
CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NEWSLETTER [#35]

June - September 1964.

EDITORIAL:

"That Couldn't Happen to us", anyway caving in South Aust. is so different from anywhere else in Australia that the same sort of accidents just couldn't happen. This may be true but we could still have accidents that might prove fatal. Just think about the possibilities of getting out of a tight spot in a cave while being seriously injured next time you are underground. Then why not start thinking about a personal safety code and start to apply it to your own caving, then talk others into doing the same things. Such a code need not involve complicated preparations, just little things that could make all the difference - e.g.

1. Check your lights at least a week before departing on a trip. Get all the spares beforehand and check these before you set out, if it is possible.
2. Check your boots and helmet and if they are in any way faulty i.e. no treads on boots, or laces worn, repair the fault.
3. Always use a rope in ladder pitches (no matter experienced you are). Learn to tie the prescribed bowline knot proficiently.
4. Don't lark about around the belay point, or when you are on the rope.
5. Take good care of all gear whether it is yours or the Groups.
6. Listen when more experienced cavers are talking about techniques, after all they should know.
7. Never go caving alone or do anything underground that might endanger the safety of the whole party.
8. If the leader gives an order obey it, for it is given for your benefit.
9. Look, listen and learn.

This is only an idea of a safety code for cavers, and it may help to make your caving and South Aust. caving the safest in the whole of Australia. If you don't think our caves are any problem from the accident point of view just think of Correll's Cave.

NOTICE:

The GENERAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER will be held on THE THIRD THURSDAY of that month i.e. the 17TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1964, at the National Fitness Council's Rooms, 70 South Tce, Adelaide.

Change of Address:

Our Treasurer, Ron Galbreath, has changed his address to:-
66 Ashfield Road, Elizabeth.

GENERAL MEETING REPORTS:

Meeting, 2nd April, 1964

It was first noted at this meeting that 50 ft of ladder was missing. This is still missing. It was taken on the Naracoorte Trip in March.

Meeting, 7th May, 1964

Members present were advised that as from now on the Quartermaster is empowered to receive trip fees from the Trip Leader.

Meeting, 4th June, 1964

The meeting was advised that on future trips to Correll's Cave, the cars would remain outside the Cave Enclosure. In future parties to the cave must have written authority from the Committee sanctioning the trip, to be handed to Correll as soon as practicable.

PAST TRIP REPORTS:

Kangaroo Island, 28th-30th March, 1964.

A wonderful four days were spent on the island. Caving was mixed with bushwalking. One party walked around to West Bay Hollow from Flinders Chase, and the other to the coast below Kelly Hill. Trog's Joy and Trog's Delight were much visited and photographed. Several new entrances to the cave were found, including one with a sand slide, that provided added enjoyment to certain 'grown-up' members of the party. Mr Berryman, the Curator of the Cave, was very helpful in all ways, and must be congratulated on the birth of his son.

ADVERTISEMENT:

Two members wish to make known that they have one slightly used, second-hand possum for sale. This is a bargain.

Curramulka, 17-18th May, 1964.

This was a fairly successful and very enjoyable trip. The bypass to the Bushwalkers' Extension was explored and was found to be a very pleasant crawl by Corrells' standards. There were two new discoveries of bones in this region of the cave, just below the rope and the other 2½ feet below the floor of the Crystal Chamber. The digs in the Ramshorns were extended and the removal of rubbish from the cave was started.

CAVING TRIPS:

Long Weekend, 13-15th June, 1964.

Due to lack of enthusiasts and a leader the programmed trip to the Flinders was cancelled. Instead there will be (was) a one day trip to look at caves in the near vicinity of Adelaide (Bow Hill).

Punyelroo, 18-19th July, 1964.

Leader: Bob Davies. The main purpose of this trip will be to continue the survey of the cave.

Naracoorte, 15-16th August 1964.

Leader: Athol Jackson. Exploration and Earth Resistance Surveying will be continued in the area.

Flinders Ranges, 12-13th September, 1964.

Leader: Bill Rouse. Trip to look at the Caves in the Mt. Remarkable Area.

MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF CAVING EQUIPMENT:

Gear falls into 2 main classifications - Group and Personal.

Personal gear includes - boots, hats and lighting equipment apart from normal camping and cooking gear.

Boots: should be maintained according to manufacturers specifications if any, e.g. Waterhen boots are greased with mutton fat and not polished or dubbined. Ordinary boots should be kept in good nick by the application of boot polish frequently and not dubbined as this tends to rot the stitching. Leather soled boots should be nailed or studded, the best nail for our local rocks appears to be Triple Hobs and it is important to see that the nails are properly put in and refitted or replaced as necessary.

Hats: are the next point and these should be carefully chosen and fitted correctly, once this is done very little remains but not to abuse it; throwing a hat may cause a serious breakage if the brim should strike a rock at the wrong angle. The leather and rubber portions of the harness should be kept dry and the hat not used for the carrying of water unless the harness is removed first. Care should be taken not to overheat PVC helmets as shape distortion may occur.

Lighting equipment: is of course one of the most important cares of a caver. Electric lamps using storage accumulators should be checked frequently to see that the flex is in good order and the cells not damaged, dry or leaking. Torches should be as nearly indestructible as possible rubber or plastic and fitted with good quality fresh batteries. Spare lamps for all electric light sources should be carried underground. Carbide lamps are of 3 types the first and least seen is the small helmet lamp which will show a light for 3-4 hours and on a single filling providing you don't belt it on a low roof or archway. The two common types are the pinnacle of cast aluminium and brass with only very limited steel content is ideal for survey work due to magnetic interference with the Jigger. This lamp will give under serviceable usage 8-12 hours of very good light per fill of water and a little more if more water is put in as the carbide charge is a little larger than that allowed for by the water tank. This is a good emergency safety factor. The Premier or Erickson is the other lamp and this has a better light output in hours normally on a full charge of water and carbide being 10-14 hours. The economical method of use of these lamps is to fill the lamp with carbide and then with water, reassemble the lamps and then proceed to the cave entrance before attempting to turn on the water or light up. Once into the shelter of the cave entrance (if possible) is the time to open the water up full and then close it immediately. After a few seconds a light should be applied to the jet and a small flame quickly changing from blue to the normal flame of these lamps should appear, now is the time to check for gas leaks. The water valve should now be opened about one turn. The water should then be left on for about an hour and then turned off for about a half an hour. If the flame develops a halo and begins to shrink then the indication is that the air is foul. If the flame develops a tip and is smoky then the indication is that there is too much water in the carbide chamber due to the water turned on too hard or the carbide is nearly used up. The smoky tip is caused by the presence of steam in the gas. You chemists can work out how and why.

The Group gear is Primarily Ladder and Rope - The ladder should be kept dry if possible but of course any mud should be worked off and the ladder dried before storage. The ladder should of course never be left where rocks can fall on it or people jump on it.

Then Rope: The two types used in the group are manilla and nylon. Nylon has the advantage of great strength per weight and great elasticity. These points make a very desirable rope, but this material is easily damaged by sunlight, friction and chemical action. Due to these factors mountaineers keep their rope in dust proof containers when not in use and treat it with every care out of the sun, away from salts and chemicals and fumes. The working strain of the ropes we use is about 1800 lbs approx. In manilla this is about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " rope, in nylon it is only about 1" rope. This means the weight of the rope is less but it also means that unless special techniques are used, then as a lifeline it is useless because it is too small to grip in the hand. Manilla rope is due to the extra size acquired much heavier but it is much cheaper than Nylon. Manilla is more robust than nylon but it is still liable to damage by friction and mechanical damage but not so liable to chemicals, and is more liable to water damage.

Summing up - Rope should be 1. Kept clean, 2. Dry, 3. Away from Acids & alkalis, 4. Never trodden on, 5. Never passed sharp rocks etc. without something to protect it (a bag over the rock etc.), 6. Not stretched unnecessarily (Tow rope), 7. Inspected frequently for damage, 8. Stored in a clean dry place.

N.T.M.

THE TROG.

BY: - ANONYMOUS
WITH APOLOGIES TO ALL POETS.

Trogging through the chambers, down Grand-Central way,
We came upon some other men who'd been there nigh all day.
They were weary from trogging and surveying all along
And were wanting to come and join the surface throng.

The day was long, the hours dark, and
'Twas past midnight when the weary band came out,
They hailed the camp to cook up a brew,
And loud out they did shout.

For down in the cauldron was squeeze-hole nice and small,
Through which they gaily crawled one and all,
But scarce had ten short seconds been struck
When some dumb clod his boot got stuck!

Onward, ever onward, pressing through the gloom,
Perhaps along this tunnel is a really great big room
Where one can sit and gaze around in awe,
At nature's marvels on ceiling and on floor.

For eight long hours we onward pressed,
With little more than ten minutes rest,
The tunnels low, they grazed our backs
And stalactites tore our muddy slacks.

Then out we came into nature's vault,
Hidden in there where no man had been.
'Twas in here that the leader called a halt,
For here was beauty ne'er before seen.

Stalactites long, and helectites curly,
Thank God weld been able to get up early,
Or this would ne'er have been found by us,
And no man could ever have seen beauty thus!

Pure white flowstone pours from the walls,
A ghost-like column in the distance calls-
"Who is this being who ventures near,
Who is this mortal who dares enter here?"

One wonders then when the week is gone,
However did this beauteous Room
After a thousand years, be discovered that early morn?
Forever hidden in the gloom,

And now you see why trogs do trog,
Through holes almost too small for a dog,
To see what nature can reveal,
In these moments, Oh so real.

TROG THOUGHT:

Do you 'Just Belong'?
Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just content to have your name upon the list?
Do you attend the meeting and mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home to criticise and knock?
Do you take an active part to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?
Do you voluntarily help at the guiding stick?
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?

Come to the meeting often and help, with hand and heart,
Don't be just a member but take an active part.
Think this over, member, you know right from wrong
Are you an active member or do you 'just belong'?

CONTACT LIST:

President	Athol Jackson, 6 Hudson Ave, Rostrevor, phone (work) 59-5360.
Secretary	Bob Davies, 53 Cator St, Glenside, Phone (work) 8-0461 ext315
Search & Rescue	Bill Rouse, 237 Military Road, Henley South, phone (Home) 56-2220. (work) 4-3027.
Quartermaster	Noel Mollet, 10 Amber Road, Highbury, phone (work) 8.0242.

PROGRAMME, JUNE-SEPTEMBER, 1964.

JUNE, 1964:

Tuesday 16th Committee Meeting,
237 Military Road, Henley South.
Monday 15th One day trip to Bow Hill.
Leader, Judd McLean-Smith,
23 Humber Road Osborne, Phone 49-9256.

JULY, 1964:

Thursday 2nd General Meeting
National Fitness Council Rooms,
70 South Tce, at 8.00pm,
Speaker: Mr. J. Armanini. Subject: "Antarctica"
Tuesday 21st Committee Meeting,
8 Wattlebury Road, Lower Mitcham.
18th-19th Trip to Punyelroo, departs 7.00pm Kintore Ave.
Leader: Bob Davies, 53 Cator St, Glenside,
Phone (work) 8-0641 Ext.315.

AUGUST, 1964:

Thursday 6th General Meeting
National Fitness Council, 70 South Tce., at 8.00pm.
Speaker: Mr Alan Hill
Subject: "Cave ferns of the South East."
Tuesday 18th Committee Meeting,
10 Amber Road, Highbury.
15-16th Trip to Naracoorte, departs at 7.00pm Kintore Ave.
Leader: Athol Jackson, 6 Hudson Ave, Rostrevor,
phone (work) 59-5360.

SEPTEMBER, 1964:

Thursday 17th General Meeting,
National Fitness Council, 70 South Tce, at 8.00pm.
Film Evening: Members are requested to bring their
latest, slides to the Meeting.
Tuesday 15th Committee Meeting,
6 Hudson Ave, Rostrevor.
12-13th Trip to Flinders Mt. Remarkable.
Departs Kintore Ave 7.00pm
Leader: Jill Rouse, 237 Military Rd, Henley South,
Phone 56-2220

The Quartermaster wishes to remind all trip leaders that due to long delays in returning gear; any gear not returned within 10 days of a trip will have a weekly rental charge until returned. The Quartermaster will also receive the Trip Fees from the Trip Leader when the gear has been returned.