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"THE CALCITE"

Vol. 1: No. 3

The Official Magazine of the "Highland Eaving Group".

EDITORIAL:

My sincere thanks to those that contributed to this month's magazine and to those that are preparing material for the next issue. I have appreciated your willingness and co-operation.

The Calcite staff offer their apologies for the late issue of last month's magazine, as there were printing difficulties.

We would also like to thank Blayne and Bob Saville for the help they gave us in the printing of the last issue, and also this one, too.

A visitor, at the last meeting, 28th April, was Glen Chandler (S.U.S.S.). I think that everyone would like to see more of him.

"OPERATION DUSTBIN" is a startling example of what can be achieved by co-operation and co-ordination among various speleo groups and societies. The extent of the area cleaned and the amount of rubbish deposited in the pits by the relatively few people present, also taking into account the time factor, was amazing.

No doubt, as one person mentioned, there will probably have to be another "O.D." in a year or eighteen months time as 'tourists' to the area will no doubt take very little trouble with the disposal of their rubbish, as has proved to be the case in the past.

The presence of such societies as S.S.S.; S.U.S.S.; U.N.S.W.S.S., and I.S.S. shows that speleos aren't just interested in caving, but will, and do, help to keep areas clean and tidy. I only wish that others would do the same. The Australian country-side might look a little cleaner if they did. Our thanks and appreciation to those societies involved.

I shall be looking forward to receiving your articles for the next issue of the Calcite.

Editor

"Your thoroughbred camper.....It is not the possession of the land, but the landscape he enjoys, and as for that, all the wild parts of the earth are his by a title that carries with it no obligation, but that he shall not desecrate, nor lay them waste."

---H. Kephart.

REPORT ON MEETING 28th. APRIL:

Held in Roger's Garage, there were sixteen members, potential and other wise present, plus a visitor in the shape of one Glen Chandler (S.U.S.S.). It was nice to see him and hear some of the semi-arguments that developed after the meeting closed.

Starting at 7.55 p.m. (we ARE getting better!!); a full and interesting evening was had until the close at 9.45 p.m. after which there was a lot of talking going on and various bods singing (!) a song about Hatari.

Our thanks to Mrs. Owens for the wonderful supper she provided, it was greatly appreciated, although there seemed to be quite a bit left over.

Various schemes and motions were nominated and passed, but owing to dark and murky deeds abt to be perpetrated, we can't say anything about it as yet, but as soon as possible, we will print THE FULL STORY - AS IT HAPPENED!!!

For the first time in H.C.G. History there were minutes to be read and adopted (Crikey! We must have improved).

Also for the new members, there was a short history of the Group given by Evalt. This covered the start of the original Group eight or nine years ago, followed it through the formation of the Freelance Caving Group thence to its split and disbanding and the formation of Highland C.G. The Highland Group really started about a year ago, but as people know, we have now reformed on a different basis, one that we hope will prove to be a sound one at that.

Roger let out a cry for the reports to be handed in, none of which have appeared as yet. (Wake-up Trip Leaders!!!)

Glen reported hearing of a large white "H" marked above the entrance to the Grille, (Subsequently found not to exist.)

Evalt outlined a programme for Bungonia covering the next three months or so, as he won't be coming on any trips for the next few months owing to the expectation of a new caver (?) arriving soon, and Ev feels that he ought to be there in order to fit the new arrival with a caving helmet as soon as possible. (Being Mr. & Mrs. Crabb, would you call it a little nipper?)

The presence of Mr. Kaye and his charming daughters was very welcome to the group. We only hope that they have as good a bargain in the group as we know we have in gaining three such experienced members.

The meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m., but everyone finally left around eleven.

REPORT ON "OPERATION DUSTBIN".

4th-5th MAY 1963.

After doing a bit of mental (and otherwise) arithmetic, (I ran out of fingers! SUB-ED). I came up with this amazing fact:-

Taking the present H.C.G. membership as 18, our turn up of 17 members at "O-D" represents a total turn out of 94.4%. The other 5.6% was attending a wedding (Not his own, fortunately for him.)

The Calcite staff and the committee are very pleased with this result and we can all congratulate ourselves on acquitting ourselves so well. Enough of this back slapping, or we will find that none of our helmets fit, let us get down to the report.

The following comes from Mr. Crabb:-

All round, the trip was very successful. Most societies present co-operated fully in the main theme, the clean-up, resulting in Bungonia having a new face. Unfortunately, two groups tended to undo the work somewhat.

Firstly, some chaps from Wollongong were observed cutting and breaking down wattle for no apparent reason. This group also left a rather untidy campsite.

The other group, including an applicant for S.U.S.S. (believed to have had his application rejected), left their campfire burning when they left the area.

We're no Angels, but

Thank you Mr. Crabb! and Now a word from our sponsor:-

"Do you find that falling arches bring on bad Headaches? If you do, then we recommend Dr. Bungonia's "Cee-Oh-Too" inhalers. A few whiffs guarantee a relief from headaches, all other pains and worries, too!

Remember! When you have a headache, use Dr. Bungonia's...

CO₂ of which there has come to light an important aspect
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by the effect of the gas on the two people involved. At first, there was a feeling of drowsiness, then as we moved downwards, this drowsiness was replaced by a feeling of well being, even elation, and the impression that we had penetrated into clear air again. On starting to withdraw from the cave, we were misjudging distances, stumbling, and beginning to feel heady...

A report received since states that CO₂ can act as a stimulant at first. This would highlight a major hazard at the Bungonia Caves area, to other than experienced speleos, and it is conceivable that fatality could occur, particularly to casual or careless visitors. Perhaps ASF-NSW could do something before such a fatality does occur, not that a person likely to be involved would be any loss, but authorities may close the area.

At the same time, our ^{own}/safety standard, the candle, has been proved to be a very definite indication of the unsafe CO₂ level.

(all the above, except the lousy advert was Mr. Crabb's).
Now to the rest of the report.

A good trip down was had by all, or nearly all, - but - as usual, Hatari was involved in something out of the ordinary.

Trying to tow a twelve ton semi isn't easy is it? While that was happening, David and John were busy tying up the traffic with a wild system of signals designed to puzzle any motorist as to what the heck was going on.

There were no prangs, fortunately for them, but with the arrival of the local constabulary, there appeared to be chaos out of order, (beg pardon), order out of chaos.

A good weekend was had by all, especially around the Fossil Cave, late Saturday night, when two members were nearly having kittens in Hogan's when the others came through ^{from} the Fossil.

Cave wise, the mapping programme is now starting to bear fruit; several 'wishful thinking ideas' are very close to reality (but no announcement yet) and study of CO₂ intake and flow has progressed tremendously.

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Everyone arrived home in one piece, although we nearly left one member in B 31 after he had had a very bad dose of foul air.

If every trip went as well as this one did, caving would really be fun!!!

[illegible]

FROM OUR ROVING REPORTER: :: :: MR. CAL SIET.

This has been handed in by an anonymous Bod (y), entitled,

IS IT WORTH IT????

Our Clean-up at Bungonia,
Can give rise to a symphonia,
Consisting of bottles, jars and tins.

Nearly all there were shirking,
There being some shirking,
Picking up even some pins.

We in the end did bury
A load as big as a ferry
Or a load as big as our sins.

We left the area clean and tidy
But maybe by the following Friday
It needed again some dustbins.

It seems that while tourists wander,
We shall continually ponder
If we'll ever be rid of bottles, jars and tins.

Any complaints about this 'ere poem should go to Mr. C.S. and he will pass them on.

I only hope that this will not come to pass, as to have another clean-up will only show that tourists do not behave as they should. (Sub-Ed).

Before leaving camp, make sure your fire is out..... DEAD OUT!!!

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF CAVING:

1. THOU Shalt not enter a cave alone.
2. THOU Shalt not enter a cave if suffering from assorted ailments that may create burdens for others, (Heart Trouble, Epilepsy, etc)
3. THOU Shalt not enter a cave under the influence of John Barleycorn or Charley Mopps.
4. THOU Shalt wear a hard hat on Thy head at all times, and use Thy head at all times.
5. THOU Shalt carry into a cave three sources of light, and matches in a waterproof container.
6. THOU Shalt always leave word outside a cave as to Thy whereabouts and expected time of return.
7. THOU Shalt Honour Thy Leader and obey His instructions.
8. THOU Shalt sit down at once and wait patiently on the spot if Thy lights all fail, thus avoiding injury and making a minimum of trouble for rescuers, who shall surely come.
9. THOU Shalt never jump. THOU shalt walk or crawl or wade or climb.
10. THOU Shalt not kick down rocks on Thy fellow cavers, considering their welfare in this as in all other matters.

Above are a few of the Commandments which good cavers observe. A few who didn't have found themselves ostracised from Caving Society.

(Taken from "Exploring American Caves").

SCIENCE CORNER: ::::: CAVES AND ROCKS

Most caves in Australia are found in the coastal area or close to it, although there are numerous exceptions to this rule.

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Since those caves which are found in Limestone are the largest and most interesting from our point of view, it with these that we will deal. Not all of our limestone areas contain caves that we know of, although there are many new caves being found in such limestone areas of recent years.

The Science of Geology is concerned with rocks... in particular their age, composition and the manner in which they are formed. The Speleologist is concerned mainly with the last two, which are closely allied.

There are three main ways in which rocks are formed: from the remains of previously existing rocks, being deposited either on water or on land, known as the sedimentary process: from the cooling of molten rocks, known as the Igneous process: and by changing the character of the existing rock by chemical action, heat or pressure, etc, known as the Metamorphic process. The sedimentary process is the one with which we are most concerned, as it is by this process that Limestone is originally formed.

Sedimentary rocks are characterised by the fact that most of them are laid down in beds or layers. The separations between these layers due to possibly time or some other factor, are known as Bedding Planes. In limestone, as found in most caving regions, these beds or layers may be of quite considerable thickness, although in shales, etc., they are usually only thin - a couple of inches thick. The beds are often split into blocks by cracks perpendicular to the bedding plane, and this is known as jointing.

It is through these joints and bedding planes that most caves are formed, and many of the beginnings can be seen in the caves themselves. Caves formed along bedding planes, originally by the erosion of the water are usually very wide, with low roofs, whilst those formed along joints usually have very high roofs and narrower passages.

Continued next month.

REVIEW:::

I had the pleasure to be able to peruse the latest issue of the journal of the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, "THE BUSHWALKER", Vol 2, No 2, the other day, and found it to be a refreshing change from some of the trash that one occasionally finds on the bookstalls now-a-days.

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Right from the introductory poem, which goes something like this (en parte):

Walkers' Christmas,
Festive cheer;
Cold tinned pudding,
Hot tinned beer,

etcetera, to the last article "On Climbing" by a well known member of Sydney Rock Climbers, the book, available for a low, low 3/- is worth every penny. There is also a rather good introduction to the use of a camera on out of doors trips, which I feel might be of value to certain members, I could, (but won't) name. An extract is as follows:-

"Let us begin with the camera. If we are going to participate in photography it is generally agreed that a camera of some description is necessary for first class results..... modern 35 mm camera? Frightening, isn't it... Covered in Gadgets. But don't let them scare you - all you must know is which ones to leave alone and it will perform as well as any simple box camera."

Want to read more? I'm sure that many of you will, even if just for the educational benefit of the article. Just 3/- a copy, available from Paddy's.

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STOP PRESS::

It seems as though progress with the Long weekend trip in June is making great gains... permission having been obtained, etc, and full co-operation assured. Should turn out to be a very good trip.

SOME THOUGHTS ON CAMPSITE CLEANLINESS:

"Sufficient if we leave no hurt to mar earth's face or man's; but only where we lived may there be sunlight, and such sense of peace that wanderers who come upon the place must pause and say: 'Someone was happy here'."

Kath Mackay, S.B.W.

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