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Speleo Spiel

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Southern Tasmanian Caverneers

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Editorial. There has been a lull in caving activities since the descent of "Midnight Hole". However, while we are writing this a large party is down at Ida Bay. They are planning to run a surface traverse from "Midnight Hole" to Mystery Ck. Cave. They intend to start searching in Mystery Ck. Cave for the matchbox that was left at the bottom of "Midnight Hole". Somehow nobody seems very keen to make another descent of the hole to find out where the small squeeze at the bottom goes.

Annual Dinner - Saturday 19th October.

Don't forget to come along and help celebrate the club's 22nd birthday. This is your chance to see your fellow cavers without the usual covering of mud. Remember - last year was a roaring success. Let us have another this year. Bring all your friends. Let Joan know at least a week beforehand if you are coming and send the money too. The cost is 2 dollars 75 cents per head. The place will be the Waratah Hotel, 272 Murray St., and the time 7 p.m. Supply your own dancing girls.

Club News.

+ The last general meeting was held at Judy's flat and was quite an event. Members did not bring the roof down but the hot air was too much for one of Robin's paintings which came crashing to the floor during the business session. Safety helmets should be worn at all meetings. The hot curry which was served for supper disappeared in an amazingly short time washed down with beer and some excellent claret which Robin had donated to the cause.

+ A letter was received from Tim Walkden-Brown who is doing a course in weather observation before going to Macquarie Island in November. He is looking forward to the company of seals and penguins for the next twelve months. He inquired about our latest finds at Exit and said "jealousy lies deep within me at the thought of people going to MY cave". He has little reason for jealousy as Exit Cave seems to have been forsaken for Midnight Hole.

+ An old caver has come back to Hobart and intends to join the ranks again. He is Bob Chapman who was our club doctor for a number of years. Bob has joined the Dept. of Anatomy at the University and is looking forward to a trip to Exit Cave.

+ At the last general meeting Alan Keller and Robin Booth were elected party leaders. In addition Allan was appointed guardian (angel?) to Rae Allsop! The list of active party leaders now is as follows:-

Robin Booth	Albert Goede
Peter Brabon	Rodney Hughes
Frank Brown	Allan Keller
Brian Collin	

+ Prospective member: Neil Walker, 5 Bayley St., Glebe. Welcome.

+ Changes of address:

Tim Walkden-Brown, Fl.13 A, 25 Hotham St., East Melb., Victoria.

Simon Stephens, 23 Napoleon St., Battery Point.

Bill Hodge, 5 Bayley St., Glebe.

+ L.B.J. is not the only president who recently celebrated his birthday.

Seventh Biennial Conference - Australian Speleological Federation.

Further details have been received about this conference. The meeting will be held in South Australia at Graham's Castle - 50 miles south of Adelaide from 26 to 31 December, 1968. It will be followed by field trips to three main areas (1) Kangaroo Island, (2) The Nullabor, (3) The South-East, i.e. the area around Naracoorte. Duration of trips varies from one to three weeks. Anyone interested should contact Albert for full details and application forms.

Applications close early in November.

+ The following description is of a common native plant, see if you can guess its name. (Ans. next page).

"Attractive, spreading plant useful for damp or shaded positions; also in full sun, with ample moisture. Tiny foliage, small, pendulous, pink, saucer-shaped flowers; 3 ft.

(Taken from "The Australian Women's Weekly", August 21, 1968).

Answer:- The plant, believe it or not, is bauera.

TRIP REPORT.

Flowery Gully - August 17,18.

Party: Albert(leader) and Therese Goede, Brian and Jeanette Collin, Kerry Holloway.

As Brian remarked this was a typical "N.S.W. type" caving trip. A camp in civilized surroundings, fine weather and numerous holes that don't go anywhere. We arrived at Flowery Gully at 10.30 a.m. and met Kerry at the gate to Artie Beams' property. We then proceeded to the paddock behind the kiln and set up camp amongst a horde of curious cows and numerous chooks. The area was still rather wet as a result of very heavy rains the week before. After an early lunch we proceeded to a blind valley behind the camp where a small stream flows underground into a cave. This was explored by Brian and Albert who found some 30 ft. of narrow, twisty, phreatic passages all becoming too narrow to follow. Next we tackled a twenty foot pothole a little further up the hill. This led into a small muddy chamber and several short passages. There was a large population of cave spiders. The next cave sounded exciting. It is reputed to be a 40 ft. drop into a large chamber but the entrance, which is in Beams Bros. No.1 Quarry, had been covered by a "very small landslide" during the recent rains. After two hours digging we had opened up a small hole dropping into a widening fissure below with a large rock sitting two feet above it. We dropped a ladder down but Brian soon found that the ladder went where a body could not go. With an effort it would be possible to get down but it was obvious that one could not possibly get back up again. Rather reluctantly we admitted defeat. Next Brian and Albert took turns at going into several small holes in Beams Bros. No.2 Quarry and discovered that getting in can be much easier than getting out. Again no luck. At the back of the quarry we discovered two small potholes for which the local quarrymen had already found a practical use. We left them unexplored. Brian went up the hill while Albert and Kerry headed for an isolated limestone outcrop on Robert Beams' property. A promising hole on the south side led into a small chamber with a short drop at the bottom. A rope was fetched and we soon found ourselves at the end of that cave. Back at the surface we were joined by Brian who who discovered another pot. He went down to a depth of 30 ft. and reported he could go no further. Coming back up proved far less easy than going down. A characteristic that many of the holes at Flowery Gully seem to share.

On Sunday we visited the B.L.P. quarry at the northern end of the limestone. Therese and Jeanette explored two tiny caves while Brian and Albert went down a promising 20 ft. pot. At the bottom is a medium sized chamber with a talus slope going down another 30 ft. Next we went to a hole near R.Beams' house that is reputed to give access to the Flowery Gully Cave of which the main entrance is blocked by quarrying. The hole looks promising but is block by a large rock to prevent sheep falling in so we left it. We then paid a quick visit to Vanishing Cave to see the formation. Following that Albert explored a small cave with 20 ft. of passage in Sulzbergers Quarry. Finally we paid a visit to a small cave in a quarry diagonally opposite Bob Beams' house and on the eastern side of the road. This was voted the prettiest cave seen on the trip. Brian negotiated a tight squeeze at the lowest point of the cave and found himself at the top of a 20 ft. deep fissure. He went down on a rope but there was no continuation. After lunch we had a leisurely trip home visiting the Batman Bridge on the way.

Albert Goede.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

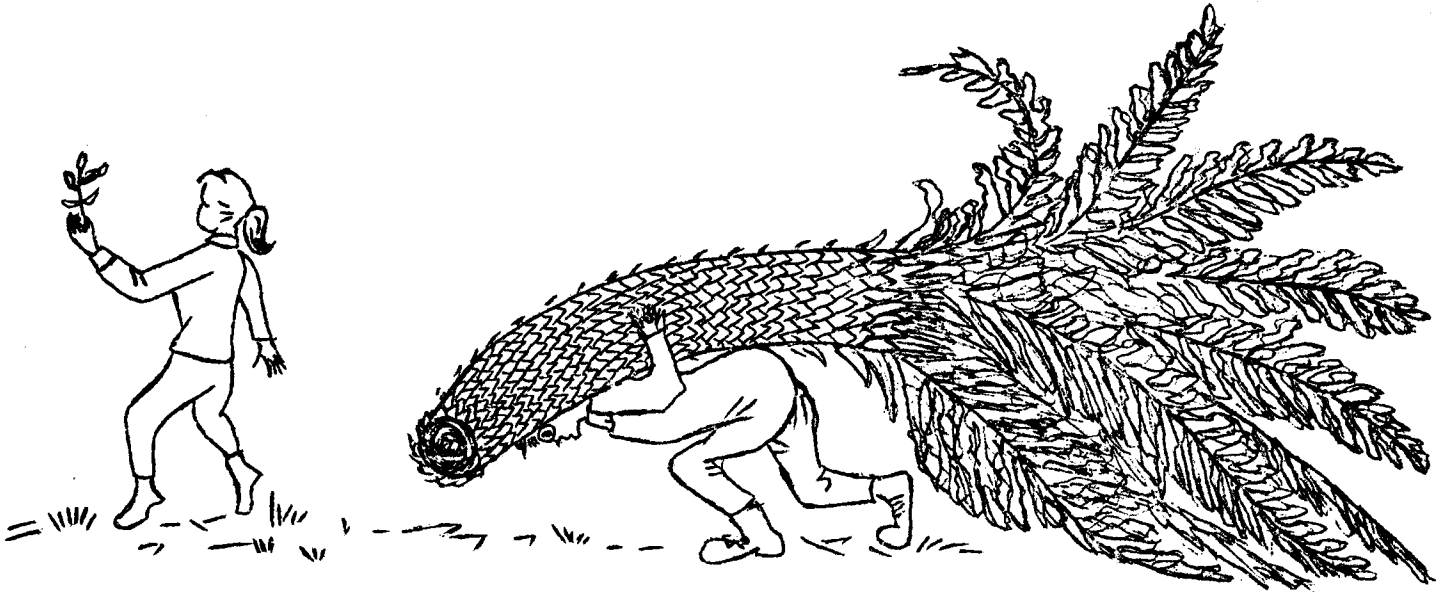
- Sept. 12 - Thursday. Slide evening at Albert's place, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. Elery Hamilton-Smith will be showing some of his cave slides.
- Sept.21,22 - Mole Creek. Leader:- Peter Brabon.
- October 1 - Tuesday. General meeting at 8 p.m. 8 Bath Street, Battery Point.
- October 5,6 - Ida Bay: Exit Cave or Mystery Creek Cave. Leader:- Allan Keller.
- Oct. 12,13 - Wolf Hole. Leader:- Robin Booth.
- Oct. 20 - Ladder and prussick practice on the Organ Pipes. Leader:- Allan Keller.(This will sober you up.)

Oct. 26, 27 - Ida Bay. Leader: Brian Collin.

Nov. 2, 3 - Saturday: - Barbecue at Hastings.

Sunday: - Day trip to Exit Cave to make preparations for the installation of gate.

November 5 - Tuesday: - General Meeting at 8 p.m., 66 Wentworth Street, South Hobart.



(Ask Brian how the "fernery" is coming along!)

FAMOUS LAST WORDS.

" Due to the heavy rain a very small landslide has covered the entrance but it will be very easy to clear."

Unfortunately not all students like demonstrating!!!