



CALCITE

Newsletter of the Highland Caving Group.

ISSUE 16 Feb 68

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

Aren't we a funny lot! A visitor from outer space would be amazed to see members of a civilised community donning scruffy clothing, and subjecting themselves to hours of darkness, cold, wet, and physical torture. Without having to. The image is hilarious.

And we take ourselves so seriously. Instead of opening lines of communication between people of similar interests, we snarl at each other. Do we support those employed to conserve, or ease access to, those areas we enjoy? No—we abuse them. We open caves, we close them, we blast them in, we muddy them, we disturb their ecology, and then complain bitterly when someone else wants to have a look at them. And we've organised a national body to co-ordinate our efforts. We've botched that job too..

And when cavers finally grow up, they retire. Pity..

A QUESTION OF SAFETY.

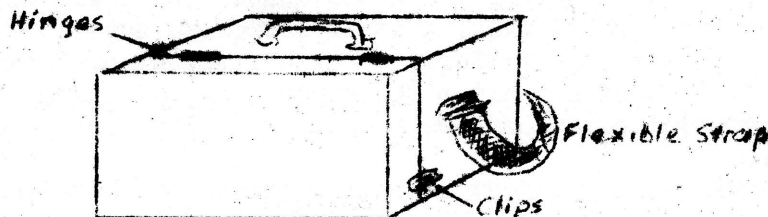
In the last edition of "Calcite" I made mention of a Field First Aid Kit that I had built in light of lessons learnt at the Cliefden Search and Rescue weekend in March '67.

To fully explain the word Rescue in the case of a practice or a genuine rescue, initial medical assistance MUST take place at or near the place of injury. This is essential where a life is endangered. It must also be remembered that you can't take everything that you want into a cave - portability determines the dimensions of the First Aid kit.

The dimensions of mine (see fig. 1) are 12"x 6" x 6", and it has a carrying handle as well as a shoulder strap. The case is made of 3/8" wood with brass corner gusset plates. However, any First Aid kit is only as good as its contents. The main ingredients of mine are Triangular bandages and gauze bandages. Following is a list of what my kit contains;

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1oz. Absorbent lint. | 1tube "Iodex". |
| 1 Elastic bandage. | 1 Snake Bite kit. |
| 1pr. Scissors. | 4 3" gauze bandages. |
| 1 Rubber (CONSTRUCTIVE) bandage. | 6 2" gauze bandages. |
| 1 1/2oz. Cotton wool. | 4 1" gauze bandages. |
| 2oz. "Savlon" liquid. | 1dz. Brass safety pins. |
| 1roll Elastic adhesive. | 4 Calico pads. |
| 1dz. "Band-aids". | 1bx. Matches. |
| 1tube "Savlon" cream. | 7 Calico Triangular bandages. |
| 1tube Burn cream. | 1 "Trilene" outfit (see pain). |

Cost of "Trilene" outfit.... \$10:00.



This kit, when weighed came to just over 7lbs., which is a vast reduction over the 26lbs. of the other one in use. However, it is not suggested for one minute that any surface First Aid kit should be abandoned in preference to a cave kit, for a surface kit can carry a far more comprehensive range of supplies as well as more Triangular Bandages - the most versatile of all First aid equipment.

I started this report under the heading "A question of Safety", because it is a question of safety - a question as to whether or not such a kit is in existence in any society. Such a kit should be treated in 1 of 2 ways; either left at the entrance to a cave, or taken on into the cave, which would be preferable. This to me would be one of the answers to the question of safety...

PAIN.

What is pain? - Pain is that little twinge you feel when you prick your finger on a needle or the throbbing, agonising sensation that goes on and on with no letup when you break an arm or a leg - That is PAIN! What can you do about it, way out in the mountains - the injured person lying groaning on the ground, screaming for something to relieve the pain. What can you do about it? - Give him a glorified headache tablet, which is what most medical kits carry and what most Medics THINK that they can carry. They can't carry Morphine - you need a special licence to carry that - so what can you do? This situation would be serious enough in the mountains, but transfer it to a cave and the situation becomes even more serious.. You can't get a "chopper" into a cave - you can't even lift him onto a stretcher and say "Come on. Let's go.". No. You must pull and shove and heave - which only INCREASES pain - that is IF you don't possess an effective pain killer..

Onto the scene has come a remarkable liquid called "Trilene" (Trichloroethylene) which is carried by all ambulances. "Trilene", unlike Morphine is not listed under the Drug Act meaning that a licence is not needed to use it, and that it is readily available over the chemist counter. The inhalor, however, is a little harder to procure. The inhalor is made by order and delivery is about three weeks. As far as is known there is only one manufacturer, and that is ;

WORTH ENGINEERING

1 BALD HEAD ROAD
WAVERTON N.S.W.

Cost of the outfit is a little high; Inhalor...\$7.00 5--6cc. Ampoules...\$2.50.
But what price is pain...?

I wish to recommend that there should not be any indiscriminate carrying of this item or to its use by any person with little or no knowledge of First Aid, for although "Trilene" is relatively simple and safe to use, in the hands of the unskilled serious trouble could arise. The properties of "Trilene" is that it is a specially purified and stabilised form of trichloroethylene, distinctively coloured by the addition of a harmless blue dye. It is a volatile, non-inflammable liquid with an odour similar to chloroform; its administration by inhalation has proved a safe and efficient means of producing analgesia or anaesthesia. Recovery from "Trilene" is extremely rapid and the only side effect is that during and after inhalation there may be some slight slurring of speech! Being inhaled it is therefore superior in application to Morphine or similar pain killers. Another aspect of "Trilene" is that, unlike Morphine, it does not alter the symptoms of the injury (ie. "Trilene does not contract eye pupils.) therefore making it easier for a Doctor to diagnose further injuries.

Before leaving this subject it must again be stressed that any persons who do not have any training in First Aid should not be allowed to use "Trilene".

BANDAGES.

The versatility of triangular bandages has long been known, their uses including head, arm, leg, knee, and foot injuries. Into this field of First Aid has come the application of plastics, commonly known as Pneumatic Pressure Bandages or Air Cushioned Bandage and Splint. The types I will be mentioning are manufactured and marketed by;

ALSTON SAFETY EQUIPMENT PTY. LTD.

386 SPENCER STREET

MELBOURNE VICTORIA.

There are many arguments both for and against "Airsplints" and triangular bandages.. On one hand triangulars, apart from immobilising broken limbs, can be used to secure patients to stretchers for transport, cover head injuries and cover bad cuts and burns. On the other hand, "Airsplints", which TOTALLY immobilise the limbs, can perform exactly the same function except in the case of head injuries and for securing patients to stretchers. The following extract is taken from the book "New Essential First Aid."

"This method of splinting limb fractures is easy to apply, can be applied over dressings, and is comfortable for the casualty.

The splint, which is of double layered tubed plastic, is zipped onto the limb and then inflated by mouth (not by pump as this may give too high a pressure). The splint then conforms to the shape of the limb and supports it. Being made of transparent material, the colour of the limb can be observed through the splint and any bleeding can be seen.

Pneumatic splints are only suitable for injuries which extend from just above the knee to the foot or from just above the elbow to the hand. For any injury much above the elbow or knee the splints will not give suitable support..

The advantages of pneumatic splints are convenience and comfort. The disadvantages are their limited usefulness, their relatively high cost, and the fact that they can be punctured before (in which case they cannot be used) or while in use"...

In regard to price the following price list is supplied by ALSTON as of August 1967;

Cat; No: AS20 Ethical Airsplint set of 6 in carrying bag

Cost; \$23.80 per set; containing,

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Hand and Wrist | 1 Half Arm |
| 1 Full Arm | 1 Foot and Ankle |
| 1 Half Leg | 1 Full Leg |

carrying bag and repair kit of patches.

Cat: No: AS30 Econosplint set of 3 in carrying bag

Cost; \$10.00 per set containing,

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Universal Size Leg | 1 Universal Size Arm |
| 1 Universal Foot, Ankle, Hand Splint | |

carrying bag and repair kit of patches.

To quote the pamphlet on the Econo-splint it says;

"As the air chamber between the inner and outer tube walls is filled, the inner wall conforms to the limb, applying a firm pressurized splint that holds the limb IMMOBILE (most necessary in caves), controls edema, provides traction and protects against additional trauma. Prior bandaging is not necessary..."

The object of this item is to inform, it was not designed to be a report. It is in the interest of cave safety that the advantages and disadvantages of "Airsplints" be made known. It is my belief that "Airsplints" can play a limited but important role in cave safety. I

feel that the fact that they can make an arm or a leg completely rigid as well as controlling bleeding far outweighs the possibility of them getting a puncture... This is why I feel that they will eventually become a part of cave safety...

A NOTE IN CLOSING.

Whether there are injuries at home, on the road, in industry, on holiday or in a cave, knowledge in First Aid is invaluable.. Many books have been written on the subject. Of these there are two that I would recommend; (1) The official text book of the St. Johns Ambulance Assn.. or (2) for those who do not like the dry sort of format of a text book there is now out on the market a book called; "New Essential First Aid". It is published by Pan Books and its Cat: No: is X646. I will leave you with this point - taken from the back cover of the Pan Book;

"If you don't know what to do,
you cannot save a life;
if you do know and can act,
then you may be rewarded
by saving the life
of a fellow human being..

N. Poulter.

STUDY OF GRILLE CAVE COLLAPSE.

For a few years now H.C.G. members have been observing and reporting on, a settling collapse of the entrance area of the Grille Cave at Bungonia. Following a report published in "Calcite", issue 14, July 1967, members of M.S.S. temporarily closed the entrance of the cave. This was done with the verbal approval of all Sydney societies, and also with the approval of the Bungonia Park Trust.. The closure was intended to divert sporting visitors to use the entrance at the base of the doline, and to deny access to casual visitors, as it was believed that a hazardous condition existed for those with extremely limited knowledge of caves..

S.S.S. objected to the closure, denying that a dangerous condition existed. The A.S.F. - N.S.W. Co-ordination Committee recommended that the entrance gate be restored and possibly locked (which is impossible to achieve because of the amount of rock movement). By November the entrance had been reopened by ???.. By early January a large rock had fallen in, again reasonably effectively blocking the entrance. The ??? had also filled holes in the floor with logs and boulders.

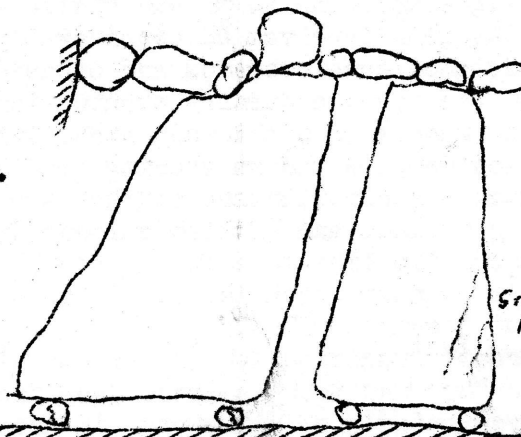
Due to the controversy aroused by S.S.S., the area of the cave was closely re-examined by H.C.G. members - namely R. Miller, N. Poulter, R. Russell, E. Crabb, on three separate occasions.

ON one occasion, settling occurred while the members were in the cave..
The result of this re-examination is a complete confirmation of previously published reports, and a re-affirmation of the danger of

the entrance area of the cave. Detailed observations are now discontinued, as points which were being measured have been interfered with by other people, and properly will continued to be interfered with.

APPROX. SECTION THROUGH COLLAPSE AREA.
(SKETCH ONLY.)

Effect on roof of
entrance chamber not
sufficiently detailed.



Boulder choke, being
floor of entrance
chamber, losing support
as large rocks tilt.

Supporting rocks on floor below second ladder disintegrating, allowing
major rocks to tilt.

TRIP REPORTS 22 BUNGONIA — LATE '67.

We went to Bungonia often. In retrospect, we don't know why. We dug holes that didn't go, and we lost a crowbar in the Dinosaurs Cave. Other people's caves were looked at, we're distressed at the tide mark of other camper's rubbish, and it occasionally rained. Most societies have a quiet period sometime. This was ours...

TRIP REPORT — ABERCROMBIE — DEC. 30-31 — JAN. 1.

PRESENT.

E. Crabb (T/L) R. Russell, W. Bryant, N. Poulter, R. Miller, N. Ollis (M/S)
R. Dalton (Birmingham U.K.)

ALSO IN CAMP.

Sawana; Joan, Delia, and Wayne Crabb.

We trickled in two by two through Friday night, to be welcomed by a screeching Peacock and thieving Possums in the camping area. Early on Saturday morning, after introducing ourselves to the caretaker, we started walking all over the area. For the next three days we did little else but walk over the area, for our purpose was distressingly scientific. Past and present drainage patterns. The area covered on Saturday morning was from the camping area to a few hundred yards upstream of the arch. The two dolines above and connecting with the arch were found to be silted. Two small caves high on a northern slope were discovered and entered.

After lunch, the whole party carried out a rough topographic survey, triangulating from three peaks, and the relationship between features became established. During this time, another new hole was uncovered (blocked by dead vegetation), and entered for about 15ft. Lack of light precluded further exploration.

Returning to camp, the party divided somewhat. E. Crabb and R. Miller, noticing inconsistencies in the erosion patterns in a dry creek bed, followed this creek to its watershed. Above a large limestone exposure, the creek bed followed a textbook pattern, with predictable erosion right into the fourth order stream channels. Above this exposure the rock type varied considerably, including shale, slate, sandstone, mudstone, conglomerates and occasionally a lump of ironstone. At the limestone, a cursory examination was unproductive. However, between this exposure and the main arch, very little stream cutting had taken place despite the steepening gradient suggesting that (1) formerly this creek was contributing to the formation of the main arch via the large dry doline, and (2) the current drainage pattern is underneath (or through?) the limestone to the south east of the arch, with the resurgence at or near creek level. The present area drained by this creek is about 5 square miles.

Meanwhile R. Russell traversed the top of the hill immediately adjacent to the Grove Cave and found a large deep fissure. After tea a party investigated a solution cave in the side of the hill near the Stable Cave(?). Despite some effort at an ascending rock pile, there was little of interest in this cave. A comforting aspect of night caving on this occasion was that we couldn't see the 4ft. brown snakes that Bob Miller insisted on finding through the day.

By Sunday morning, Norm Poulter and Bill Bryant had arrived. Being the freshest, Norm was the chosen volunteer to descend the "Bishop's Mantle" Fissure.elayed by E. Crabb, watched by R. Dalton, spoken to by R. Miller, Photographed by N. Ollis, Norm descended well beyond the anticipated depth of 40ft., and reported darkness, 4ft. wide tapering downward forever. Meanwhile, Bill Bryant followed the external evidence of the fissure, a strike-slip fault, right down to near creek level. A continuation of the same fault was seen across the valley. A second, similar fault was found about 100yds. to the south. The eastern end of the fissure was soon found, amidst a pile of fractured rock. It was interesting to note that this cleavage cuts cleanly across the passage near the end of the Grove Cave. Eventually, a large slab, some 200ft. high, 200ft. wide and 30ft. thick might fall away from the mountain.

The deep doline was then re-examined with a view to future excavation; enthusiasm was wanting, lunch was waiting. After lunch, more walking. This time upstream of the arch, but it wasn't long before the Kurrajong Cave received attention - a 35ft. pitch was descended despite visibility being limited by clouds of bats - but there was no negotiable extension. The remainder of the party were busy using up film around the Stable Cave area.

After tea - after tourists were off the path - Bob Miller, Norm Poulter, and Rob Dalton started investigating the lush undergrowth around the tourist^{path}, looking for and finding much evidence of widespread resurgence in this area. Unfortunately, the area was in drought condition and local knowledge was not made available, so the efforts here were inconclusive.

New Years Eve - cheerless when we must use LP gas instead of a

roaring fire. More so when we set our behaviour patterns above the demands of modern society. Or maybe we were tired.

On Monday morning we walked, this time downstream along Grove Ck. The wather was too good, the surroundings pleasant, and we were too weary to achieve much of value - however, the impression gained was that this downstream area, geologically complex, offers a lot of potential interest. Suggested lines of work would be detail drainage patterns, relationship between vegetation and underlying rock and water, and accurate identification of features such as the suspected downcreep. In the early afternoon, a small cave previously discovered was investigated, this time with enough light, but it proved to be merely a small collapsed cave, which would only be of significance were we to continue our studies of the area.

Late in the afternoon the first carload departed for home, the remainder spending some time cleaning up tourists' lolly papers before leaving early on Tuesday morning.

BUNGONIA 13-14th. JANUARY.

Present: E. Crabb, R. Miller, N. Ollis, G. Ollis.

This was a Grille Cave Collapse Confirmation Trip, on the eve of the anticipated storm in a Federation teacup. Unfortunately, the entrance area of the cave had been subjected to severe vandalism, effectively stopping progressive observation of minute changes.

Other than that, it rained.

CLIFFDEN - POST CONFERENCE.

Although the main activity was just trogging, two members, E. Crabb & R. Miller, are terribly excited about some major sort of discovery near the Wareemba Cave (a H.C.G. dig). A full report will be published after the next trip to the area.

CAVES OF THE NULLARBOR - A review.

Until the publication of this book, there has been a sad dearth of worthwhile Australian caving literature presented in other than duplicated form. Of quarto size, glossy two colour cover, and printed by letterpress on art paper, this is certainly a well-presented book, of which the authors (sorry, editors) can be justifiably proud. And despite the price (\$1.25), it is remarkably free of printer's errors. Illustrations are of more than adequate quality.

Intended as a review of speleological investigations in the Nullarbor Plain it achieves much more. Deliberately avoiding romanticised reportage, yet the drama and personal hardships of Nullarbor exploration is available to the careful reader. To the researcher, the complete listing of references is invaluable.

Well, how about brickbats? There is one, albeit a minor one. Private discussion with Nullarborites has indicated that that much more has been done or deduced than is indicated in this book, particularly with reference to meteorology. Summing up then, there is a place for this on every caver's bookshelf; even if someone doesn't want it, they should buy it to provide an encouragement to those contemplating publishing similarly worthwhile work, but doubtful of the response.

E.C.

"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.

Like the nigger in the woodpile or loose shingles in the roof
You'll be sure to cross a sceptic who demands to see the proof
Even if it doesn't matter - like, who cares what makes a shawl
Out of limestone in the darkness underneath a waterfall.
Most of us, we surface dwellers, see the sight and stand in awe,
Little realising the ignorance we're displaying as our jaw
Drops undignified. For we have shown, as science would insist,
That our attitude is not that of a speleologist.

When you gaze upon a stalactite that years have given length,
So it may, a thousand years from now, from nothing, gain the strength
To fingertouch upon its mate stretched waiting just below,
To end eternal dripping, to marry and to grow,
And to one day when the world is so much older than it's now
Foster gossamer-thin veins of glory, wonder not you how
The surface structure and drainage pattern bear influence on this?
Then bow your head, you amateur un-speleologist.

When the naked light, unnaturally, thrusts before your eyes
The shallow pool of seepage drops in which a cave pearl lies,
- Little ball of limestone, white, no larger than a pea
That took to form a longer time in probability
Than the oyster whose produce lends its name to such a sight -
Born of eons of constant drips watched only by the night
Of the underworld; heed you not the relationship with this
And the fault line in the bedding plane? Shame on you, Tourist!!

When you contemplate the glory of the bat, he, poor of sight,
Who, none the less, has mastered the environment of night,
Performing acts of parenthood, the majority by sound,
- In a chamber set aside for such, deep in the underground,
Chosen for its height, the bats teach their young to fly
After constant mother-care for months - wonder not you why
There's a certain meander pattern of the syphonated stream?
Think you not of karst morphology? Ecology? You Dream!!

As you gaze upon the wonders that it took all time to form,
Deep below the clover patches, separated from the norm
By a million tons of limestone and a single ray of light
That didn't make the distance, to enshroud each helictite
With the mystery it pierces, windless darkness, season-bare,
Lacking all and wanting nothing save the space that happened there,
Think you not of geomorphology? How dare you. You see, my friend,
There are beauties that the sciences have no time to comprehend.

Nev. Ollis

IDLE CHATTER DEPT.

Roger & Julie Booth are now living in Melbourne, following R's discharge from the army.

Similarly, Blayne & Lilian Pearcey are near Melbourne, but Blayne is staying in the R.AAF.

Closer to home, congratulations to Bob Russell and Sawana, married on 1st Mar.

Among the many guests at Bob's wedding was Robbie Scheffer (recently engaged to Nella), who is doing a little caving from his present abode - Queenbeyan.

A recent visitor from Manchester (U.K.) was Dick Dalton, known for his caving activity in Europe - most recently to the big one in Greece. Dick was generally dined - wine - and feted, and taken on trips to Tuglow, Bungonia and Abercrombie. Most impressed with Bungonia. (Where it generally rains. Ed.)

We finally had an A.G.M., with no changes occurring in the executive, except that Norm Poulter is now our Rep. on A.S.F. Cave Safety, as well as librarian.

On the caving front, the proposed but postponed S. & R. trip should be a winner - virtually a complete symposium on cave rescue techniques. Where? You'll find out.

A trip to include on the calendar - The next A.S.F. conference in S.A. Preliminary plans indicate that we will confer in a genuine castle.

And finally, welcome to new member - Nev. Ollis.

POSTSCRIPT TO "A QUESTION OF SAFETY" (see p.1)

In my article "A Question of Safety" I made mention of a book "New Essential First Aid". Although this book gives a new insight into basic first aid it must be pointed out that it does not make mention of Haemorrhage or Shock - both of which have an important aspect in caving.

N. Poulter.