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C R E D I T S

<u>Editor</u>	- Gordon Taylor
<u>Typing</u>	- Sports Union
<u>Cover</u>	- The 90' pitch in Khazad-dûm by Gordon Taylor.

E D I T O R I A L

Over the Summer months some 25 people died mountaineering in New Zealand. Whilst this may seem little related to caving, it is relevant. It should be a reminder to us, to be especially safety conscious in our own similar sport. Safety standards need to be continually reassessed. It's quite simple, we become very lax after a while, and need to be shaken from our stupor periodically. Our recent Tassy trip illustrated amply the need to carry secondary light sources. Unless we are careful, Australia may find itself with more than its present tally of 1 death, in caving. This is even more pertinent as the club is now almost exclusively using SRT; and smaller parties are able to tackle caves which previously need tremendous resources. The S.R.T. caver's vulnerability cannot be overstressed.

GORDON TAYLOR.

LOWER GORDON - FRANKLIN

Late in 1979 the H.E.C. of Tasmania put before the Tasmanian Parliament its proposal to flood the Lower Gordon and Franklin Rivers. The Lower Gordon and Franklin Rivers flow through large areas of limestone and many caves are found on their banks. Not wishing to see the inundation of these caves, the club wrote to the Premier of Tasmania expressing its concern at their possible destruction (see last issue). In early December we received the following very vague and non-committal reply.

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135/9B/79

PREMIER OF TASMANIA
HOBART

29th November, 1979

Dear Mr. Taylor,

I refer to your letter of 14th November, to the Premier (Mr. Lowe) concerning matters relating to future power development.

The Premier has directed me to draw your letter to the attention of the Government's Co-ordination Committee on Future Power Development and to ask that the Committee takes full account of the points you have raised in its consideration of these important matters.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) C.W. Hallam
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PREMIER

Mr. G. Taylor,
President,
A.N.U. Caving Club,
Box 4 P.O.,
CANBERRA,
A.C.T. 2600

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year could only be described as a dynamic and fruitful year. Although the number of active members is low, as ever this has not stopped the club from developing greatly in the past year. The year has seen a small, closeknit and active group of cavers achieve much. One of the important developments has been the widespread use of Single Rope Techniques (S.R.T.). We now have a group of experienced and proficient S.R.T. cavers, something which is severely lacking in both other Canberra clubs. This dynamism within the club culminated in our recent visit to Tasmania. Not only was it the first time the club has ventured further afield for many years as a club but it was also notable because it was not the normal Tassy tourist trip. Much original exploration, surveying and track cutting was done, and the results reflect this, several new caves being found. 1979 saw other achievements. The surveying of Y7 was completed, Deua Cave was both extended to over double its length and also surveyed, we helped in a submission to N.P.W.S. concerning caves in the Deua-Wadbilliga National Park, and were the only Canberra people to participate in Speleosports. Some improvement has been seen in the regularity and quality of Speleograffiti. The Club has also concerned itself with political issues relevant to us as cavers, e.g. The Lower Gordon-Franklin issue.

As with anything all is not rosey. Our most pressing problem is the perennial one of maintaining the club as a viable entity. Consequently we will need to have the usual membership push early in 1980 to bring new blood into the Club. Also the meetings have tended to degenerate in quality over the last year; a conscious effort to improve them is needed.

I would like to thank all the people who have put time and effort into making 1979 a pleasant and rewarding year's caving. May 1980 be even more so.

Yours in Caving,

GORDON TAYLOR
PRESIDENT.

Present: J. Briggs, P. Hart, K. Sawyer, G. Taylor, Richard?

This trip was intended to be a combined bushwalking - caving trip. On the Saturday we all left Canberra early and by 10.00 were leaving the cars parked at Wyanbene cave. We then walked (climbed) up the Wyanbene ridge to the fire trail near the high point. From here we followed the Minima fire trail roughly due south along the top of the range, stopping for lunch about 1.00 p.m. It was unfortunately a very hot day so the going was quite hard. After lunch we continued until about 3.00 p.m. when we reached the drop off point on the track and so headed down to the cave approximately 1000 ft. below. With almost no difficulty we found the cave but as there was no water in the creek we continued downstream.

After about an hour and a half of reasonably hard going with several members of the party having an unfortunate confrontation with a Queensland stinging tree (yes they do grow in a few places in southern N.S.W.) We finally found water and set up camp along with the insects and leeches. Peter Hart was especially pleased to rest as he was 'very bugged' (too long in a desk job). Soon after it poured with rain contrary to all weather forecasts and so spent an uncomfortable night without my tent fly.

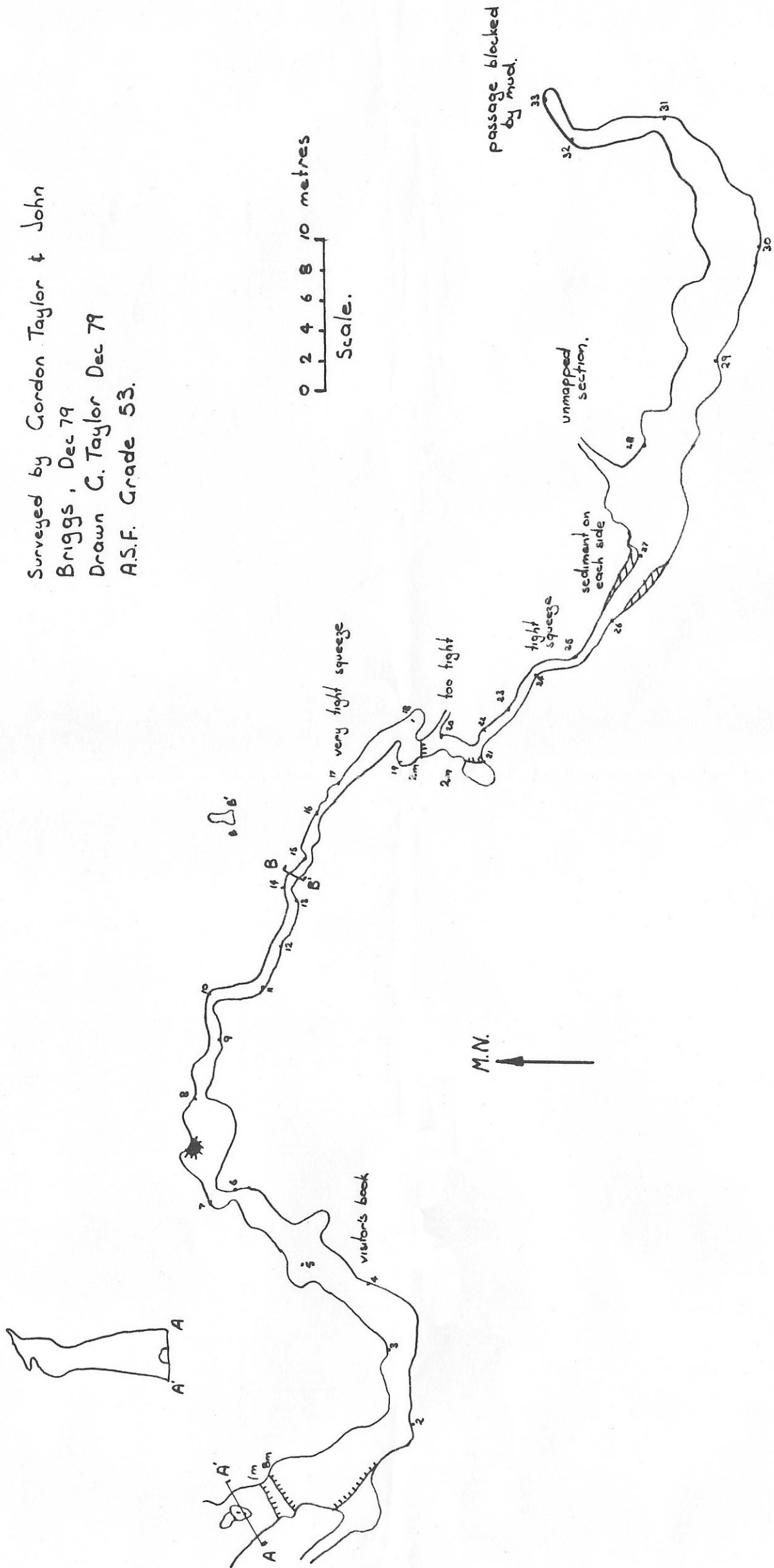
Next morning was hot again and we set off back up the creek to survey and fully explore the cave. Unfortunately on the walk from the cave we didn't mark the route so spent several hours fruitlessly searching for the right creek. We actually got within 100m. of the cave, but decided the only way to refind it was to climb back to the fire trail via Mt. Deua and then repeat the route we had followed the day before. We reached the fire trail for a very late lunch and then proceeded down to the cave reaching it at about 4.00 p.m. using the last of our water. The other three had a quick look at the outer part of the cave, before the squeezes and then went back to our camp, meanwhile Gordon and I surveyed the cave from the entrance but because of lack of time we did not include the side extensions. We finished the survey at 6.00 p.m. (see the accompanying map) and returned to the camp site, very thirsty indeed.

The final day we packed up camp and started down stream toward the Deua river, several kilometers away. The going was relatively easy and very pleasant. We reached the river and proceeded to walk and wade upstream toward where another fire trail crosses the river. We reached this at lunch time and had a very enjoyable swim. Then came the hard part with the weather very hot, no more water after a final small creek and the longest steepest hill any of us had ever seen a fire trail go up. With many rests, especially for Peter we finally got back to the top of Wyanbene ridge and thence to the cars. A quick trip to Captain's Flat got us to the shop just before it closed for ice creams and drinks.

Overall a very enjoyable trip through a very beautiful section of the Deua - Wadbilliga National Park. If I went again I would want cooler weather.

Duea Cave

Surveyed by Gordon Taylor & John
Briggs, Dec 79
Drawn C. Taylor Dec 79
A.S.F. Grade 53.



EXECUTIVE POSITIONS FOR 1980

President - Gordon Taylor

Vice President - John Briggs

Secretary - Peter Hart

Treasurer - Stephen Ralser

Equipment Officer - Tim Rudman

Publicity Officer - Stephen Elliot

Committee Members - Hank Van den Heuvel

- Jim Donaldson

- Tony Batt

TASMANIAN REPORT

Just a brief account of what we did,,the next issue of Speleo-G will be wholly devoted to recording the Tasmanian trip.

We visited four main caving areas; Junee-Florentine, Cracroft, Ida Bay (Exit) and Mole Ck. At the Junee-Florentine we explored a new cave JF 341, descended Australia's deepest cave Khazad-dûm and did some surveying in the chairman. TCC organized the Cracroft trip. Whilst there we explored and surveyed 3 new caves, surveyed 2 others, and visited Judd's Cavern. Our time at Ida Bay saw us cut the track to Mini-Martin, do the second only descent of Mini-Martin into Exit, find another connection nearby to Exit, and spend a couple of days in Exit. Finally at Mole Ck we spent a considerable amount of time drinking 15c milkshakes but also found time to visit 6 of the best caves there, including Kubla Khan.

All in all a very productive and worthwhile trip.

BOOK REVIEW

by Gordon Taylor

Wilderness Caves of the Gordon-Franklin River System - A preliminary survey of the caves by Greg Middleton. Published by University of Tasmania as Centre for Environmental Studies Occasional Paper II. 107pr

The Lower Gordon and Franklin rivers are currently the subject of a concentrated conservation campaign to save them from the heavy hand of the H.E.C. who dearly want to flood them to create yet another Hydro-scheme.

This book fills a need for a comprehensive report on the caves resource. The documentation of the caves is essential if all the issues are to be considered.

The book does much more than merely document the caves of the region. It describes the nature of the region, its climate, topography, location, access and discovery and exploration. It explores the wilderness appeal of the area and contains a comprehensive report on the geology. Understandably, the largest section deals with the caves themselves. All the caves of the region are listed with a description of each. This is followed by a comprehensive map section; the maps are excellently presented. The book ends with a short examination of the possible future for the region. The book is well served by the selection of photographs used. Despite the offset printing used none of the photographs suffer from this lack of high quality reproduction. As well the photographs tie in well with the text, always being relevant to the section in which they appear.

The style of the book is excellent, being broken into Chapters, each with clearly defined sections. The book has been written in a concise, no frills style which excellently suits its purpose of reportage and documentation. At the same time it makes the book easily readable.

One complaint I have is the 4 or 5 location maps. These are very cluttered and unclear so that their use for quick reference is destroyed. All in all though an excellent book of interest to cavers and conservationists alike, whether they have visited the region or not.

CLUB CONTACTS

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John Briggs	PH 644411 (W)
Tim Rudman	East 52, Bruce Hall, ANU

FUTURE TRIPS

Easter -- Cooleman Plains. Several days doing some of the best caves in NSW.

After Easter, dates yet to be set - Wyanbene. An extremely sporting cave with a lake, water crawl, rockpiles etc.

Dogleg at Wee Jasper, if it remains dry.

