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Speleo Spiel

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Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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(Published monthly by the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, Est. 1946.)

President: Albert Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, Hobart.
Secretary: Mrs. Joan Brabon, 122 Augusta Rd., Lenah Valley.

Subscriptions.

The treasurer still has a lot of unfinancial members on his books. A list of financial members will be included in the next Spiel so please get your subs. to Peter quick smart. If a cross appears in the square below you are in the RED. Unless you do something about it this will be your last copy of the Spiel.



Prospective Members.

Christopher Jones, 42 Princess Street, Sandy Bay.
David Jordan, 20 Bath Street, Battery Point.

Welcome to the mob!

W.C.O.C. Dinner.

The West Coast Outdoor Club is holding its third birthday dinner at the Queenstown Hotel on the 24th of June. All our members are invited to help them celebrate the happy occasion. Cost of the dinner is \$2.60 and accommodation will be arranged. Dinner will start at 7 p.m. Meeting in the cabaret at 6.30 for pre-dinner drinks. For those who need a revive the next day a "short" walk is organised to the top of King Billy Hill where a barbecue lunch will be cooked. If you intend going let the secretary know as soon as possible.

Diprotodon newsflash! (or flashnews?)

Our new diprotodon has given plenty of excitement since the arrival of the magnesium powder from South Australia.

The first test firing was held near the geology building amidst a large crowd of onlookers but was cut short when powder started pouring over Albert's trousers from a leaky valve.

A few days later that trouble had been overcome and a second attempt was made. However nobody could get the beast to burn, not even when we resorted to drastic treatment with an oxy-acetylene torch. Bill nearly suffered an untimely death by immolation after he trod on some powder which we thought had been extinguished. Suspicion fell on the powder and murmurings were heard about C.E.G.S.A. crooks who mix magnesium powder with other ingredients to sell it cheap to other clubs. However examination under the microscope soon dispelled these unworthy thoughts. Another theory was put forward that too much air was dispersing the powder before it had a chance to ignite.

The third test was held at the June general meeting in the President's backyard. Reducing the air supply proved to be the answer and the test was a great success. In fact the beast performed so well that it burned a large hole in the reflector. A

tap will be fitted to the air supply and we hope to have our "dip" fully operational in a few days time. Our thanks to Bill Petersen who spent much time and effort in constructing the device.

Mount Anne Sub-Committee.

At the last committee meeting it was decided to form a Mt. Anne sub-committee to deal with the planning involved in organizing a major expedition to Mt. Anne next summer. Those elected were Brian Collin (convenor), Jeanette Collin (she will be by the time you read this), Allan Keller and Sib McIntyre. All four were members of last summer's reconnaissance expedition and anybody who has seen their slides will understand why they want to go again. Details of the sub-committee's plans will be published in the next Spiel.

Library.

Mr. Wallace of 18 Cheverton Parade, Sandy Bay has been appointed acting librarian and has taken over the club library. He is in the progress of re-organizing and cataloguing and would appreciate the prompt return of journals still out on loan.

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Albert is still looking after the archives.

Exit Cave Nomenclature.

At the last general meeting the lack of names for many interesting parts of Exit Cave was pointed out. It was suggested that at the next general meeting a special session be held to discuss suitable names. So put on your thinking cap, ye Exit Cave explorers, and come up with some suggestions!

NEW GUINEA NEWS.

Some caving news in a recent letter from Harry de Vries in New Guinea.

"Some 6 weeks ago I had to do a business trip to the highlands of New Guinea and one spot to visit was called Kundiawa. This place is reached by small planes such as Cessnas or Piaggios from Goroka or by truck (road).

Anyway I flew by M.A.L.'s 'pig'. On the way over we flew between huge cliff faces of limestone which aroused my caving instincts. When we landed I immediately started asking questions and a patrol officer gave me the following information. There are three large caves in this particular belt of mountains:

1. Queen's Cave at Kundiawa.
2. Chuave Cave at Chuave.
3. Hell's Gate at Kianantu.

Roughly this is what they are supposed to be like.

Hell's Gate. Approximately 15 minutes walk from the road between Henganofi and Lufa, 5 miles from Henganofi. The road is suitable only for four-wheel drive. The walking track descends some 300' below road level and crosses several streams. The entrance is a rectangular hole 180' deep, 80' long and 40' wide. From the floor of the hole a passage about 80' wide and in some places 100' high runs northward some 1000'. Diving gear is required to explore the system. The bottom of the cave in places cannot be seen from

passage ways. A main chamber has an entrance drop of 180' which naturally requires a sturdy ladder and plenty of equipment. His remarks were 'A very interesting cave'.

Queen's Cave. This is by far the largest of several caves in the Chuave area. The cave is situated about nine miles from Kundiawa (can be seen approx. from airport.) It can only be reached by 4-wheel drive plus 20 mins. walk. The track is very steep with at least a 400' drop below road level. Entrance to the cave is moderately small and the main chamber is reached by what I could call a second Binney tunnel. The cave possibly extends some miles. No one knows as no exploration has yet been done. Some formation has been broken by vandals (indigenes).

Chuave Cave. is situated on the southern side of the MAI River and about 1½ miles from the Chuave patrol post. A 10 minute walk on a good track leads direct to a large entrance. The main chamber is reached through a 2' high opening. The cave has an extensive number of side channels as systems. Unfortunately the cave is dead with little formation left. There were also signs of silting.

Well, these three caves are the main ones mentioned but I know of others around still used by natives as resting places for the dead. They have an idea similar to the ancient Egyptians where they bury the dead with food and clothing to help them in their second life.

The highlands are a cold place at night situated some 5½ thousand feet above sea level. During the day in the dry season shorts and a shirt is all that is required. However, a fire and jumper is definitely needed at night. Unfortunately my camera is in Germany to be repaired so I couldn't take any photos. However, I will try a trip into Kundiawa when I go to Hagen in July. Mt. Hagen is further up the road from Kundiawa. Well friends, hope you have enjoyed this bit of news. I will be bringing a movie back with me when I come home for leave shortly. I hope in August. Until then best wishes to you all and keep the news coming.

Regards, Harry de Vries."

(Please see last page for map of caving area. Ed.)

Trip reports.

Since the last Spiel only one trip report was received. There are at least three others outstanding. Remember: trip reports are the backbone of *Speleo Spiel*. Publishing of reports ensures that your new discoveries are made known to fellow members and beyond

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and are not forgotten with the passing of time. Many an interesting trip was inspired by the reading of an old trip report.

Mole Creek, 6, 7/5/67.

The party consisted of P. Brabon (leader), J. Marshall, P. Harrold, J. Plaister, D. Reid, D. Fraser.

Saturday. Camp was made at the Mersey River. Kubla Khan was visited for the purpose of exploration and photography. The cave was entered at 11 a.m. No new discoveries were made. The water was very low and in some places it was unusually dry. There was no

water in the pool at the top of the Pleasure Dome. The new section was visited with a general tour through the "Dungeons". We returned to the surface after spending seven hours underground. Our new ladders used underground for the first time, are still in one piece! Rain fell on Saturday night and I hear that certain members got a bit wet.

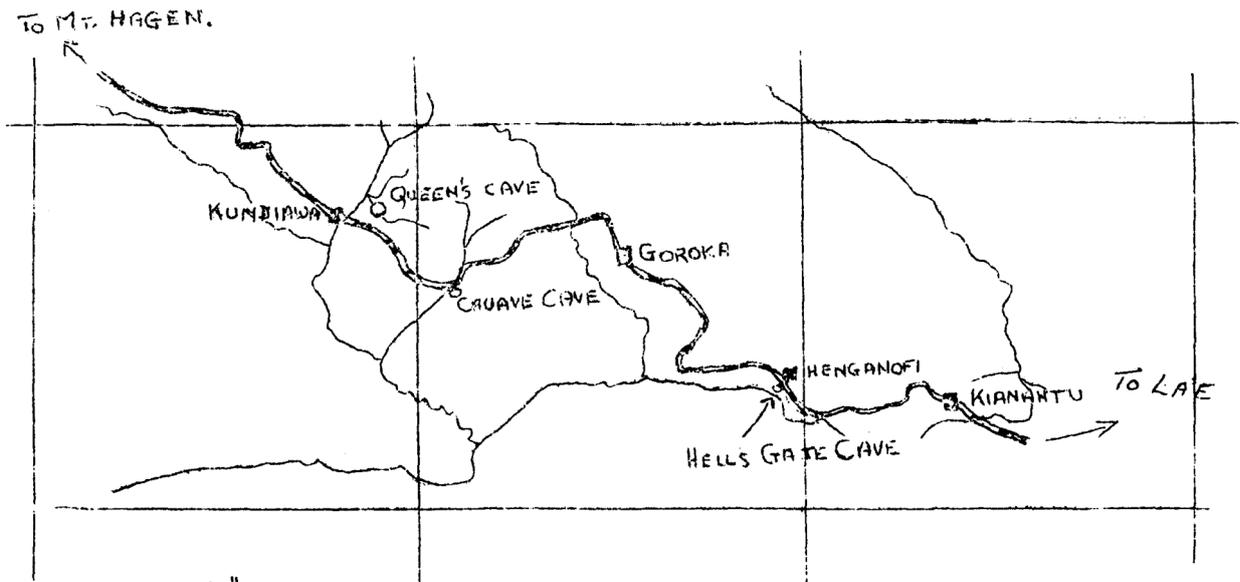
Sunday. Surface exploration in the Liena area. We left to return to Hobart at 4 p.m. P. Brabon.

The following trips were held but reports are outstanding.

- May 13,14 - Exit Cave. Leader: B. Collin. Discovery of a new extension reached by a wet crawl at the western end of the Great Rift.
- May 21 - Day trip to Maydena. Satan's Lair was visited. The cooperation of S.C.S. who discovered and explored the cave is much appreciated.
- May 27, 28 - Survey trip to Exit Cave led by Allan Keller. 3500 ft. of passage was mapped in the new extension discovered a fortnight earlier. The party also reported what is probably the skeleton of a Tasmanian tiger and found a colony of white millipedes.

Forward Programme.

- June 24, 25 - Exit Cave. Leaders: B. Collin, A. Goede. Two teams will be formed if enough members are interested.
- June 28. Committee meeting, 122 Augusta Road, Lenah Valley.
- July 4 - General meeting, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, 8p.m. Ten cents for supper. Please bring a mug for your coffee as otherwise you will have to wait your turn.
- July 8, 9 - Mole Creek. Leader: Rodney Hughes.
- July 22, 23 - Exit Cave. Acting leader: John Marshall.
- August 8 - General meeting, 8 Bath Street, 8 p.m. Bring mugs!



Scale: $2\frac{1}{2}'' = 40$ miles.

= road

= rivers.

= cave.

= town.