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Speleo Spiel

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Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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SPELEO — SPIEL

No. 11.

March, 1967.

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

President: A. Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, Hobart.

Secretary: Mrs. J. Brabon, 122 Augusta Rd., Lenah Valley, Hobart.

Annual General Meeting.

We would like to see you there! The election of the next committee is an important event and if they are to represent the club it is essential that as many members as possible are there to cast their vote. The meeting will be held at 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, and will start at 8 p.m. There will be NO general meeting in April.

Subscriptions.

At the A.G.M. all members become unfinancial. Be popular with the next treasurer and have your subs. in early.

full members (over 18 yrs.) - \$2.50 (including A.S.F. affiliation fee.)

junior member - \$1.00

associate members - \$1.00

All full members will receive the A.S.F. newsletter. Junior and associate members who want to receive it can do so by paying another 35c. to the treasurer.

Fund raising

A fund has been started by the president to raise money to buy new caving equipment for one of our members - Rodney Hughes - who lost everything in the fire. All donations will be gratefully received by Albert - 8 Bath St., Battery Point.

A.S.F. Library.

At the A.S.F. conference in Mirboo the librarian pointed out that libraries of individual clubs were rarely if ever used and usually incomplete. If all clubs donated those scientific periodicals which are not already in the A.S.F. library to that library there would be at least one reasonably complete speleological library in Australia, which could be used by research workers. The committee is in favour of donating any journals (not books) to the A.S.F. library where they are more likely to be used. Notice is hereby given of a motion to this effect to be discussed at the A.G.M. so that all members can voice their opinion.

Trip Reports.

Exit Cave - 27-30 January, 1967 (Fluorescein Party)

Members present: Albert Goede (leader), Peter Brabon, Henk Meerding

Albert and Peter left Hobart on Friday night to put 6 lbs. of fluorescein in the final siphon of Mystery Ck. Cave. At 10.30 p.m. Albert's car skidded on the Lune River bridge causing much damage to car but occupants only shaken. Very slow trip to the Chalet where Roy sacrificed a night's sleep to take us out to put the fluorescein in. Fluorescein put in at 2.25 a.m. on Saturday. Estimated flow approx. 1/2 cusec.

Party was joined by Henk early on Saturday and after attempted repairs to Albert's car, proceeded to Exit reaching the camp site at 4.15 p.m. Albert kept an intermittent watch on the creek except for two quick trips into the cave while Peter and Henk joined the underground party on Sunday. The surface party left camp at 10.45 a.m. on Monday by

which time there was still no sign of fluorescein. The D'Entrecasteaux River was observed at the Lune - Catamaran road bridge at 2p.m. but also showed no trace of colour.

A. Goede.

Scottsdale - 18th Feb.

Several members from Hobart, Queenstown and Savage River attended the wedding of Clive and Sally and enjoyed themselves in the usual fashion. Sally's parents gave her a terrific send off! After the bride and Groom had departed for places unknown we were all so tired we returned to the motel. On Sunday the Kents, Brabons and Farleys went for a drive to Bridport for a paddle in the sea

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returning to Hobart after lunch. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Salier for an enjoyable evening.

Rocky Tom - 26 Feb. - Climbing and ladder practice.

Members present: Brian Collin (leader), Jeanette Maclaine, Albert Goede, Bill Hodge, Rodney Hodge, Bev Clarke, Donald Fraser, Denis Reid, John Plaister, Peter Brabon.

A very successful afternoon and well attended. We found the spot guarded by a large tiger snake which was quickly dispatched. Many members had their first taste of abseiling and ropes were running hot. One confidently wrapped the rope around his neck for his first (and last) try but was stopped in time from stepping over the edge. Belaying and ladder practice were also on the programme.

A. Goede.

Mole Creek - 4-6 March, Long weekend.

Party: P. Brabon (Leader) J. Brabon, B. Collin, J. Maclaine, D. Reid, B. Hodge.

Two V.W.s beetle types ex. Hobart Sat. a.m. After meeting and setting up camp on the Mersey River Peter, Brian, Jeanette and Denis set out for Lynds Cave about 20 mins. walk from the camp. We took the climbing gear to explore any high level routes. The water was the lowest I had seen it. We explored several high level places but found nothing that went. We also pushed on through the talus then we made a rapid exit and arrived back at camp at 5.30p.m. I won't go into the details of how Denis nearly burnt himself - ask him!

Sunday - To decide whether to explore Kubla Hill or find the back entrance to Croesus. Which was closer? - so we took the latter. After driving up to the Mole Creek road Joan pointed in the general direction she thought it was, then along came a Holden with Frank Brown Jnr. and partner (Nth. Branch). After some talk he said he would go with us to find the entrance, as he had been there some time before. After bashing our way through the scrub for some 20 mins. we were looking down a rather deep hole. We set up our 2 ladders (60') and after getting the party down Frank left us with "good luck", Brian and myself proceeded further down with some abseiling and some climbing till we found ourselves at the bottom about 200' from the top of the ladder. Brian went back for the other 2 while I went on further for a short look see which turned out to be a crawl through some sand, gravel etc. but was the right way. After returning to meet Brian we all pushed on till we came to the river. After walking downstream to the Entrance Gate we returned to the river and out. Several high level places would be of interest in the cave.

Mon. - Packing up and home before the Longford racing crowd get on to the road. P. Brabon.

Exit Cave - 11-12 March.

Members present: Brian Collin, Albert Goede (leaders), Jeanette Maclaine, Peter Harrold, Denis Reid, John Plaister.

A very successful weekend that started off as a comedy of errors. Brian, Jeanette and Peter spent Friday night at Hastings but found themselves locked out of the hut while Peter discovered he had left his boots at home. They were brought by the Saturday morning party consisting of Albert, Denis and John. Brian and Jeanette went on ahead while Peter joined the second party. Most of the track - except the last 1/2 mile - was burnt out and difficult to follow. However, when remarked it will be a much better track. The advance party left a note at the campsite to say that they had gone in but as fate would have it the note was not seen by Albert and company. They entered the cave about 1 p.m. and (after much cursing and swearing about the packs) reached the usual camp site at 3.30 p.m. To their surprise no sign of Brian and Jeanette.

After settling in the party first had a look at the bottom of the big shaft. A manfern trunk lying there was sprouting a new leaf - obviously a recent casualty from the surface. No light could be seen. The party then explored the large passage going east from station 63 and confirmed a previous report by Allan Kellar [*sic*: Keller] and Donald Fraser that it only extends a few hundred feet before petering out into a series of small muddy passages and several shafts going up. After a good meal back at camp Albert and John set out to explore an extension on the opposite side of the stream near the camp. After climbing over large talus they turned right and discovered a large chamber with a sandy floor occupied by Brian and Jeanette who took a dim view of us coming in the back door (That stream does talk.) After lengthy explanations,

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and they had some beauties, both parties decided to stay put although the new camp site was obviously superior to the old.

After a cuppa the combined party set off to explore the passage branching off at station 86 where a previous party had been stopped by talus and deep water beyond which they could hear a creek. The party found a way through the talus without having to swim. The creek was found to be brown buttongrass water - this is almost certainly Mystery Ck. itself. It was followed up for several hundred feet. Low roofs and very wet. Near the end glow worms and white millipedes were found. A high narrow cross fissure which could be climbed was not investigated. To penetrate further upstream a wet suit or preferably a submarine is recommended. Party returned to camps at 11.45 p.m.

Next morning at 9 a.m. party went to have a look at a small passage which Albert had discovered the previous afternoon. It was found to contain the best display of gypsum formations ever found in a Tasmanian cave. Helictites, gypsum flowers and gypsum needles up to 2 feet long and 1 inch wide - a real treasure house. Since the needles are growing out of the sandy cave floor future explorers are requested to be very careful and follow the footsteps of the first party so that these rarities will be preserved. The party then had a look at the nearby extension explored by Allan and Donald during the Australia Day weekend. Some time was spent exploring an extensive network of solution passages before we found the main extension. This is a large passage 40-60 feet high and up to 40' wide containing a dry stream bed and much talus and running in a westerly direction. It was followed for some distance but

due to lack of time the end was not reached. In one place a huge upper level passage was seen through a hole in the roof but this requires a climbing pole. The party then returned and after breaking camp emerged from the cave at 2.20 p.m. after spending more than 24 hours underground. We were back at the cars by about 5.00 p.m. and on the way home dropped in on Roy and Pam where we were treated to tea and scones. This time Albert got the car home in one piece! A. Goede.

Forward programme.

- March 24 - 28 - Easter trip to Exit Cave. Camp underground. Surveying and exploration. Leader: B. Collin.
- March 29 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. - A MUST for everyone! Exciting intelligent conversation, good food, bring own liquids! 8 Bath Street, 8 p.m. Bring a cushion.
- April 5 - Committee meeting (new committee) Place to be decided at A.G.M.
- April 8 - 9 - Reconnaissance of new short route to pots on Cave Hill, Ida Bay. Leader: B. Collin.
- April 22 - 23 - Exploration of pots on Cave Hill. Leaders: A. Goede, B. Collin.
- May 2 - General meeting, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point, and you ought to know what to bring by now!

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TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB. ANNUAL REPORT - 1966 - 67.

It would be rash to say that this year was the most successful in the club's history but this somewhat approaches the truth. Twelve months ago we were demoralized and on the verge of disbandment. Now we are an active and confident group with a growing membership.

EXPLORATION. Our greatest caving success has been the cutting of the new track to Exit Cave and the exploration made possible by this feat. The known length of passages in Exit Cave was extended from less than 1 mile to 3 miles, making it the second longest cave in Australia. The main passage has been traversed - a distance of 1½ miles - and an accurate plot shows that only 1100 feet separates us from Mystery Ck. Cave. Underground camping once regarded as a major operation is done as a matter of routine and has aided exploration.

A second major discovery was the new extension in Kubla Khan which was made possible by the use of new techniques. Those who took part will never forget the excitement of the discovery of Xanadu - one of the largest single chambers in Tasmania - and the incredible wealth of formation in the new extension. The new find has made Kubla Khan one of the most spectacular caves in Australia.

Another achievement was the reconnaissance expedition (to Mt. Anne) led by B. Collin, which showed the presence of some really deep potholes for those who like vertical caving. It is hoped to organize another trip there next summer.

The club also visited Kelly Basin - a new area - on a combined trip with the W.C.O.C. Although only one cave 200' long was found it was a very enjoyable weekend.

TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT. The equipment situation has improved considerably during the year. Two 120' ropes and 4 thirty feet length of ladder were bought and another 150' of ladder is under construction, and should be finished soon giving us 270' of new ladder. The use of

expansion bolts and the training of members in abseiling techniques have been other improvements made during the year.

A.S.F. AFFILIATION. During the year the club has rejoined the Australian Speleological Federation. Your president attended the Mirboo conference and was pleasantly surprised by the spirit of co-operation shown by the large majority of member clubs. A talk was given on outstanding Tasmanian caves and caving areas and was well received.

SEARCH AND RESCUE. Our search and rescue organization was brought up to date during the year with a new list of names and addresses, a copy of which was sent to the police. Apart from one false alarm its services were not needed.

INTERSTATE VISITORS. A number of interstate visitors went caving with us during the year. They were David Heap from Adelaide, Jim Coulton, Neil and Carol Anderson from Canberra, and Dr. A. Richards from Sydney. We enjoyed their company and are looking forward to more visitors from other clubs in the future.

SPELEO - SPIEL. The editors and producers of Speleo - Spiel had a busy year. Eleven issues were produced. One for each month except January. We found that the regular publishing of trip reports caused many more to be written and helped to keep all members in the picture. I would like to thank Joan and Peter Brabon, Mike Jagoe and my wife for all the work they put into its publication.

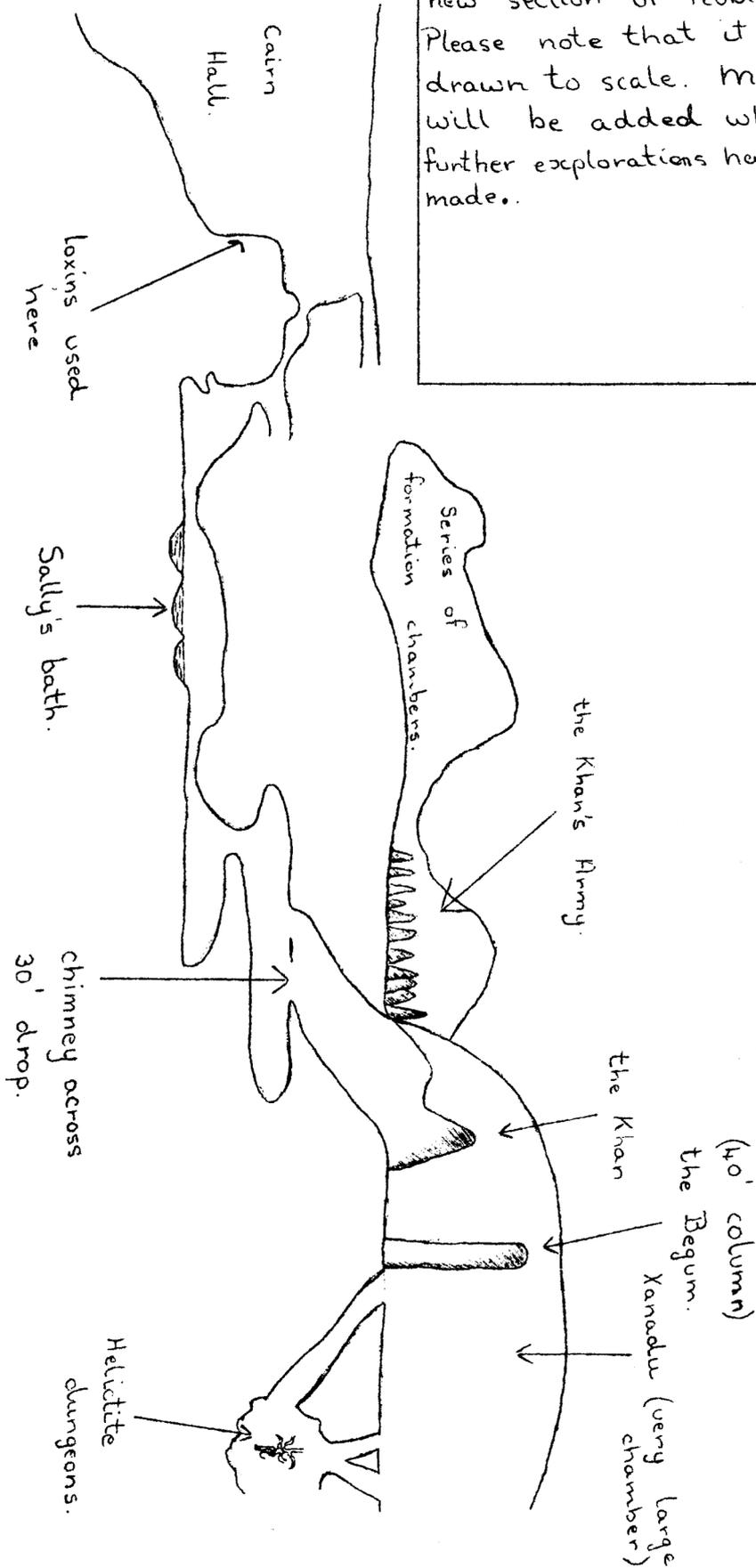
BIRTHDAY DINNER. Our twentieth birthday dinner was an outstanding success and was attended by a record number of members and friends. It is to be hoped that our Coming of Age this year will be celebrated in a similar manner. On the occasion of our twentieth birthday we expressed our appreciation to the club's founder, Prof. S. W. Carey, by making him a life member.

In conclusion I would like to thank all club members and especially those committee members who helped to make the past year a success. I hope that this meeting will see the election of another committee prepared to further the cause of caverneering.

Your President,

[signed] *Albert Goede*

This is a rough map of the new section of Kubla Khan. Please note that it is not drawn to scale. More will be added when further explorations have been made.



(Further explorations have been made in this direction and will be shown on a later map)