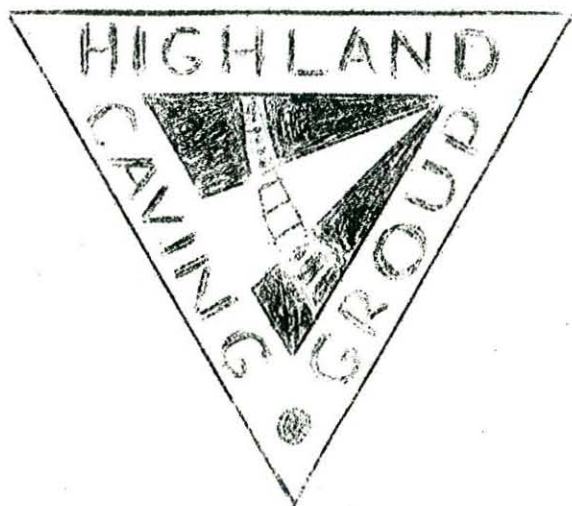


CALCITE

21

OFFICIAL NEWS-LETTER OF HIGHLAND CAVING GROUP.



VOLUME 1

NUMBER 1

APRIL 1977

C A L C I T E

The Newsletter of the Highland Caving Group

Calcite is now under new management. It is being produced in Canberra and any contributions will be gratefully received by the Editor. The address is printed with the office bearers below

Office Bearers

President	Evalt Crabb	Sydney
Vice President	Michael Webb	Canberra
Secretary	Jenny Hopkins 7 Borthwick Street,	Minto 2566
Treasurer	Michael Johnson	Canberra
Assistant Secretary	Judy Bament 6 Mosely Place,	Kambah 2902 A.C.T.
Editor	Michael Webb 7 Wallis Place,	Spence 2615 A.C.T.

Correspondence should be addressed through the Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

Deadline for next issue: 11 April, 1977

For future issues, the deadline will be the Canberra meeting

Coming Trips

Bendethera	2-3 April	Ian Brown (062)483461(W)
Yarrangobilly	30 April- 1 May	Mike Webb (062)652064(W)
Yarrangobilly	June Long Weekend	" "
Jaunter	Anzac Weekend	P. Dykes
New area near Wellington	Queen's Birthday	Evalt Crabb
Cooleman	Easter	Jenny Hopkins (02)6054065

Enquiries to above contact numbers.

Note that Yarrangobilly trips are limited to 6 people.

Meetings

31 March--12 Monroe Street Curtin A.C.T.

Sydney meetings to be advised.

From the Sydney Branch

Jerry and Jenny Hopkins, Brian Cleaver
Still digging B54 at Bungonia but it just keeps
going down (recent fears are that the nearby
Musig dig will get to wherever we're going, first.)

Mike Finger, Dave Stenson
Still digging in Cowpools area in a most impressive
doline - also no success as yet.

Greame Smith, Steve Bunton
Doing an arduous amount of work on Bungonia, now
mostly Phoenix Cave.

President - still postulating
Also HCG Sydney are to join in a campaign to stop
reaforestation of an area near Jaunter caving area
but more from the president about that.

Yarrangobilly

The HCG is now quite active at Yarrangobilly, so far mainly in cleaning up the mess in Y58. It is interesting and disturbing to note that some things do not ever change. We found the letter below in the files. It was originally printed in "Speleograffiti" in September 1969. Observe also more recent correspondence.

Dear Sir,

On my first trip past the flowstone wall of Y58, the cave was white and clean, with tracks through the prettier parts of the cave narrow (about one boot wide) and well defined.

On the second trip into Rawlinson Chamber on Saturday September 13th, I was upset to notice that the tracks had in most places grown to over 8" wide and that much of the pure white flowstone was now a muddy brown. On the Sunday, the damage had grown to alarming proportions. If this rate continues, the cave is likely to end up as dirty as Dip 2 by the end of the year.

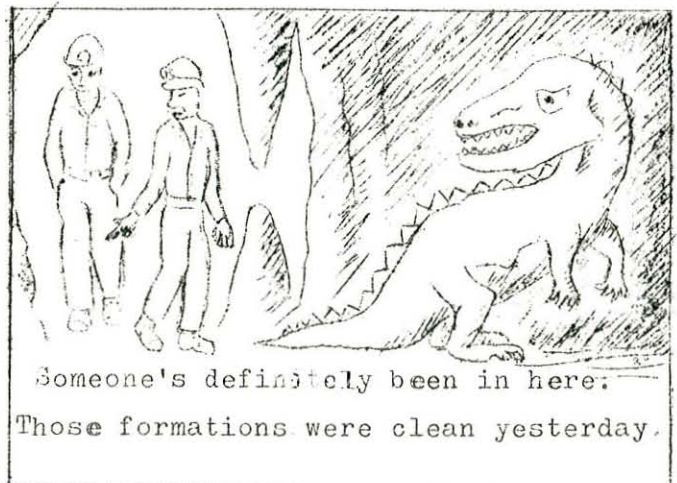
In view of the above, I would like to make the following suggestions:

- (i) Next trip, the cave should be cleaned up.
- (ii) Because of the damage they cause, tricounis should be banned in Y58.
- (iii) Narrow tracks should be made through the cave and people made to stay on them.
- (iv) If there is an alternative to a pretty route, use it, even while exploring.

Unless something is done to repair the damage, Y58 will get NUCC the reputation of being nothing better than a group of determined vandals with initiative.

Yours faithfully,

Michael G. Webb.



Y58 - Today

If anyone remembers how Rawlinson Chamber once looked then they will be just as shocked as we were when, on our last cleaning trip, we were rudely awakened to the glaringly obvious fact, that things are getting worse in that once beautiful grotto.

No sooner had we entered the chamber than we noted several newly deposited mud formations where, on previous trips, only white crystal had existed.

Despite several trips in the past, involving much sweat and scrubbing, it seems that we have been set back several weeks work by the irresponsible actions of a few ignorant misfits who it seems think nothing of trampling over excellent formation simply to take a photo of other examples of cave decoration. In fact, at one point we discussed replacing the green paint spots, so painfully removed, and leaving the chamber as it was before we began. Sanity prevailed, however, and we eventually made an agreement with the Ranger to restrict Y58 until cleaning is finished.

Picnic at Hanging Rocks

Once upon a time there was a hirsute Neanderthal, having been swimming as nature meant men to be, who found that some enterprising female Cro-magnons had moved his dinner (freshly killed Tyrannosaurus) to the top of a nearby mountain. In order to get there, this extremely clever troglodite invented spectacles, ropes and jumars.

To the assorted cheers, jeers, and mirthful tears of the assembled tribe, this hardy soul oozed from the water and flung himself manfully at the Red Rocks.

Entering the shade of the overhanging rockmass he shuddered with cold and apprehension, then, putting hunger before fear, reached upward with powerful hairy arms and heaved himself from rock ledge to rock ledge.

The female Cro-magnons avidly watching from below at this stage unfairly collapsed with hilarity and mirth at the sight above, and the very rocks trembled, thus causing our hero to fling himself from the precipice into the frozen waters below. They then pinched all his new inventions (now available ex-stock at Paddy's), as well as his dinner.

Hence, Confucius say that trog who pole vault naked up precipice will end up with Red Rocks.

R. S. END.