



No 3.
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NEWSLETTER

of the

HIGHLAND CAVING GROUP

EDITORIAL

Fourteen years ago, speleologists in Australia existed in scattered clubs, not really aware that other clubs existed in the country. Then, gradually, they made contact, finding that others were using different techniques, different terminology.

Thus emerged the Australian Speleological Federation, a body designed to establish close communication between clubs, to unify codes - such as ethics, terminology, safety and to co-ordinate research work. Conferences held biennially enable members to meet, discuss and organise.

But of recent years, the groundwork having been done, interest in the Federation waned; the Conference was always too far away, the papers presented seemed to be too scientific for the average caver.

In January 1970, discussion between John Dunkley and Evalt Crabb led to a proposal that mini-conferences be held - on a regional basis, with the emphasis on field trips and presentation of papers perhaps too minor for the full Federation, to try to stimulate interest in caving on a broader basis, and to develop an awareness of bodies such as the Federation.

Simultaneously, Elery Hamilton-Smith proposed quite some radical changes in the structure of the Federation, to facilitate the increasing volume and urgency of work carried out by the executive. These proposals included provision, in the distant future, for the establishment of regional councils.

Three clubs - HCG, MSS, BMSC, brought the distant future forward a little, and have established the now accepted Central Regional Council, with rather more intimate terms of reference than the State Co-ordinating Committee.

And one of the first activities of this Council has been to organise a Mini Conference at Mudgee.

There will be all of the functions of a full Federation conference, with field trips to areas new to most participants, presentation of papers on caving, films of speleological interest, and the opportunity to meet fellow cavers from other clubs at a common level.

We, members of HCG, should be proud of this function. Seven years ago HCG pioneered speleo work in the Mudgee district, have been instrumental in finding new caves, new items of scientific interest, and have introduced this area as the venue for this the first ever mini-conference.

OFFICE BEARERS -- 1970.

President. - N.Poulter.
Secretary. - K.Oliver.
Treasurer. K.Ward.
Safety & Equipment - N.Poulter.
Officer.
Librarian. -- T.Hale.
Newsletter Editor. - W.Patrick.
Committee Members. -- L.Bennett, E.Crabb, & R.Grimham.

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FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

TRIP.	DATE.	TRIP LEADER.	OBJECTIVE.
Mudgee	5 - 6 Sept.	E.Crabb.	Pre-Conference trip.
Dungonia	19 - 20 Sept.	K.Oliver.	meeting & mapping new cave
Mudgee	3-4-5 Oct.	E.Crabb.	Conference trip.

New arrivals in the club are Laurie Maguire who will be eligible for membership at the next Committee Meeting at Dungonia, Max Rowney (19½ hours), and David Hemple (13 hours). To all of you, we say welcome, and we hope that you enjoy your caving??? with H.C.G.

As most of us know, Frank Crane is up in Mareeba (QLD), and has been doing some caving around the Chillagoe area. So Frank, if you get the chance, how about sending us down some trip reports on the caves up there.

In the club at present, there is enough equipment to construct another 50' of ladder. Howzaboutdat. Any volunteers??

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Minutes of the Central Regional Council held on 4th August 1970.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read.

Business arising from the minutes was then dealt with under the following headings:-

Membership standards. It was reported that club standards are on the agenda for discussion by H.C.G. at their August meeting, and by M.S.S. at their Annual General Meeting in September and it was decided to defer further consideration of this matter until these meetings have been held.

National Parks and Wildlife Service. It was reported that no reply had been received from N.P.&W.S. to our letter regarding policy towards speleological activity, and the Secretary was directed to send a reminder.

Search and Rescue Organisation. The Secretary was requested to circulate to member clubs the list of members available with relative details.

Clubs are asked to nominate two members for C.R.C. records who will act as contacts for emergency procedures.

Rescue Practice - Wyanbene. On the suggestion of Evalt Crabb, the detailed planning for this exercise will be left in the hands of himself and Barry McWilliam to report to the next C.R.C. meeting.

Librarians. Membership lists have been received and will be circulated to all club librarians so that they can identify full members when they are approached for information.

Mudgee Conference Trip. Was reported that a reply has been received from the Shire Clerk at Mudgee expressing willingness to assist in the arrangements for this trip. He also nominated a Mr. Tubman as a possible useful local contact, and delegates will visit Mudgee on Saturday 5th September to discuss preliminary arrangements and organisation. Clubs are asked to submit to C.R.C. as soon as possible a list of members intending to attend this trip to assist in planning camping facilities etc.

The Chairman read the financial report showing an income of four dollars from club subscriptions and an expenditure on postage of 99 cents, leaving a balance of \$3.01. and a subscription owing from one club.

General Business. A report was received from member clubs concerning the action of S.S.S. in relation to Walli Caves, and as it was reported that member clubs will be writing to S.S.S. direct regarding this matter, no further action was proposed by the Council at this stage. The Chairman indicated that he would be writing personally to Mr. W. Rowlands to get the full facts on this matter.

It was reported by Evalt Crabb that as Secretary of A.S.F. he will be sending to the President of A.S.F. and Elery Hamilton-Smith the full story of the formation of C.R.C., and he will also inform the N.S.W. Co-ordinator officially of the existence of the Council.

Evalt also read a prepared statement which was endorsed by the Council and which will be sent to John Dunkley for inclusion in the appropriate issue of the A.S.F. Newsletter.

H.C.G. advised of an affiliation between their club and members of the Sydney Teachers College Caving Club, which is basically in line with the Federations policy in maintaining close contact with unaffiliated groups.

The next C.R.C. meeting will be held on the 8th. September.

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Trip Report - Colong 22-23 August 1970.

Members present:- L. Maguire, K. Oliver. T/L, K. Ward & prospective prospective,

E. Wright. The aim of the trip was to commence mapping of the complete system. A complete report of this trip will be written at a later date, but I must thank Laurie, Ken and Eric, for the effort they put into the job. Straight line traverses were taken from the entrance of the Onslow Cave through to the book in Kings Cross. A distance of 1062'2".

K. Oliver.

Minutes of Meeting of the Highland Caving Group 2nd August 1970.

Meeting Commenced at : 8.25p.m.

Attendance : E.Crabb, T.Hele, K.Oliver, N.Poulter, Prospectives D.Eldrige, & C.Foat.

Declaration of Proxies : Bill, Bess, Noel Patrick, Trudy Brandenburg, Roy Grinham, Frank Crome,

not before us Kevin Fitzsimmons & Wayne Evans. (K.Oliver.)

Bob Miller. (E.Crabb.)

Bob Caruana. (N.Poulter.)

Minutes of previous meeting were read and accepted by E.Crabb.

Correspondance : Newsletters from CQSS (Explorer), ASF Newsletter, CSS (The Very Latest), NUSS (Cave), KSS (Trog), NUCC (Speleo Graffiti), NSA (InFormation).

Letters from; SSS, SUSS, CRC, BMSC, ASF (Minutes), ASF (Ian Wood), STCCC, Greg Middleton.

Letters to; KSP, and NPWS re entry to Colong.

Motion by E.Crabb, that the Walli-SSS matter be placed on the agenda of HCG for the New South Wales Co-ordination Committee Meeting. Carried.

Motion by E.Crabb, that the minutes of the CRC be adopted in their entirety. Carried.

Motion by T.Hele, that a raffle be held, and the winner to receive 1 share in ^{PK} and that the Bulletin be put into the Library. Carried.

Motion by E.Crabb, that the minutes of the ASF Conference be accepted in their entirety. Carried.

Motion by E.Crabb, that copies of the proposed Cave Numbering System, be reproduced for all of the committee members. Seconded K.Oliver.

Treasurers Report.; Motion by K.Oliver, that a final verification be obtained from the bank re a savings account in the clubs name. Seconded E.Crabb.

Librarians Report : Tony Hele reported that he has received one set of index cards, and a box to keep the cards in.

Motion by N.Poulter, that the club purchase 1 arch file and refill. Seconded E.Crabb.

Motion by E.Crabb, that the Secretary be asked to write to CEGSA and TCC, for issues of club magazines on an exchange basis.

Amendment to the above being, a note to be sent to both CEGSA and TCC in the next Calcite.

Moved by N.Poulter. Carried.

Other Reports : Verbal report on trip to Bungonia with STCCC. K.Oliver continued by E.Crabb.

Report on Bungonia trip (written) by K.Oliver. The Secretary was requested to write to the Bungonia Park Trust re reports recently heard concerning Bungonia.

General Business : Notice of Motion by K.Oliver. re Membership standards.

Notice of Motion by K.Oliver, re Club membership.

(continued over page.....)

Motion by E.Crabb, that the present executive of STCCC be invited to become full members of HCG at half membership fee. After Constitution clause 3b (V). Carried.

Motion by E.Crabb, that HCG delegates nomination and/or voting on ASF executive positions be a decision where possible of HCG meetings. Carried.

Letter of resignation was received from the President (N.Poulter), this resignation to take effect from 30th August 1970.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.40.

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Trip Report - Bungonia. 25-26 July 1970

Members present:- Trudy Brandenburg, Paul Connolly, Keith Oliver, Bill, Bess, Noel Patrick, Max Rowney. Visitors: K. Keck, D. Fry, P. Richards. (All from HSS)

Object for the trip:- To continue the mapping in the Grille cave.

With all members having a safe and almost uneventful trip to Bungonia, on the Friday night, the party set off to continue the mapping in the Grille. On the previous trip, we got as far as the Bat Chamber striking foul air. This time we did even better, we got 120' further down before hitting CO2. As the crew could go no further with the mapping, we turned tail and made for the surface.

After lunch and a driving lesson (with all persons finding large trees to hide behind), the entire party walked across to the Lookdown, to see where two new test bores are being operated below the quarry. On the way back, three members entered B45, and having descended the 12' drop, encountered CO2 again.

The following morning saw the party on their way to B5. Just before entering, it was noticed that some large rocks had fallen from the cliff face, one had landed and balanced itself in a dangerous position above the entrance of B5. Another large rock had landed no less than 20' from the entrance, and yet a third but smaller rock was further away again. Upon making our way out of B4, it was decided to take a look at the top of the cliff to see what had caused the fall. We were surprised to see that a large overhang has started to break away from the outcrop, the slab being about 8' wide by about 10' long, the crack being two to three inches wide and covering the complete length of the ledge, and below even yet another crack.

The position as things stand at B5, can be said as being dangerous, and persons intending on entering this cave, are advised go in via B4, or check the top of the cliff above the B5 doline.

Camp was broken around 2.00p.m. and the members then began to make their ways home.

K.Oliver.

HIGHLAND CAVING GROUP

MEMBERSHIP LIST. 1970.

Miss.L.Bennett. 5227360.
2 Terrace Ave. Sylvania Heights. 2224.

Miss.T.Brandenburg.
Green Court. Flat 3. Smollett St. Albury. 2640.

Mr.R.Carwana. 383585.
5/172 Carrington Rd. Waverley. 2024.

Mr.E.Crabb. 6077038.
121 Hoxton Park Rd. Liverpool. 2170.

Mr.F.Crome.
c/o CSIRO Tobacco Research Institute. Mareeba. Qld.

Mr.W.Evans.
157 Windsor Rd. St. Marys North. 2760.

Mr.K.Fitzsimmons. 5228083.
48 Young St. Sylvania Heights. 2224.

Mr.R.Grinham. 491668.
28 Gilbert St. Hackett. ACT. 2602.

Mr.J.Heath. 5607919.
4 Toothill St. Lewisham.

Mr.T.Hele. 6027735.
167 Memorial Ave. Liverpool. 2170.

Mr.R.Miller. 856419.
14 Milton Ave. Eastwood. 2206.

Mr.K.Oliver. 6231768.
44 King St. St. Marys. 2760.

Major.W.Patrick. 491556.
Mrs.W.(Bess) Patrick.
Mr.N.Patrick.
85 Melba St. Downer. ACT. 2602.

Mr.N.Poulter. 701634.
21 Collins Cres. Yagoona West. 2199.

Mr.K.Ward. 7593723.
93 Macquarie St. Greenacre. 2190.