

MISSING WALKER FOUND IN CAVE

A NEWCASTLE businessman, missing on rugged Cradle Mountain in north-west Tasmania, on which many walkers have died, has been found.

Mr Robert Bignall, 36, of Abermaine, was found late last night, sheltering in a cave.

He was weak from exposure and hunger, but otherwise unharmed.

Police and State Emergency Service men who were helping Mr Bignall off the mountain early this morning had to stop until daybreak when he became too weak to walk.

But police said Mr Bignall should be fit enough to continue walking this morning after resting in a ranger's hut.

Mr Bignall's sister, Mrs Leslie Sweetman, said from her Cessnock home this morning that her brother, a well-known coalfields photographer had gone to Tasmania to deliver a lecture on photography and do some bushwalking.

"Tasmania is his favourite place," Mrs Sweetman said.

"I doubt if he would have been in any real danger because he has been a bush walker since he was a teenager.

"At one stage he worked as a Ranger in the Northern Territory and he is very fit.

"Newcastle
Sun"
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