

The club is entering a new phase of growth, our membership is growing steadily and the new members, by their enthusiasm, are stirring the old die-hards of the club into action. The formation of the new National Speleological Federation has also helped us along by making us feel we are allied to a large organisation with the result that we can look forward to a burst of renewed activity in the coming months.

Two members of the club, A. Goede and F. Brown, attended the first Federation meeting in Adelaide and the subsequent Nullarbor Expedition. They returned impressed mentally by the conference and physically by the rigours of the Nullarbor! The National Federation has plans to coordinate the activities, research and communications of the fourteen clubs in existence as well as speaking for the whole of Australia on Caving matters. The next meeting of the Federation will be in Tasmania in 1958-9, so we must be prepared to show these mainlanders a thing or two!

On the 2nd., 3rd. & 4th. of March we are conducting a three day camp underground in Hell's Half Acre to explore and map this difficult little system. We need volunteers both for the underground party and as relief party, telephonists etc., this is the biggest job the club has tackled for some years, so will you all turn up and help, names to the secretary as soon as possible! We have also had enquiries from a group of Rovers in Launceston who wish to join the club, there is a trip to Flowery Gully to meet them and act as a training trip, so want want some of the older hands to come along.

Due to agitatin by this club and the Federation of Field Naturalists, the entrance to Croesus is to be protected by a gate and grille which will, we hope, stop vandalism in this cave.

Prior to Xmas two social functions were held, the usual social with the walking club was attended by several members and in addition about 16 members and prospectives attended a party at Ron Kent's home. The Xmas trip to Mole Creek was attended spasmodically by six members, several visitors and others; the Field Nats. Camp was visited and Ron Kent organised an empty house for a camp on future trips. An unofficial trip was held to Hastings and Ida Bay on the 16th. 17th. Jan. and was attended by 13 people, quite a record for this club!

#### FORWARD PROGRAM:

- 9th. 10th. Feb. Florentine Valley. We have a guide who can take us to Timm's Cave, come prepared for bushwalking. 8.00 A.M. G.P.O., names to secretary.
- 11th. Feb. General Meeting and Slide Evening at the home of D. Latham, Rosny Point, see the Secretary who will provide a guide
- 2nd. 3rd. 4th. March Hell's Half Acre - SEE ABOVE.
- 30th. 31st March. Flowery Gully, SEE ABOVE leave Friday night.
- 19th. - 22nd. March Easter trip to Mole Creek, we expect several mainland visitors!

#### FAMOUS LAST WORDS

It needs a little digging!

F. Brown

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