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SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.
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N.S.W.

Nº 6.

TRIP REPORT TO TIMOR CAVES (9th. & 10th. DECEMBER 1967.)

MEMBERS:

Trevor BERMAN (Trip leader).
Carolle DONNELLY
Ted SAVAGE
Colleen SAVAGE
Keith DAVEY
Barry MILTON
Dennise MILTON
Jeff LONGWORTH
Kevin WOOD
Mavis SAVAGE
Ray JACKSON
Susan MILLER
Ted HAYES
Kerry HAYES
Bruce PETERSON (visitor)

In all six Land-Rovers with fifteen persons attended the trip. Excepting Trevor Berman's and Ted Savage's the other Rovers arrived at different times throughout the weekend.

The first person to leave Newcastle was Kevin Wood, followed three quarters of an hour later by Trevor and Ted. They left at 8.30 pm. Early next morning at 3.15 Jeff Longworth left, followed by Barry Milton when the light rose. Ted Hayes came up the next day.

On Saturday morning our party commenced cleaning up the camping area. This once beautiful spot was now littered with hundreds of tin cans and smashed beer bottles. It took a few hours and three Land+Rovers full of rubbish to make it look presentable again. We wonder how long it will be before it reaches the same state again.

After dinner a party set off for the Belfrey with maddocks and shovels. They intended to dig out a rumoured cave that existed on the left hand side of the CO₂ opening. When we arrived, there was a depression in the rumoured spot, so we set to work. At first work was very dusty. Our throats and noses were soon blocked up with choking fine dust. The air was difficult to breathe, and it was hard to see through the thick cloud. Progress at first was rather fast, but as we went further down, the ground became very hard. Work became difficult.

We all took turns at digging and dragging the earth, piled high on a piece of canvas, away from the hole. We worked for many hours before we called it a day.

During the last night a party of cavers had hitch-hiked in and camped inside the entrance chamber to the Belfrey. These were members of the University of New England Mountaineering Club. They had travelled up from Sydney to Blandford by train and hitch-hiked in to the caves. Their gear was going to be very dusty after our efforts in the Belfrey.

Another party that were at the caves were from the Aerostat Society of Australia. They were a band of balloonists, that had taken up caving as a second interest. They also travelled from Sydney.

During Saturday night, we held our last Christmas party for the year. We invited both of the other groups to our small function. It was a most enjoyable night, with members getting to know the other two groups.

On Sunday morning Ted Savage and Keith Davey led two parties up to the Hill Cave (No7). Members were comprised of the Aerostat Society and our own group. There were thirteen members in the two parties. While Ted took one party down into the lower parts of the cave, Keith, and his party, explored the upper section. Not many people go into this section as most go down into the cave. This area could prove interesting with further exploration. Narrow passages and squeezes led everywhere.

The underground party took two hours to return to the upper section. Meanwhile the upper party had discovered a small nook where a number of Horse-shoe bats hung from the ceiling. A number of ~~xxx~~ small bats that could not fly. The girl members of the party were quite enthralled by these small animals. While here, Keith Davey noticed many forms of insect and animal life wandering about the walls and the floor of the cave. Spiders, beetles and snails were notables. Further work in this field is warranted in this cave.

In the Belfrey the rest of the group had commenced digging again. Work was slow but steady.

When the party from the Hill Cave arrived back at camp Keith and Barry Milton went up to the Belfrey. It was here that it was discovered that the CO2 chamber led toward the river. There was much speculation so a rough survey was made. It proved that the Entrance chamber of the Belfrey was horse-shoe shaped. This proved that we were tunneling back toward the entrance of the cave. Someone pointed out the existence of a passage leading from the Entrance Rock pile in our direction. From our survey, it should nearly reach us through the limestone. Disheartened a bit, we sent a party to check this out. It was right enough, but it seemed that the other persons were at head height in the cave through the limestone wall. Both caves might link, and dip down. Work was not stopped, but increased.

Unfortunately time caught up with us before we could prove anything. One interesting point is that we have gone down through a couple of false floors and have found a sizeable air pocket passage leading down and back. This may lead somewhere, but we have to dig further to find out.

Most of our group left Timor Caves at 2,30 pm and headed back for Newcastle.

MOTIONS PASSED AT THE LAST MEETING:

- 1) Club fees raised from \$2.00 to \$3.00.
- 2) Payment of IOc. fee per day on a club trip; for purchase of equipment.

FUTURE TRIPS:

New Year Weekend - trip to Tuglow.
26-27-28th. January - trip to Orange; bi-annual A.S.F. Committee meeting. Proposed entry of our club.

CONSTITUTION of the NEWCASTLE SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

1. Name The name will be "The Newcastle Speleological Association".
2. Objects
 - a) To further the science of speleology
 - b) To encourage social activities among members
 - c) To support a National Speleological Movement in Australia and co-operate with other societies in the furtherance of these aims.
3. Membership Membership shall be opened to any persons interested in speleology and the associated activities in the above association. An application for membership shall be dealt with by the general committee which may accept or reject it, but such committee shall not be required to give any reason for rejecting an application for membership. The decision of the general committee shall be final and conclusive.
4. Persons under 21 years of age must have their parents consent in writing before acceptance as a member.
5. Application for membership shall be made in writing on the prescribed form which shall contain a declaration by the applicant of willingness to subscribe to the objects of the association and be bound by the constitution and by laws.
6. Before an application for Membership is accepted the applicant shall be required to have done 30hrs. underground in caves. This requirement may be waived on the production of such evidence of fitness for membership as the general committee may, in its discretion, think sufficient.
7. Within one month after receipt of notification of acceptance of an application for membership, the applicant shall remit to the Honorary Treasurer, the prescribed entrance and membership fee until such fee is paid no person shall be admitted to the priviledges of full membership.
8. Honorary and Life Membership

Honorary Members shall be elected to the association at the will of members voting at a duly prescribed meeting of the association, such election to be decided by a two thirds majority of the financial members present.
9. Life membership may be conferred on any member of the society at the will of the members voting at a duly prescribed meeting of the society. Such elections to be decided by a two thirds majority of the financial members present.
10. The name of any proposed Honorary or Life member, with the prospective proposer and seconder, shall be displayed on the association notice board and advised to each individual member at least one month before election.
11. Honorary Membership of any member shall be terminated at the will of members voting at a duly prescribed meeting. One months notice of such meeting having been given to each individual member, such termination to be decided by a two thirds majority of the financial members present.
12. Honorary and Life Membership will be effective from the particular date of election.
13. Honorary and Life Members shall not be liable for membership fees.

14. Subscriptions

The entrance fee and annual membership fee shall be determined at each annual general meeting.

15. Annual membership fees shall become due and payable at the annual general meeting.
16. A member whose annual membership fee shall remain unpaid after the expiration of two months from the due date shall cease to be a member at the discretion of the committee but no unfinancial member shall have the power to vote at any meeting of the society.

Office Bearers

17. The office bearers of the association shall be the President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and three Committee Members who shall be elected at the annual general meeting and shall hold office until the next annual general meeting.
18. Any person can not hold a principal office (President, Vice-President, Secretary) for two years in succession but shall be eligible for a minor office on the committee (Hon. Treasurer or a committee member).
19. In the event of a vacancy in position on the general committee this vacancy shall be filled at the next general meeting.

20. General Committee

The general committee shall consist of the office bearers and three other members to be elected at the annual general meeting.

21. The general management of the association shall be deputed to the general committee, which shall have power (subject to the constitution) to determine all matters not required to be dealt with by general meeting and to make by laws for carrying into effect the object and rules of the association.
22. The general committee shall regulate its own procedures and shall meet when necessary but at least once every two months, three members shall constitute a quorum.
23. If a member of the general committee shall be absent from three out of five consecutive general committee meetings without reasonable cause his or her seat shall be declared vacant at the discretion of the committee.

24. Meetings

The annual general meeting shall be held during the month of May in each year, and at least seven days notice thereof in writing stating the business to be transacted shall be given or sent by post to each member.

25. A general meeting shall be held at least once every three months on the date to be determined by the general committee.
26. The general committee may at any time, for any special purpose call a special general meeting and shall do so forthwith upon the requisition in writing of any fifteen members stating the purpose for which the meeting is required at least 14 days notice thereof in writing stating the business to be transacted shall be given or sent by post to each member.
27. A quorum at all general meetings shall be ten financial members of the society. A ballot shall be taken on any question if demanded by at least 5 members.

28. The usual parliamentary procedure shall be adopted at all general meetings.
29. No member shall be nominated for election to any office or committee unless he or she shall be present at the meeting at which he or she is nominated unless his or her written consent to such nomination be handed to the chairman of the meeting.

Finance

30. The financial year for the association shall end mid April each year, and the annual accounts must be presented at the annual general meeting. The annual membership fees shall cover the period of twelve months from the annual general meeting.
31. All disbursements of the association shall be made by two of the following. Honorary Secretary, Treasurer or President.
32. The general committee shall not expend any sum or incur or enter in to any liability on behalf of the association exceeding the sum of five Pounds (£5) without first obtaining the authority of the general meeting. Other committees shall not incur or enter into any liabilities on behalf of the club without the authority of the general committee.
33. An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed at the annual general meeting and shall hold office for one year. The Honorary Auditor shall present an annual report at the annual general meeting.

Club Discipline

34. It shall be the duty of the general committee, if at any time it shall be of the opinion that the interests of the society so require, by letter to invite any member to withdraw from the association within a period specified in such letter and in default of such withdrawal, the general committee shall submit the question of such members expulsion from the association to a special general meeting and inviting him or her to offer such meeting an explanation, verbally or in writing shall be given to or sent by post, addressed to his or her last known address to the member whose expulsion is in question. If at any such special general meeting two thirds of the members present shall vote for his or her expulsion from the association, he or she shall cease to be a member.
35. Official Trips
An official trip shall be one that all association members be notified of by programme or one decided as such by two thirds majority of general committee.
36. On an official trip the following provisions shall apply:-
 - (a) The trip shall be led by a competent leader
 - (b) The party must consist of not less than 4 members
 - (c) All party members must abide by the rules and safety precautions as laid down by the general committee.
37. The leader of each trip shall submit a report to the Honorary Secretary on the findings and activities of the trip.
38. The leader shall submit a report to the Honorary Secretary on any prospective members who have attended a trip which report shall be viewed only by the general committee.
39. The duties of the Honorary Secretary shall be to keep a record of all official trips attended by members of the society to procure maps and information likely to be of assistance and interest to members in carrying out the objects of the association and to make some available to members.

40. Ammendment of By-Laws

The general committee shall have power to add, to repell or amend the by-laws from time to time as shall be deemed necessary by it.

41. Amendment of Constitution

The constitution may be amended at any annual general meeting or special general meeting called for that purpose by resolution passed or by a majority of at least two thirds of the financial members present. Members must be notified of any meeting at which it is proposed to move any alteration to the constitution with in twenty one days of such meeting and such notice shall set out the resolutions proposed to be submitted at such meetings.

42. This constitution shall come into force and take effect as from the ninth day of February ninteen hundred and sixty five, and nothing herein contained shall invalidate anything done by the association or the officers or committee thereof by virtue of any prior constitution and by-laws or resolution.

43. Affiliation

This association shall affiliate with:-

(a) The Australian Speleological Federation.

44. In case of disbandment of this association all assets and records shall be forwarded to The Australian Speleological Federation.

45. These shall be a copy of the constitution of this association at every general meeting and general committee meeting and any person may have access to it.

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