



more than the minutes of hcg - april 1999

bulletin of the Highland Caving Group
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AND NOW A PARABLE:

A property owner with 10,000 hectares of well-managed land and stock valued at \$25m including rare stud stock, receives a letter from HCG seeking permission for access to pursue caving interests. His 11yr old son notices the web address on the letterhead and dials it up.

The Trip Report:- "... flying down about 40kph - whopping big tree - bumper dude - wiped out a couple of small trees -- hooning down, perhaps a bit too fast... slammed into a NPWS fire trail sign..." Then descriptions of staking flies on blades of grass, and thorns.

The property owner mentions the nature of HCG at the next meeting of the local volunteer bush fire brigade. Another property owner remembers he too had received an approach from HCG.

There's a moral here somewhere.

THIS BULLETIN:

We now have three versions of this bulletin!

The first is in plain text and is emailed to those who preferred or could only cope with plain text.

The second is two columns RTF, emailed to those who received ok last time. (But without fancy formatting - I forgot that horizontal lines are WordPerfect Graphic commands!)

The third is beautiful hard copy, for those who enjoy the elegance of the printed page.

If you get more than one, it is probably deliberate experimenting.

HCG Meeting

Minutes AGM and Monthly Meeting, Tue 9th March 1999

[from notes of Chris Dunne]

Present:

Evalt Crabb (chair), Chris Dunne, Lindsay Matheson, Phil Fleming, Ian Lutherborrow, Grace Matts, Jim McGregor, Robyn Mountford, James Skinner, Dirk Stoffels, Joe Sydney, Bruce Waddington

Visitors:

Peter Bauer, Steve McCabe

Apologies:

Brian Race

Meeting Opened: 8:40pm

Annual General Meeting

President's Report Evalt Crabb:

Evalt noted that this was his first report since he was last President about 20 years ago. Of late the club hasn't done much caving and there seems to be little interest in caves, though attendance at meetings is up. Highlights in recent times have been: HCG's participation in Rogain 98, the Trash n' Treasure last November, a few socials, and the recent Yagby Cleanup [see Robyn's Press Release and the photos on Dirk's home page on the Web].

Recent months have seen the fading of the Minutes as we've known them for many years. They are in the process of being replaced by new methods of circulating news via eMail and the World Wide Web. See, for example the following sites at Sherry Mayo and Dirk Stoffels' home pages:

Trash n' Treasure report at
<http://www.cavepage.magna.com.au/cave/TnT/TrashnT.html>

Yagby Cleanup photos at
<http://www.users.bigpond.com/dirkjs123/HCG/hcg.htm>

As for HCG's own Web Site at <http://www.hcg.org.au> Jim McGregor is happy to host the site for us, but it badly needs updating. Ian Lutherborrow has produced an Index of the HCG Library. Dirk Stoffels is in the process of putting old Calcites onto CD-ROM Chris Dunne and Ian Lutherborrow will try to put out the missing issues 33 and 34 from the 1980s so they can be included.

Seven members attended the Cave Queensland ASF Biennial Conference in Yeppoon in January. Our trip program exchanges with ECRC, and now also with BCA, are continuing and cater better for a wide range of trip interests. Thanks to Chris Dunne, Robyn Mountford and Rebecca Small for Minutes in recent months; to James Skinner for keeping track of the money; and to Joe Sydney for organising things.

Resolved: "That the President's Report be accepted."

Carried by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report James Skinner:

Balance at Feb-98 brought forward \$648-10

Income:

Nightly takings \$66-75

Fees (includes ASF+Club) \$610-00

Fund raising \$287-70

\$964-45

Expenditure:

Fees to ACKMA	\$40-00
ASF Fees	\$525-00
Postage	\$93-25
	\$60-00
Hall rental from VRA	\$100-00
Donation to Cave Rescue \$100-00
	(918-25)

Balance at Feb-99: -----
(does not include Bank Fees) \$694-30

Resolved: "That the Treasurer's Report be accepted."
Carried by acclamation.

Elections:

Chris Dunne acted as Returning Officer. Brett Moule was the outgoing Secretary and was not standing again. There were one nomination each for the available positions, so balloting wasn't needed. Elected officers were as follows:

President Evalt Crabb
Secretary Jim McGregor
Treasurer James Skinner
ASF Councillors Phil Fleming and Robyn Mountford
Robyn, James, Joe Sydney and Chris Dunne are prepared to act as Alternates for the Secretary.

HCG's non-Executive officers were confirmed as follows:

Communications Ian Lutherborrow, Chris Dunne & Jim McGregor
Librarian Ian Lutherborrow
Safety and Training Jim McGregor

Resolved: "That Returning Officer Chris Dunne be accorded a vote of thanks." Carried by acclamation.

March General Meeting

Past Minutes:

Minutes for February 1999 were included in the hcg - march 1999 bulletin mailed or eMailed to members in the last week or so. There are still no Minutes for September's meeting both Evalt and Robyn took notes and were to collaborate to produce the September Minutes.

Correspondence:

[This was overlooked!]

Treasurer's Report James Skinner:

[Likewise this was overlooked why give two reports on the same night!]

The current signatories for the club's bank account are: Chris Dunne, Jim McGregor, Brett Moule & Rebecca

Small. Alterations are in hand to change the signatories to include James.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Speleosports Saturday 18th September 1999:

Joe got three responses to the eMail he put on Ozcavers recently. SUSS, MUCG and NHVSS have offered to help run it. Joe will send out a flyer seeking a contact for each club in NSW/ACT. Six clubs have expressed interest in attending. RSS have indicated their interest to run a Cavers Dinner at the same time a friend of Grace's catered for the recent SSS Dinner, including a spit, at a fairly good price. MUCG have offered Macquarie Uni as a venue; Cave Rescue and Joe have five marquee tents between them which could be set up next to the Cavers Cottage at Macquarie. The date of Sat 18th September was proposed and Joe will liaise with MUCG re both Speleosports and a Cavers Dinner for that date.

HCG Membership List:

Ian has updated the list on a spreadsheet and supplied this to Evalt. printed copies were passed around and it is available electronically.

Future Trips:

Future Trips are as per the hcg - march 1999 bulletin, except that BCA's trip to Colong was last weekend (6/7 March) and the NSW Speleo Council Meeting is on Saturday 17 April at Yaralla Sea Scout Hall at Rhodes (next to the southwest pylon of Ryde Bridge). Someone should tell Evalt how to spell Nullarbor (from the Latin: null-arbor meaning no trees).

Evalt discussed arrangements for the HCG trip to the Portland area (NHT Project) this weekend (13/14 March). They will also be looking at Cullen Bullen and Ben Bullen. Chris Dunne is to supply copies of the Parish Maps for Dulabree, Turon and Yetholme, all in County Roxburgh which he can obtain from work these are invaluable for interpreting many of the location references in Limestone Deposits of NSW (Lishmund).

ECRC's trip to Stanwell Tops (Sun 28 March) is actually to Kellys Falls.

NSWITSS (now UTSSS) founding father Robin Steenson, who is a good mate of Joe's and now lives in Dubbo, plans to join Evalt's trip to Coco Creek (10/11 April). Coco Creek is hallowed ground in NSWITSS mythology and the site of an oft-repeated tale of bludging and travelling light by a certain young Peter Dykes. Ian was a member of NSWITSS at the time; ask him for details.

NAV 99 Rogaining Event 3/4 July:
Note the change of date for this. Joe is to circulate a flyer with details.

Other Matters:

Joe has receipts for the Hall rental and for our donation to Cave Rescue (\$100 each).

At Ian Lutherborrow's prompting, we purchased a copy of Under Bungonia by Julie and Peter Bauer (\$45), which was finally published late last year. Evalt wrote the chapter on the history of cave exploration. Peter was present at the meeting and sold copies to several people.

Ian also asked for contributions for our next edition of Calcite. As well, he and Chris will attempt to publish the long lost number 33 and 34 sometime this year.

Meeting Closed:

9:40pm, although people talked on for quite a bit. (These minutes may need fine-tuning)

Trip Reports:

Trip reports for the many Easter trips will, no doubt, be presented soon.

PORTLAND 13/14 MARCH 1999. (Brief report)

This was the first of the NHT field trips and served well to recognise teething problems with these trips. Present were: Evalt Crabb(L); Peter Dykes; Ian Lutherborrow; Brian, Pauline and David Race; Phil Fleming, Marie Horvath with Christopher, Samantha and Rebecca; Robyn Mountford; James Skinner.

We met at Portland Saturday morning. First inspection was over the fence at the eastern end of the Portland quarry, now undergoing rehabilitation. No attempt to gain entry. A watch was kept for reported limestone to the right on the way to Cullen Bullen but with no success - the description was rather vague. Heading west from the railway crossing at Ben Bullen, we may have been close to reported limestone (2 locations), but we were peremptorily ordered from the property before we reached the door of the homestead. An adjoining property owner, though, was quite friendly and we were able to mark on a map a reported cave and two spinifex communities well to the east of Ben Bullen, towards the Blue Rocks area. (These are listed for future investigation.)

After pausing at Pearson's Lookout to familiarise members with the Coco Creek/Blue Rocks/Glen Davis landscape, we travelled via Capertee to have lunch at a Turon River crossing. Road marked 4WD only, all vehicles were persuaded to reach Palmers Oakey. Here we saw our first wild limestone - half a hectare

with just a few solution tubes and degraded rillenkarren.

The - once again - friendly landowner informed us of a quarry and limestone west along the adjacent Bathurst road; our finding ability wasn't too good that weekend!

As soon as we headed south toward Sunny Corner (!) we hit a succession of thunderstorms and driving rain, which finally relented as we neared Wallarawang. There was no camping at Wallace Lake (despite previous assurances) so it was decided to camp at Lake Lyell, some 12km south of Lithgow. We arrived simultaneously with a succession of thunderstorms, which lasted at least six hours. Some members disappeared to seek reasonable climes - the others survived.

For this we paid \$8 per tent camping fee.

Sunday morning and we headed via Rydal to look for yet another reported deposit (narrow, intercalated, claystones, discontinuous). We found the right paddock but absolutely no rock - a century of ploughing and planting of flat ground made finding caves unlikely. The only vegetation was roadside.

The final attempt was to 2 small reported outcrops at Brunts and Gow Creeks, about 3km south of Portland. The friendly landowner confirmed we were in the right place, as did our well-developed map reading. No limestone, particularly not 10m high. Lishmund had copied from Carne & Jones, who had copied from another earlier report.... It was time to go home.

Some notes regarding reporting NHT trips:

1. Descriptive, anecdotal reports such as the one above serve a slight useful service for club records.
2. Detailed trip reports of observations with little anecdotal material offer a thorough record. This data suits inputting to the Karst Index and other databases.
3. The pre-organisation charts used may be the best control of progress; they contain map data; new items can be added from local input; by updating after each trip the charts will indicate when each item is complete or could be abandoned and why. Or guidance for future work.
4. It is regarded as a courtesy to supply a summary of observations to each landowner visited.
5. Agreed on the first trip was that there would be great value in each participant providing a co-ordinator with their own observations, comments on process or any other type of comment. We may be able to make each trip more effective and more enjoyable.
6. It is important that everything returns to one central point: there are maps I don't have; there are names and addresses I don't have to enable the courtesy report; hopefully I will soon receive individuals' reports and comments.
7. Finally, I regard it as both important and courteous that every participant receives an updated flow of

progress - one trip makes a person a stakeholder.
What do you think? (Let the paper warfare begin!)
Evalt.

FUTURE TRIPS:

*16 April.

NSWSC meeting Yaralla Scout Hall.

*24-26 May.

BCA. Cliefden. Contact Ian Wilkin (02) 4294 1668.

*1-2 May.

HCG. NHT project. Originally listed as Cudgegong/Kandos, it now makes sense to keep working north from Capertee/Coco Creek toward Kandos (ref trip 10-11 April. Contact Evalt (02) 9607 2142

*8-9 May

ECRC. Tuglow(?)

*15-16 May.

OSS. Tree planting at Cliefden. Contact Bruce Howlett (02) 6331 4627

*22-23 May.

BCA. Timor. Contact Ian Wilkin.

*29-30 May.

OSS. NHT project - Molong. Bruce Howlett.

*12-14 June.

HCG/RSS. NHT project, including surveying Apple Tree Flat/Queens Pinch/Cudgegong, possibly minor areas close to Mudgee. Contact Evalt.

*1-14 July.

Nullarbor (note correct spelling!) - Madura, Eucla, Weebubby, Mullamalang. Contact Ian Lutherborrow.

*3-4 July.

NAV 99 Rogaining Event. Contact Joe Sydney.

*18 September.

Possible date for SpeleoSports, maybe Cavers' Dinner.
To be confirmed.

NEXT MEETING:

*Tuesday 13 April at Klemm St. Bankstown at 7.30pm.

It looks like our lazy summer trip to St Michael Cave Avalon is deferred until beach weather.

Also Shoalhaven area stuff awaiting getting rid of first flush of NHT Macquarie project.

Thanks to Joe Sydney for ongoing supply of old

NSWITSS reports and maps - we will be well prepared.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

There has been spontaneous interest shown in former exploits with RDF (Radio Direction Finding) and much material is being gathered. This interest may include other electronic processes - HCG has quite some history in this area. Any material and expressions of interest will be most welcome. The library will be the focal point.

Compiled for the Highland Caving Group by Evalt Crabb
April 1999