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Speleo Spiel

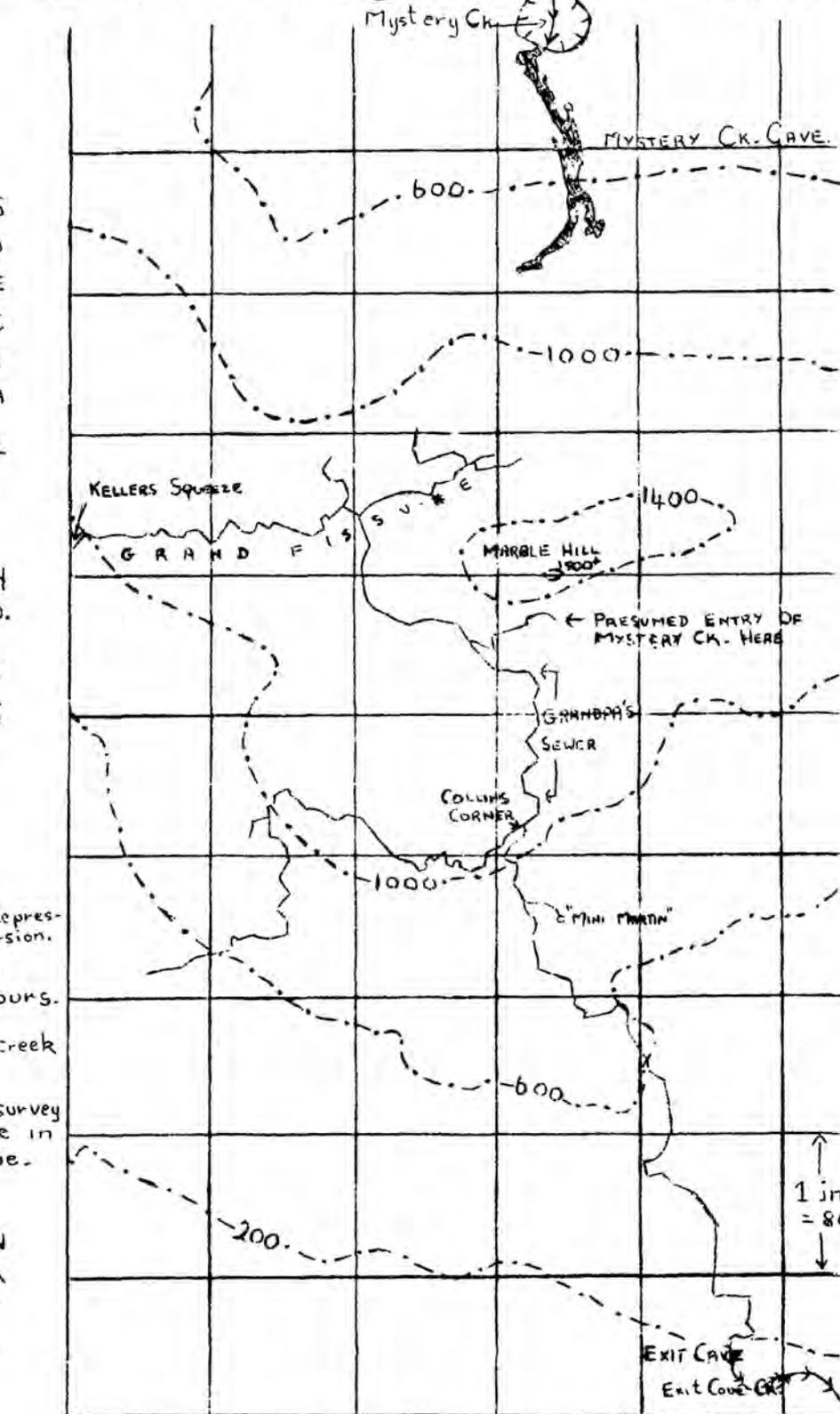
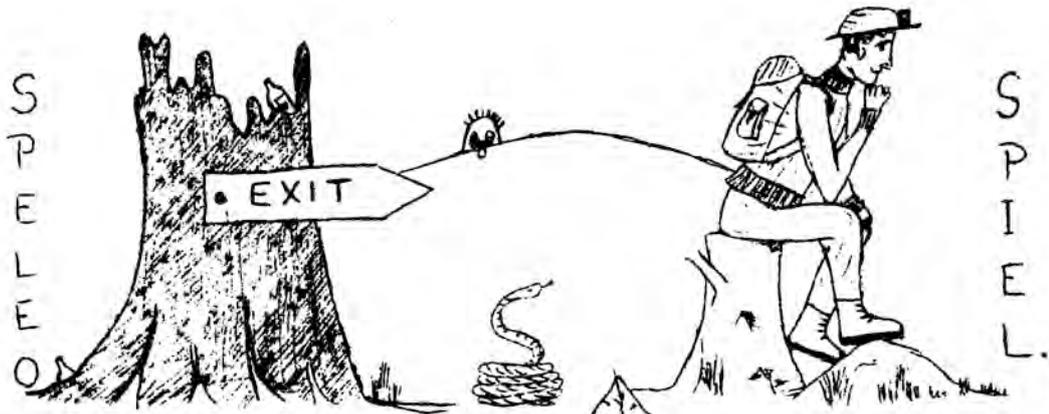
Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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- depression.
- contours.
- creek
- survey route in cave.



1 inch = 800 feet.

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(page 2.)

T.C.C., Box 641 G, G.P.O., Hobart, Tas. 7001.

President: Albert Goede, 8 Bath St., Battery Point, Hobart 7000

Secretary: Mrs. Joan Brabon, 122 Augusta Rd., Lenah Valley 7008

Editorial - Exit, Exit, Exit, EXIT!!!!

This issue of the Spiel is dedicated to our favourite cave - Exit Cave. This month it is one year ago since the last track cutting party completed the "Brooker Highway". At that time approximately one mile of passages was known of which half had been roughly traversed using a compass and nylon rope. Now, one year later, nearly four miles of passages has been traversed & another two miles is known but not yet mapped. This makes a grand total of some six miles of passages. Although the most obvious leads have been followed up exploration is by no means complete. The last major discovery was made in the weekend of May 13, 14th when a breakthrough at Keller's Squeeze added another mile most of which has already been surveyed. The new extension is at least two miles from the entrance and has extended the cave almost to the steep sided valley to the west of Marble Hill (official name of Cave Hill). The presence of cave wetas and a number of skeletons suggest that the new extension is close to the surface and we hope to find another entrance.

The greatest discovery was the location of the surface entrance of "Mini Martin". The bottom of this shaft was first discovered early this year and caused considerable excitement because although it was 400-500 feet below the surface several logs were found at the bottom and several members who looked up claimed they could see a glimmer of daylight. On a later visit a stem of a manfern was found in the process of sprouting a new leaf. This proved beyond doubt that there was a direct connection with the surface.

The next task was to locate the surface entrance to the hole. A party led by Brian Collin ran a survey up the hill to the known potholes along the Kokoda Trail (24-25 June.) The survey indicated that the hole should be located approx. 250 ft. uphill from the Kokoda Trail in the vicinity of Big Tree Pot. Last weekend (8-9 July) Brian and Jeanette went up to search for it and found it within 100 feet of the position indicated by the survey. The hole is a fissure approx. 10 feet wide and 50 feet long. Stones dropped down the hole fell for 7 seconds although bouncing several times. A strong draught coming out also indicates that the hole connects with Exit Cave down below. We are now faced with the task of exploring it - by no means an easy one. When a connection is made with Exit Cave the combined depth will be between 600 and 700 ft - a new Australian depth record. The location of "Mini Martin" is a triumph for the surveyors as the survey involved some 70 underground stations and 172 surface stations.

Preservation of Exit Cave.

The Scenery Preservation Board has considered our request to declare an area around the entrance to Exit Cave a scenic reserve. As a result Mr. F. Southey, the Director of the Tourist Bureau and a member of the Board has been requested to visit the

cave, and make a personal inspection. Mr. Southey has contacted the Club and we are hoping to arrange the trip some time in September.

Exit Cave Nomenclature.

At the last general meeting a number of names were suggested for parts of Exit Cave. As most of the Exit explorers were not present the list is published here for further comments. In the old part of the cave:

- The Windtunnel - the passage by-passing deep water just upstream from the entrance chamber.
- The Colonnades - a row of white flowstone columns in a low-roofed chamber some 100 ft. above creek level.
- The Dairy - the upper level running parallel to the main cave as far as the scree. Name suggested because of the abundance of "moonmilk".
- The Pendulum - a straw in the dairy which has a ball of "moonmilk" suspended from its tip.
- Sibs Extension - an extension beyond the scree discovered in November 1961 by a party of students led by Sib McIntyre.

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Sally's Rock - a tricky climb up large talus near the beginning of Sib Extension.

In the new extensions.

- The Letterbox - a horizontal slit which provides an alternate route into the extensions beyond the scree.
- Mini Martin - the large shaft found to the east of station 67.
- Collins Corner - the large chamber in which camp site 2 is located.
- Grandpa's Sewer - the low-roofed section of the main stream passage beyond camp site 2.
- Grand Fissure - The spectacular fissure which crosses the main cave at station 100.
- Kellers Squeeze - the difficult squeeze through which the recent extensions at the west end of the Grand Fissure were first entered.
- Camp Pie Circuit - the system of passages which by-passes Kellers Squeeze.
- The Lost Squeeze - a squeeze leading off Camp Pie Circuit (not yet explored.)
- Skeleton Passage - the small stream passage in which a number of skeletons were found.
- Oh Junction - the junction at which the Skeleton Passage joins the main creek passage.
- Acoustic Chamber - a high narrow chamber found in the new extension beyond Oh Junction.

Mount Anne(?) Committee.

The Mount Anne committee is divided on whether or not to organise a trip to Mt. Anne next Christmas after the disappointing results of the June long weekend trip (see trip report). A trip to Flinders Island has been suggested as a possible alternative.

Matchings and Dispatchings.

Our best wishes for the future to Brian and Jeanette Collin who were married last month. Their only complaint was that they had to take a weekend off from caving to take the plunge.

We said farewell to Clive and Sally Morris who have both been club members for a number of years. They have gone to Geraldton, W.A. Good luck and let us know if you find any caves out there.

Caving tragedy.

Six potholers were drowned last month in the Mossdale Caverns, Grassington, England when heavy rain flooded the cave system they were exploring. Four other members of the party returned to the surface just in time and raised the alarm. The large number of caving accidents in Britain in recent years and the high cost of rescue operations has led to demands in the local press that the more dangerous caves should be sealed off. Don't think that it couldn't happen here. A similar accident could happen in Growling Swallet after flooding caused by heavy rain or through melting snow on the higher slopes. Another danger are siphons which are only open after a long dry spell, e.g. the second siphon in Marakoopa.

Scout Shop purchases.

All club members are entitled to a 10% discount on equipment purchased from the Scout Shop provided the purchase is made through the club. If you want to buy anything find out the cost including discount. Then pay the amount to the club and Joan or Albert will supply you with an order form which is then presented at the Scout Shop.

T.C.C. (Gowrie Park.) - To be or not to be?

A letter was recently received from Bob Woolhouse stating that a group of people in Gowrie Park was interested in caving and had applied to join T.C.C.N.B. Bob had replied that the Northern Branch preferred to see them form a separate group to be known as T.C.C. (Gowrie Park) using the same membership cards as T.C.C.N.B. and ourselves. The matter was discussed at the last meeting and it was decided unanimously that we could not let people we did not know use our name and membership cards. It was pointed out that the situation was rather different from the one existing at the time the Northern Branch was formed.

TRIP REPORTS.

Exit Cave - 13-14 May, 1967.

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Party: Brian Collin, Jeanette Maclaine, Sib McIntyre, Allan Keller, John Marshall.

Brian and Jeanette replaced the Manila rope at the entrance with Nylon and made several other improvements at this crossing, anchored the bridge down with rope and eyebolts and placed four eyebolts at the D'Entrecasteaux crossing as hand holds around the large rock. Allan, Sib and John discovered some 4,000 feet of new cave and a squeeze hole now hated by all in the area west of station S 68 in the passage west of the Grand Fissure.

B.R. Collin.

Satan's Lair - Sunday 21-5-67.

Party: Brian Collin, Jeanette Maclaine, Clive and Sally Morris, Allan Keller, Peter Brabon, Bill Hodge, Kees Sparreboom.

Several S.C.S. members led by Bob Cockerel [sic] showed our party the cave entrance and explained the technical details required to quickly negotiate the hole.

Allan, Peter, Kees and Brian enjoyed five hours of vigorous caving which involved 2/60ft., 1/70ft., 3/30ft., ladder pitches and several short rope pitches, unfortunately time only allowed some 15 minutes in the cavern at the foot of the last drop. Very few formations were seen and some dangerous scree exists near the entrance.

Our thanks to the S.C.S. especially Bob Cockerel, for showing us the cave and our congratulations to them for their efforts in diverting the creek and finding the way through the scree.

B.R. Collin.

Exit Cave - 27-28 May, 1967.

Party: Allan Keller (leader), Mike and Kerin Hall, and Kees Sparreboom 2nd caving trip.)

Left at 7 p.m. Friday and drove down to start of track in rain and fog. Walked in to Exit entrance in 3 hours over slippery logs in the rain and were surprised to find the creek low. We camped at the first camp site 20 mins. inside after I had recovered my Trog. light from the creek, it had lain there a fortnight but I still found 2 hrs. light in the carbide.

On Saturday we packed our gear to the main camp site and went through the crawl at the end of the Grand Fissure, West Extension to begin exploration there. We followed the creek upstream until we came to a right fork and followed it to a dead end after finding the skeleton of what may be a small Tasmanian Tiger. We then mapped this to the creek and explored up the main creek which ended in a high acoustic fissure and traversed back to the crawl. One feature on the way back was a large side passage where progress was barred because of lack of a ladder. There were numerous other side passages and the total traversed was about 1,500 ft. We arrived back at camp moderately tired after 12 hrs. of trogging. Next day three of us went back through the crawl and mapped 1,800 ft. odd of the previous trip's exploration to the north and east of the crawl. There is at least another 1,000 ft. to be traversed in this area, and the creek in the main passage there, seems to be the upper section of Exit Creek. Our four hours went fast so we then walked out of the cave to find the outer world also in darkness and walked to the road under a starry sky. The rest of the trip was uneventful except for two punctures on the way to Roy's for coffee and the fact that Kees and I were locked out of the Y.M.C.A. We arrived in Hobart at 1 a.m.

A. Keller.

Cave Exploration Mount Anne, North East Ridge - 10 - 12 June.

Party: Allan Keller (leader), John Marshall, Tim Walkden Brawn [sic], Ray Alcock.

Left Hobart in John's car at 6.30 p.m. Friday and arrived at Frodshams Pass on the Gordon Road at 9.30, after having a welcome coffee with Mike and Kerin Hall in the old Needles Heliport Hut.

We walked over the frosty ground and ice covered mudholes for three hours on the Port Davey track to camp in the basin just over the Mt. Bowes saddle at 2 a.m.

Saturday dawned rainy and misty so set off at 7.45 a.m. took a short cut to the Sandfly Ck. flats through a mildly scrubby saddle, walked to the start of the spur and had dinner. Still rainy but set off after the compass point for 1½ hours through the Horizontal Scrub zone, then toiled up the wet climb through the Myrtle - Man Fern zone, the Cutting Grass - Bauera zone, so finally 4 pessimistic

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figures surmounted the final Fagus-Scoparia zone to stand wet and exhausted on the N.E. Ridge a mere 50 yds. off course. Pitched camp on shelf by torch light.

A frosty morning but fine day. Into wet clothes and away. Tim and Ray went peak bagging on Mt. Anne and Mt. Eliza. While John and I sorted out ladders, torches and rope and headed through the scrub to the first hole. We climbed down a gully to the bottom of the first Doline using 120 ft. nylon hand rail. Crawled 20' along fissure, climbed down 15' of joined slings into rocky passage about 100' long to find that it fissures out, with no hope of further exploration. Then up to the sunlight and along to No. 2 Doline where we unravelled the three ladders and rope and anchored and belayed to knobs of rock. A nice vertical ladder drop with the bottom 40' overhanging, the ninety ft. ladder was 10' short but climbed the rest on rope, this also disappointing as the longest side passage was 15 ft.

Watched the sun go down and walked to camp over the frosty grass and watched the ice forming on the water. Next morning tents etc. were stiff with ice and the valleys were a sea of mist and so the dreaded lurgie struck again. Started down ridge at 9.30 and sidled a bit to the right and became entangled in some quite healthy Horizontal Scrub but struck the button grass in three hours. Used torches from the basin on Mt. Bowes to the road, scraped the ice off the windscreen of John's car when we reached the road at 8.45 p.m. and drove to Hobart and a hot meal etc.

A. Keller.

Exit Cave - 24-25 June, 1967.

Party: outside - Brian and Jeanette Collin, Mike and Kerin Hall, Donald Fraser.

Traverse completed from station 1 at the entrance to Exit Cave to Machete Pot and onto the supposed top of the big log hole. The plot of the traverse shows that Machete Pot is directly over station M.59 in the cave and that the supposed top of the big log hole is about 400 feet to the N.E. out of position.

If the surveys are accurate and the big log hole is vertical the top of it should be found approx. 250 feet uphill from the Kokoda Trail. Next trip will prove it fact of fiction.

Technical: Survey. Prismatic compass, 100ft. tape, Abney level. 172 stations for 4241 feet, average 25 feet per station. From Abney level max. height reached above entrance to cave 680 feet, however due to a possible Zero error in the Abney level this could be 100' less.

B. Collin.

Report on inside party in next Spiel.

Forward Programme.

- July 15,16 - Hastings, Ida Bay. Improving "Brooker Highway" on Sunday using chainsaws to remove logs. B. Collin leader.
- July 22, 23 - Descent of Mini Martin to try and link up with Exit Cave. John Marshall leader.
- August 5, 6 - Mole Creek. Leader Rodney Hughes.
- August 8 - General Meeting. 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, 8 p.m. Ten cents for supper, bring your mug for coffee.
- August 19, 20 - Exit Cave. Leader Brian Collin.
- August 23 - Committee Meeting. 5 Bayley Street, Glebe.
- November 25 - Combined Coming of Age - Christmas Dinner. Waratah Hotel. Time will be announced in next Spiel when final arrangements have been made.

IF THERE IS A CROSS BELOW YOU ARE GUILTY OF BEING UNFINANCIAL.



Please let us have it straight away or you won't be receiving the next Spiel with the exciting report on the attempt to break the Australian cave depth record. On the next page is a list of financial members. Are you listed??

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List of Financial Members 1967 - 68.

Brabon, Joan (Mrs.)	122 Augusta Rd., Lenah Valley, Tas. 7008.	F.
Brabon, Peter	122 Augusta Rd., Lenah Valley, Tas. 7008.	F.
Booth, Robin	2 Nightingale Ave., Tarooma.	F.
Boyle, John	48 Tangerine St., Fairfield East, Sydney.	Ass.
Carey, S.W. Prof.	24 Richardsons Ave., Dynnyrne.	L.M.
Collin, Brian Flat	9, Grosvenor Flats, Sandy Bay.	F.
Collin, Jeanette (Mrs.)	Flat 9, Grosvenor Flats, Sandy Bay.	F.
Farley, Ian	Savage River, Tasmania.	F.
Farley, Stella (Mrs.)	Savage River, Tasmania.	F.
Fraser, Donald	1 Woolton Place, Sandy Bay.	J.
Goede, Albert	8 Bath Street, Battery Point.	L.M.
Goede, Therese (Mrs.)	8 Bath Street, Battery Point.	F.
Hall, Mike	2 Patrick St. Hobart.	F.
Hall, Kerin (Mrs.)	2 Patrick St. Hobart.	F.
Harrold, Peter	5 Colville Street, Battery Point.	F.
Hughes, Rodney	2 Cane St., West Hobart.	F.
Hodge, William	5 Bayley St., Glebe.	J.
Jagoe, Mike	Springvale Hostel, New Town.	F.
Kent, Ron	33 Driffield St., Queenstown.	F.
Kent, Bruce	33 Driffield St., Queenstown.	J.
Keller, Allan		F.
Marshall, John	141 Murray St., Hobart.	F.
Morris, Clive	Geraldton, W.A.	F.
Morris, Sally (Mrs.)	Geraldton, W.A.	F.
McIntyre, Elisabeth (Miss)	2 Patrick St., Hobart.	F.
Meerding, Henk	Gourlay Street, Blackmans Bay.	F.
Plaister, John	4 Central Ave., Moonah.	J.
Reid, Denis	47 Barossa Rd., Lenah Valley.	J.
Seymour, Denis	4 Clarke Ave., Battery Point.	F.
Skinner, Pam (Mrs.)	Chalet, Hastings.	Ass.
Skinner, Roy	Chalet, Hastings.	Ass.
Skinner, Andrew	Chalet, Hastings.	J.
Smith, Edith (Miss)	89 Lansdowne Cres., West Hobart.	L.M.
Surtees, William	2 Denison Street, Queenstown	F.
Turner, Douglas	79 Riawena Rd., Lindisfarne.	F.
Wallace, Roland	18 Cheverton Parade, Sandy Bay.	J.