CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DECEMBER-FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 1963-1964.

EDITORIAL:

The Cave Group has reached a period where its membership has grown and is growing enormously. Many of these members join and do not bother to find out just what the Group is here for. To them caving is running around a hole in the ground, looking at the formation, and after two or three visits to that hole, they know it 'like the back of their hand'. To them also the pleasure above ground is too important. It is wonderful to have a warm camp to come up to after a long and hard stretch underground, but this can be taken too far, especially in the realm of 'comforts'.

These are the aims of the Group as stated in the Constitution:

- To foster caving, speleology and the preservation of natural caves, with particular reference to South Australia.
- 2. To explore, survey, and study South Australian caves.
- 3. To place on record the results of such investigations.
- 4. To cooperate with other bodies in the furtherance of these aims.

The younger members of the Group are the ones to start making caving worthwhile. For it is these people who in the next decade with their efforts will either make or break the Group. Remember to outsiders, the Group's good name is judged by the people they know or with whom they come into contact. If you don't care about yourself, think about the Group and the others in it.

VACATION SEMINARS:

These will be a series of lectures on various aspects of Caving. The idea is to help new and intending members to understand the scope of speleology.

The subjects are as follows:

Animal Life in Caves.

Caving Practice and Techniques.

Geology in Caving.

Cave Surveying.

Caving Gear (and Photography)

P. Aitken.

N. Mollet.

Dr. B. Daily.

R. Sexton.

A. Jackson.

These seminars will be held over a two month period from January to February. It is recommended by the Committee that all new members (full and associate) attend these seminars. During the Course there will be a field day at National Park. The Seminars will be held in the Museum Lecture Room (first floor), unless otherwise stated, and they will commence at 8.00pm sharp.

ANNUAL CAVEMAN'S DINNER:

This is being held on Dec. 13th, 1963, at the Rugby Union Headquarters, Bailey Reserve, Edwardstown. We have a record attendance this year, and this is sure to be the best Dinner yet. Final payments and wine orders must be made as soon as possible to Judd McLean-Smith.

Slide Competition:

There will be two sections this year, one for caving and the other for people in and out of caves (on caving trips). Each person may enter a maximum of six slides in each section. All entries must be given to one of the Committee members before or at the meeting on the 27th November 1963, i.e. the last week of November. The Committee will do the preliminary judging and then the final judging will take place at the Dinner.

GENERAL MEETING REPORTS:

Meeting, August 28th, 1963:

It was decided that a pipe into the Lake Cave Tantanoola would ruin the cave by dirtying the water and formation. A motion was passed for the banning of alcoholic beverages from all official trips except at the discretion of the Trip Leader. The Trip Leader will have full authority and is backed by the Committee. This was followed by a film on the Nullarbor. Visitors now have a 3/- surcharge to be credited against future Membership fees.

Meeting, September 25th, 1963.

Miss E. Wollaston gave a very informative talk on Macquarie Island, followed by slides. As a result of this meeting a carbide crushing session was held behind the Museum at the expense of Universals Concrete. Needless to say the concrete appeared to withstand the tremendous pounding given to it.

Meeting, October 23rd, 1963.

The meeting approved of the Committee drawing up a set of rules governing the conditions of gear hire on unofficial trips. Following this we had a set of films on bushfire prevention. Mr. F.W. Look of E.F.S. was the speaker for the night.

TRIP REPORTS:

Tantanoola, 24th-25th August, 1963.

The weather was 'fine'. It did not stop raining for longer than two hour periods the whole weekend. The divers thought better of lugging gear to the lake, that is all except Doug Seaton. Doug dived on Saturday night and found that the lake was bowl-shaped and that there are no underwater passages. It is about 30ft deep. Reports of new caves in the area were checked.

Punyelroo, 14-15th September. 1963.

Approximately 800ft was surveyed and is to be added to the previous survey. Some new recruits were shown the whys and wherefores of surveying. A small colony of 20-30 bats (Eptesiaus pumilis) was found and several species of parasites were removed by Peter Aitken. Water snails were collected for the Museum. Swallows were prevalent in the entrance chamber.

Flinders Trip, October Long Weekend, 12th-14th October, 1963.

Although only a little caving was done the trip covered a large area of the N. Flinders. It was decided to go to Mt Chambers Gorge via the Martin Wells Road instead of the normal way via Blinman. From here tourists were further avoided by going to Narrina Lake Cave. The party made their way home via Blinman and Oraparinna. A broken spring and broken speedo cable were the only casualties suffered on this enjoyable trip.

Curramulka Trip, November 16-17th, 1963.

Again a small party had an enjoyable trip to Curramulka. Among the caves visited there was a small one near the guarry and Windmill Cave. The Owner of Windmill Cave told us how Curramulka got its' name. The name comes from Emu water hole and this hole which was 3' deep and is now filled with mud is only approximately 200 yards from the windmill cave on the opposite side of the road. On Sunday a search and rescue was held and hon. mention to Dave Formby for finding the victim. This Search & Rescue was very successful and helped to improve peoples' knowledge of the cave.

COMING TRIPS:

Naracoorte, 7-8th December, 1963.

Leader: Athol Jackson.

Athol wants to start earth resistance and surface surveying work in the Reserve. Preliminary work will be started in preparation for repairs on the Hut in the New Year. The rest of the party will be looking at the caves in the intermediate area of the Reserve.

Buchan, 25th Dec. 1963 - 1st Jan., 1964.

Leader: Judd McLean-Smith.

The party will be leaving for Victoria on the night of the 25th. They hope to look at as many caves as possible in Victoria, which is reported to contain some of their best caving.

January long weekend, 1964. (Buckalowie).

Leader: Fred Sanders.

This is one of the best areas for caving in the Flinders. Caves to be visited will be Clara St. Dora and Mairs. thought that much caving will be done as heat will present an occupational hazard.

Naracoorte, 15th Feb. -16th Feb., 1964.

Leader: Athol Jackson.

This will be a Research Weekend, to continue work started on the previous trip. Repairs on the Hut will be continued.

March, 1964, Avenue Range.

Leader: (to be decided).

This is an un-worked area and only one trip has been run to this area. There are many reports of caves in this area to be investigated.

MEMBERSHIP:

This quarter there are 13 new members to be added to the growing list.

Full Members:

Grant Gartrell, 6 Gurs Road, Brighton, 96.7022.
Clive Champion, 75 Kensington Road, Normania, 76 Colinia 75 Kensington Road, Norwood, 3.4140. 76 Celtic Avenue, Clovelly Pk 76.4166.

Associate Members:

Lisette Whitcombe, 60 Oaklands Road, Somerton Park

Ron Smith, 1 Ellerslie St, Kensington Gardens, 31.7881

Malcolm Hampton, Briggs Flat, Echunga 252.

Associate Members continued:

Carman Lumma, 24 Jenkins Ave, Rostrevor, FU.2743
Robert Wright, 352 Cliff Street, Blackwood, 78.1477
John Summers, 8 St. Lawrence Ave, Edwardstown.
Maria Champion, 75 Kensington Road, Norwood, 3.4140.
Claine Butler, Commondary Carr, City. 8.3140

Change of Address:

Bob Sexton has changes his address and it now is: 43 Flinders Road, Hillcrest.

CAVING SAFETY AND ACCIDENTS:

The September Newsletter of the Sydney University Speleological Society contained an interesting thought about caving accidents - 'Apparently serious cave accidents don't happen to our Members. Is this the result of safe caving practices or exceptional good luck.' This is a thing that all cavers, young or old, should think long and hard about.

Last weekend on the Curramulka Trip the Leader planned a Search and Rescue in Correll's Cave. Here is his report of the proceedings:

"Harry Dolan became lost at 9.20am. A party consisting of Bob Davies and John Neill left at 9.35am to search the Ramshorns. They finished the search at 10.00am. They then searched the area from the entrance to the area of the Rope and then back to Grand Central, with no result. By this time, 10.30am the rest of the party met John Bishop, Bob Davies and John Neill down in Grand Central. David Formby, Bruce Perkins and John Summers explored the passages to the west of Grand Central with no result. Davies and John Neill went to the Drum Stone and passages beyond and then through to the Beard's Squeeze. Jill McLean-Smith and Lisette Whicombe went into 'the 2nd turn off to the left' and explored passages to the Crevasse after the Beard's Squeeze. David, Bruce and John Summers explored the '3rd passage to the left' and then set off to search the other entrance to Grand Central from the upper levels. Bob and John Neill went to search the lower levels to the Cauldron from the Crevasse near the Rope.

Honourable Mention for $\underline{\text{David}}$, Bruce and John Summers for finding Harry in the area on the far side of Grand Central in 'the Upper levels' at 11.25am. P.S. They tripped over him by mistake."

Cavers in New Zealand are having a bad time at the moment. Their accidents could act as a warning to us, to remember that the things that we are told about safety practices are not for storing in the subconscious but are for everyday caving use.

(Abstracts from Sydney University Speleo Soc. Newsletter, 20th Sep. 1963 in this regard).

"One New Zealand speleo was seriously injured while caving in Papamaru in June last year. '...Her foothold was a substantial looking piece of formation which suddenly broke away. She fell in a sitting position for about six feet, hitting the lumbar region of her spine on a large block of limestone, and slid down on to a patch of sandy mud.'

The subsequent rescue took 14 hours, even though the fall occurred about a half mile, or 20 minutes trogging, from the entrance. Despite a determined effort a doctor could not reach the scene of the accident, so after an all too brief instruction course one of the rescuers was able to give the patient a morphine injection to relieve the intense pain. 'Progress along the stream passage depended on the stamina of those underneath who crawled in the stream on hands and knees, or walked doubled over at the waist, depending on the height of the roof, while those who could steadied the stretcher from any available position.' 'The patient was persuaded to have a warm drink, but it was not long before she shared it with those below.' 'Meanwhile up top the newspapers were certainly having a field day. Always avid for any sensational news about caving, this little episode had additional elements of drama and human endurance.' 'Underground the rescuers eventually reached the short "cat run" that led to the second tomo... 'In places it was only two feet wide and thirty inches high. The transportation of a six feet inflexible load seemed almost impossible and man could hardy be distinguished from mud in that purgatorial passage." The patient was lifted to ground level at 4:45am.

The other cave accident occurred during an expedition to the Mt Owen area in January this year. The scene was the 125 feet "Showerbath Pitch" 600 feet down the "Giants Staircase". The caver was being belayed from below using a lifeline and pulley. 'The rope was running through John's hands steadily and he could see Lee's light coming nearer down the shaft until just before halfway...' 'John had begun to call upward when there was a cry and Lee came crashing down the shaft like a falling star. There was not even a pull on the lifeline it just went slack. John rushed forward with the idea of breaking Lee's fall, but arrived only in time to stop him falling backwards into the pool. Lee said that he could not feel his legs, and thought they were both broken'. 'Lee apparently tied a correct bowline round himself, but used a faulty knot to tie the waist loop to the lifeline.' "

Bushfires!

The summer is coming and with it the Bushfire Season. Cavers are also campers so remember to find out Bushfire regulations before you go into a district. There are several points that should be noted:

- 1. Observe all fire bans.
- 2. Make fire breaks for campfires and do not leave them unattended.
- 3. Douse campfires before leaving camp for any reason.
- 4. Don't throw matches and cigarettes from moving vehicles.
- 5. Check spark arrestors and muffler boxes on cars before each trip.

Breaches of Regulations can involve fines of up to £100.

PROGRAMME, DECEMBER 1963 - MARCH 1964

DECEMBER 1963:

7-8th Naracoorte.

Leader A. Jackson, 6 Hudson Ave, Rostrevor. For transport, Judd McLean-Smith, 49.9256.

Friday 13th. Caveman's Annual Dinner (7.00pm).

Bailey Reserve, Edwardstown.

17th(?) Committee Meeting.

Jackson's Place, 6 Hudson Ave, Rostrevor.

Christmas Week 25th Dec. - 1st Jan.

Buchan, Vic.

Leader - Judd McLean-Smith, 23 Humber Rd. Osborne, 49-9256.

JANUARY 1964:

21st. Committee Meeting.

Davies' Place, 53 Cator St, Glenside.

22nd. General Meeting.

National Fitness Council Rooms, Sth. Terrace. Caving Seminar.

25-27th. Buckalowie,

Leader - Fred Sanders, 8 Wattlebury Rd, Lower Mitcham. 76.3839 (home) LA.3456 (work)

Applications in writing c/o Austral Elevators, Hindley St City.

JANUARY SEMINARS:

Monday 6th. Animal Life in Caves.

Monday 20th. Caving Practice and Techniques.

FEBRUARY 1964:

18th. Committee Meeting.

McLean-Smith's Place, 23 Humber Rd, Osborne.

15-16th. Research Weekend Naracoorte.

Leader - Athol Jackson, 6 Hudson Ave, Rostrevor.

26th. Annual General Meeting, N.F.C. Rooms, South Tce.

FEBRUARY SEMINARS:

Monday 3rd. Caving Gear and Photography.

Monday 17th. Cave Surveying.

MARCH 1964:

8-9th. Avenue Range.

Leader, Bob Sexton, 43 Flinders Rd, Hillcrest.

17th. Committee Meeting.

Place to be decided.

25th. General Meeting.

N.F.C. Rooms, South Terrace.

27-30th. Easter Trip.

Kangaroo Is. Leader to be decided. Written applications.

PROGRAMME CONTINUED:

Contact List:

(This applies up until the A.G.M.)

President John Bishop,

11 Auburn Avenue, Myrtle Bank. 79.5907.

Secretary Bob Davies,

53 Cator St, Glenside.

(phone work 80461 ext. 315).

Search & Rescue Phil Connard,

31 Tennyson Ave., Tranmere. 31.7935.

all correspondence -

Cave Exploration Group (S.A.) c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide.

TROG THOUGHT:

Most trips have no set aim. That is, the members do not set out with the expectation of doing any real work.

(and bloody little they do too)

Circular Easter 64 - KI Trip.

Please find enclosed your ticket for the Troubridge. Read it thoroughly! We accept no responsibility for you missing the boat. If you wish to place your gear on truck, be at the wharf at least 1 hour before time of sailing. If you arrive later than this your gear will have to be transported per hoof. It will be your responsibility if you are unable to attend the trip to find someone to take your place.

RATION SUGGESTIONS FOR HIKE.

Dry spaghetti - 4 oz. tin Tomato Puree - 4 oz. tin - 1 lb. total - 1-2 oz. daily Honey - 3 oz. tins Sardines Soup Veg. - 4 oz. Rolled Oats - 8 oz. total Vita Wheat - 2-4 oz. day Camp Pie - 2x12 oz. tins -1/2 lb. Butter - 8-12 oz total . ually
- 1-2 per day
(pack in billycan)
Tea - ' Mixed Dry Fruit Chocolate - 4 oz. daily
Eggs - 1-2 per day - as desired. Eggs Sweets Powdered Milk - 8 oz. total Dry Apricots & Dates - 8 oz. each Coffee / Tea - 4 oz. total Cheese - 8 oz. total Salt, Spices, Curry Condiments to suit meat - 2-4 oz. daily Oranges, Bananas Raw sugar 1 or 2 billycans (fit eggs in same) Tins Pineapple Pieces Tins Tropical Fruit Salad 1 Jelly Crystal.?

Extra fodder such as meat, sausage, fritz, frankfurt, according to size of Person. Camp fire cooking only, no room for anything other than in or around your pack such as hike tents, chuffer.

Water bottle and plastic mug (Lux detergent bottle, rinse thoroughly) matches, soap, small towel, overalls, sleeping bags. W.P. double ground sheet or small hike tent. Temperatures should be mild, so light shower proof gear O.K. (also could be wet as hell), wool socks & long sleeve wool jumper for night wear. DO NOT rely on your mates or local canteen at Kelly Hill.

<u>FIRST AID</u>. Band aids, spare handkerchiefs, soap, needle, talc powder, tweezers, and antiseptic (5 pts. olive oil, 1 pt. tincture iodine) in small plastic bottle, sunburn cream.

If your pack is not large enough, buy another - if still too small pack your food only, there are still plenty more useful things such as tin openers, knives, spoons, forks, trog lights, torches, helmets, boots, but for trogging, helmet and trog lights

Transport on Island will be arranged to Kelly Hill and back.

If you can carry your innerspring mattress, tent poles, portable barbecue, chuffer, etc. in your pack on your back, bring them, otherwise leave them at home.

Torch batteries.

C.E.G.S.A. ANNUAL CAVEMAN'S DINNER-DANCE, 13th December 1963

This year the Annual Caveman's Dinner has become a dinner-dance, and it will be held at:-

The Headquarter's South Australian Rugby Union Incorporated, Bailey Reserve, Edwardstown.

(at the back of the Avoca Hotel - South Road)

Menu:

Hors d'oeuvres, sherry or fruit juice

(30 minutes before meal) 1/6
Lobster Cocktail 5/Soup 1/6
Schnapper 3/6

Roast Poultry and Ham, with

Roast Potatoes Peas and Beans. 14/Fruit Salad with Cream. 2/-

Included in the Dinner charge are:-

Cheese and Crackers Rolls and Butter

Tea and Coffee.

Total Cost 26/6. Overall cost 30/-

Beer and a selection of wines and soft drinks will be available to drink with the dinner. The cost of these is not included with the price of the dinner.

Added Attractions:

- 1. Dancing.
- 2. Floorshow (?)
- 3. Slide competition.

We want at least <u>40 people</u> (Ed: we already have 42!) to make the dinner a success, so don't let the Group down, bring as many people as possible. We must know the approx. numbers by the end of September, and we must have the money by 15th November.

If you wish to attend, please fill in the attached form and return to:-

P.F. Aitken, South Australian Museum, 83-7911.

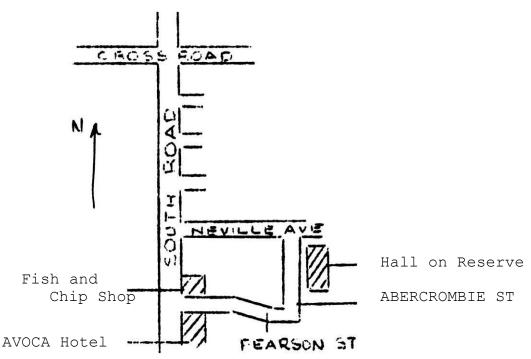
or Judd McLean Smith, 23 Humber Road, Osborne. 49-9256.

For further details either of these two can be contacted.

C.E.G.S.A. ANNUAL CAVEMAN'S DINNER-DANCE. FORM TO BE RETURNED BY END SEPTEMBER with 30/- per place required
<u>Name</u>
ADDRESS: TELEPHONE:
NUMBER OF PLACES REQUIRED:
<u>Names</u> : 1
2
3
4
DRINKS REQUIRED WITH DINNER: 1. Soft:
Please return this form promptly, as we must have a knowledge of the
approximate numbers coming to cater for them successfully

CAVEMAN'S DINNER, 13TH DECEMBER 1963. The Dinner will be held at:-

The Headquarters' South Australian Rugby Union Inc., Bailey Reserve, Edwardstown. (At the back of the Avoca Hotel, South Road).



The total cost of the dinner will be 30/- and if possible I would like it by the next General Meeting, i.e. on the 27th November 1963. The deadline for payment is the week including 27th Nov, as the Caterer must be notified by Friday. With your final payments (£1 or 20/-) would you tell me the type of wine or soft drink you require (or beer) so that I can make a list for the Caterer.

Please don't forget that <u>ALL PAYMENTS AND BOOKINGS MUST BE COMPLETED</u>
BY THE 29TH NOVEMBER 1963 - AFTER THIS THERE WILL BE NO POSSIBILITY
OF ATTENDING. Contact:-

Judd McLean Smith, 23 Humber Road, OSBORNE S.A. Phone 49-9256.

SLIDE COMPETITION:

A slide competition is always run in conjunction with the Annual Dinner. Any slide that has anything to do with caving is eligible for entry. No one person is allowed to enter more than six slides. If you are thinking of entering would you please hand in your entries to a Committee Member by the 27th November DEADLINE. The Committee will do the preliminary judging, and final judging will be done at the Dinner.

NULLARBOR TRIP (S.U.S.S.)

Leaving Adelaide 28th December 1963 and returning 18th January 1964, the expedition will visit all the known deep caves on the Plain, and will travel as far west as Cocklebiddy in Western Australia, covering a total of 2,500 miles. Full cost will be \$35. For further details contact the Secretary, Ted Anderson, Box 35, The Union, Sydney University.

Naracoorte Trip, 7-8th December, 1963

Leader: Athol Jackson, 6 Hudson Ave., Rostrevor.
Phone (work) 59-5372.

Transport: Judd McLean-Smith, 23 Humber Rd., Osborne.
Phone 49-9256

Dear

The trip will depart from the south end of Kintore Ave, by the War Memorial on Friday evening. The meeting time is 7.00 p.m. sharp, so to avoid being left behind, be there on time (especially drivers). If it is possible contact Judd immediately. Each car will be self-contained as far as possible. Note: framed rucksacks are difficult to pack into the boot of the car.

The trip will be based at the Naracoorte Caves Reserve, 7 miles southeast of Naracoorte. Camp on the Friday night will be made on the Reserve in a pine plantation north of the Research Centre. On arrival noise must be kept to an absolute minimum. If you go caving on Friday night, do it <u>quietly</u> and without waking others. Excessive noise at night and unruly behaviour on the Reserve by day will seriously jeopardise CEGSA's privilege of usage of the Reserve facilities. "It takes only <u>one</u> thoughtless person, visitor or member, to destroy our good name - don't let that person be you".

<u>Facilities</u>: The Research Centre (or Hut) is to be used by the girls for changing over the weekend, and for them to sleep in on Saturday night. Hot showers are available on the Reserve before 10 p.m. and after 5 p.m. The use of these is a privilege so treat it as such - leave them <u>clean</u> and devoid of sand. A toilet block is available (24 hours).

A meeting to discuss plans and to form caving parties will be held at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday, so be dressed, fed abulted, etc. and ready to go caving by that time. Work parties will be sent to various caves to continue exploration and gather information (e.g. location, sketch maps, data as to nature, decoration and fauna of the caves). Athol and Bob Davies will be leading a team to locate underground caverns by earth resistance survey. If you wish to learn more about this fascinating, branch of geophysics, volunteer to lend a hand for a few hours. Our budding palaeontologists will be busy bone-collecting. Maintenance will be carried out on the Hut and all members of the party will be expected to help.

The Naracoorte caves are of the collapsed dome type, and occur in long, low consolidated sand dunes. These are part of an ancient shoreline and never reach more than about 100 ft. in height, and are thickly covered in bracken and eucalyptus when uncleared. The entrances are either through a roof collapse or a solution tube and may involve ladder descents of up to 50 ft. The cave passages themselves are fairly roomy, and may consist of large chambers, but in many cases have been choked off by boulder falls necessitating considerable crawling. The largest caves (Sand, Beekeepers) have an estimated passage length of 1 mile. Many of the caves are richly decorated with stalactites, stalagmites and helictites.

Caving Equipment: Rubber soled Centurion-type boots plus socks are ideal. Sandshoes are a poor substitute, but are often safer than any type of un-nailed leather soles which can be positively dangerous. A one piece outer covering i.e. a boiler suit is highly desirable. Due to the humidity in the caves, little is usually required underneath this - a pair of bathers, or shorts and shirt is generally adequate.

All caving attire should be <u>old</u> whatever is worn will soon become dirty and battered (even in camp). A torch is essential and spare batteries and a globe must be carried. A 1.5 volt cell gives 4 hours of good light, which may be stretched by switching the torch off when not in use. You be activity caving for a total of up to 12 hours over the weekend. A second source of light must be carried in case of emergency. Safety rules forbid caving without a helmet and these will be available for hire at Naracoorte. If carrying a camera underground a small haversack is essential to protect it.

Collection and breaking of all formation is forbidden. CEGSA Constitution states that - "all speleological specimens collected by members and visitors on official trips shall immediately become the property of the South Australian Museum. Such specimens may be retained temporarily for research purposes within the Group". Unless you seriously intend to study scientifically what you collect and are qualified to do so, don't collect. All specimens collected must be shown to the trip leader immediately.

No alcohol may be taken or drunk on this trip and all firearms are banned.

The bushfire season is here, so watch those matches, cigarettes and carbide lamps, when on the road, in camp or out bush. Campfires require a 12 ft. clearing, and in accordance with Section 72 of the Bushfires Act, it is an offence to smoke within 6ft. of inflammable vegetation. A total fire ban, which may well be encountered, means no camp fires and cold meals. Whatever the case plan meals that are easily and quickly prepared - no one wants the bother of an elaborately prepared meal after a hard day's trogging. Primus stoves are a blessing as they are quick, easy to set up and make no smoke. Water is on tap at the hut. No provisions or refreshments are available on the Reserve.

Trip fees will be approx. £2 and must be paid to Athol before leaving on the Sunday. In addition to these is a 3/- surcharge for visitors, plus gear hire which consists of 2/- per person for the use of club ropes and ladders, 2/- per person for carbide and 2/- per person for helmet if one is hired from the Group. Plastic helmets that meet the Groups safety requirements are on sale from Athol for 35/- each. Associate membership, details of which may be obtained from any member, requires that the applicant own an approved helmet.

Yours faithfully,

Athol Jackson (Trip Leader)