

Poster Summary:

Cave Numbering System

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Cave numbering is an essential part of caving. Not only does numbering keep track of the number of features in a given area, it is also a simple method of referring to a cave that has not been named (a desirable attribute in today's geographical mapping climate), and to identify one cave from another (especially important where there are multiple entrances close together).

Many methods of cave numbering have been used in the past. None appear to have been universally successful, mainly due to environmental problems. Many tags were hard to see because they blended into the colour of the rock or were 'lost' due to the size of the cave entrance.

SRGWA advocated using 50 mm reflective discs with attached 30 mm stamped, plain aluminium discs during the 1993 TasTrog conference (Poulter 1993). SRG has used these discs to attach number tags to caves at Kununurra (1988 and 1989), Nullarbor Plain (1991-) and Wanneroo. The tags have also been used by the Top End Speleological Society in the Northern Territory.

The use of reflective number tags (*NumTags*) is endorsed by Western Australia's Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) for the identification of Nullarbor caves under its jurisdiction.

SRGWA is advocating the standardised adoption of NumTags throughout Australia.

References

Poulter, N. (1993). Protecting Caves From People. *TasTrog Conference Papers*. 19th Conf. Aust. Spel. Fedn. pp 80-89.