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SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

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N.S.W.

No. 1.

After two years operation it's time that our club put out a news sheet. Most other clubs have similar booklets. These are mostly collections of trip reports and social gossip. The need has been great to present a collection of notes on caving safety, information and trip reports. Although social

gossip has a definite part in the club make-up, this should go out on a separate sheet. This sheet is part of a series of sheets that may be saved up and add up to a collection of most useful caving and climbing information. Each sheet can be added to a loose-leaf folder.

ATTITUDE TO CAVERS:

Cavers of ill repute have earned for the rest of the caving world a very bad name. Some property owners will not let cavers onto their lands. After hearing what they have done it is little wonder that the owners feel in such a way. Stock is shot. Gates are smashed and fences pulled down. In the Orange district property owners and cavers have a card system. This is a letter of introduction which must be produced before a caver can gain access to a cave. In the Kampsey district some owners are just plain openly hostile to cavers. I am not saying that the groups in the various districts have angered the owners. Cavers in these places deplore vandalism as much as the owner. This has been the action of irresponsibles. This attitude must cease. Friendship with these owners must be fostered. The path has been made very rocky by thoughtless others but the effort must be made. If it can be proved to the property owner that most cavers which belong to groups are a trustworthy lot, ill feeling will vanish. Anything damaged can never be replaced. When the major caves were discovered early in the century it is fantastic to see just how quickly they were vandalised. In most of the caves that we explore now, formations and caverns are only shattered remains of their past glory. Caves must not be damaged from the exterior as well as the interior. We must act as self-appointed rangers to protect this heritage which we love to explore.

CAVING ETHICS:

To win the confidence of the property owners the following points should be followed;

- 1- Reshut gates that were closed and leave open gates that were open. Pass through gates rather than jump over them.
- 2- Don't leave carbide dumps where cattle can lick them. Carbide is a poison. Piles of carbide are also an unattractive sight.
- 3- Farmers should be asked before intending to cave on their property. Plenty of notice should be given and it is best that this should be a letter. This makes it more official.
- 4- Leave your camping ground as you found it. Try not to leave your mark on the countryside.
- 5- Put out your fire. The best way of doing this is to bury it.
- 6- Burn, bash and bury all tins and rubbish. Rubbish polutes the area and tins create efficient mosquito breeding areas.
- 7- After you have been camping in an area pick up all the rubbish even though you may not have left it. A tidy camper is a respected camper and will be allowed to visit the area again without hesitation.

- 8- Do not light a campfire under a dead tree. It may catch alight and be impossible to extinguish. In this way a bushfire could easily start.
 - 9- If a party of campers are on the one site try not to create too many camp-fires. These are just as unsightly as rubbish.
 - 10- Do not in any circumstance interfere with the property owners stock.
 - 11- Never take firearms onto a property on which there is a cave
- FURTHER ETHICS:
- 12- If cooking utensils have been left at the camp, do not remove them as they have been left for the benefit of all cavers.
 - 13- Don't Bathe upstream from the camp. This may pollute the water which people might want to drink.
 - 14- Never go into the cave with a party smaller than four. If someone is injured this leaves one to stay with the patient while the other two go for help. A person should never go through the cave alone.
 - 15- Always let someone know how long you are going to be in the cave. Allow a safety margin in this estimate as time can go astray while in the cave.
 - 16- If the cave is padlocked on no account should this be forced. Information should be sought to get past this barrier.
 - 17- If a cave is being worked by another club, removal of tools is theft and tampering with scientific equipment is unpardonable. Digs are to be left to the club working on it.
 - 18- Once work is completed A.S.F. should be informed. In this way a complete record of work done in Australian Caves is compiled.
 - 19+ Rubbish should not be left in the cave. This applies to spent carbide, batteries, flash-bulbs, paper, and tin cans. Nothing is worse than a littered cave. This action should be seriously condemned by any serious caver.

This sport-cum-science is open to everyone who is adventurous, has fairly good strength and stamina, and possesses a sense of right and wrong as well as a spirit of keen comradeship.

Extract from a letter written to the Editor from David Davey.

To the members of the Newcastle Speleological Association, In reference to a recent trip to the Myall Lake Cave, I have found information on the deposit which may be of interest to club members;

Reference: The Limestone Deposits of N.S.W. by N.S.W. Geological Survey. Published 1919.

"County Gloucester

Parish Eurunderee, Quarry Reserve 2,699.

Situated at Bibby Harbour, on the edge of Myall Lake, 3½ miles SSW of Bungwahl.

The Limestone occurs in a horizontal bed, outcropping at water level, intercalated in Carboniferous marine rocks. The quarry face exposes a thickness of fifteen feet of solid limestone, with 10 feet of inferior banded limestone above it, and overlain by sedimentary strata.

The actual thickness of the limestone is not ascertainable without boring, but judging from another outcrop on the western side of the lake, it probably reaches 50 ft. at its maximum, including all grades. Exposed in the quarry face is a dyke 18 to 20 ft. wide intruding the limestone.

This deposit was quarried some years ago by the Patent Asphaltum Co. But is not being worked at present."

In general the quarrying of limestone at Myall Lakes was continuing in 1899 when it was worked by the Port Stephens Limestone Co.

EDITOR: Keith Davey.