

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

CAVE SEARCH AND RESCUE ORGANISATION

The Tasmanian Caverneering Club, founded in 1946, established its own Cave Search and Rescue Organisation early in 1959 which affiliated with the Police Department in August of that year.

This Organisation is on call on a continuous basis. It comes into action whenever the Police Department or other authorities report a party overdue in caves or limestone areas known to contain caves.

The Organisation is staffed by the Club's members and necessarily depends upon the co-operation of the Police Department and other persons. The Club, over a period of years, has collected extensive information including maps of many caves and limestone areas, it has the equipment necessary for the safe exploration of caves, and its members are fully trained in underground work.

DRILL FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

As soon as any Police Officer receives a report to the effect that a party is lost or injured in a cave or limestone area he is to contact Police H.Q. in Hobart without delay and pass on information on:-

1. Which cave,
2. How many in party,
3. How long in cave or overdue,
4. Is party lost or injured or trapped,
5. What equipment, food, lights, clothes, etc. were in party,
6. If injured and/or trapped, how far in cave,
7. Weather conditions for past week.

1. H.Q. to instruct Officer reporting to stand by; then pass on alert and information to Police Officer in Charge of Rescue. He will then contact one of the four persons following who will then come to H.Q. and act as Controller for the Club. (See list at end.)

2. If information indicates that a doctor is required immediately, then Dr. R.J. Chapman should be contacted (See list at end), given the necessary information, told to pack personal caving gear and to report to H.Q. as soon as possible - within 30 minutes.

3. P.O. then to contact the next six people on list. If they have own transport they are to proceed to their own homes to collect caving gear. If they live en route they are to remain for Car I to collect them. If they have no transport then patrol car to pick them up, take them home to collect their gear and take them to H.Q. for Car I to collect.

4. The driver of Car I, being the first to be contacted as he is the O.I.C., will report to H.Q. to pick up personnel and gear, receive information on whereabouts of others, pick them up, proceed to area.

5. H.Q. then contacts next six persons on list, follow previous routine, these will constitute Car II. Car II is to collect all remaining Club equipment, food, telephone gear and wire, camping equipment, and any other equipment they require to establish a base camp and clearing station anywhere in the Island.

6. When ready Car II proceeds to area and reports to O.I.C. for further details.

7 H.Q. alerts the next three to four persons on list and have them on permanent standby ready to leave at 30 minutes notice.

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8. The Club Controller will remain at H.Q. and assist by relaying requests from O.I.C. to necessary authorities and act as general Liaison man.

9. The Police Officer in the area giving the initial alert is to stand by at base camp if so required to assist with organisation/communications.

IF PERSON/PARTY LOST IN AREA — CAVE UNKNOWN

1. Preparations as before - no change.

2. Outside help may be required - large numbers of men to search area and caves. Each small unit will be in charge of a T.C.C. member who knows area and caves. O.I.C. and assistants will remain at temporary base camp e.g. Police Officer if close to area. When contact established they move out and establish base camp on the spot. Unskilled helpers no longer required to be dismissed to avoid confusion.

PUBLICITY

The ONLY persons allowed to make press releases are:-

Police H.Q., Controller, O.I.C. or his deputy.

REQUESTS FOR NON-TCC EQUIPMENT

The ONLY persons allowed to request special equipment are:-

Police H.Q., Controller, O.I.C. or his deputy.

MEDICAL AID

If Club M.O. not immediately available, Police H.Q. to arrange for other suitable M.O. to take his place. In that instance he should be advised that central kit is ready, the nature of injuries likely to be encountered.

FIELD ORGANISATION

In control of all rescue work is the TCC Officer in Charge (O.I.C.). He will remain at base camp and organise rescue operations. He will need two assistants to take care of communications - at least one to be TCC. They will also take care of camp and meals, etc.

The O.I.C. is to remain in contact with the Controller at H.Q. so that up to date reports will go through and requests for special aid can be passed on without delay. To this effect the co-operation of P.M.G. is needed.

A trained TCC Party Leader will direct actual rescue work underground. Rescue work will be carried out in shifts - two parties of six men each working up to six hours depending on nature of work. As one party works, the other party rests at camp base. If cave is large and rescue work in a long distance, more parties may be needed or advance base camp established underground. The O.I.C. and Party Leader will decide on this when they get there.

EQUIPMENT

Car I is to take the following:-

.3.

Medical Kit - to be drawn up by Dr. Chapman.

2 - 100' 1¼" nylon ropes.

60' cable ladder.

Axe, pinch bar, Army trenching tool.

Emergency rations.

Communications equipment.

Car II takes:-

- Camping gear required for base camp, ie. large marquee, smaller tents, cooking utensils, primus stoves, etc.
- Rescue stretcher - Neill Robertson type.
- All remaining TCC equipment.
- Food - quantity depending on type of work.
- Extra ropes - new hemp.
- TCC maps of area and its caves.

Following gear may be needed later:-

- Extra medical supplies.
- Radio equipment.
- Power saws, power pumps, explosives, drills, experts to handle.
- Mobile generators and extra lights, oxygen, masks, hoses, air compressors, etc.

It is suggested that a crash box of all essential equipment be stored at Police H.Q. for instant use. Much of the above equipment could then be left there, thus saving time collecting it from other places.

REMEMBER

In underground injuries - TIME KILLS.

UTMOST SPEED IS ESSENTIAL.

Dr. R.J. Chapman. Home: 20 Beddome St., Sandy Bay. 5-1905.
Bus. C/- Repat. Hospital, Hobart. 2-2821.

Controller:

D.M. Elliott. Home 305 Strickland Ave. 2-0234.
Bus. E.S.&A. Bank, Macquarie St. 2-7921.

If not available,
M.H. de Vries.

Home: 78 Lord St., Sandy Bay. 2-5247.
Bus. Division of Mental Health. 2-2421

or

D.F. Turner. Home: 79 Riawena Rd., Rose Bay. 2-9443.
Bus. C'wlth. Employment. 3-3721.

or

F.R. Brown. Home: 308 Lenah Valley Rd. or 15
Harrington St., 2-5729.
Bus. Eliz. St. Sec. School. 3-1424.

O.I.C.

M.H. de Vries. - see above.

Party Leader

F.R. Brown. - see above.

Members on Call.

R.L. Dowden. Home: 5 Quorn St., Sandy Bay. 5-1571.
Bus. Physics Dept. Uni. of Tas.(IPS) 2-3373.
J. Peterson. Home: 43 Augusta Rd., Lenah Valley. 8-2231.
Bus. Hobart Tech. High School. 8-0257.
A. Goede. Home: 6 Cromwell St., Battery Point.
Bus. Uni. Student.
J. Chick. Home: 5 Kirksway Place, Battery Point.
Bus.: Rbt. Cosgrove Sec. School. 7-9445.
W. Peterson. Home: 43 Augusta Rd. 8-2231.
Bus. Geology Dept., Uni. of Tas. 2-7741.
B. James. Home & Bus. 139 Augusta Rd. 8-2266.
J. Elliott. Home: 163 Augusta Rd. Lenah Valley. 8-3193
or 139 Augusta Rd. 8-2266.
Bus. Quon, George. 8-2878 or 7-7105.
D. Latham. Home: 35 Dalaka Rd. Rosny Pt. 4-1672.
Bus. 61 Molle St., Hobart. 2-6407.
C. Clayton. Home:
Bus Rbt. Cosgrove Sec. School. 7-9445.
H.O. de Vries. Home: 78 Lord St. Sandy Bay. 2-5247.
Bus. Chartres. 2-2888.
D. Seymour. Home: 4 Clarke Ave., Battery Pt. 2-5790.
Bus. 67 Macquarie St. 2-5354.
G. Wilson. Home: 101 Riawena Rd. Rose Bay. 2-9247.
Bus. P. Lovet & Co. 10 Bathurst St. 2-3336.
C. Morris. Home: 4 Somerdale Rd. Claremont. 7-1293.
Bus. The Mercury, 2-5001.

South R. Geeves. Home/Bus. Judd's Hill Rd. Geeveston.(255)

North R. Woolhouse. Home: 2 Canning St. Launceston.
Bus. L'ton High School.

I. Warner. Home: 110 Vermont Rd., Launceston.
Bus. Railways Workshops.

B. Duhig Home: 43 Punchbowl Rd., Launceston.
Bus. E.S.&A. Bank - Main Office.

B. Harvey Home: 13 Bowen Ave., Launceston. 2-5869.
Bus. 32 Frederick St., L'ton. 2-1377.

N.West K.L. Burns Home/Bus. Mines Dept., Wynyard. 4-1662.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

PROCEDURE FOR NOTIFICATION.

The following is a list of the areas where cave Search and Rescue is most likely to be required:-

(1) Hastings Ida Bay,

Nearest Police Station DOVER

TCC members in the area:-

Mr R.. Skinner,
C/o The Chalet,
Hastings Caves.
'Phone Hastings 3
Mr. M. Donnelly,
Lune River,
'Phone Lune River 1.

(2) Florentine - Junee

Nearest Police Station MAYDENA

TCC members in the area:-

Mr. Kitchener,
C/o A.N.M.
Mr. D. Frankombe,
C/o A.N.M.

(3) Mole Creek.

Nearest Police Station MOLE CREEK

TCC members in area:-

Mr. & Mrs. A. Howe,
'Phone Liena 7.

(4) Gunns Plains.

Nearest Police Station

TCC member in area:-

Mr. G. Maxwell
'Phone Gunns Plains

11.

(5) West Coast,

Nearest Police Station GORMANSTON

No TCC member SUGGEST

Mr. Cliff Bradshaw,
Surprise Valley,
Princess River.