



Highland Caving Group

A member society of the Australian Speleological Federation inc.

President: Ian Lutherborrow (02) 4631 1055

Secretary: Bruce Waddington (02) 9228 5054(w) (02) 9713 1160 (h)

Treasurer: Lindsay Matheson (02) 9785 4644(h)

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Bulletin

March 2010

HCG General Meeting - Tuesday 9 March 2010

The meeting opened at 8.00 pm.

Present: Bruce Waddington, Joe Sydney, Lindsay Matheson, Ian Wilkin, Steve McCabe, Bryan Race, Ian Binnie, Fiona, Lyndon and Willow Ray

Apologies: Ian Lutherborrow, Dave Rothery, Cathy Brown, Joan Crabb, John Dunkley, Grace Matts

Corro Out: Bulletin to members

Corro In: ACKMA No 78 March 2010
Caves Aust No 179 June-Sept 09
Aust Post PO Box renewal
Westpac Bank Statement

Treasurer's Report:

Lindsay presented his treasurer's report.

Opening	\$1229.41
Balance	
Income - Nightly takings	10.00
Expenses -	Nil
Closing Balance	\$1239.41

Lindsay's report was accepted.

General Business:

NPWS Draft Cave Access Policy

NPWS has sent a draft Cave Access Policy and supporting documents to ASF for comment. The NSW Speleo Council was co-ordinating a response on behalf of ASF members in NSW & ACT and circulated the documents to clubs for review and comment.

A draft response was circulated to clubs in early February for review before sending final comments were due on 19 February 2010. This response has now been sent to NPWS.

ASF Council Meeting

The ASF Executive Council meeting was held on Saturday 2 January 2010 at the Bankstown Grammar School at Georges Hall. There was only

a brief verbal report on this and further details will come out later.

CRS Hall Rent

Rent to paid for the last year. Lindsay to check nightly takings and send a cheque to CRS.

ASF Postal Ballot

ASF is conducting a postal vote of all clubs on the following codes:

- Minimum Impact Conservation Code
- Minimum Impact Code for Scientific Investigation in Caves and Karst
- Safety Guidelines

Voting closes on 22 May 2010.

HCG needs to formally consider these at the next meeting and vote on them.

ASF Award Nominations

ASF has called for nominations for the next round of ASF awards to be presented at the next ASF conference at Chillagoe in 2011. Nominations need to be emailed to Loyd Robinson at andyrob@chillagoe.com.au by 30 June 2010.

NSW Cave Numbering & Documentation Committee

A circular has been issued by the NSW Cave Numbering and Documentation Committee in February 2010.

This briefly outlines that work has been continuing towards preparation of the first volume of the NSW Karst Atlas and development of a GIS based off line version of KID to be known as OzKarst and associated problems with the cave numbering systems in NSW.

New Member

An application to join HCG has been received from Graeme Smith.

Graeme used to be a member in the old days and has been on some recent trips.

His application was accepted by the club and contact details have been given to Lindsay to update the membership list.

Welcome back Graeme.

Bungonia B4-5 bridge project

Plans have been submitted and approved. Parks are in the process of seeking internal funding for this project. If they cannot obtain 100% of funding, HCG may need to seek partial funding from the ASF enviro fund.

Proposed projects:

Wombeyan assistance.

The manager at Wombeyan Caves has asked if cavers would be interested in helping Wombeyan with some small projects that Guides cannot do. A list of small projects is to be provided. This is to be considered at a future meeting when we know what they want done.

Cave surveying course

Hills are putting together a cave surveying course. They are in the process of writing the course now.

A course jointly co-ordinated with HCG has been tentatively scheduled for sometime late 2010.

Moparrabah cave survey

KSS urgently need help to survey Moparrabah cave west of Kempsey.

This should only take a few trips and can start with some survey training.

HCG agreed to help with this project.

Tricketts Arch survey

Peter Dykes has a property at Jaunter that has Tricketts Arch and areas of karst located on it. Peter has asked for some help to survey the karst features on his property.

Some survey work has already been conducted in the 70s but much is missing and it needs to be finished.

Things that need considering are: surface feature survey, entrance tagging, entrance photo tagging, cave surveying and maybe further exploration.

HCG agreed to help co-ordinate this project and this will require gathering all existing information and to gradually fill in missing data over 4 or 5 trips over the next 2 years.

Results will need to be properly documented.

Bungonia - Depression village surface feature survey

Depression village is at the southern end of the Bungonia Conservation Reserve.

It housed up to 500+ people through various gold rush periods commencing in 1880s to 1940s. Much has been destroyed by bushfires so what is left needs to be documented.

Things like chimneys/house remains, old cars, adits, artifacts & water race need GPSing.

HCG agreed to help with this project over 2 to 3 weekends.

Approval will be needed from NPWS for affected parks lands.

Cliefden trip leader training

Possible training of trip leaders in HCG and other clubs for Cliefden trips is to be followed up with OSS who will provide possible dates for this later this year.

Nicola MkIII – fundraising

CRS has made redundant the caver safety program that was initiated earlier.

This means that the Nicola MkII is now not available for loan even when HCG donated \$500 to this cause.

It was proposed that interested cavers consider buying their own Nicola MkIII units when they become available.

Maybe there could be a possible future donation to ACRC for national & caver expedition use.

Approx cost will be around AU\$3-4000.

Joe is prepared to donate \$1K but further funds need to be raised.

Michie base station

A MkII base station was quickly built during one evening as the MkI was loaned to SA cave divers and on its return from the Pearse Resurgence dive in NZ, it was quarantined with the dive gear so was not available in time for the NZ deep cave rescue exercise.

The MkII was built and sent to NZ quickly and this was used in the deep cave rescue exercise and worked to a depth of 150m and 400m inside the cave.

Photos etc

Joe gave brief reports on his trips to Timor Caves and to Rocky Creek and Twister Canyons and showed some photos and videos.

FUTURE TRIPS 2010

		Contact
April 13	HCG AGM	Bruce
April 10/11	Kempsey Survey training + Moparrabah	Joe
May ??	Tasmania	Joe

ACRC Training

May 23 NSW Speleo Council Joe
 Meeting at Jaunter

Colong – trip proposed to Colong and to find Red Cave.

If anyone wants any trips to any areas please contact one of the contacts listed below.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be our AGM on Tuesday 13 April 2010 at the hall in Klemm Street at Bankstown Airport.

Contact Details

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