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Speleo Spiel

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Speleo Spiel

Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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

Secretary: Peter Shaw, 53 Lord Street, Sandy Bay, 7005.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- June 24,25 - Weekend. Exit Cave. Any volunteers to lead it??
June 24,25 - Weekend. Mole Creek explorations. Plenty to do. No definite plans as yet. Leader: Peter Shaw.
July 1,2 - Day or weekend. Come for either day or the whole weekend. Saturday is surveying and further exploration in Gormenghast. Sunday is more exploration in the Growling Swallet area, possibly Trapdoor Swallet. Leader: Peter Shaw.
July 5 - Wednesday. General meeting at 8 Bath St., Battery Point. Refreshments and slides welcome. Mystery raffle prize provided by Albert.
July 8 - Saturday. Further exploration in JF 14. Leader: Phil Robinson.
July 22,23 - Weekend. Exit Cave explorations co-ordinated by that veteran Exit caver, Brian Collin.

EDITORIAL.

Contrary to last month's rash promises, still no details of the Khazad-dum expedition from Brian and Phil. The controversy over the use of ladders and an underground camp, as opposed to abseiling and prussiking in lightning day trips highlights the consequences of increased technology in caving. Can the club afford to maintain a large volume of ladders and fairly expensive abseiling/prussiking ropes as well? Who is going to use them? Does the introduction of single rope techniques herald the exploration of easier pots without ladders, and thereby limit the exploration to an even smaller handful than the present ladder-climbers. Almost anyone is willing to explore Exit Cave; a smaller number are willing to explore vertical caves e.g. Junee. How many will be involved in single rope explorations where weaker or less competent members are not allowed, because they cannot be assisted?

Trips this month have been run every weekend and have visited our four major caving areas. Newdegate was visited under very dry conditions and a gate placed on King George V Cave by Bill Lehmann and Roy Skinner. A new hole was explored at Ida Bay with little result. Tourist trips to Herberts Pot and Kubla Khan were held and some fruitful exploration in Nut Bath Cave, Cobbler Cooler and Atlantis Cave yielded 200, 400 and 800 feet of new passage respectively.

Two trips to Junee have explored the cave of the month reaching four hundred feet down in JF 14 with an estimated eighty foot shaft to follow. For the report on the second trip, see next months Spiel. JF 14 is located directly above the final chamber in Khazad-dum but its entrance is two hundred feet lower. When you realize that the top of the final chamber in Khazad-dum is at the 800 ft. level, the next trip to JF 14 could be very exciting.

Peter Shaw.

New Members.

Welcome to the following prospective members:

Stuart Gamble, P.O., Dover, 7116.

Robert Reid, 20 Reids Road, Fern Tree.

Chris(Basil) Rathbone, 76 View Street, Sandy Bay, 7005.

Sally Lowe, 4/196 Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay, 7005.

Congratulations to the following who were accepted as full members at the last meeting:

Richard Bloomfield, 4 Wentworth Street, Bellrive, 7016. (Junior)

Rosalind Bell, 40 Grove Road, Glenorchy, 7010.

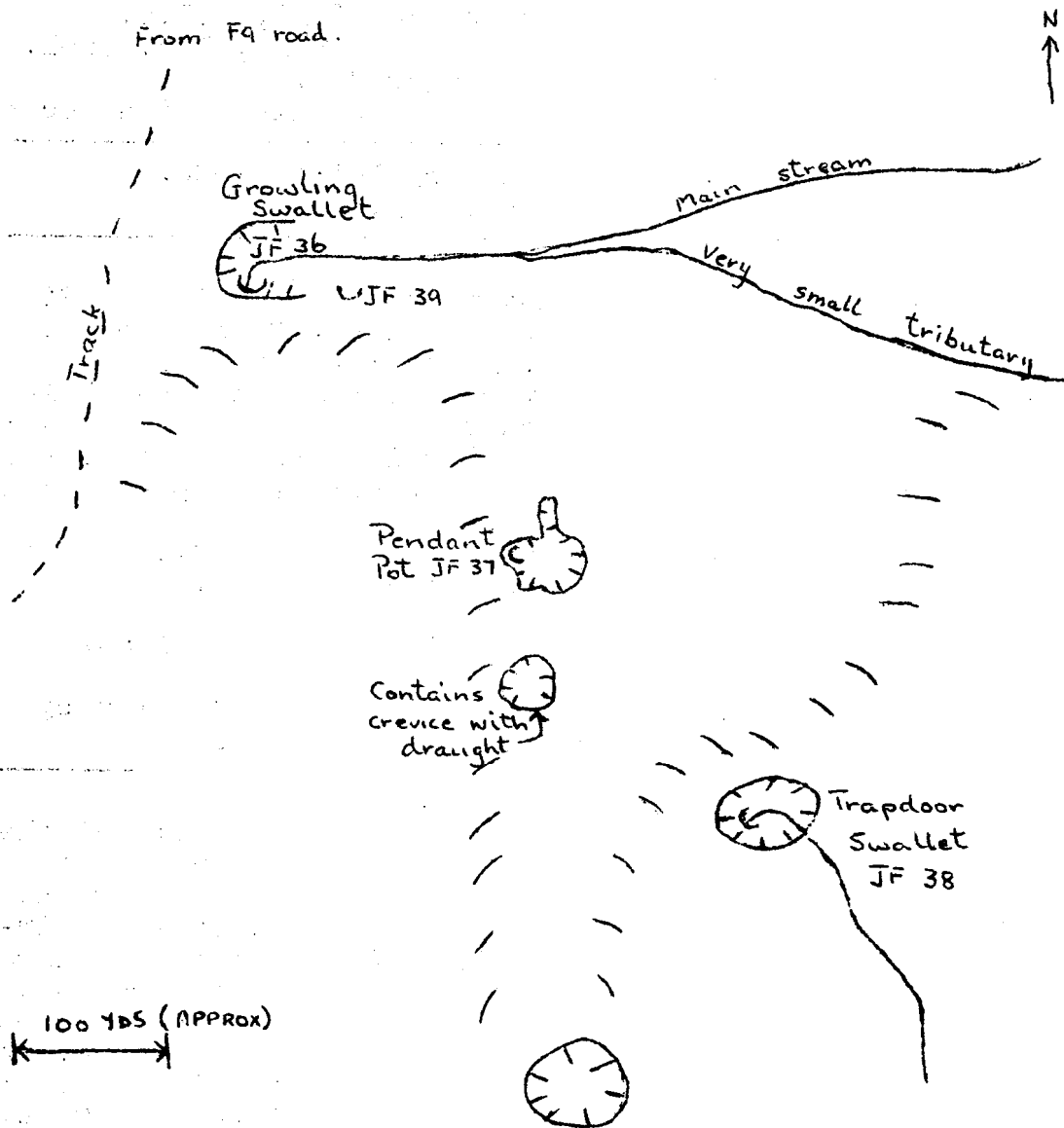
Ross Mansfield, 280 Park Street, North Hobart, 7000.

TRIP REPORTS.

Mole Creek - 20,21/5/72.

Party: Peter Shaw, Joe Donnelly, Ron Akhurst, David Cripps and Richard Bloomfield.

The aim of the weekend was to have a look at the upstream section of Herberts Pot. After camping at Marakoopa hut on Friday night, we

GROWLING SWALLET AREA. (See previous Spiel.)

were underground by eleven o'clock and reached the stream just over two hours later. After a short break we set off upstream in a beautiful piece of stream passage consisting of a series of pools, some deeper than others. By various precarious manoeuvres, nobody got more than thigh deep and we were soon gathered at a pool into which thundered a thirty foot waterfall. An attempt to locate the route around the waterfall proved fruitless, although some pretty formations were found in the upper levels. The highlight of this search must have been when I did a rather airy traverse in the roof of the stream passage in the belief that I was going upstream, when in reality I was going downstream. On our return downstream, Joe and David fell in up to their waists which provided good entertainment for the rest of the party. By eight o'clock we were out of the cave after a pleasant nine hours underground. For wading in the pools I wore waterproof trousers tucked into wetsuit boots and found that these kept me warm if not completely dry.

On Sunday we had a look at Genghis Khan which is near the upper entrance to Kubla. Although not very extensive (mainly one large chamber), it has some nice formations in the side chambers especially some beautiful helictites in one section. Two hours was sufficient to have an easy tourist trip through it. At no point are you more than fifteen minutes from the entrance.

Peter Shaw.

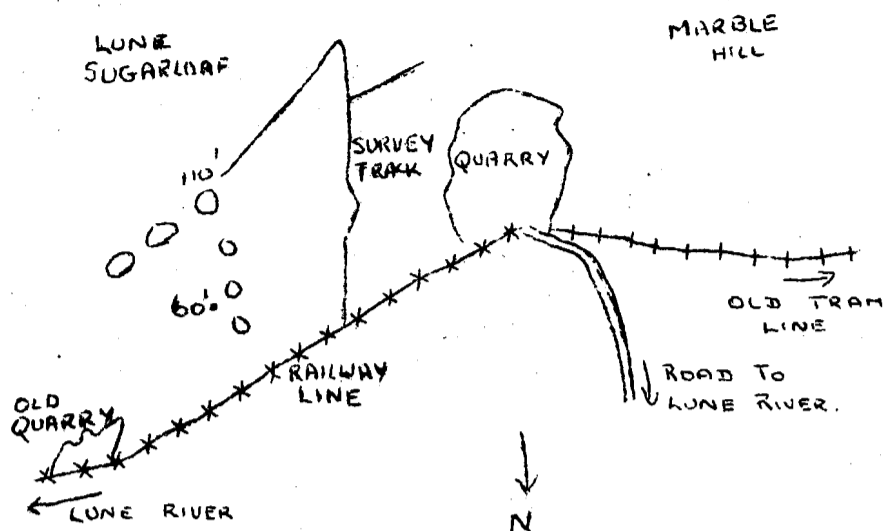
Ida Bay - 27/5/72.

Party: Phil Robinson, Stuart Nicholas, Ross Mansfield and Bob Reid.

Rumours of sinkholes on Marble Hill are not uncommon - but an access track too? Survey lines had been cut around the mining lease boundary. Following a friend's directions to our surprise, we landed on Lune Sugarloaf. The 'big' sinkhole was soon located on the dolerite/limestone boundary. It is about 100' across and supplied by a small trickle on rainy days. Bob eagerly descended a 10' climb then down through wedged boulders to a pitch requiring tackle. A 30' ladder was followed by a 20 footer to a choke. Philip, Ross and Bob reached the bottom. A dig through a squeeze was abandoned after a short while. Stuart wasn't interested. After all the new find was

only 110 feet deep.

Rough sketch.



The contact was followed down the hill to reveal several small depressions. No potholes. Also round the hill two large sinkholes. Philip nearly stumbled into a hole concealed by scrub. Clearing the vegetation yielded a 6' diameter shaft. Stuart was volunteered down a muddy 60' pitch. Bob and Ross also had a little ladder practice.
Philip Robinson.

June - JF 14. - 3/6/72.

Party: Philip Robinson (leader), Noel White, Stuart Nicholas, David Cripps, Ron Akhurst, Ross Mansfield, Nick and Helen Cummings and Mieke Vermeulen.

Half the trip(?) was spent gardening pebbles from the head of the second pitch. Previous exploration had halted at the base of the 70' entrance pitch. From here a descent of about 40' through jammed(?) blocks saw Ross and Noel jumping up and down on loose boulders and rubble. A lifeline was attached to Ross who once again jumped up and down. "There's a b...y big one perched just on the edge! I need a geology pick". Bang, tinkle, boom --- (\$8.00 pick and boulder now down shaft.) Ladder was eventually rigged, Philip and Ross descending an 85' shaft (ledges at 15' and 45'). Noel, Stuart, David, Ron, Helen and Nick stayed at the top. At this stage it was too dangerous for more to go down. A small passage approx. 4' high led down via two 10' climbs and a crawl to a further pitch. This was a 15 footer through a tiny hole. A further 10' drop to a squeeze. Digging enlarged it enough for Ross to enter and find a further vertical drop. No tackle so a return was made. Depth reached approx. 260'. At -220' a dry narrow stream passage was followed to a tight crevice. Rocks fell for 2-3 seconds. A large shaft was also found off the base of the 85' pitch - a 3-4 sec. fall. Three ways on. JF 14 goes - - - down!!

On the surface it was raining and muddy. For those who had patiently waited, 3 holes near JF 3 were explored; unfortunately to no great distance. JF 41 is a dry 70' shaft, blocked. JF 42 - 60' deep, a 4' diameter tube at 60-70'. A third, 10' from JF 41 joined with JF 41. A few undescended potholes still remain in this area.

Philip Robinson.

Hastings - 3,4/6/72.

Party: Saturday - Bill Lehmann, Peter Shaw, Delia Maloney, Andrew Skinner, Ros. Bell and Sally Morris.

Sunday: Bill Lehmann, Roy Skinner and Wes Carpenter.

After a delayed start from Hobart we met up with Sally at Lower Longley and went on to Hastings, rather slowly as Sally was carrying 4 large people and full packs in her 'beetle' and I had an iron gate cement and various other assorted pieces of ironmongery along with myself and Delia and two packs in my 'beetle'. We arrived safely at various times during the morning and after coffee courtesy of Mrs. Skinner, Bill, Peter, Sally, Delia and Roy Skinner carried the cement, gate, frame etc. up to King George V Cave in preparation for gating it the next day.

After lunch back at the restaurant we proceeded up to the tourist cave, trogged up and went underground. We first had a look at the "Pophole" and after having a quite good time looking about we went back to the main tourist section in preparation to go into Hells Half Acre via Binney Tunnel and Mystery Chamber. The trip back had one amusing incident when Delia decided that she was not wet enough

and fell into a large pool of water, scaring the daylighters out of a tourist party who happened to be passing by in a higher passage of the cave. We had a short stop while Bill and Peter ran back through the cave and down to the cars to get replacement headlights for two people who had neglected to get theirs charged.

The trip through to Hells Half Acre was very uneventful because the creek had dried up and only left a few pools of water in the passage so all the fun of trying to get through usually very wet and slippery mud was missed out on.

On the way out we met up with a party led by Kevin Kiernan who were having a look around the cave.

On Sunday while the others went for a walk to South Cape Bay, Roy and Bill, with the help of Wes who drove down especially from Hobart, cemented the gate into the entrance of King George V Cave. The keys for the gate will be held by the Head Ranger at Hastings.

Bill Lehmann.

Mole Creek - 11,12/6/72.

Party: Peter Shaw and Bill Lehmann.

With one wet suit for two people, we set out to push two caves that I had previously left with exploration incomplete due to low, wet nature of the passages. First we headed for Nut-Bath Cave whose upstream passage was unexplored. Leaving Bill on a suitable dry perch I crawled upstream for a hundred feet to a small chamber with the stream emerging from a sump. After a bit of work, a three inch air space was hammered out and there was no choice but to continue. Never done a duck before. Is there room on the other side? Grope with hands. Yes, plenty of room for head. Water is cold. What if I get my lamp cord snagged?? Remove all possible projections. Now or never! Deep breath. Ker-splloosh.--.!. Easy! After sixty feet the stream emerged from between two large boulders. Impossible. An upper level continued for thirty feet but closed off. Exploration complete. Back to the duck. Easy this time. Into the water and oops!?!?. Not quite the right direction. Head comes up in side of passage instead of centre, a valuable lesson.

Back on the surface we headed down to the "Cobbler Cooler". At the previous upstream limit, we waded a pool to a junction with the muddy Nut-Bath Cave water coming in from the right and clear water from the left. A low crawl brought us to a neck deep pool with a narrow vertical slot on the far side. Getting through the slot was tricky the widest part being at the water line. More wet crawling and we eventually arrived at a sump. Back at the stream junction we headed up the stream coming from Nut-Bath Cave. Several low bits and some slippery mud brought us to the sump. Two hundred feet of new passage was explored in the left hand stream and one hundred and eighty feet in the right hand stream.

After lunch we headed for My Cave and had a quick trip through the cave with a pause for a wallow in the sump, before returning to the hut.

On Monday, we set off for a quick dig in a hole I had found previously in the right hand valley above Marakoopa. On the way up the valley, I showed Bill a hole which had gone for a hundred feet before sumping, and waited at the entrance while he looked at the cave. Fifteen minutes later, Bill emerged and doubted my estimate of one hundred feet. "Did you see the water?" .. "No". "What happens?" .. "It's still going" .. "How big?" . "Enough to walk in" ... "Let's go!"

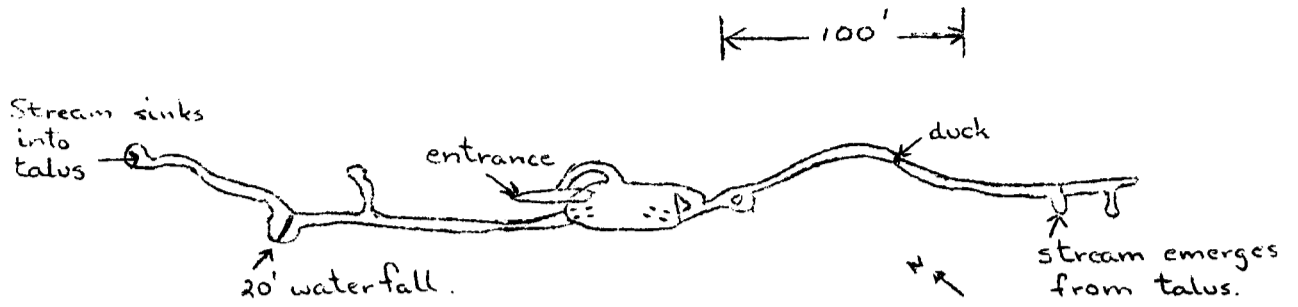
After several hundred feet of fairly low passage we reached a T junction and turned left in passages which must usually fill to the roof. At the end of the passage a low crawl led off and a dig was commenced. Several hours and twenty feet later we decided we had had enough and returned to the T junction to explore the right hand passage. This led through a deep dry sump into a chamber fifty feet high, seventy feet long and thirty feet wide. All walls were coated with mud with no passages leading off.

Scope for exploration on the hill above this cave is good as a high aven near the site of our dig contained several sizable pieces of wood at its foot. Proposed name for this cave is "Atlantis Cave".

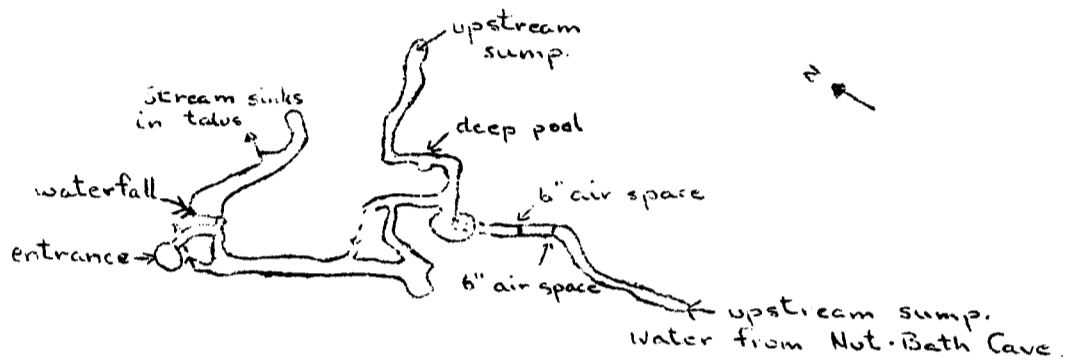
Peter Shaw.

NUT-BATH CAVE.

C.R.G. Grade 1.



"COBBLER COOLER".



ATLANTIS CAVE.

