

CTCG

NEWSLETTER

capital territory caving group

p.o. box 638, woden, a.c.t.



Number 78/5(E)

June 1978

Next Meeting ;
BUSH RESCUE - MANUKA
Thursday 15th JUNE.

From the Secretary:

Ian Brown...

Minutes of the General Meeting of CTCG held at the ACT Bush Rescue Headquarters on the 18th May, 1978.

The Meeting opened at 8.00pm with the following members present:

R Bament, W&A Wallace, V&J Wilson, M Wilkins, T Faulkland, J Reid, C Harman, P Duane, R Douglas, L Atkinson, G Waterson, P Bowers, I Brown, J Masala.

Apologies were received from J Bament.

Minutes of the May General Meeting were read and accepted.

Business Arising:-

1. Sale of the three ASF Publications;
a) N.S.W. Cave Map Index, b) Conservation of Mullamullang Cave, W.A., c) Australian Speleology, 1971.

One set of these three publications remains to be sold.

2. Sale of the Proceedings of the 11th ASF Conference, Cavconact, at \$8 per copy.

Those interested in obtaining these publications to contact the secretary.

General Business.

- 1). Meeting Place.

Members agreed that the ACT Bush Rescue Headquarters is quite a suitable venue for CTCG General Meetings.

A Bush Rescue Committee member is to open the building prior to meetings.

MOTION: That the ACT Bush Rescue Headquarters be accepted as the permanent meeting place of CTCG.

Moved: J Wilson Seconded: L Atkinson

Motion Accepted.

- 2) Brief discussion on the use of CTCG's new Logo.
- 3) The Editor renewed his pleas for more newsletter articles.
- 4) CSS 25th Anniversary Dinner, to be held on the 23rd June.
Those interested to contact the secretary.

Trip Reports.

From the Sec. (cont.)

1) Yarrangobilly, 27th May.

Phil Bowers, Vicki & Jim Wilson made some temperature measurements in Jersey Cave and discussed the Meteorological Project with Ranger Roger Hosking.

An enthusiastic response was gained.

2) Wickerslack - Safety Day.

Lindsay Atkinson reported that the day was a success and commented on various mistakes made by members.

Particularly, climbing calls need to be corrected.

3) Bungonia. 11th May.

Robert Douglas reported on this sporting trip.

Coming Trips.

Yarrangobilly, June 17th & 18th. Cotrills renovation.

Next Meeting - 15th June, 1978.

Adrian Davey has been invited to attend and will talk on cave conservation.

Adrian is the Convenor of the ASF Commission on Conservation.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

O " O " O

From the Editor: My thanks go out to all those who helped in any way with the printing, collating, and mailing of this months edition of the newsletter.

To all of you who have not contributed yet, I extend this invitation to participate in some form or other, in the production of the next newsletter.

Your help will come in handy, especially when you consider submitting articles or even outlines of experiences you may have had. If you need help or advice on what is required please get in touch with Jim or Vickie Wilson.

If you are not inclined to the literary things in life, you can still assist by lending a hand with the printing and collating.

I'll be saying a bit more on this at the next club night, give it some serious thought and get those pens writing...

CAPITAL TERRITORY CAVING GROUP

CAVING TERMINOLOGY

by Reg Bament

Caving has, like most pursuits, its own dedicated band of followers and its own peculiar language, derived from various sources such as geology and rock climbing. To the outsider, it is as alien as any foreign language may be. To the newcomer and to the wives, husbands, families and friends of cavers, the language is at best confusing. In an effort to throw some light on the subject, I have attempted to compile from different books, a list of caving terms in common usage. Of course, I will have missed some, or have given a definition which may not be totally satisfactory. Stiff! I suggest that should anyone feel there are words that have unfortunately been omitted, that they contact the editor who can print them in a later edition. Anyway, here goes nothing.....

ABSEIL: a method of rapidly descending a pitch by means of a single or double rope.

AVEN: a shaft rising from a passage not meeting the surface.

BED: a layer or stratum in a belt of sedimentary rock.

BEDDING PLANE: a separation line between two layers of rock; also a low passage in same.

BEDROCK: the country rock.

BRECCIA: limestone fragments deposited in caves due to faulting, erosion, etc..

BELAY: (noun) a point at which a rope, ladder, or climber can be attached to a rock, or some immovable form.

(verb) the act of attaching oneself.

BELAY ROPE: the length of rope utilized for the belay; see also Lifeline.

CAVERN: the largest order of cavity in a cave.

CARBIDE LAMP: a lamp which uses a flame produced by burning acetylene gas.

CALCAREOUS: formed from, containing, or related to calcium carbonate deposits.

Caving Terminology cont'd

CALCITE: calcium carbonate in crystallised form.

CHAMBER: room sized cavity of limited extent in a cave.

CHIMNEY: (noun) vertical narrow opening in a cave, able to be climbed by means of opposed pressure holds.

(verb) the act of climbing by that method.

CRAWL: a passage which must be negotiated on hands and knees or stomach.

CAVER: a subterranean idiot.

CHOCKSTONE: a rock wedged in a crack, capable of being used as a belay point.

CLINOMETER: a surveying instrument used for measuring angles of dip or slope.

CLINT: the corroded surface of limestone outcrops, characterised by criss-cross grooves.

COLUMN: a pillar like formation, linking cave roof and floor, usually formed by the joining of stalactites and stalacmites.

CORRASION: the wearing away of rock by the action of particles in fast flowing water.

CORROSION: the chemical dissolution of rock by water containing carbonic acid.

DIG: a site of past, present or future excavation, above or below ground, intended to enlarge or to help in new discoveries in a cave.

DOLINE: surface hollow caused by solution or by the collapse of an underlying cave.

DIP: the inclination of a bed of rock, its angle from the horizontal being expressed in degrees.

DUCKUNDER: a constriction in a passage, which requires a duck or crawl before continuing.

EROSION: the wearing away of rock by physical or chemical action.

ETRIER: a small section of ladder which can be roped to another and extended as required.

CAPITAL TERRITORY CAVING GROUP

Caving Terminology cont'd

- EXPOSURE: bodily deterioration, sometimes resulting in death caused by extreme cold and wet conditions, physical exhaustion or lack of food or water, either separately or combined. An ever present threat while caving, the symptoms and treatment should be well known and understood by all members of a party.
- FAULT: a line of fracture in a rock, caused by movement of the earth's crust.
- FISSURE: a narrow vertical break or cave passage, a tight rift.
- FLOWSTONE: a continuous sheet of calcite covering a cave wall or floor
- FORMATION: see Speleothems
- FLATTENER: a wide squeeze.
- GALLERY: a high passage linking two parts of a cave system.
- GOUR: see Rimstone Pool
- GRIKE: a deep groove or fissure in Clints.
- GROTTO: a small chamber or cave
- JOINT: a division, often vertical, through a bed of rock; a joint traversing several beds is a master joint.
- JUG HANDLE: a small loop of rock.
- KARABINIER: a metal snap link used for fastening ropes to belays, cavers to ropes etc..
- KARST: a limestone region, where rapid drainage of water underground creates many caves.
- KRAP: not a word in the cavers dictionary, but a word used by me to bring together several words used to describe matter which could also be described as Krap.
- These are:(a) Guano. Bat droppings, found on the floors of some caves in vast quantities. A similar substance is also deposited by Wombats in cave entrances; i.e. Mt. Fairy, and is highly prized by our Sec/Tres for rolling and crawling in. (Brown by name, Brown by nature.)

CAPITAL TERRITORY CAVING GROUP

Caving Terminology cont'd

(b) Grot. What a grotty person has all over them; a combination of mud, filth, grime, guano blood, sweat and tears, found on the overalls of all active cavers.

(c) ????. Found in the overalls of a caver who has just had a near miss. Similar to guano. Not to be left in the cave.

LIFELINE: a safety rope fixed in various ways to protect a caver in ascents, descents, and difficult or dangerous climbs

LIMESTONE: sedimentary rock containing calcium carbonate ideal for the formation of caves.

MAYPOLE: a scaling pole constructed of short sections, used to reach higher passages.

MOONMILK: a soft calcite deposit thought to be caused by bacterial action.

PASSAGE: a cave opening, of narrow width, length being its greater dimension.

PHREATIC: cave formed by solution, in the waterlogged zone . below the water table.

PITCH: a vertical section of cave, requiring a ladder or rope to negotiate.

PITON: a steel spike used to provide a belay point or foothold after being driven into a crack in the rock.

POTHOLE: a vertical shaft, either open to the sky, or in a cave

PRUSIK: a technique of rope ascent, using either sling stirrups and sliding knots, or mechanical devices such as Jumars, Gibbs ascenders, etc..

REPTATION: progress through a tight section by crawling or squeezing, reptile like. A past Master and expert is club member Jim "plug" Reid, who, by this method seems able to negotiate the impossible. (provided he can hold someones hand

RESURGANCE: the main point at which water emerges at the surface.

CAPITAL TERRITORY CAVING GROUP

Caving Terminology cont'd

RIMSTONE POOL: a natural dam of secondary calcite.

SCALLOP/SCALLOPING: hollow marks on a rock wall caused by the force of water; also called a current or flow marking

SHAFT: vertical entrance to a mine or pothole.

SINKHOLE: a place where water sinks or once sunk underground

SINTER: a calcite cave formation.

SIPHON: a place in a cave passage where water ebbs and flows in a siphoning action; also applied generally to a flooded section.

SPELEOLOGY: the exploration and scientific study of caves; what its all about.

SQUEEZE: a narrow cave section just large enough to permit the entry of a human body; frequently painful.

STEMPLE: a wood or metal wedge designed to be used as a ladder or for hoisting a load.

SPELEOTHEMS: the name used to cover all types of cave decoration, including;-

Anemolite, Eccentric or Helictite:- irregularly shaped formations.

Anthodite:- a type of cave flower formed from gypsum crystals

Aragonite:- crystalline formation of calcium carbonate.

Cascade:- calcite formation resembling a frozen waterfall.

Cave Pearl:- a smooth circular piece of calcite or aragonite formed by the rotating water action around a nucleus.e.g. a grain of sand.

Curtain or Shawl:- a thin fluted sheet, or draping of dripstone.

Heligmite:-showing erratic branching growth.

Stalactite:- formation hanging from roof.

Stalacmite:- formation growing from the floor.

Straw:- a thin hollow tubular stalactite.

SUMP: a point in a cave where water prevents further exploration often at the end of a cave.

SWALLET: the opening in limestone where a stream vanishes underground

CAPITAL TERRITORY CAVING GROUP

Caving Terminology cont'd

TRAP: a place where the cave roof dips under water, and shortly re-emerges.

TRAVERSE: (noun) a horizontal climb along a ledge or between the walls above the floor of a passage.

(verb) to move in a horizontal direction, especially along a high ledge; an activity guaranteed to cure constipation in the author.

TROGLODYTE: a creature that lives permanently in the dark zone of a cave.

TROGLOPHILE: a species found both inside and outside of caves

TROGLOXENE: an animal that occasionally enters a cave, but is not a permanent resident.

TUBE: an almost circular cave passage

VADOSE: cave formed above the waterlogged zone; above the water table.

WAISTLENGTH: a length of rope or tape around the waist which can be connected to the lifeline or belay point.

WATER TABLE: the upper surface of the waterlogged or phreatic zone of the earth's crust.

So there we have it- straight from the books. I suppose that I have missed a few that you might consider important, so please forward them in the right direction. In the meantime, I look forward to hearing statements like:-

"James suffered a sudden friction loss while traversing a guano covered ledge, resulting in a sinter in the sphincter." instead of the old style...

"Jim fell off a s----y bit and got a rock in the bum."

o o o o o

Editor's Note: While you may not agree completely with Reg Bement's definitions in some cases, I'm sure that this article should prove interesting reading and hopefully might be added to your personal Library of worthwhile caving information...

Presidents Report.

This months Newsletter is being printed at Ian Browns place. It should take about three hourswork with the help of half-a-dozen people. Many thanks to Ian and Marie for the use of their home.

Else where is a report on the last general meeting as submitted by Ian. Please have a look at it and if there are any questions, raise them at the next general meeting.

Lindsay Atkinson has circulated a questionnaire which is fairly simple in nature and certainly simple to complete. The response to the Questionnaire has been low key. He requires the return of these sheets so as to be able to ascertain what areas of safety should be emphasised on Safety Weekends such as what we have had recently at Wickerslack. The Questionnaire was attached to the April Newsletter.

Jim Wilson has designed and printed a membership application form. So as the Group can update and maintain records, could you please fill out what you can on the application and return it to the Secretary at next club night. Any change of address - let the Secretary know - this will ensure your Newsletter reaches you.

The committee has been looking into first-aid kits suitable for taking on trips. Ian Brown and Reg Bament will have something to tell you at the meeting. It is a good idea to have some usefull first-aid items in your overalls pocket whilst caving.

Trip Leaders 'please' when you are organising a trip, let Ian Brown (584838) or me (815268) know that the trip is definitely on!! and when you have arrived home again!! It only takes a brief telephone call but it saves us a lot of worry. Anyone who stays behind after a trip, please let me know that you have made it home. This is particularly important if a party leaves the main group at an earlier or later time.

What do you think of your new meeting room? If you have some thoughts ring and tell me, I'm interested to hear. (again ring 815268 or 470677)

Next meeting will be as brief as possible - we have a guest speaker. Adrian Davéy from C.S.S. will talk on conservation topics as they affect the speleologist. The talk will be accompanied with slide. Very interesting.

A Yarrangobilly Trip is on the 27 June for two work projects. (1) to take another set of readings in Jersey Cave, (2) to assist C.S.S. in some renovations of Cotterills Hut. Ian Brown and John Brush have made a cupboard to fit in the corner at the sink.

Thats about it folks. I hope you enjoy this edition of Newsletter. I hope to see you all at the club night.

Phill.

CAPITAL TERRITORY CAVING GROUP

List of Committee Members for 1978:

President: Phil Bowers Ph.H 81 5268
28 Deloraine Street, W 47 0677
Lyons, A.C.T., 2606.

Sec/Treasurer: Ian Brown Ph.H 58 3839
20 Garrard Street, W 48 3461
Spence, A.C.T., 2615.

Vice-President: Robert Douglas Ph.H 86 2811
77 Parkhill Street,
Pearce, A.C.T., 2607.

Committee: Reg Bament Ph.H 31 9348
6 Moseley Place,
Kambah, A.C.T., 2902.

Vickie Wilson Ph.H 81 1189
12 Munro Street,
Curtin, A.C.T., 2605.

Conservation Officer: Mark Hallam Ph.H 54 2419
30 Bambridge Street, W 73 3555
Weetangera, A.C.T., 2614.

Safety Officer: Lindsay Atkinson Ph.H 51 1667
15 Mackellar Crescent,
Cook, A.C.T., 2614.

Editor: Jim Wilson, Ph.H 81 1189
12 Munro Street,
Curtin, A.C.T., 2605.

% B % % % % %

Coming Events

Meeting Night Thursday 15th June;
Adrian Davey from C.S.S. will give a talk on
Caving and Conservation... Don't miss it!

Next Month's Club Night will feature a film
on caving, we hope to make this a regular feature
of most meeting nights.

Yarrangobilly Trip- 17th June: Get in touch with Phil
Bowers or Ian Brown well before.

capital territory caving group

PERSONAL DETAILS FORM.



NAME: (Surname).....
(Christian Names)
(Preferred Name)

ADDRESS:

POST CODE

DATE OF BIRTH:

TELEPHONE: (Home).....(Work)

NEXT OF KIN:

ADDRESS:

MEDICAL STATUS.

CONFIDENTIAL - In case of accident only -

Do you suffer from any chronic disease or disability?

e.g. (Epilepsy, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure etc.)

DETAILS:

Do you suffer from Claustrophobia or fear of heights etc?

Do you need to take any medication regularly?

DETAILS:

Do you have any allergies (e.g. to Penicillin)?

.....

Who is your Medical Practitioner?

Address:

What is your blood group?

CAPITAL TERRITORY CAVING GROUP

EXPERIENCE DETAILS

Caving Experience;.....

Previous/Present Club Memberships:-.....

Special Abilities/Skills:

other comments;

CERTIFICATION

I hereby agree to obey the rules of the Capital Territory Caving Group as outlined in the official Constitution. I also certify that the details given in this application are true and correct.

SIGNED

(applicant)

WITNESSED

(introducer)