

CTCG

NEWSLETTER

capital territory caving group

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



Number:78 / 6(E)

July 1978
Next meeting
BUSH RESCUE + MANUKA
Thursday 20th July

Presidents Report.

New South Wales Speleological Council Meeting.
Dapto 1/7/78

The meeting opened at 10 a.m. in what may have been the board room of the Dapto Leagues Club. Ian Brown, Reg Bament and myself represented C.T.C.G.

Various reports were heard, new office bearers were elected and general business was attended to. During this most interesting period, Reg managed to, several times, tear his attention from the proceedings and ensured that the staff of the club were on duty. C.T.C.G. was high on the list of agenda. Our non acceptance at the A.S.F. committee meeting was touched on by the convenor of the Speleo Council. The procedure for acceptance into the council was in two parts:- (1) as an observer to the council

(2) as a full member to the council

I spoke briefly on our behalf, outlining the clubs history; the reasons for seperating with Highland - pointing out that the Highland Caving Group was dividing into two parts and that one part is changing its name and that we were not forming a splinter group from H.C.G.; while we are in the same locality as C.S.S. we are sufficiently different in nature and expertise to be able to complement them and they us. (I did not point out that we are slightly larger in membership then C.S.S. thus if we had to join it may have caused some difficulties). I also pointed out that we have fulfilled all the requirements that is required by the policy of A.S.F.

A vote was taken and we were accepted as an Observer of the N.S.W.S.C. The next step was to be accepted as a full member. I added a couple more remarks as to our ability and another vote was taken. We were unanimously accepted for membership of the New South Wales Speleological Council.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? It means that if we are accepted at the next A.S.F. committee meeting then we will become full members of the N.S.W.S.C. Draw your own conclusions from that!!!

While this was being conducted, Reg continued his many tests on the efficiency of the club staff.

continued...

Presidents Report Continued....

The other item of importance discussed at the meeting was that a \$10.00 levy has been imposed on all member clubs of the Speleo Council. I suppose we pay that also. The Spelo Council is in debt to the tune of \$86.00 with a further liability of \$60.00 to be shortly incurred, hence the levy. There is a source of income in as much the Speleo Council has a publication which the cost of production is paid for. CTCG has sold ten of these publications for a total of \$20.00. This will help the council somewhat. The other items of agenda will be outlined at the next clubnight. Reg was still doing a fine task in remaining in communication with the club ~~xxx~~ staff (with some difficulty).

The meeting finished at five thirty, a couple of lemon squashes to be sociable for the next hour with the other representitives and Reg ensured that the staff didn't take the bar away by keeping a firm grip of it.

I poured another 'drink' down my throat, then ~~podded~~ Reg got in the car and Ian drove us home.

Other Items: Last clubnight Adrian Davy gave a talk and showed slides on some of the problems with cave conservation. The evening was very interesting with loads of feedback from the members attending, asking when Adrian will be back. Many thanks Adrian.

This clubnight will be at Bush Rescue as usual, Lindsay will be bringing some caving films that have been showing in the area. I believe that they are very good. CLUB NIGHT. 8pm THURSDAY 20th JULY. BUSH RESCUE HANUKA.

The last weekend saw loads of snow falling in the higher altitudes and also saw Ian Brown and crew at Yarrangobilly. A new sink was installed at Cotterills Cottage and drainage rearranged. I reckon they would have to use a blow torch to melt the ground before digging.

The August meeting therewill be another guest speaker. More about that later. A trip to caves near Cowra has been arranged for the second weekend in Sept. Reg Bament is the trip leader.

Please! Please! return your personal particulars forms with the details filled out. It makes your caving safer.

Place

Introduction to Caving Equipment...Part One

This topic will be published in three or four parts, in the next few months. It should prove a valuable reference source..

Clothing:

Caving clothing must fulfill two functions: (1) Preserve body heat and (2) provide protection. A good quality, one piece boiler suit which is close fitting but still roomy enough for free movements is best. Unnecessary external pockets should be removed (save them for patches) as they can get caught up on formations or filled with gravel etc. Whatever is worn under the overalls depends largely on the nature of the cave concerned. For hot, humid caves little or nothing will suffice. In warm caves, T-shirt and shorts are sufficient. Army type shirts, sleeved or sleeveless, are useful because of their pockets. The best clothes to wear in colder caves are woolen underwear, shirt and a thin sweater or two are best. Waterproof parkas and overpants worn under the overalls are very effective for wet conditions. Wet suits are essential when frequent bodily immersion is involved. Cotton or nylon shirts/trousers give little warmth protection when wet.

Footwear:

Boots should be of solid construction, with a high laced welt to protect the ankles, and fitted with a "Commando" type sole. Boots with hook lacing should not be used because they can easily and dangerously be tangled up with wire ladder. Nailed boots are not recommended because they damage formations and the rungs of ladders. However, they do grip wet slippery rock better than the rubber soled boots.

Helmets:

In most situations, a helmet is essential to give protection from falling objects or accidental collision with formations or the roof of a low passage. They should carry a label or sticker certifying that they are approved Safety Helmets. Look for either the Australian Standards specification for (a) Industrial Safety Helmets ASZ10 ; Mining Safety Helmets ASM5 ; or British Standards Institute Specification 2826 ; They should be made of either Fibreglass or plastic, preferably be white or Yellow or else have reflectorized tape so that they can be seen from a distance. The helmet should have a narrow rim except at the front and preferably have a ridge or an extra thickness along the ridge to protect from "accidental collision" type hits. A lamp bracket and cable clip are essential if using a miners lamp. The plastic helmet should not be left in direct sunlight for any period, as the U.V. rays affect the plastic and make it brittle. A chin strap is an important addition, but can get in the way when removing the helmet to negotiate a tight squeeze. Elastic fabric or old stocking or pantyhose make excellent chin straps. Chin straps are particularly recommended for all caving using the "single-rope technique" of vertical caving..

cont.../

Introduction to caving equipment cont'd.Gloves:

Close fitting gloves can prevent unnecessary cuts and abrasions. They are essential for abseiling and belaying and also help to keep your hands clean. Household or rubber gloves are the most suitable for general caving use. Leather gloves are necessary for rough work and belaying and these should be large and pliable enough not to restrict the clenching of the fists. Industrial gloves are useful for belaying as the leather covers the arms to the elbows. Gloves can either be all leather, or have leather palms with a cloth backing. Whatever the type worn, they should fit snugly to prevent accidental extraction, particularly when climbing.

Rucksacks or Kitbags and contents:

These are generally not used unless it is necessary to carry a large amount of equipment for a long period - or if conditions make extra equipment/clothing necessary. The army day packs are the most popular and robust, however kitbags are considered ideal as they are smooth on the outside for hauling. Ammunition boxes are good as they are strong and, usually, waterproof. They are suitable for carrying delicate equipment; cameras, surveying tools; but are difficult to handle. A sling through the handles makes carrying easier. The following list may be considered useful when considering what to take into a cave with you.

1. Rucksack or kitbag.
2. 15 metres of rope - used as a handline.
3. Spare light - electric or candle.
4. Spare light source - matches
5. A whistle for signalling when climbing or when in distress.
6. A penknife.
7. An elastic roller bandage for sprains etc..
8. A triangular bandage.
9. Plastic sheets for note taking- even when wet.
10. Pencil or grease based pen for writing.
11. A compass for rough survey work.
12. A map of the cave to locate yourself.
13. Emergency high energy food.

Next issue of the Newsletter will cover the topic of Lamps and Lighting for caving.

If you know of any extra information about the topics covered, please drop the editor a line. He would be pleased to include it next time.

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If you have not been in the habit of attending Club Nights then turn over a new leaf and start coming.. Future attractions include talks by Caving Experts from other areas and Film nights.

Your club needs your support--DON'T BE AN ARMCHAIR CAVER!!!

See you at the next club night . Bring a new member..

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)