rock. Leader: Stuart Nicholas.

EDITORIAL

Once again I find myself as editor of the Spiel as Laurie Moody has had to resign due to other commitments. On behalf of all club members I wish to thank Laurie for his efforts over the last eighteen months. Caving activity is still at a low ebb but with summer on the way we look forward to a little more activity and enthusiasm on the part of members. The last general meeting was attended by only seven full members. Those who were conspicuous by their absence missed a very interesting evening. Our guest for the meeting was Bill Tomalin who discussed the problems of caverneering as an outdoor activity for secondary schools. He also showed a very interesting 40 min. film made and directed at Mole Creek by pupils from Kingston High School. Films were also shown by Therese Goede and Vincent Smith.

Readers may be excused if they get the impression that the Spiel is written by the editor with the assistance of Anne Annan of the Maydena Branch. This is YOUR newsletter and we would like YOUR contribution from time to time. There's plenty to write about: exploration, caving techniques, photography, conservation, and many other aspects of speleology.

Close co-operation between T.C.C. and S.C.S. is still under discussion as this goes to press. The proposals published in the September Spiel were presented as having been accepted by both clubs. This is not the case. The version published was the one agreed to by T.C.C. A modified version was agreed to by S.C.S. in which all reference to possible long term amalgamation was deleted. A few problems remain and it is hoped to have another meeting of club representatives soon to see if we can come to a mutual agreement for close co-operation for a 12 mth. trial period.

A. Goede.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

After reading the proposal for the long term amalgamation of S.C.S. and T.C.C. in the September Spiel, a number of questions come to mind.

Firstly the feasibility of the T.C.C. paying half the yearly rental for the S.C.S. clubrooms in Davey Street. The T.C.C. seems to have functioned perfectly well up till now without a club room, and will possibly be taking on an unnecessary financial burden.

The position of the Maydena branch after such an amalgamation should be considered. At present we have a number of club ladders which are used nearly every weekend and often during the week. It would be to the detriment of the Maydena branch, if after the amalgamation, all equipment is kept at Davey Street, as proposed.

The idea of joint trips brings up the problem of cumbersome numbers, especially in caves with deep pitches to be negotiated which could become long drawn out affairs.

Perhaps these are just minor problems to be overcome with further discussion. At present I feel that the ideal situation would be one where the two clubs operate separately - but in close co-operation, exchanging and sharing expertise and equipment when necessary. This idea proved very successful during the recent exploration of The Chairman.

Anne Annan. (Maydena.)

.....

From our Maydena Correspondent:

Just an informal report of what we have been doing over the past week in case you want something for the Spiel.

Last Sunday (5 Sept.) while the others were down The Chairman, John showed Max, Therese and I two more holes on two separate ridges along from The Chairman, both worth further investigation. We also looked at another hole back from The Chairman which looks and sounds promising.

On Monday (6th) John and I had a look in Vandal Cave and we are going back this Sunday to haul out those logs that have been pushed down the light hole - such a beautiful little cave.

Wednesday (8th) John found 6 shafts below The Chairman - one very promising, as an alternative entrance to The Chairman (just speculating).

Yours, Anne Annan.

.....

NEW NAMES.

JF - 99 was officially named The Chairman at the September meeting. The name was proposed by members of the Maydena Branch responsible for its discovery and so named because it dominates the caves around it.

TRIP REPORT.

Track Cutting from Adamson Falls to Creekton Falls - Saturday, June 5th, 1976.
Roy Skinner.

The party consisted of approximately twenty, organized by Hastings Caves guide, Graham Rushton, and comprised of 10 pupils from St. Francis Special School led by Mr. Murray Coombes, T.C.C. members Bill Nicholson and myself and several other interested individuals including Mr. Ray McLeod of Dover, who with Greg and Graham Rushton, John McLeod and myself had marked a course between the two falls in June, 1969.

We departed from the Hastings Caves restaurant at 10a.m., drove to the bulldozer track at the end of Chestermans Road. It was noted that the Forestry have commenced thinning operations around the bulldozer track that leads to the Adamson Falls track proper. I feel that these operations above the Hastings Caves could have an adverse effect on the caves. I feel also that the Forestry should be requested to restrict felling operations to not less than 50 metres from either side of the Adamson Falls track. I have heard that there is an intention to remove Celery Top Pine from this area.

Another worry is that trail bikes have been ridden along the bulldozer track, and could cause considerable damage to the walking track if they get on to it.

After the party gathered at Adamson Falls, Ray McLeod and myself went ahead and re-marked the original route while Graham Rushton and Frank Morley (of N.P.W.S.) followed with chain-saws and the rest of the party contributing with axes, machetes etc. Good progress was made to a small stream about one third of the way to Creekton Falls where the party came together again for lunch.

Further good progress was then made to an area cleared by an old landslip from where there are fine views of the coast around Southport. After a brief spell we encountered some difficulty in selecting a satisfactory route for the final descent into the gully where Creekton Falls are situated. The terrain is quite steep here, with horizontal scrub predominant. At 3.30p.m. it was decided to call a halt and return to Adamson Falls before dark.

Although no member of the party reached Creekton Falls, it was a most successful day, and there will be little effort in cutting the remaining few hundred metres with light-weight chain-saws. It was resolved to complete the track in September.

" We moved on, reverting to the convoluted postures of our pre-evolutionary ancestors - crouching, crawling, wriggling through mud, squirming through pools of water, with only a rare blessed moment to stand erect. We came to a narrow

cleft. The three ahead slipped through, but the malevolent rock caught me at the breastbone and held fast. And there I lay, on the agonizing side of panic, my arms and shoulders straining forward, the rest of me left behind in that nether world."

It's all right, he did get through - eventually. The above extract is from an article in the September issue of the Reader's Digest entitled " Inside Hell's Cave ", and despite the 'flowery' descriptions is well worth reading. " Hell's Cave" is of course Hölloch in Switzerland's Muota Valley, renowned for its size, and its tendencies to flood rapidly, trapping unwary cavers.

THE SOURCE OF THE JUNEE RIVER.

by Albert Goede.

A generation of cavers have wondered and speculated whether Growling Swallet in the Florentine Valley was the source of the Junee River and if not, where the water from Growling Swallet could possibly rise. The stream flowing into Growling Swallet is one of the largest sinking underground in the Junee Florentine area and it was difficult to imagine that so much water could reappear without being noticed. Although, with the thick wet forest vegetation covering the area it was just conceivable that a major rising could be overlooked. The entire area contained only two risings sufficiently large to be seriously considered. One obvious candidate was the Junee River rising a linear distance of 9.5 kms. to the south-east. If water from Growling Swallet was to resurge here it would have to cross the major surface divide between the Florentine and Tyenna Rivers. The other contender was the rising of Lawrence Creek Rivulet located 11.2 kms. away to the NNW of the swallet.

Growling Swallet had been known since early this century as it was situated close to an old packhorse track (Karmbergs Track) following the eastern side of the Florentine Valley. It was located by members of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club about 1948 and given its present name. In 1953 the cave was explored to a depth of approximately 150 metres where the party was stopped by a six metre drop. It thus became the deepest cave in Australia at that time. It was visited again by a party (including myself) in 1956 and on that occasion we managed to reach what appeared to be a final siphon at a depth of 168 metres. This remained an Australian depth record for some eleven years. On the 1956 trip some compass bearings were taken and it was noticed that the lower part of the cave trended in an east to south-easterly direction which caused a renewal of speculation about the resurgence of its waters at Junee Cave. The cave stubbornly refused to yield any more secrets until last summer when it was visited by club members Peter Shaw and Stuart Nicholas under very dry conditions.

They found the terminal siphon open and explored for some distance until stopped by a deep pool requiring wetsuits. When they returned a fortnight later the dry spell had ended and the siphon had closed.

Speculation on where the water went has also been made on geological grounds. A study of the structure of the limestone should at least give clues to the most likely direction in which the underground water would move. For a number of years the only available map was a geological sketch map of the Junee area by Hughes and Everard in 1953, published in "Hughes(1957): Limestones in Tasmania." This map at least suggested the possibility that the water flowed towards Junee but as our knowledge of the area grew it became more and more obvious that the mapping was of a very poor standard.

The geology of the Florentine Valley was mapped in 1963 by a geology honours student - Keith Corbett - and did much to clarify the situation there. His map clearly indicated that the stream flowing into Growling Swallet once occupied a surface course flowing westerly into the Florentine River. It seems probable that this course was last occupied during the Last Glaciation (more than 10,000 years ago) when heavy gravel loads carried by the stream under cold climate conditions plugged the underground drainage. Geological mapping indicated, however, that underground drainage could not flow in the same direction as its path was blocked by the core of a NNW plunging anticline consisting of older non-calcareous rocks. If Growling Swallet water reached the Florentine it could do so only by flowing along the strike in a NNW direction. The only large resurgence in this direction is Lawrence Creek. But to do so the water would have to flow through an area of low relief which would have forced it close to the surface. Some surface evidence of such a route in the form of an alignment of collapse sinkholes could be expected but no such evidence could be found. In 1974 another geology honours student - Roger Whyte - re-mapped the Junee area and the geological structure that emerged clearly indicated that the water could flow predominantly along the strike of the rocks from Growling Swallet to Junee. Such a path would be shorter and have a steeper overall gradient than a flowpath to the Lawrence Creek Rising.

Since 1971 I had been keeping partial flow records at Junee Cave (Goede, 1973). Calculations of two rather different kinds based on these records showed that the Junee Rising drained an area of not less than 65 km². Once again this suggested that the Junee River drained a larger area than would be expected if Growling Swallet was not included in its catchment.

The programme to trace the path of Growling Swallet water began a few months ago when Leigh Gleeson of S.C.S. , using fluorescein supplied by that club and by the University of Tasmania, started tracing the water of several swallets located between Junee Cave and Growling Swallet. A stream sinking

near Satans Lair and another one further west near Rescue Pot were both traced successfully to Junee Cave using charcoal detectors both there and in the Tyenna River. The second tracing using two kgs. of fluorescein also yielded a visual confirmation.

Everything was now in readiness to trace the waters of Growling Swallet. The quantity of fluorescein decided on as a result of our experience with the earlier tracings was three kgs. and we estimated that if the water did emerge at Junee it would probably take two or three days.

The day of decision arrived. I inserted the fluorescein at the cave entrance at 12.35 p.m. on Thursday, 26th August and within the next 2½ hours charcoal detectors were placed at the Lawrence Creek Rising, the Tyenna River at the Florentine Road bridge and the Junee River inside the Junee Cave. Visual observation was planned for the following weekend and in addition my assistant, Denis Charlesworth would keep an eye on things while carrying out water sampling in the Junee area the following day. The president of the Maydena Branch of T.C.C., Max Jeffries, was also alerted.

The dye was first observed by Denis at 1.20 p.m. on Friday, 27th August while he was driving along the Junee Road towards the cave. At this time - 24 hrs 45 mins. after the insertion of the dye - it had already travelled some distance downstream of the resurgence so that the actual travel time from Growling Swallet to Junee was probably no more than 24 hrs. This is an incredibly fast time for such a long underground flowpath - a linear distance of 9.5 kms. It suggests that water is travelling through large conduits at high velocity.

When Max Jeffries observed the river at 4 p.m. on the same day it was brilliantly green all the way down to its junction with the Tyenna River and for some distance beyond.

The Junee Cave charcoal detector was collected at 10.45 a.m. on Saturday morning by which time no trace of the fluorescein remained in the river. The other two detectors were collected on Sunday - the Lawrence Creek one at 10.25 a.m. and the Tyenna River one at 4 p.m. When the charcoal samples were analyzed the Junee Cave one was strongly positive as expected while Lawrence Creek appeared to be negative. It is difficult to be certain about the Tyenna River sample as the water is strongly discoloured by organic acids but nevertheless there was at least a suggestion of a slight greenish tinge which may be due to fluorescein. Pending further tests the possibility must be considered that a small quantity of water from Growling Swallet finds its way into the Tyenna River upstream from the Florentine Road bridge.

The result of the water tracing experiments is that Growling Swallet's stream has been confirmed as the largest and probably the most distant source of the Junee River. The velocity of flow of the underground water suggests that

this is a highly efficient route and therefore one which has probably been in existence for a considerable period of time. The Junee area appears to have the potential of yielding the largest and most complex cave system anywhere in Australia if only a way can be found into it. The Junee master stream remains as elusive as ever but the recent new discoveries in Growling Swallet and Khazad-dum as well as the current exploration of The Chairman (JF-99) all seem to indicate that there are still many opportunities for a possible breakthrough.

References:

Corbett, K.D., 1963: Geology of the Florentine Valley area. B.Sc. Honours Thesis (unpubl.) Geology Dept., University of Tasmania.

Goede, A., 1973: Hydrological observations at the Junee resurgence and a brief regional description of the Junee area, Tasmania. Helictite 11(1), 3 - 24.

Hughes, T.D., 1957: Limestones in Tasmania. Geol. Surv. Min. Resources No.10. Tas. Dept. of Mines, 291 p.

Whyte, R.K., 1974: Stratigraphic, structural and sedimentological investigations of Cambro - Ordovician rocks between Maydena and Frodshams Gap. B.Sc. Honours Thesis (unpubl.) Geology Dept., Uni. of Tas. 163 p.



P R U S I K K N O T S : A R E T H E Y S A F E ??

An article in a recent edition of "Climber and Rambler" (which is the official journal of the British Mountaineering Council) gave some interesting and slightly unnerving facts about the strength of Prusik knots as occasionally used by climbers. Although definitely not recommended to cavers Prusik knots can be of use when changing ropes on a pitch or negotiating an overhang at the top of a pitch when using single rope techniques.

Three different knots were tested:

Prusik knot

Klemheist knot

Bachmann knot

using the following materials for the prusik loop:

No.1 Hawser Laid rope, No.2 Hawser Laid rope, 5 mm Kernmantel rope, 7 mm Kernmantel rope and 1/2 in. tape.

The idea of the tests was to subject the knot to a very severe shock and heavy load in similar circumstances to what would be found in climbing. The test rig consisted of a 140 lb. concrete block on a drop tower and a statometer to measure the maximum force.

A twelve foot length of Kernmantel rope (Edelweiss 11 mm) was attached to a statometer with a bowline at the top of the tower. A two to three foot loop of the material under test was attached to the rope by the required knot six feet below the meter. The other end of the loop was attached to the block by a karabiner. The drop was arranged by raising the block 6 feet from the static position which was 4 to 5 feet above the ground to allow for knot slip, rope stretch etcetera.

It is apparent from the results that there are certain materials which, if used with a particular knot, are very dangerous:

5 mm rope used in any form is dangerous if subjected to a shock load;

tape used in any form is just as dangerous as 5 mm with a shock load.

Tape over $\frac{1}{2}$ in. will slip under slight loads and can be dangerous when prusiking.

No.2 rope should not be used at all for prusiking as even very small shock loads will cause it to slip.

The two remaining ropes were reasonably efficient with the No.1 Hawser laid being the best. It can be used with any form of knot. 7 mm Kernmantel is not quite as good as No.1 but still quite trustworthy, particularly with the Klemheist knot.

It appears that the prusik knot used correctly with the right size of rope can be a very useful back-up system. If at any time one is unfortunate enough to fall whilst prusiking it is far better not to grab the knot itself but the rope beneath it, if possible. The prusik knot would definitely be a very useful system in making jumars a little safer (they have been known to break) by having a prusik knot above them and also when abseiling on very steep ground, a slack or loose prusik knot above the descendeur, being drawn down with the (gloved) hand, would be a very good back-up system just in case of a slip.

Stuart Nicholas.

Search and Rescue Practice Evening.

The Search and Rescue practice at the Police Garage on Sept.22 was well attended but there were a few notable absences. The parastretcher was carefully examined and tried out using firstly a thin person and then a somewhat more portly caver as "victims". One club member was "piggybacked" briefly by Col Hocking whilst trying out a back pack device for carrying an injured person in a harness on ones back. Another club member was left hanging in the same device on the end of the winch cable 15 ft. off the ground while the rest of the intrepid rescuers tinkered with the main works of the winch. A drag-mat was also tried out to the accompaniment of shrieks of delight(fright?) from the person on board. It is to be hoped that there will be many more such practice nights so that all can become familiar with the equipment.

TRIP REPORTS.

Junee Area - The Chairman - 12/9/76.

Party: Leigh Gleeson, John Parker, Steve Annan, Derek Shields and Graham Bailey.

Set off at about 10 a.m. - snow covered the ground and it snowed all the way as we walked through the forest which looked beautiful coated with snow. Derek, Graham and myself descended - with John and Leigh belaying. Derek explored upstream from the chamber mentioned in the last report and reported many passages leading on but once again we were short on ladders. Altogether we were down for about 5½ hours and after pulling up all the gear we arrived back at the cars at about 12.15 a.m., walking in rain this time - it was a change from the snow!

There's plenty more work to be done on this cave - but we have decided to wait till summer before we go down again.

Stephen Annan.

The Chairman Area (Junee) - 26/9/76.

Party: Max Jeffries, John Parker and Anne Annan.

The aim of the trip was to explore some of the holes John had previously found in the area below The Chairman(JF-99). Firstly we all went down a small hole - the entrance being a single ladder drop - which opened into a very pretty chamber with a lot of formation. The ceiling of the chamber has collapsed, blocking what seems to be the entrance to another chamber.

Next we moved on to a fissure about 100 yards from the former cave. John descended 60 ft; this cave seems to be very deep and well worth further work.

After lunch we went to the "mudslide" hole, previously explored on 26/6/76. John and I descended 240 ft. - with Max belaying - this was a further 60 ft. on from the previous limit of exploration. After a fairly tight squeeze at the 200 ft. level we came to a huge drop - and the end of our ladders. We all agreed that the position of the cave, the size of the drop we reached and the strength of the breeze coming through indicates that this cave could very possibly join with the Chairman system.

We hope to organize another joint T.C.C. - S.C.S. trip to further explore the cave. Arrived back at the cars at 6.30 p.m. after a very rewarding days caving in beautiful weather.

Anne Annan.

West Florentine area - 30/9/76.

Party: Max Jeffries, Danny Jackson (P) and Rex Petterwood (P).

As it was too windy to work I decided to have a look at a couple of caves recently reported in Lower Tiger area, West Florentine. Armed with two ladders, one cave light and a very weak torch plus two prospective members Danny Jackson and Rex Petterwood, we set off. Rex had discovered the holes in his felling coupe and directed us to same. The first hole turned out to be a beauty and quite easy to enter - about a 45% slope for approx 60 ft to a very large chamber with good formation with a couple of leads off. A small squeeze led to another sizeable chamber with straws galore but no further prospects. On returning we investigated another lead off to the right into another chamber with more decoration - moonmilk, straws, stalactites, etc. At this point Danny spotted what he reckoned was a large black snake, charged backwards, and told me I could "have your bloody caving on your own!". I finally convinced him that it was only some tree roots coming down from the surface and we pushed on through a crawl and then over a rock fall and into another chamber. From here we continued for approx. another 150 ft. but the lead petered out and further progress was stopped by formation. There could be a way on but with only one light and a temperamental torch we decided it was a bit risky to continue. In all some 300 ft. of good cave - largest and best in the West Florentine.

Emerged and headed for our next prospect approx. 300 yds. away, ENE of first cave. A large entrance with limestone outcrop in the middle. Rigged 90 ft. of rope and slid down the 60% slope to a large chamber with some decoration and apparently all leads blocked by rockfall. Upon a bit of investigation a very tight squeeze was found leading down through the rockfall. This required a ladder as it opened out into a 20 ft. drop. Danny went down and found himself in a decent sized stream passage

with some decoration. I followed through the squeeze(just) and down the ladder, and we proceeded to investigate, - downstream for approx. 100 ft (still goes) and upstream for about 150 ft.(blocked by formation). Returned to the bottom of the ladder drop to hear Rex yelling blue murder, thoroughly convinced we were both lost or dead and about to head off and fetch the search and rescue. We emerged looking like two balls of mud and highly delighted with our find. Poked around in another hole in the same area on our way back to cars but this one was a no-goer - a chamber and a sump. Had some dinner and then heard about a cave from a mate (Geoff Kennedy), who reckoned you could drive a train into it, so off we went again. The entrance was quite large - but straight down - so we rigged a couple of ladders and I talked Danny into going down while I belayed. The drop led to a creek but no leads without some digging so up gear and away. Home late and tried to convince our wives we'd had a hard days timber cutting - but the mud gave us away.

Max Jeffries.

.....

Cave Numbering.

Numbering was carried out by Laurie Moody and party on the 28th August.

JF - 99 The Chairman. A pothole recently discovered by members of the Maydena Branch of T.C.C. It has a 75 metre entrance pitch followed by several smaller pitches. So far the cave has not been fully explored but so far the depth has been estimated at 165 metres.

JF - 100 A small, partially explored swallet located a short distance from The Chairman. Number fixed to a tree. Partially explored by T.C.C.(M.B.)
Can anybody supply the editor with a full description of this cave?

LARGEST LAVA CAVE

Seven British explorers have found in Kenya what they believe to be the longest and deepest lava tube in the world. The tube or volcanic cave is in the Chyulu Hills, 150 miles east of Nairobi and is inhabited by red-necked bats and white scorpions.

Bob Davies, from Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, who led one of the two exploration parties, said the cave is at least seven miles long and 1,500 ft. deep. Until now, the longest known lava tube, in Hawaii, was about 6 miles long; the deepest was in the Canary Islands, at 1,400 ft.

The party spent ten days underground. The cave is in an uninhabited, waterless area and they had to take all supplies with them. The Britons, most of whom work in Kenya, are members of the Cave Exploration Group of East Africa. They have named the cave Leviathan.

The tube is caused by the cooling of a lava flow and is thought to be fairly recent - about 1,000 years old. Among the unexpected finds in it were items of pottery 400 years old and an ecology adapted to the complete blackness of the tube. A colony of red bats, for instance, nests more than a mile inside the tube.

(The above was reprinted from the June issue of "Climber and Rambler".)

Election of Two New Honorary Life Members.

At the September General Meeting Brian Collin and Frank Brown (Snr.) were elected as Honorary Life Members of the club. Frank Brown joined the club soon after its formation in 1946 and for twenty years played a very active part in its affairs. He served as president for a number of years. He is now a secondary school teacher at Scottsdale.

Brian Collin was a foundation member of UNSWSS and joined T.C.C. in 1966. For 8 years he played a very active part in club affairs. Together with his wife Jeanette he was responsible for many new discoveries. As club quartermaster and chief organiser he played a leading role in the exploration of Exit Cave, Kubla Khan, Khazad-dum, Mini Martin, Midnight Hole and many other caves. He also helped to pioneer the exploration of "new" karst areas at Mount Anne and Cracroft. The Collin home will be remembered as a popular meeting place of cavers for many years to come.

CLUB NEWS

+ On September 18th the Club's 30th birthday was celebrated in appropriate style at the Carlyle Hotel. Judging from the happy faces it was enjoyed by all. A beautifully made birthday cake prepared by Laurie Moody's mother was ceremoniously cut by a foundation member, Doug Turner, and a toast was proposed for the Club's continued well being. Entertainment for the evening included a male "stripper" - comedy act. Thanks go to Roy and Andrew Skinner who organised the dinner and aided its success.

+ Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to both Steve Annan and Laurie Moody who are both having operations this month. Steve is having a knee repaired so it won't impede his caving and Laurie wouldn't say what he was letting himself in for.

+ Southern Caving Society member, Graham Bailey, has extended an invitation to all to attend a barbeque to be held at his residence from Friday evening 29th Oct. to Sun. 31st. His house is the first place on the right after passing the road to Simpsons Bay, Bruny Island.

+ Forgoing the pleasures of caving for two weekends is Stuart Nicholas who has gone to the mainland to watch the Southern Cross Rally. He had hoped to contact Ross Bridges while in Sydney but Ross has somehow managed to get himself an all expenses paid trip to the U.S.A. and won't be returning till late October.

A group of cavers returned to the West Floretine area on Saturday, October 2nd, to further explore the caves investigated by Max Jeffries and party on the 30/9/76. Max once again led the intrepid cavers, namely Steve and Anne Annan, John Parker, Tim Jeffries and Therese Goede, and a very enjoyable five hours were spent caving. Some bones were collected from the second cave mentioned in Max's report and Tim, who decided he wasn't going to slither back along several hundred feet of low, muddy stream passage, did a human mole act and rapidly enlarged a small daylight hole at the end of the downstream passage. What started off as a fist sized opening ended up as a reasonable sized squeeze for three cavers who didn't want another mud bath. The others took a quick look at the upstream end of the cave and exited via the 20 ft. ladder pitch. A detailed report of the trip is being prepared by Anne Annan.

Caver say " Truckie with LARGE Mack truck prove considerable opposition on bend on A.N.M. road" - " RAISE MUCH DUST ". or to quote the truck driver:

" Who said bloody women can't drive!" So instead of going caving on Sunday all bar one of Saturdays cavers stayed indoors and watched the Hardie Ferodo !