

"THE CALCITE"

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HIGHLAND CAVING GROUP

VOLUME 1. NUMBER 1. MARCH 1963

EDITORIAL:::

For want of a better name(?), the new magazine will be known as "The Calcite", and Eddy gets put in the clink, (Sorry, gets the Clinker!)

This is certainly a strange beginning for a Spelio Group. There is the magazine with associated staff.. a Q.M. and a Librarian - Record Keeper. However, there is no President, Treasurer, or Secretary, etc. This is a case where the magazine has preceeded the Group it is for. (I think that this will have to be told to Mr. Ripley!)

We on the Calcite Staff think that the H.C.G. will have a great "new life, with its new policies and the broadenings of its aims and concepts that we think will take place from certain discussions taking place at the present time.

As the Calcite has the dual role of passing on news, opinions, plans, etc, and of helping to raise finance, we feel that the charge of 6d a copy is not excessive. /Any profits (?) made will be of use to the H.C.G. We hope that the H.C.G. members, potential members and friends interested in the group will buy a copy.

The Staff wishes the H.C.G. will have a long and fruitful existence, and we hope that the "Calcite" can keep up the good work that is already started(?)

REPORT ON MEETING HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY 1963:::

Nine people turned up for the meeting which was held at David's, and although it started late (as usual) there seemed to be quite a bit done.

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Inquiries were made as regarding the magazine, there being no issue as there was insufficient material. Various titles were suggested, but none adopted. We hope that the present one is satisfactory.

Eddy Powel was voted Editor, and Davud Gant-Thompson was voted Sub-Editor.

After a discussion on facts and figures, the O.M., Arthur Rose, and Evalt Crabb, came up with the price of £4-0-0 per 50 ft length of ladder, which is quite reasonable.

The Librarian - Record-Keeper (Roger Booth) had his duties more clearly defined. i.e., keeping any books the Group might obtain, the cutting out and storing of references to caves found in magazines, newspapers, etc., and the storing of maps (together with a record of hours spent underground by each member.) Also full trip reports handed in by Trip Leaders.

to be enforced 11/2/66
David bought up the matter of insurance whilst on caving trips, and as there seemed to be a favourable reaction, will find out more. Details to be handed in at a later date.

Due to there being a number already marked on the signpost sink, our number of H2 together with H1 and H3 will be erased.

From reports from the last trip to Bungonia (16th-17th February), there seems to have been some digging gone at the signpost sink (B11) and also B30. Unfortunately the diggers, unknown as yet, have left both areas in a mess. This mess, together with an increasing number of old tins, bottles and dirty camp-sites have tended to make Bungonia Reserve very untidy looking.

Owing to this untidiness, a motion was moved and passed unanimously, that maybe contact could be made with other societies, like S.S.S. and B.U.S.S. etc, to arrange a weekend when the members of H.C.G. and other societies could go down and have a "Clean-Up Bungonia" weekend. This would serve a twofold purpose:-

1. The tidying up of the reserve and the removal of eye-sore piles of rubbish.
2. The showing to other groups that there is another group, other than themselves, that is keenly interested in the Bungonia Area.

Although the weekend would be a cleaning up one, it doesn't mean that there would be no caving done, as by following the old H.C.G. habit,
(continued page 3).

there can be quite a bit of night caving.

Evakt will be contacting the other societies/groups to be involved and we hope that we can hear more about it at the next meeting.

Regarding the damage to formation, leaving of rubbish and the leaving of names marked in candle soot, chalk, etc, by members of the scouting association, it was suggested that any letters sent to the association's H.Q. should be sent with photographic evidence, together with names of individuals, and names of troops and/or crews. So any members of the H.C.G. who sees clearly marked evidence of names and troops, please take a photo of same and pass it on to the President (when we have one) with time and place of finding.

Of course, there is no need to take photos that are marked with dates before 1961, as the people involved could quite well be out of the movement by now, and could be members of a properly organised caving group.

If a sufficiently strong enough letter, together with photos of ten or twelve cases is sent to the Association, there might be a tightening up by the Association on the Caving activities of its members, with (it is hoped) a decrease of cave vandalism.

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REPORT ON TRIP TO TUGLOW (1-4 March 1963)

Four people went on the trip to Tuglow that weekend, namely, Eddy, Roger, Arthur and Jim, none of whom had been there before.

When they arrived at Jenolan Caves/^{house} they teamed up with three other chaps in a Land Rover (Hafari), who were going to see the Tourist Caves at Tuglow?? which they thought had a good road to the caves and lights in the caves themselves.

For those who have been to Tuglow, you know there is quite a bit of a difference, what with the walk up and down the hills,

Our four were lucky they were driven two hundred yards, or so down

the river, with all their gear, thus cutting out quite a bit of walking.

Camping was set up at the bottom of the ridge where the cave is, so they were near water. Camping on the ridge means a good haul for water carriers. (Ask Keith).

After Camp was set up, they all settled down to a good weekend of caving, for example, Walking through the stream in the cave which was icy cold, Roger falling about 15 feet, being bruised and shaken up a bit. Arthur playing the hero (There is a special putty medal being struck for the occasion!!)

Adding photography, the whole trip was a lot of fun. Ask the boys that went. Eddy reports that the lower level has been left in a terrible condition. Old batteries, heaps of used carbide, yards of string all over the place, empty cigarette and sweet packets, used flashbulbs.

There are quite a few formation broken off and a few of the S.S.S. survey plates have been ripped off.

There is no report of the upper level as they couldn't find the way to it, and from the complaints of cold water and freezing conditions, they seem to be a little bit pleased that they couldn't as it would have meant being around for a few hours with wet clothing on.

After leaving the camp at 10 a.m. Monday, they were going up one ridge. Eddy put his hand around a snake's tail thinking it was a tree root. The ensuing pandemonium, Eddy went one way, and the snake went the other.

Hatari went first, and the other followed, along back Oberon hill. Still thinking Hatari was some way in front, they were a little surprised when rounding one corner they came across the three sitting by the side of the road with large grins on their faces. On looking for Hatari, it was shown to them lying on its side on the bank of the road. The rear left hand shackle had snapped, luckily in one respect, as they were going around a left hand corner. If it had been a right hand corner, Hatari might have ended up unexpectedly dropping into Jenolan Caves House literally.

Things were finally sorted out, and everyone arrived home in one piece.

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From information received Grant Warren (Hafari's owner) seems to be very keen on caving, so we might be seeing more of him. Maybe also his two friends.

Next issue we hope to have a photographic section, also we might have a continuation of Science Corner, if it is wanted.

If anyone has anything to say, give us the article for publication a fortnight before the time for the next issue. We hope that the magazine will be issued every third weekend in the month.

AGENDA FOR MEETING ON 31st MARCH 1963

The meeting is to be held in Arthur's 13 Kembla St, Chester Hill, will start at 7.15 p.m. SHARP!! All interested are asked to attend, and those that aren't there on time, well, the meeting will start without them. So you are warned.

1. Adoption of the Constitution.
2. Election of Officer Bearers.
3. Report on Mangonia "Clean-Up" Weekend.
4. Discussion of news regarding Association with other societies.
5. Planning of Easter Trip and tentative planning of other trips.

All in all, there is quite a bit to be done, so the necessity of starting on time needs no pushing.

The Editor wishes to thank the Sub-Editor for his work on the Galeite which was done during the Sub's convalescence after his operation. He also says that maybe the Sub-Editor could have appendicitis more often as it would make the issuing of the magazine a lot easier.

(HA! HA! ... Sub/Ed)

ANYTHING TO SELL, SWAP, OR GIVE AWAY, OR WANTED? PLEASE LET EITHER ED OR SUB ED KNOW FOR PUBLICATION. RESULTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED, BUT WE WILL DO OUR BEST...

ALL COMPLAINTS GO TO EDDY! HE CAN READ IT! WHY CAN'T YOU???

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