

CALCITE

OFFICIAL NEWS-LETTER OF HIGHLAND CAVING GROUP.



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C A L C I T E

The Newsletter of the Highland Caving Group

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Correspondence should be addressed through the Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

Deadline for next issue: 21 July 1977.

Coming Trips

Yarrangobilly	9-10 July (Cleaning in Y58)	Bill Wallace
Cliefden	17-18 September	Judy Bateman (062)490412(Work)
Buchan	October Long Weekend	

In addition, Yarrangobilly trips are held at approximately 4-weekly intervals.

Sydney Coming Trips

Unknown.

Meetings

21 July	6 Mosely Place, Kambah. A.C.T.
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From the Sydney Branch

Three members of Sydney HCG travelled as members of Saint George Area Caving Team to Tasmania and did Kazad Dum and Exit Cave over Easter. No further details from the three: D. Stenson, S. Bunton, and G. Smith.

From the Editor

Newsletters of any kind are interesting things. Most of their potential readers consider that under all circumstances it will be produced hot, fat, and on-time. However, none of these readers ever seem to wonder where said newsletter originates - articles, notes, and comments from those self-same readers. This edition may seem to be at least one month overdue but.....

The material between the statement "Office Bearers" and "From the Editor" is the sum total of material submitted by the due date. All else has been done now.

Do you peasants want a Newsletter?

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Seems that caving in the Northern Territory is a NO-NO. A member up there on temporary exile (a fully paid up ASF member etc etc blah blah) was refused permission to cave in the CUTTA-CUTTA caves reserve, Katherine, despite normal permit application through the correct channels. We wonder what the correct formulae is to gain entry. Perhaps someone in Sydney knows.

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St. John's Ambulance First Aid Course

Arrangements have been made for interested Highland, Canberra, members to attend a St. John's Ambulance First Aid course.

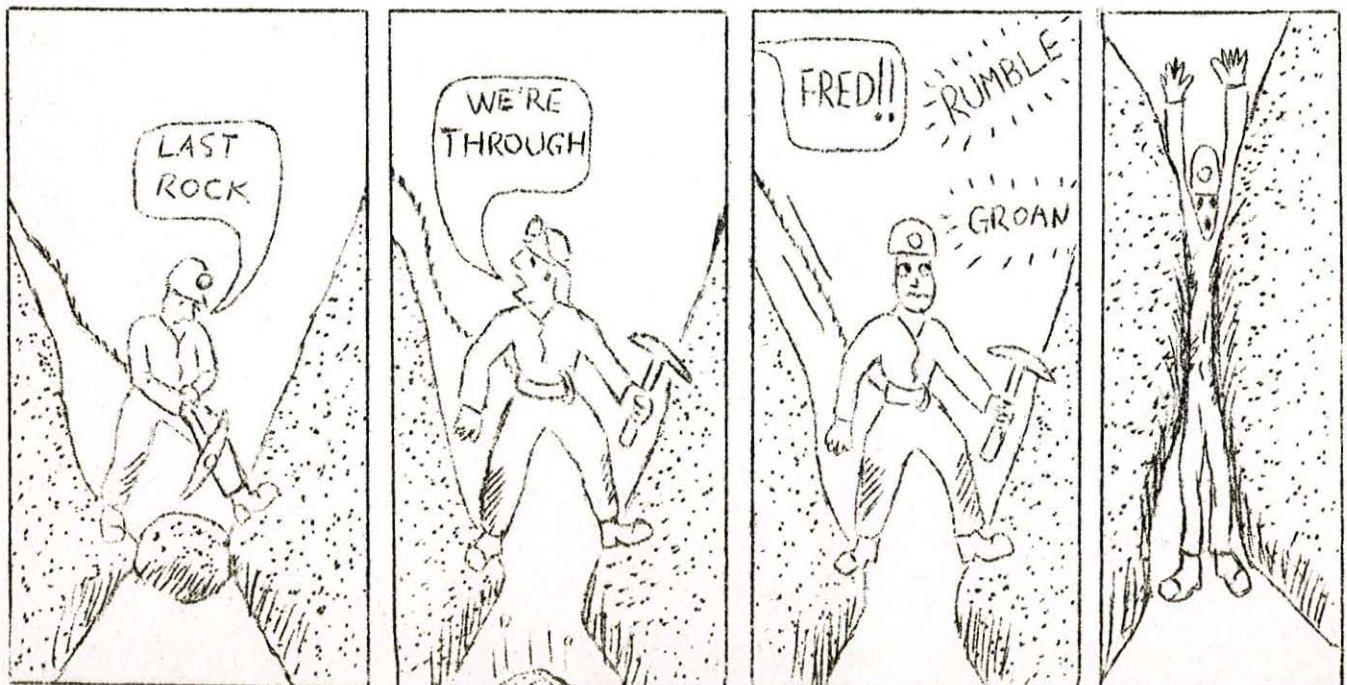
The course starts on Tuesday September 27, runs for nine consecutive Tuesday nights and occupies two hours of each night.

A two hour examination will be held on the 10th Tuesday.

The course costs \$20 per person, and once obtained, the certificate remains current for a period of 3 years.

As there is a group limit of 25 persons, those interested are urged to contact Greg Martin, work phone number 483969, as soon as possible to obtain enrolment details.

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Y58 - Cleaning Program

Cleaning in Rawlinsons chamber, Y58, (Janis) continues to be the main effort of the Canberra half of HCG. Five trips have been run since the last issue of Calcite, and a large volume of work completed. Rather than attempt to write it up as five individual reports, an overall picture of the progress seems more appropriate.

Following the removal of paint, work commenced on washing mud from formation outside the guide wire and removing dirt etc kicked onto the Crystal river. The mud problem had a simple but tiring solution. Wash it with cold water and "chux" cloth. Progress is slow, but by swabbing, wiping and mopping, most of the mud can be removed. The Crystal river posed a more difficult problem however. The grit and dirt had got down into the crystal, and defied all attempts to lift it. It was finally solved by the adoption of two old car vacuum cleaners, a couple of flexible hose sections, and a 12V Battery. Presto, it worked, and the dirt is rapidly being removed, in fact, its almost complete.

The completion of the survey of the 70' pitch from Rawlinsons down to NDC (Y7) was completed on the last trip on a combined HCG/CSS trip and final cleaning of the area around the top is underway. Once complete, it will be closed and hopefully, no longer used. The alternate route from the upper end of Rawlinsons has also been closed and the muddy track cleaned away down to the wire barrier. By the way, "closed" means a simple, single, wire marker, and it is being done at the direction of the Park Ranger, who came down on one trip to assess progress, and to make the final decisions. We have reached a stage now when permanent reflective tags, and tape markers to show the end of the "walk round" sections can be put in some areas, as work is virtually complete in those sections. There is still a lot to be done overall, but at last we can see progress, and a possible end in sight.

Reg Bament.

Yarrangobilly - Meterological Survey

Over the last few months, Highland Canberra has been working on a proposal for some scientific survey work in the Yarrangobilly caves area.

Basically, the aim is to establish a record of cave temperature, humidity and wetness variations; relate these to external weather variations and hence obtain an idea of cave climate.

At the same time, drip samples will be collected from certain areas and hardness tests carried out in an attempt to correlate some growth variations with external rainfall variations.

Other parameters will be recorded for analysis, and more details of these will become available as the project gets under way.

The study will be carried out in a number of different areas at Yarrangobilly and at present we are seeking permission from the Kosciusko National Park Administrator to begin work. Once this permission is received, and the necessary meterological equipment has been purchased we plan to have things under way probably by early spring.

Support for this study has been received from Professor Joe Jennings from whose suggestions the project evolved, and from the Yarrangobilly Rangers, who have been most helpful throughout all discussions.

