

CTCG

NEWSLETTER

capital territory saving group

po. box 633, woden, a.c.t.



Number 78/7 (E)

September 1978

Next meeting;

Bush Rescue Headquarters

THURSDAY 19th October

President's Report

This past month has seen average activity for the group. Further work has been carried out in Jerisy Cave at Yarrangobilly. Vickie Wilson and myself visited both Jerisy and Jillabeen on Sunday 2nd September. Humidity and temperature measurements were taken and recorded. For those interested, Jerisy cave averages 11 degrees centigrade, while outside it is six degrees centigrade. Humidity varies from 85% and 100% and averages at 85% inside the cave while only 70% outside. Jillabeen is slightly warmer with average temperature being 15 degrees centigrade and humidity 90%. Jillabeen has a solid metal door closing off the entrance and shows limestone activity close to its entrance. These statistics will only become useful after several years of recording. We hope they will provide information on the affects of 'tourist' use of a cave, and help in formulating some ideas about better cave management.

We have plotted a 'pacing' measurement and a verbal description of the ten positions where measurements are to be recorded. We hope to establish a roster system of C.T.C.G. members to take measurements on a monthly basis. We also hope to use other information, e.g. time of year, number of people in the area, to formulate some opinions.

I spoke to Ivan from Bush Rescue this week. The next deliveries of business directories will be approximately three weeks away. All the pamphlets were delivered within several days of receipt by club members. We had about twelve members, some family groups, helping, and they raised \$210.00. This money will be used to finance this newsletter, and general business, but there will certainly be enough to spend in other areas, such as general equipment. We would welcome your suggestions.

A.S.F. Membership: It has been found to be financially impossible for Ian Brown and myself to attend W.A.C.O.N. this time. The clubs case for membership will be presented at the A.S.F. meeting, but not through personal representation. We both regret that this is the end result of ours and the clubs efforts to gain recognition as a separate identity from H.C.G. Sydney. We can only hope that we are successful.

Meanwhile, Ian and I will be attending the next N.S.W. Speleocouncil meeting later this month. Even though we are accepted at the meetings, we still do not have an official vote. However we can and do represent your interests in conjunction with H.C.G. Sydney at the meeting as H.C.G. We would like to thank Reg Bament for providing and arranging the films and operator with test gear, on the 'drink driving' information night. It was good to see members of other caving clubs also present.

A note about the Long Weekend in October:- it may not be on. Check with me or Ian if you are interested.

T SHIRT orders are a bit slow. You can still get one if you let us know in the next week.

See you at the next meeting...PHILL

CALANDER FOR NEXT FIVE MONTHS

Club nights      October 19th- Thursday- Bush rescue.

November 17th.-Friday - Wilson's place  
12 Munro St.,  
Curtin.  
Wine and Cheese.  
B.Y.O.WINE  
Plus a general slide  
night: limit of 20 each

December: no official meeting due to holidays

January 18th 1979: A.G.M.- Bush Rescue Hdq.

Trips planned so far

October: Long Weekend 1st/2nd. Yarangabilly.  
with Andy Spate and Joe Jennings.  
They have extended a special invitation  
to members of C.T.C.G. to help them  
with their water tracing experiments.  
It should provide you with a fund of  
information both geological and environ-  
mental. Numbers are limited so get in  
quick and notify Ian Brown if you are  
going. People who have helped before  
say it is really worthwhile.

October: 28th/29th Yarangabilly.  
Eagles Nest.  
Trip Leader: John Brush((C.S.S.)  
contact through Ian Brown

November: date to be set- depends upon Shoalhaven R  
Wyanbene.  
probably mid Nov.

December; Coolamin.  
probably early Dec.

Jan./Feb. '79: Buchan, if it can be arranged.  
We would like to make this a 3-4 days  
trip, so try and think of a time when  
you might have an extended weekend.  
It is important to think about this now  
as we will try to work out a firm date in  
the October meeting, to start arrangements  
with V.S.S..

Early 1979; possible Camoweal or Central Qld. trip

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY AS WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE FIRM  
ARRANGEMENTS ABOUT THESE TRIPS AT THE NEXT MEETING.  
WE NEED TO KNOW WHO IS INTERESTED ETC..



Introduction to Caving Equipment Part Three-ROPESRope types Available

For climbing, nylon ropes are preferred. They come in two types, hawser laid (3 strands) or braided (Kermantel). Kermantel is preferred as it slides through Karabiners better, has a nylon sheath to protect the inner filaments and absorbs energy better. However it is less easily held than hawser-laid nylon rope. Whatever rope you select, make sure it conforms to recognised safety standards.

Hawser Laid Nylon	Kermantel	Uses
No 4 Nylon	11mm Nylon	Used single for rock-climbing, abseiling, and major slings (e.g. belays)
No 3 Nylon	9mm Nylon	Used double for artificial climbing and abseiling. Used single for top ropes in caving and climbing, and for major slings.
No 2 Nylon	7mm Nylon	Used for small slings for aid only, or equipment. May also be used for 7-8 metre waist loops and prussick slings.
No 1 Nylon	5mm Nylon	Used for very small slings for aid only, with a sheath. Used for prussick slings.

Caving

Requirements for caving ropes vary from climbing ropes. While belay ropes should be the same as for climbing, it is desirable that for 'Single Rope Techniques' ropes should have the following characteristics:

They should have low stretch, high strength under load, no spin under load, good abrasion resistance and limited absorption of water. This rules out ropes used for climbing rock as these are designed for high stretch to break falls safely. In abseiling and prussicking, this stretch only leads to annoying bounce, rapid abrasion, and finally failure of the rope.

Ropes should be of sheathed construction, and made from Nylon or Terylene, suitable diameters being 11-14mm. The best rope available is Bluewater Two, an American rope especially designed for vertical caving. Hawser laid ropes such as manilla or hemp should not be used.

Tapes:

Tapes are made mainly from nylon. Other materials used include terylene, which is more expensive, and polypropylene. Originally the webbing was woven in tubular form, but this is a weak method, as each side of the tube is always tensioned slightly differently when in use, and therefore the load will be

cont...



Introduction to caving equipment, part three, cont'd....

taken by one side only. Thus while high breaking strains result from straight tests, the practical strength will be considerably reduced.

Next issue will be on Ladders; their care and use for cavers

#### CARE OF ROPES

1. Never tread on ropes.
2. Prevent rub points when using rope. Rope abrasion can be fatal.
3. Wash rope in clean water after every caving trip. Grit can abraid your rope from inside.
4. Keep rope clear of chemicals, including batteries, oil petrol etc. It is a good idea to store separately from other equipment.
5. Protect rope by carrying in a bag.
6. A rope should be discarded when
  - a. A substantial load has been imposed on the rope.
  - b. The strands have become worn, furry or powdery.
  - c. The rope has been used for towing.
  - d. If the rope has been damaged in any way.

If in doubt ask your safety officer!

7. Store ropes in a cool dry place.

#### REMEMBER.....

A man that won't use a rope  
Is probably a dope.  
If he won't take a belay  
He'll probably cause delays.  
If he won't tie a good knot  
Then skilled he's not.  
When he climbs like a gun  
He'll end up on his bum  
And if in time he doesn't fall off  
In the end he'll write YOU off.

#### A SHORT STORY.....

"the quick and the dead".

Very shortly there will be a safety day to refresh and extend your knowledge, in all aspects of SAFE caving.  
All those not in attendance, will be awarded a medal for originality and humour in the stories given as excuses!

Your safety officer,  
L.A.

WHERE ARE YOUR BLOODSHEETS?  
WE ARE THINKING OF STATING THAT NO BLOODSHEET  
MEANS NO CAVING WITH THE CLUB.  
THEY ARE A SAFETY FEATURE!

FIELD TRIP REPORTSWee Jasper 19.8.78

Attended by Jim and Vickie Wilson, Ian Brown, Jim Reid and Reg Bament.

This was a last minute decision by a group of people who felt an undeniable urge to jump off cliffs, crawl through holes, and climb ladders.

Reg supplied copies of Joe Jennings' map of the cave, and we set out to explore as much of the area as we possibly could. The start was a bit slow. Just as I was about to abseil in, I discovered my light wouldn't work. After much fiddling on my part, I was persuaded to send the light down to the rest of the party, waiting patiently 70 feet below. Apparently the light bulb was loose in its socket!! There is a lesson to be learnt there! Jim W. also had trouble with his light, as he had cracked the lens of his M.S.A. on the trip up from Canberra. He manufactured a splint out of a small rock pressed to the middle of the glass face, and attached by a wire wrapped around the whole assembly.

Another lesson to be learnt, particularly for the Wilsons (We normally do carry spares but.....) After that start, we were sorry to discover that the skeleton 'caretaker', R.I.P., had been unhappily dismembered. It is common knowledge that Punch Bowl has suffered terribly from the effects of hundreds of little bodies using the cave as a 'training round' over the years. But it is beyond reason why people must needlessly destroy, and leave their garbage behind them. We were horrified at the new damage that had been done, and the amount of litter spread throughout the cave. The litter consisted of a beer can, lolly wrappers, film paper and flash cubes.

We managed to walk, crawl, and squeeze our way to all the places mentioned on the map, and finally arrived at Loxins Chamber some three hours later. We returned via Strawberry Shortcut and were suprized to see a lone bat clinging to the roof, just as you come down from the shortcut onto the mezzanine area. It was only about an arm's length away, so we carefully waited until all the group was present, before we looked at it on low beam.

The bat was shaking quite violently, but stayed put until we had left the area.

We had previously noticed the lack of bats in far chamber. Even the smell was quite 'old', compared to previous times. Jim W. and Ian, who had climbed Loxins Wall earlier, had reported finding a dead bat, fungus encrusted, at the top. Apart from those two bats, we didn't see or hear any others.

cont./...

Field Trip Reports cont'd

Other cave 'life' that we noticed were myriads of dead Harvestmen spiders. Webs were found in most areas of the cave, but they only contained dust and the odd small moth. We pondered what might have caused this apparently general 'insectocide'.

We also saw a cave cricket. While it wasn't completely colourless, it certainly had elongated feelers, and relied totally upon them to sense its environment. After a tentative exploration of a warm finger placed in its path it made a hasty exit.

Reg also added to the general excitement of the day, by dropping his knapsack, with jumars, rope, and crabs contained there in, down a large hole. This was just after looking at the bat on the mezzanine level. We thought that this hole must have been part of the canyon, so Ian and Jim W. set up a rope around a handy column, and Jim abseiled down.

"Guess what?", he cried in astonishment and glee.

"There is a whole new system down here!"

Imagine his embarrassment and disappointment when, on further investigation, he discovered that he had in fact gone through the 'control hole', and was in the middle of the Ballroom.

Oh well! Live and learn!

After that, we exited the cave via the ladder, quickly and safely. Marg Reid had a fire and a billy ready for us when we arrived back at the cars, and we enjoyed a late lunch at about 4.30 p.m.

Next trip to Wee Jasper will be in December, and its prime purpose will be to clean up the litter.

VICKIE

OTHER RECENT FIELD TRIPS

Wee Jasper; July - Attended by C.T.C.G. members :-

Jim Reid, Phill Bowers, Reg Bament, Graeme Cashion

Micheal Cashion, Phillip Cashion, Sandy Fristad,

Russel Dempsey

and visitors Richard, Hugh and Jenny Bowers, Phill.

Looked at Gong, Dip, and had a session abseiling in Devil's Punchbowl.

Cleefden; September - Attended by Reg Bament, Judy Bament, Kevin and Geoff Bament, Phillip Bowers, Sandy Fristad, Russell Dempsey (all the way from Darwin), Robert Douglas, Jim Reid, Margaret Reid and Bruce Reid, Jim Wilson, Vickie Wilson, and Ian Brown.

Helped by Chris and Andre from the O.S.S. (Thanks very much)  
Looked at Transmission, Main Murder, and Boondaroo.

And had a great time generally.



# 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)