



CALCITE

Newsletter of the Highland Caving Group.

ISSUE 13 1966.

P. O. BOX 154
LIVERPOOL, N. S. W.

STOP PRESS-

H.C.G. rescues Carlingford Rover Troop leader from Drum Cave following his descent on crudely built rope and wattle ladder with 30" rung spacing.

EDITORIAL:

It would appear that to have an opinion, and to offer this opinion if it criticises, is unacceptable within our social order. Automatically, then, I will be rejected from our society for daring to question that most hallowed of institutions the A.S.F. Newsletter.

At the last A.S.F. Committee conference, a decision to gamble some funds on raising the quality of the newsletter was reached, a decision with which I did, and still do, concur. At the time it did not appear important that the preceding discussion was of a subjective nature. However, the subsequent actions appear to have been carried out in a fit of petulance, resulting in the cost structure completely breaking down.

To many people, the aims and potential value of A.S.F. are worth many times the present ridiculously low per capita fee, and it is a constant regret that the Federation should strive to exist and to improve its worth on such a low budget. But, being stuck with a low income, we should expect that the executive responsible for the functions of A.S.F. strive to do the best possible with the money available. It is just not good enough to be driven into a state of insolvency, and to be told "I told you so". Commonsense is the most important attribute to good, safe caving - how about some of this old fashioned commonsense in our organisational structure?

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION:

At last our photographic competition is organised.

It is open to all members, prospectives, etc., of all A.S.F. societies.

The sections are Colour Slides (either 2"x2" or 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "x2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " mounts) mounted Black and White prints minimum size 7"x5", and Colour prints of minimum size supersize. There is no maximum size in the print section.

over.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION(Continued)

The catagories are: 1. Caves
2. Caving Activities.

The closing date is November 30th 1966, and the results will be announced on December 17th 1966 at the H.C.G. Xmas rort.

There is no limit to the number of entries; the entry fee is 50 cents for the first(4) entries in each section/catagory, subsequent entries 20 cents each.

Trophies will be awarded for 1st and 2nd in each section/catagory, and award certificates as recommended by the Judges.

All organisation and Judging will be conducted by R.S.A standards. A selection (or all entries) will be displayed at the A.S.F. conference. It is suggested that surplus monies may be used to help finance the first Australian Salon of Speleo Photography.

So please, rush those thousands of entries to H.C.G. Secretary Bob Smith, 116 Alice St., Sans Souci N.S.W. or to the H.C.G. Mailing address, P.O.Box 154, Liverpool, N.S.W.

(Dare we call this a National Salon?)

BUNGONIA TRIP: Queen's Birthday Weekend

Present E.Powell, W.Dryant, N.Poulter, J.Wisby.

Further attempts were made to carry out exploration of Junior Cave, but were again blocked by foul ~~xxx~~ air. Some surface exp. was carried out in the Skull Cave area, and the badly damaged cross removed from the Church Cave for repair.

WYAMBENE: 9-10th July, 1966.

Present R.Smith, A.Moule, J.Allen, P.Newton.

The main activity was photography in the Wyambene Cave, and some mud groping to see where the cave goes. Two other parties were encountered, "yakking" from Canberra, and showing little regard for their safety or the cave. This report mentions general deterioration of the cave, including abuse of carbide.

A trip to the Big Hole on Sunday resulted in Peter offering a reward for a M.P.P. Camera component last seen drifting downwards.

BUNGONIA: 30-31st July, 1966.

Present E. Crabb, R. Smith, A. Moule, J. Allen, D. Robinson, R. Scheffer
E. Powell, W. Bryant, J. Wisby, J. Veness, J. Middleton.

Saturday was spent in further exploration of the Junior Cave free for once of CO₂. An upward extension is believed to be very near a surface doline, and will be checked with R.D.F. Late Saturday afternoon, the alarm was raised that a Scoutmaster was trapped in the Drum Cave. Some of our party went over with gear, to find that he and two of his Troop, The Carlingford Rovers, had descended the cave on crudely built rope and wattle ladder with 30" rung spacing. The boys had ascended safely(?) but the Scoutmaster was unable to climb the ladder. As we had only a 100' ladder, this was lowered, a belay set up, and the Scoutmaster told, rather brusquely, to climb the first 40' of rubbish to the bottom of our ladder.

Saturday evening was spent in transporting aqualung gear down to the Bat Chamber in the Grille ready for use on Sunday, and a dig was started at the bottom of the 1st level of the Cave. The collapse at the entrance was observed to have undergone minor changes. Later in the evening we were entertained by the Walter Mitty's of Carlingford at the usual Saturday eve discussion.

On Sunday morning, one party entered the Grille Cave, to assess the use of aqualungs in foul air. Although only 25 minutes was spent away from base, this was sufficient to find

1. that people experienced with scuba should attempt this type of caving
2. that the bulk of this type of gear is a severe limitation to the extent of creating its own climbing hazard. The remaining air in the bottles was exhausted into the Bat Chamber to save weight, completely clearing the characteristic odour.

The other party went to the Church Cave to re-install the repaired and reinforced Cross on the Alter. It was intended to carry out a complete restoration of the cave, but there was evidence of two current "digs" at the far end of the cave, so this was abandoned for the present.

Before we receive any criticism of the state of our campfire, we should explain that on the next trip we plan to carry out another general clean-up.

RUSSELL IS BACK!

"WHAT IS ---- CAVING?"

A sport?, A science?, just a change from the city?, a way to boost caver's ego? - these are probably the most usual explanations.

How about we examine these briefly?

If we call it a sport then shouldn't it be active? By this standard one or two people in each group could call it a sport - other members seem to move as little as possible, so surely they wouldn't have the nerve to call it a sport.

What about science? here, another few practice various sciences in and around caves but are any of the sciences actually called "Speleology"? - No - so science hardly fits, does it?

A change from the city? Surely sane people wouldn't take the hardships of caving time and time again for this puny reason (assuming, of course, they are sane).

How about a way to boost egos?

Now this has possibilities - how many cavers like to casually mention the weekend's underground exploits and then get a perverse pleasure out of mere city dweller (who spent the weekend at the beach) saying, "you wouldn't catch me under the ground like you - you must be all mad". Of course the fearless caver then says, "its not all that dangerous, if you know what you're doing" -- great satisfaction, eh!

Of course there's the hoodlum who goes for boozing, gibberology wenching, etc. Why he goes to caving areas for this I cant say.

We seem to be running out of reasons for caving, yet about 85% of such fearless characters who do go are accounted for.

What about the other 15%? --- These are the true cavers that we all belong to; we are the true cavers with complex purist reasons for caving. We know that we personally belong to this group, just as we know who in the clubs belong to the previously mentioned groups.

R.R.

"Flashback 1958"

" ---- travelling south approx 80' beyond the first entrance encountered, and up approx 20', an entrance was found to continue in a long, straight, extremely muddy passage, up to 20' wide, with a reasonably constant 3' ceiling. This was followed for about 500', over which distance several side passages were noted. The passage appeared to continue indefinitely ---- "

1966 H.C.G are planning a trip to this completely unknown area. It is anticipated that we will add to the 5 caves already discovered by our members in this area.

H.C.G. PHOTO COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

ENTRANT'S NAME

SOCIETY

ADDRESS

State

Details of entry;

All results will be published in "Calcite" issue 15.
It is suggested that each entry be titled, and should bear
the name and address of the entrant.
Judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will
be entered into.
Please include return postage with entry fees if requiring
the direct return of entries.

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