

CALCITE

Official Magazine of the Highland Caving Group.

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P.O. Box 154
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EDITORIAL

For the past two years, H.C.G. has been trying to prove, both to ourselves and to other societies, that we are sufficiently mature as a society to be capable of holding a place in a federal body.

Now that we have been accepted as a member society of the A.S.F., there may be a brief interlude for celebration, but we must, very rapidly, broaden our thinking (and voting) so that we serve speleology not only on a local basis, but also on a national basis.

Locally, we must closely examine the functioning of the N.S.W. Coordination Sub-Committee - its terms of reference, its actual and potential effectiveness, and the extent of support from relevant societies. There is no question of the necessity of such a committee; there is some doubt in our mind, however, whether member societies realise that they are the committee.

Dare we suggest at this early stage, that the problem of conservation of caves is best tackled by a "hard sell" of the necessity and principles of conservation within the established societies? Instead of only committee members being interested?

Perhaps, now that we are in the mainstream, we will hear more from other societies; or perhaps better channels of communication are needed than the sparsely written newsletters, etc.. Could A.S.F., as a non-controlling body, be improved by a greater interchange of knowledge, of activities and of trends of policy? Certainly H.C.G. will benefit from such action, enabling us to support A.S.F. as an independent society.

However, despite the criticism above, we would like to sincerely thank all other member societies for accepting us into the clan; we hope that the one objector finds that we can work in speleology in reasonable harmony; and we hope that H.C.G. continues to justify its acceptance.

ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE.

Starting with this issue, "CALCITE" will be circulated to all A.S.F. societies. To facilitate this, it would be appreciated if we could be informed if your copy was addressed correctly. We would overcome you with effusive thanks if this publication triggered some form of exchange scheme. Over to you.

Details of other H.C.G. papers will be published from time to time in this newsletter, and will be available on request. All H.C.G. publications are on standard quarto size and (except for this sheet - we forgot) have sufficient margin for a ring binder system.

COMING EVENTS.

24th January Annual General Meeting 7.30pm.
Progress Hall, Abbott Park, Chester Hall.

28th. February General Meeting Venue as above.

No definite trip plans have been announced. It is believed that Barrington Tops is "off"; there may be trips to Tuglow and Mudgee on Australia Day weekend. A trip programme will be decided on or after the A.G.M.

ANNUAL REPORT 1964

At the end of our caving year, the members of the Highland Caving Group can look back with pride at its achievements. Just as important as these achievements, though, has been the stabilising and maturing of our membership. Discoveries of new sections, advances in scientific knowledge, and conservation practises are hardly possible from a group of people troubled with disharmony in their ranks. How very fortunate that we have been able to divert any such tendencies, to that extent that ours is possibly the most closely knit, and potentially the most effective, group in the country.

The greatest advances have occurred at Bungonia (naturally) starting in January with the discovery of the Powell Pot, a large extension of the Fossil Cave-Hogans Hole system. Work in this extension; so far hampered by the squeeze entrance, foul air, siltation, etc., should proceed at a faster pace soon with the proposed excavation from the surface direct to the top of the main chute. The well known portion of this system has been fully mapped to Grade 5, and this map should soon be completed in respect of the many minor extensions that have been discovered through the year.

In the Grille cave, two minor extensions have been discovered by forcing squeezes, one at the top level, one near the Piano, adding about 150' of passage to the known extent of the cave. Mapping (to Grade 5) has been re-started, following the finding of basic errors in the early work. Rather belatedly, a ladder was removed early in the year, to protect the remaining few live formations in this cave. Other excavation work has been carried out, notably the dig of the Black Boy, and some work in the Junction Sink.

A water tracing project was undertaken, unfortunately with a negative result; further efforts will be made in this direction. A search and rescue practice, ending in a true Search and Rescue, was also held.

Tuglow, Wee Jasper and Coolaman have received attention during the year; particularly Tuglow, since the blazing of the new route to the main cave.

In June, a joint trip with U.N.S.W.S.S. took place to Cliefden, resulting in the discovery of a new cave. Exploration of this is not yet complete; a gate has been but not yet fitted to this cave. Further cave entrances were also discovered, but no real exploration carried out.

In December, two members re-started work in the Mudgee district, gaining access to two more limestone deposits, and uncovering quite a few new caves. A procedure programme for this area is in course of preparation, with emphasis being placed on conservation ~~etc~~ of the caves and property.

(cont'd)

Early in December, the H.C.G. joined the other Sydney societies in plans for a State Search and Rescue organisation. Finally, at the A.S.F. conference held at Perth over New Year, the H.C.G. was accepted as a member society.

Future prospects look very bright indeed. New equipment to hand includes ladders made to yet another new method; high grade mapping gear; and at last a member owns a duplicator. Safety weekends have provided most members with rather more than average knowledge of the use of rope, etc.

The new finds have provided a starting point, acceptance by other societies has provided an incentive, for some really constructive work; the improvements in the members' caving ability will now show results.

Statistically, we have 25 full members, 5 prospective members, one associate member, and have had one resignation.

During 1964 there were 10 official trips, with an average attendance of 10, the maximum on one trip being 20. Five private trips comprising 6 members or more were held.

BALANCE SHEET 3-3-64 - 24-1-65-

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
B/Forward	12- 8- 1	Rent	1- 0- 0
Trip Fees	9-14- 0	Equipment	21- 1- 5
Subscriptions	19-15- 0	Stationary	1-18- 0
Supper	2-19-10	Publications	13- 6
Donations	10- 0	Cash in hand	20-14- 0
	<u>45- 6-11</u>		<u>45- 6-11</u>

MUDGEES TRIP 27-28-29th December 1964

Planned purely as a public relations trip, the nature of the activity soon changed, when the party started investigating reported limestone in the Ben Bullen district. Isolated outcrops were found along a small creek, leading to a deposit of as yet unknown magnitude, containing caves with live decoration. The party then moved on to the Buckaroo property at Mudgee, where it was determined that time had not soured the hospitality of the property owner to us, or any caving group. Investigations in this area also confirmed the validity of our final report on this area. However, it is believed that there is some work still possible.

The party then moved to Mudgee, to track down several rumours. Eventually we gained access to a property in the hills south of the town. At the back of the property an extensive outcrop was found to contain several caves, a possible efflux, and many possibilities. No real exploration was carried out due to the size of the party. Before departing, a definite report was received on a cave entrance in a well known outcrop, where quarrying has ceased. Three other outcrops were not visited due to lack of time, but on the return journey yet another outcrop, some 8 miles off the road, was earmarked for attention.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

"Report on Exploration and Excavation of Limestone in Parish Bumberra- County of Phillip" containing 3 illustrations
cost 3/-

